



# Evaluating the effectiveness of a community-oriented girls' education program in Pakistan: Community-based participatory research



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## Girls' Education in Pakistan

- Pakistan has some of the largest gaps in access to education and gender equality globally, (Razzaq, 2016).
- Pashtun tribal regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) have some of the lowest enrolment rates in Pakistan (Memon & Naz, 2015) and a rural female literacy rate of 37% (Bureau of Statistics, 2020) where girls' education has long been a contested social, economic, political, and religious issue (Jamal, 2018).
- In Pashtunwali, an unwritten social code, women are traditionally secluded from general society with their roles and responsibilities centered at home (Jamal 2018). **These traditional gender roles create barriers for girls' education.**
- Girls' education in traditional communities has **higher rates of success when initiatives are valued and supported by the community**, meeting families' specific contextual and cultural needs (Burde & Linden, 2013; Razzaq, 2016).

### References

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## Canadian Association for Children's Education in Pakistan (CACEP)

- CACEP, a Calgary-based non-profit, promotes **gender justice and children's education** in KP, a conflicted-affected province of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan.
- Since 2013, CACEP has supported **80+ students in overcoming barriers to education.**
- Using a **community-based solidarity model**, schools, families, leaders, and volunteers work together to support children's education with Canadian financial support.
- Research will allow CACEP children and stakeholders to share their voices for the **evaluation and improvement of CACEP's model.**

## Study Design

- Using **mutual aid theory** and **community-based participatory research**, this project will engage CACEP stakeholders through **photovoice**.
- A steering committee will involve Pakistani and Canadian CACEP stakeholders.
- Participants will take photos and provide narratives that capture their perspectives and experiences regarding CACEP, education, empowerment, and gender justice.
- Photovoice participants will include Canadian sponsors and board members and Pakistani children, parents, alumni, and volunteers.
- **Photovoice narratives** will be presented at exhibits and **inform CACEP's practice model.**



## Expected Outcomes

- 1) **Improvement** of CACEP's model through the critical insights of CACEP families and stakeholders
- 2) **Sharing** of CACEP's research-informed practice model with international social development practitioners and policymakers
- 3) **Strengthening support** for gender justice and girls' education work through knowledge mobilization in Pakistan and globally
- 4) **Creating a foundation** for further nonprofit and academic **research** partnerships focused on gender justice and girls' education.

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