



## Literacy for Women

### Overview

Bible Society Australia is partnering with Bible Society in the Gulf (BSG) to empower marginalised Sri Lankan domestic workers living in Bahrain with essential literacy skills.

### The Need

Illiteracy is a significant problem among the Sri Lankan domestic workers in Bahrain, whose exact numbers are not publicly available. Although most Sri Lankans are Buddhist, after they live in Bahrain for some time, many become Christians. Though it is hard to determine the number of Sri Lankan Christians, Sinhala churches want to empower their non literate members to read God's word.

Migrant domestic workers, often unrecognised formally in Arab countries, face discrimination based on various factors like gender, race, origin, social status, religion, and migration status. They confront numerous challenges, including low wages, delayed payment, long hours, inadequate time-off, lack of social protection, poor living conditions, and various forms of abuse, highlighting the need for justice.



# 1.48m

people live in Bahrain

# 50%

of Bahrain's population are thought to be migrant workers (the non-Bahraini population is 52.2%)

# 12%

of the population are Christians [2022]

**"Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge."**

Proverbs 23:12, NIV

# Goals

The goal of this project is to empower illiterate or semi-literate Sri Lankan domestic workers to read, to help them reach their potential as individuals and valuable community members, and to connect with God's word effectively.

BSG is dedicated to serving Sinhala churches, whose congregations are primarily composed of domestic workers. The goal of this project is foster emerging, improving, and fluent literacy skills within this community. BSG aims to promote literacy and empower women with the knowledge needed to read the Bible.

2024 will be a planning year, where the literacy program is prepared. BSG will engage with the community, develop partnerships, consult with a literacy specialist, and plan curriculum, materials, and training for facilitators. Training for literacy staff will take place from July – September, and teacher training from October – December.

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# Impact

Beneficiaries of this project will improve their literacy skills, which will impact their daily lives as they are able to read their employment contracts, do basic calculations for money management, and avoid being exploited.

In addition to this, for migrant workers in the Gulf seeking hope and forgiveness through the gospel, learning to read means they can engage with the Bible and its message of God's love. Their lives will be transformed as a result of this interaction with the word of God.

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# Prayer Needs

- Please pray for BSG as they gain an understanding of the principles behind literacy practices, program planning, research, and implementation.
- Please pray for appropriate trainers to be identified to help in the capacity-building efforts and training.