



**HOLISTIC CHILD
DEVELOPMENT
INDIA**

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2022-2023



ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT (2022-23)

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1. INTRODUCTION:

Holistic Child Development India, as a humanitarian organization, with an experience of over four decades, endeavours to bring about positive changes in the quality of life of children and their families who are otherwise exploited and deprived of their basic human rights. HCDI is committed to bring about a positive change in the life of the children and the community where they live in, through its innovatively designed programs and activities with a Child Rights Approach that would help them develop themselves and progress in life. HCDI, has a strong conviction that investing in children today will undoubtedly yield positive outcomes in the future, our projects are designed to make sure that the children are the centre of our work, along with their families and communities.

HCDI is a registered Society under the Societies Act with its registered office in Delhi and Administrative office in Pune, Maharashtra. As a national non-government organization, HCDI presently works in over ten states across the country, reaching out to various groups of children such as rag pickers children, children from the remote tribal and rural areas of underdeveloped states in India. The main objectives have been promoting education, health & nutrition and the overall development of the children. At HCDI, we prioritize and uphold the rights, interests, and dignity of children, their families, and communities in all our programs without making any compromise. Ensuring their well-being and empowerment remains at the heart of our mission, and we are committed to creating a positive impact on their lives with unwavering dedication and integrity.

HCDI during the last year alone (2021-22), has reached out to innumerable number of people who were suffering during the COVID-19 pandemic time. With the support from different sponsors and donors, HCDI touched the lives of as much as 3785 families in rural and urban areas of the states of Maharashtra, Assam, Nagaland, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka & Odisha. Around 24,000 people were impacted by the Humanitarian Relief work extended by HCDI to the marginalised communities, that included more than 9000 kids who are our main focus during the difficult times. During the current year, HCDI surveyed about the condition of a few marginalised

communities, has extended its humanitarian relief support post COVID-19 pandemic time, to help them rebuild their lives for a better future.

HCDI believes in the active participation of the people including children in any development program that addresses their needs and interests. With the support of international funding partners and individual donors within this country, HCDI is able to accomplish its work in a meaningful and successful way. Every child has the potential to be a future leader and contribute positively to society. By nurturing and supporting children from all socio-economic backgrounds, HCDI believes to create a generation of empowered & compassionate leaders who can bring about positive change in every walk of life.

2. HCDI's COVID-19 POST-PANDEMIC RESPONSE:

Humanitarian relief support to marginalized communities:

The devastating economic and social disruption brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, resulted in tens of millions of people falling into extreme poverty. The effect was severe upon the marginalized communities whose livelihoods were affected due to frequent lockdowns and subsequent job loss due to the economic instability caused by the post pandemic period (even after few years of its surge at the global level). Beyond the immediate health implications, this novel coronavirus had caused much more adverse impact upon the children, especially who hail from less privileged communities, in the areas of health, education and mental well-being.

HCDI extended its humanitarian relief support with the financial assistance from the International Justice Mission (IJM), which gave funds exclusively for the humanitarian aid mainly to one such marginalized communities belonging to Kole-Basava tribe, who are temporary living in make shit tents in different parts of the Bangalore city.

Being a key child welfare and humanitarian organization, Holistic Child Development India, which primarily works for the overall development of the neglected and marginalized children, also reaches out to the children and their families, as and when disaster occurs in any form, in any part the country, where no other NGOs are

working for such communities. The marginalized children in general, who were susceptible to this vulnerable situation are grappled with issues like disruptions in their education, increased food insecurity, and heightened risks of abuse and neglect, with reduced support systems during these challenging times, and have faced more hardships, than the adults and hence they were the main focus of HCDI during this intervention period.

2.1. Beneficiaries from Kole Basava tribe:

Upon learning about the plight of the Kole Basava tribe who are living in the midst of the city of Bangalore, HCDI decided to reach out to them to provide them with COVID-19 humanitarian assistance as they were struggling hard to survive during and after COVID-19.



The community that HCDI has selected is largely part of the Kole Basava tribe, whose livelihood has traditionally consisted of raising money through begging, by going from house to house with a decorated bull and a small musical drum in hand, announcing the fortunes of the families living in the house. They are basically nomads, moving from one place to another with the bulls, and their profession is seen by many as begging.

