

IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

ENROLLING, EDUCATING AND REINTEGRATING

(Mainstreaming children into formal education system)

120 Urban Deprived Girl Child Labourers.



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INTRODUCTION

This report aims to assess the impact of CHORD girl's education program in Hyderabad, Telangana. The project strives to enroll, educate and mainstream 120 working/dropout girl children every year through their bridge school project in Ranga Reddy District, Telangana. The program provided a holistic and flexible learning opportunity to children and also laid emphasis on supporting children in their early adulthood stage and strived to empower the students by making up for lost education and rebuilding a learning foundation, integrating the child into mainstream education and enabling the child toward a sturdy development plan through guidance and care.

The guiding values for CHORD are following:

- **Education-** the only road to Freedom from Exploitation
- **Every child deserves a childhood.**
- **All Children have a Right to Participation, Development, Dignity, Love, Care & affection.**

THREE STAGE PROCESS

Chord has adopted a three stage process to reach its desired goal:

Stage I: Aashirwad Remedial School – To help the child regain his/her lost childhood and give them enough time for the children to understand the meaning of a school as the curriculum is simple and not exam-oriented. Bridge school is like an ice-breaking exercise.

Stage II: Formal School (Post mainstreaming) – Integration into formal school enhances the child's self-discipline, boosts confidence and the child is integrated into the educational mainstream.

Stage III: Vocational Training or Tertiary education (After School) – To prepare adolescents for acquiring a sustainable, dignified age-appropriate livelihood opportunity

The report consolidates the analyses of CHORD's overall achievements and long-term impacts through its interventions in the period 2022–23. In a dynamic and demanding environment, where complexities surround the process of social change, CHORD's effort, here, is to understand the extent to which changes have been made in the life of a girl child in Hyderabad.

Through synthesizing the outcomes and impacts from a diverse range of assessments, this report aims to represent CHORD's contribution towards the realization of girl child education, but also learning.

SCOPE

The impact assessment report for the CHORD project focusing on enrolling, educating, and mainstreaming urban deprived girl child laborers showcases a comprehensive scope of activities and achievements. The project's scope emphasizes on addressing the challenges faced by vulnerable children through a structured approach that includes identification, rescue, rehabilitation, and mainstreaming.

Key elements of the project's scope include:

- 1. Identification and Motivation:** Targeting densely populated areas with child labor, conducting door-to-door surveys, and providing initial support to children and parents.
- 2. Bridge School Enrollment:** Ensuring protection of child rights, indoctrinating children into the school environment, and providing counseling.
- 3. Teacher Recruitment and Training:** Recruiting local community members as staff, developing training manuals, and conducting teacher training sessions.
- 4. Curricular and Extracurricular Activities:** Implementing peer group interactions, play activities, soft skills, and computer training.
- 5. Liaison and Mainstreaming:** Facilitating coordination between various stakeholders and mainstreaming children into formal schools based on their learning abilities.

The scope highlights achievements across various key performance indicators such as survey coverage, enrollment targets, identity verification, staff employment, attendance rates, academic performance, nutrition provision, healthcare, and family benefits.

The report also underscores challenges encountered including parental and employer resistance, post-COVID-19 fears, extreme poverty, and absenteeism.

Despite these challenges, the project has succeeded in improving literacy rates, enhancing learning outcomes, increasing community engagement, and sensitizing parents towards the importance of education.

Overall, the scope of the project demonstrates a holistic approach towards the rehabilitation and empowerment of urban deprived girl children, aiming to break the cycle of child labor and provide them with opportunities for a dignified and sustainable future.

STAKEHOLDERS

CHORD's mission to empower girls through education wouldn't be possible without the dedication of many different people. This section highlights the key stakeholders who play a vital role in the program's success:

Primary Stakeholders

- **Girls themselves:** They are at the heart of everything. Their courage, determination, and bright futures are what drive CHORD's work.
- **Families:** Their involvement and understanding are essential for the girls' successful reintegration into society.

Secondary Stakeholders

- **The Chord Team:** These are the program's heroes – teachers, social workers, mentors, and everyone else who works tirelessly to support the girls' education and well-being.
- **Donors and Funders:** Their generosity provides the resources that make the program possible.
- **Government Agencies:** Their collaboration and support are crucial in ensuring the program operates smoothly within the legal and social framework.

- **The Public:** Their awareness and advocacy for girls' education create a ripple effect that strengthens CHORD's mission.
- **Local Communities:** Their understanding and acceptance of the program are crucial for the girls' successful reintegration into society.
- **Qualcomm:** Aashirwad School for girl children, is a social intervention jointly initiated by CHORD and Qualcomm which aims to educate, empower, enrich, and enliven the lives of girl children

Current State Assessment: Before the Program

Child Labour Prevalence in Hyderabad Slums

In Hyderabad slums, prior to the initiation of programs like those by CHORD, there was a significant prevalence of child labour, particularly among girls. Research indicates that about 15% of slums had 2-5% of children working, with some slums reporting even higher rates, exceeding 40%. This prevalence of child labour is a concerning issue that affects the education and overall development of children, especially girls who are often engaged in labor instead of attending school.

