

**Professional
development in
Science and
English key facts**

- **Duration:** March 2012-June 2013
- **Location:** Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh
- **Beneficiaries:** 242 teachers and 20,000 students in classes 9-12



Teachers discover new ways of teaching

World Teachers' Day – Supporting teachers' professional development

The Kusuma Trust UK and the Open University are working in partnership to improve the classroom practices of science teachers in 83 secondary schools in the Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh. Working closely with State and District Education authorities the project is developing practical activities for teachers to implement in classrooms. These will drive teachers' professional development and enhance student learning and education outcomes. Teachers also receive face-to-face training, support and fully bespoke programme materials for Science and English.

On World Teachers' Day on 5 October, Miss Beena Nagpal, a teacher from Hardoi and a member of the newly formed **Udbhav**⁽¹⁾ Project District Resource Group, highlighted that before the project was introduced it was sometimes difficult to encourage students to attend classes. As a result of the new and innovative teaching methods introduced, Miss Nagpal has noted an improvement in the motivation of students.

"I now have the opportunity to do something new and innovative that is very different from traditional ways of teaching. I feel there is a lot of scope for students to participate in new learning activities. I also now believe that learning can take place outside the classroom. As we are learning new teaching methods and using new science materials, I also believe I can change my approach to teaching and incorporate more peer and student-centered learning."

Miss Beena Nagpal
Gopamau Secondary School Teacher

During a recent visit to the project in Uttar Pradesh, Dr Balwant Singh, CEO of Kusuma Trust UK said he was "encouraged by the very positive response and support of teachers, teacher educators, principals and State and District Education officials to this project". He added that other major donors have expressed a keen interest in learning from this project and using the teaching and learning resources developed by this project to implement similar programmes in other States.

⁽¹⁾ Udbhav, means 'to rise from' and is the new name of the Open University project funded by Kusuma Trust UK



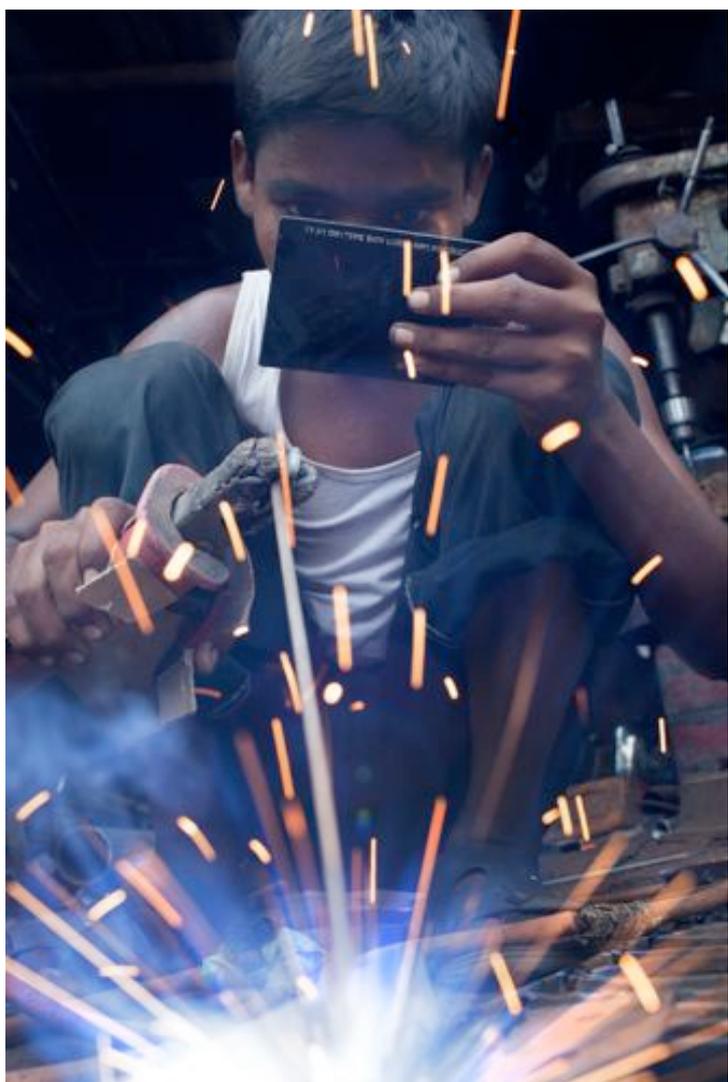
Shradha Dwivedi, a participant at an Open University teacher training session, Hardoi. Photo: Sam Strickland

