



TENTH PAN-COMMONWEALTH FORUM ON OPEN LEARNING
CALGARY - CANADA | 14-16 SEPTEMBER 2022

PROPOSAL FOR PANEL DISCUSSION

Bedari, is excited to submit the proposal for panel discussion during the PCF 10 conference. The discussion will showcase innovative approaches adopted for making education accessible for girls from the marginalised communities in Pakistan. Following is the panel layout.

PANEL BRIEF

Title of the Panel	Making Secondary Education Accessible for Girls with and without disabilities - The case of Pakistan
Sub-theme	Equity and Inclusion: Special Focus: Secondary Education for Girls
Date	To be finalised
Duration	60 minutes
Location	To be finalised
Key presenter/ speakers	<p>Moderator: Anbreen Ajaib; Executive Director Bedari</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Javed Ahmad Malik; Education Expert, currently heading Malala Fund in Pakistan 2. Mr. Saleem Malik; Girls' Rights Activist, Blogger Pakistan 3. Ms. Frances J. Ferreira; Education Specialist- Gender Common Wealth of Learning
Abstract/Overview	<p>Bedari is a rights based NGO working in Pakistan for promotion and protection of human rights of women and girls. Girls' Secondary Education is one of the core themes Bedari works on. Bedari believes that education is not only about acquiring a degree or a certificate, it is about the life skills and about knowledge around the rights and the capacity to claim them. Bedari, during the last fifteen years, has supported 1000s of girls to continue their education by enhancing their mobility, helping them strengthen their life skills and asserting their agency. During this, Bedari has gained marvelous understandings of community perspectives and barriers to girls' education at community and policy levels. Bedari has learnt that a small contribution towards enhancing girls' mobility not only ensures their access to education, but also contributes in their empowerment, reduces the incidence of child marriages and enables them to deal with gender based violence.</p> <p>Session Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate how small contributions in girls' mobility and self-growth through community engagement can empower them and ensures access to education. • Share the good practices of working with government to enhance girls' secondary education • Showcasing key learning around working for educating girls with disabilities <p>After a short presentation on the context of Girls' Education in Pakistan, the moderator will invite the panelists for the discussion. Discussion will be in the form of a talk show. The questions will be around; their experiences (specifically in COVID Context), opportunities to work around inclusion and equity, challenges and their mitigation, and key takeaways. The panelists from different stakeholders including civil society, donor organization and government expert will be a great mix to provide the audience an insight on above mentioned themes from different perspectives. It will provide an opportunity to the participants from different countries to explore the possibilities of replication in their context.</p>



	<p>The session will be interactive. Moderator will open the forum for questions from the floor. A feedback form will be circulated among the participants to share their key takeaways and the feedback about the session voluntarily.</p>
<p>Process Description</p>	<p>The session will start with a welcome note by the moderator. After a brief introduction of the organisation Bedari and its programmes around girls' education the moderator will share a video on innovative approaches used for promoting girls' education that contributed to reduce child marriages and creating spaces for girls in the public spheres. The link of the video is being shared here but Not to be shared publicly before the session is held. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHHibKUiX8k&t=8s</p> <p>After the video, Bedari will invite the panellists to the stage for the discussion. The discussion will be in form of a talk show with the following questions. Some questions are generic to be asked from all the speakers while the others are specific to be asked from the specific speakers according to their experiences.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the situation of girls' education in Pakistan and what are the key initiatives the speakers have been part of? 2. How these initiatives contributed in promoting girls' education can you share some key achievements? 3. How did COVID affected girls' education in Pakistan's context? 4. What do you think the audience can learn from your experience to promote education in their respective regions and countries? <p>Mr. Javed Malik:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your experience of working with the government? • What are the key challenges at government level in addressing girls' education? • What specific action do you think the governments can take to address these challenges? <p>Ms. Frances J. Ferreira:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In your experience, do you think donors are doing enough to promote girls' education in Pakistan? • What are the challenges donors face around working on girls' education? • What would you suggest to donors as key takeaways from your experience? <p>Mr. Saleem Malik:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key reasons behind low number of girls' enrolment and high number of dropout from the community perspective? • Can you highlight any specific issues related to girls with disabilities in their access to education? • How did the interventions by CSOs addressed these issues in Pakistan? • What else the CSOs can do to ensure increase in girls' enrolment and reduction in dropouts? <p>Considering the time, moderator will decide to manage the questions by merging them together or skipping if there is any repetition in responses and also by intervening to stay on time.</p> <p>After the discussion, the moderator will open the floor for the questions and answers. Participants will be invited to ask questions from the panellists. Moderator will stay conscious about time and will ensure that the questions are not repeated.</p> <p>It is always important to seek feedback from the audience. For this purpose, a feedback form will be distributed among the audience to share their impressions.</p>



