



# Annual Report

---

## 2019



© Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) 2019

SPARC #98, Street 5, E-11/1, MPCHS, Islamabad, Pakistan

Text by: Program Development

For a pdf version of this report, please visit our website at

[www.sparcpk.org](http://www.sparcpk.org)

## Board of Directors

---

Dr Attiya Inayatullah (Chairperson)

Mr Anees Jillani (Founder President)

Mr Rashid Ibrahim (Treasurer)

Ms Humera Malik

Ms Nargis Zaidi

Ms Hafeeza Brohi

Mr Gul Muhammad Mastoi

Ms Fazila Aliani

Ms Falak Raja

Mr Sajjad Cheema (Secretary)

## Acronyms

---

BoD	Board of Directors
CDL	Child Domestic Labor
CoM	Children on the Move
CPCs	Child Protection Committees
CRM	Child Rights Movement
IEC	Information, Education, Communication
JJSA	Juvenile Justice System Act
PHP	Physical and Humiliating Punishment
NADRA	National Database and Regulatory Authority
SPARC	Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP	United Nations Development Program



## Message from the Executive Director



Year 2019 was a mix of hopes, challenges and aspirations for SPARC. It also marked 20 years since the ratification of UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. Efforts were directed to engage with government bodies and Ministry of Human Rights for betterment of children on collective scale.

Two of SPARC's former seasoned colleagues who have earned due recognition in pursuit of child rights were selected as members of Pakistan's first ever National Commission on the Rights of Children (NCRC). Mr. Jahanzeb Khan (Regional Manager) was selected as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa representative for NCRC whereas Mr. Iqbal Detho was selected as member Sindh.

SPARC entered into partnership with London School of Economics (LSE) for gender justice to translate insights into ongoing actions that improve lives. United Nations Development Program was added to the donor base for rehabilitation and reintegration of young prisoners in jails of Sindh – an issue close to our hearts. SPARC became a member of Global Partnership to End Violence against Children which voices for protecting children from abuse.

As we enter into a new year, we hope to remain engaged with civil society, our partners and government in making Pakistan a better place for children.

Sajjad Cheema

## About SPARC

SPARC is registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 since December 1992 as non-governmental organization. It is SPARC's belief that child rights are human rights. This means that child rights envisages a broad range of rights issues, which amongst others in the context of Pakistan, include child labor, juvenile justice, violence against children, children on the move, education and health.

SPARC has been creating awareness about the UNCRC and lobbying for implementation of its provisions. SPARC works at the national level, with offices in several major cities, and a member of prominent regional networks including Forum Asia, South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children, International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), ASPBAE and Defense for Children International. 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). SPARC has received the United Nations Recognition Award and USAID certification under the USAID Institutional Management Certification Program (IMCP).

SPARC strives to create awareness, promote and protect child rights. SPARC's primary activity in the early years was advocacy and awareness generation. This was viewed as the need of the time as there was little or no public disclosure on the condition and needs of children in Pakistan. To this was added the felt need of related activity of training, orientations, capacity building of child rights specialists, however it became clear that the bottom line was service delivery which remained a neglected area.

SPARC hence planned and conducted strategic interventions for children who are in contact or conflict with the law, bonded child laborers, children living/ and or working on streets and children living in emergency/disaster hit areas. In the event of a natural or man-made disaster that displaces or affects children, basic humanitarian aid including food and nonfood items and safe play areas are provided. Early recovery interventions consist of rehabilitation of damaged schools and aid for seriously affected families whereas children on streets are



catered through street children centers. Over the past many years, SPARC's outreach at the district level was through volunteer Child Rights Committees (CRCs).

SPARC has been able to increase its activities and expand its outreach at the national level with the support of a number of donors. SPARC Board of Directors (BoD) comprises of seasoned professionals who govern SPARC's objectives and gives leadership to SPARC's strategic positioning in world of the child in Pakistan. The Executive Director leads with a management team and is responsible for the organization's operations.



### 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 through advocacy supported by research, awareness-raising, service delivery, and human and institutional development.

SPARC's activities and programs are aligned with national and international priorities to ensure concrete and doable solutions and to support the achievement of targets as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals.



### Year 2019 at a Glance

#### The State of Pakistan's Children

The State of Pakistan's Children (SOPC) is being published by SPARC since 1997. This year, SOPC was launched at Indus Hotel in Hyderabad, Sindh on October 28, 2019. The report provided detail statistics, figures and analysis on issues such as child labour, children's education and health, juvenile justice, and violence against children.

