

PICTURED: 50 students enrolled under Higher Education Sponsorship Program during LCM at Srinagar



Feroz Ali - Bandipora  
(Kitchenware unit)



Muzaffar Ahmad - Shopian  
(Tailoring unit)

## Two new SBS units launched

As part of CHINAR's Small Business Support project, two units were launched in the Shopian and Bandipora districts of Kashmir. Muzaffar Ahmad Deedad, a 24-year-old from Shopian, became the sole breadwinner of his family after his father's passing in 2023. He had been earning Rs 8,000 per month from his small tailoring shop. After successfully completing a rigorous four-tier selection process, he received essential resources to expand and upgrade his business. Similarly, Feroz Ali Bhat from Sumbal, Bandipora, received support to grow his kitchenware shop after facing financial challenges following his father's death.

**Currently, 81 SBS units are operational across different districts of Kashmir.**

## Empowering single mothers: Helplessness to hope

Mehbooba Akhter, a single mother from Shopian, lives in a modest single-room house in Sedow, Shopian, with her two children. Last year, she lost her husband to a liver tumor, leaving the family in a difficult financial situation. Her husband had been the sole breadwinner, running a small Kiryana store and selling chickens from their humble home. After his passing, Mehbooba took on the responsibility of managing the store and aimed to expand it by stocking a wider variety of essential items. CHINAR International assessed the family's needs and supported her by providing additional supplies, strengthening her business as a sustainable source of income for her family. Her two children, Mustafa and Muntaha (currently in grades 6 and 11), were enrolled in the Parvaaz program during the 2024 scale-up.

Meanwhile, Noorul Amin, a laborer from Kupwara, lives with his wife and seven children. As the sole breadwinner, he constantly struggled to meet the financial needs of his large joint family. After a thorough assessment, CHINAR provided Amin with a shop stocked with basic grocery items under its livelihood support program. This support aims to make him self-reliant, enabling him to cover daily expenses and provide better care for his family.



Mehbooba Akhtar - Shopian



Noor-ul-amin - Kupwara

## 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 renovated homes for three enrolled families in the Budgam (2) and Ganderbal (1) districts, providing essentials such as doors, windows, washrooms and more to ensure a safe living space. To date, 16 safe living spaces have been provided to vulnerable families under the Child Development Program.

Similarly, safe living spaces were provided to enrolled families under the Parvaaz program in three districts: Shopian (1), Srinagar (2) and Anantnag (1). This support ensures the safety of children and their families during the harsh winter season. To date, 19 families have benefited from this support under Parvaaz.

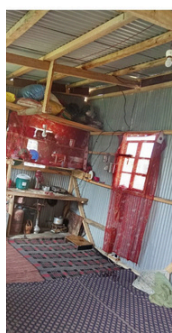


BEFORE



after

Ganderbal



Before



After

Rakhe-arat (Srinagar)

## OUR MISSION

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





Women Awareness – Anantnag

## Community Awareness under Parvaaz

As part of the community transformation program, Parvaaz successfully organized health awareness sessions for women in the enrolled communities across Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag and Shopian districts. Attended by over 600 women, these sessions focused on educating participants about the importance of a balanced diet, health and hygiene and menstrual health.

Additionally, an awareness session on cyber safety was conducted for 14 adolescents in Palpora, Srinagar. This session focused on educating the attendees about various online threats, their consequences and ways to navigate the internet safely.



Women Awareness – Srinagar

## Warwan Crises Relief

On October 14, a devastating fire incident in Mulwarwan, Warwan destroyed 40 houses and left 70 families homeless, with no means of protecting themselves from the harsh winter ahead. In response, the CHINAR team immediately conducted a needs assessment and distributed essential supplies. This month, in collaboration with Ehsaas International Trust, our team distributed 80 relief packages to the affected families. These packages contained food kits, agricultural tools, and livestock to help these vulnerable families survive and rebuild in these challenging times.



Health camp – Baramulla

## Health camps for children and families

CHINAR International, in collaboration with the Block Medical Officer, Pattan, organized a joint medical camp Harinara, Arampora, Bonichukal, and Shalboni communities enrolled in the Parvaaz program. A team of specialists, including a medical officer, a general physician, gynecologist and counsellors, examined around 500 individuals, including the general public. Prescribed medicines were provided free of cost to children and their parents. Meanwhile, under the Child Development Program, a health camp was organized in Ganderbal district, benefiting 65 individuals. Attendees also received free medicines, ensuring comprehensive support for their health needs.



Health camp – Ganderbal

### Hadi's progress story

This is the inspiring story of Hadi Bashir, a determined boy who overcame poverty to pursue his dreams. Initially, Hadi was a shy and reserved student, often sitting at the back of the classroom. After joining the Community Learning Center (CLC), Hadi experienced classroom environment where activity-based learning and interactive teaching made learning enjoyable for him. Gradually, Hadi overcame his shyness and developed strong communication skills, rising from 32% in his baseline assessment to 88% in subsequent evaluations. He even received several awards at CLC and scored 85% in his 7th grade. In the words of Hadi's parents: **"My child's CLC is not just a place of learning; it's a place where dreams take flight."**



## Learning Circle Meet – HESP

A Learning Circle Meeting (LCM) was organised for 50 students enrolled in the Higher Education Sponsorship Program (HESP). The meeting engaged students in eight impactful sessions, including a motivational speech by Hussain Zafar, a broadcast journalist. In addition, it included sessions on modern ways of learning, an overview of CHINAR's journey, psychometric assessments, activity-based learning and other enriching activities. The sessions provided students with innovative learning strategies, self-awareness tools and career guidance, fostering personal and professional growth while setting the stage for future success.



## Strengthening School Management Committees

CHINAR International organized seven School Management Committee (SMC) meetings across government schools in the districts of Shopian, Srinagar, Bandipora, Budgam and Kulgam. The goal of the meetings is to empower local communities to take ownership of their schools, which can lead to a more sustainable approach to school improvement. The discussions focused on engaging local communities, exploring strategies to improve education, and encouraging active participation to enhance student performance.



## Capacity building

A collaborative training workshop was organized for 15 field staff members working under Parvaaz and Child Development. Facilitated virtually by a resource person from ICRC, Jordan, the workshop equipped the staff with comprehensive knowledge on effective assessment techniques, project planning, sampling methods and data management tools. Overall, the workshop proved to be highly productive, with the participants engaged in group activities and learning through real-life examples.

