



CHINAR'S DALEEL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



PICTURED: Participants while attending a multistakeholder meeting held at Sumbal, Baramulla



Bilal Ahmad- Dried vegetables
(Palpora, Srinagar)



Tasgeer - Spare parts store
(Bandipora)

Three Small Business Units launched

This month, three business units were launched, one each from Baramulla, Bandipora, and Srinagar, as part of CHINAR's Business Incubation Program. Bilal Ahmad, hailing from Palpora, Srinagar, used to earn a meager income by selling vegetables on a very small scale. After thorough due diligence, CHINAR supported him in expanding his business by providing him with a stock of dried vegetables, cereals, pulses, etc., to grow his income.

Another passionate candidate, Tasgeer from Bandipora, received assistance to establish his own spare parts store. Shabir Ahmad from Baramulla started his own joinery unit (see detailed story on page 2).



Kashmiri waza establishes his own restaurant

Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Gashru, a 45-year-old Kashmiri cook (waza), lives with his wife and three children in a two-roomed wooden shed at Palpora, Srinagar. The family's financial situation became challenging when the owner of his previous workplace asked him to vacate. In 2022, CHINAR identified the family during an assessment survey and enrolled his two children, Arsalan and Seerat (currently in 1st and 3rd grades), in the program. In the recent livelihood assessment, it was discovered that Gashru wished to start his own venture, which he couldn't afford due to lack of finances. Despite lacking his establishment, a new restaurant was built near his dwelling with CHINAR's assistance. He continues to cook in the mini eatery and has started earning a better income.

"I am grateful to CHINAR for helping me start my own mini restaurant. I am hopeful to earn sufficient income to support my family and educate my kids", says Gashru at the launch of his unit.



Health awareness in Palpora

In collaboration with the Zonal Medical Officer of SR Gunj, Srinagar, a successful Health Awareness Camp was conducted in Palpora, Srinagar. Attended by 150 people, the camp was facilitated by three resource persons from the health department. The camp focused on critical aspects such as mental health, hygiene, nutrition, and the significance of a balanced diet. The event was thoughtfully planned to facilitate personal conversations, where females could openly discuss their health concerns.

The medical team addressed women's health concerns, such as maintaining proper menstrual hygiene and the usage of sanitary pads.

OUR MISSION

EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN, MARGINALIZED YOUTH AND DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES
THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMS USING SCIENTIFIC APPROACH



Multi-stakeholder meeting

Multi stakeholder Meeting under Education

CHINAR International hosted a multi-stakeholder meeting as part of its Quality Education program, with the aim of understanding critical aspects of the education system in Kashmir. Over 60 participants attended the meeting, including teachers, representatives from different organizations, Community Learning Center (CLC) facilitators and parents of CLC students. The meeting addressed challenges confronting government schools, including the lack of technology, human resources and infrastructure. Proposals were made to allocate resources effectively and invest in these schools to enhance the quality of education.



Participants stressed the importance of integrating the Kashmiri language into the education system to preserve cultural identity and heritage. The meeting highlighted the necessity of implementing comprehensive training programs as a crucial strategy to improve teaching practices. Additionally, the meeting addressed the importance of vocational training for government teachers and improving hygiene facilities in schools.

The session concluded with a consensus on collaborative efforts among stakeholders to tackle the multifaceted challenges in the education sector and enhance the quality of education in Kashmir. This likely paved the way for the development of action plans and initiatives to implement the discussed proposals effectively.



Ramadan kits distribution- Shopian

Over 700 families receive Ramadan kits

In preparation for the holy month of Ramadan, CHINAR successfully distributed Ramadan kits to 496 families enrolled under **Child Development** across 7 districts – Shopian, Pulwama, Srinagar, Kupwara, Budgam, Anantnag, and Ganderbal. Each kit contained a variety of essentials, including flour, suji, vermicelli, juices, dry fruits and other items, ensuring that families had what they needed for the holy month.



Ramadan kits distribution - Srinagar

A similar distribution was held across 13 communities enrolled under **Parvaaz** in four districts: Srinagar, Baramulla, Shopian, and Kulgam, catering to 242 families.

Introducing reading corners and digital literacy programs

With our strong commitment to delivering quality education, we are thrilled to announce the launch of two new programs – **Digital literacy and reading corners** at our existing schools and community learning centers. We strongly believe that the establishment of reading corners will enhance language proficiency and communication abilities among students. Similarly, the installation of computers will equip children with the necessary skills to explore the digital world as technology keeps evolving.

The implementation of both initiatives is currently underway, with the deployment of computers and reading materials in progress. Both programs will be fully operational within the next two months, enhancing educational opportunities for our students.



Shabnum's Journey

I am Shabnum from Hardpanzoo, Budgam, and I live with my younger sister and our aged grandmother. Nine years ago, my father died, and my mother remarried, leaving us alone at the mercy of my uncle and an ailing grandmother. Due to limited resources, we have been dependent upon community support, but that has not been enough.

In 2022, CHINAR International enrolled my younger sister and me in its Child Development program, catering to our education, nutrition, hygiene and other critical needs. Both my sister and I are excelling in our grades (9th and 6th). My old grandmother also feels a little unburdened with this support. Thank you, CHINAR!



From drop out to an entrepreneur

Shabir Ahmad Dar, a young man from Mundyari, Baramulla, lives with his parents, wife and children in a modest one-room plywood house. His journey in life has been far from conventional, marked by unexpected twists and turns. After his father's visual impairment and his mother's health condition, he assumed the responsibility of providing for his family.

Despite leaving formal education in 2005, he acquired valuable carpentry and masonry skills from his father and worked in this field for a decade. With his small savings and by selling off his wife's jewelry, he set up his small joinery unit by purchasing a planer and other necessary items. However, with limited funds, he couldn't expand his unit. CHINAR identified him while surveying for potential candidates under Small Business Support. With his 10 years of experience in the trade, he was selected for the program and provided assistance to expand his unit.

"I am excited about my new venture and I will work hard to make it a huge success for myself and CHINAR", says Shabir.



Shabir Ahmad- Joinery unit (Mundyari, Baramulla)