

Pakistan



Light Through Literacy

Project: 63906
Tax Deductible



58.8m

non-literate adults in Pakistan

64%

of women in Pakistan are literate

34%

of Pakistani Christian women are literate

Overview

Pakistan Bible Society (PBS) established this literacy program in 2014, providing Bible-based literacy classes for non-literate Pakistani women. Bible Society believes that when a woman is taught to read and write, she becomes a 'beacon of light' to her community, with the word of God.

The Need

The literacy rate for women in Pakistan is very low, especially for Christian women living in villages and slums. This is largely due to the social structure that suppresses women's rights. Without the basic skills of reading and writing, social and economic opportunities are limited for women.

Women's literacy rates vary throughout the country — from over 60 per cent in the capital city of Islamabad, to less than 20 per cent in some rural areas. Overall, millions are lacking this important life skill.

Being a non-literate typically leads to further marginalisation in households, workplaces, and communities. Non-literate women in Pakistan are often restricted to inferior positions at work and an inferior social standing.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- Proverbs 1:7, NIV

Goals

This project aims to empower women by providing literacy skills for life, fostering personal development, and influencing their families and communities positively. Women will also gain spiritual growth through a deeper understanding of the Bible.

In 2025, the goal is to reach 3,000 women across literacy groups. PBS will meet with Church leaders, assess the literacy rate among the women in the area, determine the number of classes need, conduct teacher training and baseline assessments. PBS will also facilitate eyesight test for new students and will provide glasses as required.

Classes will run for nine months, with at least 20 students per class across 350 classes in remote areas. In 2025, PBS also plan to begin an Evaluation Program by an external organisation, to assess areas for improvement and opportunities to scale up the project. The classes will focus on reading, writing, mathematics, and health lessons from a medical guide in the syllabus.

Impact

Over 10 years (2014-2023) 57,964 women have graduated through this project, gaining invaluable literacy skills to improve their lives and those of their families. The average Pakistani family consists of five members, which means at least 289,820 people have been indirectly impacted through the project so far.

In 2025, the project aims to reach 3000 vulnerable women, with an indirect impact of 17,500 people. This project primarily impacts Christian Pakistani women whose Christian faith is not always welcomed. The project aspires to help these women become educated citizens, good income earners, competent Bible readers, and have the motivation to send their children to school for education. Further to this, equipping this target group will strengthen Christian families and empower women to develop spiritually and take on the mandate to reach others, beginning with their families.

The support and involvement of the Pakistani Church from across denominations in project has been strong.

Testimony

"In January 2024 the women's literacy classes started in our area ... I was surprised when the Pakistan Bible Society staff visited us with the medical team and checked our eyesight. The doctor recommended using the vision glasses they gave me ... I am thankful to the Lord and the PBS for providing us such an opportunity to learn to read and write which will help to boost our status in society ... I will definitely send my children to school even if we face hardship and will help them in studies." — Sima, mother of three*

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

Prayer Points

- Pray that program participants will quickly embrace the new teaching available to them and be impacted by God's word.
- Please pray that partner churches will continue to respond positively to the program and have an impact in their community.
- Pray for wisdom and for the safety of Bible Society staff working on this project.