

COUNTRY IMPACT REPORT- INDIA

FY 14-15

By ChildFund India





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PREFACE

India, the second most populous country in the world is also the hub of children and youth - with nearly half of the country's population below the age of 25 years (2011 census). While the numbers of children and youth are on the rising side, the issues pertaining to them are also scaling up.

The major issues pertaining to childhood are infant and child mortality and morbidity, malnutrition and early childhood care and education. The infant mortality rate in India was 40 per 1000 live birth in 2013 (SRS bulletin, 2014). Almost half of the under-five deaths in children in India are attributed to malnutrition. In India, 43 per cent of children are underweight and 48 per cent are stunted which reflects chronic malnutrition.

The quality of education in schools and age appropriate learning of children is also one of the major concerns in India. As per the latest ASER report, nearly one third of the children studying in class two were not able to recognize the alphabets and more than half of the children studying in class five were not able to read class two levels stories (ASER, 2014).

Early marriage, adolescent reproductive and sexual health and youth unemployment, are also burning issues among Indian youth.

To cater to all these above issues, ChildFund India has been implementing specially designed programs in its operational areas. This impact report is an effort to share the stories and the difference we have made in the lives of children and their families, we work with, through our initiatives.



GENESIS AND EVOLUTION OF CHILDFUND INDIA

ChildFund India is a part of ChildFund International, one of the oldest and most experienced child development organizations, founded in 1938, working directly with 18.5 million children and their communities across 30 countries.

ChildFund India has been representing the voice of deprived, excluded and vulnerable children in India since 1951, regardless of their race, creed and gender. It has been working in rural and the most remote locations of the country with its unique child centered program approach for nearly 64 years.

OUR VISION

An India where children lead a dignified life and achieve their full potential.

OUR MISSION

- To help deprived, excluded and vulnerable children living in poverty, have the capacity to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change to their communities.
- We promote societies whose individuals and institutes participate in valuing, protecting and advancing the worth and right of children.

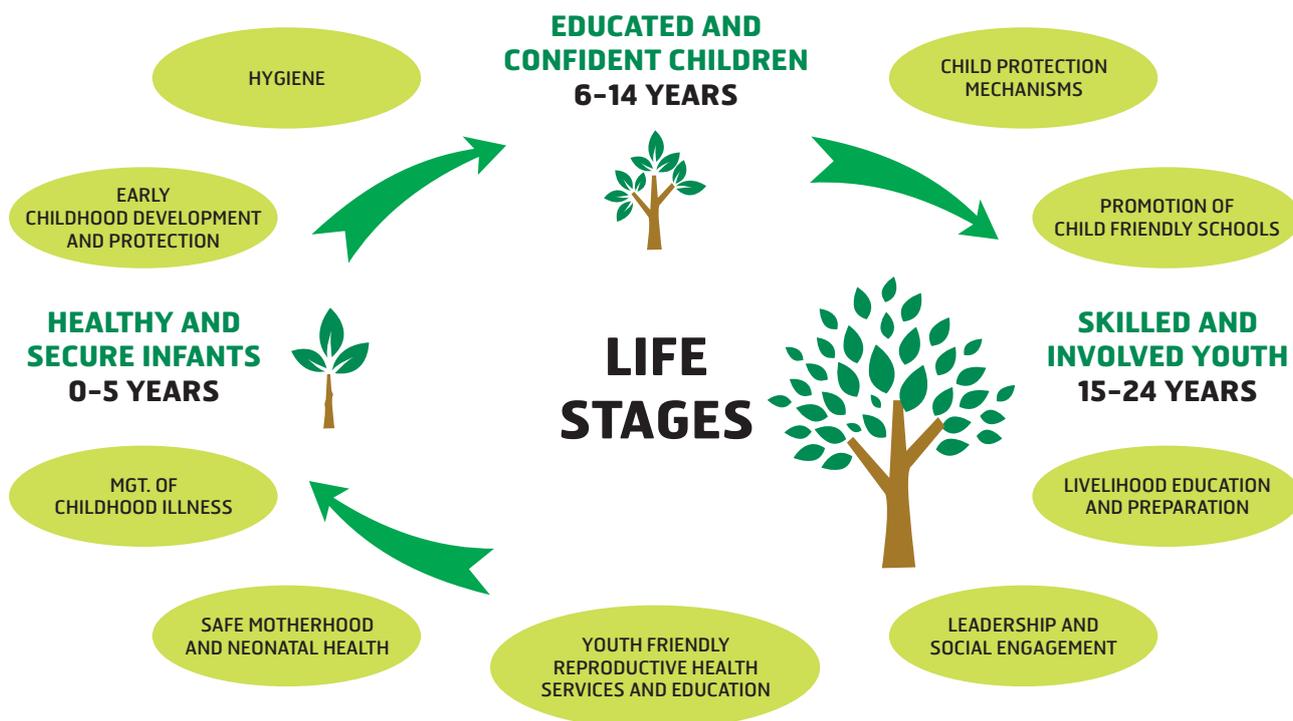


OUR APPROACH

ChildFund India is the only organization, which takes life stage-wise long-term approach to empower deprived, excluded and vulnerable (DEV) children and youths in need. It begins supporting children from birth with pre & post natal care and stays with them till the age of 24yrs, ensuring they become actively contributing adults.

All aspects of a child's life are interwoven. Hence, ChildFund India's approach mirrors this interconnectedness, by providing holistic intervention integrating health, nutrition, gender, child protection with focus on education and livelihood.

