

Impact Evaluation Infographics -
Scotland Pakistan Scholarships for Young Women and Girls

A ten-year journey of impact: Assessing the reach and transformation of 20,000 Scottish scholarship beneficiaries in Pakistan

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Story of the Scottish Scholarship Programme's reach and transformation of 20,000 students in Pakistan

The Scotland Pakistan Scholarships for Young Women and Girls previously known as Scottish Scholarship Programme enabled over 20,000 female students from underprivileged backgrounds and communities to pursue education at both school (18,000) and university levels (2,000) in Pakistan since 2013.

Snapshot of the key impact highlights:



18,000 Total school going children supported

3,527

Minority individuals at school level

93

Total PWDs (People with Disabilities) at school level



2,000 Total university level girls supported

283

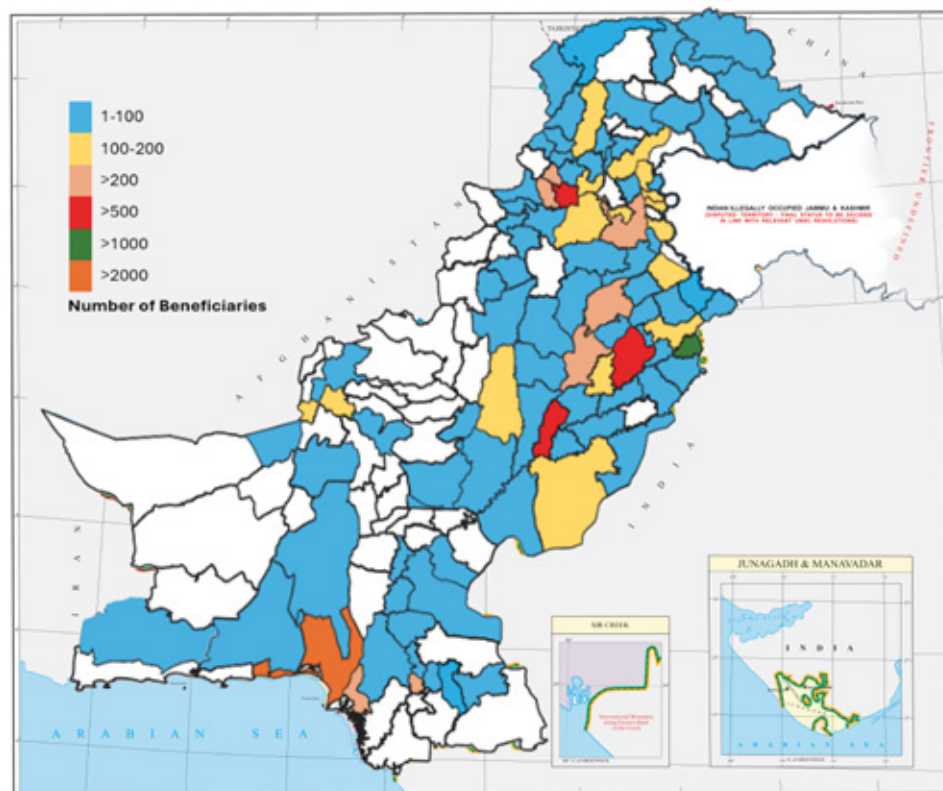
Minority individuals at university level

43

Total PWDs at university level

Geographical reach of the programme

District-wise programme reach across educational levels



Key insights - school level



Targeted financial support

- Ensured uninterrupted learning by covering transportation, books, and other educational materials,
- Enabled families to reallocate funds to essential household expenses, reducing overall financial strain.
- Reduced reliance on loans, mitigating long-term economic burdens.



Financial relief for families

- The scholarship alleviated financial pressure from **87%** of the families
- for **67%** of the families education support was impossible without the scholarship



Academic and personal development

- Improved self-confidence of **95%** of the students supported
- **95%** of the supported students demonstrated enhanced academic performance
- **96%** of the students have increased motivation towards academics as a result



Alternative measures in absence of the scholarship

- **39%** would have had to discontinue education altogether.
- **34%** would have resorted to loans to cover educational expenses.
- **11%** children would have needed to work part-time to finance their studies.

Key insights - university level



Enabling educational access

- **73%** would not have pursued higher education without the scholarship.
- **49%** would have had to work part-time to fund their studies in the absence of the scholarship.
- **77%** were able to quit their jobs and focus solely on their education.



Community wide impact

Community engagement:

- **94%** of respondents are actively contributing to their communities, showcasing how education provided to girls generates widespread benefits.
- **73%** mentor peers, creating support networks.
- **38%** promote awareness towards girls' education.

Advocacy and Volunteering:

- **96%** encourage others to apply for scholarships.
- Evidence reveal that scholars engage in volunteering and community development efforts.



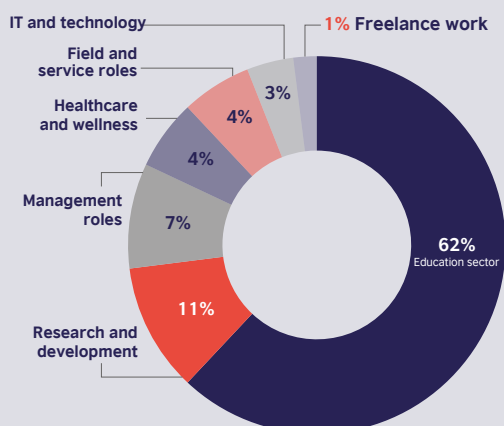
Empowering women in the labour force

- **50%** of graduated beneficiaries secured employment
- The ways in which the scholarship enabled the beneficiaries to pursue a career they wanted to take up:
 - 51%** reduced financial stress, allowing to focus more on studies and career preparation.
 - 46%** provided with the resources to acquire essential skills and qualifications for the desired career.
 - 30%** allowed to choose a field of study that aligned with career interests without financial concerns.
 - 19%** gave the confidence to pursue a career path that they otherwise would have considered financially risky.

