



MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Annual Report
2017-18



The Mountain Children's Foundation

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2017-2018.....	6
2017-18 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.....	8
• CHILDLINE.....	8
• MCF/Himotthan Partnership: Central Himalayan Education Initiative (CHEI).....	10
• MCF/E-WaSH:Education-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program	12
• Climate Change Education for Adaptation (ERC/Small Change/ GSI).....	13
• MCF/SOIR-IM Partnership: Inclusive & Equitable Quality Education for Children.....	14
• PABAM Magazine.....	15
• MCF & A Global Education Studies Class at Macalester College, Minnesota, USA.....	16
• Institutional Support: Indians For Collective Action.....	16
• Fundraising Through Small Change.....	16
• Financial Report.....	17
• Meetings, Network and Outreach.....	17
• Prevention of Sexual Harassment Policy.....	18
• Media and outreach.....	19
Conclusion.....	19
ANNEX 1: BOARD AND GOVERNANCE / YEAR 2017-18.....	21
ANNEX 2: CASE STUDIES.....	22
ANNEX 3: FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS.....	24
ANNEX 4: REVIEW CHEI EXECUTIVE SUMMERY.....	25
ANNEX 5: COLLABORATION WITH MACALESTER COLLEGE.....	27

INTRODUCTION



In a region where many still lack running water, toilets, electricity, health care, access to quality education and economic opportunity, The Mountain Children’s Foundation (MCF) works to empower children in rural mountain villages to improve their communities from within.

Our “bottom-up, inside-out” model of development leverages the power of collective action and the energy and idealism of youth to create organic, lasting impacts that strengthen communities, build citizenship, combat discrimination, and raise the profile of child rights and child participation.

Over the past 16 years, we have developed a network of children’s groups and non-governmental organizations across the Indian state of Uttarakhand that collaborate to remove barriers for children and enhance the role of young people in transforming their communities.

WHY MOUNTAINS, WHY CHILDREN?

As India rushes forward, its rural mountain communities continue to fall behind, due to a lack of resources, limited economic opportunities and governmental neglect. But the greatest handicap to these communities is a pervasive and debilitating sense of helplessness brought on by the belief that they cannot change the forces of corruption, apathy, and greed that rob their resources and steal their children’s futures.

The problems are widespread and deeply rooted:

- ♣ Poorly equipped and inadequately staffed schools, often with teachers drawing generous government salaries who don't bother to show up for class;
- ♣ Villages that still lack water, electricity, roads, and health care, even as the government vaunts its investment in rural development;
- ♣ Water shortages and forests rapidly receding under the onslaught of ever more people relying on them for fuel and fodder;
- ♣ Water sources drying up from neglect and overuse;
- ♣ Extensive migration to the cities in search of work, which tears up families and destroys the social fabric of the community;
- ♣ Unhygienic living conditions, contaminated water, plastic waste littering once pristine mountainsides, and increasingly,
- ♣ Natural disasters that shatter lives, homes and livelihoods.

In the face of these daunting challenges, our best hope lies with the youth, who are the most effective purveyors of information and the most powerful agents of change. Their impact spans multiple generations: The children themselves, their parents and, as these engaged, empowered young people reach adulthood, their own children.

Across Uttarakhand, you can find evidence of dramatic transformation wrought by the children – from transforming people's behavior regarding hygiene and sanitation to planting trees to using India's Right to Information (RTI) law to get action from the government to ensuring 100 percent birth registration in their communities and pushing for gender equality.

HOW WE WORK: THE MCF'S UNIQUE MODEL

The MCF helps children become agents for change in their community. We do this through *bal sangathans* (children's groups) at the village level — gathering the community's children and asking them about their concerns and what they would like to change. Through games, activities, and discussion, MCF facilitators talk to these young people about their rights as children and responsibilities as citizens of the community. It's like turning on a light switch: children who were previously aimless and uninterested in studying or helping in their homes suddenly become passionate agents for change, more engaged in all aspects of their homes and schools.

The most active children are generally in the age range of 10-17. But younger children often tag along and grow into committed members of the *bal sangathans*. And young adults who leave the village to work sometimes return and mentor the younger children. We strive to ensure

gender equity and inclusion of children of all communities, religions and economic circumstances in the group and in our discussions. In fact, we often see more girls than boys participating in and leading the groups and we have started seeing the children begin to take on complex social issues such as gender and caste discrimination within their villages.

VISION AND MISSION

Real and lasting change only occurs from within the community. We seek to invert the “top-down, outside-in” model of development and help communities help themselves.

The MCF works to:

- ♣ Enable children to become committed, effective citizens who, through collective action, build a foundation of trust and respect for one another and become agents of change.
- ♣ Create spaces for child participation wherein the individuality and rights of the child are respected by:
 - Working closely with the government and its agents to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of programs designed to help and serve children,
 - Nurturing communities that give children the opportunity to develop to their full potential, and
 - Identifying and removing obstacles to such growth.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2017-2018

This year has been one of growth mixed with challenges, setbacks, and refocusing. The conclusion of the CRY program in December 2016 marked the end of a six-year-long and highly productive partnership in the Vikasnagar block of Dehradun, during which the children mature into respected community members and advocates and brought about significant changes in their villages on a variety of fronts from birth registration to hygiene, sanitation and nutrition to the environment.

When CRY withdrew from Uttarakhand, we feared we would not be able to continue to support the bal sangathans established under that program, but we also couldn't bear to abandon the children who had taken the MCF's mission so much to heart. Thanks to support from individual donors, we were able to start the "Climate Change Education for Adaptation" program. Later in the year, SOIR-IM, after an intense screening process, partnered with us to work in another 16 villages in Vikasnagar on education and child participation, enabling us to continue building on our work so far.

As a part of our learning from last year, we have also started to diversify our funding sources to include online crowd sourcing. We partnered with Small Change, which provides a platform to raise funds for the organization and also for specific activities. This is currently at a very small level and we have lots to learn.

In addition to the efforts above, we have continued to work on the following projects:

MCF CHILDLINE - An emergency helpline for children.

This year the CHILDLINE team assisted 546 children in need of care and protection. In addition, the team also conducted numerous outreach activities to generate public awareness and support against Child Labour and begging.

MCF-CHEI: Central Himalayan Education Initiative: Bringing quality in education

Our MCF-CHEI team continued its role in facilitating work in 20 remote villages of Chamoli to improve the quality of non-formal pre-primary education along with five other services delivered through anganwadi centers. We kept true to the MCF's mission by also focusing efforts on empowering children and their communities to voice their concerns and demand solutions. In an external review won the MCF HMS - CHEI program, the reviewer praised the work conducted in Chamoli and also expressed appreciation for the bal sangathans.

