

Minutes of the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group Meeting held on 14.8.2007 to consider the Computer Education Plans of States under the Information & Communication Technology in Schools Scheme

The third meeting of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group [PMEG] for the Centrally sponsored scheme of “ICT @ Schools” was held on 14.08.2007 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy to consider the Computer Education Plans [CEPs] of **Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu [3 States & 2 UTs]**. A list of participants who attended the above meeting is Annexed.

2. Initiating the discussion, Secretary (SE&L) stated that the ICT in schools Scheme was one of the most important schemes at the secondary stage. In the coming years, investment in the programme was likely to increase considerably and greater linkage would be established between this scheme with other programmes, such as, Vocational Education, Technical Education, etc. The main purpose of the meeting was to understand the State’s plan of action in implementing the CEP for the scheme and also to take stock of the activities that had already been undertaken. One of the important components was the availability of appropriate infrastructure, particularly, availability of electric connections. The Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojna was one such important programme, which should be optimally utilized. He further said that monitoring of the programme, particularly, by external agencies was very important. Also there had to be both a continuous monitoring in the short term and impact assessment in the longer run.

3. Joint Secretary (SE) briefly explained Govt. of India’s perspective plan on computer education & skill development, particularly, in the light of India having the highest percentage of young people in the world and their education in ICT would enable them to take its rightful position in the global work force. A summary of his views / observations was as under:-

- (i) All secondary and higher secondary schools numbering about one lakh in the country would be covered under the scheme by 2010. The State Govt. thus were expected to make avail appropriate infrastructure.
- (ii) Local area funds available for MPs and MLAs needed to be tapped to bridge the gap of infrastructural requirements.
- (iii) The programme needed to be consolidated and monitoring through independent agencies, such as, IITs, IITs, IIMs, Engineering Colleges, etc. have to be undertaken. These students could be engaged for their project work. Satisfaction of teachers and students in the utility of Computer Education was most crucial, therefore, other than computer literacy programmes it was important that equal emphasis should be given for computer-aided learning. Appropriate e-content needed to be developed in consultation with reputed organizations [including those in the private sector] so as to enable both students and teachers find the classroom transactions more interesting. These should be focused on hard spots.
- (iv) As the technology had become cheaper over time, it would be appropriate to introduce more innovative tools and programmes to make the learning process more effective and interesting.
- (v) Central Institute of Educational Technology of NCERT, and State Institutes of Educational Technology, currently functioning in seven States, needed to play an important role in developing / recommending usage of appropriate technology and

e-content. Institutions like SCERTs, DIETs and other organizations in private sector needed to be roped in for the purpose also.

- (vi) Creation of database was vital in the implementation of the programme, particularly for close monitoring. Some States had performed well in this regard and others needed to follow.
- (vii) As internet connectivity expose students to the world of information, every school needed to have internet connection in their computer laboratories. Ministry of Telecommunication has assured to provide Broadband connection on priority basis to all high schools. States needed to take up the matter with the D/o Telecom and BSNL units located in the district and sub-district levels.
- (viii) A nodal officer should be exclusively identified to spearhead the programme in each State.
- (ix) States should also document their innovative practices and share them with each other.
- (x) It may be explored to have computer labs similar to that of the Govt. schools also in the private un-aided schools. CBSE has passed necessary instructions in the matter to its affiliated schools. Similar action may be initiated by the State Boards to ensure that the recognized private schools affiliated to them also follow these guidelines.
- (xi) Lastly, States must make adequate provision [both Central and State share] in their State Budget to obviate any difficulty in the fund flow.

4. Thereafter Computer Education Plans of the States were taken up for consideration by PMEG.

4.1 Uttar Pradesh

Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, made a presentation of their CEP, highlights of which were as under:-

