

ACTIVITY REPORT: 2018-2019

The Holistic Child Development India (HCDI) is a Humanitarian, Nonprofit, Development Organization engaged primarily in promoting education, health and overall development of underprivileged children. HCDI believes that working exclusively for children would not bring about the expected change in their lives unless their families and communities are socially, economically and politically empowered to develop by themselves. Therefore, HCDI supports not just the children alone but also their families and communities by addressing the issues that affect their lives and impair their advancement. Apart from carrying out activities that change the lives of children for the better, various other development activities to enhance the livelihood opportunities of the families and the communities are carried out to improve their economic conditions. As a National Non-Government Organization, HCDI had implemented several large projects in the past funded by European Union, German Government (BMZ), Japanese Government (MOFA) and large International organizations like Kindernothilfe eV, Germany, ERIKS, Sweden etc. and presently it is working implements seven large projects in eight states across the country through its local partners promoting the rights, interests & dignity of children, their families and communities apart from engaged in various development activities. A few more extensive projects in different parts of the country are under preparation and shall be started soon. While the vision of this organization is to bring about a lasting impact in the lives of the children through a holistic approach so that they become creatively Educated and responsible citizens and contribute to the building of the nation, the vision also includes the promotion of equality, justice and harmony in the society and protects the environment. As such, the core programs of HCDI are Education, Health & Nutrition, Livelihoods and community organization.

Since its inception, all the programs operated at the national level in different states are implemented through the children's/development projects at the grass-root level located in other states managed by other entities (independent local partners), except in some cases where HCDI directly implements the programs and in the cases of emergency responses to earthquake or floods, where no local NGOs are operating in the affected area or if the need is there to continue the development work in the same calamities affected area after the relief and rehabilitation work is over, HCDI directly implements the programs. Therefore, the role of HCDI is basically to plan, design various types of development programs with an action plan and log-frame and oversee the execution of programs and subsequently monitor and evaluate both programs and finances of the programs/projects. HCDI provides funds for programs& projects as per the approved budgets, monitor and check the accounts and project reports be accountable to donor organizations

Apart from this, the organization has been regularly monitoring the Children's projects through visits, meetings, internal and external evaluations, and periodically reporting to the concerned international donor organizations. Also, HCDI's role is to provide professional guidance and support to the projects and conduct regular training/workshops on the regional and at the central level on various subjects such as counselling, child psychology, child development, child rights issues, project management,

finances, various rural development subjects — agriculture, watershed and land development etc. relating to the needs of different types of programs to build the capacities of all the project staff. Thus, it requires the constant building the capabilities of the communities and the staff at the grass-root level, Promotion & protection of child rights through appropriate program activities, Enhancement of livelihoods, addressing the impacts of Climate Change, agriculture, land and Watershed development issues and building the Community-Based Organizations at village levels. These program components are implemented broadly through different types of projects.

HCDI's major program focus:

HCDI's programs ensure that while the child is kept in the center if empowerment of the families and communities is done with their participation, the needs and interests of the children can be met. Therefore, HCDI is focusing on:

- Carrying out child-focused community development programs (CFCD) in rural and tribal areas that involve families and communities in the development process to create a sustainable and development future.
- Implementing programs for children at high risk (Children in exploitative situations), such as children living on the streets and engaged in child labor (Rag-pickers children).
- Mitigating the impact of climate change by building the communities' capacities to adopt new farming methods to enhance their livelihoods and face environmental challenges.
- Resorting to emergency response as and when any disaster occurs in any country to minimize the adverse effects that disasters have on children and their families.
- Adopting advocacy initiatives that promote the rights of children and women.

PROGRAMMES AT GLANCE:

Child Focused Community Projects

No. Child Focused Community development projects	6
No. Children Covered	2600
No. Households covered	7536
No. Villages covered	85
Population covered	38925

Children at High-Risk Project:

Number of projects	1
Households covered	164
Population covered	820

Children Covered	500
------------------	-----

Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

CBO	Number of Groups	Members
Self Help Groups	260	2922
Farmer's Groups	90	3062
Youth groups	63	2521
Adolescent girls' groups	37	429
VDCs	89	1098
Vocational Trades	11	98

The Child Focused Community Development Program is the main program that HCDI has been taking up, adopting innovative methods in the interior rural and tribal belts where more people suffer from poverty— Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and in certain states in North East. This program focuses on four components - Education, Health & Nutrition, Livelihood and Community Development. While the first two are for children, the other two are for the communities where children that aim at livelihood enhancement, agricultural development, land development, animal husbandry, watershed development etc.

