

**Minutes of the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group Meeting held on  
06.09.2007 to consider the Computer Education Plans of Orissa under Scheme of  
Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools Scheme**

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The Fourth meeting of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group [PMEG] for the Centrally sponsored scheme of “ICT in Schools” was held on 06.09.2007 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy to consider the Computer Education Plans [CEPs] of **Orissa**. 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 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, IIITs, 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 Plan of Orissa was taken up for consideration by PMEG.**

4.1 The Secretary, School & Mass Education Department of Govt. of Orissa, made a presentation of their CEP, highlights of which were as under:-

- (i) There were a total of 7562 schools in the State, of which 3983, 1595 and 1984 were Govt. Govt aided and privately managed un-aided schools
- (ii) A scheme of Computer Aided Learning (CAL) at elementary stage, called B.J. Patnaik computer education programme was implemented in 600 schools in 24 districts.

- (iii) The proposal for 2007-08 was to cover 1500 schools under the BOOT Model. The schools were identified on the basis of availability of appropriate infrastructure. About 65000 students at secondary stage were expected to be covered in 2007-08.
- (iv) 200 schools approved in 2005-06 were yet to be covered under programme as the Central Government had advised the State Government to utilize the first installment of Rs. 500 lakh from the unspent balances available under erstwhile Education Technology (ET) Scheme and CLASS Project. The position regarding unspent balances of Rs. 909.43 lakh was as under:
  - a) Under the ET scheme Rs. 588.23 lakh was released between 1988 and 2001 of which Rs. 373.00 lakh was placed with M/s Konark Television Ltd., erstwhile Govt. Orissa Enterprises, for supply of 8083 colour televisions and similar number of radio-cum-cassette players. The Konark Television Ltd. subsequently became a sick unit and thus the advance of Rs. 373.00 lakh placed with it could not be recovered till date. The sanctions pertaining to remaining Rs. 215.23 lakh were not traceable and Ministry of HRD was requested to facilitate in the matter.
  - b) Under the CLASS Project the Central Government had released Rs. 321.20 lakh between 1993 - 1998 and the Department of Higher Education of Govt. of Orissa was requested to furnish the position of utilization of the said amount as the funds were placed at its disposal to cover Plus 2 stage institutions.

Thus, the position of the utilization of funds from the above two schemes and the unspent balance available would be communicated to the Ministry on priority, after revealing the entire matter.

- 4.2 After the presentation the Secretary (Education), Orissa urged the PMEG to approve the CEP 2007-08. He said that the State Finance Department has been requested to settle the matter regarding recovery of the funds placed earlier with M/s Konark Television Ltd. and release it to the School and Mass Education Department.

He further informed that department had also taken up the matter with the State Finance Department to make necessary budget provision for the scheme through the next supplementaries to implement the programme in 2007-08 in 1500 schools. The Finance Department has agreed in principle to the Department's proposal.

5. After discussion, following decisions were taken by the PMEG:
- i) 200 schools approved in 2005-06 under the scheme were cancelled as the scheme was not implemented due to the unspent balance issue, as stated above.
  - ii) 1500 secondary schools, as proposed by the State Govt., were **approved in principle** for coverage under the scheme through BOOT Model for a period of five year contract period @ Rs. 6.70 lakh per school of which the Central Share of Rs. 5.00 lakh per school would be phased @ Rs. 1 lakh per year for 5 years.

**The funds would be released subject to the following conditions:**

- a) The unspent balances is Rs. 909.43 lakh, as stated at paras 4 & 5 above would have to be refunded first by the State Govt. and a communication to this effect be sent to this Ministry by 15.10.2007.
- b) As no budget provision has been made in the State Budget for the scheme, an amount of Rs. 1500 lakh as Central share @ 75% of his project cost and Rs. 500 lakh as State share @ 25%, totally amounting to Rs. 2000 lakh be provided in the State Budget for the scheme on priority. A communication to this effect shared be sent to the Ministry.

Secretary (SE & L) advised the State Representative to bring the matter to the knowledge of Chief Secretary of Orissa and make all efforts to settle the matter expeditiously.

**6. Consideration of the Proposal from State Institute of Education and Technology (SIET), Bhubaneshwar.**

The PMEG then considered the Plan of State Institute of Education and Technology (SIET), Bhubaneshwar. The Secretary, Education of Orissa proposed Central Assistance to the tune of Rs. 1130 lakh for content development and other activities. Major activities proposed were as follows:

S.No.	Activities	Amount Proposed (Rs. in Lakh)
1	Production of 200 video programmes, 100 audio programmes, teacher training, research and evaluation, talent search etc.	361.45
2	Repair and Maintenance of the building and AC plan etc.	11.55
3	Library books and software	0.50
4	Office expenses (phone, fan, electricity charges, furniture's) etc.	.09
5	Salary, wages, payment of arrears towards EPF etc.	447.35
6	Procurement of cassette for shooting and editing purpose	3.70
7	One time grant	290.60

6.1 JS (SE) said that a decision has been taken during a recent Conference of SIETs, held on 26.07.2007, to review the productions of contents of all SIETs, and to ensure that duplications were best avoided. It was agreed in the said meeting to first focus on hard topics in the subjects of Mathematics, Science, English and Geography. Emphasis was needed to be on multimedia production and where necessary in the animation format.

6.2 After discussion, PMEG approved Rs. 73.50 lakh as Central Assistance for 2007-08, for following activities:

i) Rs. 60 lakh for production of 200 video programmes @ Rs 0.30 lakh per production.

ii) Rs. 10 lakh for production of 100 audio programmes @ Rs. 0.10 lakh per production.

iii) Rs. 0.50 lakh for procurement of library books, periodically, CD Rom and purchase of Software.

iv) Rs. 3 lakh towards office expenses (stationery, postage, telephone/ internet/ Fax charges, furniture, hospitality, liveries, TA/DA and contingencies. etc.

For activities such as advertisements, printing of brochures and pamphlets, conducting seminars, conferences, etc. during 2007-08, the expenditure would be considered for reimbursement as per specific admissibility provided SIET submitted a concrete proposal for approval by PMEG.

6.3 As regards release of funds to SIET for the year 2006-07, it was decided that a concrete proposal alongwith details of expenditure actually incurred under various activities may be submitted for consideration of PMEG.

7. Secretary (SE&L) in his concluding remark advised the Secretary (Education), Orissa to take expeditious action in settling the unspent balances and ensure that the ICT in Schools scheme is launched in the State at the earliest.

The meeting ended with the Vote of thanks to the Chair.