

Annual Report

2014



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2015

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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

Board of Directors

Ms Humera Malik (Chairperson)

Maryam Bibi

Mr Rashid Ibrahim

Dr Attiya Inayatullah

Mr Qazi Azmat Isa

Mr Anees Jillani

Ms Salma Majeed Jafar

Mr Gul Mastoi

Ms Narjis Zaidi

Acronyms

CAGs	Community Action Groups
CSC	Centers for Street Children
KYI	Karachi Youth Initiative
SMCs	School Management Committees
PTCs	Parents Teachers Councils
SPARC	Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child
UTP	Under Trial Prisoner

Message from the Chairperson

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.

Pakistan as a nation cannot afford to have more incidents like the Army Public School tragedy. As world citizens, we must raise our voices not only at the national level but the international level as well.

Humera Malik
Chairperson

Introduction

SPARC is registered as a society since December 1992 as an independent-non-governmental organization with the aim of promoting, protecting and developing child rights. 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, education and health.

SPARC's work is guided by the international human rights principles and standards which are integrated at policy and program level, including the UNCRC and the relevant ILO Conventions.

SPARC works at the national level, with offices in several major cities, and is 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). In 2003, SPARC received the United Nations Recognition Award in recognition of 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). It is certified by Pakistan Center for Philanthropy.

Over the years, SPARC has been able to increase its activities and expand its outreach at the national level. It strives to create awareness about child rights and advocate for their promotion and protection. Keeping in mind the huge number of children in Pakistan, and the world over, it is of the opinion that Governments are in the best position to improve the lot of children and it sees its role more as an advocate of children rather than delivering services on its own. However, over a period of time, SPARC has also been delivering services in the shape of helping children coming into conflict with law, including those in prison; providing child-friendly spaces to children affected by disasters and street children; and improving the state of schools in disaster hit /impoverished areas.

SPARC has worked with most of the major donors working in Pakistan, including:

Actionaid under the auspices of European Union
American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS)
AusAid
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
DFATD (Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development) Canada
DFID
Kindernothilfe
Plan Pakistan
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Terre des homes (TDH)
US Embassy (PAS)
Trocaire
Für die Freiheit (FNF)
Karachi Youth Initiative (KYI)
Royal Norwegian Embassy

Advocacy & Awareness Raising

SPARC spreads awareness about child rights through its numerous publications, consultations, meetings with various stakeholders and campaigns. It also continuously strives to involve media, both print and electronic, in this endeavor.

Publications

SPARC has been taking out a number of publications, including newsletters, brochures, magazines, and reports for the more than two decades. Many of these publications, particularly the newsletters, reports and the magazines are distributed throughout the country and internationally to parliamentarians, policy-makers, child and human rights defenders, national and international NGOs, academia and well-wishers.

The State of Pakistan's Children

SPARC launched its annual hallmark publication, The State of Pakistan's Children 2013 report in Islamabad (May 15). The launch was well attended by representatives from the government, media and civil society. The report was dedicated to two late Board members - Ms. Sarah Ahmed and Advocate Rashid Rehman (who was murdered in Multan on May 7).

During the SOPC launch at Karachi (May 23), Mr Javed Jabbar said that Pakistan was the first country that convened a world leaders' summit 24 years ago for children in which leaders of 74 countries showed up at the venue in the United Nations. He praised the Sindh Assembly for passing a law



against child marriage and said the plight of children, women and other marginalized communities could be alleviated through debate and legislation by lawmakers.



The report highlighted that throughout the year, children in the country had to cope with a deteriorating health system, lack of educational opportunities and poor quality of education service delivery in the public sector, a punitive justice system, absence of an effective child protection framework (both in terms of legislation and administration), and employment in hazardous occupations which are detrimental to their physical and emotional development.

Newsletters

Three quarterly newsletters in English and Urdu were taken out during the year in Urdu and English with wide dissemination across the country. A quarterly review of child rights situation in the country, government's progress in purview of international commitments/treaties was taken into view.