These programs are carried out in the following states through large CFCD & CAHR projects:

Sl.	Location	Name of the projects	No. of Children Covered	No. of Villages Covered	No. of Household
1	Nagaland, Tanning	Liangmai Community development project	350	7	854
2	MP, Khandwa	Parivartan Community development project	200	20	1130
3	Assam, Tinsukia	Dibrugarh Adivasi community development project	400	7	1341
4	Odisha, Kalahandi	Gram Shakti Community development project	300	22	1095
5	Jharkhand, Pakur	Integrated child-focused community development project	1050	19	1982
6	Jharkhand, Turbunga	Turbunga Community Development project	300	10	1132
7	Mumbai, Kalyan	Child Rag Pickers project.	500	4	164
Total:			3100	89	7700



Children from Nagaland Project



Children from Madhya Pradesh project

The rural and tribal communities mainly depend on agriculture as their primary source of livelihood. Therefore, it is essential that HCDI helps the farmers to address their issues and problems. They receive awareness and training to promote their agriculture for better production. Significantly HCDI promotes watershed programs to increase water in the area to enhance the farmer's productivity. Periodically exposure visits on better agricultural practices such as organic farming, high-yielding seed varieties, cropping patterns, crop management, etc., are organized for farmers.

HCDI believes in the active participation of the people, including children, in any development programs that address their needs and interests. With the assistance of international and national funding partners, HCDI continues to bring about changes in the lives of thousands of children and their families. HCDI can accomplish its work in a meaningful and successful way. Besides providing livelihood, the project has necessarily brought in aspects of responsible parenting, self-help groups, saving programs and constantly encourages women to participate in cultural activities.

Children's Parliaments program:

Children's Parliaments is HCDI's fastest-growing program, unique in concept, content and its implementation. As an organization HCDI provides resources and support to children to become the change agents for their own future through Children's Parliaments by ensuring children's participation in decision making, especially in matters concerning them.

Today HCDI has promoted 108 Children's Parliaments in its six CFCD projects and one Child At High Risk (CAHR) Project. Children's Parliaments create a space for children to express their right to participation in decision-making. Children have invaluable contributions to make at all levels in the family and society, and their contributions should be respected and considered. Children who have so far been non-assertive recipients of adult decisions acquire significant levels of social competence, self-esteem and self-confidence when allowed to participate in matters concerning them. Their participation in Parliaments organized at the village level has increased their overall capacities, and their independence and resilience are strengthened. When the children participate in decision-making, they are less vulnerable to abuse and better able to contribute to their protection.

Article 12 of the UNCRC relates to children's participation, and the Children's Parliament is a very effective tool to help children understand decision-making and peaceful governance. All the projects have reported enthusiastic responses –older children's parents and teachers to this initiative.

Details of Children's Parliaments:

Number of CPs	108
Number of Boy Children	1384
Number of girl children	1438
Total CP Members	2822



Self-help groups for women's empowerment:

To augment empowering women in rural India, self-help groups have been formed across the projects. Women were empowered economically, socially and politically through these SHGs. The groups are supported with trainings and information dissemination. Women are now capable of managing their group activities efficiently independently. SHGs are seen as platforms for the social and economic development of the community in general and families in particular. They promote the standard of life for the poor people and ensure a better quality of life in the villages. They inculcate saving habits among women, which leads to pooling the resources to help each other. It also generates awareness on various issues affecting the community, government schemes, rights laws etc. They promote unity among themselves with the concern for social problems and collective action towards change. SHGs have also helped members with financial discipline, identify credit needs and create opportunities for consumption and production through credit and loan facilities.

Details of self-help groups:

Number of groups	Number of Members
438	4904

Combating Child Labour amongst Rag picking children in Mumbai is located in the Kalyan area. It has a population of 1,193,266 and covers 137.15 square km giving a density of 8700 people per square km. The waste disposal is dealt with in dumping grounds Sathenagar was chosen as a dump yard as the project site after a need assessment was conducted for the people of all six dump yards. The rag-picking families of this area are more economically backward and belong to the Matang and Katkari castes that are very poor and have been culturally oppressed. The other communities in the area are Muslims and Buddhists. 581 children are given education formally and non-formally. 449 children are enrolled in schools. The numbers have gone up considerably indicating a readiness on the part of the community to accept education as part of their life. The children have excelled in sports



Workshop on Child Protection Policy

Trainings, seminar & capacity building:

The capacity-building training has brought about great awareness among the partners and has impressed the donors to understand child rights and child protection. In building the capacities of the Projects and other institutions, HCDI and its partner, ERIKS, have fulfilled its goal and moral commitment to empowering communities through collaborative efforts. It is a thrilling thought to visualize a future where partners are autonomous and evolving to become totally independent.

In the last three decades, HCDI has grown to be an active promoter of child rights. HCDI endeavours to bring about positive changes in the quality of life of exploited children and their families deprived of fundamental human rights. HCDI is committed to addressing this group by implementing programs and activities with the Child Rights Approach to help them develop themselves and progress in life. Children are the primary beneficiaries and their families and community because we firmly believe that investment in a child today will undoubtedly bear fruits tomorrow. Thus, HCDI was able to shape the lives of several thousands of children in India over the last several years.

Thomas Rajkumar
Secretary

September 2019



**SECRETARY
HOLISTIC CHILD
DEVELOPMENT INDIA**