

Light Through Literacy



Project: 63906
Tax-Deductible

Pakistan

Overview

Bible Society Australia is supporting Pakistan Bible Society (PBS) to help non-literate women gain practical reading, writing and numeracy skills that lift everyday life — managing household costs, supporting children’s schooling and improving access to services. Bible-based classes run locally with trained teachers, simple primers and regular assessments so women can progress with confidence. As women read more, families benefit and communities grow stronger. Learning literacy also opens the door to engage with Scripture in Urdu in home and church settings.



The Need

In Pakistan, women, especially those in low-income urban settlements and rural districts, have fewer opportunities to learn basic literacy. This limits their participation in work, access to information and services, and confidence to advocate for their family needs. Christian minority communities in Pakistan often face compounding disadvantage through poverty and social marginalisation, which depresses women’s literacy further. Alongside local churches and community partners, these literacy classes provide women with a culturally safe pathway to begin learning, build their skills and graduate with practical literacy for everyday life.

- **Around 60 million** adults in Pakistan are non-literate
- **48%** of women in Pakistan are non-literate
- **66%** of Pakistani Christian women are non-literate (from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics’ Population Census of 2017)

Goals

In 2026, Pakistan Bible Society aims to reach 2,500 learners through approximately 250 classes led by trained teachers over nine months. The program will run baseline assessments, teacher training and partner meetings; supply primers and supplementary reading; and provide eyesight checks with spectacles for learners who need them. At least 2,000 women are expected to graduate with functional reading, writing and numeracy skills, with post-literacy follow-up to sustain progress. External monitoring and evaluation with partners will continue to support quality and improvement.

This project aims to provide women with literacy skills for life, fostering personal development, influencing their families and communities positively and leading to spiritual growth through a deeper understanding of the Bible.

Impact

This long-running program has helped tens of thousands of women build practical literacy that strengthens families and improves daily decision-making. Across 2014–2025, 38,000 women have graduated through this project.

The project helps Christian Pakistani women, whose Christian faith is not always welcomed, become educated citizens, good income earners, competent Bible readers, and send their children to school. Christian families are strengthened as women develop spiritually and take on the mandate to reach

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

In 2025, program partners reported increased confidence among new readers to manage expenses, support children's study and participate more fully in community life. Supplementary materials were printed and distributed to help maintain fluency, alongside Scripture resources for those who choose to read them in family and church settings.

Impact in Numbers

1,822

women participated in around 100 literacy classes in 2025.

7,450

Scripture resources and 5,600 supplementary reading materials were printed and distributed to graduates and classes.

Testimony

"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.

How Your Support Helps

\$15

helps provide a pair of reading spectacles for a learner who needs them.

\$90

helps contribute to one month of a literacy teacher's stipend.

\$820

helps cover a teacher's stipend for a full 9-month course.

'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.' — **Proverbs 1:7, NIV**