



# CHINAR

*news*

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# President's Message

CHINAR has been working for the children of conflict ridden Kashmir since 2003 -



Children who are vulnerable because of poverty or because of being orphans. Our approach has evolved over the years and we now provide such children with a wholesome and nurturing environment without displacing them so that they can blossom and reach their true potential: an enabling environment at home, at the school and finally in the society. We also help marginalized youth (including school drop outs and adult orphans) and guardians of vulnerable children with a focus of making them self-reliant. At CHINAR, all our projects are taken up after thorough due diligence and impact analysis. CHINAR's ideology is to scale programs with quality in order to maximize impact.

The purpose of this newsletter is to give an update about the progress in the first quarter of Financial Year 2013 (Q1FY13- April through June). Purely for dashboard purposes, we are currently supporting 17 families and 63 children in the districts of Srinagar and Shopian. Additional families and children are being short-listed to scale up operations in both the districts. Survey is currently in progress in two districts – Kupwara and Ganderbal. The target is to support over 100 children and 30 families by the end of the second quarter which ends in September.

On skill development, we have facilitated the training and certification of 15 marginalized youth in district Shopian in partnership with Kashmir Government

Polytechnic (KGP) in Q4 of FY12. Currently we are working on organizing a 6 month Data Entry Operator course for 40 marginalized youth of downtown Srinagar. A graduation program for marginalized youth in Bachelors of Computer Application course is also being discussed in partnership with CASET College of Computer Science, Srinagar.

Our education strategy has evolved significantly in the last couple of years as we are working with like-minded educationist from both the Department of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) and private schools. This critical mass of educationists is instrumental in designing our educational framework with a focus of providing quality education to children.

The CHINAR team in Kashmir has also come a long way. We have a total of 13 employees including field staff. The culture in the office is that of honesty, transparency, mutual respect, hard work and fun. The team believes in the mission and vision of CHINAR and is willing to go the extra mile to achieve CHINAR's goals.

Some other programs, partnerships and social business initiatives are also in the works that will propel us in furthering our mission. For example, based on ground needs, a counseling component will be added to the programs which will be managed by a psychosocial counseling group (PCG) to be launched in Q2FY13.

Overall, our programs have evolved, our team has developed, our process of beneficiary selection, monitoring and oversight has refined and our foot print has increased. We believe we have hit the inflection point and are well positioned to make a significant positive impact in the lives of orphans, vulnerable children and marginalized youth of Kashmir.

Please read on to learn about our beneficiaries, programs and events. For details please visit our website at [www.chinar.org](http://www.chinar.org). Also visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CHINAR.International> for news updates and let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks for your time and support.

—Irfan Shahmiri



## Empower to Enable

It is CHINAR's endeavor to provide as much as is in our purview to get this family and other such similar families back on the track by engaging with them and making them empowered enough to stand on their own.

During one of the field surveys CHINAR team encountered a family headed by Ghulam Ahmad who lives with wife and four children including three daughters and a little son at Habba Kadal, Srinagar. He owns a small decrepit house and used to meet the ends through the grueling work of glass cutting. The things started getting worse when he was struck by a severe ischemic stroke (Brain Attack) due to hypertension, leading to partial paralysis which deteriorated the living conditions of the family. The lone bread earner of the family was rendered helpless, dependent and a bedridden person within no time. The economic conditions of the family worsened and it became difficult for the family to meet their daily expenses forcing his wife to work as a Fourth Class Employee (menial work) at an Educational Institute in nearby vicinity managing an income of Rs. 1200 a month. In this ungainly income, she has to manage the medical expenses of her husband, besides the expenditure on education of children and domestic necessities.

All the four children are extremely good at studies with bright passing percentages. Because of the poor financial condition, their parents can't afford to send them to school. After witnessing the levels of strife and engaging with them the family has been selected for CHINAR's Remote Child Sponsorship Program (RCSP), which covers all the expenses on their children's education which includes school fee, tuition fee, School uniform and stationary. Besides, the children are provided with casual clothing, nutrition and hygiene and first-aid kits.

It is CHINAR's endeavor to provide as much as is in our purview to get this family and other such similar families back on the track by engaging with them and making them empowered enough to stand on their own.

— Afifa lone,  
Project Coordinator, Srinagar





# Events

1st April, 2013

## Selection of Families

Five families and sixteen vulnerable children were selected for Remote Family Sponsorship Program (RFSP) and RCSP respectively from District Srinagar. The families were selected based on their living condition and need. This involves Community Finance livelihood support for poor guardian. The beneficiary pays back the interest free loan within the five years after which the guardian should be able to support their own children.



