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**Special Issue on  
Computerization of  
Schools & MDM**

- Introduction
- Background & Computerization in Schools
- Quality Education and Training
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- Role of GSWAN and NIC

• **EGovernance News**

Information  
Courtesy

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## Computerization of Schools and MDM

**“Those who educate children well are more to be honored than parents, for these gave only life, those the art of living well.”**

**Aristotle**

Facility of Computer Education was introduced in India by the great efforts of Late Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi's efforts to introduce technical education and computer education in India's school was really noteworthy. The primary role of Information and Communication Technology was to make education more meaningful, exciting and useful.

In today's world of intense competition, emphasis globally is shifting from instructive to constructive-based education. Education is also moving from knowledge-based to standards-based. More focus has been given on cooperative learning and project-based learning. Information Technology has suddenly taken on many new roles in education for learning, teaching and administration.

Gujarat has also taken serious steps to broaden its perspective on the education from its basic level, like computer education to be made compulsory from class V onwards.



Hon'ble Minister of Education, Smt Anandiben Patel during a training camp

# Background

The desire to make Gujarat IT literate is the prime reason behind the computerization of Schools. Beginning has to be made at the grass root level. IT has been recognized as a vulnerable tool and need to be harnessed for the progress of the state. Gujarat has been the leading state in the Indian union in many areas and has made significant progress in the field of IT too. The past experiments of the Government of Gujarat in implementing computer education in schools have had little success.

The major objectives for introducing computer education in schools are:

- To improve the computer literacy level in the state of Gujarat & thus bring technology to work for the

- To provide computer education in all schools in Primary, Secondary & High Secondary standards.
- To promote quality education in schools.

There are 35,000 primary schools in the state of Gujarat. There is no information available on the number of exclusive primary schools with computer education facility for students. Some Schools with Primary and Secondary sections and having computer facilities do share their computer facility with primary section. However implementation of computer education at a primary school level has been in its initial stages.

There are around 5,000 secondary schools in the state of Gujarat. Some of the Secondary schools in the state have computer facility for their students. Under the existing policy of the Government of Gujarat for Grant in Aid schools :

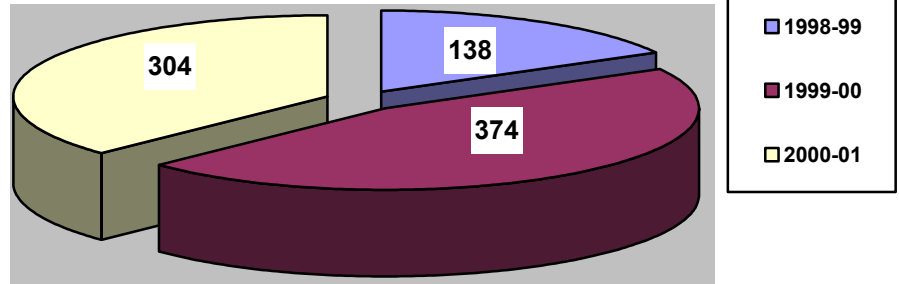
1. The Government grants Rs. 3 Lakhs or 50% of the cost of hardware which ever is lower.
2. To take maximum benefit of the scheme, the school would invest minimum 3 Lakhs and would need another 1 Lakh for legal software.
3. The school would arrange for 2 teachers and train in the first year @ Rs. 2,700/= for which grant is applicable
4. The school would have to bear the running expenses and would raise the funds to pay for the same by way of fees from students. No fees were collected from students of Government funded schools.

The total investment on equipment and setup was around Rs. 7 Lakhs while running expense per year would be about Rs. 2 Lakhs

p.a. for 5 years. Thus total of Rs. 17 Lakhs for the project for a school with strength of 500 students would amount to Rs. 680/= per annum per student.

The Government of Gujarat has provided subsidy to Secondary Schools as follows :

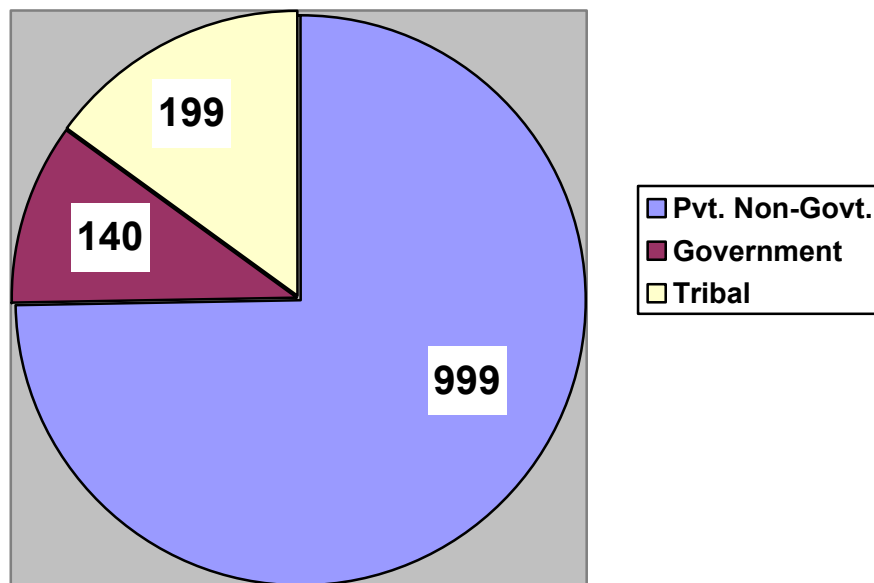
- 999 Private Non Government Schools
- 140 Government Schools (Rs. 859.38 Lakhs )
- 199 Schools in Tribal areas (Rs 810.62 Lakhs)



