

EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION

The Kewalram Chanrai Group, a family-owned group of companies, made a gift to Yale-NUS College to establish the Kewalram Chanrai Scholarship. Here, Mr N G Chanrai, Group CEO, explains why the Group chose to support students at the College.

What inspired the Kewalram Chanrai Group to make a gift to Yale-NUS?

Our gift is part of the ongoing philanthropic activities of the Kewalram Chanrai Group. We have always supported education because we believe that it is an important driver of social and economic development. Yale-NUS represents the best of the East and West educational systems, offering opportunities to students from around the world. This is an aspect of education which resonates with our policy to contribute to the nurturing of future leaders and entrepreneurs who will help to grow the societies and economies of tomorrow.

Why support the liberal arts?

A liberal arts education is a broad-based education that cultivates intuition, inspires innovation, and deepens capacity to build and learn with the development of critical thinking and creativity. It encourages active learning and the study of culture and society, besides other related liberal arts subjects.

The Kewalram Chanrai Scholarship gives priority to female students. Why



**Mr N G Chanrai
of the Kewalram
Chanrai Group.**

did the Group decide to do this?

We hope that our contribution and preference will give women an equal opportunity in education and provide them with tools they need for self-help and empowerment. They form approximately 50 to 55 percent of the population, so engaging them is important. Shirin Ebadi, a 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner and leading campaigner for the rights of women and children has this to say: “Knowledge is a window to freedom. An educated woman will not put up with oppression.”

Please share some of the Group’s thoughts on giving back through philanthropic support.

Philanthropy has always been at the core of our ethos. We have been mindful that the

benefits of our success should be shared with the local communities where our businesses operate and flourish. We have engaged in social work primarily in health care and educational programmes. Our philanthropic efforts are aimed at helping to empower the less fortunate. The initiatives must be well-thought out, targeted, measurable and evaluated to ensure the highest efficacy.

Do you think that philanthropy is crucial to the advancement of education?

Yes, philanthropy is very important because it contributes to the financial resources to ensure continual access to education for the underprivileged in society. It facilitates the creation of more and greater opportunities for learning to meet the needs of the community.

Do you have any advice for the recipients of the Kewalram Chanrai Scholarship?

This is the beginning of a new and exciting learning journey that will help energise and shape your life. We hope this new endeavour will stimulate your curiosity, enhance your ability to develop new skills and deepen your capacity for connectivity, to help you solve problems that humanity faces. We encourage you to seize the opportunity to make an impact on society. May you be passionate about sharing what you have learned and giving back to society what you have received. ■