

Project Profile: Enhancing Learning Ability through Digital Technology (“JIGNASHA”) Project Vertical: Education.

Background & rationale

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are ushering in unprecedented changes in the nature, content and way in which education is imparted. ICT has opened up new vistas for stakeholders in education – teachers, students, parents and the public – by making them more involved and engaged.

Computer Net book/Laptop is an innovation, which can help create tools that help teachers teach better with audio-visual aids accessed from the internet and projected through these machines, engaging students in an interactive learning pedagogy.

Further, The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) has been envisaged as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) to leverage the potential of ICT, in teaching and learning process for the benefit of all the learners in Higher Education Institutions in any time anywhere mode. This was expected to be a major intervention in enhancing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education by 5 percentage points during the XI Five Year Plan period. The three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality could be served well by providing connectivity to all colleges and universities, providing low cost and affordable access cum-computing devices to students and teachers and providing high quality e-content free of cost to all learners in the country.¹

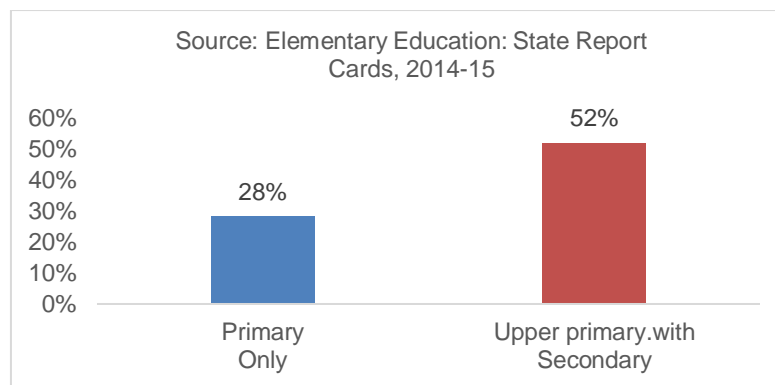
Indian companies have spent close to Rs 2,250 crore on education & skill development programmes during the financial year 2015 trying to address various gaps in the educational scenario of our country as part of their CSR obligations. IT companies in particular have focussed a lot of their CSR activities in development and distribution of ICT enabled educational aids.²

However, the goal of digital empowerment of our schools still remains far from being realized. According to the latest DISE survey (2013-14), *only 26.42%* of our elementary schools (Class I-VIII) had a computer, with stark variation noted across major states.

¹Annual Report MHRD 2014-15

² http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-01-20/news/69931061_1_csr-activity-623-crore-cent

Figure 1: Percentage of Schools in Gujarat having computers



Objective of the project

The objective of the project is to promote education and skill development in remote, isolated and backward regions of the State using digital technology. To deliver these services, (a) identification and of schools, and (b) spreading digital literacy among youth needs to be done. The key issue this project tries to address is to facilitate learning through web-enabled technologies to disadvantaged communities, due to otherwise “institutional vacuum” in the remote and rural areas.

This program is based on the self learning so we will provide only Education Videos in Gujarati language and internet dongles;

Students will learn how to download and how to use this downloaded software by themselves (This is also one part of our analysis work);

Opportunities for CSR intervention

Rural schools are often marred by the lack of qualified & trained faculty willing to teach at village level. Thus, students in these areas do not get ample opportunities to learn, limiting their educational growth. Going to district headquarters where quality institutes are based, is not financially and logistically possible for socio-economically deprived families.

The project aims to address the issue of ‘equality of opportunity’, by allowing students to access best possible educational resources from across the world. The intervention envisages Net book/Laptop as learning tools in day-to-day classroom teaching to facilitate access of students to world class knowledge. Accordingly under this model:

- Corporate finances purchase of computer Net book/Laptop, its maintenance and training of teachers to operate the same
- The ownership of these new assets at the end of the agreement period is to be transferred to the government school, who will continue to use this Net book/Laptop.
- The schools will ensure safety & handling of the Net book/Laptop. These support facilities and services would be bundled along with trainings for trainers and educational tool development/ content development. The NGO would also try to link Government schemes to the extent possible
- A tripartite contractual agreement(s) shall be signed between all three parties (GCSRA, Corporate and NGO).

Potential project area

The schools in the rural and tribal districts of Gujarat which do not have access computer.

Target group

Target population covers children aged 6- 14 years studying in the schools of rural and tribal Gujarat.

