

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



ELFA
INTERNATIONAL

ABOUT US

ELFA International is an independent and impartial Aid and Development organization working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. Working alongside YOUTH, WOMEN, CHILDREN and other vulnerable groups, our action and testimony are focused on responding to their essential needs, improving their living conditions and promoting respect for their Economic and Social Dignity and their fundamental Rights. ELFA International is Not-For-Profit organization with no Religious or political affiliation. It operates as an independent association believing in partnering with likeminded people and organizations, donors that provide it with human and financial resources, manage its projects and implement its actions and social mission.

CEO'S MESSAGE

We're proud to be working with a wide range of dedicated caring individuals and organizations. Our strength since the inception has

This year has been full of EXCITEMENTS and FULFILLMENTS,

been our dedicated, sincere, enthusiastic and experienced volunteers, team members, board members and advisory board members.

This year we have implemented a range of activities like,

1. Capacity Building of Civil Society Members
2. Training of Teachers and Students on Inclusion and Community Participation
3. Training of Government, Non-Government Officials and Community Members on Inclusive Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation
4. Youth Leadership, Peace and Prosperity
5. Advocacy at Different Levels on Promoting Inclusive Education
6. Livelihood and Women Empowerment
7. Awareness Programs on Drug De-Addiction



- 8. Child Safety and Protection
- 9. Youth Development & Sports
- 10. Environmental Education
- 11. Global Leadership Program (USA, Delhi and Kashmir)

I sincerely thank all our partners and donors to have shown faith and confidence in us. It is only because of their support that we could reach out and support 1000s of people this year.

Our dream is to provide/ensure Inclusive Quality Education to every child and create avenues for the Sustainable Livelihood for women, youth and people affected by disasters and conflicts. I request all our partners/donors to support us in realising our noble cause/dream.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neha Anandhan', written in a cursive style.

Founder and CEO

ELFA INTERNATIONAL

MISSION & VALUES

ELFA INTERNATIONAL is working to bring positive changes in the lives of YOUTH, WOMEN, CHILDREN and other vulnerable groups by promoting access to QUALITY Inclusive Education, Livelihood Income Generating Opportunities, Social and Economic DIGNITY, VALUES. We believe that our partners (STAKEHOLDERS) are the most important people for us, We promote and respect honesty, commitment, integrity, constructive criticism, positive work environment and appreciate efforts of every individual and organization associated with the organization.

VISION

Education and Livelihood for all Work as a catalyst in bringing sustainable change in the lives of under-privileged children, youth and women, with a life cycle approach of development.

WORKING MODEL

ELFA INTERNATIONAL's theory of change, operational strategy and framework for measuring results are being finalised after discussion with stakeholders and evaluating the end results. This is done by third party evaluators and the progress and impact tracking is carried out with detailed baseline. This is being taken in all fields of action then only the progress report commenced. ELFA INTERNATIONAL is a Jammu & Kashmir based humanitarian organization supporting thousands of people including children, youth and women annually through various projects on different thematic areas like inclusive and peace education, livelihood, food security and quality agro-farming, youth and community development and support system, women empowerment and advocacy and public policy engagement across the state of Jammu & Kashmir.



GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Credibility and accountability have always been the bench mark for ELFA INTERNATIONAL and are achieved through the promotion of principles of good governance in the processes and practices. ELFA INTERNATIONAL has a transparent model to ensure the impact and utilization of funds, including the external audit system in place. The entire management processes and practices of ELFA INTERNATIONAL are in compliance with the principles of transparent governance.

INCLUSIVE & PEACE EDUCATION

Target Achieved : 1176

| Inclusive & Peace Education | Child Safety & Protection |

ELFA INTERNATIONAL believes that education is both the means as well as the end to better life: the means because it empowers an individual to earn his/her livelihood and the end: because it increases ones awareness on a range of issues from healthcare to appropriate social behaviour to understand ones rights and in the process help him/her evolve as better citizen.