A few years ago, they had relocated to the city from rural Andhra Pradesh, where they had been suffering from severe drought. They are now living with families and children in an unauthorized open space, erecting small tents covered in worn-out and damaged tarpaulins, with bulls nearby, and lacking basic amenities like electricity and water. Unfortunately, because of the restrictions placed on their movements during COVID-19 and for several months after, their way of life was negatively impacted, affecting their daily livelihood badly. Children in particular were suffering from hunger during this time and even after, due to lack of food. Not only must they protect their own survival, but also that of their bulls, who serve as their primary source of revenue.

2.2. The location, number of families & children etc.:

A total of 700 families are living in tents in 18 different areas in and around Bangalore city but HCDI was only able to reach a little over 400 families to provide humanitarian assistance.

There are number of children who don't have the opportunity to go to school, don't have enough food, clothes to wear or opportunities to play and go to a place where they can sit together and learn, so they usually loiter around, idling their time. The grown-up girls take up the responsibility of taking care of their younger siblings and boys help their father by taking care of the bulls, feed them and take them to the pastures. The living environment is pathetic as it is an unauthorized area full of bushes with no water and electricity. Excessive rainfall often causes flooding in the area and the rainwater flows into their tents. The number of children living in these families exceeds 600.

SR. NO.	CAMPS / DWELLING AREA WHERE KOLE-BASAVA FAMILIES ARE LIVING IN MAKE-SHIFT TENTS IN BANGALORE CITY	NO. OF FAMILIES
1	HORMAVU	49
2	TATANAGAR	45
3	MALAGALA	10
4	KAMAKSHI PALLYAM	8
5	LAGGERI	35
6	KUMARASWAMY LAYOUT	22
7	MUDDINA PALLYAM	8
8	CHILAKA	7
9	ARIKERE	11
10	KOTHANUR DHINNE	16
11	BANGARAPPA GUTTA	46
12	MAHADEVAPURA	25
13	MARTHA HALLI	18
14	YELAHANKA	12
15	AYYAPA NAGAR	72
16	BANDEPALLYAM	12
17	CHANDAPURA	17
18	HOYSALA NAGAR	48
	TOTAL	461

2.3. Food and other materials distributed to meet their basic

requirements: The following materials were provided for the families and children as per their priority and need.

2.3.1 Dry ration kit distribution: As a post-pandemic recovery effort, HCDI ensured that the humanitarian initiatives include distribution of groceries to people who are in need, ensuring food security for the vulnerable individuals and families belonging to the marginalised communities.

Dry Ration kits consisting of rice 10 kg, wheat 2 kg, cooking oil 1 litre, yellow dal 1 kg, etc. were supplied to 500 families (209 families of Kole-Basava and 291 families of the children living in the rural Bangalore District belonging to scheduled caste whose families' livelihoods were also affected post pandemic, and they being landless/agricultural labourers) between July-Aug 2022. Around 2830 people were impacted through this grocery kit distribution, out of which 986 are children.



HCDI made sure that during this difficult phase, necessary food kits were provided to children and their families of Kole Basava & Rural Bangalore areas.

And these timely initiatives have ultimately reduced the financial burden on the households and allowed them to focus more on meeting the other immediate needs such as health care, education and rebuilding of their lives during the challenging times.



2.3.2. Uniforms and clothes

were distributed to 800 children, of them 250 are to Kole-Basava and 550 are to the poor children living in rural district of Bangalore, between the month of August and September 2022. For low-income families, the cost of purchasing regular clothes can be a burden. It was found that one



free uniform set is always not sufficient for kids, who use it daily to school in bad condition. By providing school uniforms, the financial strain is reduced, making it easier for parents to send their children to school consistently. Improved attendance leads to better academic performance and overall educational outcomes.



2.3.3. Hygiene kits (500)

consisting of toothbrush, paste, nail cutter, soap, coconut oil, etc. were distributed to children between Aug to Oct 2022. (145 to Kole-Basava small children and 355 to small children in the rural district). Hygiene kits can help children maintain better personal hygiene and reduce the risk of

infections and diseases. Having access to personal hygiene items can positively impact a child's self-esteem and confidence. Proper grooming and cleanliness can help children feel more comfortable and accepted in social settings and school, promoting a healthier emotional and psychological well-being.

