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ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੀ ਪੜਾਈ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਮਸਲੇ

What are the key challenges in
Learning and Teaching
Punjabi in the UK?

ਅਰਮਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਤਜਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ

ARMINDER SINGH AND TAJINDER KAUR

OVERVIEW

1. CONTEXT

2. LEARNING

3. TEACHING

4. STRATEGY

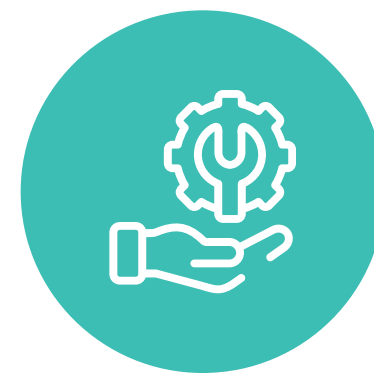
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DISCUSSION



CONTEXT

Punjabi and Gurmukhi has been taught in the UK for the last fifty years in a systemised format.

SPACES OF TEACHING --->



HOME

Many first experiences of Punjabi come in the Home



GURDWARA

Gurdwareh were obvious spaces in which to teach



SCHOOLS

As we grew, we increased use of educational facilities

LEARNING

Most Punjabi learning environments are centred around children and younger people.

Punjabi learning in the Sikh community: the learning mediums can be categorised as:

- learning 'Santhiya' which focuses on accurate verbal pronunciation of Gurbani
- learning to speak and comprehend Punjabi, as well as read and write in the Gurmukhi script for qualifications (GCSE/'A' level)

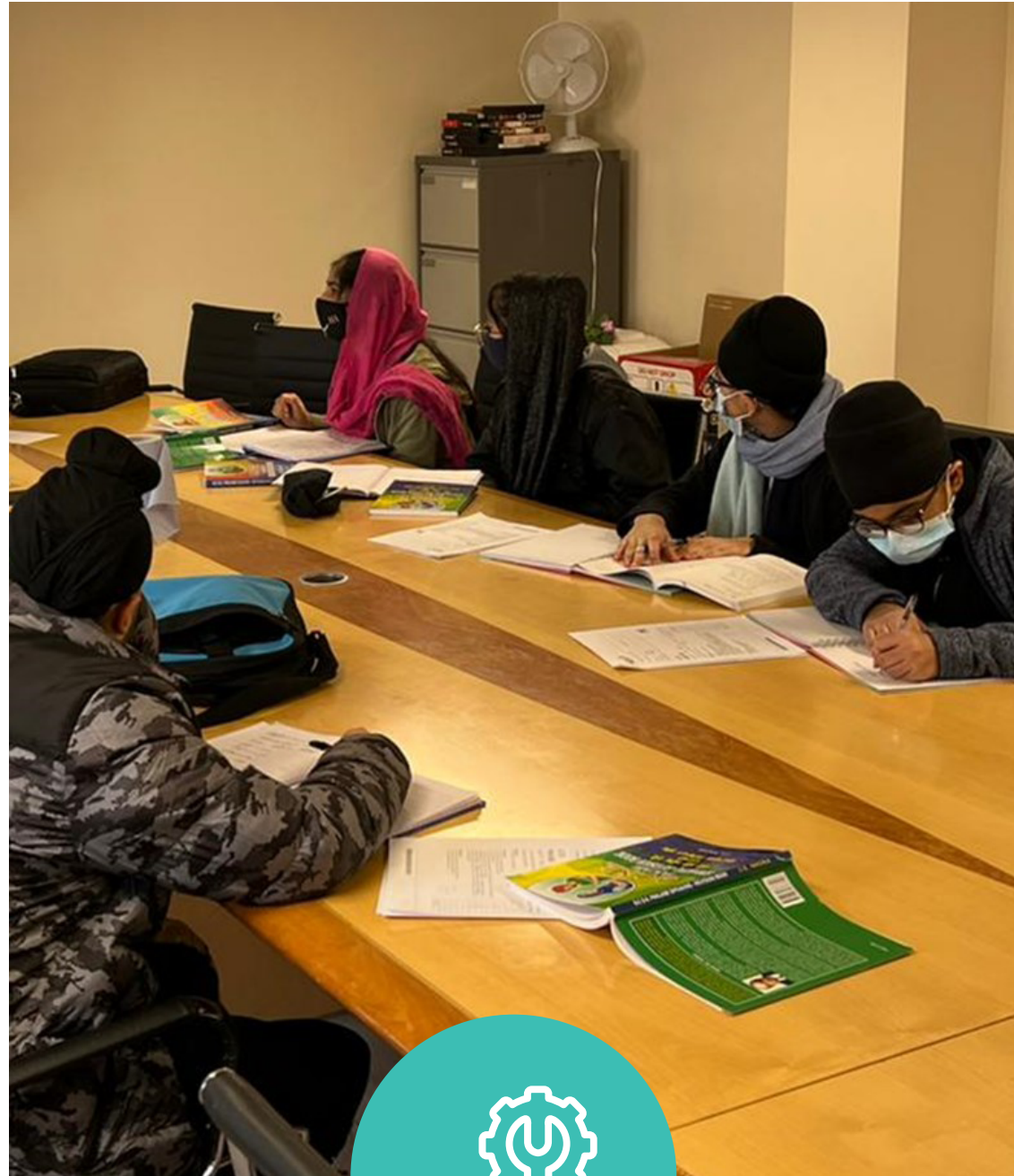
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BROAD LEARNING MEDIUMS ---^