Despite the adverse working conditions and health risks associated with child labour, a significant portion of working children expressed satisfaction with their conditions, highlighting the complex dynamics that perpetuate this issue.

Efforts to address child labour prevalence in Hyderabad slums are crucial to safeguarding the rights and well-being of children. Initiatives like those undertaken by CHORD, which provide free education, skill development training, and support for children, youth, and women in gaining employment or self-employment, play a vital role in combating child labour and promoting holistic development. By focusing on education, skill-building, and empowerment programs, organisations like CHORD contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty and exploitation that perpetuates child labour in vulnerable communities.

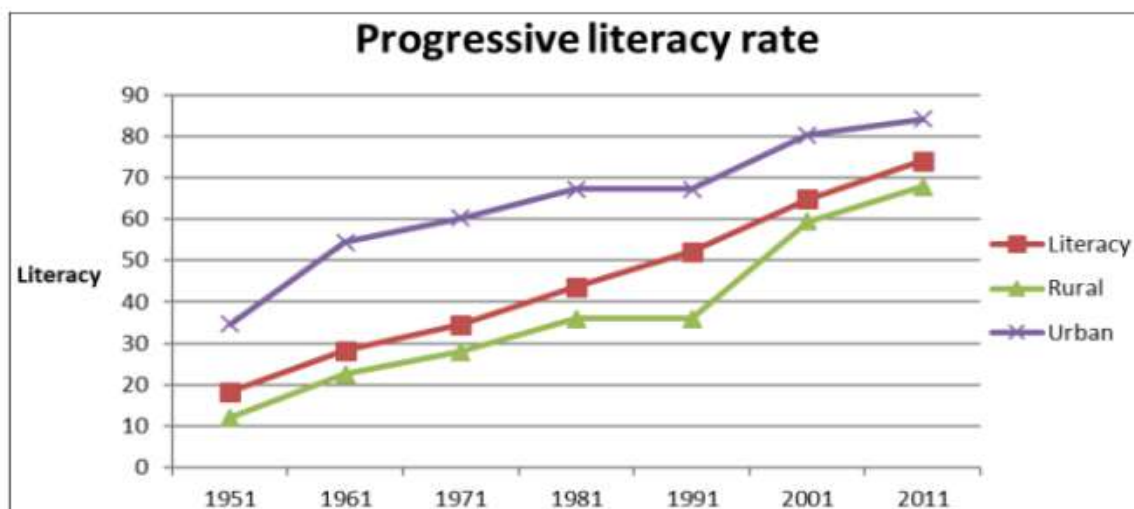
Education and Literacy Rates in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana, faces challenges related to education and literacy rates, especially among girls. According to recent data, Telangana has the fourth-lowest literacy rate among large states in India, with a literacy rate of 72.8%. The rural literacy rate in Telangana is even lower at 53.7%, highlighting disparities between urban and rural areas.

The dropout rates in Telangana are a concern, with higher rates observed in secondary education compared to primary education. The dropout rate for boys is higher than that for girls, indicating gender disparities in educational attainment. Additionally, there is a significant gender gap in literacy, with 15.4% less females being literate than males in Telangana.

Teachers in Hyderabad have raised concerns about the extensive use of English in education, particularly in corporate schools, which can create barriers for students from government schools. This emphasis on English has been linked to higher dropout rates among government school students, impacting overall literacy rates. To address these challenges and improve literacy rates, there is a call for a balanced approach to language education that includes promoting education in the mother tongue alongside English instruction.

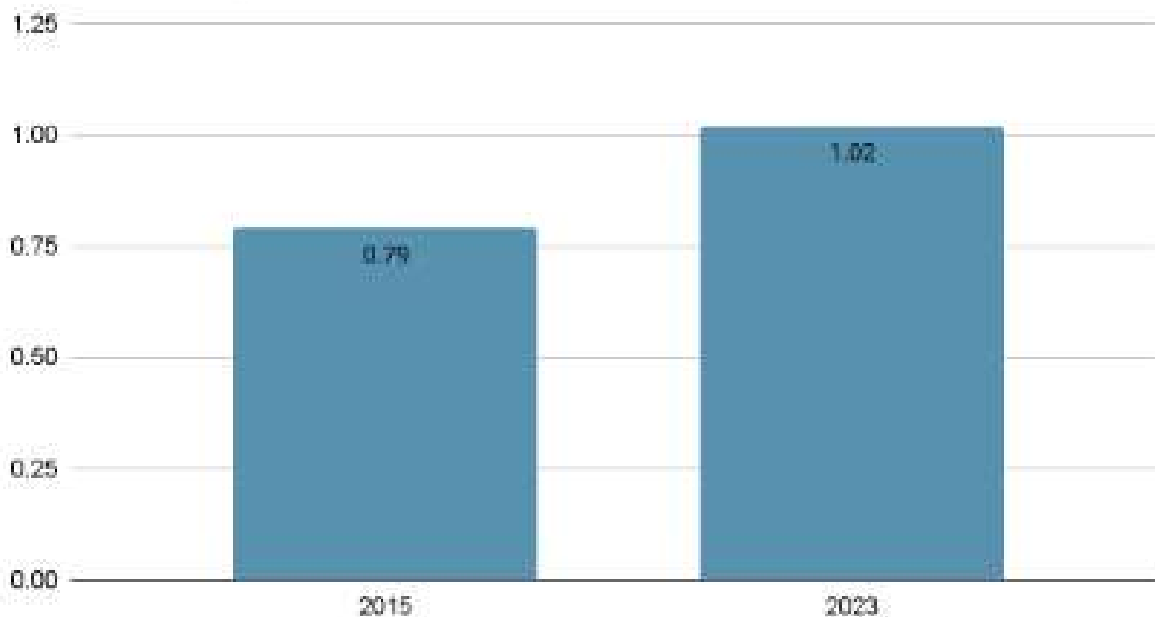
Efforts like the CHORD project aim to provide remedial schooling to rescue, educate, and reintegrate children into formal education systems. Such initiatives play a crucial role in addressing the low literacy rates and limited educational opportunities faced by many children in Hyderabad and beyond.



