Minutes of the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group Meeting held on 11.07.2007 to consider the Computer Education Plans of States under the Information & Communication Technology in Schools Scheme
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The first meeting of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group [PMEG] was held on 11.07.2007 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy to consider the Computer Education Plan [CEP] of **Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu** under Information and Communication Technology Scheme. List of participants who attended the above meeting is at ***Annexure***.

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, 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 Plans of several States were taken up for consideration by PMEG.

4.1   Karnataka

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

(i)   The ICT programme in Karnataka was implemented through interactive radio programme, Edustat and Computer Education.

(ii)   At the elementary stage, there were three levels of interactive radio programme viz. Chinnara Chukki for Class I and II, Chukki Chinna for Class III to V and Keli Kali for Class VI to VIII. About 61,000 schools and 92 lakh children benefited under the programme.

(iii)   In Chamarajanagar and Gulbarga districts, 1770 schools have been provided with ROTs, TVs and solar panels to receive video lessons through Edustat.

(iv)   The CEP was imparted through Mahiti Sindhu Project, State Govt. initiative; EFC Project & Revised CLASS project, computer-aided learning programme under SSA; and ICT in Schools project of the Central Govt.

Mahiti Sindhu Project covered 1011 Govt. Secondary Schools. All students have their own e-mail ID. Each week, two periods of computer literacy, and two periods of computer-aided learning have been allocated. DIETs supervised the programme. Indian Institute of Science through Computer Science Departments of Engineering Colleges monitored the programme. The project was implemented through KEONICS Ltd., Bangalore. Three lakh students benefited from the programme.

The impact of the Mahiti Sindhu Project had been quite encouraging in improving enrolment and attendance in Govt. schools, enhancing computer

literacy skills among students and teachers. There was a marked improvement in the Class-X Board results.

(v) Under ICT in Schools Scheme, 480 Govt. high schools have been covered in 2005-06. The entire amount of the Central share and that of the State share released for the purpose has been fully utilized.

(vi) Under the Public Private Partnership initiative, Intel Education and Microsoft Corporation are training teachers.

4.1.1 The Secretary (SE), Govt. of Karnataka then presented the State CEP 2007-08 for consideration of PMEG.

(i) The State Govt. has planned coverage of all i.e. 1571 high schools of a total of 3300 Govt. high schools in 2007-08.

(ii) The programme would be implemented through BOOT model over a period of five years.

(iii) In anticipation of the approval, the executing agency would be finalized in July, 2007 itself.

(iv) A sum of Rs. 4700 lakh [Rs. 2400 lakh as Central share and Rs. 2300 lakh as State share] has been provided in the State budget for 2007-08.

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

(i) The Plan for 2007-08 did not include higher secondary schools and also Govt. aided schools.

(ii) The State Govt. has not furnished the details of all 1571 schools by name, location, etc.

The Secretary (SE), Govt. of Karnataka said that they would first cover the Govt. schools. The proposal for covering Govt. higher secondary schools would be sent for consideration of PMEG. The details of the 1571 schools now proposed would also be forwarded immediately, both in soft form and hard copies. He also urged the PMEG to consider, in due course, assistance for those schools covered under the Mahiti Sindhu Project of the State Govt. to bridge the gap in availability of computers and peripherals. He said that while Central scheme allowed 10 computers or similar number of work stations, under the State Govt. project, many schools have been provided with less than 10 computers. He requested the PMEG to consider a supplementary plan of those schools having less than 10 computers for coverage under the Central scheme to bridge the gap.

JS(SE) said that the proposal for Govt. higher secondary schools be made separately.

4.1.3 After discussion, PMEG approved 1571 Govt. Secondary schools for coverage under BOOT model for a three years contract period @ Rs. 6.70 lakh of which the Central share of Rs. 5.00 lakh per school would be phased in the <u>following</u> manner:-

(i)   **2007-08:** Rs. 3142.00 lakh @ Rs. 2.00 lakh per school,
(ii)   **2008-09:** Rs. 2356.50 lakh @ Rs. 1.50 lakh per school, and
(iii)   **2009-10:** Rs. 2356.50 lakh @ Rs. 1.50 lakh per school.

