



KUSUMA TRUST UK

Strategy 2011-2014

Vision

The Kusuma Trust (The Trust) believes that every child and young person has the potential to transform and improve their life, and should have opportunities to grow and develop as active and productive citizens in their communities.

Mission

Our mission is to facilitate and increase access to education and other life opportunities for children and young people, with a focus on the most economically disadvantaged. The Trust will enable children and young people to realise their potential and break the inter-generational cycle of poverty.

The Trust will also support innovation, new developments in higher education, training and advocacy, all of which have enormous potential to benefit society.

Strategic Priorities

Education

Our focus is to improve education outcomes by supporting interventions for young people in secondary and tertiary education. We will address the major barriers to accessing secondary and tertiary education for motivated and high performing young people from the most economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Our grants will contribute to a range of outcomes, including increased and better quality education for more young people and an increased number of young people entering and completing university, professional and vocational courses and gaining employment.

Our priority Interventions will include improved teacher training and management in secondary schools, fellowships for students, teachers and government education officials, and supporting parent involvement in schools.

Children At-Risk

Our focus is to support interventions that improve the quality of care for children at-risk. The latter includes children who perform poorly or drop out of school, children who are abused or experience domestic violence, orphans and children with behavioural problems.

The grants we make will contribute to the development of appropriate technical and training resources and a cadre of well-trained and qualified persons responsible for supporting children at-risk.

Internet and Open Space

Our focus is to support open space platforms for knowledge and intellectual resources, and open access to these.

The work the Trust supports will contribute to the adoption of tools, models, practices and policies that facilitate universal participation in knowledge domains.

Research and Advocacy

Research with a focus on baseline and outcome measures will be fully integrated into projects supported by The Trust. This will be reinforced with qualitative research to understand the impact on beneficiaries, including multiplier effects and unintended outcomes which are as important as the intended outcomes.

Robust research protocols will ensure the credibility of findings and the evidence generated from research will contribute to change in systems and influence the practices and policies of implementers, other donors, government and policy bodies.

Where we work

We will concentrate efforts in three districts - Sambalpur in Orissa, Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh and Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. The two districts in Orissa and Uttar Pradesh are among the lowest performing in these three States based on selected education and human development indicators. We will also support selected initiatives at national level and initiatives with national policy relevance.

We target

- Motivated and high performing young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds
- Teachers and government education officials working in the target areas
- Frontline staff working with children at-risk
- Programmes that engage parents and are integrated into communities
- Appropriate higher education institutes

How we work

Our core values include being apolitical, secular, efficient, responsible and mutually respectful. The guiding principles for our work are excellence, innovation, openness, transparency, focus on results and outcomes, collaboration, financial responsibility and communication.

We work with a range of strategic and implementation partners to deliver programmes in the four strategic areas. In particular, we work very closely with our affiliate, the Kusuma Foundation in India, which supports the delivery of The Trust's mission and strategy by managing, supporting and monitoring our grants. We support projects for 3-5 years and look for matched funding where feasible.

We collaborate with and build upon the work of other donors and philanthropists, implementers, government agencies and research institutions, using evidence to inform our work.

We will evaluate our work every 3-5 years.

Funding

We aim to make grants totaling £4m to £6m per year over the next three years. Seventy-five percent of our grants will support work in education and at least ten percent will support research and advocacy.

A Learning Organisation

The Trust is an independent family-based grant making philanthropic organisation that will learn from what it funds and share learning widely. We will encourage new thinking to solve existing challenges, we will promote a partnership model that values the views of partners equally, and we will ensure that research is integrated into our work. We will also promote open learning and sharing of what works and what isn't successful.

Kusuma Trust UK

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