Gender Gap in Education in Hyderabad

In Hyderabad, Telangana, efforts have been made to address the gender gap in education, particularly in higher education. Recent data from the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2018-19 reveals a significant shift towards gender parity. In 2012-13, there were 1.41 lakh more males than females enrolled in colleges and universities in Telangana. However, today, there are over 21,000 more females than males pursuing higher education, leading to a rise in the gender parity index from 0.79 to 1.02 over the past eight years.

Gender Parity Index



The increase in female enrollment is attributed to various factors such as scholarships, improved amenities like residential education, and a changing mindset among parents regarding the safety and security of their daughters. Additionally, measures like reserving seats for girls in prestigious institutions like Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have contributed to reducing gender disparities.

While strides have been made towards gender equality in education, there is still work to be done to ensure equal outcomes for women in leadership positions, academic roles, pay equity, and research opportunities within higher education institutions.

Impacted Areas: After the Program

Education

CHORD has been instrumental in providing increased access to education for girls through projects like the bridge school initiative. This project aims to rescue, educate, and mainstream working girl children every year, with a focus on migrant urban child labourers. By employing remedial schooling strategies, CHORD has successfully reintegrated over 16,000 children into formal education systems.

CHORD, through its bridge school project, aims to enroll, educate, and mainstream 120 working or dropout girl children annually in Ranga Reddy District, Telangana, India. The program focuses on breaking the cycle of child labour by providing innovative remedial education that leads to formal and vocational education. It offers a flexible learning environment, supports children in their early adulthood, and empowers them by rebuilding their educational foundation. The Aashirwad School for girl children, a collaboration between CHORD and Qualcomm, strives to provide primary, secondary, and higher education along with vocational training. The ultimate goal is to empower these children to lead dignified lives independently.

It aimed to provide rescued children with Stationery items (5 sets of Textbooks and Notebooks) for which the number was 600 and was truly achieved.

The program's objectives include empowering children to have their own identity, using education as a preventive measure against exploitation, providing opportunities for bridge school and formal education, assisting in holistic psychosocial development, enabling independent settlement in society, and sensitizing the community while empowering ultra-poor families. By focusing on rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration into the formal education system, CHORD aims to restore childhoods and mainstream children into schools through transitory education.

Health and Well-being:

CHORD has been actively involved in initiatives to support various communities. One of their key efforts includes providing free education, skill development training, and employment opportunities to children, youth, and women. Additionally, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in India plays a crucial role in improving nutrition and overall well-being. This scheme aims to combat malnutrition, hunger, and lack of education among school children by providing nutritious meals to enhance their nutritional status and encourage regular school attendance..

CHORD's initiative aimed at providing food and nutrition (Mid-day Meals) to **120 students** which amounted to a huge total of **28080 meals**. Along with it ,CHORD provided 120 care kits which included masks,sanitizers and soaps besides sanitizing the school.

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme has shown significant benefits such as providing essential nutrition to students, increasing school attendance among economically disadvantaged students, improving learning outcomes through proper nutrition, alleviating financial burdens for families, and incentivizing education by offering free meals during school hours. Moreover, the scheme promotes social equity and inclusion by providing meals to all children regardless of their socio-economic status and encourages gender equality by supporting the enrollment and retention of girls in schools. Overall, the Mid-Day Meal Programme not only addresses hunger and malnutrition but also empowers children, promotes equality, supports local economies, and fosters sustainability for a brighter future.

Empowerment:

These empowerment initiatives aimed at girls had profound effects on their confidence, self-esteem, and overall life skills development. By focusing on empowering students who had experienced gaps in their education, CHORD helped them regain lost ground and establish a strong foundation for future growth. Providing opportunities for these students to enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities boosted their self-confidence and belief in their capabilities. Encouraging them to take on challenges, learn new things and develop essential life skills can equip them with the tools needed to navigate various aspects of life successfully.