23rd April, 2013

## Selection of Sheep and Vendor

Sheep vendor was selected from Adoora, District Shopian and after discussions with Sheep Husbandry Department, Shopian who also recommended the Corridale sheep breed for the program. The Corridale breed is well acclimatized to the area and gain weight quickly. Each family was provided with five sheep units.



24th April, 2013

## Distribution of Supplies

Under RCSP and Remote Education Sponsorship Program (RESP) programs school uniforms, stationery, school bags, casual clothing and hygiene kits among 31 children from district Srinagar were distributed. District Resource Person (DRP) from DSEK, Srinagar and Branch Manager State Bank of India participated in the event.



25th April, 2013

## Sheep Distribution

Five *Corridale* sheep each were distributed to five destitute families of Zampathri under CHINAR's RFSP and Community Finance Program. The five families also formed a social group to support each other. Each family is required to pay the interest free loan back within 5 years. Also distributed supplies: stationery, clothing, hygiene kit to the selected children including summer clothes: *kameez-shalwar*, sleepers to girls and shirts, trouser to boys.







1st May, 2013

## Promotion & Hiring

CHINAR hired two monitors within the community and promoted a monitor to Field Officer from Keller in our Shopian intervention. One teacher from High school Zampathri was hired taking the number of teachers supporting our program to three. The teachers give tuitions including remedial education.

13th May, 2013

## New experimental nutrition plan

A new nutrition plan was started that includes glass of milk daily with Bournvita, egg and a banana. Besides each child is provided with 10 Kgs of rice and 1.5 Kgs of pulses monthly.

14th May, 2013

## Sheep checkups

Monthly Medical checkup for all sheep was organized where the sheep were vaccinated and branded with a unique number.



26th May, 2013

## Medical & Education Base-lining (Srinagar)



The Department of Education deputed four Resource persons (DRP's) with expertise in remedial education to undertake base-lining of children from Srinagar at CHINAR office. Children were graded in respective subjects and subsequently an individual profile and development plan was created.

During the same event, the volunteer CHINAR doctors group including pediatricians, dentists, psychiatrist and general practitioners carried out the health check of all the children and created their medical profile.

9th June, 2013

## Medical & Education Base-lining (Shopian)

The same event of May 26th was conducted for the Zampathri children at the CHINAR office in Srinagar. For our Zampathri children, it was a first time visit to Srinagar. The children were also taken for an outing after the event.







Manager Programs CHINAR handing over the keys of a Three wheeler to a beneficiary from Srinagar under CHINAR's RFSP.



## Learning by doing

Field Officer, CHINAR believes that common people live for their own good but great people live for others. While working with CHINAR all I have learned is that you haven't lived today until you have done something for someone who needs your support and help.

—Roauf Khanday,  
Field Officer



Children of Zampathri giggling during a funny picture taking moment at their school.



# Witnessing Change

**Z**ahid got a label of orphan 10 years back when his father passed away. Currently he is living with his mother and seven siblings at Zampathri. His mother is a homemaker and illiterate. The family has almost no source of income. His mother receives Rs 200 as widow fund monthly. Besides, they own land of 2 kanal from which she manages an income of around Rs 2000 per year. The family survives in a two room mud house with a little bit of help from the community. As a result, the family suffered a lot especially which took a huge toll on education of the children. At times Zahid did not have proper uniform for school and was so much malnourished that it affected his studies.

with other students in his class. However, with the help of remedial education classes provided by CHINAR he is giving a tough competition to his classmates. In fact Zahid introduced himself in English during a community mobilization event which was attended by a huge gathering which included community members, teachers and educationist from DSEK. This has motivated and encouraged other parents to send their children to school.

Zahid is now a punctual and disciplined child and is interested in becoming a lecturer. His interest in school can be witnessed by his spectacular attendance of 92%. He is progressing well and his interest in stud-



Initially, Zahid's competency level was not at par with other students in his class. However, with the help of remedial education classes provided by CHINAR he is giving a tough competition to his classmates.

Zahid was part of 15 children selected for RCSP under pilot project launched in Nov 2011. His family was provided a Sheep unit (5 Eves) as part of RFSP. The support includes clothes for both summer and winter like phiran, trousers shirts, sweater, shoes, socks etc. Further, as part of nutritional support, rice, pulses and eggs, milk with Bournvita.

Initially, Zahid's competency level was not at par

ies is increasing day by day.

His midterm results were heartening and encouraging for all: 27/30 in English, 23/30 in Math, 21/30 in Urdu, 11/30 in Kashmiri, 14/30 in Science with a total of 96/150 leading to 64% and shares the top position (1st) amongst all the 15 selected for the program.