SPARC's Executive Director Mr. Sajjad Cheema apprised the participants of situation

meanwhile sharing statistics from the report. “According of the findings of report, almost 22.6 million children in Pakistan aged between 5 to 16 are out of school; 5 million of them are aged 5 – 9 years (primary level), 6 million are aged 10 - 12 years (middle level) and 11 million are aged 13 - 16 (secondary level). Moreover, in Punjab 9.9 million, Sindh 6.6 million, in KP 2.5 million and in Balochistan 1.8 million children are out of schools. 8.2% children between the ages of 10-14 are involved in child labour.

### Research



Child sexual abuse again remained one of the major issues in Pakistan. 3,832 cases of child sexual abuse were reported during the year, as quoted by senior child rights activist Mr. Iqbal Detho.

The findings showed that corporal punishment is widely practiced in educational institutions in Pakistan; either government, private and religious schools. The situation of children being forcefully married at an early age and being a victim of continuous violence, abuse, trafficking and criminal activities is miserable and pitiful.

Mr. Gul Mastoi, SPARC's board member shared that over 1,000 honour killings are reported every year in Pakistan. He added that 1081 juvenile cases were under trial, however 118 out of 1199 were convicted. Pakistan was placed at 150 among 189 countries in UN's 2018 Human Development Index (HDI's) annual rankings.

The report's findings showed that Pakistan is one of the three remaining polio epidemic countries in the world along with Afghanistan and Nigeria. Moreover, 5,500 children aged 0 to 14 are living with HIV in Pakistan with 1400 being newly infected. SPARC Sindh manager Mr. Zahid Thebo reiterated the need for implementation of laws in the country.

## 30 Years of UNCRC: SPARC participated in a National Consultation on Child Rights

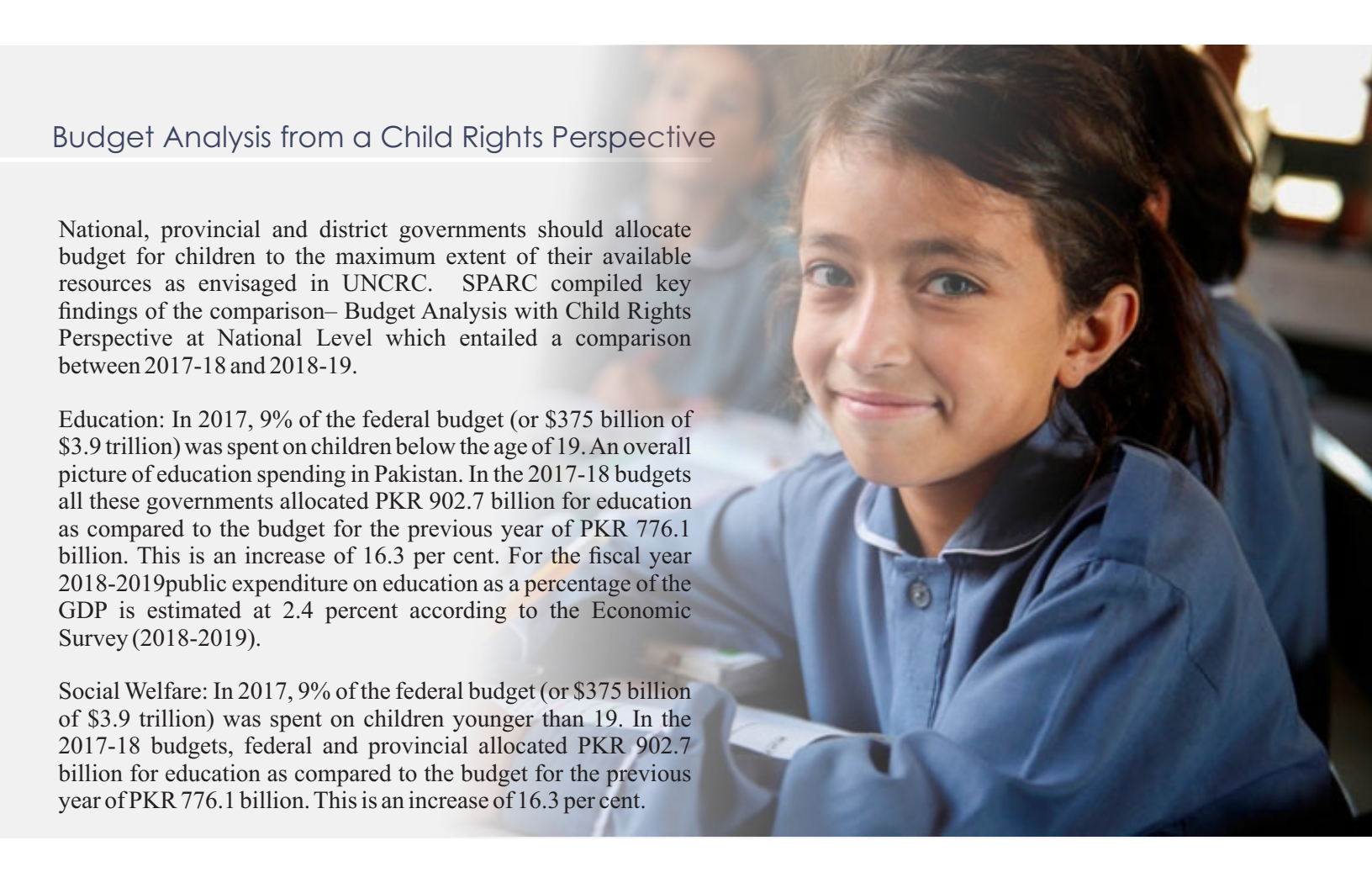
In November, SPARC participated as one of the stakeholders at a national consultation for a legislative review on child rights - “Reviving Pakistan's Parliamentary Commitments on Child Rights” in Islamabad. Mr. Riaz Fatyana - Convener National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, headed the event. Other dignitaries like Mr. Asad Qaiser - Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Members of national and provincial assemblies and officials from UNICEF and other UN organizations, civil society and academia and students were also present at the event.