	<p>Submission of feedback form will be completely voluntary. Audience will have a choice to refuse if they don't want to submit the form and if they want to submit it anonymously. The feedback will then be used in preparing reports and planning the future actions at Bedari. This will also be shared with the conference organisers in case there is anything related to them.</p>
<p>Seating Arrangements</p>	<p>A c-shaped seating arrangement for the audience will be requested from the organisers of the workshop so that an eye contact could be maintained with the maximum audience. The stage/headtable will be needed with four chairs placed in another C-shaped setting. Other requirements may include mikes and multimedia with sound system.</p>
<p>About the Speakers</p>	<p>The panel discussion will be held with a strong panel having vast experience of working around girls' education and girls with disabilities. An effort is made to bring together the speakers having experience of working with the government, donors/financial partners and CSOs to get a holistic picture of the situation and actions taken by them. A brief profile of the speakers is given below.</p> <p>Ms. Frances J. Ferreira: Funding Partner/Donor Representative</p> <p>Ms. Frances Ferreira has a vast range of experience in developing contexts and education management related to leadership, skills development, monitoring and evaluation, women's empowerment, and gender equality. Since joining Common Wealth of Learning in 2007, Frances has held the posts of Education Specialist: Basic Education and Open Schooling, Senior Adviser: Women and Girls, and Education Specialist: Gender, before taking up the Acting Director: Skills role.</p> <p>With her strong passion for women's empowerment, Ms. Ferreira is leading COL's GIRLS Inspire initiative and COL's Commonwealth Wise Women project which are contributing to improved livelihoods of women and girls in underserved communities.</p> <p>Prior to joining COL, Ms. Ferreira, was the first chief executive of the state-owned Namibian College of Open Learning. Previously, she served the Namibian community as a teacher and school principal, and as the first female Mayor of Grootfontein in 1994. She has also served as Chair of the Namibian Open Learning Network Trust and Chair of the Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (DEASA).</p> <p>Ms Ferreira's contribution to the field of open and distance learning in Namibia was recognised in 2002 at COL's 2nd Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning, when she received the Distance Learning Experience Award from COL</p> <p>Frances has co-authored and co-edited various publications including <i>Perspectives on Distance Education – Open Schooling in the 21st Century (2009)</i>; <i>Open Schooling with Open Educational Resources: Opening doors, creating opportunities (2013)</i> and <i>Women and Leadership in Open and Distance Learning and Development (2013)</i></p> <p>Ms. Ferreira will mainly talk about her experience of working from the financing partner side for the education related programmes and projects.</p> <p>Mr. Saleem Malik: CSO Representative</p> <p>Saleem Malik is a passionate advocate of human rights and personal freedoms and a social activist who has defended the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and extremely vulnerable for the past three decades from multiple personal, organizational and collective platforms.</p>



He has been leading different CSOs as head of organisation where he led several projects and programmes around girls' education and child marriages. Mr. Malik has experience of working at senior management positions with International NGOs like Plan International, ActionAid International, and International Water Management Institute. In the INGOs, he contributed in developing girls' centered programmes will focus on girls with disabilities. Mr. Malik is a founding member of an organisation named IRADAH which works with persons with disabilities. Education of girls with disabilities is one of the major focuses of this organisation. Being part of various CSO networks, Mr. Malik has been active part of advocacy and lobbying with the policy makers for bring girls' friendly legal reforms.

In a consulting capacity, Saleem has assisted dozens of local and international organizations, UN agencies and donors. One of the major assignment under education sector was bringing 1 million girls back to school under a DFID funded project in Punjab province of Pakistan. He worked as girls' rights advisor under that project.