Through mentorship, education, and support, it empowered girls to overcome obstacles, pursue their goals, and contribute meaningfully to society. Ultimately, empowerment initiatives not only benefit the individual but also have a ripple effect on communities and societies as a whole.

Community:

Sensitizing parents and community members about the significance of girls' education is crucial for fostering gender equality and socioeconomic development. According to UNESCO, globally over 130 million girls are out of school, highlighting the urgent need for awareness campaigns. Data shows that educating girls not only benefits them individually but also has a ripple effect on society, leading to lower child mortality rates, improved economic growth, and enhanced community well-being.

Initiatives such as workshops, seminars, and outreach programs can effectively convey the message about the transformative power of education for girls.

This initiative by CHORD helped sensitize 90% of parents and community members exposing them to the importance of school education.

Empowering ultra-poor families through awareness and support involves targeted interventions to uplift marginalized communities. By providing access to education, healthcare, vocational training and financial assistance, these families can break the cycle of poverty.

Child Labour Prevalence:

Child labour prevalence has seen a reduction due to a focus on education and rehabilitation efforts. Initiatives like providing free education, skill development training and supporting children have contributed to this positive change.

Extended and improved schooling for children is highlighted as the most effective way to eliminate child labour, as regular school attendance can prevent bonded labour and exploitation of children in hazardous industries

DEPENDENCIES

Funding:

CHORD relies on donor support and fundraising efforts to sustain its operations. It receives funding through monetary donations and gifts-in-kind for its various projects and initiatives.

Sustainable funding is crucial for CHORD to continue its mission of providing educational and skill training opportunities to the less fortunate in society.

CHORD collaborated with partners like Microsoft IT for joint ventures such as the Growth Gene Project to promote sustainable development.

Community Support:

Collaboration with local authorities and community leaders is crucial for the sustainability of CHORD's programs. Community support plays a vital role in ensuring the success and acceptance of initiatives aimed at enrolling, educating, and reintegrating urban deprived girl child laborers into the formal education system.

Government Policies:

Government policies that support CHORD's program focus on sustainable social change at grassroots levels through remedial schooling to rescue, educate, and reintegrate children into formal education systems. By aligning with governmental strategies and regulations concerning education and child labour, it can effectively carry out its mission of rescuing and educating children. The success of CHORD's program is enhanced by the endorsement and support of these policies, ensuring a more significant impact on the communities it serves.

Risks and challenges

Challenges

Employers' and parents' resistance:

Run awareness efforts that highlight the long-term advantages of education in order to overcome reluctance. To foster trust, work with neighbourhood companies and maintain direct lines of communication with employers and parents.

Fears Following COVID-19:

Through counselling, open communication, and cooperation with health authorities, allay post-Covid-19 anxieties. To allay parents' worries, provide correct information regarding safety precautions and immunisation schedules.

Severe Poverty Situations:

Partnering with NGOs and neighbourhood businesses to provide financial aid, school supplies, and feeding programmes can help combat dropouts caused by extreme poverty. Inform parents about scholarships and support programmes and give them vocational training.

Children Who Drop Out Are Reluctant:

Use focused intervention programmes and individualized counseling sessions to overcome the resistance of dropout children. Use flexible learning strategies, such as vocational training or part-time education, and include the community leaders to emphasize the long-term benefits of education.

Risks

With limited funding, variable resource availability, and a long-term community support requirement, CHORD India must ensure programme sustainability. Long-term viability depends on establishing alliances, diversifying funding sources, and looking into income-generating projects.

Resolving learning gaps and taking into account a range of learning styles are essential to preserving the standard of education. Ensuring high educational standards through curriculum adaptation and the implementation of effective remedial education contributes to meaningful learning experiences for all pupils.

Regular community meetings, open communication, and active participation in decision-making are just a few of the continuous efforts needed to sustain community engagement. Getting long-term support for the programme requires making sure the community is aware of its goals. Enough support is essential in healthcare, particularly in the aftermath of a pandemic. Making preventative measures a priority, visiting the doctor frequently, and forming alliances with healthcare providers all contribute to a safe and healthy program environment.

CHORD India faces significant risks and challenges in administering its programs, including overcoming resistance from parents and employers, addressing post-Covid-19 fears, tackling extreme poverty conditions, managing absenteeism, ensuring program sustainability, maintaining educational quality, sustaining community engagement, and providing essential healthcare support. These challenges require ongoing efforts and strategic planning to mitigate their impact on the organization's mission and goals.

EFFORTS AND RESOURCES



As we previously saw how the impact that CHORD has created has grown substantially over the years, with it comes the continual pressure to come up with the demand that this impact requires. CHORD thus requires dynamic improvement in these 3 areas:

HUMAN RESOURCES

Identification, Motivation, and Counseling: Ensuring that no child is left behind through a systematic identification of children in need. encouraging awareness efforts to help parents and kids understand the importance of education.

