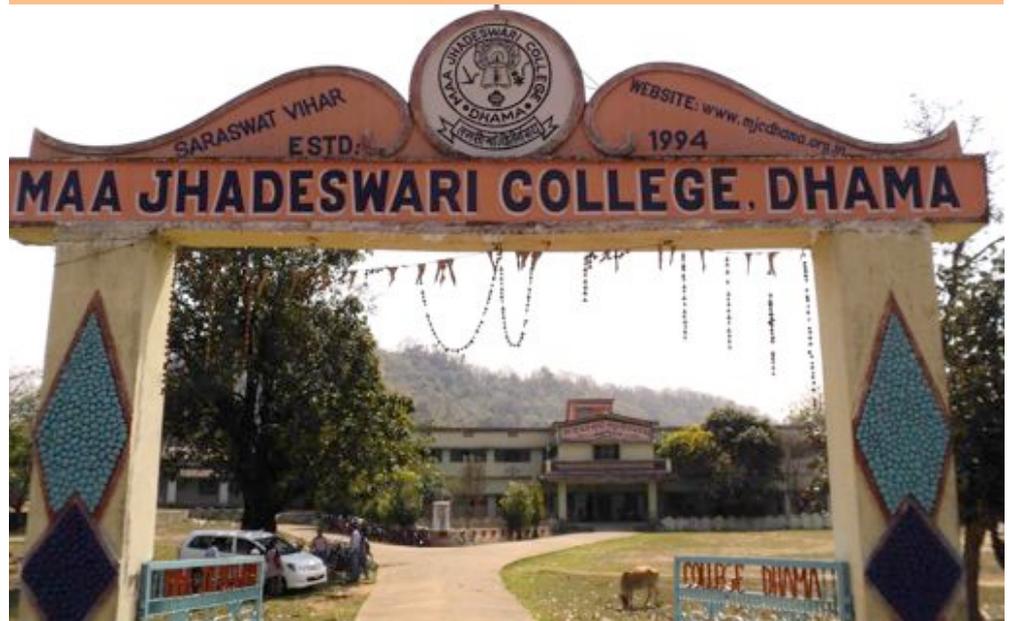




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Dhama College in Sambalpur, Orissa where four Kusuma Ratna students are studying in Classes 11 – 12. Photo: Julian Beckedahl

Quotes

“The Kusuma Ratna Fellowship Programme has not only supported me financially but given me moral support through the mentoring scheme, which has helped me prepare for my examinations.”

Sayed Nikhat Ahmed,
Sambalpur, Orissa

“I am thankful to the Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellowship for its support and encouragement. The workshops help bring out my inner potential so I can become a dignified woman.”

Depshikha Tyagi,
Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Study of Sampalpur Schools reveals areas for intervention

A mapping study of 204 government secondary schools in Sambalpur, Orissa, shows significant gaps which are compromising the quality of education students are receiving.

The study found that 17 per cent of the 1912 teaching posts were vacant, with 42 per cent of teachers in post teaching Geography, History, Social Sciences and the local language, 25 per cent teaching both Science and Mathematics and 16 per cent teaching English. Only 45 per cent of the 37,901 enrolled students were attending class regularly and a third of students dropped out between Classes 9 and 10.

A lack of infrastructure was also evident. While approximately two-thirds or more of schools have an enclosed boundary wall, dedicated land, electricity and drinking water, less than half have separate toilets for male and female students. Furthermore, only 14 per cent of schools have computers for students, 10 per cent have a separate library and only six schools have their own science laboratories. The majority of schools have operational School Management and Development Committees, but only 66 per cent have a school development plan.

our mission

To facilitate and increase access to education and other life opportunities for children and young people

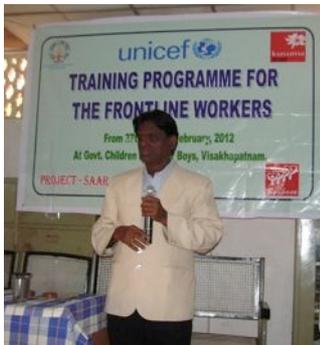
Schools Mapping cont'd

Kusuma Foundation undertook the study from December 2011 to January 2012 with the support of the Sambalpur Integrated Development Institute. The aim was to collect data on the current state of these schools to inform The Trust's grant-making for projects.

