

Date : 25th May ' 2011



Kind Attn : Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia
Dy Chairman , Planning Commission
Government Of India

The Nataraja Foundation

Sir,

Subject : Indian Education Megaproject ... Incorporation in the XIIth Plan

I refer to the " Indian Education Megaproject " submitted to the Planning Commission, National Knowledge Commission and the Ministry of HRD to which I received an encouraging response from your office on the 16th of September ' 2010 (Response on page 5 below) .

As advised by you , I wrote to the Member Education in the Planning Commission Dr. Narendra Jadhav explaining in brief (letter attached) how the Education Megaproject will provide high quality Education free of cost to 126 Million Children with no financial exposure / burden to either the Central Government or any of the State Governments.

The Megaprojects Innovative Financial Structure (**Note on Financing attached**) will save the Govt of India Rs. 5,97, 651 Crores / US \$ 131.38 Billion (in Construction cost) for the **30,000** New Schools and ... after 2023 , it will save the Govt of India another Rs. 1,93,633 Crores each year for operating this school system as well as its huge assistance / teacher sharing programme which will cover an additional **4,20,000** or nearly 50 % of the total existing Government schools, currently operating under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (**SSA**) .

1. Govt Support Required

The assistance envisaged from Government of India is mainly in terms of legislative support as the project has the same financing structure as the **Golden Quadrilateral Project**. The planning Commission and the Ministry of HRD are being approached because this project requires **2 (Two)** Acts of Parliament and a few pilot projects to get operationalized. Support required is as follows :

1. The Education Megaproject Fund Act ... to create a special fund on the lines of the Central Road Fund
2. The Indian Social Infrastructure Corporation Act (**ISIC Act**) ... To set up a new Act of Parliament Company which will execute the Education Megaproject ... On the Lines of the National Highway Authority of India (NHA)
3. Financing of the first **70** Pilot / School projects (2 in each state / Union Territory) ... to provide proof of concept / learning before mass rollout. Please note that the balance **29,930** Schools will not place any additional burden on the Central Govt. or the various State Governments.

Once these two acts are passed by Parliament , The Projects Financial Structure will be able to raise the resources necessary mentioned above from **14** different sources (Financing Document attached) to build and operate the system

consisting of **30,000 New Schools** with its associated massive teacher sharing programme to reach a total of **126 Million Children** across 28 states and 7 Union Territories.

The Principal project documents are placed in the links below for free download :

1. Project Presentation :

http://www.nataraja.org.in/site_includes/documents/2010/The%20Indian%20Primary%20And%20Secondary%20Education%20Megaproject.pdf

2. Project Concept Document (Main Document ... large file)

http://www.nataraja.org.in/site_includes/documents/2010/Concept_Document_The_Indian_Primary_And_Secondary_Education_Megaproject.pdf

3. **Project Financials and All Calculations ... in Detail** (Excel File)

http://www.nataraja.org.in/site_includes/documents/2010/The_Indian_Primary_and_Secondary_Education_Megaproject_Excel_Motherfile.xls

4. Project Design Basis Philosophy (Swami Vivekanand's Ideas) ... Philosophical Basis of the Project

http://www.nataraja.org.in/site_includes/documents/Project_Design_Basis_Document.pdf

5. Brief Article about the Education Megaproject

<http://megaproject.sulekha.com/blog/post/2011/04/india-s-largest-education-project-the-indian-primary.htm>

I was very excited initially on receiving a response (**Attached below**) from your office to this project in September 2010 ... but action in pursuance remained dormant thereafter. Now as the **XIIth, 5 year plan** documents are being prepared , it is the right time to incorporate this project into the XIIth plan so that the aspirations of **126 Million Children** (**80 %** of who will be from Rural India) and their families are realized.

This project therefore needs the foremost attention of all concerned in the Planning Commission and the Ministry of HRD.

I had also brought the above project to the personal attention of **Ms. Anshu Vaish**, Secretary, School Education and Literacy in the Ministry of HRD, **Dr. Sam Pitroda**, Head of National Knowledge Commission and **Dr, Narendra Jadhav**, Member Education in the Planning Commission on three separate occasions over the last

2 years and I am hopeful that they will also respond positively to the Education Megaproject.

