Meeting Chaired by Secretary SE & L held on 18ᵗʰ November, 2011 to discuss the formulation of Core Scope Document for the MMP in School Education, under National eGovernance Plan (NeGP).

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1.   The list of participants (Annexure -1).

2.   At the outset, JS(SE) gave a brief background note circulated (Annexure-II) explained the MMP in School Education has been included as one of the MMPs under NeGP and in that context Department of Information Technology (DIT) Government of India, as the nodal department for initiatives under NeGP, has suggested that the Department of SE&L, may take the support of National Institute of Smart Government (NISG) or any other reputed consultant to provide necessary support in preparation of the Core Scope Document and the Scheme for seeking necessary approval of the competent authority.

3.   As advised by DIT, CEO NISG was invited to make a presentation on the subject as also brief the department on its work profile, experience and track record in the e-Governance arena.

4.   CEO NISG while making the presentation, highlighted the following: (Annexure III)

- 90% of the projects undertaken by NSIG belong to the Government sector.
- NSIG has been set up as a NGO with 51% owned by private sector and 49% by Government/Public Sector, NASSCOM, IL&FS.
- Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Government of India, is ex-officio Chairman of NSIG.
- So far 21 MMPs have been set up by NSIG, out of which in 17 MMPs, NSIG has played a critical.
- The focus areas for NSIG are Strategic Consulting, Procurement Management; Program Management and Capacity Building.
- Some of the key projects undertaken by NSIG include Passport Seva; Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) Police MMP, e-Biz, Agriculture, PDS, etc.

5.   Secretary SE & L while inviting response from the participants emphasised that this whole initiative should be carried out through consultative process and the core scope of the MMP and its outcome should be conceptualised in a manner that the ownership is shared between the Government of India and the States equally. This is possible only if the needs of the States are factored in and their views and experiences are considered while adopting goals and implementation strategies. Also, this initiative should be used as an opportunity to build up States (partner) capacity to sustain the initiative in the long term.

6.   Ms. Anita Kaul, Additional Secretary (SE), appreciated the presentation. However, she expressed her views that even though DIET (**Dinict** information in School Education) has been existence for long, the impression exists that it is a central initiative and is still driven centrally. She also stated that a lot of States have taken various initiatives such as **Odisha**, child tracking system, Karnataka's teacher recruitment/teacher deployment system, which Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat are trying to **evaluate,** Madhya Pradesh's excellent e-goveranance initiative relating to tracking of children and teachers and Kerala's ICT @ Schools, which facilitates a transfer; content development, computerization of secondary and higher secondary exams, etc.

7.   Shri Amarjit Singh, JS(EE-I) stated that it is a great opportunity to have a portal at the national level which will make available to us real time date. Further, it will also help in keeping track of districts performing poorly and enable corrective action and focussed remedial steps being taken both at the State as well as at the Central level.

8.   Shri Jagmohan Singh Raju, Joint Secretary, sought information on the research conducted by NISG for the purpose of thee scopes exercise for the MMP. It was clarified by representative of NSIG that once the in-principle approval is given by the Ministry of HRD for seeking support of the NISG, then while formulating the Core Scope Document for the MMP, they would be making a detailed survey and analysis of what is existing at field level, as part of the 'as is' study (including a needs assessment of stakeholders). Thereafter they would come out with suggestions and recommendations on the strategy for interventions along with possible timelines.

9.   JS (SE-1), clarified that as an MMP under NeGP, the project on School Education would need to focus on efficient delivery of services to its stakeholders such as parents, children, States, partners, autonomous agencies. To this end the initiative would need to identify set services and degfine service levels at its outcome. The other area of focus would be building up digital content as also enabling its delivery across institutions and individuals. Currently support of an agency such as NISG is being sought to carry out the need assessments of the stakeholders, to conduct an "as is" study of existing initiatives across select States and come out with a scope document that formulates the overall strategy for MMP as also major outcomes envisaged within a definite time frame.

10.   Director (SE) stated that the project can help in building a repository of information of various fields in education such as building a register of experts on education of children with special needs etc.

11.   After detailed discussion, it was decided that support of NSIG as a Consultant would be taken as suggested by DIT. Their initial task would be limited to preparation of the Core Scope Document. DIT will also be requested for financial support for the study (as indicated by DIT in the preparatory discussions). NSIG was requested to submit their proposal which would clearly specify the approach on how the Core Scope Document would be formulated (number of States that would be taken up for field study, workshops at national / regional levels for stakeholder consultations, etc), the time they would take to complete the exercise as also list of deliverables (outcomes) that would be part of the Core Scope Document. It was also suggested by the Secretary, that JS (SE-1) should convene a meeting at her level to ensure interaction of NISG team members with members of autonomous institutions within the Department such a NEUPA, NCERT etc and factor in their inputs while formulating the approach for the study.

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

Presentation on National Mission Mode Project by National Institute for Smart Government made before Secretary (SE&L) on 18ᵗʰ November, 2011.