Recruitment, Preparation, and Activities for Teachers: rigorous hiring procedures to choose community members who are qualified and committed teachers. Teachers should participate in ongoing professional development programmes to improve their pedagogical abilities and adjust to changing teaching approaches. Organising and carrying out extracurricular and curricular activities to offer a comprehensive educational experience.

Creating Connections: establishing trusting relationships with government agencies to help manage regulations and promote cooperation. working with companies to provide the kids with opportunities for future employment and vocational training. forming connections with funders to obtain funding for long-term programme expansion.

Mainstreaming: Individualized assessment of children's learning abilities to identify suitable mainstream schools. Providing support during the transition to ensure a smooth integration into the formal education system.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES:

Renting Buildings :

Strategic Site Selection: In order to guarantee accessibility and optimal effect, CHORD India carefully chooses buildings in neighbourhoods with a high population of impoverished children.

Safety and Accessibility: Reducing obstacles to attendance by giving priority to buildings that adhere to safety regulations and are conveniently accessible for kids and their families.

Hiring a Specialised Building with All the Facilities You Need:

Dedicated Learning Space: Choosing a private building guarantees a specific area set aside for educational purposes, reducing outside distractions and fostering a supportive learning atmosphere.

Customisation for Educational Activities: When an organisation rents a building equipped with the appropriate infrastructure, it can make essential changes to the space to make it more suitable for the unique requirements of its educational initiatives.

Providing Safety and Security: Choosing a facility with the right infrastructure and safety precautions protects the children's and employees' wellbeing and fosters a safe learning environment.

Crucial Tools and Educational Resources:

Innovative Learning Environment: Acquiring necessary teaching supplies, like desks, seats, whiteboards, and projectors, in order to establish a comfortable learning environment.

Curriculum-Matched Resources: ensuring that curriculum-aligned educational resources are available, assisting educators in delivering successful classes, and improving the educational process.

Regular Maintenance: Putting a maintenance plan into action to make sure that tools and supplies are in good shape and build a learning environment that will last for a long time.

TECHNOLOGY

Partnership with Qualcomm:

Leveraging IT Expertise: Working with the well-known IT business Qualcomm is essential to meeting CHORD's technical needs. Qualcomm's experience can improve digital literacy and have a big impact on CHORD's educational environment. Students acquire important digital skills through specialised workshops and programmes, equipping them for a future driven by technology. Qualcomm offers access to state-of-the-art educational software as part of its support, enhancing the curriculum with cutting-edge teaching resources. Moreover, their participation enhances connectivity within CHORD, guaranteeing easy access to internet resources and creating a state-of-the-art learning atmosphere.

Student Participation in Science Fairs: The yearly science fair at Qualcomm is a platform for the practical learning activities of CHORD students. River water purification projects highlight their inventiveness and dedication to solving environmental issues. Projects to detect gas leaks show how scientific ideas may be applied to actual safety issues. Students' investigation of geostationary satellites and global warming demonstrates their grasp of science and interest in important global issues. Students are able to actively contribute to scientific discourse through their participation, which not only encourages creativity but also highlights the relevance of education to real-world problems.

Technological Upgradation on Campus:

Frequent Upgrading and Maintenance: CHORD understands the value of maintaining current computer hardware. Working together with Qualcomm may make it easier to perform routine maintenance and updates, extending the life and effectiveness of the technology infrastructure.

Access to Up-to-Date Software: As part of their partnership, Qualcomm might make the newest software applications necessary for training and development initiatives available to users. This guarantees that students are introduced to the tools and technology used in the industry today.

Updated computer gear and software help students gain relevant abilities that are essential for success in the digital era. This is known as tech-enhanced skill development.



In summary, CHORD's commitment to education, nutrition, and technology underscores its dedication to uplifting the community. By addressing these areas, CHORD can continue making a positive impact on the lives of children and their families.

BENEFITS

Among children not attending school, there are twice as many girls as boys, and among illiterate adults, there are twice as many women as men. Offering girls basic education is a sure way of giving them much greater power — enabling them to make genuine choices over the kinds of lives they wish to lead. This is not a luxury. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women establish it as a basic human right-UNICEF.

Right from our humble beginnings in 1998 to this day CHORD has successfully rescued and empowered with education, counseling, and care, over 16300 underprivileged children, trained over 6300 young men and women in employable Skills

It has touched the lives of tens of thousands through its awareness and sensitization workshops. Our imperative to empower with education and training, the lives and plight of the underprivileged continues, with help from volunteers, students, professionals, and socially conscious citizens and together we hope that the contribution to our less fortunate friends keeps growing as we do.

Why we at CHORD Promote Girl's Education?

- Educated Women might have the chance of a healthier and happier life and should be a strong enough reason for promoting girls' education.
- An educated woman has the skills, information, and self-confidence that she needs to be a better parent, worker, and citizen.
- An educated woman will also be more productive at work.
- The dividend for educational investment is often higher for women than men.
- For vulnerable and working young girls in slums.