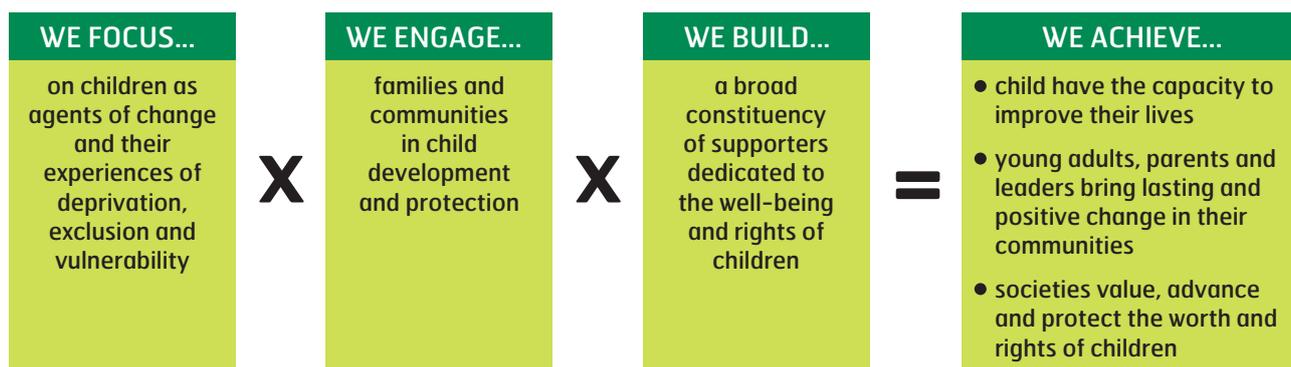
LIFE STAGE APPROACH OF CHILDFUND INDIA



OUR STRATEGY FOR ENDURING CHANGE

- ... for the children & youth we serve
- ... for the communities where we work
- ... for our donors present and future

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



OUR FOCUS: UNDER EACH LIFE STAGE WE FOCUS ON

HEALTHY AND SECURE INFANTS

Safe Motherhood and Neonatal Health care, including good nutrition

Protection against common childhood illnesses, such as diarrhea and pneumonia

Enabling age appropriate development of children at home (birth to 3 years) and ECD centres (3-6 years)

Promoting positive parenting and engaging fathers in child care

EDUCATED AND CONFIDENT CHILDREN

Knowledge and life-skills in school, at home and at community level

Foundation to build lifelong learning and confidence

Interaction with children, family and community to develop their social skills

SKILLED AND INVOLVED YOUTH

Skills to enter professional workforce and meet challenges during adulthood

Enhance social and leadership skills

Youth friendly reproductive health services and education

CROSS CUTTING PROGRAMS

Creating child protection mechanism at community level

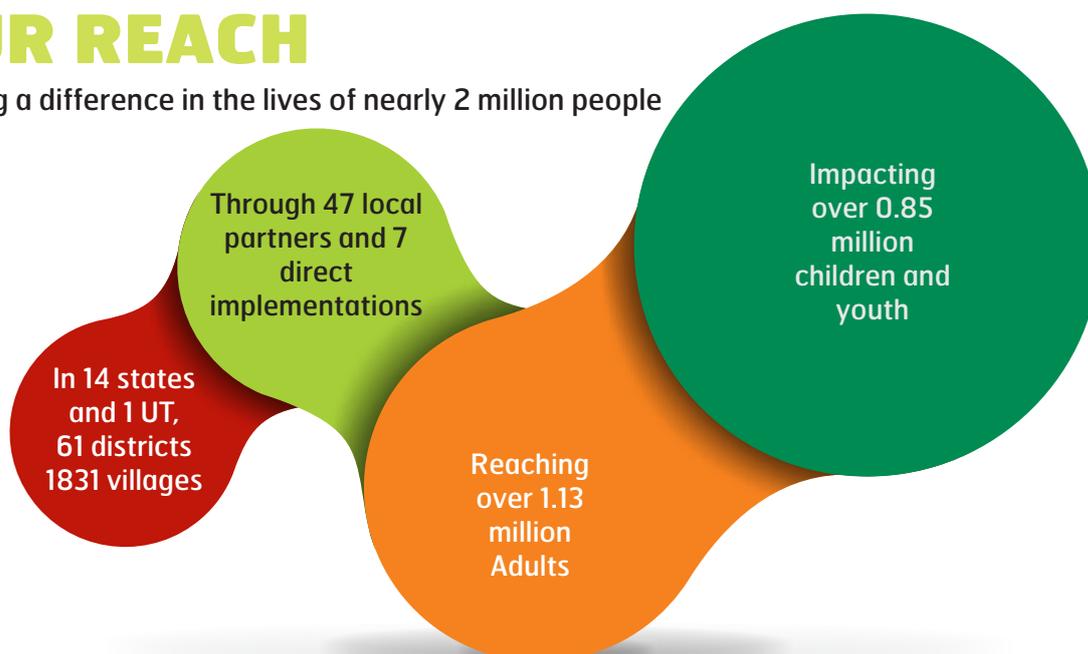
Establishing and strengthening of community based structures.

Gender integration in programs

Response to Disaster risk reduction/emergencies

OUR REACH

Making a difference in the lives of nearly 2 million people



CHILDFUND INDIA: NETWORKING, PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAM STRENGTHENING

ChildFund India does not believe in creating parallel programs, but instead uses its experience and expertise to support local governments' efforts to provide effective services to children and their families. ChildFund India works with Government to develop solutions to fulfill community needs and gain access to new resources. We believe, when an NGO's outreach efforts and Government's resources come together, it makes a better impact. Government, being the policy maker, also helps in influencing the operational environment for NGOs.

Recognizing the impact of a growing civil society, ChildFund India has also strengthened its ties with the media, civil society networks, and UN bodies in order to maximize its impact on the lives of children.

ChildFund India has been working with over 47 local NGO partners across India for the last 64 years. ChildFund India's model is built on the principle of partnership – sharing knowledge, expertise, and best practices to create dynamic working relationships that help us achieve maximum impact and reach while sustaining our work for long term. Many of these partnerships are more than a decade old and some are even older than 30-40 years. ChildFund India has also significantly invested to strengthen these partnerships. We have helped our partners create a permanent presence in the community where they are recognized and accepted and able to create strong community-based structures.