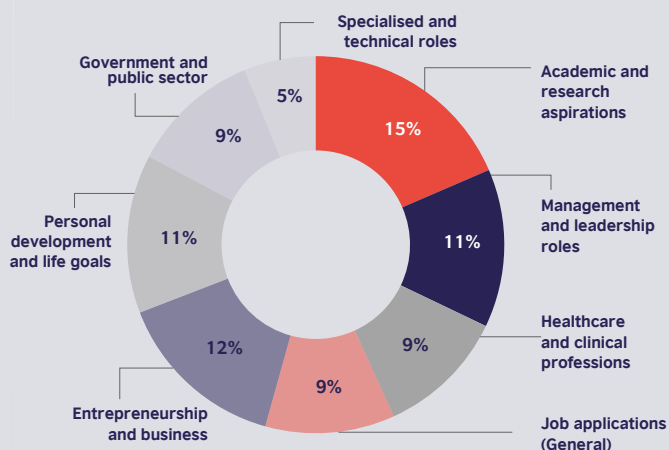


Employment outcomes

Sectors where the beneficiaries are currently serving



Aspirations for future



Few inspiring stories

Young women from diverse backgrounds have overcome immense challenges through the Scottish Scholarship Program, breaking barriers in education and personal growth. Their transformative journeys captured through some featured inspiring stories showcase the power of education to inspire, empower, and uplift communities.

Note: To protect the privacy and identities of the scholarship beneficiaries, all names mentioned in the below stories have been anonymised.

Everything was discriminative, except for this scholarship

– A girl from a religious minority in a small town in Punjab.

Growing up in a small town in Punjab, a scholarship beneficiary faced financial hardships, initial familial reluctance, and the challenges associated with being part of a religious minority. Despite these barriers, she remained determined to pursue higher education, overcoming discrimination and societal pressures along the way. The Scottish Scholarship played a pivotal role in her journey, covering her financial needs and enabling her to complete a BS in Food Security and Agriculture. This support not only boosted her confidence but also opened doors to better career opportunities, culminating in her current role as a Project Ambassador at a reputed organisation. Her story highlights the far-reaching impact of educational support and her dedication to empowering others in her community to follow similar paths.

From an embroidery worker to a qualified pharmacist: how the Scottish Scholarship changed the life of a girl from an underserved community in Balochistan

A beneficiary faced significant financial challenges growing up in a large family. Her father, a laborer earning a minimum wage, could barely meet the family's basic needs. Alongside other women in her family, she contributed to their income by doing traditional embroidery work. Despite these obstacles, she pursued her education with determination. Aspiring to become a doctor, she chose to study pharmacy after she was unable to secure admission to medical school. The Scottish Scholarship proved to be a turning point, providing crucial financial respite by covering her tuition fees and easing her financial burdens. This support allowed her to focus on her studies, boosting both her confidence and academic performance. She is now awaiting the clearance of her BS degree and plans to pursue an MPhil. She actively encourages others in her community to apply for scholarships, advocating for awareness sessions to help more students benefit from such opportunities. Her story highlights the transformative power of educational support and her commitment to empowering others.

A farmer's daughter from the remote, rugged terrains of Gilgit who rose to become a gold medallist

A young woman from a remote district in the northern mountainous ranges of Gilgit-Baltistan has made an extraordinary journey, overcoming societal barriers and financial struggles to become a gold medallist and advocate for girls' education.

Growing up in a family of seven siblings with a father who worked as a farmer, she excelled in her studies, topping her matriculation exams despite limited resources and societal pressures against girls pursuing education. Her educational journey was supported by merit-based scholarships, providing much-needed financial relief at both the intermediate and bachelor levels. At the master's level, the Scottish Scholarship offered crucial support, allowing her to focus on her studies and achieve academic success, including earning a gold medal. After completing her degree, she paused her own academic aspirations to teach at a private school, ensuring her siblings could continue their education. Today, she empowers her students, advocates for scholarships, and exemplifies how education can transform lives and communities.

From humble beginnings to healing hands: The journey of pride and perseverance

– An Accomplished Nurse from Karachi

The journey of a young woman from a marginalized background to becoming a senior lecturer highlights the transformative power of educational support. Raised by parents with limited means, she initially pursued a diploma in nursing but soon recognised that higher education was essential to advance in her career. Facing financial challenges, particularly after her father's passing, she applied for the Scottish Scholarship. The scholarship proved to be a turning point, covering her tuition and providing a laptop—an essential tool during the COVID-19 pandemic. With this support, she completed her Master of Science in Nursing (MScN), returned as a nurse instructor, and ultimately secured a teaching position at a renowned university. Today, she advocates for scholarships and contributes to health projects in her community, demonstrating the profound impact of financial aid in empowering marginalized individuals.

Breaking barriers: The journey of resilience and opportunity

– A Young Woman from a Small Town in Sindh

A deaf student from a remote town in Sindh, faced significant educational challenges due to the lack of local facilities. Her father, a primary school teacher, moved the family to a nearby city in search of better opportunities, eventually enrolling her in a Deaf School. The Scottish Scholarship covered essential expenses, alleviating the family's financial burden and enabling her to excel academically. Despite facing health issues, she thrived in the supportive school environment, becoming more confident and engaged. Now in 9th grade, she continues to pursue her education with determination, inspired by her father's dedication and the support of the scholarship.