



SPARC
Annual Report
2017

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Acronyms

ADP	Annual Development Plan
CAGs	Community Action Groups
CSC	Centre for Street Children
FA	Forum Asia
KNH	Kindernothilfe
PTCs	Parent Teacher Councils
SPARC	Society for Protection of Rights of the Child
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
SAIEVAC	South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children
TEVTA	Technical Educational and Vocational Training Authority



Vision

A world in which children are valued and empowered and their rights; promoted and protected

Mission

To promote and protect the rights of children and to empower them through advocacy supported by research awareness-raising, service delivery, and human and institutional development.



Introduction

SPARC is an independent-non-governmental organization formed with the aim of promoting and protecting child rights with a focus on child labor, juvenile justice, violence against children, and their education and health.

SPARC's work is guided by the international human rights principles and standards which are integrated at the policy and program level, including the UNCRC and the relevant ILO Conventions. It is SPARC's belief that child rights are human rights. SPARC works at the national level, with offices in several major cities, and is a part of prominent regional networks including Forum Asia and South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children.

On a global level, it has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN Department of Public Information (DPI). In 2003, SPARC received the United Nations Recognition Award for its work in highlighting the plight of children and promoting the rights of children in Pakistan. In 2006, SPARC received USAID certification under the USAID Institutional Management Certification Program (IMCP).

Furthermore, SPARC received certification by the Pakistan Center for Philanthropy in 2015. SPARC is also an active member of Pakistan Coalition for International Criminal Court and of Child Rights Movement (CRM) on national level.

Message from the Chairperson

Dr. Attiya Inayatullah

Children in Pakistan have to cope with a plethora of challenges; lack of access to education coupled with low learning levels; poor health conditions; a near absence of protection for destitute and vulnerable children; early and forced marriages; dismissal conditions in juvenile jails; trafficking; exploitation and continued employment in hazardous occupations.

Moreover, the children from FATA are an integral part of Pakistan's society and they are part of the fabric that will be its future, it is gravely disappointing to see that they continue to pay the price for the conflict they never created which renders them homeless and impedes their future.

Commitments made by Pakistan by ratifying the UNCRC, and by adopting child-related laws and policies are important first steps to realize children's rights, but will remain empty promises unless translated into allocations in provincial and national budgets and efficient public spending for children. We must have reformed and improved legal frameworks in view of implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Moreover, concrete steps are needed to implement laws formulated by the provinces to nurture an environment where children are secure, empowered and valued.

Here I would like to acknowledge that SPARC has continued to advocate for the uplift of child rights through a mix of traditional and innovative approaches. It also focused on networking with the government and likeminded organizations at national and international level. To supplement advocacy, SPARC undertook a number of researches and also worked to grab attention of corporate sector and has been selected as a member of various provincial committees working on child welfare. I appreciate incredible work done by SPARC's staff through electronic media, raising awareness and sensitizing public about child's rights and issues in Pakistan, role of state and government.

In the end I think us, as world citizens; must raise our voices not only at the national level but the international level as well.

Thanks!



Message from the Executive Director

Dr. Fakhar Sohail

It is sad that we wait for a catastrophe of great magnitude to happen before we systematically draft specific legislation that could have some potential to protect our children. We keep arguing and discussing trivial matters like the exact number of victims whether it was 15 or 19 instead of focusing on identifying timely comprehensive measures needed to resolve such adversity because a single victim of heinous crime not just damages one child but ends up damaging families generation after generation due to its ripple effect.

I would like to avail the opportunity to encourage everyone to assess and evaluate where we stand as a nation. Effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is in the hands of everyone. It requires everybody including, NGOs, Government Officials, UN, International Organizations and communities to play their roles in the promotion, protection, implementation and evaluation of child rights in the country.

Children should study their rights and responsibilities and behave in ways that help them protect one another. They can also be respectful to others and openly discuss issues affecting their rights and safety. Families, communities and adults can support the growth and development of children. They can discuss with the children issues affecting them, and report child rights abuses to the local authorities. Government can safeguard the rights of children through the use of laws. Other partner institutions can be made aware of child rights issues so that they can act in response to abuses. International Organizations and law makers can set universal child protection standards and work hard for the protection of child rights. Non Government Organizations need to educate communities, and support the government in implementing effective programs for child rights and protection.

I would personally recommend introducing emergency policies on a national level and enacting all pending bills related to children. Other than that, I suppose all the signatory International Governments must be made accountable and also legally bound in implementing the bills. Although, I would like to mention here as well, the ratification of UNCRC's Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict in 2016, as a great achievement.

Several debates and reports of various researches conducted, resulted in unanimously agreed propositions that a child's mental developmental needs are very different from that of an adult, thus children are supposed to be treated distinctly in all scenarios. Children's actions and behaviors are oftentimes influenced by adults. After all had been said about this matter, it is unfortunate that children are continued to be arrested for petty offences, illegally detained for days, even months and are being kept alongside adult prisoners, including hardened criminals and extremist militants.

I hope through this discussion, SPARC is able to make its point clear on the significance of our children's well-being. SPARC plays a role in sensitizing the masses and creating awareness about the rights of every child to be nurtured and cared for by everyone. We at SPARC try to make sure that each and every one who is part of this organization understands the value of investing in kids. Thus with every intervention, we at SPARC design and implement, we ensure that our beneficiaries will continue to benefit and sustain their livelihood even after the support is withdrawn. This report provides an annual overview of SPARC's interventions and expenditures thereby upholding the organization's core values of transparency and accountability. SPARC is a success story, an inspiration that would not have been possible without the contribution of its partners and dedicated employees. Thank you!





Changes in Management

In 2017, there were a few changes within SPARC

New Chairperson for Board of Directors

SPARC proudly announced the election of a New Chairperson for Board of Directors, Dr. Attiya Inayatullah. She has been on SPARC's board since June 2003, has served in the National Assembly of Pakistan and was a member of the UNESCO Board and Family Planning Association of Pakistan. She also extended great support to the civil society in presenting the Charter of Child Rights Bill and Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill in the National Assembly.

Dr. Attiya Inayatullah succeeded Ms. Humera Malik, who is an expert in development-related activities and one of the country's few specialists on the Participatory Research Approach.

Acting Executive Director Takes Charge

In November, 2017, Ms. Sadia Hussain resigned from her position as Executive Director of SPARC. With education and early childhood care being her forte, Ms. Hussain led SPARC for over two years. She has now been succeeded by Dr. Fakhar Sohail who has a PhD in Education and was formerly the National Manager Training for SPARC.

Guests at SPARC:



Senator Engineer Gianchand visited SPARC's Center for Street Children Rawalpindi in October, 2017. He spent time with the children and ensured SPARC his full support for the cause of marginalized children and also appreciated their efforts. He shared his life story with the children and told them that only education can bring change to anyone's life and inspired them with his words.



SPARC launched its fifth Center for Street Children (CSC) which was inaugurated by Mr. Jimmy Engineer, the renowned artist and philanthropist. The center was established in Wheedabad, Islamabad with the support of local philanthropists and Air Trust. SPARC already had four CSCs metropolitan cities of Pakistan whereas the newly inaugurated center extended the outreach. Speaking at the event, Jimmy Engineer appreciated the efforts of SPARC for promoting child rights, and hoped that the Center will help improve the lives of poverty stricken children. The event was attended by large number of community members, donors and philanthropists.



In May, 2017 Mr. Nasar Iqbal, Assistant Chief from Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform visited SPARC's head office for seeking recommendations for the improvement of the state of street children. He along with Mr Shahbaz Mustafa, Deputy Director Foreign Affairs also visited SPARC's Center for Street Children in Rawalpindi. Mr. Iqbal appreciated SPARC's effort for catering for the needs of street children.

Orientations for Interns from NCSW



A group of interns led by NCSW Deputy Director Events Ms. Samina Batool visited SPARC's head office in Islamabad. NCSW arranged the visit to familiarize its interns on the workings of the development sector. The Program Development Manager gave a detailed presentation to the visitors on SPARC's work over the years with specific focus to child rights; juvenile justice, child and bonded labor and violence against children including street children and early child marriages. A documentary on plight of child domestic labor was also shown to the guests which received a positive feedback whereas the young interns showed active interest in working for child rights.

Raising Awareness & Lobbying:

SPARC promotes communication and information exchange through its various publications including researches, newsletters, calendars and websites.

Awareness Raising Session on Child Labor



In January 2017, SPARC conducted a seminar on Child Labor Awareness in Hyderabad, Sindh. The seminar participants included representatives from SPARC and different other civil society organizations, labor department representatives, trade unions, and federations from across Sindh province, as well as U.S. Consul General in Karachi, Grace W. Shelton. This seminar was among the ongoing endeavor to raise awareness against child labor and to reduce its prevalence in Sindh. SPARC being a member of joint task force setup under the Jamshoro initiative; aimed at ensuring that it remains a child labor free district.