Education is the most effective tool which helps build a strong foundation; enabling them to free themselves from vicious cycle of ignorance, poverty and disease. We must realize it that education for children cannot be achieved without the family, particularly unless the mother is assured of healthcare and be empowered.

Moreover when an elder sibling is educated and relevantly skilled to be employable and begins earning, the journey of empowerment continues beyond the present generation. Education cannot happen in isolation and nothing else but education for children can bring long lasting change in society.

This year we have organized several play-shops on Children & Change, Child Safety & Protection, Awareness Programs on Child Rights and Entitlements, Training to Teachers and Parents, Support (including furniture, notebooks, stationery, sports equipments, winter clothing) to several schools across the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Organization adopted 7 schools in the outskirts of Srinagar district, Fakir Gujri and completed supported these schools. Organization also organized the first ever Inclusive NAAT conference in which children with/without disabilities across the state of Jammu and Kashmir participated







ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION

Target Achieved :250

| Environmental Education & Protection |

ELFA International organized a massive town hall program in collaboration with six government departments including LAWDA, State Disaster Management Department, Health, SMC, Police and non government organizations, schools, institutions and activist to identify and address the issues concerning the environmental degradation, organization also organized several workshops and massive Dal Lake cleaning drives in collaboration with Global Citizen Journey USA, several local schools, organizations and institutions. Organization believes in involving activists, students, government and non government organizations and local community members to address the environmental issues and also make efforts to save Dal Lake the crown of Srinagar city. Organization also planted 1000s of trees in district Kupwara, Srinagar and Pulwama involving various stakeholders



LIVELIHOOD

Target Achieved :260

| Quality Agro-Farming | Skill

Transforming rural lives is about making the poorer lot to thrive with vibrant opportunity, where residents experience hope, opportunity and scope for advancing their life style. This is where communities take ownership of their development and lead the process of change creating regenerative sustenance. We must realize it that education for children cannot be achieved without the family earnings. Moreover when an elder sibling is educated and relevantly skilled to be employable and begins earning, the journey of empowerment continues beyond the present generation.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

As agricultural society it becomes mandatory to earn enough for the families. Our target is people in the community we have capacity to have subsistence farming, make and preserve the seeds, so that they do not require paying exorbitant prices and don't get swayed. ELFA INTERNATIONAL has set up pilot projects in many communities in district Baramulla and Kupwara to strengthen community actions and respond to demands. The project helped 250 families to increase their income, provide nutritional food to their children and also promoted social & economic dignity for these families, organization also supported several young girls by providing them sewing machines, equipment for their small units and training on cutting & tailoring



LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

Target Achieved :2152

| Capacity Development | HAND IN HAND | Action For Youth |

The Youth of Jammu & Kashmir are facing a number of problems like unemployment, Drug Abuse, Psychological Disorders etc. The prolonged conflict in the state has added considerably and worsened such problems. No major steps have been taken so far to address the various issues faced by the youth, thus leading them to hopelessness. ELFA INTERNATIONAL through its expertise and efforts has tried to reach out to the youth, using HAND in HAND approach in various districts of Jammu & Kashmir. ELFA INTERNATIONAL organized several training workshops/programs for the youth in partnership with various schools colleges and universities and Government/ Non-Government Agencies in different districts of state on Youth Leadership, Conflict Resolution, Compassionate Listening and Belief System. ELFA International organized several sports activities for the Youth of Jammu and Kashmir including Volley Ball Matches, Downtown Cricket League (DCL). This helped in addressing and combating the various problems faced by the youth including stress, hopelessness, and lack of opportunities of employment and like. ELFA INTERNATIONAL also organized first of its kind, "17 day long Global Leadership Program, in this program 12 American and 12 local delegates from J&K stayed together for a period of 17 days and implemented several mini-projects, including Support to Schools, Youth Town Hall, Cleaning of Dal Lake, Gender Dialogue, Youth Dialogues and much more