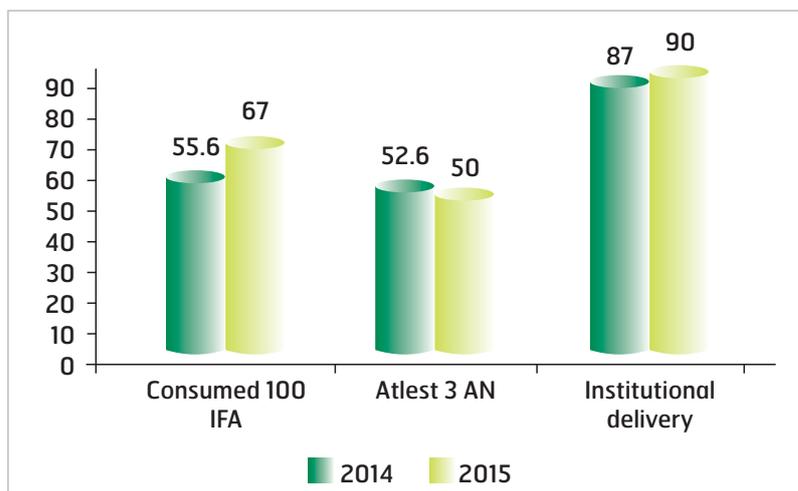
Sl. No.	PARTNER NAME
1	S H EDUCATIONAL & CHARITABLE SOC
2	PRAJA SEVA SAMAJ
3	ADARSH COMMUNITY DEVT TRUST
4	BALAJI BALA VIKAS
5	CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - KAKINADA
6	PARIVAR VIKAS
7	JAN PRAGATI SANSTHAN
8	BASTAR SEWAK MANDAL
9	URSULINE CONVENT KODAURA
10	CARMEL SCHOOL & HOSTELS
11	MANGALA JYOTHI INTEGRATED SCHOOL
12	VIMOCHANA CDP - GANGAVATHY
13	PRAJNA COUNSELLING CENTRE
14	KARWAR RURAL WCD SOCIETY
15	KIRIYA PUSHPA FAMILY HELPER PROJ
16	AMALAS KUTUMBA ABIVRUDDI YOJANE
17	RAICHUR AREA - MYRADA
18	N K J EDNAL AND CHARITABLE SOCIETY
19	CAPUCHIN KRISHIK SEVA KENDRA
20	GRAMA VIKAS
21	PRIDE INDIA
22	NATIONAL INST. FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVT
23	SOUTH ORISSA VOLUNTARY ACTION
24	ASHA CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Sl. No.	PARTNER NAME
25	NILACHAL SEVA PRATISTHAN
26	VARRAT
27	CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT-PUDUCHERRY
28	GRAM CHETNA KENDRA
29	AKHIL BHARTIYA GRAMIN UTHAN SAMITI
30	ALERT CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
31	NILGIRIS ADIVASI WELFARE ASSOC
32	BHARATHI CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
33	K K S W SOCIETY DINDIGUL
34	CENTRE FOR HOPE
35	K K SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY
36	ASHA KENDRA
37	AVVAI CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
38	MANAV SEWA KENDRA
39	PRATAPGARH AREA -PRAYATNA
40	PANI
41	GSS CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
42	JEOLIKOTE ST ANTHONYS PROJECT
43	CENTRE FOR TOTAL DEVELOPMENT
44	NATURE
45	SHAKTHI
46	AKHIL BHARTIYA SAMAJ SEWA SANSTHAN
47	DON BOSCO CENTRE

INITIATIVES AND THEIR IMPACTS: HEALTHY AND SECURE INFANTS

ChildFund India's Life Stage 1 program aims to enhance the survival, optimal growth and age appropriate developmental milestones of children from birth to 5 years through active involvement of care givers, family and community. The Life Stage 1 program addresses maternal and child health issues, nutrition, early childhood care, quality pre-school education and stimulation to ensure the holistic development of the child.

ChildFund India promotes access to existing government services for mothers and children in order to improve health and nutrition status of pregnant/lactating mothers and children. ChildFund India works closely with the government frontline health workers and ensures that the maternal and child healthcare services, such as ANC, Institutional delivery, PNC and primary immunization etc., are available and accessible to the communities from remote locations of the program areas.



In addition, ChildFund India provides education on importance of maternal and child health issues, nutrition, parenting issues and child protection etc., to parents, care givers with special attention to mothers, Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilitators and volunteers mainly adolescents and community groups, through various counseling sessions and workshops. The program focuses on awareness creation among parents and care givers with an aim to improve their Knowledge, Attitude, Belief and Practice (KABP) in child care.

IMPROVEMENT IN ANC AND NATAL SERVICES

Highlights of an Evaluation Survey (2014-15) conducted among three partner locations:

- 97% women registered for ANC in ChildFund India intervention area.
- Significantly lower percentage of children reported low birth weight in one of the partner's location (9%) in intervention villages compared to 21% in comparison villages.