Project Implementation

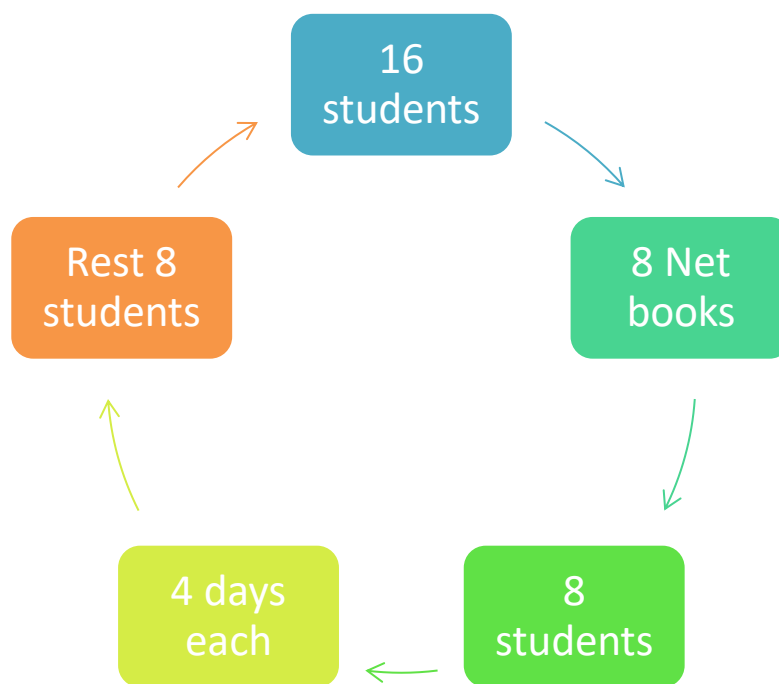
The Program is designed for the Tribal/Rural children in a manner that they can access e-world through the Net book (online and offline both)

A. Implementation

- The project will work in two phase & we will analyse the progress of the students 1) Before the Internet Connection (Pre Internet) and 2) After the Internet Connection (Post- Internet);
- We will provide internet dongles in the second phase after the completion of the one month;

Phase I

- Free access of the net book to the students
- Student library/committee formed by the students
- Class 5 to 8 students are the participants



Once one class is completed the same procedure is repeated with the rest of the classes. The same process is done in phase I without internet/Dongles and in phase II with dongles

Rotation Policy:

- GCSRA is introducing the rotation policy, The net books will rotate in every 3-5 days(5 days/student/net book in the first round and then 3 days/student/net book) and those students are regular in the schools, they will get the net books turn in the rotation policy (only for increasing their attendance, we will not bound this rule strictly) students;
- Providing the net books individually for 3 days per students in the rotation policy so he/she can use their net books at their homes and the due to short period of the rotation, it's not

affect their study and its increase their attendance as well as their curiosity for learning new things.

- The Rotation policy will be operated by the students committee and monitor by the GCSRA's Monitoring Partner;
- The Monitoring software is already installed in the net books and GCSRA will monitor the data usage and analysis their usage of the net books;
- The Rotation policy is predefine by their Roll No. and Register will be maintained by the students;
- It will cover the students from the standard 5 to 8 ;

Process of implementation:

1. Technical partner(s) would map the existing schools across all talukas. The centres would then be prioritized based on the learning levels of children and availability of functional computers in schools (based on either DISE or ASER survey findings).
2. The CSR Authority would identify vendors to procure and supply the Net book/Laptop.
3. Technical Partner would monitor usage of Net book/Laptop, identify challenge areas and address the same. It would also document the improvement in the learning levels;
4. GCSRA/TP will purchase the internet connectivity Dongles;

Stage 1: PLANNING

- Identification of the macro-geography(s), where corporate would fund based on need assessment (secondary research)
- Commitment by Corporate on the purchase of Net book/Laptop for identified schools

Stage 2: IMPLEMENTATION

- GCSRA to plan for hardware procurement that includes:
 - a) identify the requisite hardware specification for the Net book/Laptop and identify vendors
 - b) Identify best internet service plan and provider in the target area.
- For the content bit and transfer of knowledge, GCSRA will
 - a) identify and collaborate with content providers to develop customised tools
- GCSRA to periodically review the usage of Net book/Laptop for intended purpose.

