



72123 - Bangladesh  
Project Fact Sheet 2022

# Bangladesh: Literacy Skills for Underprivileged Women

## Overview

The Bangladesh Bible Society (BBS) are reaching non-literate women with the word of God through a literacy course in the rural areas of Bangladesh, giving them the opportunity to read and write, as well as listen and interact with the Bible. In turn, the skills they learn enable the women to teach their children, impacting their families and their church communities.

## The Need

There are around 165 million people in Bangladesh, and only around 75% are literate. Most people in rural areas cannot read the Bible, or any book. Women living in remote areas of Bangladesh are poor and have had very little opportunity to access an education.

Many of these illiterate adults have a desire to learn and study. Some have the Scripture available to them, and are hungry for the word of God, even though they are not able to read it. They are eager for an education, so they can read God's word.



## Project Goals

The goal of the project is to teach literacy skills to 1,500 women each year, through a systematically developed curriculum, so that they may engage with the word of God, improving their literacy skills as well as enhancing their Bible knowledge and their relationship with God. Each year, 500 women begin the literacy classes, which last for three years. They meet five days a week for 1 ½ hour lessons, in which they listen and learn to read with the help of a facilitator.

The ultimate goal is that the women can share their literacy skills and their understanding of the Bible with their children and neighbours. The women are also encouraged towards independence in supporting their families, with BBS providing sewing machines, cattle and small aids for farming.

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## Impact

This project was planned to run from 2016 to 2024. The project impacts a total of 6,000 people each year. Every year, 1,500 women are participating in the three-year program, and pass on their new skills to their families, bringing the number of those impacted to approximately 6,000. The impact of the project increases again as each woman is able to participate and preach in their church communities and local gatherings.

In addition to this, graduates gain the necessary literacy skills to deal with government communications, legal matters and health related issues.

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## Testimonies

“Before attending this class, I could not read any book...I was so curious to know about Jesus Christ, and my desire has been fulfilled after attending this literacy class. I personally came to know Jesus from stories which are given in the literacy books and CDs. I decided to lead my life according to the teaching of Jesus, because I received him in my life.”  
Mrs Mina Rani, 45-year-old wife and mother.

## Prayer Needs

- Pray that God would give the students wisdom to learn, and perseverance to continue through the three years of study.
- Pray that the yearly monsoon season and the heavy rain it brings would not affect the Bible lessons.
- Pray for the literacy project as they face the continuing challenges brought by the COVID pandemic.