2.3.4. Tarpaulin for the families of Kole Basava:

The Kole Basava community live in temporary settlements or makeshift tents, that lacks adequate protection from harsh weather conditions. Bangalore city often experience torrential rains during most part of the year, with chill winds, making it hard for these people, to protect themselves from flooding inside their house due to poor condition of their roof. Even during the current year, Bangalore city has been experiencing torrential rains (3 to 4 months) with chill winds and severe weather condition. The families from the Kole Basava, requested for tarpaulins to cover their tents as their areas were also flooded with rain waters and they are not able to protect themselves. Therefore, based on their immediate need, HCDI decided to provide Tarpaulins for the families, that would help them in an immense manner.

Tarpaulin serves as an effective barrier against rain, preventing leaks and flooding inside the tents. It also provides shade and insulation during hot summers, reducing the risk of heat-related illnesses.

By offering protection from extreme weather, tarpaulin helps Kole Basava communities maintain better health and minimizes the impact of environmental challenges. Based on their request HCDI has organized distribution of good quality Tarpaulins for 400 families of Kole Basava community living in 18 different locations in Bangalore city from July to Sep 2022.



2.3.5. Solar powered lamps for the Kole Basava community: Since the families of Kole Basava community, dwell in makeshift tents, access to electricity is a major problem. They had to live in dark once the sun sets. Children struggle to study, families find it difficult to carry out household chores, and basic amenities like cooking become challenging tasks in the evening. Even there is constant danger from insects and snakes during night time.

Therefore, considering their difficult condition and based on their request, around 86 families in Hormavu & Tata Nagar living in make shift tents received the Solar powered lamps at their homes. The Solar lamps distributed are portable, easy to use, and environmentally friendly. This has enabled the children to study and complete their schoolwork even after sunset, that has resulted in improvement in their academic performance. On the whole, support provided by HCDI in the form of solar powered lamps had indeed empowered individuals and families, enhanced their safety, improved children education opportunities, and contributed largely to the environmental sustainability factor as well.

The entire relief assistance initiative was carried out with the help of the staff, a few volunteers, and a team of young individuals from the local community. The community as a whole showed great support and cooperation in implementing the program for the benefit of the poor and needy.





Tailoring Machines for girls

2.3.6 Skill development for girls (Tailoring): Skill development training programs for 25 young girls in rural Bangalore, was organized, to equip them with valuable vocational skills and enhance their employability by imparting knowledge and expertise in tailoring. These girls are from poor background from rural villages having very limited opportunities in their life. After the completion of the course the students are supported with tailoring machines from HCDI. The program enables women to become financially self-reliant and contribute actively to their families and communities.

3. CHILDREN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM IN DHEKIAJULI, ASSAM:

HCDI has been supporting the deserving under privileged children through its Educational Activity centers (EAC) in Dhekiajuli Block, of Sonitpur District, Assam. Around 100 children are enrolled in the EAC's, that covers 5 villages in Dhekiajuli Block.

Most of the inhabitants of these areas are Adivasis from Chota Nagpur division (Jharkhand) who settled 80 years back. But still they are included in OBC category, rather than ST category, because of which they are deprived of many benefits. They are actually poorer than the Assam ST group people. Majority of them are involved in casual daily labor workers and also works in tea estates. There are no much education or health infrastructure in this area. Children had to walk 2-3 kms daily for their schools. Moreover, Child malnutrition is very common, including poor health status of the Adivasi (tribal) women and elderly persons. EAC's are established in Pasnoi

Nepali & Majgaon Pathar villages, with the main objective developing & nurturing children holistically by way of providing Educational, Physical and Value based educational activities in these centers.

Educational Development: Regular tuition classes and educational activities are conducted for children daily. Students are provided with learning materials such as pen, pencil, erasers, note books and drawing books etc. along with the uniforms & sweaters. Parents are educated on the importance of education, personal and family health & hygiene, role of good parenting etc.

