



The Nataraja Foundation

104, Parshudhar Bldg
Plot No 5, Sector 25
Nerul (East)
Navi Mumbai– 400 706

Date : 24th April ' 2009

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

cc : Dr. Sam Pitroda, Chairman, National Knowledge Commission, GOI
Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Former President Of India
Ms. Anshu Vaish, Secretary, School Education & Literacy , Ministry Of HRD, GOI
Mr. Arun Ramanathan, Finance Secretary, Ministry Of Finance, GOI
Mr. Ashok Chawla, Secretary, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, GOI
Mr. Govind Mohan, Jt. Sec, (Infrastructure) , Dept Of Economic Affairs, GOI

Sir,

Subject : The Indian Primary & Secondary Education Mega Project
(Project Proposal)

This note introduces India's largest primary and secondary education project which is proposed to be executed in 6 phases all over the country and in all States and Union Territories between the years 2010 and 2020. The project , as designed , delivers on all major recommendations made by the National Knowledge Commission in its 3rd February ' 2008 communication / report to the Govt. Of India in the matter of School Education.

A total of **30,000 " New " schools** will be set up under an innovative financing scheme. While the project will need significant institutional support from the Central & State Governments, It **will not** need any long term budgetary support from the government and **no money will need to be diverted** from existing schemes or those planned under the estimates for the **XI** th Plan period, except for a small sum at startup which will be repaid within **3** years (The financial structure and fund raising mechanism which achieves this is attached as an excel file).

The project's principle objective is to correct a Macro Imbalance in Indian Society which has witnessed the un-pardonable neglect of the teacher for the last several decades under successive governments giving rise to the problem of extremely poor quality of human resources among the younger population. This serious neglect of the teaching profession since independence has also warped the economic choices available to young graduates and has resulted in the worst qualified people taking up the most important job in the country which is training our children and imparting to them , nation and character building values besides teaching them to read and write.

While teachers at all levels have suffered neglect, the condition of the ordinary primary and secondary school teacher is far worse and in many cases , people applying at the taulka / district level have to pay bribes to local officials to get a teachers job and in many cases teachers do not receive their salaries for months while their families starve.

This deplorable state of affairs needs to change and we need to deploy ideas that encourage the best minds to take up careers in teaching. Since the scale of the problem in primary and secondary education is huge, it is necessary to devise a solution that

while performing the task of raising the economic status of the teacher and creating a lifestyle around the teaching profession also “ **includes the excluded** ” among our children and delivers to them the best education possible with current technology and by employing alternative financing options. (The concept document and detailed Excel workbook with spreadsheets containing calculations covering all project parameters is attached).

Accordingly, the plan seeks to execute the concept of sharing teaching resources between each of the 30,000 schools and 7 other schools in its designated area. In this way, the project will reach children in a total of **240,000** schools by the time the last of these schools is commissioned in January 2020.

Another significant factor of this education project is its innovative use of technology to serve village communities across the length and breadth of the country. The 240,000 schools that will be reached under the E – Learning programme will make considerable use of the 400,000 + kilometres of fibre optic cable that we currently have in the ground plus VSATs and by augmenting ISRO’s EDUSAT programme by launching upto 12 additional EDUSAT satellites within the next 3 – 4 years to build the worlds largest learning network of interconnected schools.

A project of this size and scale will be a dead and soul-less agglomeration of buildings and computer networks without a sound philosophy which is **timeless** and which seeks to bind people of diverse faiths and lead them towards the realization of their potential as human beings. The project’s design basis (education philosophy) is also attached.

While this project , will involve raising and spending approximately US \$ **88** Billion on schools and another \$ **5** Billion on E- Learning, over a 10 year period extending from 2010 to 2020, it will also produce a huge money multiplier effect of US \$ **500** Billion (net addition) within the Indian Economy by the year 2020. This estimate does not include the Economic and National dividend in terms of increased productivity and the excellent value system that it will deliver to the masses of India by **2030** , the year in which this project will being to make it’s very significant presence felt in every home in the country.