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

4.2.   Tamil Nadu

The presentation of the CEP–2007-08 was made by Secretary (School Education), Govt. of Tamil Nadu. At the outset, he said that the main objective of the ICT programme in the State was to make the classroom learning more interesting, interactive and innovative. The highlights of his presentation were as follows:-

(i)   The State Govt. has already covered all its higher secondary schools, which started in a phased manner from 1999-2000.

(ii)   In all secondary schools, the following equipments have been provided:-
- One server with 8 nodes,
- One laptop,
- One LCD Projector, and
- One Dot-matrix Printer.

(iii) The Computer Science [as a regular subject] has been introduced at +2 level.

(iv)   Since 1999-2000, about 1.58 lakh children have been covered under Computer Literacy Programme of which 0.68 lakh were girls.

(v)   The State Govt. initially started the programme through BOOT model but due to certain administrative and technical problems, has now switched over to a system outright purchase and installed equipments.

(vi)   Electronic Corporation of Tamil Nadu, a State Govt. undertaking, has been entrusted the task of establishing the computer labs in schools.

(vii) The Department has provided two qualified computer instructors for each school, and

(viii) Under the ICT in Schools Scheme, 125 Govt. Secondary Schools have been covered with following equipments.
- Computers,
- Printers,
- Web cameras,
- UPS, and
- Internet connections.

4.2.1 The Secretary (SE), Govt. of Tamil Nadu then presented the State CEP 2007-08 for consideration of PMEG:-

(i)   In 2007-08, the State Govt. has planned to cover 400 Govt. Secondary Schools mostly located in educationally backward blocks.

(ii)   The State Govt. may be allowed flexibility to have equipments installed in schools, which were not listed in the guidelines but otherwise useful in the classroom activities within the overall cost ceiling of Rs. 6.70 lakh per school. For example, LCD Project though not a permissible item as per the guidelines but such equipments are necessary for presentations.

(iii) The State Govt. would continue to implement the programme through the system of outright purchase.

(iv)   Azim Premji Foundation, Microsoft, Intel-education were assisting in training of teachers.

(v)   Rs. 2680 lakh has been provided in the State budget in 2007-08 for the programme.

4.2.2 After the presentation, Director (Finance), MHRD, clarified that adequate flexibilities were already available in the guidelines. However, the State Govt. should to furnish

details of equipments along with the costs to be procured for implementing the programme in 2007-08, he said.

The Appraisal Team commented that the State Govt. has not furnished the list of the details of schools including name, location, etc., which may be furnished immediately in both soft and hard copies.

The team also pointed out that though the programme had been running for quite sometimes, no evidence of any monitoring system for the programme has been reflected in the Plan.

JS(SE) said that the State Govt. should now commission monitoring institutions in collaboration with IIT, Chennai and Anna University and others.

4.2.3 After the discussion, the PMEG approved 400 Govt. secondary schools for which computers and other equipments purchased on outright basis with a total project cost of Rs.2680 lakh of which Central share would be Rs.2000 lakh [@Rs.5 lakh per school] and State Share, Rs.680 lakh.

It was also decided that complete details of schools proposed to be covered in 2007-08 should be sent within three weeks in the format prescribed by the Ministry, and details of equipments alongwith their cost per unit, which were not mentioned in the guidelines, but the State Govt. has planned to procure them.

4.3 Haryana

The presentation of the CEP was made by Secretary (School Education), Govt. of Haryana. The Secretary informed that though over 1000 schools have been covered under the State programme, sufficient equipments were not provided commensurating with the actual average enrolment in the schools, which is much higher. The main highlights of his presentation were as follows: -

(i) There were altogether 3062 Secondary and Higher Secondary schools [2954 Govt. and 208 aided schools].
(ii) About 1.05 lakh students have been benefited from the State Government's programme even with inadequate infrastructure.
(iii) Edusat programme has been covered in all schools.
(iv) 200 schools have already been covered under the Scheme of ICT in Schools.
(v) During 2006-0, PMEG had approved another 300 schools but no funds released yet.
(vi) The expectations of the community were quite high and, therefore, the State Govt. has planned to introduce certificate course at the +2 level.
(vii) BITS, Pilani and industry partners would be consulted to develop appropriate e-content.
(viii) The State Govt. enterprise, HARTRON has been entrusted to procure equipments though out right purchase system.
(ix) Adequate infrastructure with electricity connection, etc. available in the proposed schools.
(x) M/s. Educomp and M/s. NICT have been engaged to provide computer literacy training to students. Intel education has also entered into an agreement to train 15 teachers in each Senior Secondary school.
(xi) A provision of Rs.1360 lakh has been made in the State budget.

