

Vocational Training Project Facts

- Duration: April 2012 to March 2015
- Location: Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh
- Beneficiaries: 3,000 young people
- Trades: applique, chikankari, embroidery, agro-processing, automobile mechanics, welding, electrician training, mobile repairs, carpentry, cutting & tailoring and computer hardware repairs



Young people to receive job skills training

Training in a range of trades starts in Uttar Pradesh to boost employment

The NGO, Better Education Through Innovation Foundation (BETI), has identified 400 young people in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, for inclusion in the first six-month phase of the three-year vocational training project funded by Kusuma. These young people, who have dropped out of school due to inadequate family incomes and who lack practical skills for the job market, will be given the opportunity to learn a trade, and supported to find employment and earn a living.

Materials, equipment and tools for the trades of carpentry, welding and computer hardware repairs have been purchased for the project's Trade Training Centre, which is located in the Sandila Block of Hardoi District. Eight master trainers have been selected to train instructors in the trade of chikankari, a Lucknow-based embroidery craft.

On 21 June, following a meeting between representatives of Jan Shikshan Sansthan* (JSS) and BETI, JSS committed to provide competent and certified trainers for the project and to ensure that all beneficiaries receive certification on successful completion of their training, to enhance their employability.

"This training is an initiative that will allow many young boys and girls to build and develop skills in vocations of their choosing. The provision of these skills, linked with educational support, will help them generate and grow their own incomes."

Ms. Sebha Hussain, Executive Director, BETI

**Jan Shikshan Sansthan is a national scheme supported by the Government of India. It provides literacy-linked vocational and technical training across 27 States for poor, illiterate and marginalised sections of the population to help them become self-reliant, entrepreneurial and find employment.*



Young women participating in vocational training in Biswan, Uttar Pradesh. Photo: BETI

Open University produces learning materials

In June, The Open University (OU) UK, in collaboration with the National Institute of Open Schools and education consultancy firm IGNUS in India, facilitated authoring workshops in Noida to develop learning materials for Secondary Science and Mathematics students. This activity is part of the professional development of teachers project in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, which will reach 242 teachers and 20,000 students in 83 government and government-aided schools.

The workshops produced 12 draft Student Revision Units, three each in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. OU project staff were also keynote speakers at the World Bank International Conference held from 13 to 15 June in Patna, Bihar. The focus of the conference was the use of Information Communication Technology and Open and Distance Learning in teacher education. The OU speakers presented papers on the English in Action programme in Bangladesh, Teacher Education through School-Based Support in India and mobile telephony solutions that enhance teachers' classroom practices.

Kusuma Scholars and Students

The **Kusuma School of Biological Sciences** (the School**) admitted nine new students to its PhD programme from a total of 391 applicants. This takes the total number of PhD students at the School to 41. The programme is designed to popularise Biology among undergraduate students at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD), and promote the School's research through events such as the National Science Day and National Technology Day.

"The Kusuma School of Biological Sciences provides me with an excellent interdisciplinary platform for pursuing my Ph.D. with students from different backgrounds. The Faculty members are passionate about Science and freely share their knowledge and experience during our seminar sessions – which has created a very lively environment in which we enjoy undertaking research with our peers."

Suneyna Bansal, PhD student at the Kusuma School of Biological Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

The PhD students also mentor BTech and MTech students from other departments and are encouraged to participate in educational outreach programmes to inspire secondary school students to explore Science education options with IITD.

Somnath Dash, a **Kusuma Ratna** Fellow since 2009, has been accepted into the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Himachal Pradesh, to study Engineering, after achieving 90 per cent in his Class 10 examination and 75 per cent in his Class 12 examination.

**The School's mission is to promote innovative interdisciplinary research by interfacing Modern Biology with Applied Engineering Sciences to address problems affecting human health and welfare.

All **Udaan** and **Pehchaan***** students have passed their June monthly evaluations, with the majority scoring high marks. Out of 40 Class 7 Udaan students, 36 scored 60 per cent and above. Out of 55 Class 9 Pehchaan students, 50 students scored 60 per cent and above.

The Udaan and Pehchaan girls have fared very well in their exams thanks to the great efforts provided by the teaching staff. The teaching methodologies have indeed made the difference as they have helped the children easily understand the curriculum. The results are satisfying and the potential of these girls needs to be further nurtured".

Ms. Kusum Jauhari, Secretary, Sarvodaya Ashram, Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh

Grant approved for internet project

In July, The Trust approved funding of £691,230 for the **Centre for Internet and Society** (CIS) in Bangalore to support its operations and policy work. CIS conducts, commissions and publishes research across five programme areas, which is used to advocate for citizen-friendly changes in Intellectual Property Rights law and policy. It advocates with the Indian Government for legislative reform and works with higher education institutes to improve internet practices and policies.

This new grant builds on previous funding (£120,000) by The Trust to support CIS's Accessibility and Access to Knowledge programme, which works to ensure that disabled people can access and fully utilise the internet by reforming copyright law and articulating and implementing electronic accessibility standards.

The Trust's support enables CIS to tackle the inequitable distribution of copyright royalties, inadequate government data available online, exorbitant prices of commercial scholarly publications and controls over open access to the internet.

Other News

Professor Seyed E. Hasnain, a member of the **Kusuma School of Biological Sciences'** Advisory Board, has been awarded the prestigious J.C. Bose Fellowship by the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology as recognition for his outstanding contributions to the field of Science.

Kusuma Foundation, The Trust's affiliate in India, has moved to a new office in Delhi:

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Green Park
Hauz Khas, Aurbindo Marg
New Delhi – 110 016

***Udaan and Pehchaan are accelerated residential learning programmes for girls aged 8 to 15 years who have never attended or dropped out of school.