Saleem has two university degrees – an M.Sc. in Development and Project Planning from the University of Bradford, England, 1996 and an M.Sc. in Statistics from the University of Punjab, Lahore, 1987. He also a postgraduate diploma course on Children, Youth and Development from ISS, The Hague, 2004.

Saleem Malik dreams of a secular liberal Pakistan where girls can also enjoy equal spaces, freedoms and rights. He writes columns in Urdu. He is a regular contributor at [Humsub \(Urdu columns online\)](http://www.humsub.com.pk/author/salim-malik/) - <http://www.humsub.com.pk/author/salim-malik/>. He also contributes at [Independent Urdu](https://www.independenturdu.com/article-author/سليم-ملك) - <https://www.independenturdu.com/article-author/سليم-ملك>

Mr. Malik will mainly bring the experience of working with civil society and girls with disabilities.

Mr. Javed Ahmed: Expert of working with the Government

Javed Ahmed Malik have worked on social transformation programs in past 20 years in Pakistan and aboard and till recently was the Pakistan Director of Democracy Reporting International working with parliaments, ministries and civil society to strengthen parliamentary oversight of public policy at the federal and provincial level. Javed led DFID's largest £450M education program in the world in Punjab for seven years (2009-16) while leading Chief Ministers Education Reform Roadmap delivering rapid transformational progress in a system of 54000 schools bringing back additional 2 million out of school children, improving learning levels and achieving major efficiency gains at school level. He also initiated Punjab's first ever inclusive education program in the Government and volunteer for two disability related charities in his native district Chakwal. Javed is author of two books the most recent one Teachers, Politicians and Bureaucrats: The story of reforming 54000 schools (Book Corner 2021) and is published last year and Transforming Villages: How grassroots democracy can end rural poverty at the rapid pace (IRD 218). Javed is doctorate fellow at Institute of Policy Research, University of Bath and is a graduate of Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA. He has been McGill-LUMS fellow of Social Enterprise Development Centre at Lahore University of Management Sciences. He is now Director of Malala Fund in Pakistan working on Girls Education with the Governments, civil society and the corporate sector.

Mr. Ahmed will bring his experience of working with governments on one of the mega education project.



Ms. Anbreen Ajaib: Moderator

Ms. Anbreen Ajaib is a known women’s rights activist based in Islamabad. She is working in the development sector for last 22 years and her experience ranges from the grass root level to the senior management level. She currently heading a women’s rights organization Bedari. She has two masters’ degrees, M.A in Human Rights and Social Justice from London, UK and M.Sc. in Psychology from Islamabad.

Anbreen has worked with international and national organizations in different capacities. Major areas of work include gender sensitive strategic planning and program development, gender based violence against women and girls, women’s political empowerment, advocacy for policy reforms for women and girls’ rights, Ending Child marriages, Girls’ education, training on gender and contemporary management themes, and working with parliamentarians for policy reforms. She is a qualified trainer and has conducted a number of trainings on gender issues and child rights with participants of different profiles ranging from community groups to government officials, lawyers, media persons, police, development professionals and parliamentarians. Anbreen has been teaching as visiting faculty at different Universities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi to the students of Masters’ degree.

Anbreen is currently member of different national and international fora as advisor/coordinator. This includes Member of Global Advisory Group of Girls Not Bride Alliance, former Coordinator of Child Rights Movement, and former Co-Chair of Ending Violence against Women. Coming from a rural background of district Chakwal, Anbreen carries her own experiences of development issues and strengths of rural areas. This combination of personal experiences, professionalism and activism has made Anbreen an asset for the civil society in Pakistan.

Anbreen’s work has been published. Paper on “*addressing violence against girls in and out of school*” was published in a book titled “*Combating gender based violence at Schools*” edited by professor Fiona Leach of University of Sussex. The publication “Youth Strategy Paper” printed by Action Aid. A paper on “*Early marriages of girls; a comparative analysis of India Pakistan and Bangladesh*” and another paper of her titled “Women’s Political Participation during Election 2013” was published by SPO. Her next publication is on ending Child Marriages, which is in process.