

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

In Chakhansur district, all BGL participants and facilitators are women and girls!



Figure 1 Female Learners in Chakhansur district are busy studying in UNESCO/HRRAC supported class

The Nimruz province's basic general literacy initiative is set up so that each of the province's four districts will have seventeen BGL classes. Additionally, the initiative anticipates that each district will have a maximum of 70% female students and 30% male students. However, due to the overwhelming desire of female students, this ratio could not be observed in Chakhansur district. When HRRAC team first visited the district, they mapped the towns and villages and chose possible project participants. They took into consideration the ratio of each gender to follow, but it didn't work there because a sizable influx of women kept coming in the hopes of enrolling in the class. Due to their intense interest in learning to read and write, a wish they had long yearned for.

One of HRRAC field team member said: "Seeing the interest and strong desire of women and girls for education, we felt happy and accomplished as the target we set for women was very difficult in some region considering the difficult situation women currently face, but they went beyond the set target, such that their male compatriots readily sacrificed their share of the classes in their favor, and we happily accepted and decided that all 17 BGL classes will be exclusively reserved for women and girls".

Despite all the social and cultural restrictions, difficulties related to the ban on women's access to school, and ongoing problems with their freedom of movement. HRRAC advocated on the behalf of the community members, to the provincial directorate of education to have their consent as well. Fortunately, the district and provincial education department officials also appreciated the women and girl's desire for literacy, and they gave HRRAC the green signal to establish all 17 BGL classes exclusive for women and girls in Chakhansur district.

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Finally, all seventeen courses for female students have been established, and 15 students in each class are currently occupied with learning the fundamentals of reading and writing. Those students who were selected to be enrolled in the program are now overjoyed and proud of themselves for being chosen among so many others in the neighborhood.

Women's daily lives are very dependent to their male counterparts. They will learn the fundamentals of reading and writing with this course. They will be able to launch their own firms or create goods for the local market once they have finished the training. They will feel independent as a result, and this will provide the foundation for their independence and self-reliance.

To sum up, it is truly a proud moment for them and for all Afghans that women and girls are dominating and leading in acquiring such a priceless right to education in a country like Afghanistan where men have traditionally held all social positions and have been in charge of all events for their own benefit in society. The only vulnerable group in Afghan culture that has actually been excluded and has endured great suffering is the female population. Their long-standing devastation merits improvement in order to increase resilience.