

Minutes of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group Meeting held on 2nd November, 2007 to consider the Computer Education Plans of States and UTs under the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools Scheme

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The sixth meeting of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PMEG) for the Centrally sponsored scheme of 'ICT in Schools' was held on 02.11.2007 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (SE&L) to consider the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) of **Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tripura, Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry**. A list of the participants 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 connection. 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 the Computer Education Plans of various States from which proposals had been received were taken up for consideration by PMEG.

4.1 Karnataka

The Secretary (School Education), Govt. of Karnataka made a presentation of the State CEP, highlights of which were as under: -

- (i) In 2007-08, the scheme had already been sanctioned for 1571 secondary schools.
- (ii) Till now the programme had not been taken up in higher secondary schools [also known in the State as Pre-University colleges] Therefore, the State Govt. had proposed to cover 708 higher secondary schools of a total of 1908. The proposed schools have adequate infrastructure to start the programme. The remaining 1200 schools which were opened recently would be covered in the ensuing years.
- (iii) In addition to Rs. 47 Cr. of budget already provided for scheme for the secondary stage, another Rs. 10 Cr. was also available to cover the programme for the higher secondary stage.
- (iv) The State Govt. had a plan to introduce Computer Science as an optional subject at higher-secondary level.
- (v) The programme would be implemented under BOOT model for a period of five years. However, the Central assistance may be made available in the first three years as was approved for secondary stage schools in 2007-08.
- (vi) As no teacher of higher secondary schools had received any training so far, agencies which trained teachers of secondary schools would be requested to undertake training programme.
- (vii) Agencies would be made responsible to provide telephone and internet facility.
- (viii) The programme would be monitored at State and District level by the State Directorate and Dy. Director of Pre-University Education respectively.

4.1.1 After the presentation, JS (SE) desired to know about the status of the programme earlier approved. The Secretary (Education) of Govt. of Karnataka informed that the programme was already in operation in 480 schools approved in 2005-06. The approval accorded for 1571 secondary schools in 2007-08 would be covered by the end of the current financial year. JS (SE) suggested that the installation, commissioning should be completed by 31.01.2008, and teachers' training by 15.3.2008.

4.1.2 After discussion, PMEG approved 708 higher secondary schools for coverage under BOOT model for a period of 5 years. The Central assistance of Rs. 5 lakh per school would be phased in the following manner: -

- i) **2007-08:** Rs. 1416 lakh @ 2 lakh per school for 708 schools,
- ii) **2008-09:** Rs. 1062 lakh @ 1.5 lakh per school for 708 schools,
- iii) **2009-10:** Rs. 1062 lakh @ 1.5 lakh per school for 708 schools.

The State Govt. would ensure maintenance and operation for 5 years without seeking further assistance from GoI besides what is indicated above.

At the end of third year, the hardware and software would be the sole property of the State Govt. and school concerned.

PMEG further directed that at least two schools of the educationally backward blocks should be covered in 2007-08. The programme should be commissioned by 31.01.2008 and all necessary preparations including completion of the tendering process and actual operationalisation should be expedited accordingly.

4.2 Assam

The presentation of CEP was made by Secretary (Education) of Govt. of Assam. The main highlights of which were as under: -

- i) Altogether there were 2678 schools at secondary and higher secondary stages of which 2034 were secondary schools and 644 were higher secondary schools.
- ii) 930 schools were already covered under the Computer Education Programme (CEP) through various schemes, including State's own programmes as well as that of erstwhile CLASS scheme.
- iii) During 2007-08, the State had planned to cover 641 schools (593 secondary and 48 higher secondary schools).
- iv) The programme would be implemented through Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) model for a period of 5 years.
- v) The remaining 1107 schools would be covered in the next year after ensuring that necessary infrastructure was in place.
- vi) Utilization Certificate of Rs. 148.80 lakh under the erstwhile CLASS project had already been furnished to the Ministry. However, the UC of Rs. 25.44 lakh under the erstwhile ET project remained to be settled as the grants were utilized by the Elementary Education Department of State Government. Necessary steps had been taken to settle expeditiously this unspent balance.
- vii) A provision of Rs. 10.00 Cr. has been provided in the State budget.

4.2.1 After the presentation, the State representative informed the PMEG that approximate cost for implementing the programme in the State was about Rs. 13.00 lakh per school against which Central share was only Rs. 06.03 lakh. He said that in case any State Govt. was able to run the programme at lower rate then it was necessary to have a model tender document from the Central Govt. which could be very useful for the State to prescribe proper norms. JS (SE) suggested that while undertaking the bidding process, the NIC may be involved as they have certain expertise in the area. Deputy Director General of NIC was requested to help the State

Govt. in finalizing up the tender document. He was also requested to study the various tender documents / contracts entered by various States, and assist the PMEG in developing a model tender document in due course for use by States in future.

