



April 2017

Transforming lives through education



Scaling up programmes From 50 to 2000 schools in 4 years

In 2013, Kusuma began working with 25 schools in Uttar Pradesh and 25 Schools in Odisha, reaching 11,965 students. The success of Kusuma's partnership with these schools led to the government of Uttar Pradesh requesting Kusuma's support to replicate its programmes across the whole state, reaching more than 2,000 schools and 40,000 students¹ in 2017.

Many children in India who start secondary school have not acquired the appropriate learning level for the curriculum. Kusuma's Secondary School Readiness Programme accelerates learning so that they can catch up and reach that level. This has been scaled up by the government to 52 schools. The programme trains teachers in innovative methods for the classroom. More than 200 teachers from these schools are trained to deliver the programme with interactive teaching resources. The teachers are also supported by a group of experts who travel around the schools providing additional support and coaching. Kusuma's learning resources have also been given to more than 2,000 secondary schools.



Shri Vishnu Kant Pandey, Joint Director of UPMSA, launching the scale up of Kusuma's teacher professional development programme. Photo: Kusuma Foundation

“The State Review Group recommended Kusuma's model and resources for state-wide scale up. Insights from implementation in Kusuma partnership schools led to the development of scalable models that can improve teacher effectiveness and student learning.”

*Shri. Vishnu Kant Pandey, Joint Director
Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan*

Kusuma's approach includes improving school facilities, training teachers and head teachers, developing teaching and learning materials, and supporting the improvement of school governance and management. Based on the success of this work, the Uttar Pradesh government has begun scaling up Kusuma's programmes. It has focussed on teacher professional development, the use of Kusuma's teaching and learning materials, and school governance and management training. Kusuma's programmes now reach all 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh.

The peer learning methods that I learnt through the Kusuma programme have ensured that students solve problems collaboratively with a focus on understanding the concepts. The learning materials for teachers and students are particularly useful and they allow the students to practice what they learn”

*Shri. Sudarshan Raul, Mathematics teacher from
Ghosramal High School, Sambalpur, Odisha*



Students participate in an interactive science lesson at the Government Higher Secondary School Gopamau in Hardoi. Photo: Sam Strickland

¹ This represents approximately 20% of students across the State in class 9

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



SMDC members participate in a meeting in P.M High School, Odisha
Photo : Sam Strickland

Another scaled up programme focuses on improving the functioning of 1,285 schools through strengthening the capacity of their management and development committees. This three-year programme uses Kusuma's approach to train 220 trainers who in turn train 15,000 committee members. They also trained 18 Regional Joint Directors and 75 District Inspectors of Schools to enable them to support implementation of the programme. This work will have an immediate impact on schools, but also in years to come.

“The training of School Management and Development Committee members has been critical in orienting members on their roles and responsibilities. The training has helped non-teaching committee members to engage in school development. The members are liaising with local departments on mobilising resources for the school.”

Smt. Tarawati Verma, Head Teacher, G.H.S. Ghorwal, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh

In Odisha the Secondary School Readiness Programme is being implemented at 25 Kusuma partner schools. The District Education Office and Kusuma have monitored the progress and quality of this programme. The Kusuma Foundation and Odisha Madyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (Secondary School Education Department) are discussing a proposal for a state-wide scale up of the programme.

Dr Pramod Panda, the District Education Officer in Sambalpur (Odisha) feels the quality of the programme has a lot to offer government schools:

“The programme has a very clear objective, unique approach and well defined methodology. Its innovative methodology helps generate greater interest in teaching and learning. The resource materials not only include detailed activities for teachers, they also provide scope for self-learning and practice by students. It has great potential for scale up in all blocks and schools.”

Kusuma will continue to work with government to support and build on initiatives to improve the quality of teaching, learning and school governance and management. Programmes will be closely monitored and evaluated to identify what works and what doesn't, to inform further scale up of interventions to improve education for children in India.

Two million pounds awarded to India and Gibraltar

In April 2017, Kusuma Trust UK awarded £2m for programmes in India and Gibraltar.

Our work in India supports the Kusuma Foundation to reach more young people and teachers every year. Funding will support the existing programmes in Kusuma partner schools and the scaled up programmes, as well as launch a new kitchen to provide mid-day meals for 20,000 students during school, which improve health and encourage attendance.

In Gibraltar, the grant will fund programmes including an Excellence Prize for high achieving students, Science and Maths weeks to promote interest in these subjects, professional development awards and support for local charities whose work benefits the local community.

This summer Kusuma will launch the next round of its small grants programme for charitable organisations in England whose work aligns with our strategy. Further information will be available on the website in the coming months.