WOMEN LEADERSHIP AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Target Achieved :1997

| Capacity Development | HAND IN HAND | Action For Youth |

ELFA International this year started an international campaign for Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls with a title, "Orange the World". Under this campaign a series of workshops were organized in different schools, colleges and universities of Jammu and Kashmir, this was first of its kind in the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, organized also produced a video on the same campaign in which organization's team members, volunteers, mentors and board members across the Globe recorded their video messages and urged women to speak-up and the video was title as, "Time's Now: Speak Up"

ELFA International organized a series of workshops on Women Leadership in different schools, colleges and university of Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with different government departments, thousands of students, teachers and community members attended these workshops. Organization received several awards and letters of appreciation for this program from different schools, colleges, academies, universities and government organization, organization is committed to continue these workshops in future as well.

INCLUSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (IDRR)

Target Achieved :2152

| Trainings & Capacity Building |

The state of Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a long history of natural disasters, ranging from catastrophic earthquakes to destructive floods, blizzards to avalanches, landslides to wind storms, all owing to its peculiar topography, rugged terrains, extreme weather conditions, and unique geographical and geo-climatic settings. On 8th October 2005, the state experienced earthquake of magnitude 7.6, which resulted in thousands of deaths and injuries, more than 24,000 houses were fully damaged. The state witnessed devastating floods in September 2014 killing almost 300 people and damaged over 2, 50,000 houses fully or severally. The floods affected almost all the districts of the state. More than 5, 50,000 people were displaced. ELFA INTERNATIONAL has trained schools/ college/university students, faculty members and government & non-government officials in inclusive disaster risk reduction across the state of Jammu & Kashmir. After achieving the targeted goals and overwhelming support from stakeholders





GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Target Achieved : 24

| Capacity Development | HAND IN HAND | Action For Youth |

ELFA International organized a 17 day long Global Leadership Program in collaboration with Global Citizens Journey (GCJ) – United States of America (USA) during the month of October 2018. The program was first of its kind in the Kashmir valley, the program was attended by 24 delegates, 12 Americans and 12 local delegates from Jammu & Kashmir and Maharashtra. The purpose of this program was to have understanding of the cross cultural issues, peace & reconciliation and identifying & training Global Leaders. Under this program delegates also, had a series of meetings with the different stakeholders, organized a grand town-hall program, conducted a massive Dal Lake Cleaning Drive in collaboration with 6 government departments, distributed furniture, stationery, sweets, sports items, water purifiers, warm cloths, near vision eye glasses among the students of 6 government schools in Fakir Gujri area of Srinagar district. Delegates are in touch with each other through different mediums and are planning follow up visits and program, the CEO of ELFA International in May 2019 visited United State of America (USA) and had follow up meetings & discussions with most of the American delegates.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Target Achieved : 1997

| Public Policy Engagement | Campaign against Overcrowding in Busses | Kashmir | Anti- Harassment Initiatives for Woman |

ELFA INTERNATIONAL has partnered with State Government and other stakeholders to strengthen community actions and respond to the demands, bring multiple actors and thematic sectors to collectively work in synergy, engagement in the integration of gender elements and capacity development of colleges, schools and universities students and faculty members and community based organizations (CBOs) NGOs. This year we achieved a significant milestone by addressing the most challenging civic issues of women rights and equal participation, overcrowding in public transport, harassment of women/girl students in buses

Multidimensional quality life change, economic development, healthcare, primary education, environmental protection gender equality and local governance are inter connected. So its irreversible graduation requires simultaneous movement across all the dimensions for its sustainable change.

Inter-sectoral collaboration between government, society and all other stake holders like communities, CSOs, expert organizations and donors synergize best practices by coming together on one platform in resolving the challenges of transformation. ELFA INTERNATIONAL throughout the year organized several events, meetings and workshops to discuss and address the issue faced by women of Jammu & Kashmir.