Physical Development: To improve the physical growth of the enrolled students, food items like Eggs, Bananas, Choles, Nuts, Sooji, Ghee, Bakery Breads and Milk are provided. Health screenings are regularly done for children & provided with syrups for deworming, Liver Tonics and Multivitamin Syrups for maintaining good health. Children are also given hygiene & health care items. During Saturday's children engage in games and extra-curricular activities as well.



Value Based Education: Various leadership development programs along with classes on moral, Social and cultural aspects were organized to develop the leadership qualities of children. In addition, cultural dance, folk songs, quiz competitions, other games & sport competitions were organized for children during the year.

4. EDUCATION & NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR RAG PICKING COMMUNITY CHILDREN IN DELHI:

The Education & Nutrition program for children of Rag pickers community has been functioning in and around Delhi covering the rag pickers community in Tilla Mod, Bhopura, Ghaziabad, and U.P. The program aims at assisting the children in the areas of education, nutritional support and help them in getting admission in to a formal school. Around 100 children between the age group of 3 to 14 years are supported through this special intervention program. Besides providing them formal education, this project is also providing several recreational activities to dissuade the children from drug abuse. Gali pre-school (GPS) or Street-Pre School has also been started which is making it possible to encourage parents to send their children to these centers for education purpose. Remedial classes for children were also started for children who were unable to complete their education on time.

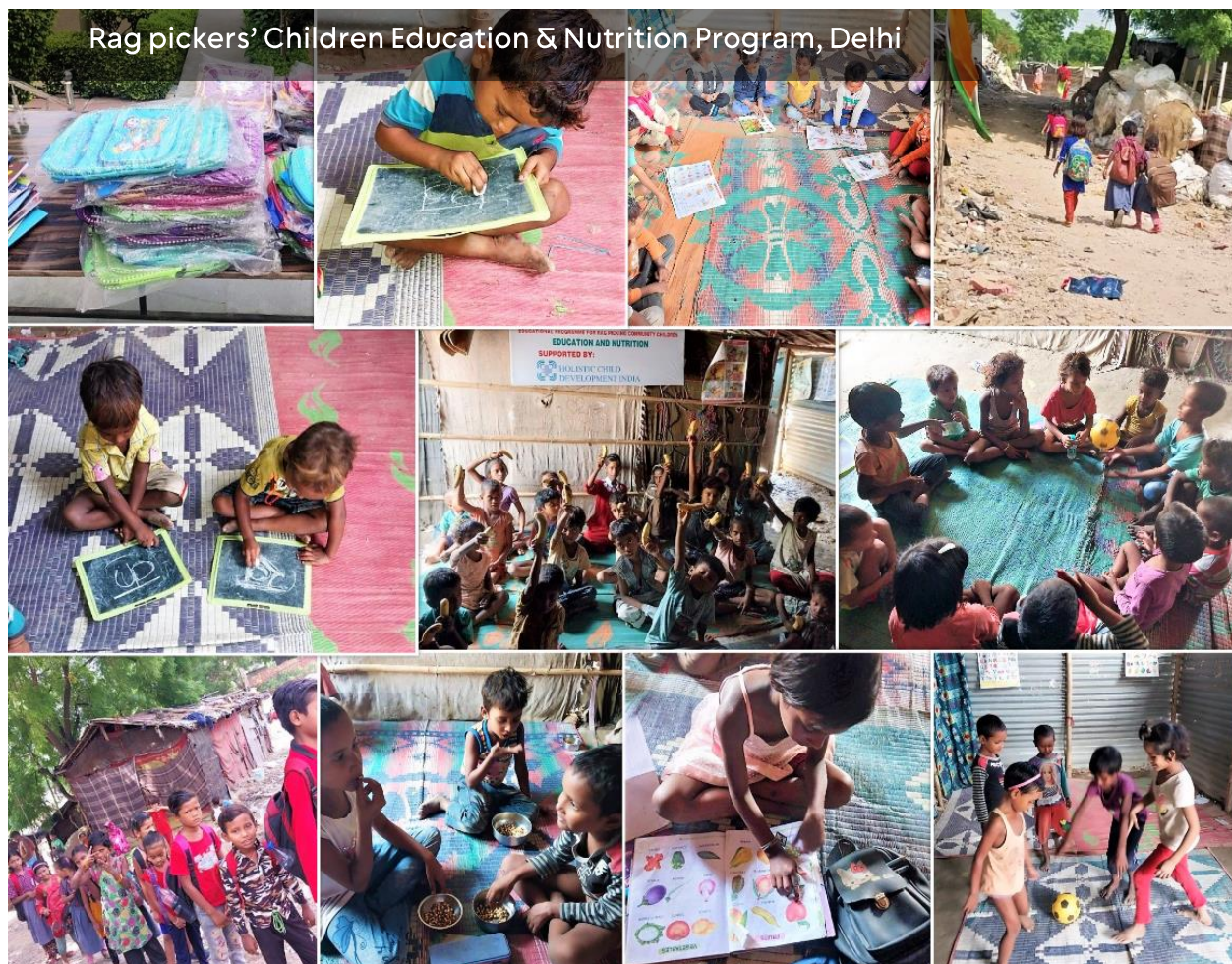
Name of the Program	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR RAG PICKING COMMUNITY CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND NUTRITION
Target Area	Tilla Mod, Bhopura, Ghaziabad, U.P.
Number of Children & Centres	100 children (25 children in each 02 GPS and 25 children in each 02 After school support)
Age groups of children	3-5 yrs. and 5 yrs. above
Indirect Beneficiaries	Parents and Community people

