

YEAR 2024



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

CONTENTS



03

MESSAGE FROM
THE CEO

04

2023
HIGHLIGHTS

05

GOALS AND TARGETS
24-25

06

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

14

QUICK BITES

15

INFOGRAPHICS

16

FINANCIALS
23-24

17

ABOUT US

MESSAGE FROM CEO

WARWAN TRANSFORMED AND EXPANSION ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

This year I had the opportunity to visit the remote Warwan Valley with my mother Ismet Shahmiri, my wife Zeba Durrani and fellow board member Dr. Khalid Ashai. CHINAR initiated its efforts in Warwan in 2016, and it's heartening to witness the progress and impact on the ground. Warwan Valley comprises of 15 villages with a total population of around 10,000. We currently operate in 12 of these villages, running 32 Community Learning Centers. When I first visited in 2017, education was not a priority, and shifting mindsets took years of effort. Today, families enthusiastically embrace education, and youth benefit from CHINAR's development projects. I can confidently say that our work in Warwan has transformed lives.



2023-24 has been marked by significant growth and impactful progress across all our programs, as highlighted in this annual report. Our annual expenditure increased by 61%, surpassing USD 700,000 (INR 5.7 crore). Our ground team also expanded by 30%, with ten talented new members joining us.

Through the Parvaaz Project—a program empowering communities to take ownership of their challenges—we successfully expanded to six new communities, bringing our reach to 13 communities across Srinagar, Shopian, Baramulla, and Kulgam districts.

In youth development, the Small Business Support (SBS) program has shown tremendous progress. This year, we launched 29 new units, bringing the total number of businesses launched to 66. Additionally, our new Higher Education Sponsorship initiative supports youth who, due to financial constraints, are unable to pursue higher studies. This year, 45 youth were selected in this program.

I am also thrilled to announce two new initiatives—Digital Literacy and Reading Corners. These are significant steps in bridging the educational gap between rich and poor. Our Reading Corners aim to spark a love for learning and foster a lifelong passion for books, while the Digital Literacy provides essential skills for success in our rapidly evolving world. In the first phase, 21 reading corners and 27 digital literacy hubs were started in 30 Community Learning Centers and 8 government schools.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our incredible team, funders, dedicated partners, Board of Directors and advisors for a successful 2023.. Together, we look forward to another productive and impactful year in 2024.



Irfan Shahmiri
Founder & CEO

2023

HIGHLIGHTS

Child Development

- 324 new children enrolled into the program, and included Ganderbal district, reaching out to 1470 children in total.
- CHINAR International Child Protection Policy was formulated, formalized and implemented.