Individual Benefits:

- **Improved Education:** CHORD's efforts directly impact individual girls by providing them with quality education. As girls gain knowledge and skills, they become better equipped to make informed decisions about their lives.
- **Better Career Prospects:** By receiving education, girls open doors to various career opportunities. They can pursue professions in fields such as healthcare, technology, education, and more. This contributes to economic growth and development.
- **Increased Earning Potential:** Education empowers girls to secure better-paying jobs. As they earn higher incomes, they positively influence their families and communities.

Community Benefits:

- **Reduced Child Labor:** CHORD's focus on education helps prevent child labor. When girls attend school, they avoid exploitative work and invest their time in learning and personal development.
- **Empowered Women:** Educated girls challenge societal norms and advocate for their rights. Empowerment leads to stronger families and communities. When women are educated, they actively participate in community development.
- **More Educated Population:** CHORD's work contributes to an overall increase in literacy rates. An educated population is better equipped to address social issues, promote health, and foster positive change.

Societal Benefits:

- **Decrease in Poverty:** Education is a powerful tool for breaking the cycle of poverty. Educated girls have better chances of escaping poverty, leading to improved living conditions for their families and communities.
- **Equitable Society:** CHORD's commitment to educating girls promotes gender equality. An equitable society ensures that everyone, regardless of gender or socio-economic background, has equal access to education and opportunities.

In summary, CHORD's impact extends beyond individual girls—it positively influences communities and contributes to building a more equitable society.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

The CHORD Project, originating in Hyderabad's most vulnerable slums with severe gender disparities, has expanded its scope to neighboring areas. Its overarching goal is to extend its interventions to all regions with gender inequities, aiming to enhance service delivery across the board.

Since its establishment, the CHORD Project has positively impacted 2160 girl children over nine years, focusing on education and empowerment. Notably, it has substantially increased school attendance rates from 65% to 90% in the past seven years.

A detailed analysis of every step they took to make their campaign successful is given below.

| S.No | Activities as per MOU | Target Set | Targets Achieved |
|------|---|---|--|
| 1. | Remedial Education/ Pedagogy | 120 | 120 |
| 2. | To appoint teaching and support staff | 11 | 11 |
| 3. | To provide rescued children with Stationery items 5 sets of Text Books and Note Books | 600 | 600 |
| 4. | Food and Nutrition (Mid-day Meal) to all 120 children to be provided | To Serve 28080 Meals | 28080 meals served |
| 5. | Health care-To Covid-19 care kits and Masks supplied to all children apart from medical care. | To create 120 kits | 120 kits created |
| 6. | School premises and Establishment | To rent an exclusive building and Infra | Exclusive building hired and necessary infra established |
| 7. | Administration- Admin costs to support the program taken care of | Admin and Internal Control | Ensured adequate admin and internal controls in keeping admin costs to the minimum |

Survey and Mobilization

Overview:

Out of the planned 15 slum clusters, the campaign achieved coverage in 10 during June and July 2022. Field workers spearheaded the initiative, aiming to grasp the nuances of urban poverty and its impact on these marginalized communities.

Work Done:

Field workers diligently conducted surveys and mobilization efforts in the designated slum clusters. Through interviews, questionnaires, and community engagement activities, they gathered crucial data on residents' needs, challenges, and aspirations.

Result:

The campaign yielded partial coverage, addressing a portion of the targeted slum clusters. Data collected by field workers serves as a pivotal resource for understanding the complexities of urban poverty and devising tailored interventions. Despite partial success, the initiative laid the groundwork for future interventions, emphasizing the importance of data-driven approaches in addressing the multifaceted issues faced by slum dwellers. Moving forward, leveraging this data will be critical in expanding coverage and designing more impactful strategies to uplift marginalized urban communities.

Door-to-Door Campaign

Overview:

A total of 200 households were surveyed out of the intended 230, meeting the deadline of July 31, 2022.

Work Done:

Field workers diligently conducted door-to-door surveys within urban slums, aiming to gather comprehensive data on residents' living conditions, needs, and challenges.

Result:

The campaign nearly reached its target, successfully surveying a significant portion of the intended households. The data collected serves as a valuable resource for understanding the dynamics of urban poverty and informing future interventions aimed at improving living standards in slum areas.

Enrollment of Children in Bridge School

Overview:

By August 31, 2022, the initiative successfully enrolled 120 children for the academic year 2022-23, meeting its target on time.

Work Done:

Field workers diligently identified and enrolled children into the bridge school program, ensuring access to education for marginalized youths. This involved extensive outreach efforts and collaboration with communities to overcome barriers to enrollment.

Result:

The accomplishment of the enrollment target signifies a significant stride in providing educational opportunities for underserved children. By securing placements in the bridge school program, these children are granted access to foundational education, fostering their personal development and breaking the cycle of poverty. This success highlights the efficacy of targeted interventions in addressing educational disparities and underscores the importance of inclusive access to learning opportunities for all children.