MCF/SOIR-IM: Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education for Children

In October 2017 MCF entered into partnership with SOIR-IM (Swedish Organization for Individual Relief) that took us into 16 new villages of Vikasnagar block of Dehradun district. With this new partnership MCF has expanded its working area in Dehradun. The first year of the programme focuses on the 29 Anganwadi Centers and 16 Primary Schools in the villages. The goal is to improve the management of the anganwadis and schools, improve learning levels, enhance enrollment & retention and rights-based advocacy.

MCF E-WaSH:

This program focuses on improving sanitation and hygiene profile of 20 villages in the Ghat block of District Chamoli, working on both the “software,” i.e. community awareness and engagement, and “hardware,” i.e. physical structures such as water tanks and toilets. The program has now completed two years and has made great progress improvising 20 Anganwadi Centers with toilet and potable drinking water facilities and changing overall attitudes and behavior in the community with regard to hygiene and sanitation.

Climate Change Education for Adaptation (ERC/ Small Change/ GSI):

This new initiative of MCF seeks to create awareness to build adaptive capacity of children towards changing climatic conditions. The program is supported by ERC (the Education Resource Center Trust), Small Change and GSI (Good Souls Initiative) and is being implemented in 12 villages of Vikasnagar, Dehradun. MCF has worked for more than six years in Vikasnagar, initially through the CRY hygiene and sanitation program and now this initiative. This new initiative allows us to continue building on our prior work and keeping our already established children’s groups engaged and active.

We chose to focus on climate change because of the drastic impacts it is already evincing in mountain regions and because it seemed a natural progression to our earlier work on hygiene and sanitation. By the end of the 6-year CRY project, the children were actively planting trees in their community, so supporting their environmentalism feels an appropriate next step.

Upcoming program on digital learning:

MCF is looking forward to implementing a new program —Digital Learning for Quality Education—a joint venture with the Nucleus Software Foundation (NSF). The program is envisaged to synchronize its outcomes with the MCF/SOIR-IM’s efforts & hence the field is same as that of SOIR-IM program. It is designed so that the inputs directly impact the learning outcomes of the slow learners in grade 3rd and 4th while also reinforcing the learning of grade 5th pupils. The program will begin with staff orientation and will be in full swing from April 2018 onwards.

Publications:

Since 2003, MCF has published 178 issues of our monthly magazine, *PABAM*. This Hindi-language publication serves as vital link to connect the children of the mountains, serving as a forum where they can share their experiences, voice their concerns, and learn from one another.

Under the CHEI program, we created a poster on sanitation & hygiene, which was distributed to schools, anganwadis, bal sangathans and mata samitis.

2017-18 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

CHILDLINE-1098 AN EMERGENCY HELPLINE FOR CHILDREN IN DISTRESS

In partnership with the CHILDLINE India Foundation, a nodal agency of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, MCF works to help children in crisis while also working to improve protections for all children. To this end, MCF staffs a 24/7 crisis hotline and respond as needed to calls. These include situations of children separated from their families, injured and need of care, suffering from mental or emotional illness or other problems, and reports of child labor, neglect and abuse. Sometimes children call the line just because they need someone to talk to, in which case our team listens to them and provides support and counseling.

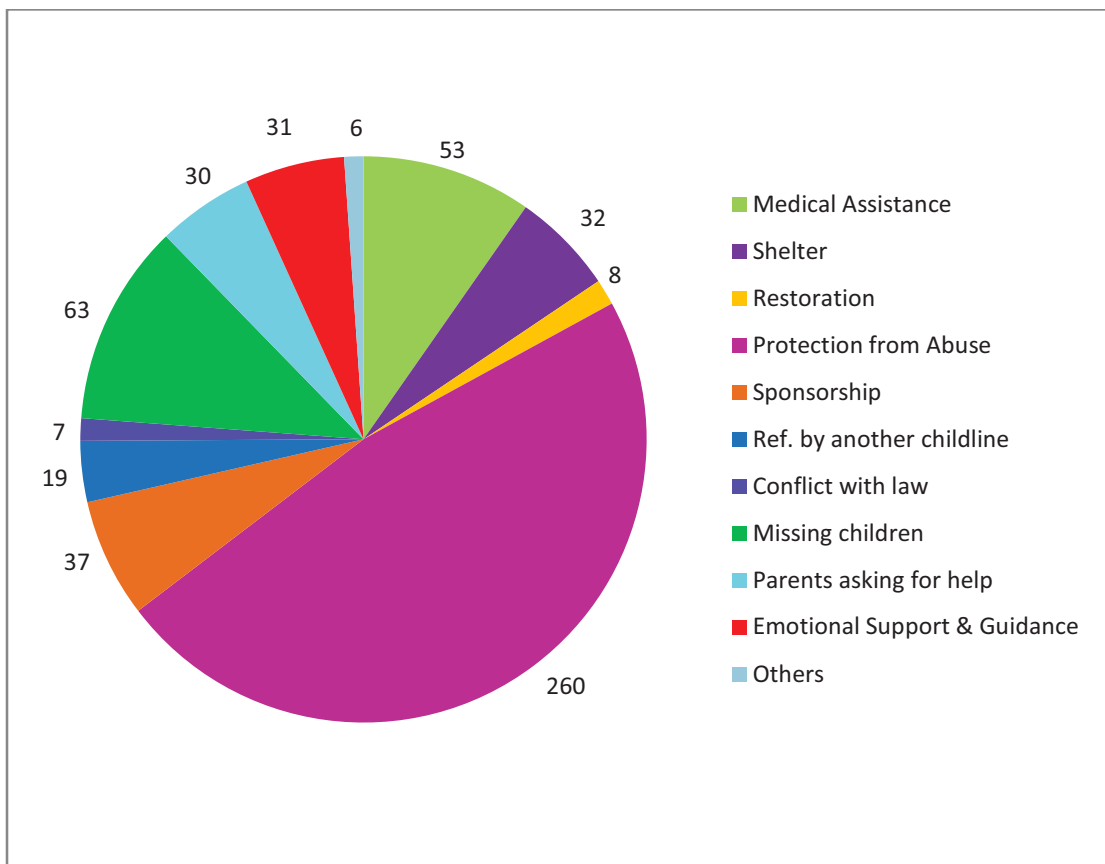
The MCF CHILDLINE team also works closely with allied systems such as police, child welfare committee, health and education system, legal systems, etc., to obtain services to aid children in need of care and protection.