Quality Education

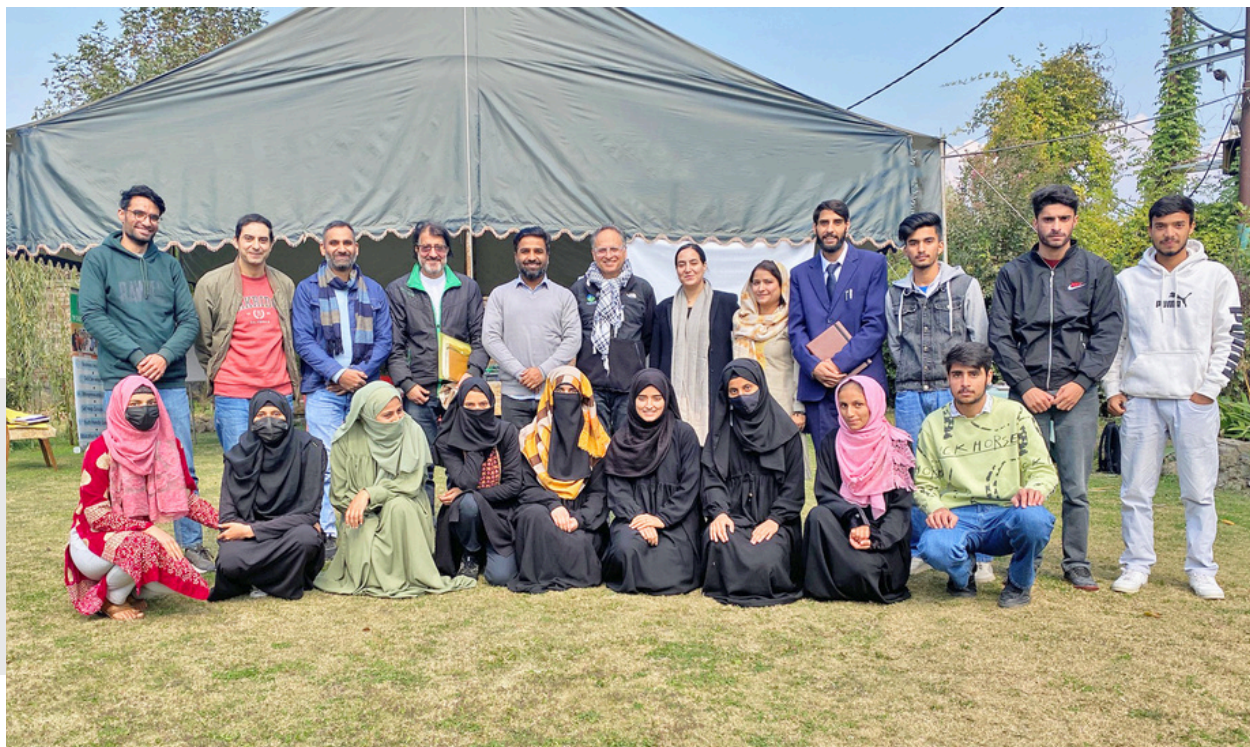
- Introduced Reading corners and Digital literacy labs in existing schools and community learning centers, paving way to a new approach in the educational development of children
- Conducted 6 capacity building programs and 10 LCM for the overall development of fellows and volunteers.
- 6,000 children benefited through its Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) programs, empowering young learners with essential skills.
- Held a multi stakeholder meeting at Baramulla to address the challenges and concerns in government education system.

Youth Development

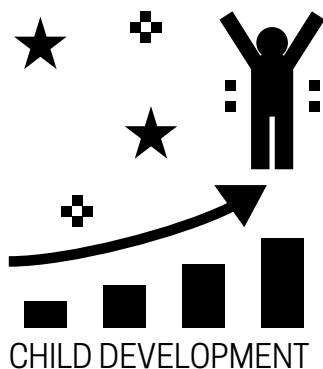
- Launched 29 Small Business Support units, reaching 66 units from 8 districts.
- Launched a total of 24 skill development centers, enrolling 454 youth.

Parvaaz

- Parvaaz program welcomed four six communities - two each from Baramulla and Kulgam, and one from Srinagar.
- Conducted five community awareness programs, catering more than 400 people.



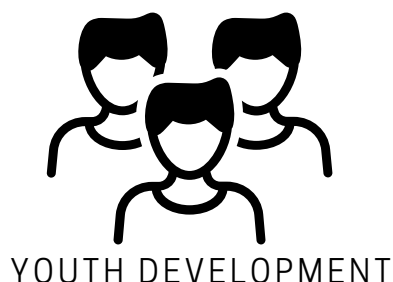
GOALS & TARGETS



- Enroll 500 children in the program.
- Re-assessment of existing beneficiaries,
- Livelihood to 50 families
- Safe Living Space to at least 15 families.
- Launch of Life Crafters and Career Prep Bootcamp programs for adolescents
- Medical camp in each district
- Capacity building workshop



- School Transformation: Expand reach to 65 schools for enhanced quality education.
- Warwan Valley: Scale up to 32 CLCs in remote regions.
- Reading Corners: Increase from 21 to 41, promoting literacy and reading culture.
- Digital Literacy: Extend digital literacy from 27 to 36 centers.
- Training: Conduct 4 targeted training sessions and learning circles for educators and staff.



- Small Business Support - 40
- Skill development centers - 31 (600 youth)
- Capacity building workshop - 3
- Higher Education Sponsorship- 100



- 16 communities
- 5 districts



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

"Provides critical support to children from most vulnerable communities to enable them to attain quality education."

This program is for vulnerable children from families that have no to little means of livelihood and are struggling to provide for their children. The selected child is provided with all necessities like school fees, stationary, clothes, shoes, school bags, nutrition, hygiene kit and basic healthcare. It provides market focused Community Finance for livelihoods to the guardians of vulnerable children so that the guardians can raise their families in a nurturing way. The target is to make the families self-reliant within 5 years.