Calendars

Every year, calendar is designed on a different theme. During the year 2014, child labor in brick kilns was the chosen theme which strived to create awareness on the rampant child/human rights abuse.

Projects Undertaken during 2014

Education

Learning is Fun: Promoting Child Friendly Classroom Environment in Selected Schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

SPARC, with the financial support of KNH and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) initiated a four year project (June 2014- March 2018) in the selected schools of Districts Abbottabad and Haripur in KP. The project, Promoting child friendly classroom environment in selected schools of KP, largely aims at improving quality of education and learning outcomes in target districts through provision of basic educational facilities and infrastructural support, training of master trainers and school teachers on child friendly teaching and strengthening of child protection systems in the province through lobbying and awareness raising campaigns.

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Elementary and Secondary Education Department in Peshawar .
- Commencement of a baseline study in selected schools under the lead of MSA Pvt Ltd.
- Orientation meetings were held with stakeholders including District Education Departments, Social Welfare Department, Child Protection Unit Abbottabad, Institute of Children with Disabilities, NGOs and INGOs.
- SPARC, further facilitated Actionaid in organizing a seminar on ‘Right to education under Article 25A of the Constitution’ on September 17 at Abbottabad. Both the NGOs are members of ‘Working Group for Girls Education Initiatives’ and extend support towards the cause of education.

Brochure on Child Friendly Schools (Eng 10,000, Urdu 10,000)
Brochure on Birth Registration (Urdu, 10,000)
Brochure on Health & Hygiene in Schools (Urdu, 10,000)
Brochure on Alternative to Corporal Punishment (Urdu, 10,000)

Flyers

- (a) Health & Hygiene in schools
- (b) Child Friendly Schools

Communities Taking Charge: Bringing Quality Back into Public Schools

In December 2013, SPARC started a DFID funded project- **Communities Taking Charge: Bringing Quality Back into Public Primary Schools** which aimed to bridge the gap between public and private schools in Multan and Bahawalpur and to ensure that standard educational practices are followed in both. The project used a combination of research and advocacy to address the above mentioned gap.

- A qualitative research study was undertaken to identify the factors that compel students to shift from private to public educational institutions. The findings of the research served as the backbone of advocacy efforts led by the community advocacy groups (CAGs) that engaged with lawmakers and government functionaries at the district level to galvanize them into improving the state of public sector schools in Multan and Bahawalpur.
- Three seminars were organized to share the findings of the research report in Multan, Bahawalpur and Lahore with key stakeholders including media, parliamentarian, Education department officials, CAGs/School Management Committees (SMCs) The Minister of State for Education and Training Mr. Baligh-ur-Rehman also participated in the seminar.
- SPARC trained 559 members of Community Action Groups (CAGs) and School Management Committee members to increase their capacity to engage with duty bearers and enable them to not only lodge complaints with the relevant authority, but on how non-monetary contribution from the community can help improve their schools.
- SPARC with recommendations from the community developed and disseminated a **Citizen Charter of Demands** with 3,500 copies in English and Urdu.
- 17 articles were published in newspapers whereas 24 radio talk shows on the state of public sector education were aired in Multan and Bahawalpur. Three public service messages were aired for 5,760 times on local cable channels and TV channels.

Communities Taking Charge: Bringing Quality Back into Public Schools

Citizen Charter of Demands (Eng 1500, Urdu 1500)

Research study: Bringing Quality Back into Public Primary Schools (Eng 1500, Urdu 1500 copies)

Rebuilding Schools in the Flood Affected Areas of District Badin- Sindh

SPARC completed a yearlong project in ten flood affected schools of Taluka Tando Bago of Badin. SPARC addressed the issues through reconstruction of flood damaged schools and implementation of soft interventions i.e. teacher trainings, formation of child rights clubs, and advocacy campaigns in the target schools.

- SPARC renovated 10 schools which included construction of walls, latrines, roofs, floors, white wash and paint on buildings, doors and windows, electric work, rehabilitation of water supply/storage, sanitation and provision of sports, stationery and furniture. Construction committees were formed in each village to monitor the construction work.