Year wise No. of Private Non Government schools provided with computers

Under the Computer subsidy scheme, 1,544 institutions have been provided subsidy till March 2001 of which 1,155 are Private Non-Government Secondary Schools, Government Secondary schools and Tribal schools in 20 districts.

The Computer subsidized schools covered 2,30,845 students in Private and 58,811 students in Government schools in the 20 districts.

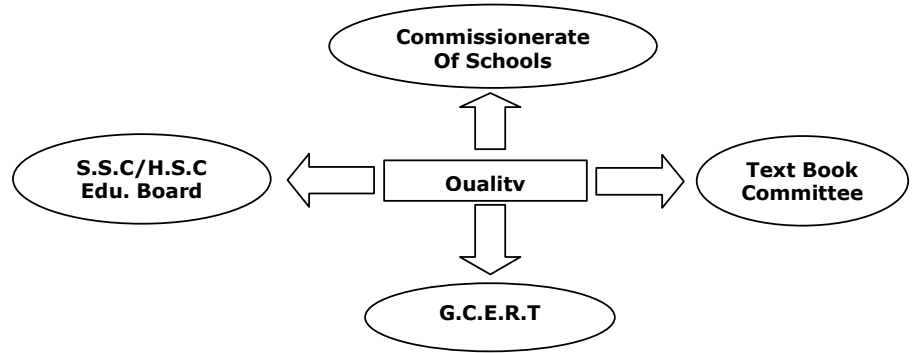


Distribution of Subsidy to Number of Schools

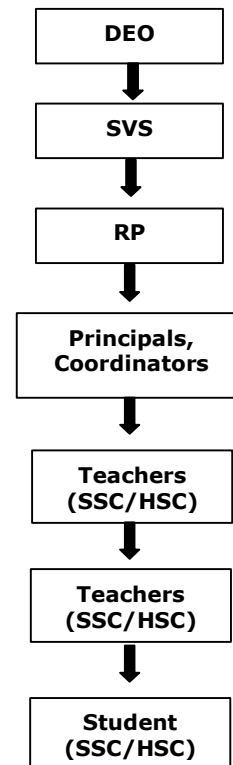
# Quality Education

After the recent devastating Earthquake that occurred on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2001, a need has been felt to enhance the Education facilities in various schools. A systematic drive named as "Karmayogi" has been undertaken to improve the quality of education by Government of Gujarat by imparting training to school principals. A core group has been formed for planning and implementation regarding this drive.

Under this drive, SVS (Shala Vikas Sankool), which is formed from a group of around 50 schools in each district, has been formed and from each SVS 3 principals have been selected for computer training, which is provided by an Intel sponsored programme called "Using Technology in Schools: A Principal's Primer".



**Coordinating Organizations**



**The training Hierarchy**

There are around 145 SVS in Gujarat and thus around 435 principals will be trained at the first level of this training programme. These trained principals who have been referred as Resource Persons (RP) will further train principals from other schools totaling to around 6500. The major areas covered under the scope of this training programme (Karmayogi) are as follows:

**(1) Education planning and implementation**

It is important to plan not only the education but also various extra curricular activities for different time frame i.e. annual planning, monthly planning, subject wise planning etc. It also covers the effective use of bulletin boards. Encouragement to oral competition on various topics and various extra curricular activities to bring out the creativity of students is emphasized.

**(2) Information Technology:**

Various methods to aid learning through computers is covered. Use of IT for conducting exams, declaring results, routine administration & school bulletin is emphasized. Ways to Create and update web sites of schools for easy dissemination of information.

**(3) Class conduct and evaluation :**

Principals are motivated to have Active role in design of National Curriculum and observe the class behaviour on various areas. Brief on various types and techniques of evaluation is given.

**(4) Cooperation to improve the quality:**

Emphasize given on teamwork different ways to

receive cooperation from parents and society and to evaluate the same. Ways to approach organizations to help in furthering the cause of the schools.