Since the beginning of our CHILDLINE partnership in December 2010, our team has responded to 2,510 cases. This year the helpline reached to 546 children, during which we have seen an increase in medical cases and for those children who have suffered sexual abuse. In the latter cases, our sticking point has been families who do not want to prosecute the perpetrator for fear of bringing shame to the girl and her family and harming family ties when the perpetrator is from within the family.





On the organizational front, we were able to bring Deepika up to the level of Coordinator of our CHILDLINE program, a role she is growing into. This year the helpline reached to 546 children in the following category:



MCF/HIMMOTTHAN PARTNERSHIP: CENTRAL HIMALAYAN EDUCATION INITIATIVE (CHEI)

Under the Central Himalayan Education Initiative of the Himmotthan Society, MCF is working in 20 villages in the remote Vikasnagar Ghat block of district Chamoli to improve pre-primary education and related early childhood health services delivered through anganwadi centers.

The first phase of this three-year program focused on the 0-3 and 3-6 age groups by targeting anganwadi workers, auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs), ASHA health workers, family members and the mata samiti, a council of women charged with providing oversight for the anganwadis.



Anganwadis in these remote villages are neglected and, therefore, underutilized because of their poor quality. The community institutions responsible for oversight are either unaware of their

responsibilities or uninterested in fulfilling them. Our team worked to change this dynamic by identifying the key stakeholders including the mata samitis, government officials, and other community-based organizations, and strengthening them and building communication between them.

We also provide training and support to build the capacity of the anganwadi workers, mata samiti members as well as the children in the bal sangathans and have carried out a wide array of awareness-generation activities to educate the community about early child health and the importance of the anganwadis and the services they offer.

Highlights from the review

An external review of the CHEI program praised our work:

"MCF revived the defunct mata samiti and turned it into a monitoring body that was aware of its roles and responsibilities and viewed the anganwadis as an important service for their children."

...

"The Supervisor ICDS told the reviewer that "Even if MCF withdrew from the 20 anganwadi centers and moved to new ones, it had created practices that would continue."

...

"MCF has created awareness in the community to understand their roles and responsibilities as well take collective action for the better functioning of the anganwadi centers."

...

"From a young group of shy people, the bal sangathan had transformed many into thinking individuals who had learnt how to express themselves with confidence and galvanize into action for the welfare of their own community."

Most importantly, we have worked to create a more sustainable foundation for this work by engaging the community's young people and helping them learn skills such as communication, listening and leadership.

Over the past three years, we successfully established 22 bal sangathans. Through these children's groups, the program has had an impact on the lives of 834 children (448 girls and 386 boys) from 446 households. These groups conduct monthly meetings where they discuss and learn about a wide range of topics such as child rights, child participation, birth registration certificate, importance of local grains for nutrition, potable drinking water, sanitation & hygiene, disaster risk reduction, gender and environment. Under their annual plantation drive, this year the children have planted 300 oak trees, which were provided free of cost by the Forest Department. We also provided three-day training on cartoons and comics in Dehradun.



This year the children also conducted a Healthy Home Survey for the first time. In this survey the children form teams and visit their homes and rate them on a variety of practices associated with improved hygiene. This year's survey gathered data from 417 homes in 21 villages, providing a baseline against which we can measure our work going forward:

Healthy Home Survey Conducted by the Bal Sangathans of Ghat, Chamoli	
% of people who trim their nails on regular basis	45.80
% of people who wear slippers while going to toilets	67.15
% of people who wash their hands before meals	28.54
% of children bathing within an interval of two days	20.14
% of households keeping drinking water covered	70.98
% of households using dustbins	63.55
% of households having toilets	81.53
% of households using toilets	79.86
% of households having clean toilets	36.93

For more information, please visit <http://mcfglobal.ngo/>

MCF/E-WaSH: EDUCATION-WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROGRAM



Along with CHEI program in 20 villages of Ghat block of Chamoli, MCF is also implementing an E-WaSH program in the same villages with the support from Himmotthan Society/TATA Water Mission, Dehradun. The focus of the program is to improve the sanitation and hygiene profile of the communities with particular emphasis on anganwadi centers. The program has two major components:

Software activities

This includes awareness generation for behavior change and included a celebration of Global Handwashing Day and World Water Day as well as to emphasize the importance of freshwater, the use of toilets, and more with rallies and demos in the villages and with the bal sangathans. Community-Led Total Sanitation Trainings were also organized under the program. We also organized health check-up camps in the anganwadi centers. Two camps were held in a year in every anganwadi center, covering total 369 children. The camps were facilitated by ANM, ASHA and anganwadi workers.

Hardware activities

These include the construction of drinking water and toilet facilities in all anganwadi centers, which was completed over this year. This included building 9 new toilets and repair of 7 old toilets. The remaining anganwadis required minor work such as painting. Twenty garbage pits were also constructed under the program. The work has been done in accordance with the demand generated by the communities and the pre-feasibility study conducted by the engineers of the Himmotthan Society/ Tata Water Mission. The construction work was followed by white wash and painting work. The neatly painted walls were further decorated with the colorful murals and writings related to sanitation and hygiene. This work was done in accordance to demands generated by the Mata Samitis.

The hardware facility provided through the E-WaSH program has not just ensured toilet and drinking water facilities for the children in the anganwadi centers but has also developed a safe environment for the children. The wall painting has greatly improved the appearance of these centers, converting them into vibrant, happening and child-friendly places.

For more information, please visit <http://mcfglobal.ngo/>

CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION FOR ADAPTATION (ERC/ SMALL CHANGE/ GSI):

After a rigorous six-year campaign on sanitation, hygiene and nutrition, we embarked on a new step up the ladder of information and awareness with the children's groups in Vikasnagar, Dehradun. The children of these bal sangathans, which were created under the CRY program, have become remarkably active and engaged and earned the respect of the community to the level that they were actively participating in village-level meetings and communicating with the village leadership. When the CRY program ended, we did not want to abandon these children but also wanted to see how we could sustain their energy with a lower-level of investment on our side.



Because young people have the most to lose from climate change, we felt that it was the most pressing issue for us to address with them. So we have launched a new initiative where the children are learning about the cause of and challenges posed by climate change, and what they can do at a local level to help prepare and protect their community. The program is being implemented with the support from Education Resource Center Trust (ERC), Small Change: An online platform for crowd funding and Good Souls Initiative (GSI).

This program will cover some 360 children in 12 villages and entails four major workshops where children from each village receive training from experts in the field as well as with multiple

village-level workshops, where this information is further shared with the children and other villagers. It also has a special component where the young people reach out to their elders to record environmental changes. This serves a dual purpose of disseminating information about climate change throughout the community while also helping to repair the social fabric by helping bridge the generation gap.

