



Transforming lives through education

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Education a top priority

State Government increases investment in young people

The Odisha State government has allocated over INR 9,200 crore (£920 million) to improve the quality of education in their latest budget, an increase of 28% on last year's allocation, highlighting that education is a top priority for the State.

INR 340 crore (£34 million) will be allocated for the implementation of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), India's national strategy for improving the quality of secondary education. The State government has also committed further funding of INR 171 crore (£17 million) to develop model schools and INR 5 crore (£500,000) for scholarships for students, a four-fold increase from 2013.

The Kusuma Trust (The Trust) works with 25 secondary schools in Sambalpur, Odisha and 25 in Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh to support the implementation of RMSA through the professional development of teachers, improving school governance and management, providing teaching and learning resources and improving facilities in schools. The Trust works closely with Head teachers and School Management and Development Committees to ensure there is active community involvement in secondary education and that they have the capacity and

awareness to access funding from government and other local sources.

With the facilitation, encouragement and support of The Trust, 16 schools in Sambalpur and 12 schools in Hardoi have successfully obtained additional funds from other sources. Funding has been used to improve school boundary walls, build additional classrooms, improve playgrounds, build new school roads, provide safe drinking water facilities, supply books, appoint community teachers and undertake renovation of school facilities.

Schools in Sambalpur have received additional financial support from other sources including the Western Odisha Development Council, Panchayat Yuva Khel-Kud Abhiyan, Minister of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Fund, Member of Parliament Local Area Development Fund, Panchayat Raj Institute, National Council of Educational Research and Training, Parent Teacher Associations and the Rural Development Department.

By leveraging funding from government and local organisations, The Trust aims to ensure that education continues to be a key priority in building a bright future for all young people.



Students racing at the Upper Government High School, Panchput, Sambalpur
Photo: Sam Strickland

“Students are racing ahead and schools need to keep up. The Kusuma Trust UK works closely with schools to strengthen their governance and management so that they are better equipped to secure and utilise funds for improved teaching and learning.”

Dr Balwant Singh, CEO, Kusuma Trust UK

Our mission is to facilitate and increase access to education and other life opportunities for children and young people

Access to Funding

The Government Girls Inter College in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, successfully applied for and received funding for school improvement activities from the local community. Ms. Chitra Sonkar, School Principal, received INR 62,000 from the Parent and Teacher Association for the renovation of bicycle stands and INR 10,000 from the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Fund to purchase new library books.

Funding from the Trust has enabled Ms Sonkar to purchase 60 desks and benches, install a running water connection in the toilet blocks and obtain a minimum of 3 hours electricity per day in the classrooms. Improvements in teaching and learning have also been possible with a library, computers and new science equipment for students.

With the support of The Trust and local community, the school has made steady progress in securing funds to improve facilities. As a result, teacher and student motivation has improved and Ms. Sonkar is expecting to see a higher number of students enrol in Classes 9 and 11 in the new academic year.



Girls determined to succeed at Government Girls Inter College in Hardoi.
Photo: Samuel Strickland

“Kusuma’s support to the school this year has included a range of educational materials for students and the development of teachers to improve classroom teaching practices.”

Ms Chira Sonkar, School Principal,
Government Girls Inter College, Hardoi.

Whole School Improvement

Mahulpali Upgraded High School in Sambalpur, Odisha, has made some positive school improvements since its involvement in the Kusuma Schools Partnership Initiative. Headteacher, Mr Arakhita Mallik, established a functional School Management and Development Committee (SMDC) which raised funds of more than INR 700,000 for building repairs, new furniture and electrical wiring.



The Mahulpali Upgraded High School, Sambalpur.
Photo: Kusuma Foundation

The SMDC works closely with parents in the community and visits nearby villages to ensure all children attend school. Teachers are taking more responsibility for the pastoral care of students with learning difficulties and providing one-to-one coaching to students who need extra support.

“Kusuma’s support has enabled the school to become more integrated with a more joined up curriculum, extra resources, better governance and increased motivation amongst students, teachers and parents”.

Mr Malik, Head teacher
Mahulpali Upgraded High School, Sambalpur.

Human Rights Education in more schools

The Trust supports Amnesty International’s Human Rights Education programme in 27 schools in Bangalore. As part of the programme, Amnesty works with 26,000 students, 1,200 teachers and approximately 35,000 parents. From June 2014, the programme has expanded to schools in Mumbai, Delhi, Patna and Jaipur. The programme supports schools to identify and discuss key human rights issues in relation to the curriculum & co-curricular activities, school environment, school relationships and school governance. Amnesty aims to work with 100 schools across various cities in India.



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