Till date, 1470 children have been enrolled in the program from 7 districts

Annual distribution of Stationery

As the new academic session began, CHINAR organized the Annual distribution event to ensure that children have the necessary school supplies to succeed as they promote to new grades. Over 700 children received these kits. Besides, first aid kits were given to 134 families to ensure basic healthcare.

The Child Development Program is aimed at improving access to education and promoting overall well-being of unprivileged children



Stationery kits distribution in Srinagar

Two-day monitor workshop

A learning two-day monitor capacity building workshop was organized for the field staff of Child Development program across five districts. Attended by 16 participants, the workshop focused on beneficiary assessment process, effective monitoring and program guidelines. Besides, procurement procedures and livelihood identification were also discussed at length. All the monitors were orientated with the CHINAR International Child Protection Policy, which they agreed to and signed the declaration to uphold and promote the policy.





Health camp at Shopian

Scaling up - Expansion to Ganderbal

The yearly scale-up successfully concluded under the program, enrolling 324 new children from five districts - Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama, Budgam, and Kupwara. The children received a briefing on our program's protocols, followed by signing of contracts and distribution of welcome kits.

In an effort to expand program outreach, a new community called Rabitar in Ganderbal district was launched where we welcomed 20 children from 10 families.

The program currently operates in seven districts, with 1470 children enrolled in the program.



Sheep unit given to Kupwara family

Health camps held across five districts

CHINAR International, in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer, conducted four medical camps for children and parents enrolled in the Child Development Program across Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama, Budgam, and Kupwara districts. The medical team consisted of a diverse group of professionals, including general physicians, an ophthalmologist, a dental surgeon, a pharmacist, and a counselor, who diligently conducted thorough examinations for over 500 beneficiaries. These camps also provided supplementary medicines and referrals for further medical intervention.

These yearly health camps help us track the health of our enrolled children and quickly address any major health issues they may have. Besides education, CHINAR's Child Development Program focuses on overall well-being of children.



Scale up event in Ganderbal

Five new livelihoods launched

After a thorough assessment and due diligence, five livelihoods were successfully launched across four districts of Kashmir - Kupwara, Srinagar, Pulwama and Shopian. These included street food cart, two sheep units, an electric passenger auto and a street food venture. The families provided with the support demonstrated significant potential to become self-reliant and sustain themselves in the future.

“Thirty exceptional students, enrolled in CD program across Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara, Baramulla and Doda qualified 10th exams, while nine students qualified 12th class exams.”

QUALITY EDUCATION

Enhancing quality education in under-resourced schools while creating child-friendly spaces that nurture and empower vulnerable children within their communities.

This program is dedicated to transforming the lives of vulnerable children by providing quality education that drives lasting change. Through Community Learning Centers (CLCs), we create safe, child-friendly spaces that offer foundational literacy, remedial education, and socio-emotional learning for underprivileged children. Our CLC facilitators also collaborate with government schools to enhance learning outcomes through activity-based teaching strategies.

To further enhance quality of education, CHINAR runs the Teach with CHINAR Fellowship to drive school transformation, deploying passionate educators in under-resourced schools, which builds essential skills for early-grade students and professional skills among fellows to make them future ready.

Over 11,000 students have been benefited through school transformation, community learning centers and fellowship programs.



Empowering Fellows, Transforming Classrooms

Launched in 2023, CHINAR International's Teach with CHINAR Fellowship was developed to enhance foundational literacy, numeracy, and socio-emotional learning in government schools across Jammu & Kashmir. The program deployed 8 fellows to 8 schools across 6 districts, focusing on innovative teaching methods, digital literacy and community engagement. Fellows used inquiry-based learning and activity-based pedagogy, leading to significant improvements in student engagement and academic performance, with a reported more than 35 % learning gain.

Fellows also introduced digital literacy programs and established reading corners in 8 schools, fostering a culture of reading and critical thinking. As a result, student enrolment increased in some schools, and the overall educational environment improved through socio-emotional initiatives. The fellowship aligns with NEP 2020 and NCF 2022, creating a sustainable model for educational transformation in resource-limited areas.



