**Inspire II [Pakistan]**

**Problem Statement**

Pakistan has the second highest number of out-of-school children globally, two-thirds of whom are girls. Almost 50% of women over age 10 have never attended school, and only one in two can read and write. For those young girls with the desire to pursue their education, social stigma, budgetary constraints, the lack of proper school infrastructure, and a shortage of qualified, female school teachers stymie all efforts. Girls who never attend or drop out of school have limited pathways to economic inclusion and are headed towards a difficult future.

**Our Solution**

INSPIRE II provides access to middle-school levels of education through an accelerated learning program in existing government primary schools in Pakistan. Girls who have dropped out following completion of primary school are targeted for an 18-month intervention. Graduates who qualify are then enrolled in technical and vocational trainings offered by providers in the public or private sector.

**Progress**

In the pilot program, 1,000 girls who had dropped out following completion of primary school were enrolled in the accelerated learning program, out of which 880 girls graduated. The pilot program also provided vocational skills and entrepreneurship development to 300 young men and women, and greatly increased access to economic opportunities within their communities. As a result, almost 80% of these students are now employed or self-employed.

**Looking Forward**

INSPIRE II plans to extend and integrate technology into at least 30 schools. CARE will partner with national start-ups already applying AI and technology-based content solutions to adapt the accelerated learning curriculum for a combination of self-study tutorials. Devices will be provided to each student following an intake test with the appropriate level of curricula included.

When more girls are provided with quality education, and know their rights, they will collectively be able to affect positive change. These empowered young women will be better equipped to ask for their rights to education, health and economic and political opportunity. It is likely that the ALP graduates will be well respected in society, given their economic independence; just one extra year of secondary education can increase a woman's income as much as 25% a year. In turn, this will positively change Pakistan’s social and economic milieu in coming years.