India is entering a phase of Mega Projects. We have the necessary engineering, project management and financial structuring expertise necessary to commission projects of large size. Let us not therefore set limits on our imagination as to what can be achieved in physical project terms. In the project philosophy / design basis document that is attached, Vivekanand very rightly says “ **That is the goal. We know we cannot reach it yet. Never mind. Do not despair, but do not drag the ideal down** ”.

With these few paragraphs , this Public – Private Partnership (PPP) project proposal is officially submitted for consideration of Government of India. I request you to acknowledge receipt of this letter and would like to request that if the government , in its wisdom , decides to execute this project then our organization would very much like to work as a part of the team contributing to its realization.

Sincerely,



Ashish Puntambekar
Project Designer
& Trustee ... The Nataraja Foundation

20th April ' 2009 , Mail Marked To :

Distribution List :

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	E-Mail Address	Alt. E-Mail Address
1	Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam	Former President Of India	apj@abdulkalam.com	
	Government Of India			
2	Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia	Dy. Chairman Planning Commission, Govt. Of India	dch@nic.in	
3	Dr. Sam Pitroda	Chairman, National Knowledge Commission , Govt. Of India	s.pitroda@nic.in	anna.faron@c-sam.com
4	Ms.Anshu Vaish	Secretary,School Education & Literacy , Ministry Of HRD	secy.sel@nic.in	
5	Mr. Arun Ramanathan	Finance Secretary, Ministry Of Finance, Govt. Of India	secy-fs@nic.in	arunramanathan@rediffmail.com
6	Mr. Ashok Chawla	Secretary, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. Of India	secy-dea@nic.in	
7	Mr. Govind Mohan	Jt. Sec, (Infrastructure) , Dept Of Economic Affairs,	govindmohan1@yahoo.com	
8	Dr. Ashok Ganguly	Member, National Knowledge Commission	a.ganguly@nic.in	ashok.ganguly@icicionesource.com , ashok.ganguly@firstsource.com
9	Dr. P. Balaram	Member, National Knowledge Commission	p.balaram@nic.in	pb@mbu.iisc.ernet.in
10	Dr. Jayati Ghosh	Member, National Knowledge Commission	j.ghosh@nic.in	jayati@jnu@gmail.com
11	Dr. Deepak Nayyar	Member, National Knowledge Commission	d.nayyar@nic.in	deepaknayyar@mail.jnu.ac.in , nayyar.deepak@gmail.com
12	Mr. Nandan Nilekani	Member, National Knowledge Commission	n.nilekani@nic.in	Nandan_mn@infosys.com
13	Ms. Sujatha Ramdorai	Member, National Knowledge Commission	s.ramdorai@nic.in	sujatha@math.tifr.res.in
14	Dr. Amitabh Mattoo	Member, National Knowledge Commission	amitabh.mattoo@gmail.com	
15	Mr. S Regunathan	Advisor, National Knowledge Commission	s.regunathan@nic.in	
16	Ms. Kumud Bansal	Advisor, National Knowledge Commission	k.bansal@nic.in	
17	Ms. Kiran Datar	Advisor, National Knowledge Commission	k.datar@nic.in	
18	Mr. CNS Nair	Advisor, National Knowledge Commission	E Mail ID Un-available	
19	Mr. Sunil Bahri	Executive Director, NKC	s.bahri@nic.in	
20	Mr Amlan Goswami	Research Associate, NKC	a.goswami@nic.in	
21	Ms Namita Dalmia	Research Associate, NKC	n.dalmia@nic.in	
22	Ms Megha Pradhan	Research Associate, NKC	m.pradhan@nic.in	
23	Ms Sukhman Randhawa	Research Associate, NKC	s.randhawa@nic.in	
24	Mr Vikas Bagri	Research Associate, NKC	v.bagri@nic.in	
25	Ms Deepti Ayyanki	Research Associate, NKC	d.ayyanki@nic.in	
26	Ms Aashima Seth	Research Associate, NKC	a.chaney@nic.in	