- Through *Kacheries*, the community was empowered to realize their ownership and self accountability towards improving the education system. More than 500 community members including 23 females were sensitized on child rights issues.
- Training department organized three capacity building trainings for 77 SMCs members of select schools.
- Free medical checkup and H&H awareness sessions were held for 755 children in targeted schools.
- SPARC provided furniture, sports items and uniforms whereas the enrollment in target schools increased from 306 to 800 students.

Child/Bonded Labor

Decent Work for Brick Kiln Workers in Multan and Hyderabad (April 2011- September 2014)

Bonded labor or debt bondage is widely rampant in Sindh and Punjab provinces. Extreme poverty, lack of access to formal credit and alternative means of livelihood, make working in a kiln the only viable option for many where wives and children are included in the bargain.

SPARC in partnership with Actionaid and European Union completed a project in Multan and Hyderabad with an aim to support social protection and decent work of brick kilns workers and bonded laborers in Pakistan. The Consortium partners included Bonded Labor Liberation Front (BLLF) and Bandhar Hari Sangat.

- 120 awareness raising sessions with bonded laborers were held while registration of more than 800 voters, provision of 246 Social Security Cards and 2,953 Computerized National identity Cards (CNICs) were provided to the bonded laborers.
- Two centers were established in Multan and Hyderabad and non formal education to 313 children was provided.
- Medical assistance to 1,624 workers was provided through medical camps.
- 559 bonded brick kiln worker were freed through 70 free legal aid filed in courts.
- Project website www.modelbrickkiln.com was updated with photos and reports.
- Quarterly newsletters in English, Urdu and Sindhi were published and disseminated among relevant stakeholders, parliamentarians, participants of seminars/ policy dialogues etc.
- 28 lectures and Questions and Answer sessions on issues of bonded labor/brick kiln workers/ workers activists/union members.
- 35 theatre performances were organized in Multan and Hyderabad highlighting the brick kiln workers' right to social security cards, minimum wages, children's education, importance of vote, working hours and labor related laws. The workers were also sensitized and mobilized to enroll their children in NFE centers established in Multan and Hyderabad.

- 26 television programs on bonded labor and brick kiln sector were aired from different television channels; Rohi TV, Sindh TV, KTN, Mehran TV and Duniya News. SPARC facilitated News One TV for the preparation of two special shows of their program- Pas-e- Parda on brick kiln sector.
- To support the decent work of brick kilns women, 100 women brick kiln workers in Hyderabad were familiarized with alternative source of income generation through trainings in embroidery, laptop pouch making, mobile pouch and others. Another 100 brick kiln women workers in Multan were provided skills training in stitching, tailoring, *adda* work, gift items, bags etc. They were later linked with the market. Most of them have reported preparing handmade articles, bags, pouches and bangles and selling at the nearest market.

Two documentaries were prepared and aired by the BBC World. The reports highlighted the issue of Bonded Labor and Girls' Education and highlighted the life a little girl- Jheeni. Resultantly, the 0.8 million debts were written off by the brick kiln owner while a philanthropist Mr. Hans from Germany gave Rs 25, 000 to Jheeni.

SPARC Celebrated International Labor Day

SPARC organized a grand rally in Hyderabad with the support of Actionaid and European Union to mark International Labor Day on May 1. The rally started from Tando Haider and reached Hyderabad Press Club. The participants held placards inscribed with slogan of Social Justice, no to slavery and fixation of working hours. The rally was attended by hundreds of laborers, brick kiln workers, union activists, civil society members, intellectuals, print and electronic media.

SPARC lamented that despite passage of more than 22 years, no effective measures have been taken to implement Bonded Labor System Abolition Act 1992 and demanded the government to issue notification of minimum wages and fix timing up-to 8 hours a day and compensation for over time.

