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Udayan Shalini Students studying at the Fellowship Offices in Dehradun, Uttarakhand  
Photo: Sam Strickland

## Key Dates

1

30 November: Thematic Meeting on Education, Delhi

2

1 December: Kusuma-London School of Economics Seminar, Delhi

3

2 December: IIT/KSBS Advisory Board Meeting, Delhi

4

5-8 December: Open University Scoping Visit to Uttar Pradesh

5

15 December: KT Board Meeting, London

## Education Scholarships transform young lives

On 1 December, the results of an impact evaluation of the Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellowships in Dehradun, Uttarakhand were announced. The evaluation identified direct and indirect effects of the fellowships on scholarship recipients, non-recipients and potential applicants.

The research found that fellowship recipients exert more effort in school, score better marks in Classes 11 and 12 and are more likely to progress to higher education. They also understand the job market better and have a better perception of the financial returns of their education. Moreover, fellowship recipients interact regularly and confidently with their peers, thereby developing valuable social and networking skills for use in later life.

There are also benefits for non-recipients. Neighbours of scholarship recipients are 33% more likely to know about the programme and friends of recipients know about the eligibility criteria and application procedure, and perform better in Classes 8 and 9, in anticipation of being selected for the programme.

*Cont'd overleaf*

our mission

To facilitate and increase access to education and other life opportunities for children and young people

### Scholarship Evaluation cont'd

The evaluation is based on administrative and survey data collected between March and November 2011, which included interviews and a survey of fellowship recipients, applicants who were not selected for the fellowship, peers, siblings, friends and neighbours.

The evaluation was conducted by the London School of Economics and was presented by Dr Sandra Sequeira at the 'Transforming Lives Through Education' Seminar held on 1 December at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

<http://kusuma.tclstaging.com/news/latest-news/summary-report>

"Education has the power to transform lives. Children have one chance of a decent education. Scholarships facilitate and increase access to education and employment opportunities for young people, enabling them to realize their potential and break the inter-generational cycle of poverty" said Dr Balwant Singh, CEO of Kusuma Trust UK at the Seminar.

The seminar's inaugural speech was delivered by Mr Vineet Joshi, Chair of the Central Board of Secondary Education. Presentations were also made by Professor Avtar Singh of the National Council of Educational Research & Training, Mr Vivek Maskhani, Director of the International Fellowship Programme at the Ford Foundation, and Mr Manoj Puthiyaram from the Azim Premji University.

### New Mid-Day Meal Grant

On 24 November, The Trust signed a grant agreement to fund a third year of the **Kusuma Mid-Day Meal Project** in Nayagarh, Orissa and Medak, Andhra Pradesh, which it has supported since November 2009.



Mid-Day Meals at a government school in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh  
Photo: Balwant Singh

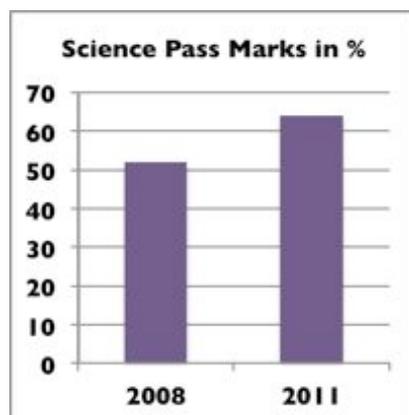
The £81,116 grant will allow The Akshaya Patra Foundation to deliver mid-day meals to 14,000 children in 120 government schools across both States, which will help improve enrolment and attendance levels.

### Open University India Visit

On 21 November, The Trust approved funding for a scoping visit by **The Open University (OU)** to Uttar Pradesh. The purpose is to identify the scale and shape of the teacher training challenge in the State, and the potential reach of a teacher-training intervention focused on Secondary English and Science.

Senior staff from the OU will meet local NGOs and government officials in Lucknow and Hardoi from 5-8 December, to identify potential partners and stakeholders. A proposal for a project to improve classroom based teaching practice in Hardoi will be developed in early 2012.

### Science Project Influences State Education Policy



In 2011 the average pass mark in science subjects was 64% compared to 52% in 2009 across 10 government high schools in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

The **Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL)** project, funded by The Trust since 2008, is having a direct impact on the government of Andhra Pradesh's education policy. The project's success at improving students' academic performance in science subjects has prompted the government to expand the reach of the programme to include all schools across the State.

The government's Rajiv Vidya Mission is now funding 74 vans, each one supporting 140 schools, across 23 districts in Hyderabad. This

innovative science teaching programme has proved to be an effective model, reflected in the buy-in of the government of Andhra Pradesh.

### Orissa Scholarship Ceremony

On 15 November, 100 new **Kusuma Ratna Fellows** took part in an Oath Taking Ceremony at the District Auditorium in Sambalpur, as part of their induction into the Fellowship programme.



Akash Patel, a new Ratna Fellowship student, receiving a cheque and memento from Mr. Ravi Mishra, Sambalpur, Orissa  
Photo: Rajib Rout, Manasi Photo Studio

Mr Gopinath Majhi, the President of Sambalpur Integrated Development Institute, local dignitaries and students from the 2009 and 2010 Cohorts participated in the Ceremony.

### Other News

On 30 November, The Trust hosted a **Thematic Meeting on Education** at the India Islamic Cultural Centre in Delhi for five of its partners involved in implementing education projects.

In attendance were the directors of Udayan Care, Pragathi Seva Samithi, Sambalpur Integrated Development Institute, Project 511 Hyderabad Round Table 8 Charitable Trust and Sarvodaya Ashram.

The event discussed the achievements and challenges associated with the delivery of the education projects, and also explored ways of enhancing education outcomes and learning across projects.

On 1 December, Dr Chandrani Dasgupta and Javaid Rashid, the winner and runner up of the **Kusuma Young Researcher's Award 2010**, received their awards at the Kusuma-LSE Seminar in Delhi.