Background Note on School Education MMP

1. Background

Apex Committee for the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) has approved the inclusion of School Education as a Mission Mode Project (MMP). An MMP by design has to cover a multitude of stakeholders in the ecosystem and arrive at a set of stakeholder centric services that have a measurable outcome/impact over an agreed project timeframe.

The key design principle for design of MMP is centralized planning and decentralized implementation. Core Scope Document that broadly outlines the vision, objectives, desired outcomes along with identifying the focus areas and services for ICT interventions lays the foundation for the MMP. NISG has been engaged to assist the Department of School Education and Literacy in the preparation of Core Scope Document through a consultative exercise with the State/UTs, Central Agencies and other stakeholders.

2. Methodology and Stakeholder Consultations

School Education being a vast domain, core focus areas to be targeted for the MMP were identified as the first step based on preliminary interactions with the stakeholders. The target services within each of the core focus areas were identified during the detailed assessment.

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Extensive consultations were carried out with multiple stakeholders, not only the school education departments/Agencies at State Level and Central level but also with NGOs and Education Solution Providers to get their varied perspectives. The three regional workshops covering all the States/UTs, which were participated by the Secretaries, Commissioners, Directors, Heads, teachers, NCERT, NIOS etc., were helpful in obtaining raw thoughts and perceptions of administrators & educationists on successes and challenges in School Education. The deliberations in the workshops, discussions during the visits to selected states, discussions with Central agencies, interactions with Educational Service Providers and NGOs provided inputs for identification and refinement of ‘Focus areas’ and potential services for the MMP.

3. Objectives of the MMP

The mission of the School Education Department under MHRD as outlined in its Results Framework Document (RFD) include improving quality and standards of school education and literacy towards building a society committed to Constitutional values, providing free and compulsory quality education to all children at elementary
level as envisaged under the RTE Act, 2009, and universalization of opportunities for quality secondary education. The stated objectives of the department include Access, Equity, Quality and Formulating policy and carrying out institutional and systemic reforms.

School Education MMP is expected to target to deliver the services that enable the stakeholders including students, teachers, and administrators both at the Center and States / UTs to achieve these objectives. The set of services delivered by MMP play more of an enabling role in achieving the end objectives.

1. The objectives for the School Education MMP Enabling improved delivery of ICT based learning support to Students and Teachers
2. Improvement in efficiency of School governance
3. Transparency and efficiency in service delivery of school education department to Stakeholders
4. Enable decision support through near real-time and better quality data

The School Education MMP will also be a vehicle for implementation of National Policy on ICT in School Education.

4. Core Focus Areas & Indicative Services

The following core focus areas have been identified from the interactions with the stakeholders:

1. **Learning Support Services**: These include the services that can play an enabling role in improvement of quality and standards of school education.
2. **Governance at Schools**: These include ICT enablement of school operations, both academic and administrative that will aid in near real-time data capture at the source, i.e., School.
3. **Governance of School Education**: These include the set of services that can be delivered by the School Education Department to various stakeholders, internal and external, based on the access to quality school data and integrated decision support systems.
5. Learning Support Services

The indicative services include:

1. ICT tools to Support Teacher Training including ICT enabled Learning and Self-Assessment Tools
2. Creation of a Common Platforms, Teacher Resource Hub and Student Resource Hub to provide access for ICT Enabled Teaching Learning material (TLM) for teachers including structured lesson plans, digital learning aids, activity based digital learning resources and content related services that enhance teaching in the classrooms.
3. Services to support tracking the progress of syllabus and lesson plans in the classrooms; assessment of the student learning levels and tracking the student performance; and providing inputs / feedback for:
   a. Students’ Remedial classes
   b. Training needs identification for personalized training to the teachers
   c. Feedback on Teaching Learning material (TLM) for teachers including structured lesson plans, digital learning aids
6. Governance of School and School Education

School has been identified as the basic unit for the implementation of e-governance initiatives under the MMP. The data on students, teachers, and schools, both academic and administrative from various schools will be aggregated in a central database. A variety of services will be provided to the stakeholders at the school and department level. Decision support systems for the administrators and educationists based on access to near real time and better quality data can lead to better monitoring, effective scheme implementation and design of the right interventions for improving the quality and standards of school education.

In addition, there are also a few common e-Governance services that may be delivered such as Examinations, recognition of schools, Affiliations of D.Ed colleges, Common entrance tests for admission into D.Ed colleges including DIETs through the State level system.
Governance of School:

The indicative Services which shall be offered for better School Management have been categorized into Academic and Non-Academic Services. The Academic Services can be further grouped as Student Life-cycle Services and Academic Operations.

The following figure gives a snapshot of these services:

Governance of School Education:

The School Education system has multiple stakeholders, including State/Centre Education Department, Education Boards at State and Centre, Council of Educational Research And Training at State and Centre, School etc. The Indicative Services as envisaged under the governance of School Education can be categorized into Academic and Non-Academic Services, are depicted in the following figure:
A detailed list of indicative services under these three focus areas is provided in Annexure - I

7. Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the e- Governance MMP in the School education are

- Improved Efficiency in School Administration
- Visibility of Student, Teacher and School Performance for Parents, Community and Administrators
- Inputs for Teacher Training through linkages with student performance
- Ease of access to near real time and better quality data leading to better monitoring, effective scheme implementation and decision support systems
- Improved interfaces with Administrators, Boards, Allied Departments such as Health, Revenue, Labour & Employment, Technical education
- Improved efficiency in life cycle management of Teachers services by School education department
• Improved governance and transparency in delivery of regulatory services to citizens, businesses by School education department

• Enabling Improvement of Quality and Standards of School Education through ICT enabled content, teaching learning material for students and teachers, assessment tools, question banks etc

8. Objectives of the National Workshop

The objective of the National Workshop is to gather inputs from the states for the following key issues in finalization of the Core Scope Document:

1. Prioritization of Services
   The identification of the core services from the proposed indicative Services, which should be a part of the MMP is a primary Objective. The core Services may be identified based on parameters such as Impact on the Outcomes w.r.t Focus Area, Utility and Implementation Timelines and Ease of Implementation w.r.t Number of Stakeholders, Dependency on other initiatives, Infrastructure Requirements and Change Management.

2. Phasing
   The next important task is the Phasing of the identified Core Services as short Term, Medium Term and Long Term Implementation with tentative timelines over a period of 1 to 3 years.

3. Implementation Approach
   a. Model #1: Basic Funding Model
      Center: Guidelines and Funding
      States / UTs: Take up the implementation including the application development based on their requirements

   b. Model #2: Common Core Services @ Center
      Center: (i) Guidelines and Funding
      (ii) Application(s) developed at the Center
      States / UTs: (i) Use the Core Application(s) developed by Center
      (ii) Take up the implementation of the core services
      (iii) Also take up the implementation (including application development) of additional services that are part of the MMP based on their requirements