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A Social Revolution

Started with just 125 students way back in 1993 by eminent educational and social entrepreneur Achyuta Samanta, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar has today grown into the largest free Residential Tribal Institute of the world. KISS provides food, accommodation, health care and all other basic necessities of life to 20,000 tribal children of the poorest of the poor background absolutely free to pursue education from Kindergarten to Post Graduation (K.G. to P.G.). Students are enrolled from 62 tribes of Odisha, including 13 Primitive Tribes. There are some students from adjoining States as well. KISS plans to educate 2,00,000 tribal children over the next decade.

KISS has put in place a qualified and committed team of teachers and faculty. At school level, it follows course and syllabus prescribed by the Directorate of Elementary and Secondary Education, Government of Odisha. The school is affiliated to Board of Secondary Education, Odisha and Council of Higher Secondary Education, Odisha. In line with the objective of making each tribal child, who comes here, economically self dependent, KISS introduced Bachelors and Masters degree courses in 2008.

Achievements of KISS students in examinations and other academic events speak volumes about high quality of education at the institute. KISS students have been achieving cent percent pass record in annual examination for Class 7th, Class 10th and +2 Arts, Science and Commerce for consecutive nine years. They have not only been qualifying in reputed institutions like NITs and IITs on the basis of their own merit, but have also been selected by top corporate names like Accenture, TCS and Wipro in campus placement.

The course curriculum designed for KISS is unique, for it incorporates vocational training with formal education, thus making a child educated and self-sufficient.

Vocational training at KISS links education with productivity, economic development and individual prosperity. It is designed to impart necessary occupational skills among the tribal students to mould them into successful entrepreneurs and make them fit in the job market. Training is offered in as many as 50 trades which include Computer Training, Composite Farming, Pisciculture, Animal Husbandry, Arts and Craft, Mineral water, Tailoring, Appliqué, Soft Toys, Food Processing, Chemical Products, etc.

Students of KISS have proved their mettle not only in academics, but also in sports and cultural activities. Highpoints of these achievements have been their becoming Champion in Under 13 International Rugby Tournament held in Manchester, U.K. (19th June 2011) and participation of KISS students in Asian Games at Guanzhou (China) and Commonwealth Games (New Delhi).

Each of the students passing out from KISS is becoming a Change Agent for the future. Empowerment through education and sustainable livelihood are no longer confined to only phrases, rather it has been proved that all these have been possible because of KISS.

The unique experiment to eradicate poverty through education has become successful in KISS. Many world organizations including UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and US Federal Government have come forward to be associated with various programmes of KISS. Through successful initiative and relentless effort, KISS has come nearer to achieving some of the most important goals of the MDG. The Institution has been frequented by President, Vice Presidents, Union Ministers, Governors, Chief Ministers, Policy Makers, Planners, Nobel Laureates, Social Activists, Academician and Diplomats who unequivocally have described KISS in just one word 'Incredible'.

Of late, activities of KISS has been noticed and covered by leading international magazines and dailies like The Time, Wall Street Journal, South China Morning Post, Readers' Digest and Asia Post.

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