For more specifics of this program, please see the workshop reports on our website.

MCF/SOIR-IM PARTNERSHIP: INCLUSIVE & EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN



This year, in a new partnership with SOIR-IM, we launched an exciting and ambitious effort to improve the quality of education in 16 villages in the Vikasnagar block of Dehradun. These villages are adjacent to the 16 villages in which we worked through the CRY program, and where we are now conducting our climate change initiative. SOIR-IM's theory of change — focusing on communities and promoting rights-based advocacy — aligns closely with that of the

MCF, so we were especially excited to work with them.

These villages are larger and more diverse than the ones in which we worked earlier, making the challenge of connecting with the community more difficult. But the MCF approach of starting by engaging the children held true again. We had two experienced team members from the CRY program who were able to guide the newer staff. The children found the process of forming and being part of a bal sangathan new and exciting. Although in some villages it was initially a challenge to get the older girls to join the bal sangathans, we now have more girls than boys in the bal sangathans.

The rollout of this program began with training facilitators with subject area knowledge as well as skills for engaging the children and the broader community. The new team then conducted a baseline survey to gauge the status of the schools and the quality of oversight provided by the mata samitis and village education committees. Disappointingly, but not surprisingly, the survey found that these committees existed only on papers and there was little meaningful oversight of the educational systems in the villages. However, outreach and training

by our team has visibly increased the awareness and engagement of the committees in supporting their children through services provided through anganwadis and schools.

As always, we focused from the beginning on bringing the children into the effort and we have established 16 bal sangathans with some 700 members in the working area.

One of the first initiatives of the project was to identify children who had dropped out of school and try to get them back to attend. Our team identified 276 children who had dropped out. Our teams worked with the teachers and school management committee members and, so far have managed to get 51 children back in school.

PABAM MAGAZINE



Since 2003, our monthly Hindi-language magazine, *PABAM*, has served as a platform for the children to exchange ideas and share their experiences while also acting as a vehicle to disseminate information into remote regions. Children enthusiastically share their experiences, success and drawings through the magazine. The magazine equally interests the children's parents (especially when they see their child's name in the magazine). This year 12 issues of the magazine were printed with children's letters and drawings, general knowledge quizzes, and articles about major activities held throughout the year.

MCF AND A GLOBAL EDUCATION STUDIES CLASS AT MACALESTER COLLEGE,(MINNESOTA, USA)

The MCF is the first participant in an innovative education studies program called '*The World in the Classroom*' initiated by Sonia Mehta with the support of Ron Joslin at the Macalester Dewitt Wallace Library that was developed in consultation with MCF President Aditi P. Kaur and her team.

Twenty students in Sonia Mehta's class, 'Building Trust: Education in Global Perspective,' worked in groups to design after-school learning activities for children in 16 villages in Vikasnagar, Dehradun. These activities were carefully developed in keeping with the context, environment and lived realities of the mountain children, as well as aligned the activities with the learning outcomes given by the NCERT of India. MCF participated in online discussions with the class, answering questions, sharing research, baseline studies, as well as opening up a window into these remote areas of the Himalayan foothills through pictures and videos of several discussions around the problems faced by children in the villages schools.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT: INDIANS FOR COLLECTIVE ACTIONS

Indians for Collective Action (ICA), continues to provide essential ongoing support for our general operating expenses. This covers costs of running the office that are not supported by other project funds and provides MCF with needed flexibility and stability, especially when other partners fail to disburse funds in a timely manner.

FUNDRAISING THROUGH SMALL CHANGE

This year MCF has ventured into crowd sourcing for support via [Small Change](#). Small Change is an online platform which runs fundraisers for NGOs. Small Change has run two fundraisers for MCF. Through the first fund raiser, efforts were made to seek funds for Climate Change Education for Adaptation. The second fundraiser was built on the previous one, mustering support for interaction of the children with the scientist community. The idea is to arrange interaction of the children with the scientists dealing with wildlife, forest, oil and natural resources etc. so that the children understand the implication of climate change on various components of an ecosystem.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial year 2017-18 started off on a tenuous note as the impact of the CRY withdrawal was being felt. In October 2017 SOIR-IM partnered with the MCF to work in another 16 villages thus filling up the void left by CRY.

In December 2017 we received the full payment for the year from CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF), which also helped stabilize our financial situation. We received funds in advance for the first time in our partnership with CIF.

Through the Good Souls Initiative, we were able to find funding for our environment program in 12 villages in Vikasnagar, Dehradun. We partnered with Education Resource Center (ERC) and Small Change a crowd funding organization (Rs 47,496/-) through which we were able to source some funds to supplement the Environment Initiative. Individual donors too supported this initiative.

In 2017-18 as compared to 2016-17 our income increased by 39.77% and our expenditure increased by 83.22 %.

MEETINGS, NETWORK AND OUTREACH

Our 15 years of experience working with children in Uttarakhand have made MCF a key resource agency on children's issues. MCF is committed to bringing the voice of the children from the Uttarakhand mountains into development forums with government officials, development professionals and others. This year the MCF team has attended following trainings/meetings/ workshops:

- ♣ Attended a meeting of operation SMILE at the Police Headquarters on 29th May 2017. MCF CHILDLINE provided details of missing children to the SMILE team.
- ♣ Aditi P. Kaur joined "SOCH" on 30th May 2017, a group created by Ex. IAS and IPS officers to discuss various issues and discussed issues affecting children.
- ♣ Aditi P. Kaur was invited to be an external member in the Himmotthan Society POSH committee.
- ♣ Aditi P.Kaur and Sudhir Bhatt attended Bal Vidhan Sabha along with the members of the bal sangathans of the villages in the Vikasnagar Block on 6th and 9th June 2017. Children from the MCF were also members of the Bal Vidhan Sabha.
- ♣ On the 10th of June 99 hope boxes that can serve as light-weight desks were provided by the Bird Song Society through Hina Rastogi. These boxes were given in schools that do not have any tables or chairs for the children to sit at.

- ♣ On 4th July Aditi P. Kaur, Sudhir Bhatt and Himani Chandola attended the meeting of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) to discuss issues arising in the protection of children in Uttarakhand
- ♣ On 14th July Aditi P. Kaur and Sudhir Bhatt attended a meeting organized by Action Aid. The meeting was to discuss and draw attention to the unpaid work done by women. Aditi said that the recognizing, reducing and redistributing of woman's unpaid work would only take place if we began discussing these issues with children when they were young and in their teens. MCF has worked with children to start recognizing and redistributing work done by young girls in their homes.
- ♣ The MCF team participated in the march against child labour organized by the Bachpan Bachao Andolan on 14th October 2017.