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

News from Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh

The **Parwaaz**⁽²⁾ project, which aims to ensure the successful roll-out of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)⁽³⁾, was officially launched in Hardoi on 12 September. Forty secondary schools were selected to be part of the project. The formation of a School Management and Development Committee (SMDC) in each school is underway and this will be followed by training to develop an understanding of SMDC members' responsibilities in school governance and management. The Vigyan Foundation, which is implementing the project, has established a partnership with the State Institute of Educational Management and Training.

Better Education Through Innovation Foundation (BETI) aims to enhance the employment prospects of adolescents through training and educational coaching. The realisation of these aims progressed in September with the establishment of Trade Training Centres in Sandila, Uttar Pradesh as part of the **Education Advancement Through Livelihood Training** project. Training has now commenced in computer hardware, automobile repairs, welding and beauty. Training in cutting and tailoring is planned for October followed by mobile phone repair for the next cohort of participants in the project.



A young man learns welding in a street workshop. Photo: Sam Strickland

⁽²⁾ Parwaaz, means 'to fly'

⁽³⁾ RMSA is India's national scheme for improving the quality of secondary education

News from Sambalpur, Odisha

The District Education Department has committed to provide resources to promote **science teaching** in government secondary schools in Sambalpur. Agranee Jana Kayla Anusthan, the implementing partner has renovated and refurbished laboratories in 25 schools. Science kits were supplied to these schools in September. Since the start of the project, teachers and students who have been using the science kits in laboratories are championing the project and teachers who have used the kits are realising their value in improving the learning experience for students.

The Centre for Youth and Social Development held a workshop on 15-17 September to develop a training manual for Principals and SMDC members. The purpose of the manual is to train SMDC members to develop their **management and school governance** practices. The project also aims to support 150 school cabinet members to effectively deliver their responsibilities.

Kusuma Ratna Fellow

Abishek Sharma, a 17 year-old student who comes from a poor family in Sambalpur, lives with his extended family and his father works as a mason earning ₹31 a month. Education has always been a priority for his family and Abishek was a bright student from an early age, scoring 87.5 % in his class 10 examinations. In 2010, Abishek was awarded the **Kusuma Ratna Fellowship** enabling him to continue his hard work and dedication and achieve his ambition of becoming an aircraft maintenance engineer. Abishek achieved 80.2% in his class 12 examinations and is now pursuing a B.Tech from Vir Surenda Sai of Technology in Sambalpur. Abishek sees the fellowship as an opportunity to aspire for a bright future "My father builds houses for others to live in. Thanks to the Kusuma Ratna Fellowship, my dream is to one day have our own house to live in".

Training for frontline workers

In September, more than 100 Anganwadi and Asha frontline health workers, who work with children, participated in follow-up training based on the **Saarathi**⁽⁴⁾ training manual in Siddipet, Andhra Pradesh. The focus of the training was child protection, including child rights, the Right to Education Act and the Juvenile Justice Act.

Career guidance for fellows

On the 23 September 57 fellows from the **Kusuma Udayan Fellowship** participated in a workshop on communication skills and motivation. A further 22 fellows participated in a workshop on vocational courses and career guidance, and received advice on interview techniques and career paths.

⁽⁴⁾ Saarathi is a training manual to equip frontline workers with the skills needed to work with vulnerable young people