

# HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT INDIA

## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT: 2019-2020

The Holistic Child Development India (HCDI) was established in 1995 and is a non-profit Child Focused Development organization working for the transformation of lives of children and the communities where the children live. HCDI aims to bring about a positive change in the quality of life of children and their families, who are exploited and deprived of their basic human rights. With an experience of over Three decades, HCDI has committed to carry out innovatively designed programs and well-planned activities with the Child Rights Approach that would bring about lasting improvement in the life of children, their families and communities. As a national Humanitarian organization, HCDI presently works in over six states across the country through its local partners in implementing programs of different kinds and promoting the rights, interests, and dignity of children, families, and communities. HCDI believes in the active participation of the people, including children, in any development programs that address their needs and interests.

HCDI's main function is to ensure quality programs are implemented by way of professionally planning projects, designing various kinds of development interventions, and preparing proposals with an action plan and log-frame that are high standard and result oriented, particularly the standard expected by the large International donor organizations. After that, to execute the programs through the entities at the local levels, manage and supervise the programs, prepare budgets following program design in consultation with the communities, project staff on recognizing their needs and interests. So also, to periodically monitor the programs/projects right from day one to ensure that the programs implemented by each Project are executed as per the programs planned and designed and of good quality.

### **The main focus of HCDI's programs is:**

- To adopt a child-centered approach coupled with the child rights approach in designing and implementing the programs to meet the needs and interests of the children and at the same time to empower their families.
- To reach out to the most poverty-stricken areas of Tribal and rural regions, children's basic needs are not met with no educational facilities and support system to develop in all the spheres. The programs cover communities that are the poorest of the poor.
- To work for children working in an exploitative situation and are subjected to various forms of abuse searches, children engaged in rag picking children living on the street etc.
- To empower the farmers to adopt new forms of farming to increase agricultural productivity to improve their livelihoods and equally to build awareness amongst them on the importance of mitigating climate change and facing environmental challenges.
- To respond to any type of calamities that may occur in any part of the country and affect the lives of the children.

### **Child Focused Community Development projects:**

The concept is clear that while children's needs and interests are identified and addressed, their parents are socially economically and politically empowered to collectively deliberate and address the issues affecting their lives. The economic empowerment of the families living

In rural and tribal areas, the focuses are mainly on improving their agricultural activities both on and off-farm, especially in motivating them to go in for land levelling, land improvement, bunding and adopting the different watershed approach to save the rainwater and improve the soil. Also, to switch over to climate-resilient agriculture methods to protect their plants/ crops from weeds and insects and avoid chemicals to protect the soil and the crops.

## Program Activities at Glance:

### Child Focused Community Projects

No. Child Focused Community development projects	5
No. Children Covered	2853
No. Households covered	5594
No. Villages covered	66
Population covered	28948

### 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	192	2137
Farmer's Groups	71	990
Youth groups	44	2013
Adolescent girls' groups	37	429
VDCs	70	824
Children's Parliaments	85	2021

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 House hold
1	Nagaland, Tenning	Liangmai Community development project	350	7	854
2	MP, Khandwa	Parivartan Community development project	200	20	1130
3	Assam, Tinsukiya	Dibrugarh Adivasi community development project	400	7	1341
4	Odisha, Kalahandi	Gram Shakti Community development project	300	22	1095
5	Jharkhand, Turbunga	Turbunga Community Development project	300	10	1132
6	Mumbai, Kalyan	Child Rag Pickers project.	500	4	164
<b>Total:</b>			<b>2050</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5716</b>

### Education:

To ensure excellence in academic performance of the children the focus has always been one hundred percent enrolment of children in the schools as well as to see that quality education is imparted in the schools. There are tuition centers organized to support academically weak students and guide them in their studies. To maintain the quality of education, village education committee/school management committee is working as monitoring agency and visits the schools to monitor the teacher regularly. The capacity of the teachers at the schools where the children attend the schools is built so that they can develop innovative methods of teaching. The relations between teachers, parents, project staff and School Management Committees are regularly strengthened and improved. Children have given educational materials such as notebooks, pens, pencils and other related materials to improve education. Enrolment of the children and drop-out children has been routinely monitored through Children's Parliaments' and Village Education Committees or School management committees. The

government of India provides Mid-day meals in most of the school; every child gets the mid-day meal in primary school. The Mid-day meal is monitored by Village Education Committee or school management committee for the quality education and childcare facilities in the project area. The Projects do focus on Early Child Care, School going students and Vocational training to unemployed youths for bringing an impactful result. With extra coaching classes, there has been a gradual improvement in the pass percentage with better grades. Village Council Leaders and Village Education Committees (VEC) have reaffirmed priority in school management. The timely meetings of parent's-teachers helped the upbringing of their children as responsible parents and teachers as a mentor and a guide. Early Child Care (ECC), which remains the core objective to cater to the needs of 0-6 years, more awareness of nutrition and health practices for Mother and Child. The Anganwadi centres have also helped the ICDS Program to increase its activities.