Classification of Children based on their learning ability

Overview:

By August 31, 2022, 127 children were successfully classified based on age and learning ability, surpassing the set target.

Work Done:

Through systematic assessments, children were evaluated to determine their learning capacities and needs. This involved conducting various tests and observations to accurately classify them according to their abilities.

Result:

The initiative exceeded expectations, ensuring that each child received appropriate educational interventions tailored to their specific learning needs. By categorizing children based on their abilities, the program can better cater to their educational requirements, facilitating their academic and overall development. This achievement underscores the importance of personalized approaches, ensuring that every child receives the support necessary to thrive academically and reach their full potential.

Vetting: Evaluating and establishing the identity of children through Aadhar card

Overview:

By August 31, 2022, Aadhar cards and ration cards were obtained for 127 children for vetting, meeting the target effectively.

Work Done:

The process involved thorough verification and documentation, primarily utilizing Aadhar cards and other relevant paperwork to establish the identities of the children accurately.

Result:

The initiative achieved success in acquiring the necessary documentation for vetting purposes. This ensures accountability and eligibility for support, laying the foundation for streamlined assistance programs. By securing Aadhar and ration cards, the children's identities are validated, facilitating their access to essential services and support systems. This accomplishment signifies a critical step towards ensuring the welfare and well-being of the identified children, promoting inclusivity and accountability in the provision of aid and assistance.

Employment Generation

Overview:

By July 31, 2022, the initiative successfully provided full-time employment to 11 local community members, comprising 7 teaching and 4 non-teaching staff, all of whom are on regular rolls.

Work Done:

Efforts focused on identifying and hiring suitable candidates from the local community for both teaching and non-teaching positions within the organization. This involved outreach, selection processes, and onboarding procedures to ensure a smooth transition into their new roles.

Result:

The employment targets were met, marking a significant achievement in fostering economic empowerment within the community. By offering stable employment opportunities to local residents, the initiative not only addresses unemployment but also contributes to community development and self-sufficiency.

Teacher Training

Overview:

Two teacher training sessions were conducted, covering four modules:

- SWOT Analysis
- Goal setting
- Art & Science of Teaching
- And Communication and Presentation skills

Teachers were required to score a minimum of 60% marks to pass each module.

Work Done:

The organization meticulously organized and executed the teacher training sessions according to the curriculum. Sessions included interactive workshops, presentations, and assessments to ensure comprehensive learning and skill development among the participants. Teachers' performance and understanding were evaluated through assessments conducted at the end of each module.

Result:

Teachers successfully completed the training program, demonstrating competency in the covered modules and enhancing their teaching skills. The initiative not only strengthens the capabilities of the teaching staff but also enhances the quality of education provided, ultimately benefiting the students and the broader community. This investment in teacher training underscores the organization's commitment to professional development and continuous improvement in educational practices.

School Attendance

Overview:

By March 31, 2023, the initiative ensured an impressive 87% attendance rate for all enrolled children.

Work Done:

Consistent monitoring and recording of attendance were carried out to track the attendance of enrolled children. Additionally, various strategies were implemented to improve attendance rates, including community engagement, parent-teacher meetings, and incentives for regular attendance.

Result:

The diligent efforts yielded high attendance rates, indicating the active participation and engagement of children in educational activities. This achievement underscores the importance of regular school attendance in maximizing learning outcomes and ensuring the overall success of educational programs.

Academic Performance of Classes I to V

Overview:

Achieving a significant milestone, the academic performance of classes I to V culminated in a 100% pass-out rate with specified grade distribution (A, B, C) for each class by March 31, 2023.

Work Done:

Comprehensive teaching strategies were implemented to cater to the diverse learning needs of students. These strategies encompassed interactive teaching methods, personalized attention to students, and regular assessments to gauge progress and identify areas for improvement.

Result:

The desired academic outcomes were attained, reflecting the effectiveness of teaching and learning processes implemented within the educational framework. This success not only underscores the dedication of educators but also highlights the commitment to providing quality education and fostering academic excellence among students.

Food and Nutrition

Overview:

Meeting prescribed calorie standards, a healthy and nutritious diet for the midday meal was provided to enrolled children by March 31, 2023, adhering to guidelines.

Work Done:

Efforts were focused on procuring and distributing food items that met prescribed nutritional standards. Additionally, meticulous monitoring of meal preparation and distribution processes was carried out to ensure compliance with guidelines and standards.

Result:

The initiative successfully ensured that children received adequate nutrition through the midday meal program, contributing to their overall health and well-being. By prioritizing nutrition, the program not only addresses immediate nutritional needs but also lays the foundation for healthy growth and development among children.

Health Care

Overview:

Maintaining average weights of children meeting prescribed guidelines by March 31, 2023, underscored the success of health care provision.

Work Done:

Rigorous health monitoring and care protocols were implemented to safeguard the well-being of children. This involved regular health check-ups, access to medical services, and interventions to address health concerns promptly.

