



2020-21 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments.



CHINAR International

Investing in children, youth and communities

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Chairman's Message



2020 was a challenging year, with a major focus on COVID-19 relief activities in addition to our ongoing programs. Kashmir was just barely emerging from the post-Article 370 abrogation lockdown when the pandemic broke out. Even though we are no strangers to protracted shutdowns, COVID-19 was different.

CHINAR International's experience in disaster management proved valuable in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. Our ground team quickly adjusted to the nature of the challenge and developed a plan to combat it. Immediately after the first case was reported, we focused on spreading awareness about the disease to prevent individual and community spread. As the situation worsened, we carried out relief operations aggressively, reaching out to over 4,000 families who needed immediate assistance. A helpline was also set up.

At CHINAR, we understand the importance of continuity in education for children, which had been badly affected since August 2019. We made a promise to the children in our intervention areas: *"We will provide you with education, no matter what."* This year, we innovated by creating a remote education program that kept students engaged through virtual classes, distribution of study packets, and even open-air classes, benefiting over 3,000 students.

In such a chaotic, COVID-19-impacted year, we managed to achieve some incredible milestones that you can read about in this report. While the past two years were challenging due to protracted shutdowns, we have a clear plan for 2021-22 and are looking forward to executing it. Groundwork has begun on multiple new projects, including Small Business Incubation, which focuses on empowering Kashmiri youth by making them self-reliant. An interest-free loan of up to INR 1 lakh will be provided to shortlisted candidates based on their innovative ideas. Due diligence has also started on a holistic community transformation project that aims to include community-based organizations as partners as we uplift children, youth, low-resource educational institutions, and the wider community.

I am grateful to the ground team for their courage in coming out and being at the forefront of fighting the pandemic including a trip to the remote valley of Warwan. Thanks to our partners in the government, community, and local organizations for their cooperation and support during COVID-19. I also take this opportunity to thank our staff, board of directors, patrons, volunteers, donors, and well-wishers for their support and belief in CHINAR.

Irfan Shahmiri

Global Executive Director

Highlights 20-21

Crises Relief

- A comprehensive COVID relief program with a focus on Awareness, Relief distribution and revival of education. Over 4000 families received emergency relief kits.
- Nine virtual classes were operational across five districts reaching out to 223 students. Over 2000 study packets were distributed among students.
- Provided different means of livelihood to 21 families post-COVID outbreak in Kashmir.

Child Development

- Thirteen students enrolled in the program qualified 10th class exams while nine students qualified for 12th across five districts with remarkable results.
- CHINAR expanded its base to Budgam district with 44 children from 25 destitute families enrolled in the program.

Quality Education

- Launched Phase 2 of Community Learning Center (CLC) program to ensure continuity of education and provide a child-friendly space for students to stay engaged in their studies during challenging times. In its first phase post August 2019, CHINAR successfully operationalized 24 centers, reaching over 940 students
- Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Learning Centers (CLCs) transitioned to a virtual format, with teachers providing education remotely reaching out to around 300 children.
- CHINAR International launched the TWCX volunteer program, assigning volunteers to teach three students each within their local habitation. With 40 volunteers involved, the program successfully reached around 100 marginalized children.

Youth Development

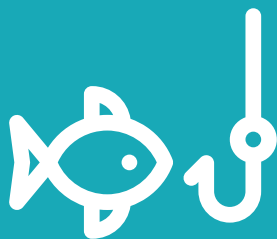
- 234 youth graduated in multiple skills from our SDCs - 588 graduated till date.
- Launched Cohort 1 of Small Business Support Program, in partnership with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Five businesses selected for the pilot phase.

2021-22 TARGETS



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- Scale-up from 500 to 1000 children in poverty.
- Develop counseling framework for enrolled families.
- Review SOPs and guidelines of the program
- Learning assessment of enrolled children in all the districts.



LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

- Scale up to 100 sustainable livelihoods for guardians of children in poverty
- Re-assess existing families and identify success stories



QUALITY EDUCATION

- Launch of 10 new Community Learning Centers - reaching 30 centers in total
- Transition of 4 Warwan tuition centers into 20 community learning centers
- 5 Teacher trainings on classroom management, lesson planning and teacher leadership, etc



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Entrepreneurship labs in 2 Higher Secondary Schools
- Skill Development Centers - 12
- Youth-friendly spaces- 5
- Small Business Support - 20



COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

- Launch of community transformation program in four communities from the districts:
- Kulgam
- Srinagar
- Shopian
- Baramulla



Crises Relief - COVID-19

APRIL - SEPTEMBER

CHINAR conducted relief operations across all the districts of Kashmir and two districts of Jammu division. Initially, CHINAR ran a massive awareness campaign for first one and half months to aware the masses about the disease in order to stop individual and community spread. Soon after, relief operations started with a focus on families who needed immediate support to sustain themselves. CHINAR's customized relief kit comprised of essential food items, hygiene products and protective masks collectively called as emergency relief kits (ERKs).