TWC Fellow, Nusrat at Govt. Middle School, Surasyar, Budgam

Introducing reading corners and digital literacy

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. In the first phase, 21 reading corners and 27 digital literacy hubs were operationalised.





Capacity building workshop for CLC facilitators

Multi-stakeholder meeting

As part of its Quality Education program, CHINAR International hosted a multi-stakeholder meeting to examine key aspects of the education system in Kashmir. Attended by over 60 participants, including teachers, representatives from various organizations, Community Learning Center (CLC) facilitators, and parents of enrolled students, the meeting focused on addressing challenges within the public education system and exploring collaborative solutions to improve educational outcomes.



Community mobilisation event at Mujpathri, Shopian

Capacity building training

This year marked significant growth for our Community Learning Centers (CLCs) as the Quality Education Program delivered six targeted capacity-building workshops for Teach with CHINAR Fellows and CLC facilitators from various districts across the Kashmir Valley. Each session focused on themes aimed at enhancing facilitators' knowledge, skills, and personal development, with topics such as leadership building, child-friendly pedagogical practices, and effective classroom strategies. These interactive workshops empowered facilitators to apply new techniques in their classrooms, creating a more holistic and engaging learning environment for children in their communities.



Community mobilisation at Shopian

CHINAR organized a community mobilization event at Upper Primary School, Mujpathri, Shopian with the main aim of raising awareness regarding the importance of education and strengthening collaboration with the education department. The event was attended by over 200 people, including children, families, community leaders, school staff and district administration. The CEO Shopian along with the ZEO also attended the event and promised full support to CHINAR programs. The event showcased inspiring success stories from families who have benefited from CHINAR.



HESP Launch

Launched in 2023, the Higher Education Sponsorship Program (HESP) is more than financial aid—it is a transformative initiative giving hope and support to countless Kashmiri students, providing a pathway out of poverty and into promising futures.

For generations, financial hardship has forced many talented students in Kashmir to abandon their academic dreams, leading to lasting impacts on families and communities. HESP confronts these barriers head-on by delivering a comprehensive support system that extends far beyond traditional sponsorship. This year, 45 youth were selected for the program.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

“Works with unemployed youth through skill development and entrepreneurship support to enhance their capacities to become self-reliant”

A majority of Kashmiri youth is unemployed or underemployed and attaining a government job is the benchmark of being successful. Government jobs are scarce and the private sector is still in its nascent stage. Additionally, a significant number of skilled laborers are imported from other states, as dignity of labor has not evolved in Kashmir as in other parts of India. In this vertical, CHINAR works with unemployed youth through skill development, entrepreneurship support and counseling to enhance their capacities to become self-reliant.

To date, 2937 youth have been supported through skill development, business support and entrepreneurship guidance under the program.



Learning Circle Meet with selected candidates under HESP

Ishfaq's story of resilience

In the remote village of Drang, Budgam, Ishfaq Ahmad Wani's life is a powerful story of resilience and growth. After losing his father in his teens, Ishfaq took on strenuous labor to support his family. But his turning point came when CHINAR selected him for its Small Business Support Program. With CHINAR's support, he opened a CSC-cum-mobile repair shop, transforming it into a community hub that provides public services, mobile repairs, and job opportunities for two locals. His entrepreneurial spirit didn't stop there—he added a grocery store, partnered with HDFC to offer essential cash services, and recently opened an eatery catering to Tosh Maidan tourists. Ishfaq's inspiring journey even earned him an invitation from TISS Incubation Centre, Mumbai, to share his story of tenacity and vision.





Training youth in multiple skills

In the past year, 23 skill development centers were launched across four districts in Kashmir—Kupwara (2), Kishtwar (4), Bandipora (1), Srinagar (4) Kulgam (5), Shopian (2), and Baramulla (5). The purpose of the program is to empower youth through practical, marketable skills to enhance their employability and financial independence. These centers enrolled 454 youth in courses such as crewel embroidery, tilla embroidery, cutting and tailoring and digital learning.

Through the establishment of skill development centers, CHINAR aims to empower the youth of Kashmir by equipping them with relevant skills that can later be monetized.