Conference on Promoting Child Friendly School Environment



In September, 2017 SPARC organized an educational conference in Peshawar to follow up the project "Learning is Fun: Promoting Child Friendly Environment in selected schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa". Around 75 officials linked to the education sector, selected teachers and other relevant members of civil society and media attended the conference. The objective of the event was to share and discuss the interventions made by SPARC and the Education Department of Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the four year term of the project. Furthermore, the conference aimed to discuss the ways of sustaining the efforts made by the project team, Education Department, teachers, children and the community members. The current challenges and steps needed to be taken for improving condition of schools in Pakistan were discussed as well. The Chief Guests for the event were Senior Minister for Health and IT Mr. Shaharam Khan and KP's assembly speaker Mr. Asad Qaiser. During the event, teachers from were given awards on the basis of competency assessment carried out during the project.

Seminar on Child Labor and Modern Day Slavery



In November 2017, SPARC in collaboration with ACILS (American Center for International Labor Solidarity), CRC Asia (Child Rights Coalition) Asia and NCHR Pakistan (National Commission for Human Rights) conducted a Seminar on Child Labor and Children in Modern Day Slavery. The event entailed a panel discussion on key issues associated with child labor and children in modern day slavery in Pakistan and highlighted the need for civil society organizations to address the issues through innovative measures in advocacy and service delivery to maximize their impact.

The panelists included; Anees Jillani (Advocate Supreme Court & Founder of SPARC), Tahira Abdullah (Human Rights Activist), Nafisa Khattak (Member National Assembly), Chaudhry Muhammad Shafiq (Member ICT NCHR), Justice Retd. Ali Nawaz Chohan (Chairman NCHR), Abid Niaz Khan (National Project Coordinator at International Labor Organization), Dr. Meesha Iqbal (Department of Community Health Sciences, Agha Khan University) and Iftikhar Ahmad (Labor Rights Activist).



It was asserted that integrated government poverty alleviation measures including shifts in micro-economic and macro-economic policies were the need of the hour to substantially eliminate the problems of poverty which is the salient cause of child labor. The need for strengthening monitoring and accountability mechanisms of district vigilance committees was also stressed. Towards the end of the event, children from SPARC's Center for Street Children (CSC) participated in a theater performance directed by TV artist Mr. Batin Farooqi to highlight the how poverty and lack of awareness leads to child labor and child marriage.

Seminar on Child Domestic Labor



In February, 2017 SPARC conducted a seminar to ban child domestic labor. It was held in the wake of rising cases of violence against domestic child labor, for which SPARC urged the government and civil society to accelerate its efforts to ensure that Domestic Workers Act becomes a reality. It entailed a consultative session on a position paper against child domestic labor in Pakistan, finalized by SPARC with inputs from civil society. Children working as domestic labor also participated in the event and shared their plight and concerns with the participants. The detailed position paper has been shared in research's chapter.

Advocacy Session with Local bodies



On behalf of the International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC) at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and SPARC, Sindh Expanded Programme on Immunization held an Advocacy Session in March, 2017 to discuss the challenges of low immunization coverage in Sindh with a special focus on Karachi. The aim of the workshop was to provide these local body representatives (Town Nazims) with the latest information on challenges related to low immunization coverage in the Sindh. Almost three million children miss out on a full course of routine childhood immunizations every year in Pakistan, leaving them vulnerable to life-threatening diseases. Immunization coverage rates across the country vary widely, with some districts seeing very few children protected against diseases such as diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles and pneumonia. It was expressed that the voice of local representatives would bring much-needed attention to this critical opportunity to improve the health and success of children and families across the country.

Press Conference held against Brutal Murder of a Child



SPARC protested against the brutal murder of an 8 year old innocent child during a press conference held at Press Club Havelian, Abbottabad in July, 2017. He was tied to a donkey by the perpetrator and was punished for trespassing on the fields of the accused. SPARC demanded the true implementation of laws for the protection of child rights so that our children are safe from violence, abuse and other discriminative behaviors. During the press conference it was appealed to the District Session Judge Abbottabad, DC Abbottabad, DPO Abbottabad and Child Protection Unit Abbottabad for special attention to this case to ensure that justice is served. SPARC sent a fact finding mission to the victim's family and collected all the relevant evidence for legal proceedings. SPARC announced to follow the court proceedings and assured to fulfill all the legal requirements.

Collaboration with Social Welfare Department, Police and CRM



In September, 2017 SPARC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Social Welfare Department Sindh, Sindh Police and Child Rights Movement Sindh, a non-profit network of 70 NGOs/INGOs working on the Rights of Children in the province. The key figures responsible for this initiative are Ms. Shamim Mumtaz, Adviser to the CM Social Welfare Department, Ms. Aliya Shahid Secretary, Social Welfare Department Sindh and Mr. Faizullah Korejo Focal Person, Police Department Sindh & SSP. Through the agreement outlined in the MOU, SPARC will be able to collaborate on with the aforementioned on frontline child protection practice, consultation on areas of agreed mutual interest such as policy development and initiatives, service planning and development and capacity building trainings to concerned police officials.

Consultation on Implementations of UN Recommendations



SPARC and Child Rights Movement (CRM) Sindh arranged a consultation session with relevant stakeholders from the government and civil society, while screening a live session on Universal Periodic Review at Hyderabad Club, Hyderabad. UN member countries including Pakistan are bound to submit review report after every five years. UN watchdog body is to check and ascertain the review report submitted by Pakistan whether it is implementing its Human Rights Instruments or not. In this regard, Mr. Iqbal Detho - Expert of UN Mechanism, SPARC employees, Shakeel Abro - Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pir Muhammad Shah – SSP Hyderabad and some advocates spoke on the occasion and suggested ways to improve the human rights situation.

Enrollment Drive in Abbottabad



A campaign for school enrolment was launched by SPARC at the Press Club in April, 2017. District Education Officer was the main speaker at the event. The school enrollment campaign aimed to bring all out-of-school children to educational institutions and to reiterate province's legislative responsibility towards fulfilling constitutional provisions, namely that of Article 25-A.

World Day against Child Labor



As part of its efforts of raising greater awareness on the issue of Child Labor, SPARC organized petition signing events at major public locations across the country on “World Day against Child Labor” celebrated annually on June 12th. The petitions allowed ordinary citizens a chance to stand in solidarity with the millions of children working in various fields, factories, workshops and homes and urge the authorities to take necessary action against such injustices. In addition to the Signature Drives, held in popular locations of Karachi, Islamabad and Abbottabad, the regional representatives of SPARC – Multan carried out rallies to show their support on the issue of child labor and raise awareness. A news conference on the “World Day against Child Labor” was also held at the Peshawar Press Club, which highlighted the violation of children's right to education.

International Day for Street Children



SPARC celebrated the International Day for Street Children on April 12th, by holding a rally in Hyderabad, where members the Child Rights Movement and the SPARC brought out scores of street children. This was done in order to highlight the plight of street children who constitute perhaps the most the abused and vulnerable segment of society. In spirit of the day, children from SPARC's Center for Street Children, Rawalpindi were mainstreamed into government schools to pursue formal education.

Universal Children's Day



Universal Children's Day is marked every year on 20th November to celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child by the United Nations General Assembly. UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the same day as well, recognizing that all children have special rights. In order to mark its significance, SPARC celebrated it with children from its Street Centers in Multan, Hyderabad, Rawalpindi and Peshawar. The children were involved in different activities including participating in walks to raise awareness about the rights of children along with partaking in different skits and speeches. SPARC in collaboration with Social Welfare Department Sindh and Education Department Tharparkar also conducted a Children's Cultural Festival in Tharparkar, Sindh on the theme of "Stop Violence against Children".

International Day of the Girl Child



October 11th, 2017 marked the fifth anniversary of the UN declared "International Day of the Girl", recognized to promote empowerment of the approximately 1.1 billion girls around the world. In order to celebrate the Day, SPARC through its Centers for Street Children and Vocational Training Centers engaged in interactive sessions with the girls about girls' rights and their empowerment. They girls were oriented with global acknowledgement of the International Day of the Girl Child and were subsequently asked to participate in a social media campaign initiated by Commonwealth of Learning – COL. Girls shared their stories of empowerment whether it was in the form of learning new skills or by experiencing a sense of freedom and self-confidence which was previously unthinkable. As the session progressed the girls described their aspirations like pursuing education and careers in human and social development and to actively engage acquired skills in helping their communities and creating a better future.

Nelson Mandela Day



SPARC in collaboration with UNIC (United Nations Information Center) celebrated "Nelson Mandela International Day" at its Head Office in Islamabad to commemorate Mandela's values and dedication to the protection and promotion of human rights and social justice. SPARC's aim for holding this joint event was to mobilize the community to volunteer their services for street children. The event was well-attended and representatives of different UN bodies and embassies graced the occasion. The event started off with speeches regarding Mandela's life, struggles and achievements. A sizeable number of children from SPARC's Centers for Street Children from Rawalpindi and Islamabad were also invited to engage in fun-filled activities like face-painting, games and story-telling on Mandela's life. UN volunteers also distributed food and gift-packs to the delighted children.

Pakistan Day Celebration



In light of Pakistan Day celebrations, a function was organized by SPARC in Haripur on 23rd, March. The event was held under the project - Learning is Fun. The guests for the function included prominent individuals including; Assistant Commissioner (Haripur), Sub district Education Officer, DEO and ADEO (Haripur). During the function students presented different performances like March past, tableau, speeches and different questions were asked from the students about the history of Pakistan.

Independence Day Celebration



On August 14th, SPARC celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day at a local Government Primary School for Boys in Bagra, Haripur and at GGPS Panayali, located in Union Council Kuthyala of district Abbottabad. SPARC's team in collaboration with the Education Department drew up a program and prepared the students to deliver speeches, perform on national songs and various other stage demonstrations that gave powerful messages to the audience. District Education Staff, SPARC's CRC, Nazims, Counselors, and other local elected political leaders attended the event.

Truck Art Campaign for Islamabad Children



SPARC in collaboration with Farda Productions and Phool Patti organized a three day workshop on "Truck Art". The purpose of this workshop was to introduce, share, guide and train individuals about this unique art. Phool Patti uses this medium to promote messages of peace and cultural fusion around the world and the like was accomplished in Islamabad. The participants were energetic and came up with innovative ideas to make the capital city more beautiful with this vibrant form of art.

Publications

E-Newsletters

SPARC has been publishing its Newsletters since 1993 in which all the children related major issues and news at national and international level are included. SPARC has also been circulating its monthly Electronic Newsletters (ENLs) among a wide group of civil society organizations, researchers, media persons regularly every year. Apart from news, the newsletters also highlight SPARC's direct or indirect contribution towards the promotion and protection of the rights of children. In 2017 as well, SPARC published four quarterly newsletters in English as well as Urdu to disseminate to readers across the country. A review on current situation of child rights in the country and Government's progress in purview of international commitments/treaties was taken into view as well.

Calendars

Child labor was chosen to be the theme of SPARC's yearly published calendar for 2018 with the support of ACILS. In order to raise awareness on the rampant abuse of rights of the children employed in various professions. The calendar has the pictures of random innocent children who are engaged in different forms of labors in formal and informal sector across the country. This include children working in the factories; weaving cotton, employed in the agricultural sector or domestic work,, working at the fields or brick kiln etc.

Some of our Publications

Research

- The State of Pakistan's Children – 2016 (English)
- The State of Pakistan's Children – 2016 (Urdu)

Brochures

- Community Charter of Demand (English)
- Community Charter of Demand (Urdu)

Posters

- Learning is Fun
- Leaflet
- Small Posters
- Stickers
- Booklet

Newsletters

- Newsletters (Urdu)
- Table Calendars
- Calendar 2018

Training Manuals

- Enhancing Household Livelihood through Women Economic Empowerment (urdu)
- Secondary School Girls Book Stipend Programme (Case Study)



Projects

Centers for Street Children

SPARC has been operating three centers for street children in Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Islamabad from several years, with the help of Kindernothilfe. Initially its fourth center in Multan was supported by KNH but after the withdrawal of their assistance, SPARC sustained the center on its own and later with the help of local community and donors like Penny Appeal.

More recently, SPARC inaugurated its fifth Center for Street Children in Wahidabad, Islamabad in February, 2017.

The objective of CSCs is to improve the quality of life of street children; and in this regard the CSCs offer the following services to the children visiting it:

- Non Formal Education
- Mainstreaming into the Government Schools
- Health and Hygiene sessions
- Entertainment
- Indoor Sports
- One meal a day & refreshments
- Recreational Trips
- Skills Training
- Medical Care
- Psycho-social Counseling & Life Skill Guidance
- Reunification
- Referral of Runaway Children to the Child Protection Bureaus

Each CSC has been benefiting approximately more than 2,000 children annually. Some of the children were runaways from homes and SPARC reunited them with their families. Children doing skill training were many a times given sewing kits and other related stuff to help them continue with their work at home. The CSCs, apart from establishing close contacts with the Street Children through a team of its social mobilizers, has established linkages with the Child Protection and Welfare Bureaus in the Provinces, Schools, Dar ul Aman (a government run center which provides support to female runaways), and police. The CSCs staff also conducts lectures in the community to apprise them about the functioning of the Center, about health and hygiene and about the effectiveness of getting children educated.



Non-Formal Education

Rawalpindi

The center worked with street and slum children through non-formal education, nutrition, recreational skill and psycho-social support throughout the year. CSC Rawalpindi catered to more than 404 children including both boys and girls between the ages of 5 to 18. 225 children were mainstreamed in different Government schools, 4 recreational trips were arranged during the year as well as 2 medial camps were arranged for community and street children.

Peshawar

The CSC Peshawar enrolled 426 children 80 boys and 346 girls. 100 different stake holders were reached through advocacy including police, child protection units and NGO members. Life skill based education sessions were conducted with children on the topics like self-awareness, good manners and mutual respect. Drawing sessions and game facilities were provided to the children as per their interest. Health and Hygiene kits were distributed among kits and were provided training to avoid unhealthy food and develop clean habits. Vocational training sessions were also held with 235 girls who were not attending schools, they were taught cutting and sewing clothes, hand embroidery and decorations making.

Hyderabad

CSC Hyderabad highlighted issues like child marriages,



domestic labor and corporal punishment on media and conducted meetings regarding them with parliamentarians and police departments. 625 stakeholders, 240 Government officials and 1058 community members were reached through meetings, awareness sessions and workshops. The center's management registered 630 children; 215 boys and 415 girls. They were provided with different opportunities throughout the year like to participate in sports tournaments of regional and provincial level, to go on recreational trips for exposure and were provided with free medical camps .

Children were involved in a number of healthy competitions e-g drawing and were given lectures regarding health and hygiene were delivered.

The life based skill session were conducted on a daily basis and comprised of interactive discussions, documentaries, animated videos, storytelling etc. Awareness raising lectures were also delivered to the street children involved in drugs.

32 children were enrolled in public schools whereas 630 children between the ages of 5 – 17, received non-formal education according to their levels of learning.

	Girls	Boys	Total
CSC Rawalpindi	252	152	404
CSC Peshawar	346	80	426
CSC Hyderabad	415	215	630
Total	1013	447	1460

Islamabad

With the support of Mustard Seed Mission (MSM), SPARC provided non-formal education to almost 50 children of Center for Street Children, Wahidabad. However the premises of the center were supported by one of the SPARC's board members, Mr. Rashid Ibrahim. All the registered children were taught to read and write short essays in English and Urdu language and to practice sums of mathematics. The teachers emphasized on practical learning of students and indulged them in various activities using flash cards and white boards. SPARC conducted coordination meetings with school management and got successful in mainstreaming 19 children of the center with the consent of their parents. The purpose of enrolling children in schools was to provide them with formal education as well. These children were provided with school bags, stationary items and syllabus books according to their grades level. 10 grown up girls were also registered to learn different skill courses like dress making, decorations etc. Life skill based education sessions were delivered on daily basis with a focus on developing qualities in children like self awareness, interpersonal relationship skills, effective communication and self protection. Psycho social support was also provided to the students through individual sessions, as per requirements. All the children in the center avail nutritional support by being provided with healthy food regularly. To keep the students healthy and active, the teachers organize exercise sessions for 5 to 10 minutes on daily basis. SPARC also conducted sensitizing sessions with the parents of these children regarding child rights and importance of children's education.

Multan

Initially SPARC's center for street children in Multan was supported by KNH but after the withdrawal of their assistance, SPARC sustained the center on its own and later with the help of local community and donors like Penny Appeal.

During the year 2017, 60 children were enrolled in Multan's center for street children among which 32 were boys and 28 were girls. These children were provided with regular sessions on life skills based education including effective communication and mannerism. They were also given psycho-social lessons regarding expressing their emotions, adopting polite behavior and being understanding and respectful towards one another. Due to provision of non formal education at the center, almost 30 children got mainstreamed in the nearby schools. Two medical camps were organized during the year, for free medical checkups for the children of the center and their families.



Awareness raising sessions were also conducted with the children to make them adopt healthy habits like taking bath regularly, brushing their teeth twice a day, washing hands before and after every meal etc. They were instructed to keep themselves clean in order to avoid germs and diseases. Three recreational trips/exposure visits were also arranged during the year 2017 for the exposure and learning of children. Different stakeholders were reached throughout the year including police, teachers, parents, child protection units and civil society organizations. Meetings were also conducted with Secretary - Canadian High Commission, Deputy Commissioner – Multan, Secretary – Multan Chamber of Commerce, District Manager TEVTA and Member of Provincial Assembly Multan.

Reaching out to Juvenile Prisoners in Peshawar Central Jail

SPARC through its decades of experience of working on Juvenile Justice in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, entered into an year long project “Reaching Out to Juvenile Prisoners in Peshawar Central Jail through Learning Opportunities” with the support of Open Society Foundation. SPARC provided non-formal education and vocational trainings to a total of 120 juvenile prisoners (male and females). A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SPARC and Home Department, KPK. In line with the agreed set of activities, SPARC established two Learning Corners (LCs) one for the females and other for the male juveniles for encouraging them to learn and inculcate better values. The centers were equipped with book racks and seating arrangement for the attendees to promote the culture of reading so they can spend their time productively. The staff of centers was also trained in regard to their treatment with children and managing center's administration so that the children turn out to be well organized and socially acceptable. This was to develop better life prospects in them so they may not slip back into crimes after releasing from the prison.



Minorities Participation in Political and Electoral Process

BASELINE ASSESSMENT	
Strengthening Diversity and Democracy through Minority Engagement in Electoral and Political Processes	
Research Design Farshad Iqbal	Research Team (KP) Jamshed Thomas Mahwish Ashraf Fakhr-e-Alam
Data Analysis & Reporting Farshad Iqbal Mahreen Malik	Research Team (Sindh) Amina Nathi Muhammad Ali Humaira Sorath Ghulam Abbas Kasar

In 2017, SPARC and Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) entered into a formal agreement for the project “Strengthening Diversity and Democracy through Minority Engagement in Electoral and Political Processes”. SPARC concluded a baseline assessment using FGDs with people belonging to the minority communities of Tando Allah Yar in Sindh and Peshawar district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The information obtained through the survey regarding the minorities was analyzed in particular to women's status in political participation in the areas of KP and Sindh. For Peshawar the communities suffer from inadequate representation, poor communication and coordination with representatives, negligent information outreach, and restricted women's involvement in the political process. For TandoAllahyar the problems were found to be of similar nature but deeply rooted in their socio-economic position in the community. Their oft-cited problems of representation and political participation also included provision of insufficient information for making educated decisions, lack of communication with elected representatives and low literacy rates for involvement of more women in the political processes.

During the baseline it was found that 13% of women in Peshawar, 18% men and 38% women in TandoAllahyarhad not acquired CNICs while 24% of people in TandoAllahyar were not registered to vote including 28% women and 12% people in Peshawar were not registered to

vote including 22% women.

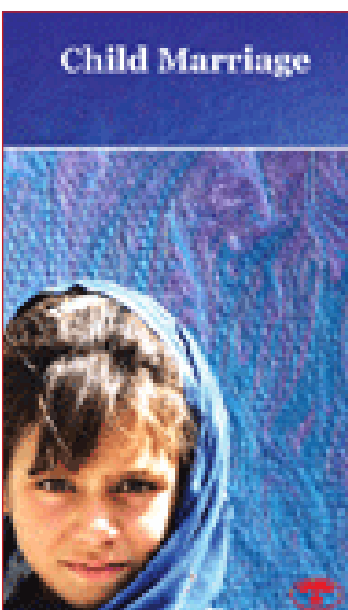
SPARC also formed Community Action Groups (CAGs) in the two districts and conducted series of capacity building trainings on the theme 'Organized Minority is a Political Majority'.

Learning is Fun – Promoting Child Friendly Classroom Environment in Selected Schools of KP

In 2017, SPARC completed fourth year of the interventions through the project “Learning is Fun” which covered 60 schools of two districts; Haripur and Abbottabad. The focus was to improve learning outcomes among students of Government running primary schools. SPARC provided basic educational facilities and infrastructural support to 60 selected schools. Over 120 teachers were trained as Master Trainers and 360 school teachers were trained for strengthening child protection systems in the province through lobbying and awareness raising. Birth registration certificates were provided to parents of 1000 school going children in both of the districts and the hurdles faced by parents regarding registration of children with taken up with NADRA, union council and other concerned authorities. During the year, SPARC refurbished all the 60 schools of Abbottabad with provision of sanitation and hygiene facilities, and collaborated with Education Department to run two enrollment campaigns. 2,231 new children got enrolled in targeted schools as a result of improved school infrastructure and trained teachers. Some fun rides were also installed for the entertainment/enjoyment of children. Complaint Redressal Mechanisms were scrutinized at school levels for strengthening the procedure; where the nature of complaints ranged from corporal punishment to suggestions of students for improving school environment. SPARC also made follow up on the bill drafted on corporal punishment in KP and shared it with the elected representatives of different parties through meetings and consultations. Moreover, 237 Parent Teachers Councils were trained to identify the actual needs of their schools and play active in school's improvement by conducting 10 different trainings time to time over the year.



Child Early and Forced Marriages



Child Early Forced Marriages (CEFM) is a project of Girls Inspire by Commonwealth of Learning that started in May 2016 and continued until 2018. The project was established to provide learning opportunities and vocational trainings to the girls who are prevented from attending schools or any kind of formal education. It also aimed to address the major issues like cultural barriers, early marriages etc and to raise awareness among the communities regarding livelihoods for women and girls. It was recognized that gender equality and women empowerment are central for sustainable development and it can only be achieved by ending child marriages and providing quality education. Other than Pakistan, project was also implemented in countries like Bangladesh, Mozambique and Tanzania. It was funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

The overall target of the project was to train the 6000 young girls in Pakistan, and make them self-sufficient by teaching them life based skills. Two districts with high prevalence of early forced marriages were chosen; Muzaffargarh and Multan. In the first phase of the project, SPARC focused on the communities in the Union Councils of Jatoi, Bhuttapur, Taleri and Sehr Sultan. In the second phase SPARC provided opportunities to 4,320 marginalized women and girls in Multan. Before conducting the training sessions, the staff was trained on Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation and Technological Integration Content Development and Delivery; to strengthen their capacities for effective project delivery. The number of trained staff members was almost 10 who

reached out to 1614 community members.

SPARC and Bedari joined forces and conducted 141 community based events, and reached over 5488 community members including local Government officials, community leaders, religious leaders, men, boys, women and girls. These events not only highlighted the importance of girls' education and negative impacts of child marriage but also served as a bridge to gain trust of the communities. This trust after being established created an enabling environment that allowed women and girls to participate in skill training, raise their voices and create their own economic pathways.

Reaching the Unreached

Reaching the Unreached (RTU) was also a project of Girls Inspire by Commonwealth of Learning. The project started in March 2016 and ended in March 2017. Its target was to reach out to the thousands of marginalized young girls living in backward areas of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. To address such a complicated and deep rooted problem, the project established to mobilize the power of open and distant learning opportunities for the disadvantaged girls by providing them with secondary schooling and skills development training opportunities. In Pakistan, the chosen targets were women and girls from the conservative communities of KPK, Punjab and Sindh where there is high prevalence of such practices. The vision was to create enabling conditions for sustainable livelihoods for women and girls and to empower them for shaping not only their own futures but also the nation's.



SPARC involved communities and local Government authorities and also catalyzed links with labor market and financial institutions to support and ensure the long term sustainability of the project. At least 59 SPARC staff members were trained in integration of technology, gender mainstreaming, open and distance learning strategies and protection of child rights whereas 6 life skills training and 12 vocational skills training courses were developed. We reached 815 community members and parents across 37 communities in 5 major regions to hold door to door/regular opinion based conversations/discussions for the development and evaluation of advocacy. SPARC held 28 info sharing events and several job fairs to provide employment and enterprise development opportunities to the females. Almost 5,673 women and girls were trained; out of which 84 girls got enrolled in internships and 10 received microloans. 74 females applied for employment out of which 28 successfully obtained formal employment and many girls started their own home based businesses. It was an Australia Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (AGDFAT) funded project which had an incredible multiplier effect on our economic growth.



Research

In 2017, SPARC research team conducted three in house primary researches based on the survey questionnaires, FGDs and interviews from street children, parents, concerned Government officials etc.

Street Children in Pakistan

Street children are vulnerable to all kinds of hazards including sexual abuse, street violence, psychological trauma, drug addiction, and falling victim to communicable diseases. In order to highlight the plight of street children and to raise this neglected issue, SPARC conducted a survey across 3 provinces of Pakistan, namely Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2017. A SPARC's survey in 2010, estimated the number of street children in urban centers to be between 1.2 to 1.5 million. In the recent survey, over 100 households were targeted; aiming to assess the state of health, education, access to basic facilities, safety and security of these children. During the survey children, their parents and government officials were interviewed for gathering the qualitative and quantitative data to identify key issues. The survey included interviews of street children enrolled in SPARC's Center for Street Children (CSC) as well. During the survey, 48% children were found to be engaged in labor whereas 73% parents believed that the children should not work however financial constraints were a major hurdle in pulling their children out of work. The average household monthly contribution of children to monthly household income was calculated at rs. 1315. Malnutrition was one of the major health concerns identified during the survey i-e 56%. 53% people were found to be deprived of any proper source of drinking water whereas 57% people complained about inadequate conditions of sanitation in their area of residence. Almost 87% children could not read at all and 96% could not write anything in any language. The survey results also revealed that 72% children were exposed to domestic and street violence.