Result:

Children maintained ideal body weights, indicating the effectiveness of health care provision and interventions. This achievement reflects the commitment to ensuring the holistic well-being of children and underscores the importance of comprehensive health care within educational settings.

Number of Families Benefited from the Program

Overview:

A total of 139 families, including children and staff members, derived benefits from the program's various services and support measures.

Work Done:

The program offered a range of services and support to beneficiary families, including access to education, health care, nutritional support, and livelihood opportunities. Additionally, continuous monitoring and evaluation were conducted to assess the impact of interventions on families' well-being and livelihoods.

Result:

The program's interventions contributed to the improved well-being and livelihoods of beneficiary families, fostering community development and empowerment. By addressing key areas such as education, health, nutrition, and livelihoods, the program strives to create lasting positive impacts on families and communities, promoting sustainable development and empowerment.

MITIGATION

RESISTANCE FROM PARENTS AND EMPLOYERS IN SENDING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL POSES A SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE.

To tackle the pervasive issue of child labor, a multifaceted approach was implemented by CHORD.

Firstly, they conducted an exhaustive door-to-door survey, pinpointing instances of child labor. This meticulous data collection was pivotal in comprehending the magnitude of the problem, enabling tailored interventions.

Secondly, they provided crucial initial support to both the children and their parents. This support not only offered comfort but also instilled confidence in a secure, promising future through education.

By synergizing these strategies, CHORD systematically addressed resistance. Emphasizing the paramount importance of education, they assuage concerns regarding livelihoods and safety. This comprehensive approach fostered a conducive environment for children to access education, effectively breaking the cycle of poverty and exploitation.

CHORD's efforts were instrumental in not only identifying the root causes of child labor but also in providing sustainable solutions. By prioritizing education and offering support to both children and parents, they created a pathway towards a brighter future, wherein children are empowered to escape the clutches of poverty and exploitation. This holistic approach exemplifies the efficacy of addressing multifaceted social issues through tailored interventions and community engagement.

POST COVID-19 FEARS OF THE PARENTS

Amid the post-COVID-19 landscape, parents grappled with heightened anxieties regarding their children's well-being and future prospects. To mitigate these concerns, sustained counseling efforts and widespread leaflet distribution emerged as integral strategies. These initiatives served as lifelines, offering vital information and emotional support tailored to assuage parental fears.

Through consistent counseling sessions, parents received personalized guidance and reassurance, navigating the uncertainties wrought by the pandemic's aftermath. Additionally, widespread distribution of leaflets disseminated crucial information on health protocols, educational resources, and support services available within the community.

These concerted efforts not only provided tangible solutions but also nurtured a sense of solidarity and mutual support among families. By addressing parental anxieties head-on and offering accessible resources, the initiatives played a pivotal role in fostering resilience and enhancing community well-being. Moreover, they contributed to the gradual restoration of trust and confidence, essential for navigating the complexities of the post-pandemic world. In essence, these endeavors served as pillars of support, anchoring families in turbulent times and laying the groundwork for sustained recovery and growth.

EXTREME POVERTY CONDITIONS AND FAMILY SUSTENANCE REASONS DROP-OUT CHILDRENS' RELUCTANCE TO ATTEND SCHOOL

Providing nutritious meals to all schoolchildren has sparked notable improvements in attendance and dropout rates. Families are increasingly motivated to ensure their children attend school regularly, encouraged by the prospect of their children receiving essential nutrition. Consequently, there has been a significant decrease in the number of students dropping out of school. This proactive approach has led to a remarkable increase in attendance rates, with figures surpassing 87 percent in various regions. By addressing the basic need for nutritious food, schools have succeeded in fostering an environment conducive to learning, wherein students feel valued and supported in their educational journey.

Furthermore, this initiative not only enhances academic performance but also nurtures holistic development. By ensuring that students have access to nutritious meals, schools contribute to their overall well-being, enabling them to focus more effectively on their studies.

Additionally, this approach plays a crucial role in promoting equity within the education system by addressing socio-economic disparities that often hinder educational attainment. It underscores the importance of providing essential support to all students, regardless of their background, to ensure equal opportunities for success and growth in their academic endeavors.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, despite the challenges of urban poverty and child labour, CHORD's girl's education programme in Hyderabad has emerged as a ray of hope. The project has restored lost childhoods and reintegrated girls into mainstream education, promoting self-discipline and confidence, all through a rigorous three-stage process. The scope, which includes liaison, teacher training, enrollment, and identification, demonstrates an all-encompassing strategy. Notwithstanding obstacles, the project has greatly raised learning results and literacy rates, highlighting the critical role that education plays in ending the cycle of child labour. A better, more independent future is promised by CHORD's steadfast dedication to upholding every girl child's right to an education.

APPENDIX

- <https://www.scribd.com/document/286276263/Survey-of-Child-Labour-in-Slums-of-Hyderabad>
- <https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/hyderabad/international-literacy-day-teachers-flag-concerns-over-extensive-use-of-english-820987>
- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/gender-gap-narrows-more-girls-pursuing-higher-edu-in-t/articleshow/71266771.cms>