Brochure on Project Orientation (3000 copies in Urdu, Sindhi, English)
 Brochure on Social Security (1000 copies each in Urdu and Sindhi)
 Poster on District Vigilance Committee (200 copies)
 Poster highlighting Minimum Wages: Police Anti-Bonded Labor and Human Rights Cell Hyderabad and Anti-Bonded Labor Cell Multan. (940 copies)

Reaching out to the Vulnerable Children of Sindh

SPARC is operating a Drop-in-Center for children of liberated peasants in Sikandarabad Hari Camp, Jamshoro with the support of Good Neighbors International (GNI). During the year, 100 children were registered in the center; 55 children with improved level of learning were enrolled in the nearby government primary school. NFE kits, uniforms, and shoes along with health and hygiene kits were

provided to children. 70 children including 45 girls and 25 boys were trained in various skills by an expert trainer.

Violence against Children

Improving the Quality of Life of Street Children in Targeted Cities

Funded by Kindernothilfe, centers for street children cater to vulnerable children including rag pickers, scavengers, child vendors and slum dwellers. Runaways and children staying on the streets are amongst its target beneficiaries. During the year, 1,907 registered children availed various services in Rawalpindi, Multan, Hyderabad and Peshawar. Meals, non formal education with mainstreaming in schools, recreational facilities, exposure visits, health and hygiene sessions and medical camps were the highlights during the year.

IEC material on Street Children

Know Your Rights (Urdu 20,000)

Poster on importance of Health and Hygiene (Urdu, 500 copies)

Prevention of Early Child Marriages in Mithi, Sindh

Underage and vulnerable girls in Mithi, Sindh were reached through a project with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs (Canada). SPARC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the District Education Department, Tharparkar which extended support in promoting the significance of education in curbing the menace of child marriages.

- Five lectures on the importance of girls' education were delivered at South City School, Girls High School, Government Boys High School, Al- Mehran Public School and Amar Jagdesh Kumar Malhani School, Mithi with more than 800 students (girls and boys) and faculty.
- The drought hit Tharparkar claimed the lives of over 100 children. The negligence of the higher authorities to respond to the situation made it a crisis state of affairs for children and pregnant women. SPARC addressed the issue through a mega gathering well attended by civil society members, students, representatives of education, Social Welfare Department members including Minister for Social Welfare Ms Rubina Qaimkhani who asked for the organization's technical assistance for the proposed Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Bill, 2013. She urged SPARC to take its interventions forward to rest of Tharparkar.
- Two street theaters on importance of girls' education and harms of early marriages were staged at prominent public locations whereas a talk show on Mehran TV was aired to highlight the plight of girls victimized by early marriages. A senior female advocate commented on need to revise Hindu, Muslim and Christian Family Laws.
- Both Muslims and Hindu religious clerics were urged to first verify the age of girls through Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) and then to proceed with the *Nikah* or *Chonri* (Marriage Agreements in Hindus).
- Training on "Prevention of Early Child Marriages" was held for the law enforcement agencies, bar associations and media.

- Early/forced/child marriages were found to be widely prevalent in a village Kankaio where parents sell their daughters in lieu of money.
- An early marriage case was identified at Al-Mehran Public school where a 12-year-old student of class 7th was to be married off to a 25-year-old widow. His teacher further showed wedding invitation card from the boy's father. The project team's fact finding revealed that the boy's father was a relative of woman's martyred husband and wanted this mismatched marriage to grab the property, fund and pension of the deceased. The young widow was extremely unhappy with the situation. The team persuaded the boy's father to restrain from any act of underage marriage to which he agreed and the marriage was stopped with timely efforts.

Countering Extremism through Interventions in Punjab Jails (December 2014 – February 2015)

In December 2013, SPARC started a project “Countering Violence in the Prisons of Punjab” with the cooperation of US Embassy of Pakistan “INL Program”. The project was implemented in nine jails of four districts in Punjab including Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan and Sahiwal where free legal aid was provided to under trial adult and juvenile prisoners.