- (i) There were a total of 5040 [558 Govt. & 4482 Govt. aided] secondary schools in Uttar Pradesh. In addition, 9709 unaided schools were also running in the State.
- (ii) State Govt. implemented computer education programme through 4 schemes in the past, namely, Centrally sponsored CLASS project [266 schools], Vidya Vahini Project [40 schools], Eleventh Finance Commission Project [116 schools], State Government's own Computer Literacy Programme [08 schools].
- (iii) Uttar Pradesh Board of Secondary Education had already included computer education as a subject for Class-X & XII public examinations.
- (iv) About 700 teachers were already trained.
- (v) Approximately 1.30 lakh students had already been covered.
- (vi) Two agencies, namely, M/s. Everon Systems Ltd, Chennai and M/s. Educom Solutions, New Delhi were identified to provide computer education.
- (vii) Rs. 27.70 was charged as user charge from each student per month.
- (viii) 430 schools were covered under the above schemes.
- (ix) The proposal of the State Govt. in 2007-08 was to cover 1000 schools during 2007-08 under Centrally-sponsored ICT in Schools Scheme, for which selection of schools were made on the basis of following criteria:-
 - a. Proper room with electricity facility (alternative power supply where electricity was not available).
 - b. Security of equipments.
 - c. Academic achievements of the school concerned.
 - d. Rural schools of Educationally Backward Blocks.

- (x) Implementation of the programme in 2007-08 was proposed through Build, Own and Operate model.
- (xi) UPDESCO, a State Govt. undertaking, would be the nodal agency.
- (xii) Monitoring of the programme would be undertaken at District, Region and State level for which officers / Committee responsible was as under:-
 - a) District level : District Education Officer
 - b) Regional level : Joint Directors / Deputy Directors
 - c) State level : (i) Principal Secretary / Secretary of School Education Department,
(ii) Additional Director of Education,
(iii) Sr. Officer, IT Department of State Govt.
(iv) Sr. Officer of Electronic Department,
(v) Officers of UPDESCO and NIC.
- (xiii) A computer cell would be set up in the Department to manage the programme.
- (xiv) The State Govt. would be tying up with BSNL for internet connectivity.
- (xv) For implementing the programme, Rs. 67 Crores was provided in the State budget.

4.1.1 After the presentation, Appraisal Team made the following observations:-

- (i) The programme in 200 schools already sanctioned in 2006-07 had not started in spite of this Ministry permitting the State Govt. to implement the scheme by utilizing Rs. 500 lakh as first installment of 634.53 lakh lying unspent under the erstwhile Education Technology Scheme and CLASS project with the State Govt.
- (ii) Action plan to train teachers was not evident from the CEP.
- (iii) An impact assessment study of the Computer Education Programme already implemented under various schemes by the State Govt. be undertaken during the current financial year.

As the State Govt. had planned to implement the programme through BOOT model and also sufficient budget provision had been made, the PMEG desired to know from the State representative whether it was possible to increase the coverage of schools in 2007-08 from the proposed plan of covering 1000 schools. The Principal Secretary while accepting the suggestion of the PMEG submitted that the State Govt. would be willing to implement the programme in 2500 schools in 2007-08.

4.1.2 After discussion, PMEG approved 2500 secondary for implementation of ICT in Schools Scheme under BOOT model for a five year contract period @Rs. 6.70 lakh per school of which Central assistance of Rs. 5.00 lakh per school could be phased as follows:-

- (i) **2007-08:** Rs. 3750 lakh @ Rs. 1.50 Lakh per school for 2500 schools.
- (ii) **2008-09:** Rs. 3750 lakh @ Rs. 1.50 Lakh per school for 2500 schools.
- (iii) **2009-10:** Rs. 1875 lakh @ Rs. 0.75 Lakh per school for 2500 schools.
- (iv) **2010-11:** Rs. 1875 lakh @ Rs. 0.75 Lakh per school for 2500 schools.
- (v) **2011-12:** Rs. 1250 lakh @ Rs. 0.50 Lakh per school for 2500 schools.

At the end of the five-year period, the hardware and the software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use by the schools concerned.

The PMEG further directed the following:-

- i) List of all the 2500 schools along with details of the location be furnished by 10.9.07.
- ii) All the educationally backward blocks should be covered, selecting atleast 2 schools from each of such block.
- iii) As the programme approved for 200 schools in 2006-07 was not started, those schools should also be included in the list of 2500 schools.
- iv) The Central assistance for 2007-08 would be released after adjusting the unspent balances lying with the State Government under the erstwhile Education Technology Scheme and CLASS project.
- v) All processes/procedures be completed by November, 2007 so that the programme get started in all 2500 schools from December, 2007.