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

To abide by the guidelines put down by the Supreme Court and to ensure a healthy working environment that enables employees, contract workers, part-time staff or volunteers to work without fear of prejudice, gender bias and sexual harassment, MCF has adopted a policy on prevention of sexual harassment. An Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) has been formed for redressal of grievances related to sexual harassment. The committee includes:

1. Deepika Panwar - Chairperson
2. Himani Chandola Chhimwal - Member
3. Ravindra Singh Chauhan - Member
4. Ranu Bisht – External Member

The MCF staff has been trained on POSH. It has been made mandatory to inform the newly appointed staff about the policy.

The following report has been submitted by the committee.

S.No	Particulars	# cases/activities
1	Number of complaints of sexual harassment received in a year	Nil
2	Number of complaints disposed of during the year	Nil
3	Number of cases pending for more than 90 days	Nil
4	Nature of action taken by the employer	NA
	Number of workshops or awareness programs conducted by the organization	Four awareness meetings were held with the team

MEDIA AND OUTREACH

Our new partner, SOIR-IM, published an interview with Aditi P. Kaur, the President MCF, on their Facebook page, highlighting the kind of work undertaken by MCF. <https://soir-im.org/full-story-aditi-kaur-president-of-mou.../>

Shreya Talwar of Small Change has shared a story on MCF on the Logical Indians. <https://thelogicalindian.com/my-social-responsibility/35-kids-for-a-survey-and-cleaned-their-village/>

Small Change has also featured an interview with Aditi P. Kaur in their blog: <http://blog.smallchange.ngo/2018/04/19/small-talk-with-aditi-kaur/>

We have also had many articles in the local newspaper with reference to our work in Chamoli, Dehradun and our MCF CHILDLINE program.

CONCLUSION

2017-18 was an exciting year as we found a new partner in SOIR IM. Although the process took over 6 months, SOIR-IM's approach to development work closely matches that of MCF and we were eager to remain engaged in the area where we had had such success with the CRY program.

At the same time, both our programs in Chamoli — CHEI and E-WaSH — have grown from strength to strength. This year we have seen a visible increase in community support for the anganwadis through the CHEI program. An intensive external review of our work resulted in a very constructive report. The evaluator was very competent and was able to see the smallest of points in our program and provided new directions that we could consider for growth.

We also completed construction activities, including toilets, drinking water facilities, whitewash and painting, for the anganwadis through the E-WaSH program, making the anganwadis safe, vibrant and attractive centers of the community.

In our CHILDLINE program, we have steadily increased our efforts to reach out to children in need of care and protection as well as raising awareness in the larger community. We've also continued our advocacy with the government on behalf of children, particularly the police and the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) departments.

We have also tried our hand at some new initiatives:

- Support from ERC enabled us to start an interesting program on creating better understanding on climate change with our children in villages from our CRY project.
- Our crowd sourcing efforts through small change helped raise funds for our climate change program but it has been hard going as MCF is not a traditional organization and cannot build a per-child cost as we need to work with as many children as possible to initiate change.
- Working with Sonia and Ron at Macalester College has opened up new channels for strengthening our work and further encouraged us that our program works on so many different levels of building trust, questioning the power dimensions and restructuring some power dynamics within the communities.

We continue to be blessed with a strong and committed team. Himani joining us has been a huge boon as she has taken over all the reporting required and also is able to write proposals. And Deepika, one of the original child founders of the MCF, is now leading our CHILDLINE work.

All in all it was a year that gave us growth and hope.

ANNEX 1: BOARD AND GOVERNANCE / YEAR 2017-18

NAME	ADDRESS	NAME OF FATHER/HUSBAND	GENDER	OCCUPATION	DESIGNATION
Ms. Aditi P Kaur	63- A VyomPrasth, G.M.S Road, Dehradun, U.K.	D/o Capt. Joginder Singh	F	GenderSpecialist/ Social Worker	President
Mr. Sunjoy Joshi	C II – 81 First Floor South Extension Part II New Delhi	S/o Late R.L. Joshi	M	Director Observer Research Foundation	Vice President
Ms. KhilaBisht	62, GF, A Block Greenwood City Gurugram Haryana	D/o Late S.S.Bisht	F	Writer/ SocialWorker	Secretary
Mr. Sudhir Bhatt	63- A VyomPrasth, G.M.S Road Dehradun, U.K.	S/o Late Govind Ram Bhatt	M	Social worker	Treasurer
Ms. Kiran Ghosh	24 Rajender Nagar Kaulagarh Road Dehradun, U.K.	W/o Late Manus Ghosh	F	Teacher	Member
Mr. Cyril R Raphael	12/26 Ashirwad Enclave, Dehradun, U.K.	S/o Dr. Stephen C. Raphael	M	Secretary, THT and Chief Advisor-SBMA	Patron
Ms. Shalini Sinha	12 AWHO flats Indira Nagar, Dehradun, U.K.	D/O Ranvir Sinha	F	Artist	Member

CASE STUDY 1 – SUCCESS STORY OF SMC OF VILLAGE CHARBANG, GHAT, CHAMOLI

The village Charbang is situated at about 15 Kilometers from Ghat and consists of 80 families, which are mainly dependent on agriculture. The village has one primary school on which all the younger children in the village depend for their primary schooling. The school has total 43 students.

Till November 2017, the school was run smoothly by two teachers, but the problems started when one of the teachers got promoted and posted to another place. Now the sole responsibility of managing 5 classes was on Smt. Shankari Devi. She lives in the same village and is a sincere and dedicated teacher, but managing a school of this size is beyond the capacity of one person.

On 11th November 2017, Smt. Shankari Devi had some important work at the block office. She did not want to close the school so she phoned Mr. Rajendra Singh, a member of the MCF/Himnotthan field staff, and requested him to run the school on that day. Mr. Rajendra Singh and Mr. Virendra Singh contacted the MCF/Himnotthan field office in Ghat for guidance on this matter. The programme manager and the project coordinator suggested them to take care of the school for today but in future the teacher should not be dependent on them as this is not a permanent solution of the problem. Instead they should inform the school management committee (SMC) members, the village leader and the community members about this situation and motivate them to take necessary action through the SMC, which has the power to mobilize resources for physical and educational development of their school.

