

**Other partners
supporting Kusuma
schools:**

- Teachers Media International
- Digital Study Hall
- British Council
- TES Connect
- Children Book Trust
- Children Film Society



kusuma
trust

Partnerships in Education

Collaboration leads to school improvement

In November, school improvement activities commenced in 50 schools in Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh and Sambalpur in Odisha. These include establishing electricity connections, supplying clean and safe drinking water, providing textbooks and library services to students and enabling access to a wider range of teaching materials for teachers. Other activities to improve the quality of teaching, school governance and learning environments are planned for 2014. The Trust is working in partnership with the Kusuma Foundation in India, key government departments and local partners to deliver these interventions.

The Kusuma Foundation co-ordinated with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) departments in Odisha and Uttar Pradesh to conduct water testing in schools. The Government UG High School Khandual in Sambalpur identified the lack of access to safe drinking water as a priority for students. The School Management and Development Committee (SMDC) consulted the community and visited households in surrounding villages to successfully raise INR 35,000. The SMDC then liaised with the RWSS department in Odisha and arranged for a new water tap to be fitted with the funds raised.

Kusuma is also working with the State Electricity Department to establish electricity supply to schools. Pabitra Mohan High School in Sambalpur is a government high school without an electricity connection. This affects teaching and learning as classrooms are without light and adequate ventilation. The Head teacher and the SMDC raised INR 50,000 from the local community and liaised with the State Electricity Department to successfully obtain the connection with the money collected.

Other organisations are working in partnership with Kusuma to support schools. STIR Education nurtures 'micro-innovations' in classroom practices and school management across the 50 schools participating in the Kusuma Schools Partnership Initiative. Teachers will have the opportunity to participate in conferences, workshops and training events to learn new ways to improve the motivation and performance of students.

NIIT Limited in Odisha and Aptech Limited in Uttar Pradesh are providing computer training to students at the Kusuma Resource Centres (KRCs) in both districts. Other partnerships with local organisations focus on literacy, language and livelihood skills, and the establishment of library lending services. The programmes in each KRC aim to encourage a culture of reading and learning with age-appropriate books and educational games for students and the local community. Kusuma is also exploring ways to deliver vocational education and career counselling for young people at the KRCs.



Government UG High School Khandual in Sambalpur, Odisha. Photo: Kusuma Foundation

School Cabinet members help victims of Cyclone Phailin

School cabinet members from 25 Sambalpur schools supported by Kusuma raised funds for victims of cyclone Phailin that affected over 12 million people on the east coast of India.

Students in each school cabinet set up a donation box and organised fundraising campaigns in their local communities to raise awareness of the devastation caused by the cyclone. The Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSO) supported the school cabinets in their fundraising. On 16 November, students Subhashree Samal from Gogua High School, Barun Nag from Gormunda High School, Tiran Mirdha from Parmanpur Boys High School and Mausumi Sahu from Parmanpur Girls High School presented a cheque for INR 10,066 to Mr Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha. Subhashree Samal said *“I feel proud to have been able to help raise money for my brothers and sisters affected by the cyclone. I am very excited to have met the Chief Minister of Odisha and the memory of this meeting will remain with me all my life.”*



School cabinet members presenting the cheque to the Chief Minister of Odisha. Photo: CYSD

Research Fellows participate in first training

The Kusuma Research Fellowship in partnership with the Institute of Population Studies (IIPS) in Mumbai aims to encourage research into education and develop the research capacity of graduates through a training and mentoring programme. The first training module was held at IIPS from 25 to 29 November. Professor Ram, Director of IIPS, welcomed the five Fellows at the first training module, which included an introduction to educational research, formulating a hypothesis, research design, ethics and developing a research proposal. Fellows will use their learning to design and carry out research on various aspects of secondary education in Odisha and Uttar Pradesh in 2014.

English language learning study

A joint study by the British Council in India and Pratham, India's largest NGO working on primary education, analysed data collected in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER). The data revealed that language-reading skills, both in regional languages and in English, require urgent attention throughout India. The study found that less than half the children in Class 5 (10 years of age) transitioning to secondary school can read simple words in English and of the children who can read English words, approximately 40% cannot understand the words they have read. Kusuma is supporting English language remedial teaching in Sambalpur and providing teaching and learning resources to raise attainment in the English language.

Promoting Philanthropy



Dr Singh speaking at the Gibraltar Philanthropy Forum. Photo: Kusuma Trust Gibraltar

On 19 November, the Trust's Chairman, Mr John Rhodes, and Chief Executive, Dr Balwant Singh, were invited to speak at the inaugural Gibraltar Philanthropy Forum Conference promoting the benefits and challenges of philanthropic giving. Sir John Major, the former UK Prime Minister, gave the keynote speech on the role of private philanthropy in the 21st century. The Gibraltar Philanthropy Forum promotes the sharing of knowledge and best practice, highlighting the need for philanthropy and how philanthropists can make an effective and informed contribution. Speaking about philanthropy in action, Dr Singh said: *“Taking time to identify the causes that philanthropists value and care about most, and the changes they would like to achieve, are just as important as defining the strategy for achieving desired outcomes, working in partnership with government and other agencies, and measuring results.”*