**(5) Excellence in leadership:**

Learning through school base management, conducting meetings on various topics and in house training programmes, developing human values and determination for higher quality standards, emphasize on continuous process of understanding the practical requirements and planning for education improvement programmes.



**(6) Organisational Environment :**

Demonstration of Various ways for easy, effective and efficient internal administration of schools. Emphasize on Need for having well defined vision and mission of schools on various areas. It is necessary for every school to have specialization in some area or other.

Creating awareness regarding the list of various activities that can be performed by the schools and the concerned authorities to approach for the same.

Guidance regarding the list of various periodicals for keeping in the school library is also given.

**The importance of SWOT Analysis for betterment of schools was emphasized.**

Some glimpses from the training programme



# Mid Day Meal Scheme

## Introduction

Children constitute around 40 percent of India's population. They belong to different economic and social strata. A majority of them inherit the socio-economic deprivation of their parents. They do not have access to essential requirements of nutrition, health-care and learning opportunities. The Indian Constitution, in Article 39 states "that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment." Further, Article 45 of the Constitution directs the state to provide free and compulsory education for children. A Govt. of India, 1974 resolution specifies fifteen important measures towards the betterment of children, which includes the following:

i) All children to be covered

by comprehensive health programme.

ii) implementation of nutrition programme to remove deficiencies in the diet of children.

iii) provision of free and compulsory education for all children upto age of 14, reduction of wastage and stagnation in schools, particularly in the case of girls and children of the weaker sections of society, also taking up of informal education, and

iv) with a view to ensure equality of opportunities, provision of

special assistance to all children belonging to the weaker sections of society both in urban and rural areas.

In **Gujarat** the Mid Day Meal (MDM) programme covering the age group 6-11 years in 53 talukas was introduced in the sixties as a Central Government sponsored programme. About 5083 schools in 68 talukas were covered under this programme till October, 1984. The Government of Gujarat



extended the programme in the entire state to cover all the students in that age group from 19th November 1984, for "mitigating malnutrition among the vulnerable groups." The state Government felt that the provision of nutritious meals to primary school children can play a very crucial role in increasing the rate of literacy.

MDM scheme was discontinued from August 90 to October 91 and a new scheme "Food for Education" was introduced in its place wherein primary school children having 70% attendance were provided 10 kgs. of food-grains free of cost per month. The MDM scheme was reintroduced from 15th January 1992.

The **broad objectives of the MDM scheme** are as under:

1. To give Mid-Day Meal to the children of the primary schools of the State, which will supplement the state's efforts towards removal of poverty.
2. To improve the nutritional health standard of the growing children.

3. To reduce drop-out rate and to increase attendance and to attract poorer children to come to the school.

4. To increase the employment opportunities at the village level.

5. To achieve social and national integration.

6. To attract poorer children to school by providing Mid-Day Meal to them.

7. To supplement state efforts towards removal of poverty.

Under the scheme, hot cooked meal comprising of wheat 50 grams, rice 50 grams, pulse 20 grams, vegetables and condiments 50 grams and edible oil 10 grams admeasuring 180 and containing 450 calorie

value is provided to all the primary school children of standard I to VII. About 26 lakh children on an average take advantage of the scheme of which 3 lakhs are SC, 6 lakhs are ST and 9 lakhs are OBC.

At the state level, the programme is managed by an officer of the rank of Commissioner who is also ex-officio Secretary to the State Education Department. The Commissioner is assisted by the Deputy Commissioner who is of Additional Collector rank and two Assistant Commissioners of Deputy Collector cadre.







One Assistant Commissioner is for implementation and the other is for administration. It is the responsibility of the Commissioner to coordinate the functioning of the various departments towards MDM scheme such as Education, Revenue, Health and Civil Supplies etc. and to supervise and guide the programme.

The supply of pulse and oil besides food-grains is carried out by the Gujarat State Civil Supplies Corporation which is supposed to deliver the same at the respective MDM centers ensuring sound quality of materials within the framework of fixed time limit.

The District Collector is responsible at the district level for coordinating and supervising the programme. The District Development Officer is required to extend all possible help to the District Collector in the implementation of the scheme. The day-to-day functioning of the programme is carried out by the Deputy Collector (MDM). He is assisted by the Deputy Primary Education Officer.

At the District level, the vigorous implementation and proper functioning of the scheme is looked after by a vigilance committee. The committee is headed by the Collector and consists of the Deputy Collector (MDM), District Development Officer, Civil Supply Officer, District Primary Education Officer, MPs and MLAs from the district.

In the corporation area, the Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation is the head of the MDM programme. He is assisted by the Deputy Commissioner (MDM) who is responsible for carrying out the programme.

