

A REPORT ON MISSION EDUCATION THROUGH ICT LAUNCHED BY MHRD ON 3 FEB 2009 AT TRIPUTI, AP

The ICT as a tool in education is available to us at this juncture and should be fully utilized to enhance the current enrollment rate in Higher Education, from 10% at present to 15 % by the end of the 11th Plan period. A budget allocation of Rs. 502 crores has been made in 2008-09 for the National Mission on Education through ICT. The mission aims to pool the teachers and experts in the country for the benefit of every Indian learner and, thereby, reducing the digital divide.

Under this Mission, **a proper balance between content generation, research in critical areas relating to imparting of education and connectivity for integrating knowledge with the advancements in other countries is being attempted. For the same, a critical mass of experts in different fields, and networked shall be developed.** Although disjointed efforts have been going on in this area by various institutions / organizations and isolated success stories are also available, a holistic approach is aimed in this project. This Mission seeks to support such initiatives and **build upon the synergies among** various efforts, by adopting a holistic approach.

The Mission is also necessary to sustain a high growth rate of economy through the capacity building and knowledge empowerment of the people and for promoting new, upcoming multi-disciplinary fields of knowledge.

The content portion of this Mission **would have an ambitious vision of catering** to the learning needs of more than 50 crore Indians (working population) and of providing a one stop solution to all the requirements of **the learning community**

Financial Assistance to Projects

The Mission shall encourage institutions to undertake research projects for the development of new technologies and innovations. The research projects may include:

1. Development of low-cost access devices
2. Development of authoring tool for e-content
3. Development of new technologies for enhanced use of ICT in education
4. Development of ERP system for institutions of higher learning
5. Development of Edu-entertainment and gaming for knowledge enhancement
6. Development on-demand examination system
7. Development of tools for maximization of Bandwidth usage
8. Development of hardware technologies like routers and switches

Activities that could be funded

1. Any research, development or extension activity leading to or assisting in fulfillment of the goals envisaged for any of the key components of the Mission. The expenditures, inter-alia, would also cover costs of manpower, equipments, contingencies and travels.
2. Setting up of any centralized infrastructural facilities for achieving any of the activities mentioned above.
3. Popularizing the facilities / functionalities of the Mission with a view to achieving their greater utilization by the people at large.
4. Engagement of experts, change agents, motivators.
5. Purchase of e-books, e-journals, IPRs etc. necessary for accomplishing activities of the Mission.
6. Setting up and up-scaling of web based portals for various crucial activities under the Mission.
7. Organizing workshops, conferences (both national and international) for deliberations and content generation under this Mission.
8. Organizing lectures of world renowned scholars with a view to making them available

for Indian learners through the web based portals.

9. Bandwidth charges for providing connectivity to Institutions and learners.

10. Cost of access devices for accessing the e-content to be made available over the internet, intranet etc.

11. Cost of computer software, hardware etc., as required in connection with the Mission.

12. Leasing charges for satellite transponders, DTH platforms, FM channels, dedicated circuits / communication channels and related equipments for them.

13. Cost of kits for providing digital literacy.

14. MOU based collaborations with renowned Indian / multinational companies for achieving specific research activities under the Mission or for undertaking production and roll out of the achievements in the research labs.

15. Procurement of stocks & services necessary for any Mission component.

16. No permanent construction and no permanent creation of posts except in case of VTU. However, it would be possible to create posts in regular pay-scales purely on contract basis to attract best possible talent.

17. Faculty members willing to devote themselves full time for the project, can have their salary charged to the project.

18. Retired faculty members / experts could also be hired as experts for the project.

19. The Institution implementing the project, could, depending on the requirement and necessity, engage start-up companies existing on their campus.

20. Any other activity authorized by the National Committee for the furtherance of the objectives of this Mission.

21. Salary, up to 3 months, as a consulting fee can be charged to the research project.

22. Project activities for collaboration with international expertise may have been incurred

in the past, which may be reimbursed from the project.

23. International co-operation from different partners for project activities may be funded so that the required deliverables are achieved in time.

24. International content generation and customization to our needs may be funded.

25. Joint proposals from international partners can be formulated to achieve research objectives of the Mission.

26. Proposals with the international partners can be formulated and clear cut responsibilities may be defined so that the funding pattern can be generated for the faculty and research staff.
27. Summer term support for students [national and international, visiting India or abroad] may be provided in case this manpower is working towards research objectives of the Mission.
28. Efforts to locate examine and extract relevant knowledge inputs from our ancient knowledge base.
29. Devising methods to at least reduce the ill-effects of internet so that distractions and pitfalls for the learners are avoided and web based learning approach is able to retain its sanctity and credibility.
30. Evolving psychological and personality tests with high confidence levels.

Submission of proposals

1. Initial proposals will be submitted online and will be circulated on the portal among various known experts who can provide their valuable inputs / comments on the proposal or appraise it apriori.
2. Once the initial proposal meets certain benchmarks, a revised, documented proposal will be submitted in print form with signatures on proposal and undertaking etc., and in electronic form with appropriate digital signatures.
3. The proposal, both initial and final, should contain the objective, justification & relevance, approach & methodology, time bound outcome based action plan with PERT chart, stage / phase wise, activity wise and outcome wise requirement of funds, project staff requirements, proposed networking with other institutions to attain synergy and avoid duplication, facilities required from other institutions, administrative structure & norms adopted for various sub-activities, social cost benefit analysis of the proposal, list of experts who will be working on the project, their biodata etc., list of experts who could be used for peer review of the quality and pace of work, current status of research in that area etc. Full document is uploaded on www.dauniv.ac.in in research icon.