

Minutes of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group Meeting held on 1st November, 2010 to consider the Computer Education Plans of State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and UT Administrations of A&N Islands, and also proposals of CIET under “Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in School” Scheme.

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The second meeting of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PMEG) for the Centrally sponsored scheme of ‘ICT in Schools’ was held on 1st November, 2010 at 1530 hrs in Conference Room under the Chairmanship of Secretary (SE&L) to consider the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) received from the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and UT Administrations of A&N Islands, and also proposals of CIET under “Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in School” Scheme. A list of the participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, Director (SE) welcomed all the Members of the PMEG, representatives of the State Governments/UT Administrations/Organizations.

3. Initiating the discussion, Joint Secretary (SE) briefly explained the vision and perspective of Govt. of India on use of ICT in schools and for skill development. He mentioned that use of ICT in the teaching learning process would give a fillip to the constructivist approach to education. He stated that India has the highest percentage of young people in the world and their competence in ICT would enable them to take their rightful position in the global work force. A summary of his observations is as under:-

- The scheme of ICT in Schools Scheme has been revised and Computer Education Plans (CEPs) of the States/UTs for coverage of schools in the concerned States need to be prepared as per the guidelines of the revised ICT Scheme.
- One of the important requirements is the availability of appropriate enabling infrastructure, particularly, availability of electricity and telephone connection. Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana of the Ministry of Power should be optimally utilized by the State Governments to get the villages having high schools electrified on priority.
- All Govt. and Government aided secondary and higher secondary schools in the country need to be covered under the scheme in the 11th Five Year Plan. Therefore, the State Govt.

should make plans to ensure electricity and telephone connectivity to all high schools. .

- A dedicated post graduate teacher is required in each higher secondary school offering IT-related subjects as electives.
- CBSE has introduced computer science as an additional subject in classes 9 and 10 and curriculum and textbooks have been developed. However, it is not compulsory. CBSE conducts examination, which is optional, and a certificate is issued to students who appear. State Governments can also think of introducing a similar course with the examination being made optional. This will enable students, who do not continue to pursue higher studies to make use of the certificate which will boost their employability.
- NCERT has prepared model course curriculum for Classes IX and X for ICT. State Governments can use these as starting points and adapt those according to needs. NCERT and CBSE will be happy to extend required assistance to the States.
- The scheme needs to be evaluated by independent agencies, such as, IITs, IITs, IIMs and Engineering Colleges. Also there had to be continuous monitoring by in the short term and impact assessment in the longer run.
- Creation of appropriate and adequate database is vital to the implementation of the programme.
- Under the revised scheme, there is a provision for National Awards to teachers using ICT in teaching. The State Government should initiate action based on the guidelines and should stick to the timelines stipulated.
- There is provision for in service training and induction training for teachers in the revised scheme.
- It is imperative that all the teachers in the Secondary and higher secondary schools should be trained to use ICT in education. The training for all the teachers should be completed well before the installation of the hardware in the schools.
- As internet connectivity exposes students to the world of information, every school needs to have internet connection. Ministry of Telecommunication has assured to provide broadband connection on priority basis to all high schools. States need to take up the matter with D/o Telecom and BSNL units located in the State. Wherever, it is not possible to have broadband, there should be at least dial-up connectivity.
- A nodal officer should be exclusively assigned in each State to implement the scheme. He or she should head a cell to be set up for implementation and monitoring of the scheme
- States must make adequate provision towards both Centre and State shares in their Budget to obviate any difficulty in the fund flow.

- The physical progress under the scheme needs to be reported to MHRD by the State Governments/ UTs on a quarterly basis.
- Most of the States have been preferring BOOT model for its obvious advantages. However, if State Govts. require approvals on outright purchase, suitable justification should be submitted for consideration.
- Smart schools should be proposed generally for large schools, having broadband connectivity and preferably in district headquarters so that these schools can act as a hub and would be a show -case for other schools.
- Every State should set up expert committee for content development. Teachers should invariably be made part of the Committee.

4. Secretary (SE&L) suggested that there should be an appropriate body in place in each State for checking the e-content being developed, particularly if it is from the private sector. The State Governments should have adequate control over the content being developed and used in schools. The teaching methodology should also not be decided by the private vendors but be determined by the State Governments in accordance with the National Policy on Education and the National Curriculum Framework. JS(SE) suggested that CIET should provide guidelines for developing e-content. Secretary (SE&L) stated that developing broad guidelines for the use of the States in respect of content is one of the responsibilities of CIET and it should be reflected in their annual work plan. Such a framework for Classes VI to XII should be worked out by CIET.