I respectfully submit the following arguments which explain why this project is so urgently required :

1. Fundamental Issue in Indian Education :

The Fundamental issue in Indian Education is that 46 % of India's 4.7 Million teachers (2.16 million teachers) have not studied beyond class XII of which 54 % (1.17 million teachers) have not studied beyond class X . In states such as Bihar, for instance just 21 % of teachers have passed their class X exams. **These are official government statistics** published by the New Delhi based National University of Education Planning and Administration (NEUPA Study, EEI 2005 – 06). Pls see internet link below :

<http://www.educationworldonline.net/index.php/page-article-choice-more-id-1052>

Given an average student/teacher ratio of between **60–80** , this means that an extremely large number of children, in tens of millions, in India, are studying with teachers who themselves are not properly qualified.

2. Teacher Quality Within SSA ... An Issue for the Finance Ministry / Home Ministry / Ministry Of Defence

The problem is actually far more serious because teacher quality within the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (**SSA**) has now moved beyond the Ministry of HRD.

Teacher quality within the SSA is now a matter for the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce, since it will limit India's growth rate to 5 % . Teacher quality is also a matter for the Ministry of Home (Law and Order) and the Ministry of Defence as it will do very serious damage to India's strategic defence interests and the general law and order situation over the next 20 years.

All the above is submitted to be correct keeping in view that within the next 6 – 8 years over **100** million children will come out of the school going age group **without any** employable skills and there is very little that organizations such as the National Skill Development Corporation (**NSDC**) can do about it given the scale of the problem. Second , NSDC can provide just the skills, What about values ?

3. SSA Teacher Quality Impact Assessment

Given my personal understanding and vast experience in the area of Large System Design, with a situation where 46 % of India's teachers have not studied beyond class XII of which 54 % (1.17 million teachers) have not studied beyond class X ... **I believe that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) , the**

flagship programme of the Govt. Of India is un – sustainable and if any attempt is made to bring in more qualified teachers with different salary levels, it could create a huge Human Resource crisis in Indian Education ... leading to a dysfunctional state.

Possible Solution

Given this serious situation , the Education Megaproject is a project worth considering because it solves all the current problems in Indian Education by assisting a minimum of 420,000 existing SSA schools from outside ... without getting involved in the internal politics within the SSA.

The Education Megaproject provides hope because it is a “ Teacher Centric “ Project which will bring back the best minds back to careers in Teaching. It is based on the idea that if the best people come back to “ Teaching “ , universal literacy will follow by itself.

Indian Education Megaproject ... Inclusion in the XII th Plan

Considering the fact that this project represents the aspirations of over 100 Million children, 80 % of who come from poor rural families, I request you Sir, to personally intervene so that this project gets the necessary attention from all concerned in the Planning Commission / NKC and the Ministry of HRD.

I may add here that till date the project has received 27 senior responses, including your goodself, Mr. Ratan Tata, Mr. Mukesh Ambani , and 24 other senior people many of whom have admired the thought process behind it (All the 27 responses are attached as a PDF file and are also available for free download from the Nataraja Foundation Website).

24,000 of these 30,000 New Schools will be built in rural areas and within the most backward communities in India. Given the scale of the task , this project requires not just your blessings but also , more importantly , it requires your personal leadership and your time in the initial phase for getting the scheme off the ground.

I look forward to hearing from you and for an opportunity to discuss this project with officials preparing the XIIth Plan.

Sincerely,



Ashish Puntambekar
Project Designer
The Indian Primary & Secondary Education Megaproject
<http://www.nataraja.org.in/masseducationproject.htm>

Attachments :

All The following documents are available for free download from the Nataraja Foundation Website <http://www.nataraja.org.in/masseducationproject.htm>

1. Letter To Dr. Narendra Jadhav (Member Education) ... Explaining The Education Megaproject (Available For Free Download
2. Education Megaproject ... Structuring and financing concepts
3. List of Recipients
4. Record of 27 Senior Responses Received from Industry Leaders and Respected Institutions

Response From Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia (Dy Chairman Planning Commission)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Montek Singh Ahluwalia** <dch@nic.in>

Date: Thu, Sep 16, 2010 at 9:24 AM

Subject: Re: Presentation : The Indian Primary & Secondary Education Megaproject
To: Ashish Puntambekar <ashish.puntambekar@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Puntambekar,

Please refer to your email of July 1, 2010 to Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission enclosing therewith a brief overview of “The Indian Primary & Secondary Education Megaproject”. Deputy Chairman has seen your presentation and has referred to Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member, Planning Commission in-charge of Education in the Planning Commission,

Arunish Chawla

PS to Deputy Chairman