



kusuma
trust

news@kusuma

January 2012



Mr. Murali Mohan, President of Sadhana, speaking at the Saarathi training event for government and NGO staff on the Juvenile Justice Act 2000 and child protection issues on 5 December 2011 at Sanga Reddy, Medak, Andhra Pradesh
Photo: Sadhana Staff

Key Dates

1

27-29 Dec: Saarathi Training for Government Workers in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

2

11 Jan: Kusuma meeting with government officials in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

3

13 Jan: Pragathi Kusumalu Award Ceremony in Hanamkonda, Andhra Pradesh

4

27 Jan: CEO attends 'Mapping the Cultural Relationship between the UK and India' workshop at the British Council, London

State Government requests expansion of Saarathi Training

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

A recent outcome of the project is a request from the State's High Court Chief Justice, Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur, to run a tailored orientation on the Juvenile Justice Act 2000 for members of Child Welfare Committees and the Juvenile Justice Board, as well as Heads and Officers of the Indian Administrative Service. The Director of the Juvenile Justice Department of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Kismat Kumar, has proposed an expansion of the partnership with The Trust to deliver training to key legal officials across the State.

UNICEF, a co-partner in the project, has pledged to provide financial support for the initiative and the JJD Director, in consultation with the Special Chief Secretary of Women and Child Welfare, Ms. M. Chaya Ratan, is to deliver a formal proposal to The Trust.

Cont'd overleaf

our mission

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

Saarathi Training cont'd

This request was the result of a successful Saarathi training session for State government departments, which was well received by participants for its insight into legal issues surrounding support for children at-risk.

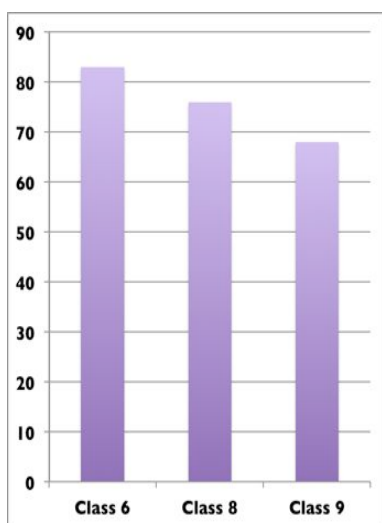
On 5 December, 100 individuals from key government departments – including Education, Health, Women and Child Welfare, District Child Protection and the District Rural Development Authority - attended an orientation workshop on the Juvenile Justice Act.

The training included information on the Integrated Child Protection Scheme and children's rights. It also examined the roles of child welfare committee members and district probation officers who are often the first to come into contact with children at-risk.

On 27 December, Dr. Sukumaran, the Joint Director of the Juvenile Welfare Department, inaugurated a three-day training programme for 39 frontline workers in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The sessions focused on how to communicate with and counsel vulnerable children. Important legal issues arising from the Juvenile Justice Act and the Juvenile Justice Board were also covered.

Bridge School Progress

Pehchaan students studying for Classes 6, 8 and 9 at Sarvodaya Ashram in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, underwent end of year evaluations, which produced very positive results as shown below.



The graph above shows the percentage of students who scored 60 per cent and above in the evaluations

Pehchaan is a residential learning programme for 143 girls aged 12-15 years who have dropped out of or never attended school. It enables them to complete their education up to Class 10 within a four-year period.



A Pehchaan student during a geography lesson at the Sarvodaya Ashram in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh
Photo: Sam Strickland

Award Ceremony

On 13 January, 486 **Kusuma Young Achievers' Award** students, 72 parents and 14 mentors attended the annual Pragathi Kusumalu ceremony in Hanamkonda, Andhra Pradesh. Mr G. John, Secretary of Pragathi Seva Samithi, gave the inaugural address and cash prizes were awarded to the top three students in the Open Quiz Competition.



Young Achiever student, Yerrapereedy Shirisha, at the Pragathi Kusumalu ceremony in Hanamkonda, Andhra Pradesh
Photo: Mr K. Ratnakar

In December, a micro finance company, Oikocredit, funded a careers presentation for the Young

Achievers. Mr. Hans Hekkenberg, a visiting consultant from the Netherlands, informed Award students about work options abroad.

Other News

On 11 January, The Trust's CEO and Kusuma Foundation's Country Leader met with state and district government officials in Lucknow. This included Jitendra Kumar, the Secretary of Secondary Education and the Director of Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Sanjay Mohan, the Director of Secondary Education, and Sarvendra Singh, the Additional Director of RMSA.

They are keen to collaborate with The Trust on new education projects in Uttar Pradesh in 2012. They stressed the need for interventions to improve teacher training, create new teaching materials, develop the curriculum and deliver vocational training.

CASE STUDY:

Kusuma Student wins two scholarships

Jhumur Mukharjee comes from a large, low-income family in Sambalpur. In 2010, she scored 85 per cent in her Class 10 examination, applied for the **Kusuma Ratna Scholarship Programme** and was accepted into its second cohort.

Through regular workshops on communications, time management and leadership, her confidence grew. Jhumur is now taking a Commerce Degree at the Gangadhar Meher Junior College in Sambalpur, Orissa.

Jhumur hopes to become a chartered accountant and help other children pursue their higher education dreams. Her hard work has resulted in two awards: a one-time junior merit scholarship from the Government of Orissa and a monthly stipend from the Hirakud Rotary Club in Sambalpur.

On 26 December, 12 mentors from the programme joined 234 fellowship recipients for their annual review meeting. Advice on examination preparation, course applications and career options was provided to all attending students.