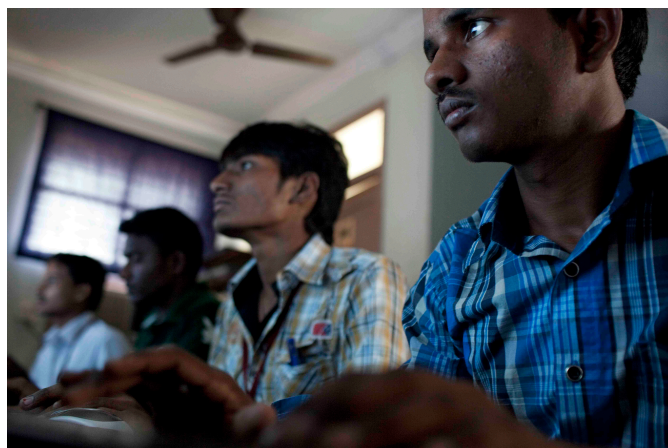


KUSUMA YOUNG ACHIEVERS' AWARD

Partner:	Pragathi Seva Samithi (PSS)
Location:	Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, India
Target Group:	14-16 year old students with a bridge school background and a score of 60% and above in their Class 10 examinations
Number of Beneficiaries:	1,200 students
Grant Period:	1 Jan 2008 - 31 May 2012
Grant Amount:	£562,088 (4 years, 5 months)



Objective

To provide meritorious students from economically marginalised backgrounds the means with which to continue their education.

Description

The programme enables 1,200 students who have finished secondary school to complete Classes 11 and 12; and for students who have completed senior secondary school to pursue higher education and professional courses. Eligibility for senior secondary support is based on students obtaining 60 per cent and above in their Class 10 examination, and for higher education support, students must score 70 per cent and above in their Class 12 examination.

All students receive a stipend, tutorial support and career guidance. To improve the success of entry into higher education courses for high performing students, the partner works closely with colleges and universities to secure reductions in admission fees.

Progress

The programme supports two cohorts: the first comprising 1,000 students; and the second comprising 200 students.

Cohort One

In 2008 a very ambitious intake target was set and 1,000 young people were selected for the Award. 406 of them achieved 70 per cent and above in the Class 12 examination, enabling them to continue receiving support for their higher education. The majority of these students are enrolled in professional courses, which include Engineering, Pharmacy, Chartered

Accountancy and integrated Masters' Courses in prestigious institutions such as Hyderabad Central University.

Cohort Two

A second cohort of 200 students was inducted in 2009 to receive support for Classes 11 and 12. These students have completed their Class 12 examination.

Results

- 80 per cent of the remaining 406 Cohort One students have enrolled into professional and higher education courses
- 30 per cent of the 200 Cohort Two student scored 75 per cent and above in the Class 12 examination
- 480 students from both cohorts passed the Engineering Agriculture & Medical Common Entrance Test 2010
- 2 students gained admission into the Indian Institute of Technology in Roorkee and Kharagpur - a prestigious national institution renowned for its engineering courses.

Challenges

- The number of students selected in the first cohort was too large for a pilot programme.
- Consistent outreach and individualised follow up is difficult to sustain due to students' locations.
- Mobilising volunteers for mentoring.
- Political agitations have delayed key activities

New Developments

Pragathi Seva Samithi is in discussion with the British Council to secure online English courses for Kusuma Young Achiever Award students.