

Educational Drive
Talent Hunt Programme in KUSUMI Block, Mayurbhanj: Year:-2024

By Jadumani Hansdah

Like in previous years, the **Santal Engineers Welfare Association & Sagen Sarna Academy** Badampahad have jointly organized and conducted the Talent Hunt Examination in Kusumi Block, Mayurbhanj district.

This programme is aimed to cover the students in classes IX & X (Senior Group) and classes VI, VII & VIII students (Junior Group) with due permission from the BEO and DEO. The programme is conducted to empower rural and poor students through education.

Programme Objectives: The programme seeks as follows:

- Inspire and motivate students in their education.
- Help students explore their career goals.
- To foster competitive awareness among students, especially for tribal students, to bring them on par with other students.
- Raising students' awareness of the need to improve their soft skills.
- Students have opportunities to interact with intellectual groups.
- Raising awareness among parents about Parenting Tips and practices.

Event Details:

The written tests were conducted on 9th November 2024 at four centres in Kusumi Block, namely Badampahad Govt High School, Hatbadra Govt High School, Joypur Janata Govt High School, and Suleipat Govt School. A total of more than 520 girls and boys participated in the Talent Hunt tests from various major schools in Kusumi Block. Additionally, students from Eklavya, OAV, JNV, and other schools outside Kusumi Block, who are residents of Kusumi Block, also participated.



The 20 best students from both the Senior and Junior groups were shortlisted for an extempore speech and quiz test, which was conducted on 17th November 2024 at Badampahad Govt High School. The top five students from each group were awarded cash prizes of Rs 10,000, 6,000, 5,000, 4,000, and 3,000 for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th positions, respectively. Similarly, cash prizes of Rs 5,000, 4,000, 3,000, 2,000, and 1,000 were given to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th prize winners, respectively. Consolation prizes were given to all participants in the top 20 to motivate them. The felicitation program was held at Badampahad Govt High School on 17th November 2024. The Winners were as follows:

Senior Group:

- 1st position: Shri Hamilton Murmu, Class IX of OAV School Sanjaydanposhi, Badampahad.
- 2nd position: Kumari Shriya Sau, Class X of Hatbadra Govt High School.

Junior Group:

- 1st position: Kumari Ishika Behera, Hatbadra UP school.
- 2nd position: Shi Lita Chandan Hembram, Ekalavya model School Tato Karanjia.



Shri Naba Charan Majhi, Hon'ble MP Mayurbhanj, and Shri UN Majhi, IRAS (Rtd) & Ex DRM Indian Railway, were the chief guest and chief speaker of the program. The event and talent hunt programme were appreciated by many intellectuals, guardians, and parents as well.

The program was conducted with the initiative of Er Jadumani Hansdah, who is also the founder of Sagen Sarna Academy, Badampahad.

Participation statistics of ST Students:

Groups	Total Nos of Participants	Nos of ST Participants	% STs Participants	% ST Girls Participants	Nos of STs in Best 20	% STs in Best 20
Senior Group	292	164	56%	58%	9	45%
Junior Group	218	128	58%	52%	8	40%

Improvement Actions carried out by SEWA:

The Talent Hunt programme is an ongoing event. Prior to the felicitation event, the following programs were also conducted on different occasions.

- The workshop on career awareness and counselling was conducted at Badampahad Govt High School and Sagen Sarna Academy in August and October 2024. More than 100 students benefited from this.
- The workshop on parenting tips and practices was conducted on 8th September 2024 at Sagen Sarna Academy Badampahad. More than fifty parents attended this programme.
- The development of speaking skills and soft skills was demonstrated at SSD Government Girls High School Badampahad on 15th November 2024. Nearly 40 students attended the programme.



Observations:

Following are few observations revealed during the current ongoing programme:

- Kusumi Block is inhabited by nearly 65% tribal population. Similarly, almost 75% of the students in the schools belong to the tribal community, including both boys and girls. In fact, the number of girl students is higher than that of boys.
- The education standard of students, particularly tribal students, is generally not good or is in a poor state, except for a few particular cases.
- The majority of the students are not up to the mark, particularly in Mathematics and English subjects.
- Apart from academic education, the students are also found to be lacking in soft skills such as speaking skills, creative skills, mathematical skills, collaborative skills, conceptual skills, and general knowledge.
- The majority of parents are neither concerned nor associated with the schools' reach, and they are not conscious of the standard of education of their wards.
- With the help of the ongoing Talent Hunt programme, it has been observed that some of the tribal students have benefited and significantly improved their standards over the last year compared to the previous year.
- With help the ongoing Talent Hunt programme, it has been observed that some of the tribal students have benefited and significantly improved their standards over this year compared to the previous year.

The Santal Engineers Welfare Association and Sagen Sarna Academy are jointly committed to bringing educational revolution to the area by organizing such programs in future years as well.

Challenges in student education in Kusumi Block:

- There is no conducive learning environment in rural and village areas.
- The psychological environments, subjected to emotional and social climate, influence the students. In fact, the students are more influenced by village-level Jatra-pata.
- Most parents are not sufficiently aware of how to develop the educational standards of their children. They completely rely on the school authority.
- There is a lack of visibility of role models or intellectuals in rural areas.

Immediate Remedial actions:

- It is necessary to impart special Foundation courses for tribal students, especially in English and Mathematics subjects.
- It is also necessary to arrange special coaching to enhance soft skills among the students. The curriculum is expected to cover general knowledge, speaking skills, creative skills, mathematical skills, collaborative skills, conceptual skills, etc.

Conclusions:

Creating a conducive learning environment is a dynamic and complex process that necessitates careful consideration of psychological, institutional, and instructional factors. By addressing these factors, educators and intellectuals can cultivate environments that truly enhance learning, paving the way for student success and lifelong learning.