



kusuma  
trust

news@kusuma

February 2011



A mentor with a group of Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellows at a recent Quarterly Mentor-Mentee Meeting  
Photo: Sriramulu

## Key Dates

1

13-27 January: CEO visits India with Operations Manager and Strategy Consultant

2

25 January: Strategy Consultation in Delhi

3

18 February: Strategy Consultation in London

4

24/25 February: Strategy consultant visits Gibraltar

5

Late February – April: Evaluation of fellowship programmes with London School of Economics

## First India visit for 2011 focuses on strategy and new grant with IIT Delhi

A January visit to India by KT's CEO, Operations Manager (OM) and Strategy Consultant, Hazel Slavin, included discussions with the Senior Programme Officers (SPOs) at Kusuma Foundation (KF), interviews with candidates for the Country Leader position, consultations with key stakeholders to inform Kusuma's strategy development and visits to selected projects in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

The CEO visited the Centre for the Internet and Society (CIS) in Bangalore and was impressed by the innovative nature of its work. He also visited the Akshaya Patra Foundation and met with its Vice-Chair and Executive Director to discuss support for a new kitchen in Orissa. The CEO and OM also met with key staff of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi to finalise a new £2.8m grant agreement.

The OM and SPO visited two Mobile Science Lab (MSL) classes at a local government school in Hyderabad and discussed progress with the Head Teacher and Project 511's Director. They also visited Sarvodaya Ashram in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, where they met with teachers and students from the Udaan and Pehchan programmes.

Eight grant payments were made in January and another three grant payments will be made in February and March, completing commitments to partners for 2010-2011.

our mission

To provide educational opportunities and improve the lives of disadvantaged children throughout India



Mr John, Secretary of Pragathi Seva Samithi, with Kusuma Young Achievers Awardees at the Pragathi Kusumalu  
Photo: Mr. Lokendra

## Fellowships

The **Kusuma Ratna Fellowships Programme** received a boost from a Delhi University mentor who has agreed to conduct 3-4 Spoken English workshops over an 8-month period, the first of which was attended by 65 Fellows. To improve performance at the pending Class XII examinations, revision assignments were delivered to designated coaching centres. Our partner, Sambalpur Integrated Development Institute (SIDI), has received its second payment of £10,266 under the current grant agreement.

A career and counseling workshop for 343 Fellows from the **Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellowships** took place on 23 January. At a recent mentor-mentee meeting involving 60 Fellows, one of the mentors offered 2 free places on a 2-year Diploma Course in Pathology, which will be made available to the Fellows after they graduate from their current studies. The SPO attended Udayan Care's quarterly workshop. The partner received 75% of its grant in January.

The **Kusuma Young Achievers Award** was celebrated at the annual Pragathi Kusumalu event on 16 January, which was attended by over 600 awardees. Discussions with the partner, Pragathi Seva Samithi (PSS), are now focussed on the costs incurred by awardees pursuing higher education, and what areas of their tertiary studies would require support from Kusuma.

## Bridge Schools: Udaan & Pehchan

Sarvodaya Ashram carried out a baseline study of 6 villages to identify why children aged 6-18 years drop out of school and to create a strategy for enrollment in the Bridge School programmes. An impressive 88% of the Udaan girls are now attending 70 mainstream schools on a regular basis. Currently, Pehchan's Batch One is preparing for the Class VIII examination

and Batch Two are ready for the Class VI equivalent. The exposure visits for both Udaan and Pehchan girls are due to take place in March. The planned building renovation work to the classrooms will commence in March.



The Mobile Science Lab Teacher Training Sessions' banner highlighting collaboration with government - Rajiv Vidya Mission (RVM) - and partner Project 511  
Photo: Paul Padmakar

## Mobile Science Lab/Project 511

The government continues to endorse this project by supporting many of its activities. The Rajiv Vidya Mission (RVM) has engaged 6 resource staff from State and District level training centres to train all MSL teachers in the Hyderabad district in the use of the MSL manual. This expansion will be in addition to the 40 schools already orientated in the use of the manual. Half of the new grant has been disbursed to the partner, MV Foundation's Project 511.



Teacher and pupils during class time at Sarvodaya Ashram  
Photo: Balwant Singh

## Kusuma Mid Day Meals

The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) has received half of its annual grant for its current Mid Day Meal project, which supports the daily feeding of 14,000 children. Discussions are underway between KF and TAPF over the planned construction of the new kitchen in Orissa. Proposal and budget revisions are being made to take account of government support and key risk factors. KT's CEO – at a meeting with the TAPF's Executive Director in Bangalore in January - proposed a reducing contribution from Kusuma over a 3-year period, to enable the partner to diversify its funding sources and sustain its work in the long term.

## Project Saarthi

A meeting with the new managing partner, Sadhana, and other co-partners

is scheduled for late February to discuss the baseline study of the 1,100 frontline child welfare workers. A detailed project plan, including details of the involvement of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), will be finalised in late February and then implemented in partnership with the AP Juvenile Justice Department and UNICEF.

## Building Open Sharing Resources

The partner, iCommons, will undertake an in-depth 18-month study to develop guidelines for scientists wishing to ensure their work products can be openly and safely shared. Research will commence in April at the University of Oxford's eResearch Centre. KT's CEO has been invited to visit Oxford to view the facility in March.

## iPartner India

The start of the new year saw iPartner India securing two new donors. Lady Mohini Noon and a group of women intend to set up a 'sub trust' under the name of iPartner Women.

## Other News

The CEO has engaged the services of researchers at the London School of Economics to design an **evaluation of the Fellowship programmes** in India. A review of existing data has been completed and has informed the design of the field research which is planned for March and April.

Consultations and meetings with key stakeholders were held in India in January to contribute to Kusuma's **strategy development**. A meeting will also be held in London on 18 February to explore changes in philanthropic giving and the changing nature of donor engagement in India.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of a new **Country Leader** in India for the Kusuma Foundation. Pankaj Vinayak Sharma will take up the post in March.



Pupils engaged in a geography lesson at Sarvodaya Ashram in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh  
Photo: Balwant Singh