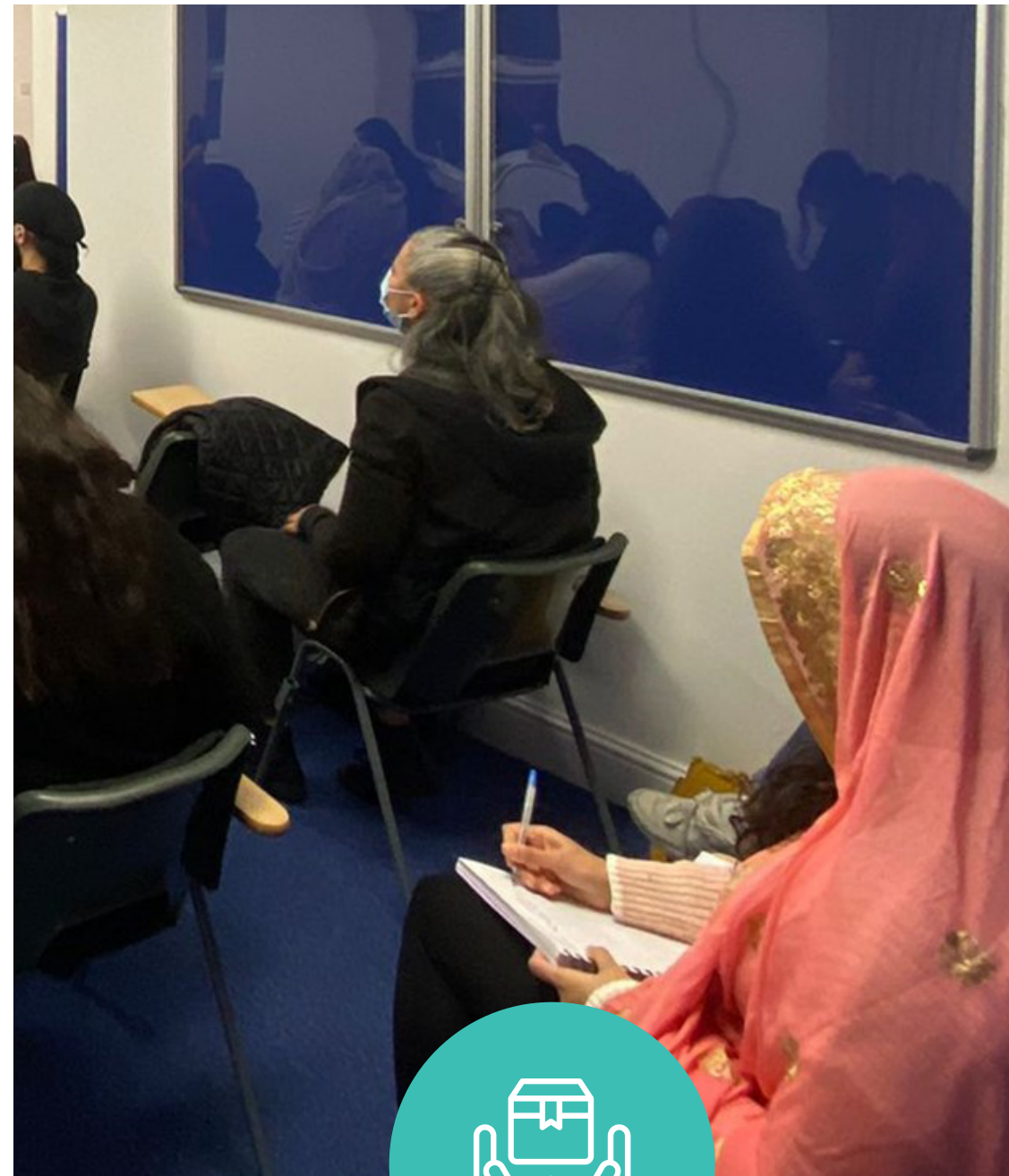
LEARNING

Why does the Sikh community learn Punjabi?



FORCED BY PARENTS

Younger children in particular have no choice as to whether they learn Punjabi



TO CONVERSATE

In order to have conversations with family, relatives, friends and others



RELATE TO GURBANI

To read Gurbani, sing shabad kitan, or to better understand Gurmat ideology



PUNJABI LITERATURE

Uncommon, but some wish to better appreciate Punjabi literature and art

LEARNING

There are a range of barriers that are holding back the learning of Punjabi in the UK

LEARNING CHALLENGES --->

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a

‘FOREIGN’ LANGUAGE

For those born in the UK, Punjabi is seen as a foreign language and not their ‘Mother Tongue’ as it was for previous generations

b

LACK OF IMMERSION

It is difficult to gain depth for students of the language as there is not enough exposure to the Punjabi language on a daily basis

c

LACK OF QUALITY

Resources are not engaging enough to spark enthusiasm amongst students that would drive a passion for learning Punjabi

d

ENVIRONMENT

The classroom environment is often poor without dedicated physical spaces and adequate furniture, and lacking staff numbers

TEACHING

The other side of the equation is just as challenging with teaching of Punjabi

TEACHING CHALLENGES --->

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a

NO QUALIFICATION

There is no formal qualification for teaching the Punjabi language in the UK, or to teach to non-native speakers, or even foreign languages

b

