

# WOMEN'S LIFE IMPACT CLASSES

In Pakistan, Islamic law dictates social, cultural and family practices regarding women and their role in society and at home. This belief condones a society run by a fear-based and often violent male domination, perpetuating the abuse of women. Because women are considered of less worth constitutionally and legally, there are strict regulations for women regarding education, healthcare, and domestic rights. Traditionally, women in Pakistan have long been powerless to make even fundamental decisions about their homes, marriages, bodies, and even their children. Women are powerless because they are uneducated, and girls are uneducated because their mothers are powerless to push for their education. If you are a poor woman, or even worse a poor Christian woman, it is a bleak existence, with little hope for change.

CWDA has been working continuously for the past 15 years, with the help of our donors and other foundations, to help women in Pakistan overcome these great barriers to freedom and equality, through an education that gives them the power of knowledge. WDA has partnered with CWDA in establishing Life Impact Classes in Pakistan since 1998. We conduct 14-20 classes throughout Lahore each year. The Life Impact Classes include literacy and basic mathematics skills. They provide vocational training classes that include: sewing, beadwork, cooking, hair and cosmetology, candle-making, and professional ribbon embellishment on fine linens. We also teach health education which includes topics such as: nutrition, sexually transmitted diseases and reproductive health. Lastly, we provide information regarding women's human rights.