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National Institute for Smart Government (NSIG) made a Presentation on Mission Mode Project (MMP) on 18ᵗʰ November, 2011 at 1130 hours in the Conference Room, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi before Secretary (SE&L), wherein other Bureau Heads of the Department was also invited. The list of invitees, who attended the meeting, is annexed.

2.   At the outset, JS(SE) gave a brief background of the circumstances as to why NSIG has been invited to make a presentation. JS(SE) stated that two social sectors, i.e. Education and Health has been made a part of e-governance with time bound deliverables. Department of Information Technology, while intimating that Education has been made a part of e-governance had suggested that NSIG is already a partner in e-governance of various projects and the Department of Secondary Education can take their help in preparation of Mission Mode Project. In order to ensure that NSIG has the requisite capability, a presentation by NSIG has been called for.

3.   After this, NSIG made a presentation, highlights of which are as under:

- 90% of the projects undertaken by NSIG belong to the Government sector.
- NSIG has been set up as a NGO with 51% owned by private sector and 49% by Government/Public Sector, NASSCOM, IL&FS.
- Secretary, Department of Information Technology, GoI, is ex-officio Chairman of NSIG.
- So far 21 MMPs have been set up by NSIG, out of which in 17 MMPs, NSIG has played a critical.
- The focus areas for NSIG are Strategic Consulting, Procurement Management; Program Management and Capacity Building.
- Some of the key projects undertaken by NSIG include Passport Seva; Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) Police MMP, e-Biz, Agriculture, PDS, etc.

4.   Mission Mode Project on Education basically focus on long term goals and short term goals. The service will vary depending on what is the focus and NSIG will be happy to facilitate the same. NSIG further elaborated as to what was the outcome of CCTNS prepared by them for the Ministry of Home Affairs for making the country safe. The MMP involved linking of all Police Stations across the country and preparing a common platform was challenge due to Police being a State subject.

5.   Secretary (SE&L) stated that education is also a State subject and we need to have a clear idea of what should be our goal and we should maintain a balance between the Centre and the State as States should not feel that Centre is trying to dedicate terms and is thrusting implementation of a project. The best course should be to arrive at some kind of standard setting for States without interfering, primarily, with education being the State subject. It would be better if a series of workshops are held to highlight the MMP with all the stake holders. We need to also to think as whether building up software centrally or give guidelines to States for preparation of software is essential. In fact, the opportunity should be used to build up States' capacity.

6.   The representative of NSIG stated that experience in Department of IT has shown that ICT is also not being implemented uniformly by all the States due to lack of guidance. As such, the view was that it would be better to develop software and fund it and leave it to the States with enough flexibility to amend the software as per their needs.

7.   The representative of NSIG requested that MMP on Education be implemented initially as pilot project in some 10-15 States.

8.   Ms. Anita Kaul, Additional Secretary (SE), stated that it is a good presentation. However, she expressed her views that even though DIETs have been set up in the States and it is functioning for the last decade, the impression exists that it is a centre initiative being centrally driven by GoI. Even though DIETs has helped a lot in the collection of data, but whether it helps in the long run needs to be found out. She also elaborated that a lot of States have taken various initiatives like Odissa initially initiating child tracking movement (which of late is slowly fizzling out);

Karnataka about teacher recruitment; teacher deployment, etc. which Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat are trying to copy; Madhya Pradesh has excellent e-governance of teachers with salary also linked up; Kerala ICT @ Schools, which facilitates e transfer; content development, computerization of secondary and higher secondary exams, etc. She further stated that MMP at the Primary and Upper Primary level, the application of so much input and so much output does not work. It should be like a demo with the States being allowed to pick up.

9. Shri Amarjit Singh, JS(EE-I) stated that it is a great opportunity to have a portal at the national level run by the State. This would help in having the data of population of SC, ST, Minority attending the school; mapping of the children; keeping track of whether the children at primary level has moved to upper primary level and then to secondary level; how much children were covered under MMD scheme; drop outs; etc. Further, it will also help in keeping track of districts performing poorly and corrective and remedial steps can be taken up.

10. Secretary (SE&L) was of the view that MMD should not be a data collection bank but should be more. Already all the data that is being sought is available in some sort or the other. The basic thing is to see how all the data available is being put to use and how technology can help in utilization of these data for providing better services in the education sector.

11. Shri Jagmohan Singh Raju, Joint Secretary, stated that it has been noticed that normally organization mooting this kind of exercise had not conducted any research and sought for clarification as to whether NSIG has conducted any research. It was clarified by representative of NSIG that once the in-principle approval is given by the Ministry of HRD, then before undertaking the project, they would be making a detailed research of what is available, drawbacks, what type of intervention required from the Ministry, etc. would be undertaken.

12. Director (SE) stated that this can be used as a repository of information. She elaborated that RCI is already building a repository for children with special needs and MMP can help in these kinds of fields.

13.   After detailed discussion, it was decided that NSIG would be appointed as a Consultant. NSIG would be given 4-6 months time to come out with a Concept Paper for Education Mission Mode Project. Joint Secretary (SE) would be the Chairperson of Mission Mode Project and NSIG would have detailed consultations regarding need for outsourcing expertise, if required. Initially a Pilot Project would be undertaken and depending on this, further action will be taken.

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