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Young Achiever Students in a computer laboratory in a college in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh  
Photo: Sam Strickland

## Key Dates

1

26-27 September: Project development workshop in Lucknow

2

7 October: Kusuma Trust UK moves to new office

3

12 October: Project development workshop in Bhubaneswar

4

21 October: Kusuma Trust UK Board Meeting

## Scholarship student excels at Engineering Degree

Despite coming from an economically disadvantaged family, with parents who work as agricultural labourers, Karra Bhaskar Reddy secured a seat in the Andhra Pradesh Social Welfare Residential School and achieved 92% in his Class 10 examination. Bhaskar's performance led to him being accepted into the Kusuma Young Achievers' Award fellowship in 2008.

He regularly attended the personal development and career guidance workshops organised by the partner, Pragathi Seva Samithi, which enabled him to complete Class 12 with the SVS Junior College in Hanamakonda, Warangal.

Bhaskar's hard work and determination, coupled with the scholarship support, helped him achieve 91.5% in his intermediate public exam. He also passed the Engineering, Agriculture and Medical Common Entrance Test for 2010-2011. He is now a Bachelor of Technology undergraduate at Malla Reddy Engineering College, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, where he scored an impressive 81.6% in his first year's annual examination.

our mission

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

## EDUCATION

### **Kusuma Ratna Fellowship Programme**



Ratna Students at the Fellowship offices in Sambalpur, Orissa  
Photo: Sam Strickland

On 11 August, Mrs. Swetalina Satpathy, a Management College Associate Professor, and Mr. Indu Bhusan Mohapatra, a Human Resources Development Consultant, facilitated a public speaking workshop for 122 students at the District Auditorium in Sambalpur. On 14 August, 492 applicants for the 2011 Fellowship took a written exam. Those who achieve the requisite grade of 60% will be invited to an interview. 100 students will be selected by 15 September.

### **Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellowship**

From 4-6 August, Ms. Reena Tete, Udayan Care's Director of Programmes (DOP), visited the Shalini Fellows in Dehradun. The Fellows reported that they were more articulate and confident, and that the mentoring had helped with academic, family and personal problems. The DOP made four home visits and visited two educational institutions.

### **Kusuma Young Achievers' Award**

10 students from the 2009-2010 Cohort gained entry into Bachelor of Technology courses, and 30 students were accepted into other higher education courses. The admission results of another 135 students will be announced in September.

### **Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL)**

From 19-20 August, the project co-coordinator and 19 MSL teachers attended a videoconference at Rajiv Vidya Mission's office in Hyderabad, which was televised live across Andhra Pradesh by the Mana Channel. State-level resource staff and senior teachers from government schools demonstrated 76 experiments during the conference. On 26 August, Kusuma Foundation's Programme Manager met consultant Dr. Anita Rego to discuss research aimed at assessing the programme's impact. Last month, the MSL vans made 410 visits to 45 Hyderabad schools.



Students at a Mobile Science Laboratory class in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh  
Photo: Mr. Srinivas

### **Bridge School Programmes: Udaan & Pehchaan**

Sarvodaya Ashram's Ballika Camp took place from 25 July - 24 August for the new Udaan intake, where 77 pupils were taught the basics of Mathematics and Hindi. The Readiness Camp for 54 new Pehchaan pupils, which started on 18 July, is due to finish on 30 September. 49 Pehchaan pupils took the monthly evaluation test: 14 scored more than 80%, 12 scored 60% and above, 11 scored 50% and above, and eight achieved the pass grade of 40%.

**On 25 August, The Trust signed a new grant agreement for £156,935 to fund the Udaan & Pehchaan programmes until 30 June 2015**

### **Mid-Day Meal Project**

In August, the Mid-Day Meal scheme resumed its 6-day-a-week feeding programme. In Nayagarh, Orissa, 7,000 children from 109 primary schools and 78 high schools were served the mid-day meal. In Medak, Andhra Pradesh, 7,000 children from 32 schools were fed.

On 26 August, a new grant agreement between Kusuma Foundation and The Akshaya Patra Foundation was signed for the Mid-Day Meal Kitchen Construction in Bhubaneswar. The first disbursement of £461,554 will be made in September.

### **CHILDREN AT-RISK**

#### **Project Saarathi**

On 8 August, Kusuma Foundation's Programme Manager met with academic staff from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences to finalise

the research design to assess the impact of the Saarathi manual on frontline personnel. On 19 August, a project review meeting for 27 delegates took place in Vijayawada. The Director of the Juvenile Justice Department, a representative from UNICEF's child protection cell and local NGO staff participated. The meeting discussed the increased understanding of Saarathi among Integrated Child Protection Scheme workers at the District and State level, and the need for skills training in Telugu.

### **INTERNET & OPEN SPACE**

#### **Building Open Sharing Resources**

The Open Collaboration research is now focused on access policies of data repositories, scientific publishers and research funding agencies. Preparations began for Creative Commons' Global Summit, to be held in Warsaw from 16-18 September, which will include the annual iCommons' Board meeting.

### **RESEARCH & ADVOCACY**

#### **Scholarship Evaluation**

On 2 September, Kusuma Foundation engaged an agency to collect data from recipients of the Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellowship in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. This is the second phase of the research after a pilot phase was completed in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, in April.



Udayan Shalini students during class in Dehradun, Uttarakhand  
Photo: Mr. Ashok Kumar

### **Secondary Education Research**

On 31 August, a draft report of the research commissioned by The Trust on the state of secondary education in Orissa and Uttar Pradesh was submitted by the consultant.

### **Other News**

The Trust will move its London headquarters to new offices in early October. The new address will be: Mezzanine Level, 48-49 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1JT.