An in-depth need assessment and thorough verification process was followed to identify the deserving families which included collaborations with government, NGOs, local communities and other stakeholders on ground.

"CHINAR's helpline number, emplaced immediately after the crises, catered 100 to 150 distress calls per day. "

Our emergency response team ensured contactless delivery of ERKs at doorsteps of the deserving families. Through emergency relief program, CHINAR distributed 4045 ERKs to the families in distress (including migrant workers).

Education during COVID

APRIL - SEPTEMBER

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic severely affected children's engagement with their studies, leading to increased mental health issues. In response, CHINAR International's remote education program kept students engaged through a combination of virtual classes, the distribution of study packets to 2000 children, and door-to-door tutoring, ensuring continuity in their education and addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic

Remote learning centers: CHINAR launched a remote education program during the lockdown period, tailored to accommodate students in three categories: those with smartphones, regular phones, and those without any phones. This approach ensured that all students, regardless of access to technology, could continue their education.

CHINAR facilitated virtual classes through online applications and conference bridges. Nine virtual classes were operational across five districts reaching out to 223 students .

CHINAR received certificate of appreciation at a felicitation ceremony organised by District Disaster Management Authority, Pulwama for its contribution towards COVID -19 relief operations in the district. The event was attended by representatives of various NGOs, voluntary organisations and senior administrative officers.



in photo: Ambreen- Educator -Quality Education

Study packets: CHINAR found a unique way to connect with children by providing educational worksheets to keep them engaged in their studies. The study packets included engaging worksheets in English, Science, and Mathematics, designed to enhance students' learning abilities. Community facilitators guided students on completing these worksheets and conducted regular home visits to monitor their progress and provide support.

" Our team distributed over 2000 study packets among students."

Door-to-door tuitions: CHINAR started door-to-door tuitions for students enrolled in the Child Development program. Considering all the precautions including social distancing, our community facilitators went door-to-door to provide mentorship to students at their homes and evaluate their progress on a regular basis.

Community Learning centers

NOVEMBER 2020

CHINAR successfully launched Community Learning Centers, a contingency schooling program designed to address crises across 8 districts of the Kashmir division.

The Safe Space Remedial Program is tailored specifically for vulnerable children, providing a secure environment to bridge learning gaps. Through activity-based learning, the program emphasizes socio-emotional competencies and actively involves parents. Our aim is to offer foundational education, address individual learning needs, and ensure access to 21st-century learning opportunities.

Over 980 students from low-income group families were enrolled in 24 centers spread across 9 districts of J&K. All our centers followed COVID guidelines strictly and remained COVID free. Phase 1 of CLC started in August 2019, continued for 6 months with over 1100 children enrolled in 26 centers spread across 9 districts of J&K.

**“LEARNING WITHOUT BARRIERS
CHINAR'S COMMITMENT TO
VULNERABLE CHILDREN”**



in photo: Community learning center students

BRIDGING LEARNING GAPS CHINAR'S SAFE SPACE REMEDIAL PROGRAM

Community Learning Centers (CLCs) are vital in breaking the cycle of educational disadvantage that persists in marginalized communities. Factors like poverty, challenging family circumstances, and inadequate support systems hinder access to quality education, exacerbating the disparity. CLCs are essential because they:

- Provide free, accessible, and equitable education
- Bridge learning gaps through personalized support
- Foster socio-emotional growth and confidence
- Engage parents and communities in education
- Offer a safe and inclusive learning environment

By addressing these critical needs, CLCs empower disadvantaged children to overcome barriers, unlock their potential, and create a brighter future for themselves and their communities



Teach with CHINAR-X(TWCx)

SEPTEMBER 2020

CHINAR launched the Teach with CHINARx (TWCx) program, which provided an alternative schooling environment through mini classrooms to ensure students could continue their studies during the COVID-19 crisis. This innovative solution minimized dependency on COVID constraints, lockdowns, and internet availability, allowing for rapid scaling and reaching a large number of children. The "X" in TWCx symbolized both the number of children to be taught and the adaptability of the program, which delivered education directly to students while adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols.