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

6. West Bengal

6.1 State Project Director (SSM) of Govt. of West Bengal, Ms. Choten Lama, made a presentation which is summarized below:

- 257 schools have been covered under CLASS scheme.
- 500 schools have been covered under Revised CLASS scheme
- Under ICT, 543 schools have been covered and 1400 schools are currently under implementation.
- IT Department of Govt. of WB has initiated Project 'KAYAN' for providing e-learning courseware for Secondary and Higher Secondary Classes in selected schools in all districts.
- SCERT & C-DAC have developed CAL Modules for Classes VI to VIII and 610 schools are already using these modules.
- 1512 teachers have been oriented.
- Monitoring is done at 3 stages - State level monitoring (with Secretary Education as Head); at District Level by District Monitoring Team and at School Level by School Monitoring Committee.

- Present proposal is to cover 2000 schools under Outright Purchase basis as the State Govt. has faced a lot of litigations in the implementation of scheme under BOOT model.
- Financial assistance was sought for establishment of 5 smart schools at Pankura, Jalpaiguri, Murshidabad, Purulia and Paschim Medinipur.
- Location of smart schools have been selected based on infrastructure available like room, electricity, computer teachers, possibility for horizontal and vertical expansion of these schools, can act as a HUB for other schools in the area, etc. These schools are Centres of Excellence and located in district headquarters.
- Financial assistance was also sought for recruitment of additional computer teachers; workshop at each district level; equipment for LMS in 4 DIETS and equipment for LMS in SCERTs.
- Third Party evaluation would be undertaken by Webel Informatics Ltd. IT organization under IT Department of Govt. of West Bengal

6.2 After the presentation the following observations were made:

- The State sought for coverage of schools under outright purchase on the ground that there were too many litigations for procurement under BOOT. It was felt that the solution would lie in evolving a foolproof tendering system.
- Coverage of schools under BOOT model would entail the State being able to cover 5 times more schools with the same allocation of budget in the first year. Maintenance of hard ware would be the responsibility of vendor. Coverage of all schools under outright purchase would take several years due to financial constraints. If the hardware is not maintained by the vendor, then no payment will be made.
- Thereafter, the representative of the State Govt. sought to cover 2000 schools under BOOT model. It also sought to establish 5 smart schools.

6.3. After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken:

- PMEG recommended coverage of 2000 schools under BOOT model for a period of 5 years w.e.f. 2010-11 to 2014-15.
- The Central assistance would be phased at the rate of Rs.1.00 lakh per school per year for the first 4 years and Rs.0.80 lakh for the 5th year.
- PMEG also recommended establishment of 5 smart schools at Pankura, Jalpaiguri, Murshidabad, Purulia and Paschim Medinipur

7. A&N Islands

7.1 Shri Sanjay Saxena, Secretary & Director (Education) UT Administration of A&N Islands made a presentation, highlights of which is as under:

- Computer Literacy Programme is being implemented in A&N Islands for since 2002 under Computer Education Project from UT Plan scheme.

- 14 schools have been approved in 2008-09 under Outright purchase basis and funds amounting to Rs.35 lakhs as 1st installment was released. However, these schools have still not been covered due to the UT Administration not been able to draw the sanctioned amount.
- As per the procedure, UT Administration can draw the amount only after Letter of Authority is issued by Ministry of Home Affairs as UT Administration of A&N Islands is a UT without legislature.
- Present proposal is to cover 14 schools under Outright purchase basis due to schools being scattered and in remote places.
- 10 teachers in each school would be provided training in use of ICT.
- All schools have electricity and internet connection.

7.2. After detailed discussions, following decisions were made:

- Since the UT Administration has not been able to draw the sanctioned amount in the earlier years, the earlier sanctions under the scheme were decided to be cancelled.
- PMEG recommended coverage of 28 schools under out right purchase basis as BOOT is difficult to implement in the islands.
- Training of 10 teachers each from 28 schools should be part of the process.

8. Manipur

8.1. Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Commissioner & Secretary (SE&L), Govt. of Manipur made a presentation, highlights of which is as under:

- There are 325 schools in the State and the State proposes to cover all these @ 65 schools per year w.e.f. 2007-08 to 2011-12.
- 65 schools have been covered in 2007-08 on outright purchase basis.
- 130 schools approved for coverage in 2009-10 are yet to be covered.
- Short term computer training have been provided at the schools, apart from full fledged computer training for selected school teachers. More than 250 teachers have been trained.
- Present proposal is to cover 195 schools on BOOT model and to establish 4 smart schools.