4.2.2 After discussion, PMEG approved 641 schools for implementation under the Schools Scheme through Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model for a period of 5 years. Being a special category State, Assam was eligible to receive Central assistance @ 90% of programme cost of Rs. 6.70 lakh per school which is Rs. 06.03 lakh per school. The Central Assistance would be released in a phased manner, as under:

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|--------------------------|-----|---|
| a) 2007-08 | : | Rs. 1301.23 lakh @ Rs. 2.03 lakh per school. |
| b) 2008-09 to
2011-12 | } : | Rs. 641.00 lakh during each year @ Rs. 01.00
lakh per school |

4.2.3 PMEG further directed the following:-

- At least two schools of the educationally backward blocks should be covered in 2007-08.
- UC in respect of the unspent balance of Rs. 25.44 lakh under erstwhile ET scheme would be furnished by 25.11.2007 or else the same would be adjusted from the current year's amount to be released.
- The names and locations of 641 schools approved in 2007-08 would be furnished by 25.11.2007.
- Tendering process would be completed by December 2007 and the installations should be commissioned by 31.1.08.
- As Rs. 1000 lakh provisioned in the State budget would not be sufficient for the programme, the State Govt. would augment the budget provision for the scheme (Central and State share) to Rs. 1445.81 lakh for 2007-08. A commitment alongwith the time by which the same would be provided in the State budget would be intimated by 25.11.07.

4.3 Bihar

The presentation of the State's CEP was made by the Director (SE) of Bihar. The main highlights of his presentation were as under: -

- There were 2329 secondary and 637 higher secondary schools in the State.
- Though PMEG had approved 180 schools for coverage in 2005-06, only 37 schools were covered under the ICT programme,
- 600 schools had been covered under the State Government's own scheme.
- The proposal for 2007-08 was to cover remaining 2329 schools under BOOT Model,

- v) The unit cost for school had been pitched at Rs. 7.5 lakh per school,
- vi) BELTRON, a State Govt. agency had already selected a vendor to implement the programme through BOOT model.
- vii) Monitoring of the programme would be undertaken at the district level through DEOs and at the State level by the Directorate of the Secondary Education.

4.3.1 After the presentation, the appraisal team informed that in 2005-06, 180 schools were approved by PMEG and the State Govt. was advised to utilize the first installment of Rs. 225 lakh from the unspent balances of Rs. 329.07 lakh from erstwhile Educational Technology and CLASS Schemes lying with the State Govt. Expenditure details alongwith the UC were yet to be furnished by the State Govt.

4.3.2 JS (SE) desired to know from the State representative about the availability of infrastructure, particularly of electricity, in all 2329 schools. The State representative informed that though electricity facility was not available in many of the schools, arrangements would be made to cover them with alternate facilities such as generator, Solar Panel, etc.

4.3.3 After discussion, PMEG approved 1000 schools for coverage in 2007-08 under BOOT model for a period of 5 years. Central Assistance of Rs. 5 lakh per school would be phased @ 1 lakh per school for each year during 2007-08 to 2011-2012. The State Govt. shall release their share of 25% each year accordingly.

4.3.4 PMEG further directed the following:-

- a. Budget provision including both Central and State share would accordingly be augmented from existing Rs. 944.18 lakh and the position be intimated by 25.11.07.
- b. At least two schools from each Educationally Backward Block be covered.
- c. State Govt. would furnish the list of 1000 school alongwith location, district wise and block wise by 25.11.2007.
- d. Utilization certificate alongwith the expenditure statement of the previous released under CLASS and ET schemes would be furnished by 25.11.07. Any unspent balance would have to be refunded.
- e. The programme for 1000 schools would be completed by the State Govt. by the end of January, 2008.

4.4 Maharashtra

The Dy. Secretary (School Education) of the State Govt. made a presentation of State CEP, highlights of which were as under:-

- (i) Altogether 17,499 schools [13,791 secondary and 3,708 higher secondary] were functioning in the State.
- (ii) Computer Education Programme was implemented through various schemes as follows:-

a. CLASS scheme	:	304 schools
b. Revised CLASS scheme	:	103 schools
c. XIth Finance Award	:	282 schools
Total	:	689 schools
- (iii) 200 schools approved in 2006-07 could not be covered under the programme. The Ministry was requested to cancel the sanction order.
- (iv) For 2007-08, the State proposed to implement the programme in 200 schools through BOOT model of which two schools each of 23 educationally backward blocks had been proposed.
- (v) A provision of Rs. 1400.00 lakh was made for the scheme in the State budget.