To date, 1,779 youth have been trained in a wide range of skills through our centers across eight districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

TISS conducts monitoring visit

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, has been our knowledge partner in the Small Business Support (SBS) Program since 2016. The TISS team undertook a three-day visit to CHINAR International where they engaged in extensive discussions with the ground team regarding future strategies and expansion plans for their SBS program. They also visited the business units established by the last four cohorts in Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara. The primary objective of this visit was to formulate plans for the upcoming cohort and assess the progress of the existing business units.



SHG in Palpora, Srinagar

This year, a Self Help Group (SHG) was started in Palpora, Srinagar. Five young men completed a four-month training course where they focused on honing their craftsmanship and learn joinery techniques like delicate art of wooden engraving. With the trainer's commendable efforts and CHINAR's support, the trainees have established a SHG to generate livelihood opportunities for themselves and their community.



Parvaaz welcomes new communities

This year, Parvaaz program was launched in six new communities of Baramulla, Srinagar and Kulgam district. Parents were effectively briefed about CHINAR programs and guidelines in the Kashmiri language to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the Parvaaz program. The launch event also saw participation from community members, youth, CLC teachers, enrolled children, and their families. A total of 304 new children joined the program this year, from both new and existing communities.

Currently, 13 communities from four districts are enrolled in the program.

PARVAAZ

Parvaaz focuses on holistic community development by supporting vulnerable groups – children, youth, low-resource educational institutions and community-based organizations.

CHINAR International launched Community Transformation Program - Parvaaz -" in collaboration with Irfan Kathwari Foundation in May 2022 in the remote village of Waltengu. Waltengu, located in the Kund belt of Kulgam lost two-thirds of its population in twin snowstorms in late February 2005.

Parvaaz will include all the tested strategies implemented over the past 11 years through child development, livelihood support, quality education, youth development and crises relief programs. Based on our ground assessment, we are planning to target vulnerable communities from four districts of Kashmir – Srinagar, Shopian, Baramulla and Kulgam.



Launch of new community - Mundyari, Baramulla

Community Meet under Parvaaz

CHINAR organised an interaction session with the community members representing the seven communities enrolled under Parvaaz at Srinagar office. The primary objective was to cultivate deeper relationships and gain comprehensive insights into their unique issues and challenges. Led by Global Executive Director, Irfan Shahmiri, the session provided an active platform for open discussion on the pressing concerns faced by the communities. Through Parvaaz, CHINAR aims to work collaboratively and devise effective and sustainable solutions, fostering a lasting positive impact on the communities.





Community awareness

In collaboration with Block Medical Officer, Parvaaz held a series of awareness sessions focused on the health and well-being of individuals across all the communities in four districts of Kashmir—Srinagar, Baramulla, Kulgam and Shopian. With nearly 475 participants, the programs covered key topics such as mental and physical health, hygiene, the importance of a balanced diet, and access to clean drinking water. To support menstrual hygiene, each session concluded with the distribution of sanitary pads to women and girls.

The adolescent session, held in collaboration with SOS Children's Village focused on child rights, child abuse, domestic violence and coping mechanisms.

Emergency relief to 8 families

The goal of CHINAR's community-based model is to focus on the holistic development of children by addressing their critical needs. This includes providing a safe living space for children to thrive in their natural environment. This year, CHINAR helped renovate homes for eight enrolled families in the Srinagar and Baramulla districts. Following due diligence, the immediate needs of these families were addressed, which included the provision of raw material, furnishings and house repair expenses. Essential items like bedding, blankets, pillows, curtains and utensils were also distributed to the families in need.



Capacity building for field staff

A collaborative training workshop was organized for 15 field staff members working under Child Development and Parvaaz programs across eight districts of Kashmir. The workshop equipped field staff with a comprehensive knowledge about the programs, monitoring frameworks, basic MS excel skills, assessment tools and SOPs. At the end, a carefully curated field work kit containing a backpack, stationery, folders, stapler, card board, raincoat and other essential items was distributed among the monitors that will serve as valuable support to their ongoing efforts.