## Budget Analysis from a Child Rights Perspective

National, provincial and district governments should allocate budget for children to the maximum extent of their available resources as envisaged in UNCRC. SPARC compiled key findings of the comparison– Budget Analysis with Child Rights Perspective at National Level which entailed a comparison between 2017-18 and 2018-19.

**Education:** In 2017, 9% of the federal budget (or \$375 billion of \$3.9 trillion) was spent on children below the age of 19. An overall picture of education spending in Pakistan. In the 2017-18 budgets all these governments allocated PKR 902.7 billion for education as compared to the budget for the previous year of PKR 776.1 billion. This is an increase of 16.3 per cent. For the fiscal year 2018-2019 public expenditure on education as a percentage of the GDP is estimated at 2.4 percent according to the Economic Survey (2018-2019).

**Social Welfare:** In 2017, 9% of the federal budget (or \$375 billion of \$3.9 trillion) was spent on children younger than 19. In the 2017-18 budgets, federal and provincial allocated PKR 902.7 billion for education as compared to the budget for the previous year of PKR 776.1 billion. This is an increase of 16.3 per cent.



## PROJECTS

### Improved Protection and Care for Children on the Move in Islamabad

The project aims to provide protection and care to the children who migrate to pursue better life opportunities, look for work or education or to escape exploitative or abusive situation at home, children who live and/or work in the streets and the children displaced by conflict and natural disaster. SPARC reaches out to these children through provision of protection services including birth registration, non-formal education, enrolment in schools, reunification with families, health services etc. and simultaneously works to reduce unsafe migration from rural areas to urban areas.

The program emphasize on bringing the respective policy changes in Islamabad to provide policy and legislative cover to vulnerable children. To supplement this work, SPARC child protection experts works with different government and private stakeholders to reduce Physical and Humiliating Punishment (PHP) with a focus on bringing the appropriate legislation to ban corporal punishment in all settings; working with teachers and parents on positive disciplining to reduce the incidents of corporal punishment in the Federal Capital. The project has established formal and informal systems to cater to the needs of CoM.



## Establishing the Child Protection Mechanism in Communities

Child rights clubs formed were actively engaged in child protection activities; awareness raising regarding child rights and addressing PHP in government primary schools took place. A total of 202 children (146 boys and girls 73) received birth registration certificates by National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) once the required documentation of was completed. Besides that project team has facilitated adult members of communities to obtain their computerized national Identity card (19 male and 18 female)

- Medical screening/blood tests of 191 CoM was carried out with need based referrals and treatment to patients suffering from multiple diseases.
- 137 children have completed 3-months' life based skill education (LSBE) training out of which 104 children were enrolled in government schools in closer periphery of these localities.
- Under this project, health and hygiene kits have been provided to 100 children who were enrolled in Community Life based skill education centers (boys and girls).