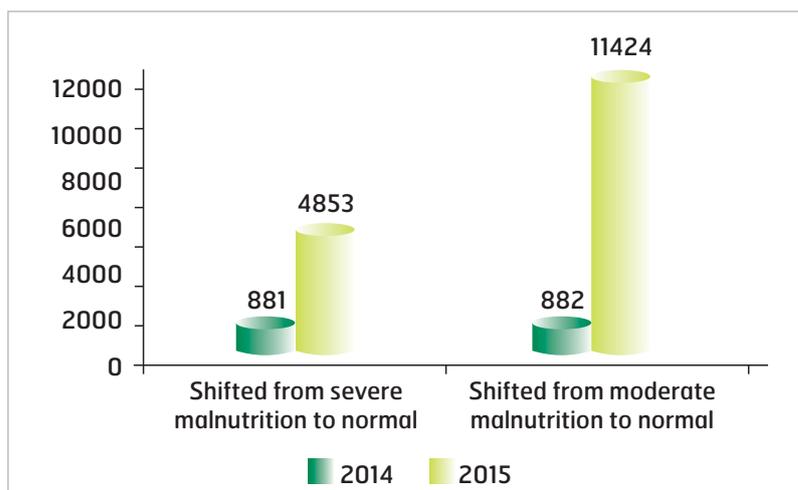
POSITIVE DEVIANCE HEARTH PROGRAM

Community based Positive Deviance (PD) Hearth intervention is implemented to effectively deal with malnutrition among infants and children. In 2015,

- 1397 PD hearth sessions were conducted compared to only 55 in 2014
- To ensure nutrition rich ingredients are available locally, families were trained to grow local fruits and vegetables for self-consumption.
- Total 3800 families were encouraged to nurture kitchen garden and utilize nutritious vegetables and fruits to feed their children.

IMPROVEMENT IN NUTRITION STATUS OF CHILDREN

Positive change has been observed in complete primary immunization services. According to evaluation survey conducted in one of the partner locations in Maharashtra, in 2015, 100 percent of children received immunization and Vitamin A dose in intervention area compared to 65 percent in comparison areas. Similarly, significant change has been observed in correct feeding practices among mothers in ChildFund India intervention areas. As per the evaluation survey results, significantly higher proportion (83 percent) of women in intervention areas were found to be aware about breast-feeding compared to only 28 percent in comparison areas.



IMPACT OF ECD SERVICES

Early childhood care, education and stimulation services for children from birth to three years of age is provided at homes and three to six years old children receive these services at ECD centres.

Home-based interventions include home-visits by trained community mobilizers who demonstrate and teach early child stimulation, child care practices and positive parenting strategies.

THE KEY IMPACTS OF ECD PROGRAM ARE:

- Increased attendance of pre-school children
- Decline in malnutrition
- Cognitive development of children by providing with age appropriate toys and learning material
- Increased focus of AWWs on ECD component

Centre-based interventions provide opportunities for children to attain optimal developmental milestones. The assessment of ChildFund India supported 55 AWCs in three partner locations of Andhra Pradesh, in 2014-15, using functionality score card which indicated that nearly 60 percent of the AWCs reported good performance and 40 percent showed fair performance based on the required standards of Government's Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) guidelines. To provide quality preschool education, the ECD centres provide counseling to mothers on nutrition and other child care and development issues.

During the last FY, more than 1.7 lakh mothers were provided with counseling sessions on health, nutrition, child care and development related aspects.

ChildFund India runs 168 Balwadi centres and supports 1707 AWC centres across the country, through which serves around 80,000 children.

More than 90% "anganwadi centres" in intervention villages have age-appropriate teaching-learning resources compared to less than half of the AWCs in comparison villages.

HOLISTIC PROGRAMMING TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN IN KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT IN TAMILNADU STATE

“Gypsies” are socially excluded nomadic, isolated communities and are deprived of basic services including ECD services provided by Government under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Housing and community infrastructure of them are often unhealthy and the children from these communities suffer from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhea, pneumonia and respiratory illnesses and are denied for even basic health services.

ChildFund India supported caregivers of these children to get stabilized in one place by linking them with government entitlements and alternate livelihood opportunities. ChildFund India established 5 ECD centres with high quality learning resources and trained teachers in the year 1999 with the support of local partners. Regular sensitization meetings were organized to mainstream the community, encouraged them to send children to ECD centres and assisted them in accessing benefits of Government. Children were monitored on monthly basis both through home visits and at the ECD centre to ensure their optimal growth and age appropriate development.

The intervention supported nearly 70 percent of the Gypsies to settle and take care of their children and families. It helped them realize the importance of health and education in the lives of children. Enrolment of children in ECD centres gradually increased and no child was identified with growth faltering. ANM visits regularly to conduct vaccination and antenatal check-ups. In addition to this, ChildFund India networked with private hospitals like Apollo Medical College to hold regular health checkups. With continuous efforts, there has been significant improvement in the registration of birth, therefore, ensuring their right to government entitlements. The ECD centres have now been handed over to government for their proper utilization.

“My child Rahul was very quiet, never talked to anyone. After coming to the center he has become really active and talks to everyone comfortably” says Ms. Sheba, mother of two and a half year old Rahul
— Ayanambakam ECD (Chennai)



SUPPORTING ORPHAN AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN –

Vaishali, a three and half year old child from Gypsie community at Pallavaram, in Kancheepuram district of Chennai, has been attending one of our ECD centers. She is an orphan, abandoned by her parents at a very early age. She was looked after by Pallavaram ECD till she was assigned to an old couple, who are now her grand-parents.

EDUCATED AND CONFIDENT CHILDREN

ChildFund India has been working towards improving the quality of education being provided to the children belonging to marginalized communities in rural and tribal areas of India. Under life stage two, the major focus is to improve the number of enrollments in school, regular attendance and increase in the learning levels of children. Through capacitating school management committees, families and communities, ChildFund India's program has been successful in improving the enrollment, regularity and retention of children in schools. **The evaluation survey conducted in partner locations shows more than 90 percent of children in ChildFund India intervention areas are regularly attending the schools compared to the national average of 71 percent (ASER, 2014).**

ChildFund India has its flagship programs like School Quality Improvement Program (SQuIP) and Reading Improvement Program (RIP) to provide quality education in schools. Poor infrastructure, insufficiently trained teachers, unavailability of teachers in schools located in remote areas, were some of the glaring reasons for the low levels of literacy among enrolled children. SQuIP and RIP were implemented in order to provide a holistic intervention to improve the quality of education in our operational areas.