- 1,944 Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs) including 1,817 adult males, 35 females and 92 juveniles were provided free legal aid. SPARC employed teachers for UTPs in the Faisalabad Borstal, District Jail Faisalabad and Women's jail in Multan.
- SPARC provided non- formal education to at least 243 students from Nursery to 10th grade during the year.
- SPARC completed vocational trainings in selected prisons with 25 prisoners per training. As a result, 223 prisoners were trained through total eight vocational trainings organized in selected prisons.
- SPARC also produced a documentary highlighting the issues of UTPs in jails and how vocational training can enable them earn a living, upon release from jail.

Countering Violent Narratives in the Schools of Karachi (June 2104- May 2015)

SPARC initiated a project in select public secondary schools around Abbas town, Sohrab Goth, Sachal Goth, Gulshan-e-Iqbal with the financial support Karachi youth Initiatives (KYI).

- Child Rights Clubs were formed in the target schools and awareness sessions for students and teachers/head teachers were held.
- SPARC arranged more than 15 guest lecturers by academics, child/human rights activists and members of the civil society on the topics of peace, harmony and tolerance, promoting the



social, moral and legal bindings among the students which helped countering violent narratives.

- SPARC established libraries to promote a culture of reading through additional books and reading material on peace, tolerance, inclusiveness, multiculturalism and good citizenship etc.

Countering Violent Narratives in Schools of Karachi

a) Brochures

- Become a Volunteer Today: End Conflict in Karachi Tomorrow (Eng, 10,000 copies)
- Karachi's Ethnic Mosaic: Peace through Diversity (Eng 10,000)
- The Greatest Tool to Counter Violent Narrative in Your City: Education (Eng 10,000)
- Violence in Karachi (10,000 copies)

b) Flyer

- A Letter to the Children of Karachi (Eng, 10,000).

Networking

Child Protection Workshop in Bangladesh

Kindernothilfe, for its partners in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, organized a three days workshop in Dhaka from June 17-19. SPARC's representatives attended the workshop which elaborated on legal framework for child protection. In addition to international instruments, Bangladesh and Afghanistan's national laws were also discussed and their effectiveness with regard to child protection was analyzed.

Management

Mr Anees Jillani resumed charge of Executive Director following the resignation of Ms Zarina Jillani. An advocate by profession, he enjoys a vast experience in domain of child rights.

Ms Humera Malik served as Chairperson, Board of Directors with active participation in SPARC activities including research launch. She also convened Board meetings held twice a year.

Audit Reports

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (SPARC)

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

	NOTE	2013 Rupees	2012 Rupees
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property and equipment	3	11,094,582	12,924,837
Investment properties	4	9,450,000	9,450,000
		<u>20,544,582</u>	<u>22,374,837</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Advances, deposits, prepayments and other receivables	5	984,831	1,839,237
Short term investments	6	32,371,873	25,964,044
Cash and bank balances	7	56,069,800	64,799,189
		<u>89,426,504</u>	<u>92,602,470</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	(6,670,322)	(4,847,105)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>82,756,182</u>	<u>87,755,365</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Restricted grants	9	(47,090,468)	(54,178,402)
Deferred capital grant	10	(10,560,991)	(12,254,846)
Deferred liability for gratuity	11	(10,264,823)	(11,426,493)
		<u>(67,916,282)</u>	<u>(77,859,741)</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>35,384,482</u></u>	<u><u>32,270,461</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
Fund balance	12	35,384,482	32,270,461
CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u><u>35,384,482</u></u>	<u><u>32,270,461</u></u>

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
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

	NOTE	2013 Rupees	2012 Rupees
INCOME			
Restricted grants	9	151,251,367	153,794,320
Amortization of deferred capital grant	10	4,723,728	4,290,875
Other operating income	13	3,462,006	9,871,423
		159,437,101	167,956,618
EXPENDITURE			
Programme expenses	14	(111,946,962)	(119,671,654)
Administrative expenses	15	(39,515,990)	(35,252,029)
Depreciation	3	(4,860,128)	(4,362,884)
		(156,323,080)	(159,286,567)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	12	3,114,021	8,670,051

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements. *Rao*



Chairperson - SPARC



Executive Director