

Brief of Scope

Conduct a Study on SMART Digital Classrooms in General Education and Development of a strategy for the implementation of SMART Digital Classroom initiative.

ICTA/GOSL/CON/QBS/2016/121

1. Background of the project

The Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) has initiated SMART Digital Classroom project to establish 300 digital classrooms island wide by end of 2018. This project has been planned to implement in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka and other relevant stakeholders. The SMART Digital Classroom project intends to establish classrooms with state of the art technologies which facilitate teaching and learning process with digital technologies.

This project will directly contributes towards implementing government education policy on “Facilitation to access to the digital world”. Moreover, this will also contributes government policy on “Digitalization of the economy” by promoting digital education at all levels of education and made younger generation more accessible to global job opportunities. It will also assist to bridge the gaps in dissemination of knowledge in secondary education. Achieving this aim would indeed justify the considerable expenditure and transformation of infrastructure, enhancing knowledge, skills and capacities required for the smooth implementation of digital classroom project.

2. Introduction

ICTA has planned to conduct a baseline survey to develop in-depth understanding on existing situation of the Sri Lankan government schools in relation to available ICT infrastructure facilities, level of usage, human resources, level of knowledge, skills, competencies, readiness, and perception of the students, teachers and parents.

In parallel to baseline study, this assignment expects to develop a strategy for the implementation of SMART Digital Classroom Initiative. The strategy to be developed should be able to successfully bridge the gap between the baseline situation and the desired future picture that can be mapped through analyzing international best practices.

The baseline findings and the strategy developed under the proposed study will be utilized as planning and designing inputs, implementation guidance as well as to identify measures for ensuring the project sustainability. Further it will also be used to assess the results generated by the project after the completion of project implementation.

3. Objective of the Assignment

The specific objectives of the study are to-

1. Assess the availability of ICT infrastructure facilities, level of human capacities in terms of ICT knowledge, skills, competencies that engaged with ICT education in government schools.
2. Assess the level of ICT usage in teaching and learning process and level of accessibility for ICT in education.
3. Identify the readiness, willingness, expectation, attitudes and perceptions of the teachers, students, school administrative staff, parents and other stakeholders in adaption of digitalized education methods and techniques.
4. Assess the policy environment in relation to ICT in government education sector and provide recommendation on necessary intervention.
5. Assess the level of usage, availability and methods of digital contents.
6. Identify and map the desired future developed situation through analyzing international best practices and success stories of digital education approaches.
7. Identify the possible risks and challenges that can affect the project performance and suggest appropriate risk management or mitigation methods.
8. Develop a strategy and Implementation approach for achieving the expected results of SMART Digital Classroom Initiative.

4. Scope of the work and task to be carried out

The study has been identified under six key functional areas to be carried out by the consultants as (1) design of baseline study, mapping the desired picture and strategy development plan, (2) identify relevant variables that can be used to design the survey instrument and necessary stakeholder consultation for strategy development, (3) design study instruments, (4) conduct field operations and consultative workshops, (5) analyse collected data and (6) effective interpretation of data and writing reports.

Based on these, the expected quality and the conditions of identified tasks have been given as follows.

5. Consultancy Firm and the Team Qualifications

The consultancy firm should be specialized and have relevant experience in designing and conducting national level program, Research studies and evaluation assignments, preferably in the area of ICT for Development.

The consultancy firm is free to propose the number and structure of experts appropriate to the proposed study design and approach. However the key consultant team should include the 1.) Team leader (Education specialist), 2) Evaluation/ Baseline study expert, 3) Strategy Development Specialist 4) Statistician and qualitative data analyst.

The consultancy firm should be able to provide a strong network of enumerators and office facilities to facilitate information gathering managing the survey successfully.

6. Timeframe

The assignment is expected to be completed within fourteen (14) weeks.