READING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

ChildFund India views reading as the backbone of education and a necessary component for the achievement and retention of students. ChildFund India is currently leading several initiatives designed to foster children's interest in reading including:

COMMUNITY-BASED TUTORING

A 14-week tutoring program that instills listening, reading, and writing skills in over 30,000 early grade school children was organized. The project targeted underperforming students as well as those with disabilities, ensuring that those most vulnerable to leaving school receive individual attention. Furthermore, these two-hour tutoring sessions were conducted before and after school hours to ensure that they supplement, rather than replace local school systems.



STUDENT, TEACHER, AND SMC PERFORMANCE

ChildFund India works to improve the learning environment in schools by strengthening community participation in school management and organizing workshops for teachers on effective pedagogical techniques.

VIDYA

ChildFund India partnered with Post Code Lottery from 2014-2015 to launch Project VIDYA- an intervention designed to increase the quality of primary education in 80 public schools in the eastern state of Jharkhand. This project comprehensively engaged with all levels of the educational system (7,000 students, 245 teachers, and 800 School Management Committee (SMC) members), in order to facilitate increased learning outcomes and management effectiveness. This intervention resulted in substantially increased enrolment, attendance, and retention rates among participating students (including previously under-achieving students), as well as increased awareness among participating SMC members about their roles and responsibilities in fostering quality education.

Moreover, ChildFund India's post-project assessments also indicate that approximately 70% of participating teachers have adopted child development-centred techniques into their curriculums, 100% of participating schools started special classes to improve learning levels of children, and more than 30% of participating schools have begun regular meetings with SMC members to discuss further ways to improve the quality of education provided to students.

VIDYA: A Ray of Hope

Charwadih, an interior scheduled tribe dominated village, is situated at a distance of 10 km away from Satbarwa Block of Palamu district in Jharkhand state, India. All most all the households are under below poverty line and most of the people depend on daily wage earnings to support their families. While they were struggling to support their lives, not a single family could afford to bother about the education of their children. Very few children were attending the school at Manika and almost all the children used to go with their parents to help them in the wage earning.

Understanding the need for intervention, ChildFund India launched project VIDYA in this village. Mahendra Singh, a motivated youth of the village, was identified as a volunteer to run the Child Learning Centre at the village middle school. He started motivating the community to pressurize the government para teachers to open the school regularly, who used to remain absent most of the time. He started motivating children to come to the school.

Today, not a single child in the village is going with the parents for labour. Apart from the teaching, Mahendra continues his efforts to regularize Mid-Day Meal in the school with the help of the community.



BOOKS, MY FRIENDS CAMPAIGN



Given our understanding of the situation and the ground realities, under Reading Improvement program, Books, my Friends campaign was launched to promote not only the culture of reading but also help children and youth develop a taste for reading, which impacts their learning levels, in the long term. The campaign aims to introduce the joy of reading to over 115,000 underserved students in 14 states, and many more over the next 3 years.

To launch the campaign's 1st Phase, ChildFund India collaborated with MacMillan Publishers Ltd. and Pratham Books, and in Dec 2014, distributed nearly 40,000 Reading bags consisting of age

appropriate multi-lingual captivating reading books, urging children to read for pleasure. ChildFund India also began conducting activities around the books – story telling, skits, painting; reading aloud – to make the books come alive for the children.

“Out of the 16-17 story books I received, I liked two books - ‘Chandamama – Topi’ and ‘Adavilo Badi.’ Illustrations in these books make reading more interesting. This campaign has really contributed towards my reading skills and today I can read an entire sentence in English without faltering. This campaign helped me make new friend. All the students who have received these books have formed a study group. We meet on a weekly basis to read, interact and share our stories to each other. I’m really thankful to ChildFund for introducing me with these books, shared Pooja, one of the children who received the Reading bags.



After successful implementation of Books, my Friends campaign's Phase 1, ChildFund India in the month of June 2015 launched its 2nd Phase– Ujjwal Bhavishya ki Ore.

To help families living in our implementation areas overcome poor electric supply problem and enable children to read anytime and anywhere, under this phase, ChildFund India gave out Solar Lamps with chargers to nearly 40,000 children, indirectly benefitting around 1,92,000 community members. This cause was supported by two of the leading Companies - Bajaj Electricals and BPL Techno Vision Pvt. Ltd.



Studies done post distribution of books –

STUDY 1

BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORT ON LEARNING ABILITY OF CHILDREN POST READING BAGS DISTRIBUTION UNDER BOOKS, MY FRIENDS CAMPAIGN, BY MACMILLAN EDUCATION

ChildFund India's campaign partner – Macmillan Education conducted a Baseline assessment on a sample size of 1200 children from 44 partners across 14 states in India, to understand and analyze the outcomes related to reading ability of these children. The analysis was done in relation with 4 factors – Age, Gender, State and ChildFund India Partners.

The analysis showed positive correlation with age, and reading ability improved with age. 66.2% of the students were not able to read at all in the age group of 6–8, which came down to 44.8% in the age group of 11–12 years and to 29% in the age group of 13–14 years.

The reading ability has no overall correlation with gender. Although in Tamil Nadu girls performed better than boys in most assessments.

The analysis showed a distinct correlation with State performance. The reading outcomes assessed for the age group 13–14 years were significantly high in the states of Delhi, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh with performance higher than 85%. Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh were below 50% in the reading ability assessment.

With respect to Partners, except for children under a couple of partners, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh children performed above 95% in reading ability in the age group of 13–14.

STUDY 2

NON-SCHOLASTIC READING HABITS AMONG CHILDREN – EVIDENCE FROM SITUATION ANALYSIS OF SELECTED AREAS, BY CHILDFUND INDIA

In order to understand the reading habits and the factors affecting the reading habits of children a situation analysis was conducted by ChildFund India among randomly selected 1000 children in the age group of 8–14 years from rural/ slum areas of five locations (Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Jhabua and Udaipur).

From the current situation assessment it was evident that nearly 50 percent of the children in the study areas were not reading any non-academic books, and the main reason was the non-availability of such books for them.

