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July 2011

Kusuma Ratna Fellowship student, Siddhant Sahu, studying at home in Sambalpur, Orissa.
Photo: Sam Strickland

Key Dates

1 13 July: State level consultation with Government and NGO stakeholders in Sambalpur, Orissa.

2 19 July: Kusuma Foundation Board Meeting

3 25 July: Kusuma Trust UK AGM and Board Meeting

Kusuma Shalini fellow wins apprenticeship

Sunita Bukarwal was accepted into the Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellowship Programme in Dehradun, Uttarakhand in 2008. Her father is a farmer and, despite coming from an economically-challenged family, she is a bright student who scored 77% in the Higher Secondary Certificate examinations, including distinctions in four subjects.

Sunita recently took the final year examination for her Bachelor of Sciences degree. Through a campus interview, she was selected for the post of Officer in the Associated Cement Companies Ltd, and is currently undertaking her apprenticeship in a technical branch of the Ordinance Factory Department in Dehradun.

Sunita shares how the Shalini Fellowship has benefitted her and how her 'role model' status is impacting her peers: *"When I finished high school, I was the only girl in my village who selected science and maths as a study stream. It was difficult finding a tutor nearby and I had to cycle far from home to receive tuition. Today, in my village, many girls have opted for science and maths and consider me as an example. My parents feel very proud of me."*

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

EDUCATION

Kusuma Ratna Fellowship Programme

145 students and 12 mentors attended the annual mentoring meeting in June. A career counselling workshop for 45 Cohort One students and their parents took place, with a focus on academic objectives, career planning and the benefits of motivational workshops. The partner conducted and collected performance reports from 52 students from Cohort Two. A formal launch of the programme, to source applicants for Cohort Three, took place on 27 June. Posters, leaflets and applications forms were made ready for distribution to 204 schools in the district.

Kusuma Udayan Shalini students in Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Photo: Sam Strickland

Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellowship

Workshops on self-assessment and motivation took place in June. 50 students attended the first workshop on 5 June and another 50 students attended the second workshop on 19 June. An additional workshop, focused on the college admission process and college orientation, took place for Cohort Two students. Udayan Care liaised with the Institute of Chartered Accountants to explore course opportunities for the students. The partner also visited government offices to collect information on State-funded professional courses for minority groups.

Kusuma Young Achievers' Award

11 out of the 20 students who took the Class 12 supplementary examination passed, due to the counseling support from Pragathi Seva Samithi. 89% of the 46 students who took the Teacher Training Course Examination passed, enabling them to study tertiary teaching courses.

Students and Teacher at a Mobile Science Laboratory class in Monda Market High School, Hyderabad.
Photo: Balwant Singh

Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL)

The Trust signed a new one-year grant agreement on 1 July, committing £48,087 to support mobile science labs in 40 government schools in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

Bridge School Programmes: Udaan & Pehchan

74 Udaan girls took examinations in spring. 26% of these girls received an A grade, 42% received a B grade, 26% a C grade and the remaining 6% passed. Of the 51 Pehchan girls who took examinations at the same time, 24% received an A or A+ grade, 33% girls received a B grade, 29% a C grade and the remaining 14% passed. The renovation of the classrooms will be completed by the end of August. The Trust is discussing a grant renewal proposal to support Udaan for one more year and Pehchan for an additional two years.

Students in the Pehchan programme at Sarvodaya Ashram in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh.
Photo: Balwant Singh

Mid-Day Meal Kitchen Construction

The Government of Orissa allotted two acres of land to The Akshaya Patra Foundation. A temporary boundary wall was erected and site bore-wells dug. The architectural design and structural drawings will be completed in July.
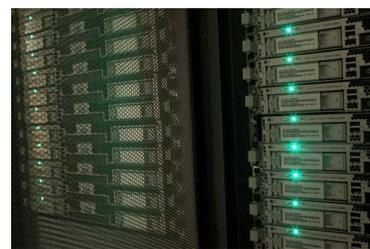
CHILDREN AT-RISK

Project Saarathi

The Trust signed a new grant agreement on 1 July for £88,988, to roll out Saarathi training for 1,500 frontline workers in 10 cities in Andhra Pradesh. 30 candidates were selected for the Training of the Trainers programme, which starts on 25 July. It will be run by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

INTERNET & OPEN SPACE

Building Open Sharing Resources

iCommons presented to the European Commission's Future and Emerging Technologies Open Scheme, with the London School of Economics, to apply for funding of a joint research project.

Detail of the Supercomputer at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
Photo: Sam Strickland

Accessibility and Access to Knowledge

The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) formed a partnership with Google India to run the Google Policy Fellowship programme. Rishabh Dara become a fellow on 28 May and is undertaking research at CIS's facilities.

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

Kusuma Young Researcher's Award 2010

The winner of the award is Dr. Chandrani Dasgupta whose paper is titled: "Resilience and vulnerability of children living in Kashmir - a study of mental health amidst political violence". The runner up is Mr. Javaid Rashid whose paper is titled "Torture and imprisonment: a study of incarcerated children in Kashmir".

iPartner India

iPartner has planned five more fundraising events in India for 2011, to take place in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Delhi respectively.

Other News

Kusuma Foundation appointed a researcher to conduct a situation analysis of secondary education in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh and Sambalpur, Orissa; and to make recommendations for interventions by The Trust.