The Mamlatdar, the revenue officer at the taluka level, is the head of the MDM Programme. The Deputy Mamlatdar in charge of MDM assists him. Over and above one primary education inspector is there to help him. There is also a Taluka level MDM advisory committee consisting of officers and MLA. MDM Committee under the chairmanship of District Collector compiles statistical data related to the

programme and coordinates supervision work with the District Primary Education Officer. At the taluka level, these functions are carried out by the Mamlatdar. In case of non-supply of food-stuff items in time by Civil Supply Corporation, the District Collector is empowered to purchase from the local market under the prescribed procedure of Government.

The Education Inspectors are expected to supervise the MDM programme along with their other work when they visit schools. The extension workers are also expected to supervise the MDM programme during their visit to the village. The Mamlatdar assigns the work every month to various officers to visit a minimum number of the centers. The concerned officers are expected to provide feedback on the functioning of the MDM Programme. He checks about the quality of material utilized in the preparation of

# Role of GSWAN & NIC

cooked food and the cleanliness of the area of cooking operations and around, and the upkeep of Stocks, Accounts and other requisite Data/Materials.

Both GSWAN (Gujarat State Wide Area Network) and NIC (National Informatics Center) have a very significant role towards the step of computerization in the Commissionerate of Schools and Mid Day Meal operations.

GSWAN provides a strong backbone for providing connectivity upto the taluka level, while NIC has developed a range of softwares that can be identified as the basic

Common modules. Out of the installed software applications that are in use, the notable is the Registry Application (for maintaining the inward and outward of mails) and the Court Case Application (to maintain the history of the court case details and their verdicts).

NIC has also developed Mamlatdar Offices Reporting System to keep track of the resources used in various MDM centers. Useful information like student turnout per day for various categories, meals and breakfast served etc. can be found out using this application.



User Name : Mamlatdar Dhansura  
Office : Mamlatdar Dhansura

### Mamlatdar Offices Reporting System

Statement Showing Monthly Details of Attendance and Beneficiaries of Std 1 to 5 of Apr, 2003

Srno	Name of Centre	Average Attendances					Average Beneficiaries		
		S.C.	S.T.	O.B.C.	Other	Total	S.C.	S.T.	O.B.C.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	<a href="#">Dhanshura-1</a>	1250	2121	21212	212	24795	1	1	1
	<b>Total</b>	1250	2121	21212	212	24795	1	1	1

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Screenshots of the Mamlatdar Reporting System

# eGovernance News

## Business Line News

# Gujarat plans statewide spread of its e-governance project-MSK

JOYDEEP RAY  
Ahmedabad, 20 April

After witnessing tremendous success for the first-ever e-governance project covering a whole district, implemented in the tribal-dominated Panchmahals district, the Gujarat government has decided to implement the Mahiti Shakti Kendra (MSK) projects across the state. The state government has also made budgetary allocations in this regard.

The project envisions a portal providing a single window for all relevant government information and services to citizens for interaction and documentation procedures. By carrying out simple process re-engineering after getting necessary permis-

sions from government, it has been possible to reduce paper work using online applications through this project.

"For instance, for the National Old Age Pension Scheme, an applicant no longer has to append the proof of age, income and residence while submitting the form and he signs a declaration to this effect and the verification is done by a talati and circle officer subsequently. Similarly, using the online grievance redressal system, he can submit his grievance and get it redressed through MSK project without any paperwork," said Jayanti Ravi, a senior IAS officer and former district collector of Panchmahals.

The facility is available for grievances pertaining to over 17 departments and using simple

Internet access, the Mahitishakti website is available around the clock and facilitates online filing of complaints, forms, applications, etc. "It is also available from early morning till late in the night, well beyond the government office hours, and involves no more a hazardous journey across to the office from a remote village. It also demystifies office as MSK serves as an extension of government offices with better service orientation, and in Panchmahals the project has been implemented with nearly 100 per cent local language interface using appropriate Internet technology," said Ravi, now posted as commissioner of mid-day meal scheme.

"We really did not expect this much of success and that too

from a tribal-dominated district like Panchmahals when the project was initiated by Ravi with help from IIM, Ahmedabad, and other government bodies. But now we are planning to implement the project in all the districts and work in this regard will be initiated within six months," said state finance minister Vajubhai Vala. Vala also said that his government is ready for any proposal for private participation in the project though state finance department has already made enough funds available. For setting up a MSK, one needs to invest only Rs 50,000 on computer and other infrastructure and the state government has made arrangements to provide loan for the whole amount to the interested villagers.

### Web Corner

Gujarat University  
[www.gujaratuniversity.org.in](http://www.gujaratuniversity.org.in)

Nirma Institute of Technology  
<http://www.nit.edu>

L D College of Engineering  
[www.ldceindia.org](http://www.ldceindia.org)

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