## Mainstreaming of Children on the Move and Involvement of different stakeholders

- Discussion to draft minimum care standards for alternative care is ongoing with Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) where SPARC executive director led the working group members to review and finalize care standards.
- 311 out of school children (OOSC)/ dropped out children have been enrolled in Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) schools.
- 153 law enforcement officials including 32 women police officers were oriented on child rights, Physical and humiliation punishment (PHP) and other issues related with CoM.
- 109 transporters dealing with children at wagon stands were oriented on issues faced by CoM.
- 131 CoM have been engaged in interventions during various dialogues with the authorities, exposure visits.
- On the basis of a Pre-KAP survey conducted to launch campaign to reduce PHP and Corporal Punishment; four radio messages/programs were aired twice a day on FM Radio 100 reaching out to around 500,000 listeners in Islamabad and surrounding regions. Four Public Service Messages (PSMs) were aired on daily basis on two cable television channels to more than 20,000 subscribers in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.
- Two street theaters on corporal punishment were organized at two communities of our target localities where 215 children participated alongside community members.



## Working with Academia and Civil Society

- Curricula of universities was reviewed to work with Academia; including positive disciplining in teacher training programs.
- Established public private groups to work on child protection in Islamabad (SPARC, FDE, Ministry of Human Right, Government of Pakistan (MoHR), media groups and Universities) through Letter/ Memorandum of Understanding.
- Significant increase in capacity and understanding of issues related to CoM among trained police officials and administration of four schools where children club activities were carried out.
- Increased engagement of CoM in dialogues, lobbying, advocacy targeting at influencing government officials, legislators and other decision makers in bureaucracy.
- Complaint and suggestion boxes on child safeguarding have been placed at two communities and SPARC's head office.

National Police Academy, Islamabad expressed will to include regular sessions on Child Protection and 'Street Children' (CoM) in the training curricula for all police trainees.





## Child Rights Governance

SPARC joined hands with Child Rights Movement (CRM) and made efforts to address the vulnerabilities of children in Pakistan. CRM is the only platform where all the civil society organizations come together to raise voice for Child rights.

### Workshop on Child Rights with Elected Representatives

On October 11, a workshop was held to bring the contemporary issues related to child health, child labor and abuse into the notice of policymakers. Politicians reiterated to work with the civil society to utilize the available resources for children. On the occasion, Chief Guest Ms. Mehnaz Akber Aziz (Chair SDGS Committee on Child Rights) shared that the Parliament of Pakistan has demonstrated its support and commitment by establishing the National Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs. She shared that Pakistan is the first country that established Parliamentary task force on SDGs.

### International Day of the Girl Child

SPARC and CRM on October 11 held a seminar in Islamabad Mr Sajjad Cheema “Demand to Ensure Implementation of Laws” to commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child informed the participants about SPARC's vision to promote and protect children living in underprivileged communities. Speaking at the occasion, he said that as many as 22.8 million children are out of school and 56pc are these are girls. Chief guest Ms. Mehnaz Akber (Chair SDGS Committee on Child Rights) opined that as enshrined in the Constitution, it is a girl's right to have equal access to opportunities to develop her full potential.

## Health

### Saving Future Generations from Harms of Tobacco

SPARC completed its first year of activities under tobacco control grant. The project campaigned on drawing attention towards trends of Tobacco Consumption and Demands of Civil Society from Government: Imposition of Sin Tax”. Pakistan spends around PKR 140 billion on health burden caused by Tobacco and only heavy taxations on tobacco products will not only help reduce its consumption but also decrease its accessibility to minors who are seen as potential consumers.

Indulgence in use of harmful E-Cigarette also remained to be an area of concern where SPARC launched twitter trends on the issue, opinion polls through facebook and website to gauge level of basic awareness on existing tobacco control laws in Pakistan. In the target cities of Multan and Karachi, plates/ signage carrying the message of tobacco free premises were installed at restaurants, parks and key public places as smoking in public places is a cognizable offence. Overall effective channeling of the issue through print and electronic media was carried out with over 100 press releases published and 40 TV packages aired on the subject.



## Education

### Learning is Fun and Learning Outcomes Attainable

SPARC completed the extension phase of 5 - year project in District Haripur and Tehsil Ghazi where far-flung schools were reached through provision of WASH and furniture coupled with training of 93 more teachers on effective classroom management, positive disciplining and making Parents Teachers Councils realize of their roles and responsibilities to address school based issues. The advocacy led by SPARC has drawn government's attention to re-visit the decision of closure of Child Protection Units and find a way for its sustainability rather than relying on support of UN bodies. Moreover issue of corporal punishment was highlighted effectively where provincial ministers and elected assembly members hold discussions on 'lighter' and 'harsh' punishment and how Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) 89 is an impediment to it. In addition to it, 103 birth registration certificates were provided to parents. The legal aid component helped access to justice for economically disadvantaged and distressed minor either into contact or conflict with law. SPARC lawyers dealt with 28 cases of child sexual abuse/ rape/ sexual assault/ unnatural offence and in cases where children were accused to have taken part in aerial firing.



## Young Girls and Women Empowerment

### Child Early Marriage: Livelihood and Inclusion of Young Women in the Job Market

SPARC trains young women on marketable skills for employment and livelihoods combined with digital skills as e-commerce. We cater to disadvantaged girls and women victimized by early and forced marriage through skill provision and technology based learning and conduct life skills based sessions with the beneficiary group to make them self-reliant.

One such project is being implemented in Multan, Haripur, Peshawar, Karachi, Hyderabad and Rawalpindi where 12000 will be trained by end of the project against which a target of training above 6004 girls has been met as of the end of 2019.

### Canvas for Change – Canadian High Commission

On March 21, 2019, representatives from SPARC visited Canadian High Commission for the launching ceremony of “Canvas for Change” in collaboration with Second Cup Coffee Shop. The girls from center for street children, Rawalpindi, who were trained in dress making, embroidery, knitting and stitching were given an opportunity to display their talent. The girls were engaged in knitting and preparing hand-made environment friendly bags. The idea was to give a chance to the women living in poverty-stricken and disadvantaged areas and empower them so they can be able to earn utilizing their skills. Around hundred bags were prepared by the girls and presented to Ms. Zartaj Wazir Gul (Minister of State for Climate Change) and Ms. Sania Mir (Former captain of Pakistan National Women's Cricket Team) were guests at the Embassy.

## Access to Justice

During November 2019, SPARC started to implement a project on social, economic reintegration and rehabilitation of young prisoners (male, female) in selected prisons of Sindh- Malir Prison, Correctional Facility, Women Prison, and the adjoining Youthful Offenders Industrial School Karachi. The intervention caters to youth behind bars through specialized programs and integrated 3-month economic, psychological and social rehabilitation program for 100-120 young prisoners in Sindh.

## Reaching Out to Juvenile Prisoners and Minors in KP

SPARC Peshawar distributed warm stuff to 150 juvenile inmates in Central Jail Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In addition to this, 35 women prisoners received warm apparel whereas 13 children living with mothers were provided with suitable clothing to combat harsh weather.

In addition to this, SPARC planted saplings along-with juvenile prisoners under KP Government's 'Fruit for All Campaign'.

## Sessions with Probation Department

A daylong session with Reclamation and Probation Department and Prison Department officers was conducted on March 21 at Peshawar. Salient features of Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018(JJSA) was thoroughly discussed where Director R&P discussed the roles and responsibilities of probation officers under Probation of Offenders Ordinance 1960 and JJSA. Prison department officials were made aware of role of probation in reducing burden of prison population.



## Street Children

**Peshawar:** Center for Street Children Peshawar enrolled 316 children between the ages of five to 18 years in periphery of Gujjarabad areas where psychosocial support, non-formal education and vocational skills was provided to them. Parents, guardians and community members, different stakeholders i.e. area police, child protection unit, child protection commission, security personnel, auto workshop owners, local leaders; child rights organizations representatives, Child Rights Committees members and referral services providers were reached.

**Rawalpindi:** 260 children were registered during the year from Fouji colony, Bus Stand Pirwadhai, Bangash Colony, Mehr Colony, Dhok Hassu, Model Colony, and Awan Colony etc. 82 children were mainstreamed into different government and private educational institutes for formal education.