The purpose of the research was to understand the availability and gaps in human resources and physical infrastructure across all 204 schools. The study recorded the number of students by gender, caste and special needs, and the number of subject-specific teachers and teaching vacancies. It also checked if the schools had blackboards, drinking water, toilets, allocated land, library and laboratory facilities, and determined the existence and functioning of the School Development and Management Committees.

The findings provide a baseline for some of The Trust's planned interventions and grants in Sambalpur.

Government Engages with Saarathi Project



Saarathi Training for Frontline Workers held at a Government Children's Home for Boys, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Photo: Sriramulu

On 12 February, 300 government workers participated in a workshop on child protection issues at the Hotel Expotel in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. The workshop is part of the **Saarathi** Project funded by The Trust.

In attendance were Mr. Altamas Kabir, Supreme Court Judge and Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh, and Mrs. Sumita Laxma Reddy, Minister for Women and Child Welfare. The workshop focused on promoting collaboration between eight government agencies, including the police and judicial departments, to

ensure the effective implementation of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme across the State.

An important outcome of the workshop was the orientation of child welfare officers at Police Stations who are part of the Special Juvenile Police Unit.

On 24 February, Mr. Kismat Kumar, Director of the Juvenile Welfare Department, proposed a new phase of **Saarathi** training for all frontline personnel working in Children's Homes run by the Department. The new phase would train up to 1,000 child welfare officers across 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh. The Government is to explore partnerships with the State's Legal Services Authority to implement the training.



Mr. Shridhar Rao, Rajiv Vidya Mission, awarding Science prizes
Photo: Project 511

School Science Awards

On 18 February, three secondary schools participating in the **Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL)** project received awards at the District Science Exhibition, held at Mehubia Government High School in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Awards were given for the best-performed experiments, and the winners are:

1st Prize

Jamaia Osmania Government High School - Atomic Energy for Chemistry.

2nd Prize

Malakpet Government High School - Properties of Light for Physics.

3rd Prize

CPL Amberpet Government High School - Blood Groups for Biology.

The MSL Manual has been printed and will be distributed to 372 Hyderabad High Schools in March.

Students - Learning Beyond Schools

On 4 February, 102 **Kusuma Young Achiever Award** students visited the UK Education Exhibition at the Hotel Taj Krishna in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, to learn about overseas career opportunities and courses available from UK universities.

On 11 February, 80 Award students visited Infosys's corporate premises in Hyderabad. The goal was to introduce scholarship students to India's IT sector and inform them about graduate job prospects.

On 21 and 22 February, 85 **Udaan** and **Pehchaan** students visited Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, to help them improve their understanding of history, science and the environment. The two-day tour included the Planetarium, Zoo and the eighteen-century Bara Imambara shrine.

Other News

The installation of the foundations and plinth of The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF)'s **Mid-Day Meal Kitchen** in Bhubaneswar, Orissa is to start in March. Purchase orders for large scale cooking vessels and storage silos have been placed. The ground floor will be completed in June.



Bulldozer at the TAPF Mid-Day Meal Kitchen site, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

Photo: Julian Beckedahl

On 27 February, the CEO and Kusuma Foundation's two Programme Managers met with senior staff of three potential partner organisations, Association for Development and Research in Socio-Economic Activities, Agraneer Jana Kalyan Anusthan and Centre for Youth and Sustainable Development, in Bhubaneswar to discuss new projects. Further development of the project proposals will take place in March to ensure planned activities deliver agreed outcomes.