



Transforming lives through education

June 2014

Preparing for Secondary School

Extra support boosts students' confidence and performance

The Kusuma Trust UK (The Trust) supports Agraneer Jana Kalyana Anusthan to provide extra tuition in English and Maths for students in Classes 8, 9 and 10 from 25 schools in Sambalpur, to prepare them for Board examinations. The sessions, held in schools six days a week before or after classes, are popular with students and made a positive contribution to improved examination results. In 2013, students scored an average of 20 per cent in English compared with 49 per cent in 2014. In Maths, students scored an average of 19 per cent in 2013 compared with 51 per cent in 2014.

Schools in Sambalpur will re-open after the summer break on 17 June and extra support will be provided in English, Maths, Science and Oriya to students throughout the school year.

The Trust is developing materials in English, Maths, Science and Hindi to provide extra support to students in Classes 9 and 10 in Hardoi. The materials encourage students to work in groups and use learning resources outside the classroom, especially in Science. The materials enable students to increase learning to the level required for secondary school.

The materials were piloted at workshops in Government Inter College Tandiyawan and Government Girls Inter College Sandila. In total, 316 students used the materials in May 2014 after which students were assessed to identify gaps in their knowledge and improve the materials where necessary. Feedback was collated from teachers on how to use the new materials to augment existing textbooks before it is rolled out to all schools in the district in the new academic year.

Country Leader of the Kusuma Foundation in India, Pankaj Vinayak Sharma, said:

“Low levels of learning highlighted in the 2013 ASER study and Kusuma’s assessment of schools suggest that many children are not adequately prepared secondary school. Extra tuition and subject specific materials for students will improve student learning and performance in examinations.”

By working in partnership with schools in Sambalpur and Hardoi, The Trust hopes that extra tuition and supporting materials will raise education standards and enhance learning.



Students in Hardoi using learning resources outside the classroom
Photo: Kusuma Foundation

The Kusuma Trust UK supports 4000 students in Sambalpur with extra tuition to improve their performance and gain confidence in English, Maths and Science.

1. Annual Status of Education Report <http://tinyurl.com/nr3dpj4>

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

Speaking English with confidence

For the last four months, students Soumya Bajpai, Ruby Devi and Nidhi Kaithwai at the Girls Government Inter-College in Hardoi, have been attending an English communication course at the Kusuma Resource Centre (KRC). Soumya is learning English because she recognises its importance as a world language. Ruby hopes to become an English teacher and Nidhi appreciates that everyone should learn a second language.

During the course, the girls learnt four key skills: reading, listening, speaking and writing, with an emphasis on conversation and fluency. After four months, the girls have noticed an improvement in their speaking skills. When asked how they would like to use their knowledge of English in the future, Soumya said she believes it could lead to a good job in a global city such as Mumbai, Nidhi wants to travel abroad to an English speaking country and visit London and Ruby hopes to use her English skills in the classroom.

In Sambalpur, Tejaswini Pradhan and Ritamayee Pradhan are both in Class 10 at SB High School in Gopalpalli and have attended an English course at the KRC. The girls chose to take the course as they hope it will benefit them in their careers. Tejaswini hopes to be a Police Officer and will need a good level of English to complete her entrance exams and Ritamayee wants to be a bank manager.



Soumya Bajpai, Ruby Devi and Nidhi Kaithwai at the KRC in Hardoi
Photo: Kusuma Trust UK

“English is a language that is important in the 21st century and will help us to secure good jobs in the future.”

Tejaswini Pradhan, Student from SB High School, Gopalpalli, Sambalpur

Kusuma Resource Centres ready for new school year

The Kusuma Resource Centres in the districts of Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh and Sambalpur in Odisha will launch a new series of activities for students, teachers and the local community from July 2014. Courses in English and basic computing skills will be provided for students in Classes 8 & 9 as well as career guidance sessions. Book and film clubs will be offered regularly and an education and careers fair will be organised for students from all schools in the district.



Students taking part in courses at the Kusuma Resource Centre
Photo: Kusuma Trust UK

The KRCs will provide opportunities for teachers to meet and share innovative classroom ideas and to participate in practical science and library management workshops. Head teachers will be supported with leadership and management training. Kusuma works with local communities and will invite School Management and Development Committee members, including parents, to attend workshops and meetings at the KRCs to increase community involvement in school governance.

Teacher goes the extra mile for students

Mrs Rashmirikha Kheti teaches Hindi to a large group of 78 Class 10 students in Parmanpur High School in Sambalpur. As a teacher, she believes it is her duty to ensure all students, regardless of background and ability, have the best possible chance to succeed. Before the Class 10 examinations, Mrs Kheti identified three low performing students who needed intensive support and one-to-one tuition to pass. The teacher met the students daily, not only to develop their academic skills but also to understand their home environment. The students gained confidence, began to respond to classes and the intensive tuition provided by their teacher and all three students passed their examinations. The Head teacher of the school was impressed by Mrs Kheti's dedication and will formally recognise her efforts at the start of the new school year at a presentation to students, parents and the local community.