4.2 Manipur

The Under Secretary (School Education), informed the Chairman, PMEG that the Secretary of the Department was scheduled to attend this meeting but due to an urgent official work, he could not do so. The Under Secretary made a presentation of the CEP 2007-08 of Manipur, highlights of which were as under:-

- (i) There were altogether 325 schools [282 Govt. & Govt. aided, and 43 higher secondary schools.
- (ii) 58 schools were covered earlier under CLASS project in 1998.
- (iii) The State Govt. had planned to implement the scheme in 65 schools [50 secondary and 15 higher secondary] in 2007-08 under the ICT in Schools Scheme through outright purchase basis.
- (iv) 4 teachers from each school to be trained in ICT.
- (v) As a survey to assess the requirement in each school was under process, based on its outcome, the State Govt. would be implementing the programme through BOOT model in the remaining schools from 2008-09.
- (vi) An agency to implement the programme would be finalised soon.
- (vii) Necessary budget provision would be made in the State budget for 2007-08.

4.2.1 The Appraisal Team observed the following:-

- (i) The State Govt. needed to prioritize the selection of the agency
- (ii) Budget provision [both Central & State share] should be made expeditiously in the State budget for the scheme.

4.2.2 After discussion, the PMEG approved 65 schools for implementation of ICT in Schools Scheme through outright purchase basis with a total project cost of Rs. 435.50 lakh having a Central share component of Rs. 391.95 lakh with following conditions:-

- (i) Central assistance would be released only after the State Govt. confirmed that necessary budget provision [both Central & State share] was made in the State budget.
- (ii) Selection of the agency be completed by 15.9.07 with a provision of three year's full warranty on the equipments.

- (iii) The programme should be made operational by November, 2007 and a full report be furnished to Ministry by 15.11.07.

4.3 Mizoram

The Joint Director of SCERT informed the Chairman of the PMEG that the Secretary [School Education] of the State Govt. was suddenly taken ill and, therefore, she was asked to attend the meeting. The highlights of the presentation on CEP, 2007-08 made by the Joint Director were as under:-

- (i) There were altogether 249 [222 Govt. & Govt. aided secondary and 27 Govt. & Govt. aided higher secondary] schools.
- (ii) The main objectives in implementing the programme in the State were as follows:-
 - Integration of computer education into the curriculum.
 - Introduction of IT a compulsory subject to make all students and teachers computer literate.
 - Provision of internet connectivity in all schools and ensure computer aided learning become a part of the classroom transaction.
- (iii) 29 schools were covered under the CLASS and Revised CLASS project.
- (iv) **60 schools were approved for implementation of the ICT in Schools Scheme in 2005-06 but the programme was implemented in 30 schools based on the first installment released by the Ministry. The programme in the remaining 30 schools could not be taken, as the 2nd installment was not released to the State Govt.**
- (v) The State Govt. proposed to implement the programme in 164 schools in 2007-08 on outright purchase basis. Adequate infrastructure was available in these schools.
- (vi) About 20,000 students were expected to be covered in 2007-08.
- (vii) Over 1350 teachers would be trained.
- (viii) A sum of Rs. 36.00 lakh was earmarked to cover 164 schools in 2007-08.

With regard to non-release of second installment for the project approved in 2005-06, the Appraisal Team clarified that no funds were released as the State Govt. had not made any provision in the State budget in 2006-07.

Joint Secretary (SE) desired to know from the State representative about the difficulty being faced in not making the budget provision for the scheme. Responding to this, the State representative informed that a proposal for Rs. 1100 lakh as the budget provision had been made to the State Finance Department but its concurrence was awaited.

4.3.1 After discussion, PMEG directed that the proposal of the State Govt. to cover 164 schools under ICT in Schools Scheme through outright purchase basis would only be considered after necessary budget provision [both Central & State share] was made in the State budget. For this, the State Govt. would have to present their Plan afresh before the PMEG.

Chairman, PMEG desired that a D.O. letter be sent at his level to the Chief Secretary of Mizoram regarding the inadequate budget provision made for the Scheme and also to ensure that an officer of appropriate level in the

State Govt. be present in such meetings to clarify policy issues which the Joint Director could not clarify in the meeting.

In view of the above, the decision on the CEP of Mizoram 2007-08 was deferred.

4.4 Dadra & Nagar Haveli

Assistant Director of the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli made the presentation of the CEP-2007-08, high lights of which were as under: -

- (i) There were altogether 18 Govt. Schools [11 secondary and 7 higher secondary] in the UT.
- (ii) The UT Admn. Had covered 8 schools under the ICT in schools scheme.
- (iii) Of the remaining 10 schools, 6 schools were proposed for coverage in 2007-08. The reason for not covering all the remaining 10 schools was that 4 schools were not having sufficient infrastructure.
- (iv) The programme could be implemented on outright purchase basis.
- (v) Rs.10.02 lakh was available on BE in the State budget.

