

Date : 11th February ' 2015

**Kind Attn : Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister, Govt. Of India**

cc : Smt. Smriti Z. Irani (Minister of HRD)
Shri. Arun Jaitley (Finance Minister)
Shri. Nripendra Misra (Principal Secretary to the PM)
Shri. Rajiv Mehrishi (Finance Secretary)
Dr. Arvind Panagariya (Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog)
Dr. Raghuram Rajan (Governor, Reserve Bank Of India)
Shri Upendra Kushwaha (Minister of State for HRD)
Ms. Vrinda Sarup (Secretary, School Education & Literacy)
Ms. Noopur Jhunjhunwala (Additional PS to Minister of HRD)

Sir,

Subject : Vivekananda Education Megaproject
A Large, Self Financing, New Secondary School Construction Scheme

The Govt. of India under your leadership has identified Education as an area that will receive the highest priority.

The team at the Ministry of HRD, led by Smt. Smriti Irani has been moving very fast to plan and execute your Vision for National Education. In just 200 days, Smt. Irani's team has started 35 New Initiatives. Specifically, since Nov' 2014, 19 New Institutions of Higher Education have been announced (5 New IIT's, 6 New IIM's, 4 New Central Universities, 1 Tribal University + others).

All of this, achieved in just 200 days, shows that the Ministry of HRD now has the Energy and the Leadership in place, to attempt and execute, large capacity building projects in Education and Skills Development.

Project Proposal : The Vivekanand Education Megaproject

The Vivekanand Education Megaproject is essentially a large and innovative financing plan to make approx. US \$ **141** * Billion (Rs **8.97** Lakh Crores) available to build more Secondary Schools using Alternative Finance.

The Megaproject is therefore a response to the current massive shortage of 2,70,580 schools at the Upper Primary level (Class VI –VIII) and a deficit of 4,09,462 Schools at the secondary level (Class IX –X).

The project proposes to bridge this huge demand – supply gap through the construction of **30,000** New Secondary Schools (Class V–XII) under Public Private Partnership(PPP). Each of these, new hub schools, to be constructed mostly at the Taluka level and below will share its teachers with 14 other rural schools , to cover 420,000 existing SSA schools in over 6,00,000 habitations across 29 states and 7 Union Territories by 2025.

The megaproject with its 12 alternative financing sources will Free the Ministry of HRD's Capital Expenditure plan from the shackles of Union and State Budgets and allow the Govt. unrestricted access to Capital over the next 10 – 15 years so that Strategic Investments in Secondary Education and Skills Development can be made.

This Man Making Project as Swami Vivekanand would have called it will touch every household and every community in India and truly empower the girl child and women who constitute **50 %** of the population in this country.

* Earlier project cost of US \$ 100 Billion for 30,000 New Schools was based on a 2007 per Sq Ft rate of Rs 850 . The current cost of construction (June 2015) is Rs 1350 / Sq Ft and this has increased project cost for 30,000 schools, 1.74 million teacher houses and 420,000 teacher guesthouses to US \$ 141 Billion. All other costs are assumed to be unchanged.

From a Macro Economic perspective the project will create a solid foundation for basic education and skills development that will help India transition to a US \$ 4.5 Trillion Economy ** by 2025.

Project Need

Over the last 10 – 15 years, between **100 – 150** Million Children have dropped out of School across India, as there have not been enough Secondary schools to go to.

In addition to the shortage of approximately 4 Lakh upper primary & secondary schools, the school system has a very serious “ Teacher Quality “ problem. Just 46 % of India’s 4.7 Million School teachers have studied beyond class XII. In Bihar , just 21 % of teachers have studied beyond class X.

The Vivekanand Project is designed to solve three problems :

1. Poor Teacher Quality : Project proposes to attract 1.74 Million qualified professionals from other professions and young graduates, to take up teaching by offering best in class facilities for teachers
2. Secondary School Shortage : Project will build 30,000 New Secondary Schools & share its qualified teachers with 420,000 existing SSA schools.
3. Funds Shortage : Projects alternative financing will free the Ministry of HRD’s additional Capex and Opex Plan from the budget by raising Rs 8.97 lakh crores from 12 innovative sources by 2025.

Attached “ One Page Decision Maker ”

The attached two sided A3 Sheet, contains a broad overview of the entire megaproject. The details of the first five of the 12 sources of finance that fully cover project capex and opex till phase II completion (**Dec’ 2019**) are also provided.

Support Requested For Pilot Project

The Megaproject needs Govt. support to start up a small Rs 4 Crores financial efficiency improvement pilot project within the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan. This software pilot project will improve the productivity of **192** million children working with **4.7** million teachers in **8.2** Lakh schools across India. It will also save the govt. Rs **1635** Crores in interest costs each year, within 9 months.

Additionally, the Design Lab and its parent organization The Nataraja Foundation would require Govt. support (in the form of permissions and sufficient land provision) to set up two physical pilot projects. One Pilot project will be in the Day School format and the other will be in the Fully Residential format in a tribal area. These two pilots will test project concepts such as “ Teacher Centricity “ and “ Teacher Sharing ”.

We would like to request a suitable opportunity to make a presentation regarding the project to yourself, your cabinet colleagues and senior officials to discuss the Large Scale benefits that the project will create for India.

Sincerely,



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** India as a US \$ 4.5 Trillion Economy is the Reference Frame of the Vivekananda Education Megaproject and Indeed all the projects which the Planning & Design Lab is working on.