## Read Foundation Visits CSC

On February 3, officials from Read foundation visited the CSC, met with children and inquired of about their work and daily wages. They spent time with staff and children and made a documentary. They were amazed with the case studies of children and donated an amount for purchase of stationery material.





## Street Children

**Hyderabad:** Through effective mobilization, 280 children were registered. 100 children after completion of the non-formal education course were enrolled in public primary schools, and around 233 dropout children in surrounding locality were re-enrolled through enrollment drive campaign with the education department. CSC-Hyderabad manager was invited to TV talk shows, media briefings whereas he also attended rallies on child abuse cases; drop-out and re-enrollment issue, and establishing / activating the Sindh Child Protection Authority under Sindh Child Protection Authority Act 2011.

Street Children Centers marked World Day against Child Labor on June 12 where children expressed their thoughts during group discussions on right to education and perils of child labor. Universal Children's Day was celebrated with vibrant drawing and coloring activities on November 20.



## Networking

SPARC attended meeting with senior level WHO Mission on Tobacco Taxation on May 1. Key discussion revolved around provision of technical assistance to FBR to respond to technical questions and issues in relation to tobacco tax policy. Discussion included on how to raise awareness on the need of a tobacco tax policy more aligned with the reduction of tobacco use prevalence, NCDs and the achievement of the SDGs

To advocate tax increases with key members of the parliament, key authorities and other key stakeholders

SPARC was invited by WHO on October 8th to discuss finalization and submission of the GATS questionnaire, tobacco control situation and advocacy for health levy.

SPARC executive director was invited by National Commission on Social Welfare (NCSW) on various events as keynote speaker where host organization was facilitated through IEC material etc.

SPARC participated in UNODC's conference on Trafficking in recognition of its work on the issue. SPARC Islamabad met a team of DFID consultant seeking information on trafficking on June 17.

## Awareness Raising

SPARC involves media – print, electronic and social to spread awareness about child rights; supplemented through its many publications, consultations, meetings with various stakeholders and campaigns around key human and child rights days.

## Capacity Building

Police training was conducted at Police Training School, H-11 Islamabad. The five day event from January 11 -14, 2019 covered topics including UNCRC, JJSA, child abuse, local laws to deal with children and case management with human rights approach. It was an initiative of National Commission on Human Rights in collaboration with Islamabad Police, SPARC, Sahil. Dr. Fakhar Sohail and Ms. Sabeen Almas facilitated the training sessions under guidance of executive director.

## Children Clubs

A training was conducted to involve children to understand the process of child rights programming. Training was highly participatory using a variety of effective learning activities.

## E- Newsletters, Calendars and Diaries

SPARC produces a monthly e-newsletter covering major national, international and news related to our work. Similarly, 1,000 table calendars and diaries were printed with key statistics on various child rights related topics.



## Capacity Building on Participatory Approach to School Governance

SPARC's training department organized three four-day capacity building sessions Parent Teacher Council of Hariipur under the “Learning is Fun” project, supported by BMZ. The objective was to build capacity of PTC trainers and project officers on participatory school governance to enable them assist and facilitate Government and Public schools. Around 162 people; 83 females and 79 males attended the sessions. The target was to reach more than 25 selected schools so they can improve their functionality and be more inclusive.

PTC plays an important role in the overall management and supervision of government primary schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The successive sessions not only defined the role of PTC in improving the quality of education but also analyzed the PTC policy prepared by Government of KP. Other topics discussed during the sessions were roles and responsibilities of PTC members, importance of holding PTC meetings and their protocols, teaching and institutional practices, features of child friendly schooling, pattern of learning among students etc. The participants were also given a few pointers on effective communication and management

of school projects, record maintaining, transparency, negotiation, conflict resolution and leadership skills.

**Teachers:** A comprehensive teachers' training session was conducted to enhance the capabilities of teachers working with SPARC's various centers for street children. The training was based on innovative teaching methodologies. The purpose was to make the learning process more useful for those who do not possess enough resources to buy expensive learning materials. Teachers in return will be able to deal with children based on their multiple intelligences as well as to design their lesson according to the local context.

Teachers have now started to apply participatory approaches in their classroom management while ensuring effective involvement of communities and parents. It was reported that the children also showed interest when teachers involved them in various interesting activities. Some of the kids and parents are now very helpful in making the overall environment conducive for learning.