Mr. Rajendra Singh and Mr. Virendra Singh asked the SMC members to hold a meeting to address this issue. Though the president of the SMC was not available in the village, the rest of the SMC members and influential people of the village took charge called a meeting. They requested the MCF/Himnotthan staff to be present in the meeting to provide input.

The meeting was held on 14/11/2017 at the primary school, Charbang. Parents of the students studying in the school also participated in the meeting. The MCF/Himnotthan team informed the participants that as per the guidelines of Right to Education Act (RTE), each government primary school should have a minimum of two teachers. In schools with more than 60 students, there must be one teacher for every 30 students. Having only one teacher in the Charbang primary school is not only a clear violation of RTE Act, it is also impeding the education of the students in the school.

The members of the SMC, the parents present in the meeting and the social worker, Shri Bhawan Singh accepted the seriousness of the issue and wrote a letter to the block education office (BEO) in which they clearly emphasized the violation of RTE Act. The responsibility for delivering the letter was entrusted on Shri Bhawan Singh and the Vice President of the SMC. They handed over the letter on 16th

November 2017 to the BEO and the officer assured them he would take necessary action in this regard and asked for one month of time.

The BEO fulfilled his responsibility and a teacher was appointed in the school before completion of one month. Now the school has two teachers as per the requirements of RTE and is functioning smoothly.

CASE STUDY 2 – BANO AND INAM-THE TWO SIBLINGS ARE NOW IN SCHOOL

The story is about the two siblings who are residents of village Mengwala in Vikasnagar block of district Dehradun. The siblings belong to Gujjar family where education, especially for girls, is still not a priority.

While Bano was forced to drop out after class 7, the story of her brother Inam is completely different. Bano had stopped going to school because her mother is very unwell. Her mother wanted her to help her older sister, who also was forced to stop her education, in household chores. The decision was taken much against their will. On the other hand, Inam, the male child of the family had stopped going to school due to lack of interest, but the mother wanted him to continue his studies.

Knowing the situation, the field team decided to intervene. The team visited Bano's house in hope that they will convince the mother and the older brother to send Bano back to school, but the task was not an easy one. The team made several attempts to convince the guardians and also spoke to the teachers in the JHS Rudrapur for Bano's admission. The teachers immediately accepted the request and also promised to arrange scholarship for Bano. The field facilitator informed Bano's mother about the support from the school but next day Bano was again at home working.

On 20th December 2017, the field facilitators again visited the family, this time with the MCF's core team members. All the five people — Aditi.P Kaur, President MCF, Sudhir Bhatt, Programme Coordinator, Pritam Panwar, Field Coordinator, Satyabala Rana and Aarti, Field Facilitators, made efforts to persuade the mother and the elder brother. Finally they agreed to send Bano to the school. It was agreed that next morning that Satyabala would take Bano to the school at 8:30 am and also drop her back at home. The plan was followed and Bano started attending the school again. For the mother the real excitement came when she heard that the team had also influenced Inam and now he is willing to join the school again. The siblings got admission in grade 8th in JHS, Rudrapur.

The MCF team hopes that Bano will be allowed to complete her school education and Inam will develop an interest in his studies.

ANNEX 3: FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The comments below are from community members who have seen the effect of the children's activism and advocacy.

Smt. Usha Devi, President Mata Samiti, Village Fali: "The MCF team told us about monitoring weight of children, their vaccination schedule and the other services delivered through the anganwadi center. They told us that the children in the age group of 3-6 years must attend anganwadi so they can learn to interact with other children and to communicate, which would help them adjust well in school. Moreover those children who are registered in the anganwadi center are eligible to avail other government schemes."

Smt. Bhaga Devi, Anganwadi Worker, Village Sung- "Earlier we had to go door to door for growth monitoring but now parents are bringing their children to the anganwadi center for growth monitoring. The president and the members of the mata samiti became aware of their roles and responsibilities through the meetings conducted by MCF."

Smt. Heera Devi, Village Ustoli- "Whatever the children learn in the meetings of their bal sangathan, they share and discuss the information with each other at home. They discuss that we should keep our surrounding clean and that both girls and boys should share the household chores, then only their rights will be considered equal."

Shri Kutal Singh, Village Luntara- "The information delivered by the MCF about sanitation and hygiene is commendable. People have become aware of sanitation, they are now using dustbins and are disposing off their garbage in proper manner. People have become aware of keeping their water utensils covered. They are now particular about hygiene status of their children. The effort made by the MCF is commendable."

Smt. Sangeeta, Village Kumjug- "I have noticed several changes in Karina since the day she has started attending the anganwadi. She asks me to make her wear clean clothes and comb her hair neatly. I am enjoying the fact that she takes her meals on time and also plays games in the anganwadi center. Whatever she learns in the center, she repeats that at home, which I really enjoy. She appreciates the toys which are available in the center for the children."

Central Himalayan Education Initiative – Uttarakhand
Mountain Children Foundation
Review Report – April 2018
Meeta Srivastava

The **Mountain Children Foundation (MCF)**, through the CHEI project, changed the community perception towards the anganwadi center as being the frontline post for providing important services as well as being a 'vibrant center' for children. It built 'quality standards' at the anganwadi center, strengthened community based organisations and created a strong platform for young adolescents to meet, ideate and bring about change through collective action. It liaised with government line departments and created synergies for better impact.

MCF worked in 20 anganwadi centers. To showcase the impact of the quality intervention, MCF created 5 model anganwadi centers. The model anganwadis provided for a quality environment conforming with the needs of children and requirements for a constructive early childhood development. The anganwadi worker, through the CHEI – MCF project, had been empowered to become an early childhood educator. A trained project volunteer, supported her for 5 days a week. The anganwadi worker was also trained to weigh infants and children correctly, to identify malnourished children and provide effective counselling to their parents. Through the project, the anganwadi workers brought about transparency by sharing information with the community on the 'take home ration, cooked food, faulty weighing machines' and reasons for delay. Due to the raised quality content, there was motivation among parents to send their children to the anganwadis. The model anganwadis functioned effectively on indicators such as teaching learning material, program duration, classroom processes of ECE, transaction of ECE activities as well as providing the 6 services. The other 15 anganwadi centers were provided with volunteer support for one day a week. These anganwadi centers, like the model anaganwadi, followed a well-designed ECE time-table and used the TLMs effectively. However, the impact in the anganwadi center to a great extent depended on the profile of the key functionary, the anganawadi worker, her qualifications, experience, skills, attitude and training. In some anganwadis, despite the support provided through this project, the anganwadi worker did not demonstrate a proactive attitude. It was evident that in such a scenario, MCF needed to shift its strategy and provide extended support to these anganwadis by withdrawing support from the already established and better functioning model anganwadis. Currently, all anganwadis need to be graded on the basis of quality indicators and support provided accordingly, so that all 20 anganwadis can demonstrate quality standards.