#### **Health & Nutrition:**

Malnourished children are identified and supported to improve their nutritional status. They are provided with supplementary food and parents are given awareness in this respect. Awareness is conducted on communication and good care of the children. The essential health check-ups are organized regularly for the children and also for the communities, the projects build a network with PRI members schoolteachers, anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and other Government Officials. People are, therefore, aware of various Health facilities and schemes available with the government. In some Projects, awareness through street plays has equipped them with the knowledge and information about governmental schemes available. This way, mothers are helped to take the responsibility of pregnant and lactating mothers and children in general. Medical camps are organized at project locations that have helped the community immensely. Awareness of health and hygiene has played a significant role in keeping their surroundings clean and sanitation facilities. The Swachh Bharat (Clean India) scheme introduced by the Government of India has slowly penetrated, and children of the Children's Parliaments have been active agents of change. Health awareness is given to the community. The Project has created awareness on personal hygiene/sanitation by conducting group meetings with parents, adolescent girls, youth and children. Pregnant women get a regular check-up done at the Anganwadi centers by ANM.

#### **Livelihood Enhancement:**

To Improve the Economic Status of the target families, various livelihood options are made available such as improving soil & water conservation, agricultural development and income generation activities. Efforts are made to impart skills to the youth, farmers and women by involving them in various livelihood activities through Project as well as government departments. The farmers have been helped to network with farmer groups and register with agriculture departments at the district level. This has helped the farmers to get benefits from government schemes. At village level trainings, the resource persons from Agriculture department have been invited to train the farmers. To address the challenges of the small marginal farmers and to uplift the economic standard of the community the projects have initiated the following soil and water conservation activities. To improve the irrigation facilities for farmers, check weirs were constructed. Earthen Nalla bunds have been deepened and repaired. The Projects successfully supports marginal farmers to have Farm bunding in their barren land, now they have started paddy cultivation and this year crop yield is increased in the project areas. To improve the economic condition of the landless families they were supported to run petty shops and one fancy shops. The SHG women are now more active and are taking initiatives to promote goat rearing, poultry and start small, petty shops. Market monopolies by the individual are also being reduced as most activities involve group intervention and equal share among members.

With the development of the Demonstration Farm, surrounding villages have benefitted from various training on seed preservation, nursery saplings and best practices on multiple cultivations. Financial support to youths for Motor Driving was given for self-employment. Many girls have started tailoring as their source of income. Projects supported sewing machines and other materials. Youths are Making bricks and earning income in some projects area. Projects supported them with the bricks machine and other material. SHG Management trainings are given to the Women SHGs on maintaining books and registers and savings. As a result of the exposure to KVK, the farmers and SHG members are becoming more advanced in their production; the farmers are doing organic farming and, in the group, the SHG women are cultivating the crops and vegetables. The kitchen garden is promoted in the families. More than 60 percent of the farmers started making vermicompost.

Traditional ground recharging structures. Through the watershed activities, projects have treated about 300 hectares of land to recharge ground water. Farm ponds are renovated and landless SHGs women are provided with financial assistance for income generation activities.

### **Community Mobilization/Capacity Building:**

Through different training programs, the Project has empowered the women to keep their records, registers and books, savings, etc., and understanding the importance of women participation. The Project has formed different CBOs such as VDC, VEC, Youth Group, Farmers Group, watershed committee, women SHGs and Children's Parliaments. The training is given to respective CBOs on their roles and responsibilities to function effectively for the development of the groups and ultimately community. The Projects have formed SHGs, farmers groups, Youth Groups, adolescent groups, village development Committees (VDC), and Children's Parliaments (CP). These groups are taking initiative for the development of the villages. The CBO members are motivated through regular meetings, training and awareness programs. Exposure programs are organized for SHG members, which increased their self-confidence. The exposure to KVK and awareness programs increased agricultural production. Farmers are doing the Kharif, Rabi and Vegetable Cultivation after receiving the training and guidance. The output of the crops has increased 20 % after introducing modern methods.