—Salma Ashai

Project Coordinator (Shopian, Kupwara)





## Update SRINAGAR

CHINAR is among the few organizations to reach the neglected urban area of Kashmir by launching a project in March 2013 in Srinagar. Following an extensive research and a series of meetings with Education Department Kashmir, CHINAR identified two concentration points of intervention in Srinagar viz. Zaldagar and Nowpora. After surveying both the areas, 31 children and 7 families were selected for education and livelihood support respectively.

### Child Education

Under RCSP and RESP, CHINAR supports educational expenses of 31 children covering their educational needs and reduced the financial burden from their wards. Monthly attendance, performance reports, tuition and school visits and other checks keep a continuous track on children enhancing their overall performance. Provision of nutrition (in special cases) to children has also been helpful in terms of proper growth and development of children. For instance, after providing milk and other supplements to one of the child beneficiaries, namely Insha, who is calcium deficient, her leg pain has reduced to a greater extent.



### Community Finance

Under Community Finance Program, CHINAR has provided livelihood support to 7 families. Each family adopted different means of livelihood depending upon skill base and experience about the trade. Rafiq Chachoo used to ride a rented shikara (Boat) in order to meet both ends. After paying huge rent, a meager amount of money was left with the family which resulted in burdening him under heavy debts. Under RFSP the family was provided with one shikara to attain sustainable livelihood. It saved him of the trouble of paying rentals and take better care of his family needs. Similarly, the financial conditions of Mukhtar Ahmad Sheikh's family have progressively improved after CHINAR provided him with an auto rickshaw in addition to the sewing machine being given to his wife, Shaheena. Both Mukhtar and Shaheena are slowly and steadily coming to terms with fulfilling their basic needs with the support from CHINAR.







## Update SHOPIAN

CHINAR initiated a pilot program in Zampathri, Shopian in October 2011. After successful completion of the pilot project, in April 2013 CHINAR scaled up to a full program which includes support to 10 families and 29 children.

### Livelihood Support

One of the beneficiaries, for instance Sher Ahmed from Zampathri has four children. The eldest is a girl of age 12 who is mentally challenged and needs constant care. Sher Ahmed's wife died a few years back and since then his family has been reduced to utter poverty, as he is the sole breadwinner for the family. Sher Ahmed found it hard to make both ends meet. Their poverty was at such a level that the whole family was suffering from mal-nutrition. "I would often think for hours and later see myself lying on floor with my children sitting around me with their eyes full of tears", recalls Sher Ahmed. Sher Ahmed is a part of families that CHINAR selected for their RFSP pilot in October 2011. After looking at the families condition CHINAR provided him five sheep through Community Finance Program. After almost 2 years, the environment in Sher Ahmad's household has transformed. Now there is laughter instead of tears.



### Educational Intervention

Amjad (10 years old) and Shahid (8 years old) are two brothers from Zampathri who lost their father at the tender age of 2 and 3 years respectively. After their father's death the condition of the family became impoverished and unbearable. This forced the two children to stay back home. Now, Shahid and Amjad are part of the children that CHINAR selected for their RCSP. Besides school fees, CHINAR provides stationery and uniforms throughout the program. Most importantly, remedial education classes, developed with the expertise of educationists, were started for the beneficiaries. This was a turning point for Amjad and Shahid, both academically very weak and lagging behind their classmates. The remedial class made it possible for them to get individual attention from their school teachers and move forward at a faster pace, while attending the same classes as their peers. The program has changed the lives of these two orphans who now often study late into the night.





## CHANGE: New Recruit at CHINAR



Before joining CHINAR, I didn't carry good image of NGOs working in Kashmir to the extent I used to think that NGOs take money from donors and

deposit the same in their Swiss Bank account.

However, after joining team CHINAR my thoughts about NGOs got changed. I can safely say now that not all the NGO's are bad, honest professional NGOs does exist and I can bravely say that CI is one among them. I am witness to how CHINAR International team is working honestly, giving their 100% and using their full knowledge and skills only for the purpose of that they want to help vulnerable children, orphan, destitute youth and widows

After the joining I started working with CI team, they are not only teammates but we are like a family and the working environment in such a tremendous that we never feel that we have no blood relation with each other. We always treat each other with respect and love.

—Ajaz bin Shabir

## Effective Monitoring

Effective monitoring is critical to the success of a project in terms of accomplishment of targeted tasks and achievements of intended results and impacts. The role of a monitor thus begins with the inception of a project and continues throughout the project's lifetime. The monitor needs to develop complete understanding of the ongoing programs. Since it is through the eyes of a monitor one can see the progress of a project on regular basis, the explicit feedback of a monitor becomes mandatory. Being the key person on field, the monitor requires documenting all the activities, processes, methodologies and problems which will be available as a resource material for future course of action. The monitor contributes to all the essential components of a program including education, nutrition, health, hygiene and livelihood. The continuous information gathering by a monitor in the form of attendance records, performance reports, regular school and tuition visits and home visits keeps a check on efficient utilization of resources.