(xii)   For monitoring purpose, a Core Committee in each district has been planned.

4.3.1   The Secretary (Education), Govt. of Haryana then proceeded to present the State's CEP 2007-08 for consideration of PMEG:-

(i)   A total of 645 Govt. schools [145 Secondary & 500 Higher Secondary] have been planned for coverage during 2007-08.
(ii)   Atleast 25 computers be permitted with supporting equipments infrastructures for schools with enrolment upto 400 students for classes VI-XII, and 50 computers with supporting equipments having more than 400 students.

JS(SE) clarified that the scheme was meant for Secondary and Higher Secondary stage students, therefore, the students of elementary stage (Class VI-VIII) fall under the ambit of SSA. As regards inadequacy of computers, State Govt. may explore purchasing higher numbers within the overall ceiling, as it is possible now to buy more number of computers in view of the downward trend of the market prices.

4.3.2   The Appraisal Team submitted that 300 schools approved in 2006-07 have to be covered in 2007-08 for which approval of the Internal Finance Department has been obtained to release the first instalment. The proposal for covering 645 more schools in 2007-08 may be restricted to 200 schools, taking the total number to cover 500 schools.

There is no evidence of any impact assessment of the programme already being implemented.

The State Govt. may explore the possibility to Build, Own and Operate model instead of outright procurement system so that much higher number of schools can be covered.

4.3.3   After the discussion, the PMEG approved 200 Govt. schools to procure equipments on outright purchase basis with the condition that the details of the schools viz. name, location, etc. would be provided within three weeks in both soft form and hard copies.

The State Govt. shall provide the details of equipments, software and other activities planned for procurement for each school alongwith cost norms proposed in 2007-08, within three weeks.

PMEG approved a total project amounting to Rs.1340 lakh [200 x Rs.6.7 lakh per school] with the Central share of Rs.1000 lakh and State share of Rs.340 lakh.

The State Govt. was requested to augment the budget provision so as to cover all the 500 schools [300 of 2006-07 + 200 of 2007-08] before the proposal for release the second instalment is made.

4.4   Arunachal Pradesh

The presentation of the CEP was made by Secretary (Education), Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh. At the outset, the Secretary said that Arunachal Pradesh has remained quite

backward in all sectors of development. The main highlights of his presentation were as follows: -

(i)   The State had altogether 189 Govt. and Govt. aided [164 Govt. and 25 Govt. aided] schools.

(ii)   The Scheme of ICT in Schools was first introduced in 2005-06 in 154 Govt. Secondary and Higher Secondary schools.

(iii)   The first installment of Rs.464.31 lakh was sanctioned in 2005-06. But the second instalment was released in 2006-07 only to the tune of Rs.267.26 lakh leaving Rs.197.05 lakh still due to the State Govt.

(iv)   Teledata Informatics Limited has been entrusted to implement the programme but as the requisite funds were not received, the programme implementation has affected adversely. The agency did not provide training to teachers.

4.4.1   The Secretary (Education), Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh then proceeded to present the State CEP 2007-08 for consideration of PMEG:

Coverage of 35 more schools [10 newly upgraded Govt. schools and 25 aided schools] in 2007-08 with following equipments/ activities alongwith cost norms: -

Items / Activities	Amount Permissible per school (Rs. in lakh)	Amount proposed (Rs. in lakh)
10 PCs/Printer/CRT per school inclusive of facilities like scanner, web camera, modem etc. or one server with 10 workstation with accessories.	4.05	4.05
Operating System & Application software	0.20	0.20
Educational Software	0.45	0.45
Items / Activities	**Amount Permissible per school (Rs. in lakh)**	**Amount proposed (Rs. in lakh)**
Furniture	0.26	0.26
Computer Stationary	0.50	0.50
Teachers Training	0.60	0.60
Internet	0.30	0.30
Maintenance 50% of the cost of annual maintenance contract	0.20	0.20
Monitoring cost	0.24	0.24
Total	**6.70**	**6.70**

4.4.2 The Appraisal Team submitted that provisions made in the State Budget for 2007-08 has not been furnished and there has been no mention about the manner and processes involved to monitor the programme in schools already sanctioned under the Scheme.