The objective of the survey was to identify the issues and bring them in to Government's notice so that these children in the future can be safeguarded.

Child Labor Survey in Haripur & Abbottabad

The last child labor survey in Pakistan was conducted back in 1996 which estimated child labor to be at 3.3 million. Since then, there has been no nationwide child labor survey. In 2016, the Education Department conducted OSCS (Out of School Children Survey) which indicated that around 9,787 children of the children from different age groups were out of school.

In order to assess the level prevalence of child labor and its correlation with school dropout rate in district Haripur, SPARC conducted a survey across district with special focus on the industrial area of Hattar and Central Haripur. The research was conducted using questionnaires, FGDs and interviews from children, their parents and employers engaged in child labor. Almost 21 children, 17 parents, 16 employers participated in the survey by giving their inputs. It was identified that the average family size was 7 per house hold, with 2 individuals active and earning while other 5 being financially dependent. The average monthly income of parents of children engaged in labor was estimated at PKR 13, 904 whereas the average monthly contribution of children working at establishments was estimated at PKR 2,989 per child.


During the survey it was revealed that the vast majority of children considers and even prefers some type of work as an opportunity cost for education. The reasons for this include lack of quality education, corporal punishment at schools, poverty and social views that are more geared towards short-term economic gains. Other reasons leading to child labor were household constraints like deceased parents, early marriages and a high dependency ratio. One of the most disturbing statistics gathered from the survey pointed towards the conundrum of a lack of interest of children in acquiring education instead they were marginally interested in learning skills like basic math to be able to deal the customers better.

SPARC team also visited the Labor Department Haripur and met the Deputy Director and other officials of the department.

Article 11(3) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 in factory, mine or any other hazardous employment. In order to reduce child labor, there needs to be a major focus towards poverty alleviation, improving the curriculum in public schools and improving basic facilities however Government cannot do this alone. It is necessary that civil society organization step up and collaborate with the Government and local communities.

Rapid Assessment of Minorities

The research was conducted of the people belonging to the minority communities of Tando AllahYar (Sindh) and



Peshawar (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). The baseline assessment conducted in Tando Allahyar focused on the Hindu minority community of two Union Councils whereas the targeted community for Peshawar included the Christian community of the district mainly from the Kohati Gate Area. The data was collected both using the qualitative and quantitative methods which included questionnaires, focus group discussions and interviews from key informants, Government officials, elected representatives and social activists etc. The sample group included 407 people from KP including 187 males and 233 females, whereas Sindh included a sample size of 468 people including 218 males and 250 females. The research questions were focused on various thematic areas such as; voting and participating in political process, assessment of minority specific laws, constitutional rights, major problems faced by minority communities, female inclusivity etc. Christians form the second largest non-Muslim voters in Pakistan totaling around 1.32 million of the population with around 26,814 living in KP. With regard to voter registration it was found that a sizeable majority of 86% from the Christian community was registered to vote. The data suggested that minority communities do not have problems with access to legal documentation and voting registration. In Chambar and Jhando Mari; sub district of Tando Allahyar Sindh, none of the 468 people from the sample group had any birth certificates whereas among 86% respondents were found to be registered voters. However none of them had any knowledge regarding minority specific laws that affect them at national or provincial level. During the research it was revealed that the major issues were religion and cast based discrimination, ignorance of women rights.

The research team recommended formation of Community Action Groups, conduction of awareness sessions among minority community, facilitation of voter mobilization, increase in availability of health and educational facilities, effective means of disseminating information, improving political inclusiveness for both men and women and conducting seminars with stake holders.

Research Paper on Women's Economic Empowerment

In 2017, SPARC launched a research report on “Enhancing Household Livelihood through Women's Economic Empowerment, baseline study in Tando Allahyar - 2016”. The purpose of this study was to examine the access women have to economic opportunities in the district and how far the government services and the authorities are inclined to orient their social welfare and educational offers to the needs of women and girls in the targeted region. Moreover, it also aimed to establish the proposed project's benchmarks for comparison and measurement of the

impact at the end of the project. Key findings of the report suggest 43% of the women interviewed had attended primary schools while only 10% had received education at the secondary level. Findings on the state of healthcare also presented glaring gaps with regard to healthcare in the area and 85% of the children in the district were found to be severely underweight and exposed to some form of illness in the past year. The research was supported by RDF, KNH and BMZ-Germany.

Qualitative Study Report – Secondary School Girls Stipend Programme

A series of seminars was organized in Lahore, Bahawalpur and Muzaffargarh to launch a research – “Secondary School Girls' Stipend Program”: Impact on Female Status and Communities' Economic Needs in South of Punjab. First seminar was organized in Lahore which was attended by different government departments including education department. Parliamentarians and media representatives from national and local newspapers also participated in the seminar and highlighted the research findings on media. Vice Chancellor of South Asia University shared when the stipend program was started whereas Dr. Attiya Inayatullah stressed on need to ensure quality education. Another seminar was organized in Bahawalpur at Government Elementary Boys School. Majority of the participants were from education department and local community members. Third seminar was organized in Muzaffargarh in which guest speakers emphasized on the need of equal opportunities for girls and boys and to create spaces for girls' education.

Position Paper - Ban Child Domestic Labor and Protect Adolescent Domestic Labor

The position paper “Ban Child Domestic Labor and Protect Adolescent Domestic Labor” was drafted by SPARC in 2017 to highlight the plight of children hired or forced into domestic labor. The objective was to identify lacunas and laws that enable exploitation of children hired for domestic labor, to propose enactment of new laws and systems and improve the existing ones for safeguarding their rights. An action plan was also provided in the paper for advocating ban on child domestic labor and engaging key stakeholders for achieving meaningful results at national and provincial level.

The Demands & Recommendations included:

- Enactment of Domestic Workers (Employment Rights) Bill
- Establishment of Robust Child Protection Units/ Bureaus in all provinces of Pakistan
- Sensitization of Law enforcement officials to avoid any



- possible child rights violations
- Stern actions by Government against internal child trafficking
- Mandatory employment contracts for all the adolescent workers
- Raising age bar from 14 years to 16 years of age in all the existing laws and bills
- Amendment in Sindh Prohibition of Employment of Children Bill, 2017 for enhancing its scope in protecting children from exploitation on behalf of family members
- Enactment of law by Balochistan assembly on banning child labor including child domestic labor

Action plan:

- Lobbying with lawmakers, civil society organizations and individual activists to present the paper as a document for advocate ban on child domestic labor
- Launching nationwide advocacy campaigns to ban child domestic labor and raise awareness regarding the repercussions for children engaged in it
- Improvement in existing child protection centers/units/bureaus
- Development of child protection database at the National and Provincial level in order to keep a detailed record of children who are victims of abuse and exploitation
- Generation of a complaint procedure to highlight inefficiencies and criminal negligence
- Enabling civil society organizations to act as a pressure group in identifying improvements needed in the existing child protection mechanisms
- Engagement of local communities, like minded NGOs, CSOs, and private organizations to bring change in customary practices and traditional behavior by raising awareness

Outcome:

Twelve points given in the position paper were adopted.

The State of Pakistan's Children – 2016

With the support of Kindernorthilfe, SPARC launched its annual State of Pakistan's Children Report on April 27, 2017 in Islamabad.

The report from the last two decades has been systematically documenting the evolution of child protection laws, social attitudes and key developments, with an annual overview of the state of child rights in Pakistan. This includes detailed figures on the state of education, health, juvenile justice, violence against children and child labor across Pakistan.

The event was attended by state functionaries, human/child rights activists, media personnel representing

major print and electronic media houses, officials from national and international NGOs, donor agencies and children from SPARC's Center for Street Children in Rawalpindi.

The panelists for discussion on key issues at the event included; Federica Di Stefano (Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF), Danish Khan (Special Assistant to Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform), Dr Haroona Jatoi (Professor Gender Studies), Abid Khan Niazi (National Project Coordinator at ILO) and Dr Manizeh Bano (Sahil) whereas the chief guests were Baligh ur Rehman from Federal Minister for Education and Justice (R) Ali Nawaz Chauhan from NCHR. The panelists discussed pressing issues related to child rights including lacunas in the implementation of laws, the need for additional legislation to safeguard child rights, and shared their personal experiences regarding child protection and child rights.

The report covered seven chapters which include Child Rights, Violence against Children, Juvenile Justice, Child Labor, Education, Health and Children of Minorities and IDPs. The lead researchers gave a comprehensive overview of statistics regarding various issues faced by children in 2016, coupled with legislation and policy that was introduced during that same year.

The major findings highlighted that 22.6 Million children between the age of 5 and 16 are still out of school. Pakistan spends one of the lowest portion of GDP on education in the world that is 2.5% and was ranked 118 in the Human Capital Development Index Report of 2016. The report also revealed that Pakistan's health related budgetary allocation for fiscal year 2016-17 was worth 25billion however; more than half of the children in Pakistan are still malnourished and the under five mortality rate is 81 children per 1000 live births.