Even though more than half of the children reported they have a functional library in the school, with a fair proportion reporting they can access the library, there was not much initiation to improve the reading habits of children from the school/library.

Further, during 2015 ChildFund India has planned to expand this initiative by setting up solarized model schools, static libraries in rural government schools and introducing Mobile libraries in slum areas, to provide access to quality reading material and dedicated reading space to children as well as youths, in order to improve their reading skills.



EQUIP

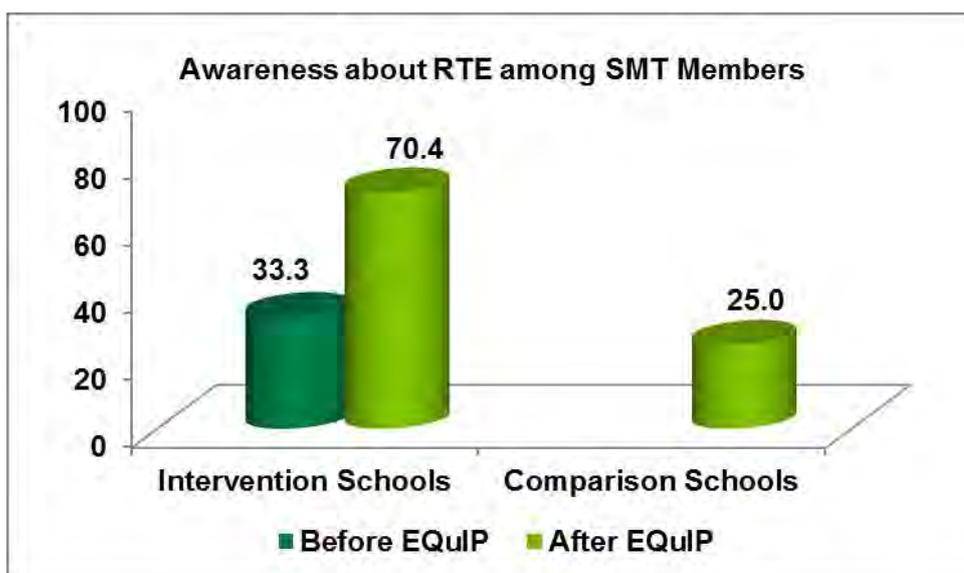
From 2011 to 2014, ChildFund India and Caterpillar Foundation jointly oversaw the Enhanced Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP) – a comprehensive initiative promoting elementary educational reform.

EQUIP targeted 12,000 students of 98 public schools in Chennai and Thiruvallar districts of Tamil Nadu – an area with particularly low academic performance rates. This initiative utilized a comprehensive approach to enhance these schools’ programmatic and social environments. Over the course of three years, ChildFund India supplied participating schools with necessary infrastructural and educational resources; coached local teachers on pedagogical techniques derived from ChildFund India’s unparalleled understanding of early childhood development; and trained participating School Management Committees (SMCs) on school administration and management.

This multi-pronged approach had a significant impact on all aspects of participating schools’ performance. School administration efficacy improved robustly, including a 50% increase in SMCs’ understanding of their roles and responsibilities as well as a 30% increase in SMCs’ active involvement in school management.

EQUIP also resulted in unprecedented increase in learning levels of children – 84% of students in upper grades (4th to 6th) achieved, and some even surpassed, grade-appropriate academic benchmarks after participating in the project, in comparison to 73% of students in non-intervention schools.

The end line evaluation showed significant improvement in the infrastructure facilities of intervention schools. The project was able to create conducive environment for learning in schools. Many school principals acknowledged the impact of infra-structural and learning aids support (such as wall paintings and computers) resulting with improved enrollment and attendance of children, as well as



enhanced learning levels of children. The program had significant impact on creating awareness among SMC members on RTE and on their roles and responsibilities towards school development, which lead to SMC members’ initiation and involvement in improving the school infrastructure by approaching external donors within the community.

1 In India elementary education is considered as class I to class VIII

2 SMCs are legally mandated bodies that are responsible for the management of local schools. They are typically comprised of 15-20 parents, teachers, and local leaders.

The appointment of a special teacher for the 'slow bloomers' and the child friendly pedagogy used by the teacher indeed had a positive effect on learning outcomes of children in all intervention schools. A majority of these children were able to meet the floor levels designed for them. Their performance was strongest in Mathematics.



ENHANCING LEARNING LEVEL OF CHILDREN

Krishna (real name changed) was a shy 10 year old, studying in 4th standard in a government aided school. His parents were daily wage workers. Despite studying in 4th standard he was unable to identify letters in Tamil and could barely read.

The EQULP program identified him as a slow boomer student (SBS) and provided personal attention from ChildFund India teacher along with other SBS children. And gradually his performance started to improve.

Now, he is not only able to recognize letters but also fluently reads 4th standard text in Tamil, performs division in Mathematics and recognized letters in English. The principal of his school gladly shared that he now mingles with other children in the classroom too.



PREVENTION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

‘Prevention of Child Trafficking’ is ChildFund India initiative, focused on qualitative improvement of children, endangered by human trafficking. It is being implemented in 50 villages of Udaipur district in the state of Rajasthan. The law enforcement agencies, in one particular blocks of Sabarkantha district in Gujarat, are also engaged in supporting this project. The project is in partnership with ChildFund Deutschland and support from BMZ: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany.

UNDER THIS PROJECT TILL DATE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN ACHIEVED,

- Awareness campaign conducted on child trafficking reached out to more than 20,000 villagers including 50 schools and 10,000 children in around 50 villages.
- Five girls from the project have been awarded Laadli Samman by the State of Rajasthan Government for fighting the cause of Child Trafficking in Southern Rajasthan.
- Ten Vigilance Squads, comprising 135 members, have been formed and trained to prevent child trafficking in the community.
- 60 media professionals from Udaipur district and nearby districts of Banswara, Dungarpur have been sensitised in two separate training and sensitisation workshops
- Series of multi-stakeholder interactions and interface were organized in Udaipur, resulting in the formation of a district level network named Balsuraksha network.
- Under the alternative livelihood source / income generation option, training was imparted for repairing work (four wheeler cycles etc.), embroidery training, handicraft work, masonry training. Around 375 youths have successfully completed skill trainings.



