



ICTD Project: A brief report

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National Institute for Smart Government

B Block, IIIT Campus, Gachibowli
Hyderabad - 500032 (AP) INDIA
Tel. 91 40 2300 6683-84 40 2300 2983-84
Fax 91 40 2300 6685
Website: www.nisg.org

Purpose of this Document

This document contains a brief detail about the ICTD Project being implemented by NISG.

ICTD Project details

UNDP & GOI Partnership

The United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 identified eight Millennium Development Goals in the fight against poverty, illiteracy, hunger, lack of education, gender inequality, child and maternal mortality, disease and environmental degradation. New technologies, especially ICTs were identified as a tool to fulfill these goals. UNDP's country programme for India, for the period 2003-07 set as its priority, the goal to work towards the promotion of sustainable human development and the elimination of human poverty and inequalities.

The National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) launched by the Government of India for implementation during the year 2003-2007, focused on laying the foundation and providing impetus for long-term growth of e-Government and e-Governance within the country. The National Institute for Smart Government (NISG), a not-for-profit company, has been established in 2002 by the Government of India at Hyderabad, to promote e-Government in the country.

Sensing the vital role ICT could play in achieving developmental goals and encouraged by the pro-poor focus given to this within India's e-Government framework, UNDP, together with Ministry of Communications & IT, Government of India conceptualized the project – **ICT for Development (ICTD)** with an implementation time frame of 2003-07. The initial commitment on the project was set at US\$ 5 million with an indicative budget of US\$ 30 million (through mobilization of additional resources) over the period of 2003-2007. It was decided that NISG would play the role of the implementing agency for the ICTD project and that the pilot initiatives chosen for funding under this project would be implemented by project partners like state governments and NGOs across the country.

ICTD PROJECT

With a mission to make 'ICTs work for people', the ICTD project is a significant step in adopting a holistic and multi-sectoral approach in using ICTs for social, economic and political development.

The project focuses on :

- **Implementation of Pilot initiatives in** the area of e-governance that can be scaled up and replicated in other parts of the country. Business Process Re-engineering (**BPR**) and Public Private Partnership (**PPP**) would be strongly advocated and used while implementing these pilots.
- Developing solutions & applications to bridge the **digital divide**.
- Preparation of **roadmaps** for e-governance.
- **Documenting** success stories, transfer of knowledge and capacity building in the area of e-government.

Four broad themes were identified initially to create a focused approach, and proposals for pilot initiatives were invited under these themes - **Integrated Citizen Services, Rural Livelihoods, Governance (Rural and Urban) and Women Empowerment**.

The ICTD project requires combining appropriate technology and infrastructure with local knowledge & the expertise to deal with varied developmental challenges. It is therefore being implemented drawing on the strengths and views of the government, civil society, the private sector and the international development community (including donors and international civil society organizations).

Steered by senior representatives of the government, civil society as well as donor agencies, the ICTD project sees itself assuming a pivotal role in providing holistic direction to ICT for Development initiatives in India.

Eleven pilot projects have been identified, after a systematic appraisal of over 55 proposals, and are being implemented in various states. The initiatives are being implemented in partnership with State Governments as well as through involving civil society to demonstrate sustainable and replicable models of using ICT for improving citizens' access to information and services through integrated service delivery by business process reengineering and enabling establishment of public/community based access points; how local self governments can use information technology to enhance

participation, their management capabilities, accountability; how ICTs can strengthen access to justice delivery mechanisms, how e-procurement can increase efficiency and reduce operational costs; how ICTs can enhance livelihoods; and how it can enable women's empowerment and improve their information access and address issues of gender equity.

NISG's Role

NISG is committed to [facilitate application of public and private resources to e-Governance and thus](#) achieve a factor enhancement in the quality and pace of implementation of e-Government programs in India.

While the ICTD pilots are implemented by project partners like state governments and non-government organizations, NISG is responsible for the project management and monitoring their progress with regard to the timelines and deliverables. NISG also provides consultancy for the pilots in the areas of conceptualizing projects, preparation of request for proposals, business process reengineering and also conducts capacity building programs for project partners.