

**Kusuma Student
Statistics**

- 7,925 students supported
- 6,754 through mobile science laboratories
- 953 in scholarship programmes
- 218 in accelerated learning programmes



Kusuma students do well

Examination results show high numbers passing and scoring good grades

Students from three scholarship programmes, a science education project and an accelerated learning programme supported by Kusuma recorded promising results in this year's annual examinations.

All 126 **Udaan** and **Pehchaan**⁽¹⁾ students from Sarvodaya Ashram in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, who took public examinations in 2012 achieved an A or A+ grade. Out of 77 Udaan students, 75 achieved an A+ and two achieved an A in their Class 5 examination. All 49 Pehchaan students scored A+ in their Class 8 examination.

Of the 256 **Kusuma Ratna Fellows** in Sambalpur, Orissa, 90 per cent passed and 71 per cent scored 60 per cent and above. All 85 students in Class 11 successfully completed their year, enabling them to graduate to Class 12. All 90 Class 12 **Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellows** in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, passed their examinations, with 70 per cent scoring 60 per cent and above. In Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, 172 students supported by the **Kusuma Young Achievers' Award** passed and 64 per cent of them achieved 60 per cent and above in their examinations.

In 40 government schools in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, participating in the **Mobile Science Laboratories** project, 72 per cent of 1,870 students passed Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

"I feel blessed to have been selected as a Shalini student because I've been allowed to continue my education, participate in social activities and can now teach local children who live near me"

Neha Bisht, Udayan Shalini Fellow since 2009
Bachelor of Science student at Garhwal University, Uttarakhand

(1) Udaan and Pehchaan are accelerated learning programmes for girls aged 8 to 15 years who have never attended or dropped out of school



Students during a Science Lesson at Sarvodaya Ashram, Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh. Photo: Sam Strickland

Government support for Hardoi project

In July, the Secretary of Vigyan Foundation (VF), Mr. Sandeep Khare, met with State government officials to secure support for VF's project aimed at strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of School Management and Development Committees in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh.

A formal request for support of the project was submitted to the Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan⁽²⁾ (RMSA) Director, Mr. Vasudev Yadav, the RMSA Additional Director, Mr. Sarvendra Singh and the District Inspector of Schools, Mr. Jay Prakash Yadav.

VF identified 40 secondary schools in 11⁽³⁾ of the 19 blocks in Hardoi district for inclusion in the project, 12 government schools and 28 government-aided schools. The project coordinator also briefed the District Inspector of Schools and Block Education Officer, Mr. P. R. Gautam, on the implementation plan and sought government support for identifying RMSA trainers, consultants and members for the project's alliance of civil society organisations, NGOs, education institutes and academics, which will lobby the government for the roll out of RMSA.

Accreditation for vocational training project

Following a meeting between the Executive Director of Better Education Through Innovation Foundation (BETI), Ms. Sehba Hussain, and the Regional Office Representative of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Mr. S.S. Das, in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, NIOS has agreed to provide accreditation for BETI's vocational training project in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh.

The accreditation will be for vocational training courses and will be granted subject to BETI appointing trainers who hold certificates from government-recognised institutes. NIOS also agreed to allow 1,350 of the project's beneficiaries to receive open schooling over three years to enable them to enrol in and complete their secondary education.

Hundreds of government workers trained

The roll out of **Saarathi**⁽⁴⁾ training in Andhra Pradesh continued in July.

From 6 to 24 July, a series of training sessions took place in Medak district for 500 frontline Anganwadi workers, who provide care to newborns and young children under the State's Integrated Child Protection Services. The training focused on child rights, the Right to Education and Juvenile Justice Acts and was held in partnership with the Women and Child Welfare Department and local NGOs.

(2) RMSA is India's national scheme for improving the quality of secondary education.

(3) The 11 blocks of Hardoi district are Tadiawan, Hariyawan, Pihani, Sursa, Bharavan, Sandila, Todarpur, Bilgram, Bharkani, Sandi and Bavan.

(4) The Saarathi project delivers training to 1,500 government social welfare workers on how to counsel and support children at-risk.

From 20 to 21 July, a residential training programme on web-based home monitoring software by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing⁽⁵⁾ took place for 38 staff from Juvenile Homes. The software enables State officials to monitor homes more effectively to ensure timely provision of core services to children at-risk including shelter, food, education, counseling and legal support.

Search for new scholars commences

In July, applications for the **Kusuma Ratna Fellowship** were disseminated to 604 Class 10 students who have scored 70 per cent and above in their annual examination in Sambalpur, Orissa. Of this number, 308 students have applied for the fellowship. Interviews and written tests will be held in August and up to 100 new students will be selected at the end of the month, in preparation for their induction into the fellowship in September.



Ratna Fellows at the Annual Mentor-Mentee Meeting in Sambalpur, Orissa.
Photo: Sam Strickland

Other News

During July, staff from **Kusuma Foundation**, The Trust's affiliate in Delhi, met with officials in Orissa to discuss new project ideas.

These included the Principal and Head of Student Placements at the Hirakud Industrial Training Institute in Sambalpur regarding training programmes implemented by the State's Directorate of Technical Education and Training; the RMSA Additional Director in Bhubaneswar on the Government of India's new model schools scheme; and the Deputy Director, Vocational Training, in Bhubaneswar to explore possible partnerships on vocational training programmes.

From 29 August to 5 September, The Trust's Board of Trustees and CEO will visit projects in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Delhi and meet representatives from partner organisations, government officials and other donors.

(5) A research organisation working under the auspices of the Government of India's Department of Information Technology.