CHILDREN GROUPS (BAL SAMOOH) PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN COMBATING CHILD TRAFFICKING IN THE REGION

Yearly hundreds of children are being trafficked from Gezvi Panchayat of Jhadol, Rajasthan. The households easily fall prey to traffickers due to their poor economic conditions and large family size. Azad Bal Samooh, a Children’s Group formed in the area has played an active role in the recent past in combating child trafficking in the region. The group has managed to undergo successful rescue operations with the support of local police officials and social organizations.

The capacity of the group was built under the Prevention of Child Trafficking project by one of the partners of ChildFund India. Akhilesh who is the current President of Bal Samooh said, “We children are the first ones who get the information regarding any kind of trafficking which is going to happen in our village at night. And the moment we get this information we inform the local police and local social organization. We children also conduct regular night patrolling, and have been able to undergo 6 to 7 rescue operations”.

The children’s group is not only involved in rescue operations but is also involved in motivating children who are school drop outs, looking in to proper functioning of the schools with respect to teaching as well as proper implementation of mid -day meals and many more things.

SKILLED AND INVOLVED YOUTH

Programs for youths aged 15 to 24 years focus on life and livelihood skills, sexual and reproductive health, civic engagement and leadership. We believe that this stage is a critical time in a child's life when a child steps into adulthood. They are under tremendous pressure to manage physiological, mental, emotional and psychological changes that are taking place at the same time. Addressing livelihood and skill enhancement is one of the best ways to empower youth, which facilitates them in becoming responsible adults and citizens.

During FY 14-15, more than 5000 youths completed skill enhancement trainings and out of them, 672 were able to find a livelihood through regular employment.

Through the youth clubs and youth resource centres, ChildFund India promotes involvement of young people, especially those who belong to the economically deprived and socially marginalized sections of the society, towards the betterment of society by building their capacity and skills. In FY 14-15, youth clubs across the country made substantial progress in influencing their communities, schools and local government in promoting the spirit of volunteerism. Youth clubs were successful in spreading awareness regarding social security schemes and employment opportunities for the youth and other deprived community members in their intervention areas. The evaluation survey conducted in partner locations indicated that significantly high number of youths were aware and have availed social security and employment schemes available for them by the government, as compared to the youths in the comparison area. Nearly 43 percent of youths in the intervention area reported attending workshops on career opportunities as compared to 21 percent of youths in comparison area. Large numbers of youth in intervention area (78 percent) were aware about various career opportunities than youth in comparison area (45 percent).

Further, Life Skill training was organized in the month of April 2015 for all 2 and 3 Life Stage Coordinators with an objective to help them enable children in dealing with challenges in life, to be master trainers and train other potential trainers on Life Skills.



DISHA

Disha is a major initiative by ChildFund India, since 1994, to promote sustainable community-based strategies for the prevention of child labor. It is committed to free the children from the clutches of labor by providing health, educational and livelihood support. Briefly, it addresses two issues - child labor, and factors contributing to it and its consequences. The KC Mahindra Education Trust, UNICEF and INDUS have previously supported this initiative.

The project is being implemented in 8 slums of Firozabad. Two of these are inhabited by the socially marginalized scavenger's community.

UNDER THIS PROJECT

- Four model centers are offering integrated child development services to slum children.
- A sustainable livelihoods center called "DAKSH" is offering a multi-solution approach. Under one roof it provides library services, vocational training in tailoring, beauty and IT, and coaching on personality development, spoken English, and entrepreneurship. Additionally, it promotes and provides a national platform for youth and Self-Help Group federations.
- 25 youth clubs are helping to engage young people in community service.
- 16 clubs are ensuring literacy, numeracy and life skills for children in the operational area. They seek to increase children's engagement in school and out-of-school activities to extricate them from home based labor.



JOURNEY FROM A BANGLE MAKER TO A BPO EMPLOYEE

VinayKant belongs to a very poor family who are engaged in bangle making. They reside in one of the remotest locations of Firozabad. Since their Parents' earnings from the bangle making were not sufficient to suffice the basic requirements of the family, Vinaykant and his siblings were forced to drop their education and support their parents in their home based business.

VinayKant was looking for a better opportunity, to be able to provide education to his siblings and improve his family's living condition, when he came to know about DAKSH training centre (under Sustainable Livelihood Development Program – SLDP, of ChildFund India's DISHA program), which provides livelihood oriented trainings to youths who have dropped out of schools.

He joined the 4months training course of ITES (IT Enable Service), which provided him with an opportunity to groom himself in spoken English and formal interview training. After successful completion of the course, DAKSH centre linked him with a BPO and supported him in successfully completing all his interview formalities. Currently, VinayKant is working as a customer service associate and earning a good salary along with other benefits.

"I never thought there can be such a centre like DAKSH which picks people from streets, trains them and makes them competent enough to earn a modest living. I am now capable of supporting my family; I will bring my siblings out of this bangle making work and help them study well. I will work hard and shape my future better from here. I will also link my friends who are jobless with DAKSH centre," expressed VinayKant about ChildFund India programs.

UDAAN

UDAAN project aims to support all the girls falling within the age group of 16-24 years, in completing their higher secondary education by providing them counseling, career guidance and financial support. The program is being implemented in four areas providing 250 girls scholarship and helping 800 girls through various other activities.

During FY 14-15, the program successfully completed two college fairs and two career guidance workshops covering nearly 150 students and orienting them on different career opportunities, supporting them in choosing appropriate higher education.

