



The Nataraja Foundation

Navi Mumbai
2nd Oct' 2009

**Kind Attn : Shri. Kapil Sibal
Minister Of Human Resource Development
Government Of India**

Subject: The Indian Primary & Secondary Education Megaproject – A Unique Teacher Centric Project (Reminder)

Sir,

This is a follow up on the project proposal which has earlier been submitted to the government of India on the 24th of April ' 2009.

The following are the salient features of this Education Megaproject :

1. Project will deliver high quality education to upto 126 Million Children ,free of cost.
2. Financing is based on the concept of differential FSI's. A total of US \$ 93 Billion or Rs 440,000 crores will be raised through an alternate financing mechanism without any need for significant long term financial support from the Government of India. Project is therefore at Zero cost to Govt. Of India as initial corpus will be returned within 2-3 years with 12 % interest.
3. The principal objective of the programme is to attract the best minds to a career in teaching by creating a lifestyle around the teaching profession. This Teacher Based Design (**Design is not student or literacy based**) however will reach more children than all previous education programmes of the Govt Of India put together and far more effectively as well , due to its teacher centric design.
4. Since **80 %** of the **30,000 new schools** to be set up under the project documents will be in rural areas, the project will result in an actual distribution of wealth. Further as each of the 30,000 new rural hub schools will share teaching resources with 7 – 14 other schools in its area, a total of 240,000 schools will be covered. The schools will be overstaffed by design to achieve this coverage. The teacher centric design in (2) above is critical to achieve the target coverage of 126 million children by 2020.
5. A special Public Private Partnership (PPP) format will be deployed to catalyse massive investment under the project documents. At the same time it will create unprecedented opportunities for community ownership of schools. The PPP format has been specifically designed to enable community ownership of schools.
6. The Money Multiplier effect of this US \$ 93 Billion project on the Indian Economy will be in the region of **US \$ 500 Billion** by 2020, of this \$ 400 Billion will be the net money multiplier in rural areas. This does not include the huge benefits which will accrue to the nation by way of increased productivity as well as the huge improvement in the quality of people and their value systems as we will be bringing back an ancient tradition wherein the teacher enjoyed a position of respect in society and where his need for financial security was assured.

7. More than any other project that has ever been conceived in India, this project by virtue of its sophisticated philosophy will completely transform and reverse the colossal damage that has been done to Indian value systems. The project's unique design basis philosophy (Vivekananda's Philosophy) has therefore been adopted as the design basis document for this massive Man Making and Character Building project.
8. Besides all the above mentioned features, the project when fully commissioned in 2020 will be the worlds largest environmental project due to its use sustainable building technologies and traditional architecture based on the Auroville and Laurie Baker Schools. It will also feature a large tree plantation programme wherein **150** million trees of various types will be planted in the first half of the project execution phase (2010 – 2015).

Forward Path : Support Required from Government

To make this project happen, the following support is required from the Govt Of India :

- A. A Statutory Organization “ **The Indian Social Infrastructure Corporation** “ will need to be created under an act of Parliament. The legal status of this organization and its financial structure / means of financing are specified in the “ Legal and Financial Structure “ which is available for free download on the project website. (www.nataraja.org.in)
- B. To enable fast track execution of this project , Government needs to initiate a total of **56 pilot projects** across 28 states. Each Pilot project will include, besides a school for 600 students, a large rural teachers training facility to train 1500 teachers each year as well as a training facility to train 3000 masons in Vernacular / Low cost / sustainable architecture. Each of the 56 pilot projects will require between 150 – 200 Acres of land .
- C. An initial corpus to set up the 56 pilot projects including the model schools, teachers training institutes and Masons training institutes. All this initial money that the government spends upfront will be returned by the “ The Indian Social Infrastructure Corporation ” within 2 – 3 years with interest calculated at 12 %. The rest of the project (balance 30,000 schools) will not need any further money from govt. Of India and will be self financing.

Parliament has in August 2009 passed “ The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2009 “ and the President has subsequently signed this bill into Law.

There are now serious questions being raised as to how the massive funds required to give effect to this new legislation are to be raised. We therefore need to think very differently, so as to leapfrog from our current systems and financing practices to alternate systems of financing which allow projects of this magnitude to pay for themselves. This project might well serve as a Benchmark for future Social Infrastructure financing in India and around the world as it gives effect to some thinking within the World Bank group on Unlocking land values in urban India (World Bank PPIAF Policy paper No 7 , by George E Peterson ' 2009).

The problems within the education system in India cannot be solved at the same level of thinking which has created them. Given the above series of substantial benefits, if the

government of India were to still reject the scheme there should be very strong and compelling reasons for it to do so.

It will be nice if you could please acknowledge the receipt of this note .

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



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