Some of the aim/objectives of the program are:

- To nurture holistic development of children among the rag pickers community to ensure education, nutrition and remedial learning.
- Ensure basic education, health care and development facilities to the children through Early Childhood Education Curriculum.
- Proper Nutrition for children to address Malnourishment's problems.

- To engage children in games & sports or outdoor activities for their holistic development.

Educational & Nutritional support: As per the early childhood educational concept, instructors plan educational activity for children by following child friendly curriculum and Fun way of learning or education by play way method. Nutrition is essential for human development, especially for children as at every stage they are developing cognitive, social, emotional, and language skills and fine and gross motor skills. Nutrition support (Channa, Mungfali, Apple, Banana, Biscuits) and regular health checkups are done that teach them about health issues and importance of personal hygiene. School bags and Stationary materials to children are distributed. Also, Instructors conducts meetings for the mothers of the enrolled children, including the members of the community on importance of education, personal hygiene & proper nutrition etc.



5. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING:

At HCDI, we believe that for effective program implementation, all the state stakeholders must always remain on a learning curve. The HCDI therefore has been working diligently to build the capacities of different stakeholders involved in the child development projects. Training and capacity building play an important role not only in strengthening knowledge, but also in developing sensitivity, in providing a platform to share challenges and concerns, and find solutions to them. The participants of these training workshops also get opportunity to share good practices which can be replicated and scaled up.

During the year, a Regional Child Protection & Child Rights Training Workshops was conducted for the Light to Life projects of Karnataka region. Around 50 participants who work closely with the children on a daily basis, took part in these training workshops, which was organized with support from the Light to Life program, New York. This workshop was organized with the main objective of equipping the stakeholders with the knowledge, skills, and awareness necessary to identify, prevent, and respond to child protection concerns, ensuring the well-being and security of children in the Light to Life projects. Mrs. Ruth Alice Thomas, a renowned Advocate and Expert in Women & Child Rights, led engaging sessions for the participants.

Key Highlights:

- Workshop covered several essential topics, including Child Rights and their significance, emphasizing our responsibility in safeguarding children's rights within projects.
- Another vital subject the program addressed was child sexual abuse, stressing the urgency of establishing a robust prevention and response system.
- Provisions included in the POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) and discussion on the role of the Child Abuse Monitoring committee was done in detail. Additionally, participants were provided with guidance on how to report instances of child abuse and explained the legal process involved in such cases.