EMPOWERING EDUCATION THROUGH COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS DURING COVID-19

Each volunteer in the Teach with CHINARx (TWCx) program committed 8 hours a week to teach three or more children in their neighborhood, either in single or multigrade settings. CHINAR organized a comprehensive 4-day induction training for 40 selected volunteers, focusing on effective teaching practices, classroom management, lesson planning, and student assessment. The training also included multiple icebreaker sessions to keep participants engaged. We are immensely grateful to Rubina Majid, Founder and CEO of Learning Resource Center, Hyderabad, for designing the training module and providing invaluable mentorship to all facilitators.

The TWCx program received a tremendous response from students, parents, and the community. Forty dedicated volunteers provided education to over 100 children across six districts of Kashmir during the COVID-19 crisis.

“WE WILL PROVIDE YOU EDUCATION NO MATTER WHAT”

CHINAR believes that every individual deserves access to quality education, regardless of their background, circumstances, or challenges. Our commitment to education is unwavering, and we strive to create a supportive environment that fosters growth, creativity, and empowerment.

Warwan Valley Community Transformation

TRANSFORM THE REMOTE VALLEY OF WARWAN SO THAT IT COULD RAPIDLY COME TO PAR WITH THE OTHER REGIONS OF THE J&K

Warwan Valley, with a population of 13,000 across 15 villages, lacks basic amenities such as electricity, mobile phones, and internet connectivity. Socio-economic indicators are poor, and education and healthcare facilities are lacking. The living conditions resemble medieval times

CHINAR developed a plan to uplift the medieval valley of Warwan, aiming to bring it on par with other regions of Jammu and Kashmir with focus on children, youth, education, and communities.

When CHINAR identified a shortage of qualified teachers, particularly during the long winter months, we inspired a group of passionate young individuals, both men and women, to step in as educators. CHINAR established four tuition centers to bridge the learning gap and kickstart its educational efforts in the valley.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Bridging the Digital Divide: CHINAR International's Installation of the First VSAT at Mulwarwan Village

In an effort to bridge the digital divide in remote areas, CHINAR International installed the first Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) in Mulwarwan Village. This installation marks a significant milestone in bringing reliable internet connectivity to an underserved region, which has previously struggled with limited access to digital resources.



TRANSITION FROM TUITION CENTERS TO COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS IN 2021

The year 2021 was pivotal for CHINAR International, as the organization decided to transition from 4 tuition centers to 12 Community Learning Centers. This strategic move enhanced accountability and focused learning by improving the teacher-student ratio and implementing a well-tested model of community learning centers. This expansion allowed for more effective educational support and a greater impact on the community.

NEXT FIVE YEAR DREAM

Over the next five years, CHINAR International aims to make a profound impact on the educational and economic landscape of rural communities. Through its comprehensive programs, CHINAR expects to benefit at least 80% of students across all villages, bridging critical gaps in education. Simultaneously, CHINAR will empower 30% of the youth through skill development and entrepreneurship initiatives, equipping them with the tools necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving job market.

Livelihood distribution

COVID AFFECTED FAMILIES

The lockdown due to COVID left many daily wagers/labourers with no source of income to fulfill the basic necessities of their families. CHINAR conducted an assessment survey across four districts of Kashmir region - Shopian, Pulwama, Srinagar and Kupwara to identify the families in immediate need of livelihood support. Bashir Ahmad Ladi from Keller village of Shopian District is one such example.

Bashir used to do daily labor to feed his family but was unable to go out for work after the COVID outbreak in Kashmir. CHINAR provided him livelihood support in the form of a Kiryana (provisional) Store. Similarly, Fatima Begum - a young widow from Changimulla, Handwara received livelihood support in the form of a sheep unit. Her three children are enrolled in the child development program for the last five years. Overall, CHINAR provided varied means of livelihood to 21 families post-COVID outbreak in Kashmir. The goal is to make these families self-sufficient so that they can take care of their child's education apart from fulfilling basic necessities of survival.



in photo: Bashir Ahmad Ladi (Pulwama)

Students pass exams with flying colors

CLASS 10TH AND 12TH

Thirteen students enrolled in CHINAR's Child Development program across five districts - Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama and Kupwara and Doda - qualified 10th class exams with remarkable results while nine students qualified for 12th class exams. These beautiful children from destitute families were struggling with their educational competencies and are first-generation learners - three of them being orphans. Some of them were dropouts or on the verge of leaving studies due to poverty.