8.2 After detailed discussions, following decisions were made:

- As 130 schools sanctioned in 2009-10 but have not been covered so far, the sanction for covering these schools would be cancelled.
- PMEG recommended coverage of balance 260 schools under BOOT model in a period of 5 years w.e.f. 2010-11 to 2014-15.
- The Central assistance would be phased at the rate of Rs.1.76 lakh per school per year for the first year and Rs.1.00 lakh for the next four years.
- Funds already released for coverage of 130 schools in 2009-10 would be adjusted while releasing funds for coverage of 260 schools in 2010-11.

- The proposal of the State Govt. to establish 4 smart schools at 4 District Headquarters was agreed to.

9. Himachal Pradesh

9.1. Dr. Narendra Awasthi, Joint Director, Higher Education, Govt. of HP made a presentation, highlights of which is as under:

- IT Education project in 968 Govt. Sr. Sec. schools is being implemented under self financing basis.
- Computer training for teachers is being imparted by Intel.
- 50 Multimedia Computer Centres has been set up.
- 628 schools have already been covered under ICT scheme in 2008-09
- Present proposal is to cover 618 Govt. Senior Secondary schools under BOOT model and to establish 5 smart schools.
- Some schools proposed to be covered in 2010-11 are located in far flung tribal areas and can be reached only through helicopters and the persons have to stay 4-5 months in these snow bound areas. Financial assistance for these schools @ rate of 90:10 was requested.
- Budgetary provision would be made by re-appropriation.

9.2. After detailed discussions, following decisions was taken:

- PMEG recommended coverage of 618 schools under BOOT model in a period of 5 years w.e.f. 2010-11 to 2014-15.
- The Central assistance would be phased at the rate of Rs.1.00 lakh per school per year for the first 4 years and Rs.0.80 lakh in the fifth year.
- Funds for covering these schools would be issued only after utilization certificate of earlier release is received.
- PMEG also recommended establishment of 5 smart schools at Hamirpur, Shimla, Kangra, Mandi and Bilaspur.

10. Assam

10.1 Shri L.C. Singhi, Commissioner & Secretary, Govt. of Assam, made a presentation, highlights of which is as under:

- Computer Education under “Rajiv Gandhi Computer Literacy Programme” has been launched in 930 higher secondary and secondary schools phase wise since 2003.
- Schools are also covered for Computer Aided Education in BOOT/BOT model by State Nodal Agency, AMTRON.
- 641 schools has already been covered under ICT scheme and utilization certificate of earlier release given.
- 2nd years installment for coverage of 641 schools approved under BOOT model was sought.
- Present proposal is to cover 1240 secondary schools under BOOT model.

10.2. After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken:

- PMEG recommended coverage of 1240 schools under BOOT model in a period of 5 years w.e.f. 2010-11 to 2014-15.
- The Central assistance would be phased at the rate of Rs.1.76 lakh per school per year for the first year and Rs.1.00 lakh per school per year for the remaining four years.

11. Arunachal Pradesh

11.1 Shri Monya Nyori, Deputy Director of School Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, made a presentation, highlights of which is as under:

- Out of 229 schools, 205 schools have already been approved for coverage under ICT scheme.
- State Govt. has nominated Govt. Polytechnic Institute, Itanagar for external evaluation of the implementation of the ICT scheme.
- Due to difficult terrain/remote location of the schools, management cost is huge.
- Present proposal is to cover the remaining 24 schools. Some of these schools are located in interior areas.
- State Govt. proposes to purchase generators for schools in interior areas.
- Training of teachers would be done by KEONICS, a public sector undertaking of Govt. of Karnataka
- The entire project would be implemented by KEONICS.
- Recurring expenditure for 115 schools covered under ICT scheme in 2006-07 was sought.

11.2. After the presentation, following observations were made:

- External evaluation by a Polytechnic Institute would not be sufficient and State Govt. may get external evaluation done from one of reputed engineering or management institutes.
- Utilization certificate of earlier release may be expedited.
- Annual Maintenance Contract should be for 5 years.

11.3. After discussion, following decisions were taken:

- PMEG recommended coverage of 24 schools on outright purchase basis as requested for by the State.
- Recurring expenditure for schools already covered would be considered on file on reimbursement basis, based on the audited statement of accounts.
- Recurring expenditure for new schools proposed would be considered only after installation of infrastructure

12. Tripura

12.1. Shri Sahadeb Das, Director, School Education, Government of Tripura, made a presentation, highlights of which are as under:

- Out of 632 Govt. and Govt. aided Secondary and Higher Secondary schools, 350 schools have already been covered under the ICT scheme.
- NIT Agartala has already been requested to do external evaluation. However, confirmation is yet to be received.
- Present proposal is to cover remaining 282 schools under BOOT model. All these schools have electricity connection.