- A workshop was conducted on Finance & FCRA Amendment Act, with a particular focus on the latest updates in government regulations concerning the financial reporting of Societies and Charitable Trusts. The session also delved into the significant impact of the FCRA Amendment Act of 2020 and shedding light on its implications for these organizations.
- Additionally, the workshop covered the Amendment to Income Tax Act of 1962, providing a comprehensive explanation of the specific requirements that Charities and Trusts must adhere to as per the government's mandates.
- The Finance session was led by Mr. Y. Thankachan, GBM, HCDI, and the participants gained valuable insights into the evolving financial compliance landscape for these organizations. They were also equipped with knowledge to navigate the changes effectively and ensure their financial practices are in line with the latest legal requirements.
- The workshops also provided a platform for a meaningful discussion on the type of "Program model" currently being implemented in the projects and the importance including community participation in projects. The need for developing an exclusive "Program Concept note" for the Light to Life Program was also emphasized.
- The sessions were effectively discussed and facilitated by Mr. Thomas Rajkumar, Director, HCDI. Throughout the workshops, Rev. Philip George, Secretary, HCDI, skillfully facilitated the sessions and helped the stakeholders gain a deeper understanding of the broader objective: creating a conducive environment for children to grow and progress in their lives through the child development program.



Training Workshop in Bangalore Mar Thoma Camp center



Budget & Finance training workshop: "IGNITE 2023" A National Consultation on Program Planning and Budget Preparation was jointly organized by HCDI and CARD (Christian Agency for Rural Development) in Thiruvalla during the month of February 2023, held in Kottayam for the Light to Life projects. HCDI facilitated the budget preparation & Finance sessions aimed at empowering participants with essential skills and knowledge needed for effective budget planning and preparation. All stakeholders of the Light to Life Project under CARD attended the program.

In addition, participants were offered training sessions covering Finance, the FCRA Amendment Act, and the IT Regulation Act, with special emphasis on the most recent advancements in government guidelines pertaining to financial reporting for Societies and Charitable Trusts. Finance sessions helped enhance their financial management skills and streamline resource allocation effectively.



Furthermore, participants also received training on Child Protection, providing a crucial platform for deepening their understanding of safeguarding the well-being and rights of children. The Child Protection written policy developed by HCDI was also introduced to the projects during the program. Additionally, the program covered topics like Children in Governance (Children's Parliament) etc. which helped participants to understand the importance of Child Participation in their programs. By the conclusion of the workshop, participants were not only equipped with practical tools to develop robust budgets, but they also gained a deeper appreciation for the role of sound financial management in driving the successful implementation of child development initiatives in their projects.

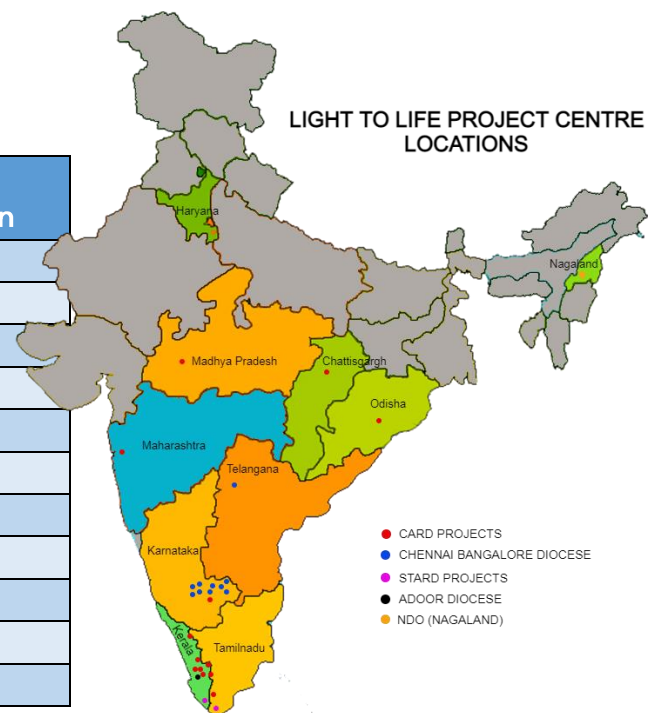
6. PROGRAMS/PROJECTS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS:

Another major program that benefits 3886 children through its Educational Activity Centers, which are supervised and monitored by the HCDI, for promoting Education and ensuring the overall development of underprivileged children in ten states of the country. This program is being funded by a charitable organization supporting under privileged children, based out of New York, USA, and its name is Light to Life program of the Marthoma Mission Board.

