

Dreaming Big for the Girls A Tale of Passion for Education

Fizza Batool | 25 Year Female | Literacy Mobilizer
Rahim Yar Khan District, Punjab, Pakistan

When she discovered that she couldn't study any further after her matriculation because of a lack of resources, 25-year-old Fizza Batool decided that other girls in the locality should not suffer the same fate.

She was helped by the fact that an ALIGHT Pakistan literacy mobilizers team identified her locality, Basti Abdul-Kareem in Rahim Yar Khan (Punjab) as a target area to set up a non-formal STAR school for local out-of-school children in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4, which seeks "to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all."

The non-formal STAR schools are part of a countrywide program, run jointly by ALIGHT Pakistan and the Pakistani government in collaboration with the Educate A Child (EAC) program, run globally by the Education Above All Foundation (EAA), which seeks to enroll one million Out-of-School Children (OOSC) in Pakistan. ALIGHT Pakistan also collaborates with the public and private sectors to provide teacher's training and supplies to these schools, including stationery, bags, uniforms, notebooks, etc.

Aware that her dreams of studying further had been dashed by the poor financial condition of her parents - and, also, that in her area, girls were generally not encouraged to study - Batool mobilized her community, exhorting them to allow their girls to be enrolled in the STAR school. Her efforts bore fruit, and an unexpected bonus arrived in the form of an overture from the ALIGHT Pakistan team to teach at the school - an offer she accepted with alacrity.

With assistance from ALIGHT Pakistan, Batool continues to mobilise the local community to try and ensure that every girl in the area is guaranteed an education.

**After completing her matriculation,
Fizza Batool became a torch-bearer
for girls' education in her area**