MCF revived the defunct Mata Samitis and turned it into a monitoring body that was aware of its roles and responsibilities and viewed the anganwadis as an important service for their children. The Mata Samitis showed involvement in the functioning of the anganwadis, held regular meetings, ensured that children went to the center, observed 'wazan diwas' at the anganwadi center, checked the quality of the

cooked food, enquired about the 'take home ration' (THR) as well as sent letters to the ICDS department for the repair of faulty weighing machines and delayed THR. The growth in the Mata Samiti has been immense, however, it needs to be strengthened to play a much more independent, responsive role as well as display a sense of ownership towards the anganwadi.

MCF's core strength, the bal sangathans, were formed and galvanized to build a relationship with the community and gain their cooperation and involvement towards the project. The bal sangathans worked to bring about a huge attitudinal shift with their sanitation and hygiene initiative, in 20 villages. MCF built a robust network with the government line departments and used this relationship to leverage better synergies for the project.

This initiative to work with anganwadis to improve quality of care and education to children under the age of 6, resulting in enhanced school readiness, has potential, has been effective and backed by efficiencies. The intervention should continue to deepen its impact and spread its coverage through direct as well as handholding support, to anganwadis. MCF should utilize its experience of working with the anganwadis. The time is right as the Ministry of Women and Child Development, in September 2017 stated that it focuses to widen the role of anganwadis, with an emphasis to convert anganwadis into a center for 'pre-school education'. The team will require an advanced Early Childhood Education training and the senior team will need to build specific skills and efficiencies to monitor and manage the program of a larger scale.

ANNEX 5: COLLABORATION WITH MACALESTER COLLEGE

The MCF and a Global Education Studies class at Macalester College,(Minnesota, USA) are collaborating to provide after-school learning activities to 16 villages in the Uttarakhand.

These materials cover grades three and four in English, Mathematics and Environmental Science.

Twenty students in Sonia Mehta’s class, ‘Building Trust: Education in Global Perspective,’ studied the reform proposal for quality, accessible education in the Himalayan region. They then worked in groups to put together learning activity designs for the village children. These activities have been carefully designed keeping the context and environment and the lived realities of the mountain children as well as aligned the activities with the learning outcomes given by the NCERT of India. Aditi Kaur, director of the MCF, has been our partner in the conceptualization of this project, and has closely participated in online discussions with the class, answering questions, sharing research, baseline studies, as well as opening up a window into these remote areas of the Himalayan foothills. Aditi shared pictures and videos of schools in the villages, pictures and audio files of several discussions around the problems faced by children in the region.

Aditi Kaur and the MCF are the first participants in an education studies innovative program called ‘*The World in the Classroom*’ initiated by Sonia Mehta with the support of Ron Joslin at the Macalester Dewitt Wallace Library.

For the first time in a course like this, Macalester students met with Aditi over real-time video conference (a night class for the students and an early morning session for Aditi). The college provided their ‘Zoom’ video conference technology for this purpose.

Macalester students have created learning ‘kits’ that can be used anywhere in these villages for after-school programs that would possibly be run by the bal sangathans put together by the MCF.

These learning kits are designed around the unique challenges of the mountain children

Components of the Learning Resource and Activity Designs

- **The Learning Activity:**

Appropriate for grades 3 and 4. Using the ‘learning objectives’ handout to determine the learning outcomes of the activity, students designed the activity to be 20-30 min in total or less. Their Guidelines: Make it fun, joyful, interesting, motivating. Should not need too many outside resources.

- **Teacher/Facilitator Instructions:**

Students at Macalester have created ‘guides’ for those conducting the learning activity, for those helping to conduct the learning activity. These facilitators may not be teachers. Their Guidelines: Simple, easy to follow, clear instructions.

- **Evaluation Device:**

Students used their designs to also create non-threatening devices and activities to evaluate the learning that has taken place. Their Guidelines: Simple, easy to follow, inclusive and diversified.

- **Disability Component:**

The groups also created an addition to their learning activity, the Guide and the Evaluation that is appropriate for children with disabilities.

- **The Subject Fair:**

As a final part of the kit, the students also brainstormed ideas around an interactive ‘showcase’ activity to highlight learning and pride in the subjects (Maths, English and Environmental Science). As part of a community trust-building exercise, as well as to legitimate the after-school program, the village children will hold a ‘Maths Mela’ (Fair), an ‘English Mela’ and an ‘Environmental Science Mela’. Guideline around this activity ranged around answering the following questions: How will the children show off their skills? What can they do to draw in the community: parents, village elders and government officials?

The collaboration will continue over the next year, for the same subjects, with a new class of Macalester students working on the next set of learning activities.

Sonia Mehta, Ph. D
100 Neill Hall
Education Studies
Macalester College
1600 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.

MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
63-A, Vyom Prasth, GMS Road, Dehradun

Balance Sheet as on March 31, 2018

SOURCES OF FUNDS	Schedule	₹
Funds		
Corpus Fund	1	847,100
General Fund	2	1,157,711
Restricted Funds	3	796,284
Current Liabilities		
Expenses Payable		6,387
Provisions		100,765
TOTAL		<u><u>2,908,247</u></u>
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
Fixed Assets	4	449,681
Investments		
Investment in Fixed Deposits with Bank	5	1,960,250
Current Assets, Loans and Advances		
Bank Accounts	6	448,176
Prepaid Taxes		30,975
Prepaid Expenses		8,296
Amount Receivable		4,179
Cash in Hand		5,690
Security Deposit		1,000
TOTAL		<u><u>498,316</u></u> <u><u>2,908,247</u></u>

Notes to Accounts

15

Schedules referred above form an integral part of financial statements
For and on behalf of Mountain Children's Foundation


Aditi P. Kaur
(President)


Sudhir Bhatt
(Treasurer)

