

**Education in Hardoi,  
Uttar Pradesh**

- There are 421 secondary schools in Hardoi, of these 329 are private schools
- The overall literacy rate in Hardoi is 65% with male literacy at 74% and female literacy at 53%
- The transition rate between Class IX and Class X is 64%



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# Improving Teaching and Learning

## Launch of Schools Partnership Initiative

Mr Anand Kumar Dwivedi, District Magistrate for Hardoi, formally launched the Kusuma Schools Partnership Initiative (KSPI) attended by over 80 delegates on 23 August 2013 in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh. Delegates included officials from the State and District education departments, Headteachers and representatives from local NGOs.

The initiative supports 25 secondary schools in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, to raise student attainment and teaching standards. The five-year initiative focuses on professional development of teachers, building capacity of Headteachers and providing learning materials and resources for students. School physical environments will be improved by construction and maintenance of school facilities, including access to clean water. The project will build on Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)<sup>1</sup> standards to create lasting improvements in the schools that will be developed as 'models schools' in the State.

Mr Dwivedi stressed the importance of the project in improving learning outcomes for students. He offered the full support of the District Administration and Department of Education for the project. Mr Jayprakash Yadav, District Inspector of Schools, spoke of the need to involve parents and community members to keep students motivated to continue studying outside the classroom.

At the launch, prizes were awarded to eight teachers in recognition of their contribution towards guiding students who achieved the highest scores in English, Mathematics and Science in the district in 2013. Prizes were awarded for exceptional performance in recent Board examinations to four schools. Delegates viewed an exhibition of photographs and school improvement plans, and had the opportunity to share resources and visit the newly established Kusuma Resource Centre.

Mr Pankaj Vinayak Sharma, Country Leader of Kusuma Foundation in India, said "The KSPI is a two-way relationship in which schools strive for improvements in resources, teaching and learning with support from Kusuma. Schools will focus on real improvements in the quality of teaching and learning. I am impressed with the level of support and cooperation received from the district administration and schools, and I would like to thank the District Magistrate and District Inspector of Schools for their commitment to our work".

<sup>1</sup> Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is India's national scheme for improving the quality of secondary education



Delegates at the KSPI launch viewing the exhibition. Photo: Kusuma Foundation

## New grants awarded

The Kusuma Trust (The Trust) awarded two new grants in August. One supports professional development of teachers in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, and the second supports remedial teaching for students in Sambalpur, Odisha.

Udbhav<sup>2</sup>, a project supporting the professional development of Science and English teachers in 92 Secondary schools in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, will improve teachers' classroom practices. The project offers training, mentoring, school-based support and the development of interactive teaching and learning materials. The Kusuma Foundation manages the grant and works closely with IGNUS-ERG to implement project activities.

A remedial teaching project in 25 government schools will tackle poor performance of 4,000 students in English and Mathematics in Sambalpur, Odisha. Agranee Jana Kalyan Anusthan, the grantee, will set up and run coaching centres in the schools.

## More libraries needed for children

The National Mission for Libraries, part of the Ministry of Culture, will conduct a national census of libraries across India to identify work needed to upgrade facilities and improve reading resources. The census, announced at The New Delhi World Book Fair in August 2013 will find ways to modernise and promote libraries. Over three years, 9,000 libraries will be assessed.

The Trust's work in Hardoi and Sambalpur includes local resource centres set up for children, teachers, parents and members of the community to access textbooks, reference materials, multimedia resources and films. Students who cannot afford books will be able to borrow a range of fiction and non-fiction and access revision materials for examinations.



Students reading in a school library in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh. Photo: Sam Strickland

## Invitation for applications for Research Fellowships

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) in Mumbai is inviting applications for the Kusuma Research Fellowship which is funded by The Trust. Applications must be from Indian citizens working in the education and development sectors. Five selected Fellows will be awarded up to INR 150,000 each. The Fellowship includes training modules on research methods once every quarter at IIPS. Fellows will undertake relevant research on secondary and higher education and employment in the districts of Sambalpur, Odisha, and Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh. Further details are available at <http://www.iipsindia.org/advertisements.htm>

## Open Educational Resources

The National Repository of Open Educational Resources (<http://nroer.in/home/>) will provide free resources to students and teachers under the Creative Commons license<sup>3</sup>. The Department of School Education and Literacy and the National Council of Educational Research and Training expect the repository to meet the continuous professional development needs of teachers and will provide on-line support to students. Materials include videos, audio clips, talking books, photographs and textbooks for all grades in multiple languages. Free material will be available to government schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education and public schools can access content for a small monthly fee.

<sup>2</sup> Udbhav means to 'arise from'

<sup>3</sup> A Creative Commons license is a public copyright license that allows the distribution of an author's information or work to give people the right to share, use and build upon work that they have created