### **Community awareness on child Rights & Protection:**

An awareness program on child abuse and exploitation was organized for the community. Now 80% of the community members are aware of various kinds of child abuses and exploitations that children can be subjected to if no attention is paid by the families and communities. The Child Protection Committee strengthening meetings were organized so that they are well aware of their roles and responsibilities. The child rights and child right violation seminars were organized for the community. After the training, the community is taking appropriate measures to ensure the rights of the children. Child Protection Committees at village levels are formed and are functioning in the project villages. The participation of children in the programs is increased through the CPs, which are found active. Children take up various issues affecting their lives and propose action to address the problems. Socio-Cultural programs with Cultural dance, cultural Songs, games, public speaking, etc., were celebrated for the children. Around 500 children and community people participated in the programs. The program helped the children to exhibit their talents, and they have grown in self-confidence.



**Women's Day Celebration**



**Training for village children**

### **Various training / capacity building programs:**

Through regular capacity building/ training programs, the staff, women, and farmers improve their skills, knowledge, and getting information to perform better. The following training/seminars were conducted.

- Workshop on Child Protection Policy (CPP) to design and implement.
- National Seminar for the leaders of the Children's Parliament.
- Training on Soil and Water Conservation measures & renovation of traditional water sources.
- Training on Financial Management /FCRA Regulation.
- Leadership Training for the leaders of rag-picking community children.

### **Children's Parliaments:**

The Children's Parliament is a significant tool for strengthening child rights, especially the Participation Right of the children. The main objectives of Children's Parliaments are to generate awareness among children about rights and to create a platform for them to speak, share and discuss. The Children's Parliaments inculcate a sense of responsibility among children to shape their future and the future of their village community. It also gives them a voice to stand up for their needs and to protect and promote their rights.

## PROJECTS PROMOTING EDUCATION THROUGH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS:

Through 29 such educational activity centers, established in 8 states to promote the education of more than 3108 underprivileged children, is another program that its HCDI is supervising its execution and monitoring. This program is funded by a charitable organization supporting children based in New York, and its name is 'Light to Life' of Marthoma Church in the USA. HCDI is assigned to provide guidance for the execution of programs through all these centers, regularly monitoring and evaluating the program activities and reporting to Light to Life in New York. The whole program aims at educating and bring about overall development in their lives. The program aids the social transformation and development of communities through the holistic development of children. At large, they empowered the children to achieve their goals for self and career development, thereby transforming their communities and becoming nation-builders ultimately. The Project is designed to support the educational needs of underprivileged children and develop them physically, emotionally and provide them with value education for a better life. Children are also equipped with a one-time nutritious food in the project Centre, where children attend after school hours and holiday time. At the centers, they are provided with various programs and activities that include the provision of school supplies, uniforms, bags etc. And regular tuition classes are conducted for children along with various extra-curricular activities in the project centre daily.

The childcare project centers are spread across 8 states in India, and children of different caste, creed and religion are benefitted through this program. Some of the year's major highlights. where children were exposed to various development programs that aimed to support the children holistically. Some of such programs conducted through the year were:

Value Education classes, awareness programs, health check-ups, medical camps, extra-curricular activities (music, drawing, craftworks, sports and games), distribution of health and hygiene kits to improve their hygiene practices, training children and parents on child rights and child protection, Life skills classes to help manage complex challenges in life, moral and value education, Child parliament programs, environmental care and plantation drives, academic coaching classes, personality development classes, motivational classes, supply of educational materials, a celebration of National holidays & Festivals – Independence day, Republic day, Diwali, Onam etc. Organizing cultural programs & competitions, summer camps, study tours & economic development programs for parents like tailoring, cattle rearing kitchen gardens etc.



Children in the Education Activity Centres

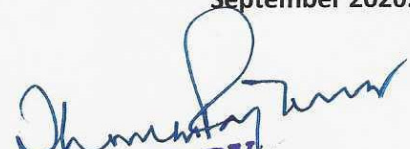
The desire of HCDI is to increase the number of projects to cover a higher number of children in India, and hence a couple of more donor organizations in Europe are being approached. Since the year (1995) this organization has been formed; by the grace of GOD, it has been possible to touch the lives of so many children. HCDI's commitment to maintaining a high quality of the programs of the existing projects and our accountability to donors remains steadfast.



Thomas Rajkumar  
Secretary



September 2020.

  
**SECRETARY**  
**HOLISTIC CHILD**  
**DEVELOPMENT INDIA**