4.4.3 After discussions, PMEG approved coverage of 35 more schools [10 Govt. and 25 Govt. aided schools]. The State representative was directed to furnish the Utilization Certificates of the entire Central share and State share released for already sanctioned 154 schools. The State representative was also requested to indicate the budget provisions made for the scheme in 2007-08 within three weeks and take all necessary steps to ensure proper monitoring of the programme.

The PMEG approved a total project cost of Rs.234.50 lakh for procurement of equipments for 35 schools in 2007-08 with Central share component of Rs.211.05 lakh and State share of Rs.23.45 lakh in the sharing pattern of 90:10.

The Central assistance for the new approvals shall be provided only after receiving the Utilization Certificates and statement of expenditure of the grants [Central and State share] released for implementation of the programme in 154 schools approved earlier. Based on the above remaining amount would be considered subject to examination of the component-wise final expenditure statement.

4.5   Sikkim

The presentation of the CEP was made by Director (Technical Education), Govt. of Sikkim. The main highlights of his presentation were as follows: -

(i)   There are altogether 134 Govt. schools in Sikkim of which two schools have been upgraded recently.

(ii)   29 Higher Secondary schools were sanctioned for implementation of revised CLASS Project. 13,500 students were benefited. The scheme continued from April, 2002 to March, 2005. From 2003 onwards, no grants were released to meet the recurring cost of the sanctioned project. Therefore, the State Govt. utilized Rs. 66.52 lakh from the grants released under ICT in Schools Scheme sanctioned in 2005-06.

The programme under the revised CLASS Project has been received well by teachers as well as students, he said.

(iii)   The State Govt. has not implemented the project to cover 103 schools approved under the ICT in Schools Scheme in 2005-06 as it has been waiting to have the clearance of the Govt. of India for already utilized Rs.66.52 lakh of the Rs.270.00 lakh released for the purpose.

(iv)   The State Govt. has planned to implement the programme through BOOT model but the selection of the agency yet to be decided.

4.5.1 After the presentation, JS(SE) clarified the matter as follows: -

(i)   The funds of ICT in Schools Scheme amounting to Rs.66.52 lakh of Rs.270.00 lakh released in 2005-06 cannot be utilized towards recurring cost of CLASS Project, and there was no record available regarding the State Govt. seeking a clarification regarding its permissibility from this Ministry prior utilizing the funds. The case,

therefore, was of irregular utilization and the funds amounting to Rs.66.52 lakh should be re-appropriated to the head under ICT scheme.

(ii)   After utilization of the first instalment of Rs.270.00 lakh released for 103 schools and on furnishing of UC thereof, the Ministry would release the second instalment for the project.

(iii)   The remaining two schools left out from 134 total schools could be approved.

4.5.2 PMEG approved two schools for coverage in 2007-08 under the scheme with a project cost of Rs.13.40 lakh having Central Share of Rs.12.06 lakh and State Share of Rs.1.34 lakh in the sharing pattern of 90:10.

As regards the State Government's request to release Rs.66.52 lakh as recurring cost incurred from 2003-05, it was decided that the same would be examined on file separately.

4.6 Andhra Pradesh

The presentation of the CEP was made by Principal Secretary (Education), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. At the outset, the Principal Secretary said that the main motto of the ICT programme in schools of the State was to bring positive changes in the learning process, make it more meaningful and participative. There has been a huge 'digital divide' between the Govt. schools and those in the private sector. The main highlights of his presentation were as follows: -

(i)   The Computer Education Programme was introduced in 23 schools under the CLASS Project through BOOT model. About 7,000 children were benefited and nearly 1300 teachers were trained under the project.

(ii)   Byrraju Foundation had also introduced computer literacy programme for out of school children. In addition, Naandi Foundation, Microsoft and others have been involved in teacher training activities.