4.4.1 After the presentation, the PMEG observed that the State Govt. had proposed to cover only 200 schools out of a total of 17,499 schools in 2007-08. At this rate, it would be impossible on the part of the State to cover all the schools during the XI Plan period. JS(SE) pointed out that as the State Govt. had made Rs. 14.00 Cr. in the State budget, it could even implement the programme in 1,000 schools under BOOT model during the current fiscal. This was, however, subject to availability of required infrastructure in the schools. The State Govt. representative positively responded to this suggestion and indicated their preparedness to cover 500 schools.

4.4.2 After discussion, PMEG approved 500 schools for implementation under the ICT in Schools Scheme through BOOT model for a period of five years. The Central assistance of Rs. 5.00 lakh per school would accordingly be phased @ 1.00 lakh per school each year during 2007-08 to 2011-12. Thus, the State would be eligible to receive Rs. 500.00 lakh per year from 2007-08 onwards for 5 years, subject to and the matching contribution of the State being made available. The approval accorded to cover 200 schools in 2006-07 was cancelled.

4.4.3 PMEG further directed the following:-

- (i) At least two schools in each of the educationally backward blocks should be covered in 2007-08 out of the approved 500 schools.

- (ii) The unspent balance of Rs. 463.67 lakh lying with the State Govt. under the erstwhile CLASS project be settled by 25.11.07.
- (iii) A list of 500 schools along with their locations be furnished immediately.
- (iv) The programme be commissioned by 31.01.08.

4.5 Tripura

Secretary (Education) of the State Govt. made a presentation of the State CEP, highlights of which were as under:-

- (i) Altogether there were 713 schools at secondary stage [426 secondary and 287 higher secondary schools].
- (ii) Almost all schools have necessary infrastructure including electricity facility.
- (iii) Programme in 200 schools, approved in 2006-07, could not be started as there were problems in the selection of the agency. The matter has been settled and the programme would start in November, 2007.
- (iv) In 2007-08, the State Govt. proposed to implement the scheme in 200 more schools under BOOT model for a period of five years.
- (v) Sufficient funds are available for the purpose.

4.5.1 After the presentation, PMEG approved the proposal of the State Govt. to implement the programme in 200 schools in 2007-08. As 200 schools approved in 2006-07 was proposed to be implemented in the current financial year, PMEG decided that those 200 schools would also be covered under BOOT model. Thus, a total of 400 schools would be covered under BOOT model for a period of five years and the Central share of Rs. 6.03 lakh per school would be released in the following manner:-

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|----|--|
| (a) | 2007-08 | : | Rs. 812.00 lakh @ 2.03 lakh per school. |
| (b) | 2008-09 to | }: | Rs. 400.00 lakh during each year @ Rs. 1.00 per school |
| | 2011-12 | | |

4.5.2 PMEG further directed as follows:-

- (i) At least two schools from each of the educationally backward blocks should be covered.
- (ii) Provision made in the State budget [Central and State share] for the programme be communicated by 25.11.07.
- (iii) The installations should be commissioned by 31.01.2008.

4.6 **UT of Puducherry**

The State Project Director of SSA made a presentation of the UT CEP, highlights of which were as under:-

- (i) UT of Puducherry comprised of four regions, namely, Pondicherry, Mahe, Yanam and Karaikal.
- (ii) 146 secondary and 48 higher secondary schools were functioning in the UT.
- (iii) 25 schools, approved in 2006-07 by PMEG, had already been covered under the programme.
- (iv) UT did not have any educationally backward block.
- (v) Adequate infrastructures, such as, rooms for setting up of laboratories, electricity connections were available in all schools.
- (vi) Public private partnership had been established in the area of computer aided learning through IBM's kidSmart Early Learning Programme and Azim Premji Foundation.
- (vii) The UT had proposed to cover the remaining 169 schools for coverage under BOOT model in 2007-08. All preparations had been already undertaken.
- (viii) Monitoring of the programme was envisaged through block level Monitoring Committee consisting of Dy. Inspector of school, Headmaster and VEC President. At the UT level, monitoring would be done by the Directorate.

4.6.1 Concluding the presentation, the UT representative brought to the notice of the PMEG that at the time of release of the first installment of the previous sanction, the Ministry had inadvertently deducted Rs. 12.80 lakh being the unspent balance of the erstwhile CLASS project. He further stated that the UT Govt. had already clarified to the Ministry that the unspent balance had actually been refunded to the Central Cash Balance of the Govt. of India. He urged PMEG to release that amount at the time of releasing the second instalment of the previous project approved in 2006-07 to cover 25 schools.