QUICK BITES

BOARD MEETS BENEFICIARIES

Over the past year, the BOD and CHINAR's Patrons embarked on journeys to comprehensively meet and interact with beneficiaries while analyzing the impact of CHINAR's programs in the community. They conducted an assessment trip to the remote valley of Warwan in Kishtwar district. During this visit, they engaged with the local community, gaining insights into the impact of our programs and addressing concerns.

Subsequently, Global Executive Director Irfan Shahmiri also visited Baramulla district, where he engaged with the families and children enrolled and provided valuable suggestions to improve program's effectiveness.

Internships

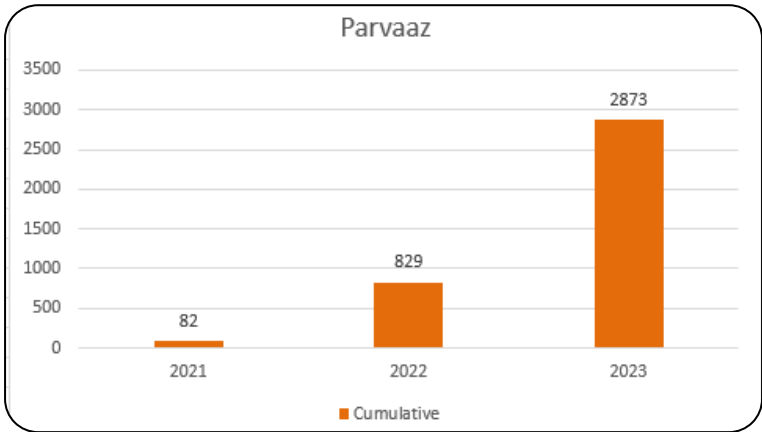
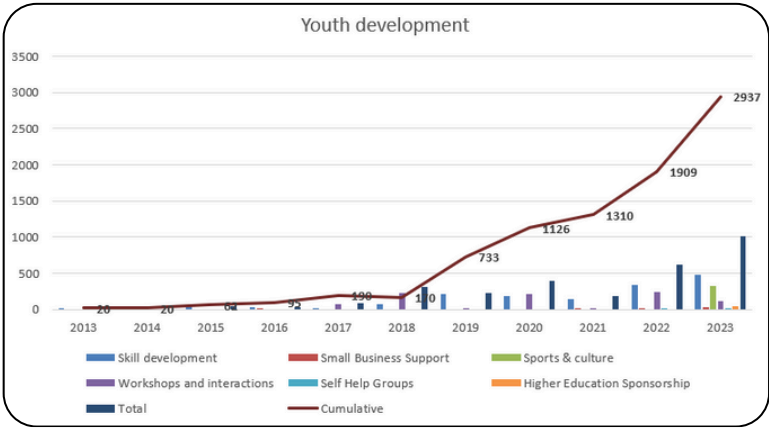
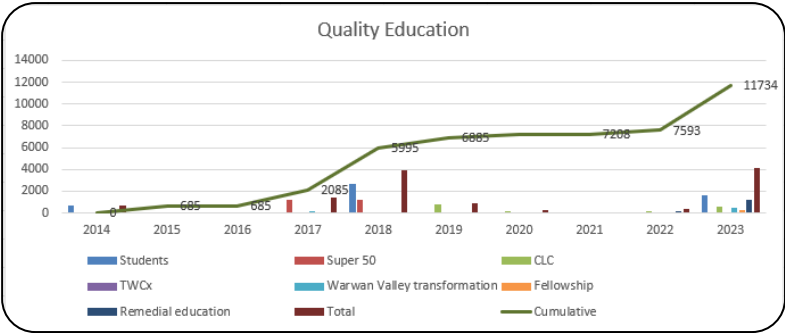
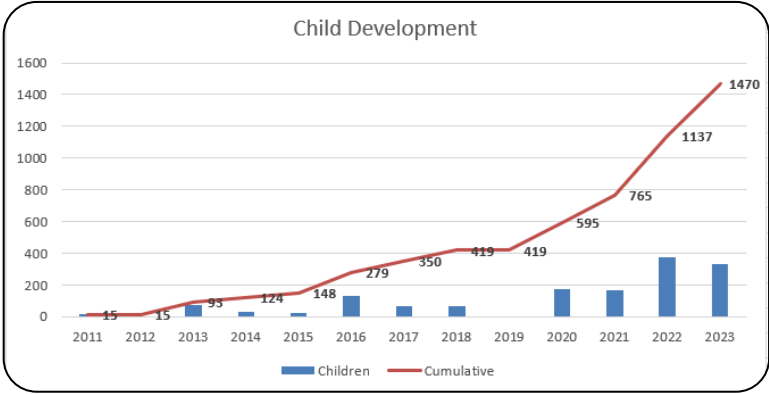
This year, we received the highest number of internship applications to date, with a total of 18 young people joining CHINAR as interns. Apart from local applicants, we welcomed three interns from the USA and Dubai. Throughout their internship, they were fully immersed in CHINAR programs, which included exposure trips to various intervention sites as well. These interns expressed deep appreciation for CHINAR's initiatives and recognized the significant positive impact they have on the community.