Wherein, HCDI is assigned to provide guidance for the execution of programs through all these centers, regularly monitoring and evaluating the program activities and reporting to Light to Life in New York. The whole program aims to develop children across the country in a holistic manner through its various comprehensive child development programs. Further the Light to Life program also purposes itself to bring social transformation of communities through holistic development of underprivileged children in the areas of education, health care, and other interventions that would enable a child to lead a life of dignity. The Educational Activity centers or the Light to Life projects are managed and implemented by the local implementing organizations; Independent entities or Projects located in 10 states benefitting about 3886 children in the country.

STATEWISE PROJECT CENTRE DETAILS:

S. No	States	No. of Project centres	No. of children
1.	Kerala	9	1577
2.	Karnataka	10	1167
3.	Tamilnadu	2	265
4.	Chhattisgarh	1	150
5.	Odisha	1	150
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1	200
7.	Maharashtra	1	50
8.	Haryana	1	100
9.	Telangana	1	77
10.	Nagaland	1	150
	Total	28	3886



In the evening, after school hours, children attend these centers where they spend three to four hours receiving various types of support for their overall development. These include educational assistance (remedial teaching), one-time nutritious meal, and other forms of assistance, that would help address the socio emotional needs of children. Social workers and teachers take care of the children's needs and also visit their homes to engage with parents, creating a favorable environment for the children's education. These program initiatives have a lasting positive impact on the children, providing a natural support system for their overall growth.

The HCDI is responsible for planning, designing, and ensuring the execution of the program in 29 Educational Activity Centres across 10 states. They also regularly monitor the programs and finances and report to the funding organization, which directly provides funds to the local entities managing these centers.

Children benefit from a diverse range of programs and activities offered at the project centers. These include the provision of essential school supplies such as uniforms and bags. Additionally, daily tuition classes are conducted for academic support, accompanied by various engaging extra-curricular activities. These childcare project centers cater to children from different backgrounds, irrespective of caste, creed, or religion. Throughout the year, the project centers have organized numerous development programs, aiming to provide comprehensive support to the children. Some of the highlights include Value Education classes, awareness programs, health check-ups, and medical camps.

The centers also offer a wide array of extra-curricular activities like music, drawing, craftworks, sports, and games. Health and hygiene are given importance through the distribution of health and hygiene kits to improve better health practices. Children and parents are trained on child rights and child protection, in addition to the Life skills classes that help equip children with the ability to handle complex challenges in life. Child parliament programs encourage participation and involvement in decision-making processes. The centers also emphasize environmental care and organize plantation drives during the year. Personality development and motivational classes inspire personal growth and confidence in children.

Special occasions and national holidays, such as Independence Day, Republic Day, Diwali etc. are celebrated to instill a sense of nationalism and cultural pride. Cultural programs and competitions showcase the children's talents and creativity. Summer camps and study tours offer exciting learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

The project centres also extend support to parents by providing economic development programs like tailoring, cattle rearing, and kitchen gardens. This holistic approach ensures that children receive comprehensive care and support for their overall development.



7. CONCLUSION:

Since its establishment in 1995, HCDI has been dedicated to reaching out to remote areas in the country and empowering deserving communities, particularly underprivileged children who lack access to education, healthcare, and development opportunities. Over the years, numerous disadvantaged children have been benefitted from the organization's efforts and have transformed into productive and responsible citizens, making positive contributions to their families and communities.

The organization remains steadfast in its commitment to maintaining high-quality programs for existing projects and upholding transparency and accountability to its donors. HCDI aspires to expand its projects to support a greater number of children in India in future and constantly looking for opportunities to tap resources for the betterment of the community at large. Taking care of the holistic needs of children from lower-income groups is not only a moral imperative but also an investment in the future of society as a whole. It lays the foundation for a more equitable, prosperous, and harmonious community. HCDI has been grateful to God for the opportunity to positively impact the lives of countless children.



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