4.6.2 After the discussion, PMEG approved implementation of ICT in school programme in 169 schools under BOOT model for a five-year period. The Central assistance of Rs. 5.00 lakh per school would be phased @ Rs. 1.00 lakh per school per year for 5 years and accordingly, during 2007-08 to 2011-12, Rs. 169.00 lakh would be released during each year subject to satisfactory physical and financial progress.

4.6.3 PMEG further asked for the following actions immediately:-

- (i) To furnish the Utilization Certificate, expenditure statement and physical progress report for the 25 schools already covered in 2006-07.
- (ii) To furnish the list of schools along with their locations.
- (iii) To complete installation of hardware latest by 31.01.08 and teachers' training by 15.3.2008.

4.7 **UT of Chandigarh**

A presentation was made by the Director of School Education of UT of Chandigarh. The highlights were as under:-

- (i) There were 87 [80 Govt. and 7 Govt. aided] secondary and higher secondary schools in the UT.
- (ii) Computer aided learning programme was started in the UT way back in 1984-85, aiming to improve the pedagogy in Science and Mathematics.
- (iii) In 2002, a self-financing scheme was planned, but as the students were not able to pay their fee for the programme, the scheme was disbanded.
- (iv) The UT had planned to provide the computer for every two students at secondary / higher secondary stage utilizing the funds available under the Central as well as UT's own scheme.
- (v) Teacher training programme had been intensified to make the faculty competent enough to impart computer-enabled learning.
- (vi) All school heads were provided five days' training by NIC on internet usage.
- (vii) In 2006-07, 20 schools were covered under the ICT in Schools Scheme. In 2007-08, the UT Admn. has planned to cover 60 of the remaining 67 schools on outright purchase basis as there were litigations regarding implementation through BOOT model.

4.7.1 The UT representative mentioned that 20 schools were sanctioned in 2006-07 under this scheme and the first installment of Rs. 35.70 lakh, was released after taking into account, Rs. 14.80 lakh of unspent balance from CLASS scheme. At present, there was an unspent balance of Rs. 12 lakh. JS(SE) requested the UT representative to submit the necessary utilization certificate and refund the unspent balance immediately.

4.7.2 After discussion, PMEG approved the scheme for 67 remaining schools on outright purchase basis with a total project cost of Rs. 448.90 lakh and the Central share of Rs. 335.00 lakh.

4.7.3 PMEG further directed the following:-

- (i) Utilization Certificate along with statement of expenditure of the first installment released for 20 schools in 2006-07 be furnished by 25.11.07.
- (ii) Names and locations of 67 schools be furnished by 25.11.07.
- (iii) Selection of agency / vendor be finalized by December, 2007, and
- (iv) The hardware be commissioned by 31.1.08, and teachers' training be completed by 15.3.2008.

4.8 **Delhi**

The Project Manager [Computer Aided Learning] of Directorate of Education made a presentation of the UT CEP, highlights of which were as under:-

- (i) There were 1854 [1515 Govt. and 339 Govt. aided] secondary and higher secondary schools in the UT.
- (ii) The ICT usage in Delhi schools included the programme to impart computer literacy from primary classes, to impart computer-aided learning at all levels and to provide computer science as an elective subject at +2 stage.
- (iii) Each school would be provided with one IT Assistant who would also act as web-master of the school. Broadband connectivity would also be provided in all schools.
- (iv) In 2007-08, the UT Govt. proposed to cover in 53 Govt. schools through outright purchase basis as earlier implementation through BOOT model did not take off due to prolonged litigations.
- (v) Adequate infrastructure was already available in all the proposed schools.
- (vi) 400 schools sanctioned earlier under this scheme could not be covered under ICT programme due to various administrative reasons. The UT Govt. has thus cautiously made the proposals to implement the programme only in 53 Govt. secondary schools in 2007-08.
- (vii) Adequate budget provision was available in UT budget for the scheme.

4.8.1 After the presentation, PMEG approved implementation of ICT in schools Scheme in 53 schools through outright purchase basis with a total project cost of Rs. 355.10 lakh with a Central share of Rs. 265.00 lakh. Earlier sanction for 400 schools was cancelled.

4.8.2 PMEG further directed that the hardware installation be commissioned by 31.1.2008 positively and teachers' training be completed by 15.3.2008.

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 and not the Utilization Certificate be insisted upon.
- (ii) In the case of BOOT model, since implementation is staggered over a period of 3 to 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.
- (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 during each year.

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 should be furnished immediately. State budget should be suitably augmented. States should take all measures to have close monitoring of the programme. The Ministry would separately institute an external monitoring system also. Appropriate content should be developed for computer aided learning and for modules for training of teachers.

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