The report stated that Pakistan ranks number 3 in the world wide prevalence of slavery, according to the Global Slavery Index Report of 2013. And no survey on Child Labor has been conducted since 1996. More than 1.8 million people have been displaced by insurgency and counter insurgency as per mentioned in Internal Displacement Monitoring Center's report of 2015.

The findings proved that the literacy rate among the children of minorities is lower than the average national literacy rate among children and the infant mortality rate of minorities 10.3% as compared to national average that is 8.7% and still 70% of the teachers in Pakistan consider corporal punishment useful.

SPARC's team encouraged the positive steps that were taken during 2016 regarding legislation like Ratification of



two Optional Protocols of UNCRC; Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts and Prohibition of Sale of Children, Child Pornography and Child Prostitution on national level. Other than that, Prohibition of Child Labor Act passed by Government of Punjab, Sindh Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act and Sindh Minorities Rights Commission on regional level.

Various recommendations were proposed by SPARC to the government and civil society organizations which can be used for advocacy and lobbying while also help the government formulate policy on children's rights and adopting the pending bills. SPARC also recommended effective monitoring and accountability of law enforcement agencies on a national level.

The launch of the State of Pakistan's Children 2016 report received overwhelming praise from civil society organizations for the compilation of concrete data from across the country to reflect the state of child rights and children's issues in Pakistan. Baligh-ur-Rehman (Minister of State for Education and Interior) also commended SPARC for its continued efforts and highlighted the importance of the report in the current socio-economic environment.

The Launch of the "State of Pakistan's Children" Report also presented an opportunity for SPARC to distribute its Child Award for Excellence for the year 2017. It was awarded to Eiza Abid, who was the winner of the UN Poster Competition for her amalgamation of dark tones and bright colors to represent the idea; freedom of thought.

The award for child sensitive media reporting was also presented to two prominent journalists for their contributions to the cause. Myra Imran from The News and Sadia Rafay from Dawn News Television were recognized and acknowledged for their tireless efforts in this regard.

The State of Pakistan's Children – 2017

In 2017, SPARC gathered data associated with children to highlight facts and figures in its annual flagship report which provides detail statics and analysis regarding rights of the children. The report has covered six major topics including children's rights, their education and health, juvenile justice, child labor and violence against children. The report has been compiled and is expected to be launched in July, 2018. The report starts with detailed description of international and regional child right instruments and narrates Pakistan's status in regard with UNCRC (its ratification and optional protocols). The report also gives a rundown summary of children specific Universal Periodic Review, its proceedings and recommendations. The report revealed that Pakistan was ranked 125 out of 130, in Human Capital Development Index Report of 2017. The number of out of school children remains the same whereas the budget allocation for education in 2017-18 has increased to PKR 902 Billion which was PKR 790 Billion in





2016-17, given by Pakistan Education Statistics. The education's chapter gives detailed analysis of enrollment number of children in schools with regard to different variables like gender based analysis, provincial budgets, facilities provided at schools and comparison between public and private institutes etc. In health's chapter, the statistics regarding malnutrition in children, their life expectancy, growth failure, mortality rate, wasting, stunting etc have been provided for which factors are assumed to be poverty, poor health services, food insecurity and improper feeding practices. Under the head of Health Affairs and Services, a total allocation of PKR 12.8 billion has been made in the budget estimates for 2017-18, which is higher by 6.1% and 3.8% when compared with budget and revised estimates 2016-17, respectively. It is also discovered that almost PKR 7.4 Billion has been allocated for Expanded Programme on Immunization. Since there has been no National Child Labor Survey and the estimated number was 3.3 million, as a result Government of Punjab provided financial and technical assistance to UNICEF for data collection in 2017. The findings of first phase of survey have been shared in the report as well. The definition of juvenile, salient features of Juvenile Justice System Ordinance, specialized procedures for arrest and detention and detailed guidelines on trial and sentencing of juvenile offenders have been given discussed. The provincial statistics of prisons and borstal institutions across the country has been provided as well. The chapter violence against children has explored significant topics like corporal punishment, acid attacks, under age and forced marriages, child sexual abuse, honor killings, child abduction and trafficking. In addition to the data on cases of child sexual abuse and early and forced marriages, problems in the judicial process have been shared also.

In the end some recommendations have been given which might help in improving the condition of children of Pakistan. It has been recommended to cover domestic, agricultural and informal sector in National Child Labor Prohibition Laws and to ratify Domestic Workers Convention. As health and education are key components of human capital, it has been recommended to invest a major chunk of annual budget in both of them. A need for reform of health, educational and law enforcement institutions has been highlighted as well, to enhance the overall efficacy. The demand for enactment of anti-corporal punishment and legislation on Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill 2017 has been put forward to prohibit forced marriages on provincial and federal level. Proper security of the crime scene has been urged for forensic investigation mechanisms to ensure conviction of perpetrators with proper evidence. Other than these, the suggestion for maintaining centralized records of the victims and their case histories has also been nominated.



Trainings

Training department of SPARC conducted several training programmes during the year of 2017. The goal was to spread awareness among stake holders regarding protection of child rights and to improve their knowledge, skills and abilities for better implementation of child rights policies.

Learning is Fun



SPARC's training unit in coordination with project team, organized in house training sessions in Islamabad and Abbottabad in October, 2017. They built the capacities of more than 400 master trainers, trained teachers, education officials and other relevant members through a need based model of teaching and learning of schools. To enhance their skills towards practical performance, a resource guide was developed and shared with trained teachers which contained various model lessons having integration of different subject areas in the curriculum that supplemented the already available materials by education department. The objective was to provide interesting ideas and activities to those who deal with multi grade classes so they can promote active learning in classrooms. Variety of techniques was presented to facilitate and inspire them for effectively designing creative lessons. SPARC arranged meetings with District Education officials to orient them about the possible support that they can

provide to the teachers. An Educational Conference was also organized and conducted with members of civil society, media, selected teachers and officials linked to education, to discuss the ways for sustaining education department. To track the progress of trainings implemented, a monitoring system also set up. The impact evaluation was conducted from November 2017 – January 2018 to see the effects and impact of trainings.

Strengthening Diversity & Democracy through Minority Engagement in Electoral & Political Process

Following the findings of training need assessment (TNA) conducted by research unit of SPARC, the training department conducted sessions with Community Action Groups, Elective Representatives and Leaders on strengthening the diversity and democracy by engaging minorities in Electoral and political processes. Training manuals were designed by the name of "Organized Minority is Political Majority" to represent the minorities. Seminars were also conducted at provincial levels with the stakeholders to bring electoral reforms for the marginalized communities. The aim was to empower minorities to exercise their right to vote in the general elections of 2018 and strengthen the capacity of their parliamentarians so they can be able to represent their constituencies in a better manner. Around 8 training programmes were conducted in Peshawar and Tando Allahyar which were attended by almost 300 members of the community including their advocacy group and elected representatives. The participants were guided on the usage of effective ways of mobilizing their respective communities and to advocate and to perform better role in the betterment and development of the children in future. Two multi-stake holder seminars were conducted at provincial levels as well, which were subjected to highlight the findings of the baseline study conducted by SPARC. In the seminar, recommendations for 2018's manifestos of mainstream political parties were also presented. The event was attended by District and Provincial representatives of Government, elected leaders, members of civil society organizations, lawyers, journalists, and representatives of ECP (Election Commission of Pakistan), NADRA (National Database and Registration Authority) and FAFEN (Free and Fair Election Network).

Reaching out to Juvenile Prisoners in Peshawar

The project “Reaching out to Juvenile Prisoners in Peshawar Central Jail through Learning Opportunities” was intended to offer a focus on learning of juvenile prisoners through non formal education along with impartation of vocational skills to equip them with resources so they can meet challenges of the outer world. A training manual was designed for a formal training of inmates to establish a learning environment which would be ultimately beneficial in the long run. The manual consisted of three parts; two of them were for staff members and teachers while the other one was for children. In the first module, the staff members were assigned their roles and responsibilities and were briefed on dealing with the juveniles. The second part focused on requirements for an effective teaching and developing the reading skills of the children. The third module was based on interactive training sessions with children based on life skills. This project was funded by Open Society Foundation.

Trainings for Foster Mothers and Children

SPARC in collaboration with Penny Appeal conducted short term training for foster mothers and project coordinators of Penny Appeal to ensure better care of orphans living in MAGs (Mera Apna Ghar or My Own Home). More than 50 participants attended the meeting. They were provided with the training manuals titled “Our Responsibility to Children” intending to address their roles and responsibilities towards children. The training programme covered topics like rights of the children, their growth and development, importance of providing psychological support and counseling to the orphan children, their needs, health and hygiene and better utilization of their leisure time. A holistic monitoring and evaluation system was embedded in the training focusing on the use of developed tools and techniques by the trainees as well as the trainers. A pre and post-assessment was taken by the participants before the beginning and after the end of the training to evaluate their prior knowledge and latter-day learning. A comprehensive appraisal tool was also developed and shared with the relevant organization for further follow-ups, monitoring and sustainability of the training. The training unit of SPARC also developed a training package “Finding Yourself” for the children living in Penny Appeal's orphan homes and the staff members.