We have also provided scholarships to around 20 girls for their higher studies and more than 100 girls were identified for providing scholarships in Jhadol, Jabhua, Kalahandi and Daltonganj areas. Scholarship is provided to compensate expenditure towards tuition fees, stationaries, accommodation and travelling. Those students who are not eligible for scholarship, through networking these students are linked with other government aided schemes in the areas.

EDUCATION - THE TICKET TO SUCCESS

Asha, the eldest daughter of a cultivator from rural areas of Rajasthan, realized at a very young age that only education is her ticket to success. Coming from a marginalized family, it was a great challenge for her and her family to meet the expenses of her higher education.

During the initial phase of Udaan - the Girls Scholarship Project, Asha was identified as a potential candidate for receiving the scholarship for her higher education, which gave her the courage to dream, to aspire to become a government teacher.



And today, she is pursuing a degree in Bachelor of Education from a reputed college.

“Due to financial problems in my family, it was very difficult to continue my studies. But with ChildFund India’s help, I am able to pursue my education. It has given me a very big opportunity to better my life”, said Asha.

Being the first generation learner of her family, she is a motivation for her younger siblings and the children of her community.



LINK WORKERS SCHEME

ChildFund India is implementing Link Workers Scheme (LWS) scheme as the Lead Agency for National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) in 19 districts of Andhra Pradesh. The goal of this project is to reach out to High Risk Groups and vulnerable men & women in rural areas with information, knowledge and skills on HIV/STI prevention and risk reduction. The programme component includes treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), referral services, testing and treatment for the TB symptomatic cases, promotion of condom and spread awareness on HIV and on importance of Blood Donation.

UNDER THIS PROJECT FOLLOWING HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

- A total of 56,372 people with high risk behaviors were contacted and referred to services.
- HIV positive cases were linked with ART services
- About 2,856 tuberculosis (TB) symptomatic cases were tested and diagnosed cases were referred to medical services.
- A total number of 3,258 Condom Outlets have been established and through these outlets 14753497 condoms have been distributed.
- A total of 4130 Village Information Centers have been established in 1900 villages to spread awareness and displayed information on HIV/AIDS, STI, other health facilities.
- For program sustainability purpose, 32751 volunteers in 1900 villages have been selected, and trained on HIV/AIDS and STI, route of transmission, preventive measures, and condom usage demo.



MNGO-GENDER RESOURCE CENTRE

Mother NGOs (MNGOs) was a collaborative effort of ChildFund India and Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi under the concept of Mission Convergence. Under this collaborative effort ChildFund India has facilitated, guided, supervised, monitored and evaluated the functioning of 65 Field NGOs (F-NGOs) located in six districts of Delhi, since 2011. These 65 F-NGOs functioned as Gender Resource Center - Suvidha Kendras (GRC-SKs) under the supervision of ChildFund India as a Mother NGO. Women were central to this programme, with focused interventions designed for their economic, social and psychological empowerment. They were supported with Vocational Trainings, assistance for managing Microfinance Activities/Livelihood (Self Help Group (SHG) formation), Legal Awareness Generation, Health Camps, Nutrition Awareness, and Non-formal education.

UNDER THIS PROJECT FOLLOWING HAS BEEN ACHIEVED,

- Through its non-formal education classes under the education component ChildFund India highlighted Right to education for the children who are out of formal school. ChildFund India also strengthened the after school support program (remedial classes) for the deprived, excluded and vulnerable (DEV) section of the society.
- Improved accessibility and availability of books through Mini Library to promote the reading habit among the children.
- Contributed to national agenda - MNGO actively implemented the activities under Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.
- ChildFund India worked closely with FNGO and motivated the SHGs members to apply for Fair Price shop. And three SHGs got permission for fair price shop.
- Gender Resource Centers - Suvidha Kendras were set up by government in partnership with the civil society organizations (CSOs) as first point of contact for the community. ChildFund India has contributed in expanding these GRC-SKs from 4 to have 130 in 6 years.



RESPONDING TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) / EMERGENCIES

This year, 2014-15 experienced a major cyclone Hudhud in the coastal areas of Odisha, affecting two of our intervention districts - Malkangiri and Koraput. In order to combat the disaster, reduce risk and to address the plights of children in the area, ChildFund India introduced Hudhud response program.

To provide awareness about the hazards, vulnerability in the community and identification of risks, a training program was organized in these two districts, with special focus on preparing a plan for risk reduction especially for children in case of disasters in future. The three day training was conducted in the project locations and 113 children and youths were trained on community disaster preparedness planning. As an immediate outcome of the training, Child centered community based disaster risk reduction center got established at Malkangiri and Koraput district, and hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessments got carried out by the trained youth members of the centre. ChildFund India also hosted an international training on disaster risk management with primary focus on child protection, which was organized by ChildFund International. During the training, a community based disaster risk assessment tool was piloted in one of the partner locations.

DRR has been mainstreamed in the plan and budget developed by partners as a cross cutting issue in all life stages, across ChildFund India's implementation areas. Also a memorandum of understanding has been signed with SPHERE India for conducting Training of Trainers of 60 ChildFund India and local partner staff members.

ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	: Ante Natal Care
ASER	: Annual Status of Education Report
ANM	: Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery
AWW	: Anganwadi Worker
AWC	: Anganwadi Centre
CSO	: Civil Society Organizations
HIV	: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRG	: High Risk Groups
ICDS	: Integrated Child Development Services
IFA	: Iron and Folic Acid
LWS	: Link Workers Scheme
MNGO	: Mother Non-Governmental Organization
NACO	: National AIDS Control Organization
PNC	: Post Natal care
RIP	: Reading Improvement Program
RTE	: Right to Education
SHG	: Self Help Group
SRS	: Sample Registration System



BECAUSE WE BELIEVE

that the well-being of all children leads to the well-being of the world, we empower children to thrive throughout all stages of life and become leaders of enduring change.

ChildFund[®]
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