

**Round Table Discussion
on
Capacity Building of Teachers and Schools in ICT**

Minutes of the Thematic Workshop

Date: September 30, 2008

Time: 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm

Venue: The Viceregal, Hotel Claridges, New Delhi

GeSCI organised a Round Table discussion on Capacity Building of Schools and Teachers in ICT under the aegis of Ministry of HRD, Government of India at Hotel Claridges on September 30, 2008. Shri Arun Kumar Rath, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development was the Chief Guest and key note speaker.

Shri. S.C. Khuntia, Joint Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Mr. Jyrki Pulkkinen, Executive Director, Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI) were among the distinguished guests and speakers. Prof. Mohd. Akhtar Siddiqui, Chairman, National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), moderated the session.

The critical factor in the successful integration of ICT into teacher education is the extent to which the teacher educators have the knowledge and skills in ICT integration. A well-conceived and sustained programme of professional development is, therefore, required, to enable the teacher educators and master teachers to develop these skills. This may require development and revision of existing teacher training curriculum guidelines for pre-service and in-service teachers. This brings us to some of the very pertinent questions like-

- What are the methods of skilling and re-skilling educators to adapt and adopt such roles?
- How can educators be guided on effective use of these new tools that focus on learning activities, rather than content delivery or general learner management?
- How to build buy-in and ownership among educators and motivate them to spearhead the ICT-based education process?

The discussion in the Round Table centred around the questions above. Shri Rath and Shri Khuntia presented the perspectives, challenges and measures taken by the Government on ICT integration in education in the country. Shri Rath suggested addressing a broader set of issues related to teachers' recruitment and training in a time bound manner. Shri Khuntia expected that the forthcoming policy on ICT in school education will address various issues related to capacity building adequately. He felt that with enhanced use of ICTs, school education will make a paradigm shift.

Mr. Pulkkinen shared the global vision and GeSCI's experience on providing guidelines on effective capacity building mechanisms for teachers and schools in several countries. He urged for developing an understanding and consensus on role of ICT in education and skills required by the teachers. Prof. Siddiqui highlighted the need for continuous capacity building of teachers. He informed that NCTE has initiated the process of developing a draft National Policy on Teacher Education.

The participants engaged in intensive discussion on various critical issues related to capacity building of teachers and schools. Several pertinent questions were raised. Participants shared different perspectives, experiences and feedback. The discussion led to better understanding on various issues related to Professional Development of Educators on integrating ICTs in teaching and learning processes. A set of recommendations emerged from the discussion.

A suggestion was made to define the objective of education and role of ICTs in education. The need was felt for understanding the skills required by teachers for integrating ICTs in education. It was argued that different levels of education require different sets of actions and strategies. The participants urged to deal with the issues of motivation and morale also.

A need was felt to enhance the role and participation of State Government Agencies like SCERT. Follow up of post training needs and providing one laptop for each teacher were some of the key recommendations. Discussion also covered the issues of training, content, language, infrastructure, access, educational management and monitoring and evaluation. Prof. Siddiqui summarised the recommendations made by various speakers. The Round Table Discussion ended with a Vote of Thanks by Mrs. Ashish Garg, Country Programme Director, GeSCI.