



63906 - Pakistan  
Project Fact Sheet 2022

# Pakistan: A Beacon in the Darkness of Illiteracy

## Overview

Bible Society Pakistan established this literacy program in 2014 and have been providing Bible-based literacy classes for illiterate Pakistani women since then. Bible Society believe that if 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 current literacy rate for women in Pakistan is one of the lowest in the world, largely due to the social structure that suppresses women's rights. Without the basic skill of reading and writing, social and economic opportunities are limited for women.

Women's literacy rates vary throughout the country – from 60+ per cent in the capital city of Islamabad, to less than 20 per cent in some rural areas.

Overall, millions are lacking this life skill. Christian women, who mostly live in these rural areas and slums, are most likely illiterate.

Being illiterate typically leads to further marginalisation in households, workplaces, and communities. Illiterate women in Pakistan are often restricted to inferior positions at work and an inferior social standing.



## Project Goals

The program teaches women the skills to read, write and understand the Bible, leading to spiritual growth and development for themselves and their whole family. These women are then equipped to impact their communities and encourage the next generation of girls towards education.

In 2021, despite the pandemic, over 5,000 women were reached. In 2022, the project aims to empower 3,500-4,500 women with reading, writing and numeracy skills (such as being able to correctly calculate the wages owed to them, being able to accurately pay utilities bills on time, etc.).

Also, this project aims to empower participants in their daily spiritual lives by enabling them to read the Bible for themselves and Open The Bible to their families and communities.

The project will also be distributing Bibles, Scripture portions, and a Christian syllabus.

## Impact

Since it began in 2014, there have been 52,174 women who have graduated from the literacy program. Since the average family consists of five people, the impact of the project so far is around 260,870 people.

This project primarily impacts Christian Pakistani women who live in a country where their Christian faith is not always welcomed.

Equipping this target group will strengthen Christian families and will empower women to develop spiritually and take on the mandate to reach others, beginning with their families.

## Testimonies

"I am thankful to the Lord that now I can read the Bible. We have established our women's Bible study group and share the Good News with our colony," says Raiway, who never learnt to read or write because her father and older brothers were against female education. At 53, she joined the literacy classes provided by Bible Society.

## Prayer Needs

- 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 respond positively to the program and have an impact in their community.
- For wisdom and for the safety of Bible Society staff working on this project, particularly during the pandemic.