4.4.1 After discussion, the PMEG approved implementation of the scheme in six schools on outright purchase basis with a project cost of Rs. 40.20 lakh having a Central share component of Rs. 30.15 lakh. It directed that the UT Admn to provide necessary budget provision at RE stage and to complete the entire procurement and installation by 15.10.2007.

4.5 Daman and Diu

Assistant Director of Education Department of the UT Admn. made a brief presentation of CEP-2007-08, high lights of which were as under: -

- (i) There were a total of 28 Govt. schools [22 secondary and 6 higher secondary] in the UT.
- (ii) Six schools were covered under the ICT in schools scheme 2005-06.
- (iii) For 2007-08 the UT had planned to implement the scheme in 20 of the remaining 22 schools.
- (iv) UC amounting to Rs.25.00 lakh received as Central assistance had already been furnished.
- (v) Teachers were trained in DIETs of Gujarat.

4.5.1 The appraisal Team observed that the UT Admn. had not made any budget provision for the scheme during 2007-08, besides the UT Admn. could cover all the remaining 22 schools instead of the proposal to implement in 20 schools.

4.5.2 After discussion, the PMEG approved implementation of the scheme in the remaining 22 secondary and higher secondary schools on outright purchase basis with a total project cost of Rs. 147.40 lakh having a Central share component of Rs. 110.55 lakh. The UT representative was directed to ensure that necessary budget provision was made in the UT budget. A communication in this regard be sent to the Ministry based on which the first

instalment would be released. The UT representative was further directed to ensure expeditious implementation of the project.

5. General

Under the scheme two models viz. outright purchase and BOOT were followed, PMEG decided that the following methodology be adopted for release of Central share: -

- (i) For outright purchase basis Central assistance may be released in two equal instalments subject to the progress of expenditure during the year. For release of 2nd instalment during the same year, only statement of expenditure be insisted upon and not the Utilization Certification.
- (ii) In the case of BOOT model, since implementation is staggered over a period of 3-5 years, Central assistance may be released in one instalment for the requirement of the entire year subject to the progress of expenditure in the previous year. This would be also applicable for the States whose CEPs have already been approved in the 1st meeting of PMEG held on 11.07.2007.
- (iii) At the time of selecting agency, it should be ensured that the equipments were covered under a warranty period of a minimum three years.

PMEG further directed State Govt. representatives to: -

- (i) Create appropriate mechanism to maintain the assets created under the scheme sanctioned for Govt. aided schools.
- (ii) Establish monitoring system at all levels.
- (iii) Conduct at least one impact assessment study through reputed independent agency.

6. Concluding the discussion, Secretary (SE&L) urged State representatives to start implementing the scheme in a time bound manner and lay timelines for each of the activities involved. Information required by the Ministry be furnished immediately. State budget should be suitably augmented. States should make all measures to have close monitoring of the programme. The Ministry would separately institute external monitoring system also. Appropriate content be developed for computer aided learning and modules for training of teachers.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure

List of participants, who attended the meeting of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PM&EG) was held on 14.8.2007 in Conference Room, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

1. Shri Champak Chatterji, Secretary, Department of SE&L: **Chairman**
2. Shri S.C. Khuntia, Joint Secretary (Secondary Education).
3. Shri R.K. Sharma, Director (Finance), Department of School Education & Literacy.
4. Dr. Utpal Mallik, Jt. Director, Central Institute of Education & Technology, NCERT.
5. Dr. V.V.S. Murthy, Sr. Technical Director, National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.
6. Shri Pankaj Agrawal, Principal Secretary (Education), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.
7. Shri Mitralal, Additional Director, Secondary Education, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.
8. Dr. H.S. Pahuja, Under Secretary (Education), Govt. of Manipur.
9. Smt. Sangthanmawn, Joint Director, SCERT, Govt. of Mizoram.
10. Shri Peter Bara, Assistant Director, Dadra & Nagar Haveli Admn.
11. Shri B.S. Shrimati, Assistant Director of Education, Daman & Diu Admn.
12. Shri P.K. Mohanty, Dy. Educational Advisor, Department of School Education & Literacy.
13. Shri M. Dilip Kumar, Under Secretary (Sch-5), Department of School Education & Literacy.