12.2. After discussion, the following decisions were taken:

- PMEG recommended coverage of 282 schools under BOOT model in a period of 5 years from 2010-11 to 2014-15.
- The Central assistance would be phased at the rate of Rs.1.76 lakh per school per year for the first year and Rs.1.00 lakh per school per year for the remaining four years.

13. Proposals of CIET

13.1. Prof. Vasuda Kamat, Joint Director, CIET made a presentation of the following proposals, highlights of which is as under:

- Financial support of Rs.40 lakh for training of 1000 Mentor Coordinators (through Edusat) @ Rs.4000 per participant for 6 days.
- Financial support of Rs.1250 lakh for training of 50,000 Mentors (through face-to-face with 20 participants in a batch) @ Rs.2500/- per participant for 5 days training.
- Procurement of equipments for SIETs, based on the recommendations of Committee set up for replacement of obsolete/non functional equipments of SIETs @ Rs.84 lakh per SIET.
- Financial support for establishment of 12 Multi Media Lab.

13.1.1. Training of 1000 Mentor Coordinators in ICTs in Education:

- Training of 1000 Mentor Coordinators (2 per district from 500 districts) has been planned by CIET in 2010-11.
- Names of the teachers to be trained as Mentor Coordinators has been obtained from different SCERTs, DIETs, SIETs, etc.
- First level training of 1000 Mentor Coordinators would be conducted through EduSat in 5 batches of 200 participants in each batch.
- The trainees will be evaluated on the work done during and after the training.
- A certificate of successful participation in the programme would be awarded to each participant Mentor Coordinator.

13.1.2. After the presentation, the following observations were made:

- There should be a link between CIET and State Govts. so that the teachers trained as Mentor Coordinators utilize their training and train mentors.
- The training should be dovetailed with the action plan of the State Govt.

13.1.3. After discussion, PMEG suggested that CIET may cover 2 States as pilot in the first instance and prepare a detailed scheme in collaboration with State Govts. concerned to cover a large number of teachers of each State. The proposal may be submitted to PMEG after obtaining the consent of the State Govts.

13.2. Procurement of equipments for SIETs

- As per the decision taken in Coordination Meeting of CIET and SIETs, A Technical Assessment Committee had been set up to assess the equipments in SIETs and suggest strategy for its up-gradation.
- This Committee has recommended a sum of Rs.84 lakh per SIET for upgrading the obsolete and outdated equipments by replacing them with modern equipments.
- Total cost of procuring these equipments would be Rs.420 lakh.
- CIET would be the nodal agency for procuring these equipments through open tender and give it to SIETs.
- The Tendering Committee would have Director of each SIET as one its Members.
- There will be a Technical Bid and Financial Bid for procuring these equipments.

13.2.1. After discussion, PMEG recommended procurement of equipments for modernization of SIETs with the following conditions:

- CIET would be the nodal agency in procuring these equipments.
- The present cost of equipments to be kept in view.
- The total cost of procuring these equipments should not exceeded the recommendation of Technical Assessment Committee, i.e. Rs.420 lakh.
- Directors of all SIETs should be fully involved in the procurement process.

13.3. Establishment of Multi Media Development Lab:

- 12 Multi Media Development Lab is proposed to be set up for production of e-content.
- Each of 12 labs is expected to produce at least 240 Interactive Multi Media Packages (IMMPs).
- Multi Media Development Lab is proposed to be set up in 6 SIETs and 5 RIEs.

- Setting up Multi Media Development Lab would boost the development of e-content.
- The content developed for various subjects at one lab would be translated into other languages at other labs and adapted to a regional context.
- Each lab would require an additional staff of 50 personnel each.

13.3.1. After the presentation, following observations were made:

- A plan of what these lab would produce is needed. Whether these labs would be fully utilized or not will have to be determined.
- The requirement of staff appears to be on higher side.
- Without having a clear frame work, employing persons even on contract basis for running these labs would not serve any purpose.

13.3.2. After discussion, PMEG suggested to CIET to have a comprehensive frame work and tie-up with the various State Govt. before bringing proposal for setting up Multi Media Development Laboratories.

14. Prof. Rajaram Sharma, Head (Computer Education), NCERT brought to the notice of PMEG that SIET Patna, which has just been closed down by the State Govt. has a lot of video tapes, and suggested that the contents of these tapes needs to be digitized so that these content is not lost. CIET may take necessary action in this regard.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

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Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Deptt. of School Education & Literacy
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
Dated the 9th November, 2010

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2. Based on the discussion held, minutes of the meeting has been attempted and is placed below for consideration for approval.

(M.Dilip Kumar)
Under Secretary
2.11.2010

Director(Sch.5)