As per our Report of even date,
For DEEPAK INDU JAIN & CO.
Chartered Accountants




DEEPAK JAIN
Partner

Place : Dehradun
Date : Aug 8, 2018

Mem # 408718, FRN # 014247C

MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

63-A, Vyom Prasth, GMS Road, Dehradun

Income & Expenditure account for the year ended March 31, 2018

INCOME	Schedule	₹
Grant in Aid		7,999,653
General Donation		758,587
Interest Income		163,605
TOTAL		8,921,845
EXPENSES		
Boarding & Lodging Expenses	7	415,843
Payroll Expenses	8	4,535,438
Travel & Conveyance Expenses	9	658,039
Workshop, Projects & Meeting Expenses	10	1,079,050
Resource Material, Printing & Stationery	11	385,412
Office Administrative Expenses	12	115,487
Telephone Expenses	13	96,712
Infrastructure Expenses	14	192,092
Depreciation Expenses	4	82,958
TOTAL		7,561,031
Surplus/(Deficit) before Fund Transfer		1,360,814
Less: Transfer to Restricted Fund to the extent of grant received		7,999,653
Less: Transfer to Restricted Fund to the extent of Interest earned		138,448
Add: Transfer from Restricted Fund to the extent of expenditure		6,809,773
Net Surplus Carried to Balance Sheet		32,486

Notes to Accounts**15**

Schedules referred above form an integral part of financial statements

For and on behalf of Mountain Children's Foundation


Aditi P. Kaur
(President)




Sudhir Bhatt
(Treasurer)



As per our Report of even date.
For DEEPAK INDU JAIN & CO.
Chartered Accountants




DEEPAK JAIN
Partner

Place : Dehradun

Date : Aug 8, 2018

Memo # 408718, FRN # 014247C

MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

63-A, Vyom Prasth, GMS Road, Dehradun

Schedules forming part of the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2018

							₹	
1 Corpus Fund								
Opening Balance							747,100	
Add: Received during the year							100,000	
Closing Balance							<u>847,100</u>	
2 General Fund								
	Apr 1,	Receipts	Utilisation	Amt Trf			31-Mar-18	
General Fund	1,012,265	32,486		30,752			1,013,999	
Fixed Asset Capital Fund	5,879	145,561	7,728				143,712	
Closing Balance	<u>1,018,144</u>	<u>178,047</u>	<u>7,728</u>	<u>30,752</u>			<u>1,157,711</u>	
3 Restricted Funds								
	01.04.17	Receipts	Interest	Utilisation	Amt Trf	Mar 31, 2018		
Childine	(478,146)	1,911,346	-	1,190,546	-	242,654		
Grant Himmothan	86,647	3,800,000	102,732	3,643,758	112,527	233,094		
SCA	(46,990)	41,544	-	-	(5,446)	-		
Nuclues Software Founda	-	100,000	-	-	-	100,000		
CRY	15,964	-	-	-	15,964	-		
ICA	27,511	324,147	-	319,393	-	32,265		
ERC	-	50,000	-	28,200	-	21,800		
E-Wash	(13,985)	863,926	33,355	735,942	-	147,354		
SOIR	-	908,690	2,361	891,934	-	19,117		
	<u>(408,999)</u>	<u>7,999,653</u>	<u>138,448</u>	<u>6,809,773</u>	<u>123,045</u>	<u>796,284</u>		
4 Fixed Assets								
<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>WDV</i>	<i>Additions</i>			<i>Closing</i>	<i>Dep</i>	<i>WDV</i>
		<i>as on</i>				<i>Balance</i>	<i>for the</i>	<i>as on</i>
		<i>01.04.17</i>	<i>Before</i>	<i>After</i>	<i>Deleti</i>	<i>31.03.16</i>	<i>year</i>	<i>31.03.18</i>
					<i>on</i>			
Office Equipment	15%	95,934	4,240	2,530	-	102,704	15,216	87,488
Computers and Printers	40%	49,777	-	40,285	-	90,062	27,969	62,093
Furniture & Fixture	10%	109,492	-	3,068	-	112,560	11,103	101,457
Vehicle	15%	155,011	-	72,256	-	227,267	28,670	198,597
Donated Assets		46	-	-	-	46	-	46
		<u>410,260</u>	<u>4,240</u>	<u>118,139</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>532,639</u>	<u>82,958</u>	<u>449,681</u>
5 Investments								
Investment in Auto Sweep FDs							1,450,006	
Investment in FDRs							463,753	
Interest Accrued on FDR							46,491	
							<u>1,960,250</u>	
6 Bank Accounts								
PNB- Forum A/C- 9387							244,618	
PNB Foundation A/C - 4002							187,557	
SIB A/c 3943- SOIR							19,117	
South Indian Bank Account # 483							(6,203)	
PNB Ghat # 28050							3,348	
PNB Ghat # 45045							(77,457)	
PNB ECS A/C 8343							77,196	
							<u>448,176</u>	

***Note**

Negative Balance in Bank Account represent excess cheques issued to parties but not presented in bank for clearing.



MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
63-A, Vyom Prasth, GMS Road, Dehradun

Schedules forming part of the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2018

	₹
7 Boarding & Lodging Expenses	
Traning of Staff - Food Exps	13,791
Monitoring Board & Lodging Expenses	9,300
Monitoring - Food Expenses	15,617
Food Expenses	32,827
Boarding & Lodging - Workshop	341,808
Venue Charges	2,500
	<u>415,843</u>
8 Payroll Expenses	
Staff Salary	4,535,438
	<u>4,535,438</u>
9 Travel & Conveyance Expenses	
Travel and Conveyance Expenses	269,806
Travel Field Staff	144,740
Travel during Workshop Activities	243,493
	<u>658,039</u>
10 Workshop, Projects & Meeting Expenses	
Client Related Expenses	67,896
Aanganwadi Training TLM Upgradation	8,000
Training Expenses	24,677
Model Aangawadi	74,068
Workshop, Projects & Meeting Expenses	118,050
Village Level Activity Expenses	575,919
Resource Person Fee	26,000
Resource Person Fee & Travel	43,000
Refreshment Expenses	74,968
Awareness Material	19,672
Data Entry of Survey	45,000
Village Level Mela	1,800
	<u>1,079,050</u>
11 Resource Material, Printing & Stationery	
PABAM Magazine Printing & Designing	286,571
Printing & Stationery Expenses	98,841
	<u>385,412</u>
12 Office Administrative Expenses	
Audit Fee Expenses	25,000
Office, Communication and Postage Expenses	84,789
Penalties and Interest Paid	2
Bank Charges	5,696
	<u>115,487</u>
13 Telephone Expenses	
Telephone & Mobile	94,745
Telephone-TATA	1,967
	<u>96,712</u>



MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
63-A, Vyom Prasth, GMS Road, Dehradun

Schedules forming part of the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2018

	₹
14 Infrastructure Expenses	
Rent, Rates and Taxes	114,000
Vehicle Running and Maintenance Expense	32,169
Computer Maintenance Expenses	12,405
Electricity and Water Charges	21,340
Repair & Maintenance Expenses	9,055
Insurance Expenses	3,123
	<u>192,092</u>