### CHINAR's Dashboard

- Remote Sponsorship Programs - Shopian district – 10 families & 30 children  
(Target for Q2FY13 – 15 families & 50 children)
- Remote Sponsorship Programs - Srinagar district – 7 families & 33 children  
(Target for Q2FY13 – 10 families & 50 children)
- Skills Training – Shopian district – 15 youth.  
Partnership with KGP  
(Target for Q2FY13 – 40 youth from Srinagar)

## ACRONYMS

- Kashmir Government Polytechnic (KGP)
- Department of School Education Kashmir (DSEK)
- Remote Child Sponsorship Program (RCSP)
- Remote Family Sponsorship Program (RFSP)
- Remote Education Sponsorship Program (RESP)
- District Resource Person (DRP)





## Donate Generously

We at CHINAR have many projects in pipeline however we can't do it without your help. In this blessed month of Ramadan, please open your hearts and donate generously. Sign up to sponsor a child, sponsor a family, sponsor a marginalized youth for graduation or just donate money and we will figure out where to use it. We will connect you with the beneficiary and provide you regular updates.

We would like to thank all those who donated towards our projects in 2012-13 including the grants from the USA based Mir foundation and Kathwari foundation. Please visit our website at [www.chinarinternational.org](http://www.chinarinternational.org) or [www.chinar.org](http://www.chinar.org) for online donations and do let us know if you have any questions or comments.

### Donation Plans: (per month)

#### Remote Education Sponsorship Program (RESP)

- 7th grade and younger : ₹1200/- per month per child
- 8th grade and older : ₹2100 per month per child

#### Remote Child Sponsorship Program (RCSP) (includes education and nutrition)

- 7th grade and younger : ₹2100/- per month per child
- 8th grade and older : ₹3000/- per month per child

#### Sponsor a family for livelihood support: ₹ 35,000/- (ONE TIME)

#### BCA graduation for Marginalized Youth – 20 USD – ₹1200

## BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION

### CHINAR (Child Nurture And Relief) International State Bank of India (A/N-32017727521)

Swift Code - SBININBB290  
IFSC Code: SBIN0001527

### Jammu & Kashmir Bank (A/N-0278CD1847)

Swift Code - JAKAINBBSRI  
IFSC Code JAKAOBAGAAT

*For Online donations in USA, please visit our website at [www.chinar.org](http://www.chinar.org). Donations made in USA are tax exempt.*

*Note: CHINAR International is not authorized to receive foreign contributions at this stage; necessary steps for CI to accept foreign contribution are in process. If you are outside India, please either send money to CI's parent organization (Child Nurture And Relief – CHINAR) or use personal accounts in India to send money to CI.*





## ABOUT US

Child Nurture And Relief (CHINAR), a non-profit, non-religious, non-political organization was launched in VA, USA in 2003 with a focus on psychosocial rehabilitation of orphans and vulnerable children in conflict areas. Between 2004 and 2011, CHINAR successfully ran a pilot project called CHINAR Home (a home for 20 orphan boys and girls), in Kashmir, in partnership with a local NGO - CHINAR Kashmir (CK). CHINAR supported CK both programmatically and financially during this time. The partnership also successfully conducted disaster relief activity after the earthquake of 2005 in Kashmir which included rehabilitation of a border village in Uri district.

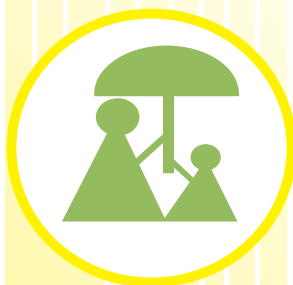
Over the years, CHINAR's approach evolved and scope broadened. CHINAR now uses a holistic community based approach to rehabilitate and empower orphans & vulnerable children, families of such children and marginalized youth without displacing them. This is accomplished through programs like quality education for children, livelihood support for guardians of vulnerable children, skill development and jump-start capital to start a business for marginalized youth. CHINAR's programmatic interventions are time bound and ensure sustainability after the project is over. For instance, the guardians of vulnerable children are provided with livelihood support so that

they can become self-reliant and have a stable income to raise their families independently within a period of 3 to 5 years.

In order to execute the new strategy, CHINAR launched a new organization in Kashmir in October 2011 by the name of CHINAR International (CI). CI has laid a solid foundation by putting together a vibrant team of young professionals in its office in Srinagar. Currently CI supports 80 children and 20 families in the Srinagar, Shopian and Kupwara districts of Kashmir division.

**Editor:** Bilal A Pandow

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