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October 2011



A schoolboy at the Mid-Day Meal Project in Andhra Pradesh
Photo: Sam Strickland

Key Dates

1

28 September: ACF's International Development Conference on Funding Opportunities in India

2

30 September: KT relocated to new office

3

17 October: Proposal Development Workshop in Bhubaneshwar, Orissa

4

18 October: Association of Charitable Foundations Conference

5

21 October: KT Board Meeting

Student praises Kusuma Mid-Day Meal Programme

K. Mallesh, a Class 9 student from the Ram Chandra Puram Zilla Parishad High School in Hyderabad, speaks highly about the Kusuma Mid-Day Meal Programme. Coming from a poor family, he sometimes goes without food. His father struggles to earn a wage as a daily contract labourer for the local municipal office, and can barely provide for his family. Mallesh often comes to school hungry and thus eagerly anticipates the lunch break.

He says: "Every day the menu is different and the food tastes so good! We receive fruit twice a week and I look forward to the bananas, apples and guava that we get - for I have never had such fruit at home before. I miss the meal when the school is closed and can't wait to return when it opens."

From Mallesh's school, 400 children have expressed similar opinions on the programme. This project, delivered by The Akshaya Patra Foundation, ensures that 14,000 children from 219 schools in Medak, Andhra Pradesh and Nayagarh, Orissa are provided with nutritious meals every lunchtime. The Trust has supported the project since November 2009.

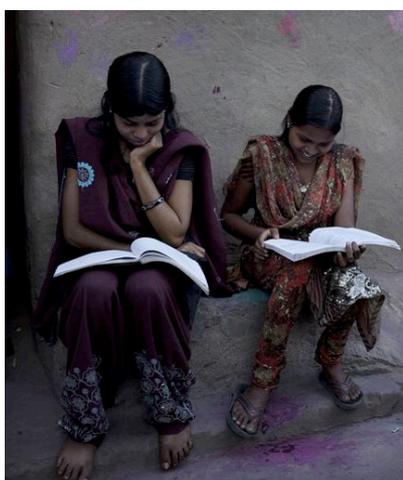
our mission

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

EDUCATION

Kusuma Ratna Fellowship Programme

On 15 September, 100 new students were selected for the 2011 Cohort, enabling them to continue their education. 85 students will be supported for Classes 11 and 12, based on an average Class 10 examination mark of 80%. 15 students will be supported to pursue professional or higher education courses, based on an average Class 12 examination mark of 67%. On 18 September, mentoring meetings took place, where 12 mentors were allocated groups of students from Cohorts One and Two.



Kusuma Ratna Students study outside their homes in Sambalpur, Orissa
Photo: Sam Strickland

Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellowship

On 11 September, 32 Udayan Shalini students from Cohort One participated in a health check-up and blood donation drive at the Lion's Hospital in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Mentors from Udayan Care and senior members of the local Lion's Club also took part in the event.

Kusuma Young Achievers' Award

In September, 53 students successfully applied for the continuation of their fellowships. Last month, 20 students took entrance examinations for vocational and professional courses. Pragathi Seva Samithi visited five colleges in Warangal and collected examination scores from 30 students to assess their academic performance. The partner is to provide 25 underperforming students with additional tutorial support, to help them improve their scores in their forthcoming supplementary examination.

Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL)

15 MSL teachers and five district-resource personnel from Rajiv Vidhya Mission participated in a four-day training programme from 24-27 August at the Aliya School in Hyderabad. The training focused on biological, social, popular and physical science, and chemistry. The MSL teams completed 38 school visits, delivered 304 experiments and completed 304 lessons in Hyderabad in September.



A teacher with a MSL van outside Monda Market High School in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Photo: Balwant Singh

Bridge School Programmes: Udaan & Pehchaan

The new science laboratory at Sarvodaya Ashram's school is fully functional and the students have started to use its facilities. The partner, Sarvodaya Ashram, participated in Kusuma Foundation's Proposal Development Workshop to develop new projects for funding in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on 27 September and provided the participating agencies with helpful guidance on educational issues.

Mid-Day Meal Project

From 20 August to 20 September, the feeding programme took place on 24 school days in Nayagarh, Orissa and 21 school days in Medak, Andhra Pradesh, covering 14,000 students.

CHILDREN AT-RISK

Project Saarathi

From 19-25 September, the second phase of the Training of the Trainers took place for 25 master trainers. These participants developed a draft-training plan for the District Probation Officers, supervisors and community volunteers.

INTERNET & OPEN SPACE

Building Open Sharing Resources

iCommons attended the Creative Commons Global Summit 2011 in Warsaw from 16-18 September, to network with 300 supporters of open sharing practices around the world.

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

Scholarship Evaluation

The data collection in Uttarakhand will be completed in October and the results of the evaluation will be presented at a joint seminar with the London School of Economics and Political Science on 1 December in Delhi.

Project Research

Two new research initiatives will start in October: one to assess the impact of the MSL project in Hyderabad; the other to assess the impact of the Saarathi project in Andhra Pradesh.



Udayan Shalini Students study by lamplight at home in Dehradun, Uttarkhand
Photo: Sam Strickland

iPartner India

The first fundraising dinner, hosted by Lady Mohini Noon's 'Nilaya' Trust, is to take place on 13 October and aims to raise £100,000.

Other News

CEO Dr Balwant Singh was invited to speak on making strategic choices in education and health at the Association of Charitable Foundation's International Development Conference on 28 September at the Nuffield Foundation.

The Trust and Kusuma Foundation extend a warm welcome to Sourabh Chakraborty, the Foundation's new Research and Evaluation Manager, who started on 3 October in Delhi.

The Trust has now moved to its new office. Please see below for our new contact details.