Child development

EXPANDED TO BUDGAM DISTRICT

During scale-up survey 2020, CHINAR expanded its base to Budgam district. After a thorough assessment and verification process, 44 children from 25 destitute families in remote villages of Arizal and Chalyan Chotinad were enrolled in the program. These are remote villages of Budgam district, which remain cut-off from neighboring areas for around 4 months during winter. The literacy rate is low and children often drop out of school due to poverty. Following the final selection, CHINAR conducted a scale-up event where stationery, bags and hygiene items were distributed among children.



in photo: Happy grandmother shares blessings on qualifying 10th class exams

Monitor workshop

SEPTEMBER 2020

A two-day capacity building workshop was organized for the field staff across five districts of J&K - Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara and Doda. The purpose of the workshop was to update the monitors about organizational programs, home visiting guidelines and their responsibilities on the ground. CHINAR team had multiple sessions with the monitors and field officers on thematic areas like rapport building, fieldwork challenges and selection criteria. The participants also had an exposure visit to the families in Srinagar to understand their issues and challenges. The workshop concluded with appreciation to the monitors for their remarkable efforts on the field.

Internships

NOVEMBER 2020

Five social work students from Kashmir University successfully completed their fieldwork internship for one month at CHINAR. The internship focused on social welfare management along with the participation in ongoing activities of the organization. CHINAR team provided full support and encouragement to the interns in achieving their objectives. While sharing experiences and learnings with the team, the interns thanked CHINAR for providing them an opportunity to learn about social work practices implemented on the ground. Certificates of completion were also awarded to the interns.



in photo: Group picture with interns from Kashmir University

Annual distribution

JANUARY 2021

CHINAR held an Annual distribution event across four districts of J&K - Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara and Doda. In total, 370 children from 190 low-income families received books and stationery items. This included new beneficiaries selected during the 2020 scale-up survey. Community members, school principals and locals also participated in the event. Besides, a winter special distribution event was held at Shopian and Pulwama districts. These kits comprising of pheran, sweater, tracksuit, kameez-shalwar and shoes were distributed among 137 vulnerable children coming from 69 families.



in photo: Distribution of stationery kits(Srinagar) - right
Skill center graduates(Bemina, SDC) - left

Skill development

FEBRUARY 2021

CHINAR launched four new Skill Development Centers (SDC) at Srinagar, Bandipora, Budgam and Kulgam districts. Each center enrolled 20-30 young women from low-income families who will be trained in cutting and tailoring in an extensive 6-month course. This year, 234 youth graduated in multiple skills from our SDCs. The best trainees were awarded sewing machines based on their attendance, performance and socio-economic status. So far, over 500 young women were provided skill training from 8 districts of J&K.



Youth immersion series

DECEMBER 2020

A 5-day virtual youth development workshop was organized for youth in North America during the holiday break. With over 30 participants, the workshop was a great success. The goal was to create a youth-friendly space where young minds could share their ideas, challenges and accomplishments in a fun and interactive manner. The workshop focused on ice-breaker activities, inspirational talks by young development practitioners and the CHINAR immersion series.

Small business incubation

MARCH 2021

The application process is in progress for our new project - Small business Incubation which focuses on empowering the Kashmiri youth by making them self-reliant. An interest-free loan of upto INR 1 lac will be provided to shortlisted candidates on the basis of their innovative ideas. CHINAR plans to support 5 small businesses in the pilot phase. The selected applicants will be also provided technical, marketing, legal, and accounting guidance.

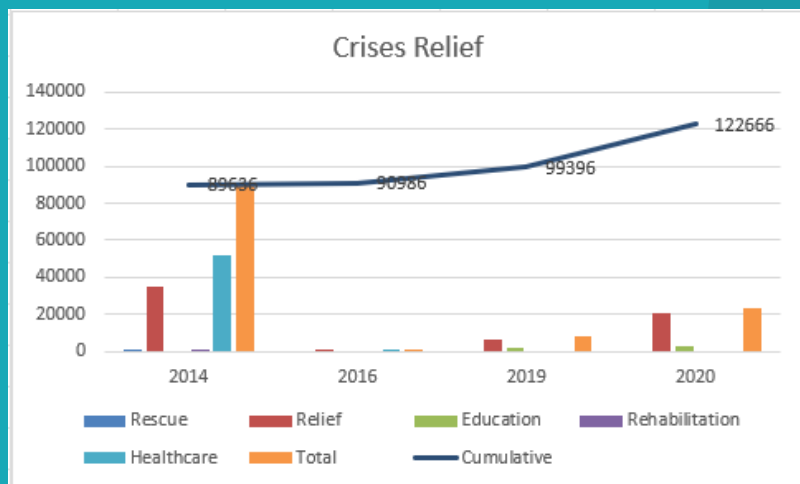
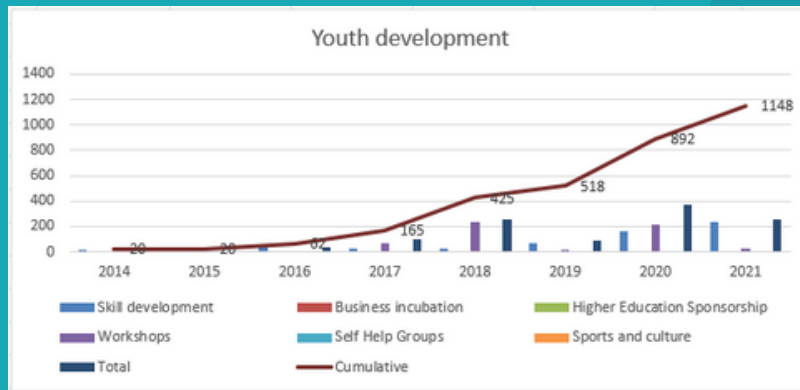
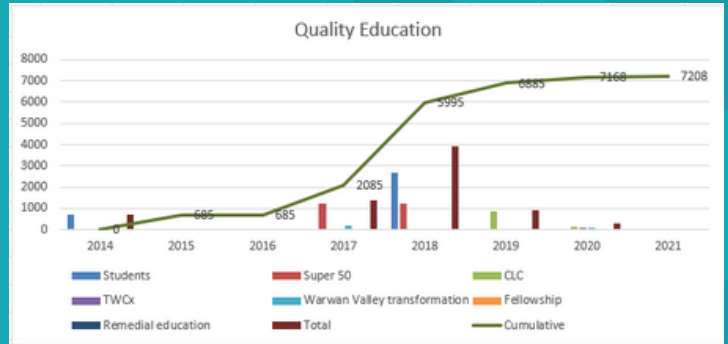
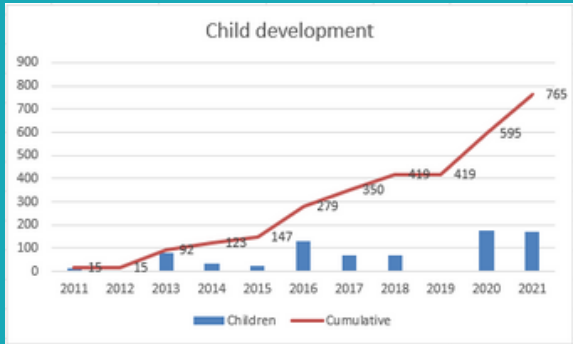
CHINAR is partnering with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai(TISS) to launch the program in September 2021.



in photo: Youth immersion series for children and youth in United States

Infographics

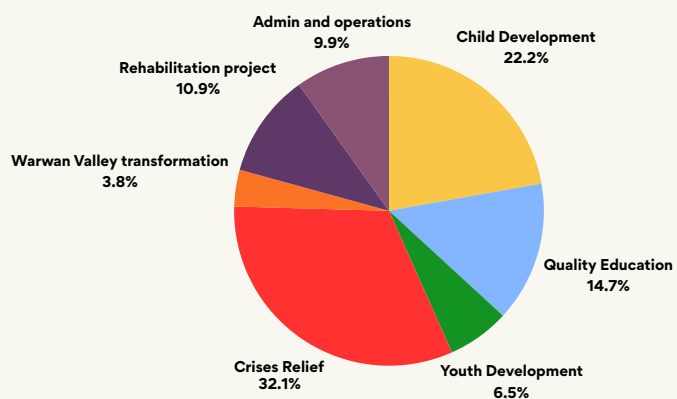
2020-21





Financial Summary

PROGRAMS	AMOUNT(INR)	AMOUNT(USD)
CHILD DEVELOPMENT	49,04,600	66,278
QUALITY EDUCATION	32,40,239	43,787
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	14,38,348	19,437
CRISES RELIEF	70,98,535	95,926
WARWAN VALLEY TRANSFORMATION	8,45,082	11,420
REHABILITATION PROJECT	24,00,000	32,432
ADMIN AND OPERATIONS	21,83,905	29,512
TOTAL	2,21,10,709	298,793



About The Organisation

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.

VISION

Peace, Progress and Prosperity in conflict areas of the world

MISSION

Empowerment of Children, Youth and Distressed Communities through quality education and socio - economic programs using Scientific Approach

VALUES

CHINAR believes in its core values - integrity and trust, diversity and inclusion, empathy and respect, accountability and transparency and continuous learning and improvement.

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