NO INVESTMENT

There is poor funding for teacher training, CPD, networking and for better resources and teaching aids

c

POOR REMUNERATION

Pay for teachers and teaching assistants is inadequate - if it is available at all, with many staff working voluntarily

d

NO FUTURE

There is poor career progression in teaching the Punjabi Language, nor are there other prospects to earn from your skills of experience



STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT

There are - or
should be - a
plethora of orgs
and people trying
to work on how
we move forward.
These are our
humble solutions.



MODERNISE
OR DIE!

SOLUTIONS

Institution
building

- Set up a
**Punjabi
Learning
Association**

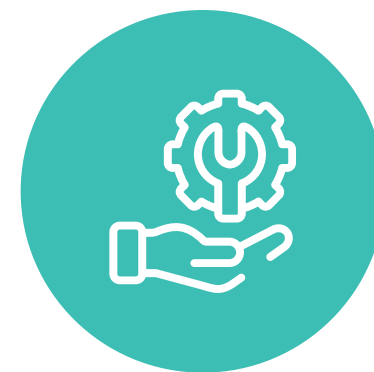
- Teachers engagement for best learning and teaching practice;
- A space to share resources;
- Forum to discuss key syllabus points and teaching material;
- A platform for CPD training;
- Body providing a united voice dealing with examining boards and educational departments;



SOLUTIONS

These solutions require human resources and most vitally, an audience that wants Punjabi content.

SOLUTIONS --->



DEVELOP MATERIAL

Produce engaging Punjabi learning material relating to elements of reading, writing, listening, and speaking



SETUP PGCE EQUIVALENT

Create a Punjabi-language based 'PGCE' equivalent to take learning and teaching to the highest standard



FURTHERING CAREERS

Implement policy so there is an economy and careers for those with language skills to further themselves



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