ADVOCACY & PUBLIC POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Target Achieved : 10608

| Public Policy Engagement | Inclusive & Peace Education | Inclusion | Anti -Drug Initiative for Youth | Community & Civil Society Development | Media advocacy | Events & Campaigns |

Joint ground action with public of Government like the traffic police against overcrowding of public transport buses and harassment of women and girl students in these busses resulted into a ground breaking initiative of 2018-19. Emergency initiatives like organizing meetings and creating public opinion against Braid-chopping in Kashmir and rights based issues acquired a centre stage in the main engagements of ELFA INTERNATIONAL this financial year.

ELFA INTERNATIONAL is planning to extend its outreach service in other part of the state of Jammu & Kashmir where more women and children are waiting for the support to fight more complex issues of education like female dropout, inclusive education landmine/conflict affected children and computer education.

We continue to consolidate our work on improving the lives of children and women affected by unrest in Kashmir and supporting the state in disaster risk reduction and rescue initiatives.

ELFA INTERNATIONAL believes that the responsibility of social and economic development lies not only with the government, but requires equal participation from the civil society. ELFA INTERNATIONAL aims at sensitizing the privileged section of society through advocacy child related issues and also seeks to involve them in the process of development. The participation in turn brings about qualitative change in the lives of under privileged people. When community decides on priorities, sets goals, harness and commit internal resources, draft plans and put in place mechanism to achieve their goals then only multi-dimensional and transformative change becomes possible. The journey of development since the humble beginning in 2016 is almost unbelievable. We finished 2018-2019 with new initiatives and with long lasting impact and changes.

ELFA INTERNATIONAL supports the government administration to undertake local actions involving media, civil society for generating the public opinion.

Media advocacy, public gatherings, campaigns and events are some of the main policy engagement activities which ELFA INTERNATIONAL utilizes to accomplish such objectives.

For events, awareness and mobilizing the public opinion ELFA INTERNATIONAL has coordinated with local actors and media organizations, radio stations like FM 92.7 BIG FM, DD KASHIR, local print media, social media etc.

ELFA INTERNATIONAL periodically organizes and participates in sensitization events and public campaigns to sensitize the civil society and government agencies of existing disparities in our society and engage them as change agents.



This year too it was marked various campaigns and events/seminars like Women's Day, Mother's Day, Teachers Day, Drug de-addiction campaigns protection issues and disability issues in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and across. Meetings with religious scholars etc ELFA INTERNATIONAL got overwhelming response from mass media in sensitizing the society about the cause of under privileged. Besides several talk shows and advocacy interviews on leading television channels and radio stations numerous newspapers, magazines, online publications came forward and voiced their support with ELFA INTERNATIONAL'S shared vision.

ELFA INTERNATIONAL extended its thematic areas of intervention by supporting human and civic, livelihood and women empowerment. Children, youth, their families and community become the target group for ELFA INTERNATIONAL'S activities.





CEO, ELFA International with United States of America Ambassador (INDIA)



AWARDS RECOGNITIONS & DONATIONS

ELFA International has received several awards and letters of recommendations from State and National government and non government organizations and institutions including best voluntary organization in India Award, the CEO of the organization received several awards this year including International Noble Citizen Award in New Delhi





INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERISM

There are more than 1.2 billion young people (defined by the United Nations as between 15 and 24 years of age) in the world today, the largest group in history. Young people are key agents for social change, and are providing the energy, creative ideas and determination to drive innovation and reform. Volunteerism is an important and increasingly popular mechanism for young people to bring out positive change in society, and it is becoming more and more relevant mechanism to engage young people in global peace and sustainable human development. For instance, as governments, United Nations entities and civil society organizations debate and articulate the post-2015 development agenda, there is a strong call for a bottom-up process in which young people's voices are included and youth are actively engaged in the process, and volunteering is a viable mechanism for this. Young people increasingly feel that the volunteerism complements formal education in teaching the skills that are required for job market, such as leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, planning, management, creativity, communication and negotiation. This is especially important given the current global economic downturn, where competition for jobs is increasing. We at ELFA INTERNATIONAL promote volunteerism and encourage people to associate with us, in case you are interested please contact us on vontees@elfainternational.org



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