(iii)   Under the ICT in Schools Scheme, 200 schools were sanctioned in 2006-07. The project was implemented through BOOT model and the agencies engaged were – APTECH, NIIT & EVERONN in the Educationally Backward Blocks.

(iv)   Nearly 30,000 teachers have been trained.

(v)   The State Govt. has also set up a society called SAPNET and the proposal is to provide five TV Channels and one Data Channel under the banner *"MANA TV' meaning our TV.*

(vi)   Monitoring cells have been planned at State and District level. Further, external monitoring through NITs, IIITs and Engineering Colleges have also been planned.

(vii)   Syllabus has been developed from class-VI onwards.

(viii)   The State Govt. has made a budget provision of Rs.1405.00 lakh for the scheme in 2007-08.

4.6.1 The Principal Secretary (Education), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh then proceeded to present State CEP 2007-08 for consideration of PMEG:-

(i)   The State Govt. has planned to implement the ICT in Schools Scheme in 5,000 schools in 2007-08 under BOOT model for a period of five years.

(ii)   Most of these schools were in the educationally backward Mandals and girls schools.

(iii)   Approval was also sought for an amount of Rs.1425.00 lakh for sanctioning of 8000 KU Band Satellite receivers @Rs.6000 per unit and 45 TV sets + KU Band receiver

equipments @Rs.21,000 per unit for SAPNET. The State Govt. would give 25% of its State share for the purpose.

4.6.2 The Appraisal Team made the following observations: -

(i) As the proposal for covering 5,000 schools was received at the last moment, the State Govt. had not furnished the details of the schools viz. name, location, etc. which may be furnished in both hard and soft copy within three weeks.

(ii) The State Govt. should be establish solid monitoring structures, both internal and external, to ensure proper implementation of the programme.

(iii) An impact assessment study of the already implemented programme in 200 schools be undertaken in 2007-08.

(iv) Insufficient budget provision has been made for the Scheme and the same needs to be augmented before the proposal for release of second instalment is made by the State Govt.

4.6.3 After the discussions, PMEG approved coverage of 5000 schools under BOOT model for a contract period of 5 years. After 5 years, the hardware and the software will be the sole property of the State Govt. The overall project cost for the school would be Rs.6.70 lakh of which the Central share of Rs.5.00 lakh per school would be phased in the <u>following</u> manner:-

(i) **2007-08:** Rs.7500 lakh @ Rs.1.50 lakh per school,
(ii) **2008-09:** Rs.7500 lakh @ Rs.1.50 lakh per school,
(iii) **2009-10:** Rs.3750 lakh @ Rs.0.75 lakh per school,
(iv) **2010-11:** Rs.3750 lakh@ Rs.0.75 lakh per school, and
(v) **2011-12:** Rs.2500 lakh @ Rs.0.50 lakh per schools.

The PMEG reiterated the need for augmentation of the State budget during the current year and requested the State representative to submit the Utilization Certificate of the previous year's grants [both Central and State share] alongwith statement of component-wise expenditure incurred.

5. 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 shall 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.

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List of participants, who attended the meeting of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PM&EG) was held on 11.07.2007 at 1000 hrs in Conference Room, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

1. Shri Champak Chatterji, Secretary, Department of SE&L: Chairman

2. Shri S.C. Khuntia, Joint Secretary (SE).

3. Shri R.K. Sharma, Director (Fin.). Department of School Education & Literacy.

4. Dr. Gautam Bose, Dy. D.G., NIC, Ministry of Information Technology.

5. Dr. Utpal Mallik, Jt. Director, CIET, NCERT.

6. Dr. C.B.S. Venkata Ramana, Principal Secretary (Education), Government of Andhra Pradesh.

7. Shri M. Kutralingam, Secretary, School Education Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.

8. Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, Education Secretary, Government of Karnataka.

9. Shri Hage Khoda, Education Secretary, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

10. Shri Rajan Gupta, Education Secretary, Government of Haryana.

11. Shri Tsegyal Tashi, Director (Tech.), Government of Sikkim.

12. Shri Narender Verma, OSD (Edu), Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

13. Shri Ashok Sangwan, Deputy Secretary, Education Department, Government of Haryana.

14. Shri P.K. Mohanty, DEA, Department of School Education & Literacy.

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