Stage 3: MONITORING & REPORTING

- GCSRA will monitor regularly on the stages of procurement till deployment and usage of Net book/Laptop.
- GCSRA to then undertake an impact assessment study after 1 year of the implementation of the Net book/Laptop usage in schools for teaching and learning.

List of success indicators

Project Outputs

- Number of Net book/Laptop distributed over the project period
- Number of schools & children covered over the project period

Desired Outcomes

- Improvement of the educational status of rural communities at different blocks / districts of Gujarat, as validated by improved achievements of students and increase in the learning levels
- Change (reduction) in the dropout rates of students / absenteeism
- Changes in the transition rates from primary-secondary grades

Potential impact

- Computer literacy increased (as a result of usage of Net book/Laptop) thereby enabling students to take ownership of their own learning needs. Besides enhanced learning levels, such a tool is also expected to lead to personality development of children
- The Program is designed for the tribal/rural children in a manner that they can access e-world through the Net book (online and offline both). They are given a dongle which gives them access to the internet.
- The fact about e-adaptability amongst young students, irrelevant of status, inspired to hand over net books to those tribal students. It is true no one has attended any tutorials to learn android based gazettes
- After the no. of brain storming sessions, we have conceptualised this project. In this project, students will manage whole project by themselves through student manage committee and there is not any involvement of the teachers, its self learning project and mapping of the students improvement
 - a. Academically as well as in digitally,
 - b. Computer skills
 - c. Curiosity to learn new things etc.

B. Partnerships

Roles and responsibilities

- **GCSRA:** Will provide CSR project monitoring support. GCSRA role shall include inter alia conducting baseline survey, preparing strategic plan for the project, coordinating between donors, technical service providers, project level monitoring & evaluation, project documentation and reporting (physical/financial), facilitating in issuance of compliance certificate for the CSR activities.
- **Technical Partner:** Will provide technical and execution support towards on ground project activities. Implementation support and training of the trainers, maintenance of the Net book/Laptop and reporting of CSR activities under the project. Will also identify knowledge partners for sourcing free content appropriate for the school.
- **Corporate:** funding the initiative and timely disbursements of funds.

C. Anticipated benefits from the Project

- Improving the education status including computer literacy among students of government schools of Gujarat, by addressing the gap requirements by utilising computer Net book/Laptop
- Increased IT awareness and student engagement which would lead to better grades and higher achievement
- Fulfilment of the national agenda to bridge the digital divide

Work plan

#	Activity Description	15 days Q1	15 days Q2	15 days Q3	15 days Q4	Q5 to Q12			
1.	Conducting baseline survey to identify Govt. schools to understand the shortfall of computers in these schools								
2.	On-boarding of the NGO partner								
3.	Finalize the schools for Net book/Laptop procurement								
4.	Identification of vendors for procurement								
5.	Identification of knowledge partners for sourcing free content								
6.	Deployment of Net book/Laptop in schools								
7.	Purchase and discharge of Dongles								
8.	Monitoring of CSR activities by GCSRA								
9.	Reporting								
10.	Impact Assessment								

Monitoring

- GCSRA will act as the monitoring agency for the CSR project implementation and ensure compliance as per requirements, and shall issue CSR compliance certificate to company against the investment made
- Based upon the perceived progress of the year, GCSRA will provide support to the company to develop a success framework, under which, performance indicators shall be defined and the baseline levels as well as targets defined over a 1-2 year horizon, on an annual basis.
- Once defined, the targets can then be broken down into yearly input-output-outcome targets, with impact criteria defined over 2-3 years on the learning levels achieved by the children.
- GCSRA team will supervise periodic monitoring of the project, whereas NGO will collect data and provide progress reporting as per the results framework. Under the same, the children's progress will be monitored on a monthly basis. New techniques and methods to improve the quality of the teaching – learning systems are evolving continuously. A progress report will be shared with the sponsoring organization quarterly.
- GCSRA will also conduct evaluation and impact assessment of the project

Reporting

The GCSRA would be responsible for the following:

- ensure regular monitoring and follow up and updating of records in the database and generate progress reports for GCSRA and company as per agreed timelines
- ensure reporting on CSR activities to GCSRA on monthly, quarterly and annual basis as against the funds disbursed to them

GCSRA would be responsible for reporting on the overall CSR activity management and annual compliance and issue a compliance certificate on the same to the company.

Glimpse of the Ongoing Projects:

