



PICTURED: 26 selected youth for Small Business Support, along with CHINAR and TISS team



Health camp in Shopian under Parvaaz

CHINAR International, in collaboration with the Block Medical Officer (CMO) of Keller, Shopian successfully organized health camp for enrolled children and families from Gatipora community. A diverse team of specialists from the health department, including a general physician, ophthalmologist, gynecologist and counsellor, examined over 100 people, including general public. Based on the findings from the camp, CHINAR plans to organize an awareness event specifically for adolescent girls, focusing on the importance of personal hygiene and maintaining a balanced diet. Follow-up treatments and referrals have also been recommended to address the health needs of beneficiaries.



Fehmeeda Begum
Heerpora, Shopian



Mubarak Ratta, Rakhe aarat

From Struggle to Hope: Shabrooz's story

This is heart breaking story of Mohammad Akber Shah, who lived with his wife, Shabrooz Akhter (34), and their three children in the remote of Batmaran Wanpora in Shopian. In 2020, their lives were shattered when Mohammad Akber tragically passed away from a sudden heart attack. As the family's sole bread winner, his death left them in extreme poverty, leaving them entirely dependent on community support and charity. Despite Shabrooz's tireless efforts, she struggled to meet her family's basic needs. **"My children, who once dreamed of a better future, now suffer because of our financial struggles,"** she shared during an assessment visit.

After re-assessment, CHINAR provided Shabrooz with a sustainable livelihood—a cow to give her the means to support her family. Alongwith her three children- Tajamul , Misba and Amina (currently in grades 7th, 3rd and KG) , Shabrooz also looks after her elderly in-laws, adding to the heavy burden she bears. **This month, nine families received livelihood support of different kinds under Child Development Program - cow rearing units, a tea stall and a copper making unit in Srinagar, Shopian and Kupwara districts.**



Shabrooz's cow unit - Shopian



Tea stall unit - Shopian

Four new livelihoods launched

This month, four livelihoods were launched under Parvaaz in three districts of Kashmir.

Zaffer Hussain, a daily laborer from Baramulla, struggled to support his family of six. After assessing his situation, CHINAR provided him with a cow-rearing unit to ease his burden. Feroz Ahmed, unable to continue carpet weaving due to multiple surgeries, received similar support. Another cow unit was provided to a disabled single mother from Heerpora, Shopian.

Meanwhile, Mubarak Ratta from Rakhi Aarat, Srinagar, whose livelihood was completely dependent on his shikara (a traditional wooden boat), was left without means when his boat was damaged. CHINAR provided him with the necessary tools for the repairs. Mubarak has now resumed work and looks forward to a productive season.

OUR MISSION

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



Irfan Shahmiri - Global Executive Director presents certificates to selected youth

Small Business Support –Launch of Cohort 5

CHINAR International launched the phase 5 of the Small Business Support (SBS) program in a 3-day event with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) as knowledge partners at Srinagar. The goal of the program is to support business ideas of marginalized youth, enabling them to achieve financial independence. Out of 560 applicants, 45 candidates were shortlisted after a rigorous 4-tier selection process, who presented their ideas to a panel of experts.



TISS facilitates training workshop for selected candidates

The panelists included – Prof. Satyajit Majumdar and Mr. Sujay Dixit from TISS, Prof. Saad Parvez – NIT Srinagar, Dr. Shazia Manzoor from Kashmir University, Mr. Abdul Rouf Khan (JKEDI), Mr. Adil Ahsan and Mr. Mohammad Rafiq (SIDBI) Mr. Irfan Shahmiri and Mr. Javeed Hajam from CHINAR International. Over the first two days, applicants shared their ideas, alongside motivational talks from successful local entrepreneurs. In addition, unit holders from previous cohorts shared their successful journeys, motivating the new cohort.

On Day 3, 26 selected candidates were felicitated, followed by a capacity-building program conducted by TISS faculty and CHINAR team. Esteemed guests – Mr. Syed Humayun Qaiser (Ex. Director Radio Kashmir), Mr. Rameez Makhdoomi (Sr. Journalist), Syed Parvaiz Qaiser (Industrial Consultant) and CHINAR patrons – Ms. Ismet Shahmiri and Mr. Altaf Hussain also attended the felicitation ceremony.

“With the launch of Cohort 5, CHINAR now supports 98 youth with Small Business Support.”



Launch of new community - Harinara, Baramulla

Two new communities enrolled under Parvaaz

As part ongoing scale up, two new communities have been enrolled successfully – Harinara in Baramulla and Shangus Sheikhpura in Anantnag. At the launch event, 80 children from 36 families were welcomed into the program, with 49 children from Harinara and 31 from Sheikhpura. With the inclusion of Anantnag, Parvaaz has now expanded into a new district.



Launch of new community - Sheikhpura, Anantnag

All the enrolled families attended a brief orientation session on the program’s guidelines, followed by the completion of the contract signing process. Both events saw participation from community stakeholders, who appreciated CHINAR’s efforts in driving community transformation. At the end, welcome kits were distributed to the enrolled children. Education and youth interventions are now underway in new communities.

With this current scale-up, Parvaaz now supports 16 communities.

Muzamil’s Journey of compassion

Meet Ms. Muzamil Maqbool from Heerpora, Shopian, a dedicated CLC facilitator. When she started her journey, she noticed high dropout rates in her community as many children were engaged in household work. With CHINAR’s support, she worked hard to address this issue and her efforts paid off—attendance at the CLC increased and children who once worked in the fields now aspire to become doctors, teachers and engineers.

Being a part of CHINAR has enabled her to channel her love for teaching into a meaningful change!



Wipro Foundation evaluation visit

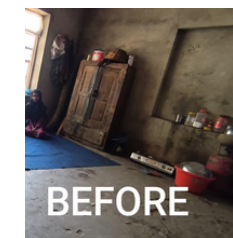
The Wipro Foundation, supporting our 15 Community Learning Centers, recently visited CHINAR to conduct a comprehensive review of our projects under Quality Education. This included site visits to centers, schools and community engagement activities. The Wipro team spent ample time with CLC facilitators and evaluated their teaching methodologies. At the end of two-day visit, they appreciated CHINAR’s education strategy including innovative approaches, community outreach and collaboration efforts. We are grateful to the Wipro Foundation for their ongoing support, which enable us to drive meaningful change in our communities.



Safe living for families

The Child Development Program aims to provide a secure and nurturing environment for children by addressing their critical needs. This month, CHINAR helped renovate homes for 10 enrolled families in Budgam (3), Shopian (3), and Kupwara (4) districts, providing essentials like doors and windows to ensure a safe living space.

Similarly, under Parvaaz, we provided safe living assistance to three families in Baramulla. This included mattresses, blankets, curtains, pillows, lights and basic utensils, which significantly improved their comfort and quality of life.



BEFORE



AFTER

Community tuition center launched in Heerpora

CHINAR has successfully launched another Community Support Center in Heerpora, Shopian under Parvaaz. A total of 27 students from classes 8th to 10th, hailing from Heerpora community were enrolled in the centre. Previously, these students had to walk a long distance to access tuition facilities and could not afford the travel expenses, leading many to drop out after 8th grade.