Child Rights Movement

Training unit of SPARC under the project “Child Rights Movement” strategized a training of trainers in a way that ensured maximum participation and contribution of selected police officials, members of social welfare department and child protection officers. On the basis of an informal TNA and recommendations given by concerned officials, ministry of social welfare and DIG of police department; a two days training package on child rights and protection mechanism was designed and implemented. The main purpose of the training was to discuss the importance of child rights and protection and the ways of dealing with children in different circumstances effectively through the Child rights movement forum. The provincial team of SPARC identified the participants in coordination with the ministry of social welfare on set criteria. With the help of executive director of SPARC and provincial teams, the training unit designed various sessions using interesting participatory approaches. Participants were involved in hands on activities while addressing the child ecology, protection mechanisms and ways of effective advocacy work. They were tasked to convince various kinds of audience/decision makers such as local politicians, Government officials, ministers, donors and local community members etc. Role Plays, Forum Theater, Radio Shows, and many other interesting activities were used to explain the topics.

Materials developed by Training Unit

- Art and Science of Active Teaching and Learning; (A resource guide for multi-grade primary school teachers)
- Model Primary schools in Pakistan, Through the eyes of primary schools students (A booklet for teachers and learners)
- Learning is fun; (A conference pack including posters, leaflets, flyers, brochures, and other IEC materials)
- Organized Minority is Political Majority, Strengthening Diversity and Democracy through Minority Engagement in Electoral and Political Processes; (A Training manual for trainers on building the capacities of Community Action Groups and Elected Representatives/leaders)
- Protecting Juveniles in Prison; A Training manual for the training of prison staff
- Preparing Mera Apna Ghar's Staffs to Care for Orphans; A Training manual for the training of foster mother and other personals dealing with orphan homes
- Finding Yourself; A training manual for children on life skills



Networking:

NACG

NACG is a national action and coordination group against violence against women and children, established in each South Asian countries; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to strengthen inter-agency work including Governments, UN, multi and bi lateral agencies, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations and groups. SPARC has been attending it's meetings as a member organization for more than 5 years.

Forum Asia

Forum Asia is a regional human rights organization committed to promote and protect all of the human rights including right to development. SPARC was elected as a member Executive Committee of FA in 2016. In 2017, Forum Asia organized a two-day regional dialogue on “Regional Human Rights Mechanism in South Asia” in Kathmandu, Nepal. During the event the participants critically reviewed and reflected the on-going efforts towards the establishment of a regional human rights mechanism in South Asia. Anees Jillani, Founder and Member of SPARC's Board of Directors, moderated the session on "Building Collective Strategy (to rise to the challenge) and how to implement the strategy to put forth viable ideas and strategies on how to move forward in the current regional context.

Child Rights Movement

After remaining the secretariat of CRM's Sindh chapter and attending its monthly meetings regularly, SPARC was elected as CRM's National Secretariat in December, 2017. CRM is a network coalition of over 450 individual members, Non-Government and Civil Society Organizations.

IOM Afghanistan

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Afghanistan is a multi-year Counter Trafficking in Persons project funded by USAID Afghanistan, which offers an opportunity to strengthen cross border coordination mechanisms by helping NGOs in relevant countries to meet and plan jointly to strengthen coordination in a more systematic way. IOM organized a regional forum for selected NGOs from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in Dushanbe. The forum's overall objective was to foster cross-border networking among relevant NGOs to strengthen referral mechanisms, victim identification and reintegration services. SPARC along with LHRLA and SHARP represented Pakistan and shared some of their best practices and offered support to their Afghan counterparts. Ms. Sadia Hussain of SPARC also pointed to Pakistan's challenges in addressing internal trafficking for labor exploitation.

Regional Children's Meeting

SPARC participated in the fourth regional children's meeting in Thailand. 13 organizations from 12 countries were invited to the meeting to highlight children's issues at a regional level, find strategies to minimize violence against children and to raise a voice for their rights. 25 children and adult supporters attended the capacity building sessions on Child Rights issues. Ms. Sajeeda Nahid from SPARC also shared a detailed presentation about the organization's work for children in Pakistan. Umar Khan from Quetta and Neha Qureshi from Peshawar actively participated in the meeting. Number of children?

Staff Capacity Building

SPARC has always given opportunities to its employees to enhance their professional capabilities and polish their skills and encouraged them to learn and participate in the related activities.

In 2017, Ms. Sadia Hussain (Former Executive Director of SPARC) went to Bangkok to attend the Executive Committee Meeting held by Forum Asia to represent SPARC on the behalf of its team. SPARC also held Gender and Harassment workshops at its offices across the country to raise awareness about harassment at workplaces and to empower women, in association with Commonwealth of Learning (COL).

Employees of SPARC also attended meetings and seminars throughout the year from time to time so that everyone has equal opportunity to get exposure. SPARC also participated in Regional Children's Meeting at Bangkok conducted by Child Rights Coalition Asia in which members of different organizations participated representing their regions across Asia. The former Executive Director of SPARC went to Vienna for Transitional Partnerships: Platform for Improved Coordination, Cooperation and Policy Coherence organized by International Center for Migration Policy Development. She also went to attend European Commission's Partnership Forum 2017. Other than these, SPARC also sent its employees to the workshops/trainings conducted in different cities all over Pakistan, for their professional development. The details can be found in the table given below:

Sr no.	Trainings	Venue	Participants	Organized by	Date
1.	Executive Committee	Bangkok	Sadia Hussain	Forum Asia	March 01 – 07, 2017
2.	Workshop on Truck Art	Islamabad	Nasira Hanif	Farda Production	March 17 - 19, 2017
3.	Workshop on Truck Art	Islamabad	Tazkia Fizza	Farda Production	March 17 - 19, 2017
4.	Workshop on Social Safety Net for Poverty Alleviation	Islamabad	Sajeeda Nahid	AHKNCRD	March 20 - 22, 2017
5.	Workshop on Social Safety Net for Poverty Alleviation	Islamabad	Maheen Malik	AHKNCRD	March 20 - 22, 2017
6.	National Human Rights Defenders; Consultation on Protection	Bangkok	Kashif Bajeer	Forum Asia	May 21 - 24, 2017
7.	Gender & Harassment Workshop	All SPARC Offices		COL	June 04 - 20, 2017
8.	Partnership Forum 2017	Brussels	Sadia Hussain	European Commission	July 05 - 08, 2017
9.	Executive Committee Meeting	Bangkok	Sadia Hussain	Forum Asia	August 03 - 07, 2017
10.	Regional Children's Meeting	Bangkok	Sajeeda Nahid	Child Rights Coalition Asia	August 09 - 15, 2017
11.	How to write a Winning's Project	Islamabad	Sajeeda Nahid	Community Uplift Programme	September 29 - 30, 2017
12.	How to write a Winning's Project		Farshad Iqbal	Community Uplift Programme	September 29 - 30, 2017
13.	How to write a Winning's Project		Maheen Malik	Community Uplift Programme	September 29 - 30, 2017

14.	Workshop on Countering Violent Extremism in Punjab	Lahore	Affan Baig	PIPS	October 13 , 2017
15.	Transitional Partnerships; for improved coordination, cooperation and policy coherence	Vienna	Sadia Hussain	ICMPD	October 15 - 21, 2017
16.	Workshop on Conflict Management	Lahore	Khurram Shehzad	FNF	November 24 - 25, 2017
17.	Impact Monitoring Workshop (second module)	Islamabad	Sajeeda Nahid	KNH	November 29 - December 02, 2017
18.	Impact Monitoring Workshop (second module)	Islamabad	Sabeen Almas	KNH	November 29 - December 02, 2017
19.	Impact Monitoring Workshop (second module)	Islamabad	Asiya Arif	KNH	November 29 - December 02, 2017
20.	Impact Monitoring Workshop (second module)	Islamabad	Moammar Afzal	KNH	November 29 - December 02, 2017
21.	Impact Monitoring Workshop (second module)	Islamabad	Sohail Akhtar	KNH	November 29 - December 02, 2017
22.	Impact Monitoring Workshop (second module)	Islamabad	Zahid Ahmed	KNH	November 29 - December 02, 2017
23.	Project Closing Workshop	Istanbul	Fakhar Sohail	ICMPD	December 04 - 07, 2017
24.	Workshop on International Migrant Day	Lahore	Farshad Iqbal	ICMPD	December 18, 2017



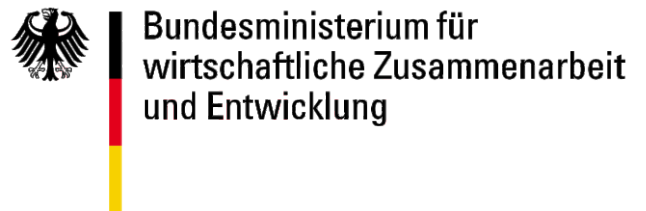
SPARC's Strategic Plan Development

A two-day workshop was conducted in Islamabad to develop SPARC's Strategic Plan for the years 2018-2022. The event was attended by SPARC's head office staff, regional offices, staff members, board members and consultants. The agenda of the meeting included discussion regarding SPARC's vision, mission/purpose, its strategic priorities and goals in the upcoming years and action planning for the agreed upon strategic priorities. The participatory sessions saw the active involvement of board members, regional and national managers. Based on the input of field and project staff the following thematic strategic goals were identified for SPARC to pursue in the upcoming years.

- Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Systems Ordinance, 2000 and improved conditions for imprisoned children
- Improvement and implementation of existing Child Labor laws
- Prohibition of Corporal Punishment against all children in all settings.
- Adoption of a uniform age for both girls and boys in the relevant Child Marriage laws in all the provinces
- Capacitating and enabling the rights of vulnerable children including street children and child beggars.



Donors





Members of SPARC

Life Members

Mr. Anees Jillani
Mr. Pervaiz Akhtar
Ms. Zarina Jillani
Mr. Waseem Ahmed
Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi
Mr. Javed Jabbar
Dr. Attiya Innayatullah
Mr. Qazi Azmat Isa
Mr. Rashid Ibrahim
Mr. Fazal Hassan (Left Pakistan)
Ms. Naila Ruvi (Deceased)

Regular Members

Mr. Humera Malik
Mr. Gul Muhammad Mastoi
Ms. Narjis Zaidi
Ms. Hafeeza Brohi
Ms. Samina Omer Khan
Mr. Hafeez ur Rehman
Ms. Shaheen Attique ur Rehman
Dr. Ambreen Ahmed
Mr. Fayyaz ud din
Ms. Khalida Ahmed
Ms. Naheed Aziz
Ms. Rakhshanda Naz
Ms. Sadia Abbasi
Ms. Sadia Hamdani (Left Pakistan)
Mr. Masoom Khan Kakar (Deceased)
Dr. Zaki Hassan (Deceased)
Ms. Sarah Ahmed (Deceased)
Mr. Rashid Rehman (Deceased)



Board of Directors

Dr Attiya Inayatullah (Chairperson)
Ms. Humera Malik
Mr Rashid Ibrahim
Mr Anees Jillani
Mr Gul Mastoi
Ms Hafeeza Brohi
Ms Narjis Zaidi
Ms. Falak Raja
Ms. Rakhshanda Naz
Ms. Fazila Aliani

Financial Statements

**SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (SPARC)
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017**

RIAZ AHMAD & COMPANY
Chartered Accountants



		2017	2016
	NOTE	RUPEES	RUPEES
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property and equipment	3	2,864,254	3,349,019
Investment properties	4	9,450,000	9,450,000
		12,314,254	12,799,019
CURRENT ASSETS			
Advances, deposits, prepayments and other receivables	5	6,680,695	1,072,551
Short term investments	6	29,206,031	27,153,967
Cash and bank balances	7	20,198,886	25,289,763
		56,085,612	53,516,281
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	(6,426,534)	(4,344,196)
		49,659,078	49,172,085
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Restricted grants	9	(5,904,920)	(6,486,079)
Deferred capital grant	10	(2,746,263)	(3,215,415)
		(8,651,183)	(9,701,494)
NET ASSETS		53,322,149	52,269,610
REPRESENTED BY:			
Fund	11	53,322,149	52,269,610
CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS			
		-	-
		53,322,149	52,269,610

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements

Chairperson - SPARC

Executive Director

**SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (SPARC)
CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017**

RIAZ AHMAD & COMPANY
Chartered Accountants



		2017	2016
	NOTE	RUPEES	RUPEES
INCOME			
Restricted grants	9	65,347,535	68,761,601
Amortization of deferred capital grant	10	776,308	1,963,219
Donations		827,454	1,723,604
Other operating income	12	3,263,134	7,877,040
		70,214,431	80,325,464
EXPENDITURE			
Programme expenses	13	(56,032,516)	(57,234,023)
Administrative expenses	14	(12,337,455)	(15,399,736)
Depreciation	3	(791,921)	(2,304,036)
		(69,161,892)	(74,937,795)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		1,052,539	5,387,669

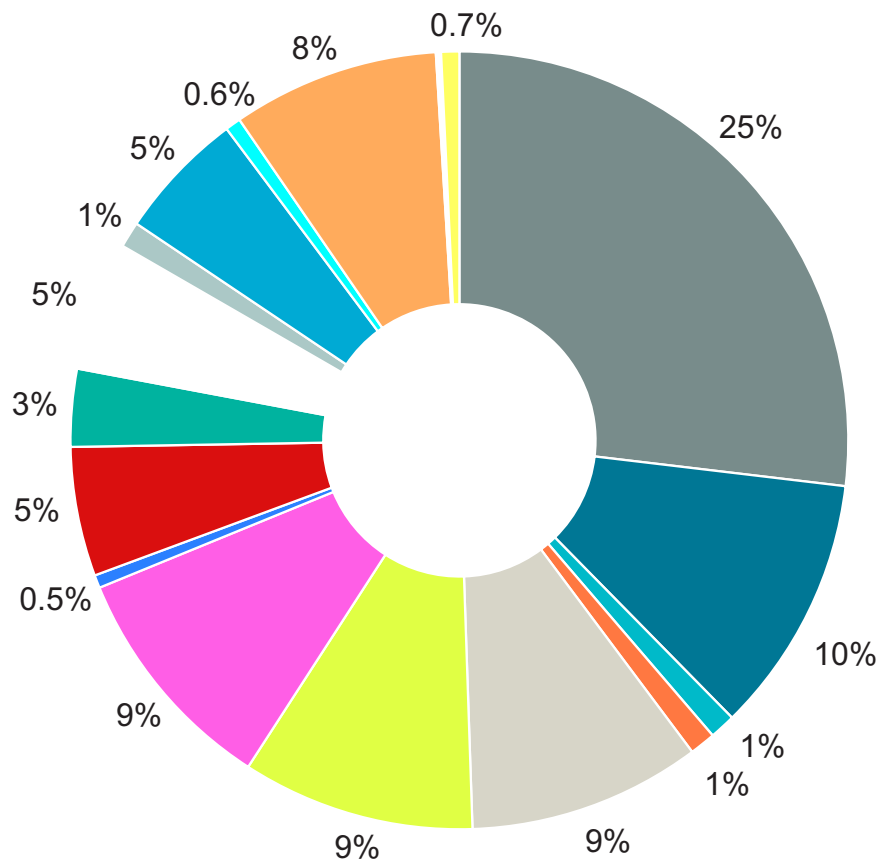
The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements

Chairperson - SPARC

Executive Director

Projects and Expenditures 2017

- Promoting Child Friendly Classroom Environment in Selected Schools of Haripur & Abbotabad PKR 17,034,584
- Preventing Child, Early and Forced Marriage - Girls vocational trainings in Multan PKR 7,171,055
- Gender Scorecard PKR 701,364
- Organisational Financial Sustainability and Strategic Planning PKR 640,553
- Centre for Street Children Hyderabad PKR 6,123,930
- Centre for Street Children Peshawar PKR 6,327,918
- Centre for Street Children Rawalindi PKR 6,223,663
- Child Labor - Build Institutional Capacity of Workers PKR 324,921
- SPARC Head Office Supports PKR 3,177,157
- Improving the Quality of life of street children in Multan PKR 2,180,365
- Supporting the Unreached and Marginalized Girls in Pakistan - Girls vocational trainings PKR 3,507,057
- Minority Engagement in Electoral & Political Processes PKR 723,301
- Research & Trainings PKR 3,454,494
- Enhancing Household Livelihood through Women's Empowerment PKR 426,247
- Child Right Governance - Sindh Chapter PKR 5,546,520
- Reaching out to Juvenile Prisoners in Peshawar Jail PKR 103,675
- Centre for Street Children Islamabad PKR 493,783





Location

Head Office:

House no. 98, Street no. 05, MPCHS, E-11/1, Islamabad

Tel: 051 2163011, 2163012

Fax: 051 2163013

Regional Office:

No 304, Third Floor, Kashif Center, Shakra-e-Faisal, Karachi

Tel: 021 35661732

Center for Street Children (CSC)

CSC – Rawalpindi

House no. 5043, Street no. 29, Muhallah Chaudrian, Fauji Colony, Pirwadai, Rawalpindi

Tel: 051 5492444

CSC – Peshawar

UC-27, Hazar Khwani, Gujarabad, Khyber Colony, Peshawar

Tel: 091 2624073

CSC – Hyderabad

B-73, HDA Extension, Phase II, Qasimabad, Hyderabad

Tel: 022 2116147

CSC - Multan

House no. 1, Street no. 1 Near Al-Huda Hotel, Larri Adda, Multan

Tel: 061 6560095