

August 13, 2009

To,
Smt. Anshu Vaish
Secretary,
Department of School Education and Literacy,
Ministry of Human Resource Development,
Government of India.

Sub : Adoption of BOOT model for ICT programs in schools

Dear Smt Anshu Vaish,

I saw a news item at <http://www.livemint.com/Articles/PrintArticle.aspx?artid=05C411FA-8051-11DE-8C39-000B5DABF636> as per which MHRD is advocating BOOT Model for ICT in School education programs in different states.

In this connection, I am forwarding a letter written by group of educationists as a feedback on the National Policy on ICTs in school education, where they have strongly advised against adopting the BOOT Model for e-content / educational software (learning material) or capacity building. I am also attaching specific comments from two other educationists with similar suggestion.

BOOT Model purely for hardware infrastructure and maintenance may be useful since this is not a core education function. However, the teaching learning material (digital resources) and the teacher capacity building are key educational activities and should not be outsourced to private technology vendors.

I read a news item that MHRD is planning to promote BOOT Model and hence forwarding this feedback for your attention.

I am also attaching a paper on the Kerala IT@Schools program which is quite ahead of most other states. The reason for its success is its integrating the e-content/educational software and teacher training into its regular structures, while the failures of other state programs is largely due to outsourcing these basic processes under BOOT Models.

Let us know if you need any clarifications and look forward to your response.

Thanking You,

Gurumurthy Kasinathan
Director,
IT for Change

PS - I have not attached the detailed feedback we have given on the policy draft itself, which is available on

http://itforchange.net/media/NPISE/NPISE_July_2009_with_comments_24.07.09.pdf