

**In 2011-2012
The Trust:**

- Supported 16 projects
- Worked with 15 partner organisations
- Made grants worth £2.13m

Determined to make a difference

Kusuma Board visits India projects

From 29 August to 5 September, The Trust's Founders, Board and CEO visited projects in India and met with government officials and partner organisations. The Chair and staff of Kusuma Foundation, our affiliate in Delhi, also participated in the trip. The visit included projects supported over the last three years and new projects recently approved, and provided an opportunity to assess their progress and discuss future plans.

"Every visit to India is an adventure, but to come as a Kusuma Trustee is also a privilege. It's an opportunity to see first hand that something can be done to turn the tide of poverty which, despite India's obvious current prosperity, still engulfs a large proportion of the population. The Mid-Day Meal Kitchen and Pehchaan⁽¹⁾ programmes especially encapsulate Kusuma's determination to make a difference to the lives of poor children in our target States of Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. In this densely populated and complex corner of the world nothing can be taken at face value but, even so, these projects cannot fail to add to the total sum of human happiness and achievement."

John Rhodes
Chairman, Kusuma Trust UK

News from Sambalpur, Orissa

The District Education Department approved a teacher-training programme for Agranee Jana Kalya Anusthan's project to promote Science teaching and learning in 25 government secondary schools using science kits in classrooms. The Centre for Youth and Social Development met with principals and School Management and Development Committee (SMDC) members to discuss its project aimed at strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of SMDCs. One SMDC in Maneshwar block emphasised its need to understand its role in boosting enrolment and improving students' academic performance, and prepare school development plans so as to secure government funds for their school.

(1) Pehchaan is an accelerated learning programme for girls aged 12 to 15 years who have never attended or dropped out of school



Students during a lesson at Sarvodaya Ashram, Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh. Photo: Sam Strickland

News from Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh

Vigyan Foundation selected 20 secondary schools for inclusion in the first year of the **Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan project** to develop and empower SMDCs. Five out of a target of 20 SMDCs have already been formed. Of the 126 **Pehchaan** students who took monthly evaluations at Sarvodaya Ashram in August, all passed and 90 per cent scored 60 per cent and above. In the Open University UK's **Teacher Professional Development** project the District Resource Group was established to support teachers throughout the academic year and the editing of the first draft of 12 Student Revision Units for Science and Mathematics was completed.

Kitchen construction accelerated

The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF)'s construction of a **Mid-Day Meal Kitchen** in Bhubaneswar, Orissa is making good progress. The ground floor has been built and the casting of the first floor is underway. The Government of Orissa has approved the building of a bridge from the site to the highway to enable food delivery vehicles to easily access the kitchen. The kitchen is due to be completed in December 2012 followed by commencement of a mid-day meal programme for 100,000 children in local schools.



The Akshaya Patra Foundation Mid-Day Meal Kitchen Site in Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
Photo: John Rhodes

New students admitted to scholarship

On 31 August, 100 new students were inducted into the fourth cohort of the **Kusuma Ratna Fellowship** programme at a ceremony in Sambalpur, Orissa. The Trust's Founders, Dr. Soma Pujari and Mr. Anurag Dikshit, were the guests of honour. The new scholars were selected from 329 applications following a rigorous selection process, which assessed examination grades, oral and written skills, family income and home life.



The Trust's Founders, Dr. Soma Pujari and Mr. Anurag Dikshit presenting the scholarship stipend to a new Kusuma Ratna Fellow in Sambalpur, Orissa.
Photo: Sambalpur Integrated Development Institute

Lalita Kshatriya is a 20 year-old student who comes from a poor and disadvantaged family in Sambalpur, Orissa. She shares a one-room house with her younger sister and father, who earns a meager £27 per month. In 2008 she scored 67 per cent in her Class 10 examination and was accepted into the **Kusuma Ratna Fellowship** in 2009. Her mentors remark that her academic performance has improved tremendously since joining the Fellowship and her personality has transformed from that of a shy, quiet girl to a confident, well-spoken young woman. She is currently studying commerce and hopes to become a teacher one day. Lalita sees the Fellowship as a blessing because it has given her the confidence to pursue her dreams.



Lalita Kshatriya at the induction ceremony of the fourth cohort of Kusuma Ratna Fellows in Sambalpur, Orissa.
Photo: Sambalpur Integrated Development Institute

Training in trades proves popular

Ten master trainers in chikankari, the Lucknow-based embroidery craft, were trained in Better Education Through Innovation Foundation's **vocational training project** and 300 chikankari training kits have been distributed to 300 trainees.

Large numbers of applications were received for training in computer hardware repairs and automobile mechanics.

New resource for government workers

On 1 August, Andhra Pradesh's Minister for Woman and Child Welfare, Mrs. Sunitha Laxma Reddy, launched the **Saarathi**⁽²⁾ resource book in Telugu in Narsapur, Medak district for use by government workers who counsel and support vulnerable children.

Government support for projects

On 13 August, Uttar Pradesh's Director of Education, Mr. Vasudev Yadav, signed a letter of support for The Trust's work on new projects in Hardoi.

This support enables the Open University UK, Vigyan Foundation and other Kusuma partners to seek support from and collaborate with a wide range of state and district officials responsible for secondary education.

Other News

We are delighted to announce the appointment at The Trust of Andrew Vivian as Programme and Grants Manager and Andy Arthurson as Office Manager.

The Trust also extends a warm welcome to new staff at Kusuma Foundation, Dr. Kamalini Mukhodpadhyaya (Research Officer), Beas Bhowmik and Shikha Jain (Programme Managers).

(2) The Saarathi project delivers training to 1,500 government social welfare workers in Andhra Pradesh on how to counsel and support children at-risk.