Exposure trips

Last year, multiple exposure trips were organized to provide learning opportunities for our Quality Education team, who then share this knowledge with CLC facilitators and fellows. This included a two-day exposure trip to Delhi, where they gained firsthand insights into the operations of two education-focused NGOs: the Simple Education Foundation and Let's Educate Children in Need (LECIN). Additionally, they attended training workshops organized by Shikshamitra and Katha Books, where they explored topics such as accelerated English courses and creating engaging reading corners.

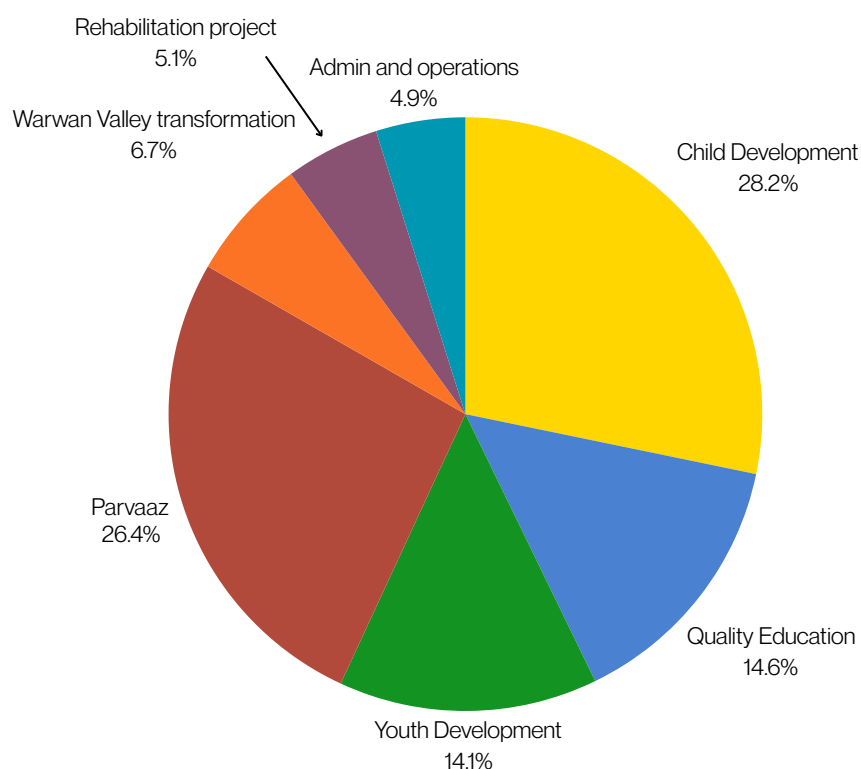




23-24

FINANCIALS

PROGRAMS	AMOUNT(INR)	AMOUNT(USD)
CHILD DEVELOPMENT	1,63,12,113	198,928.21
QUALITY EDUCATION	84,07,652	102,532.34
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	8,148,631	99,373.55
WARWAN VALLEY TRANSFORMATION	3,876,739	47,277.30
PARVAAZ	1,52,41,149	185,867.67
REHABILITATION PROJECT	29,64,513	36,152.60
ADMIN AND OPERATIONS	28,13,475	34,310.67
TOTAL	5,77,64,272	704,442





MORE ABOUT US

CHINAR International (CI) is a social impact organization based in Kashmir working on a holistic community-based model to provide solutions to the pressing problems of youth and children of J&K.



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