Post- Event Report: E-learning Centre Inauguration Event

5th July 2017

Summary: Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) today announced the initiative to digitally transform 10 government primary and junior schools in Gautam Buddha Nagar district (NOIDA) through e-learning centers, Wi-Fi services and exclusive school websites under project RAISED. Capgemini is the project support partner.

Venue: Soarkha Primary School at Sector 115, NOIDA, UP.

Participant's information: The event was attended by 89 participants. Representatives from Capgemini, Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), District Magistrate's Office, District Education Office, and SMC members— besides teachers, students and parents from the beneficiary government schools — participated in the inauguration event.

The Event: The event started with the welcoming of the guest Mr. Naresh Yadav (Village Head), Mr. M K Singh (City Magistrate, NOIDA), Syed Sultan Kazi (Deputy Director, DEF). Later, Mr. M K Singh inaugurated the e-learning centre. He has also launched the Website of Soarkha Primary School.

Inaugurating the e-learning centre Mr. M K Singh said that, "the infrastructure issues that we normally face in government schools, need more interventions from all of us." He recognized and appreciated the endeavor of Capgemini and Digital Empowerment Foundation as well as the staff of schools. He also explained relevance and importance of having e- learning centres in schools and also he wished all students would properly utilize ICTs infrastructure provided by Capgemini and DEF and compete with the students of private schools.

The Village Head, Mr. Naresh Yadav, while welcoming the guests observed that the effort of Capgemini, DEF and schools is very important and timely. He was also extremely happy about efforts made by DEF for the school in improving the conditions of schools in remote village like Sohrakha which has dearth of infrastructure. He emphasized on community participation in development of schools in holistic way.

The Deputy Director of Dr. Syed Sultan Kazi has talked about the journey of this project. He has also stated how DEF addressed various challenges faced by government schools. He explained the role of DEF in sorting out these challenges. He asserted and advocated for the integration of pedagogy with technology. He has given the idea and the glimpse of e-learning centre by aligning it with curriculum by developing science projects and experiential learning.

Ms. Pushpa Pant, the Head Teacher of Soarkha Primary School has discoursed on the participation of teachers, SMC, DEF, Capgemini, village head in enhancing the infrastructure and capacity building of teachers. She has recalled about the past conditions of water when they even did not have water in school and sitting facilities for students. She acknowledged how these conditions being improved with the help of DEF through consistent efforts.

The refreshment served added color to the one and half hour long celebration. Bhumika Sahu, a 12-year-old girl studying in Soarkha Primary School exclaimed " I want to become a computer engineer and you are helping me to achieve my goal."

Mr. Atul Kulshershtha, Vice President – Business Services and Head of India Business Services Operations & Capgemini Enterprise Services; Mr. Anurag Pratap, CSR Leader of Capgemini and Ms. Niki Das visited different class rooms and they were very happy to notice the massive improvement in the school and they have expressed their interest for long-standing support to the Raising Standards of Education and Going Digital (RAISED) project.

About RAISED:

RAISED is a project implemented by Digital Empowerment Foundation with support from Capgemini, covering a network of 10 government schools in Gautam Buddha Nagar district to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in schools. The 10 schools are – 1. Primary School-I, Bhangel; 2. Junior High School, Sadarpur; 3. Primary School-I, Barola; 4. Primary School-II, Barola; 5. Junior High School, Barola; 6. Primary School, Sorkha; 7. Primary School, Agahpur; 8. Junior High School, Agahpur; 9. Primary School- I, Sadarpur and 10. Primary School- II, Sadarpur. The project focuses on a broad domain of factors affecting the quality of teaching and learning in the school and aims at designing a model of RTE[1] compliant schools in the district.

About DEF:

Established in 2002, Digital Empowerment Foundation aims to connect unreached and underserved communities of India in an effort to bring them out of digital darkness and empower them with information access through last mile connectivity, digital literacy and digital interventions. With the motto to 'Inform, Communicate and Empower,' DEF aims to find sustainable ICT solutions to overcome information poverty in remote and rural locations of India. To achieve this aim, DEF has adopted a multi-stakeholder approach and a six-fold path to enable communities, governments, schools, civil society organisations and micro-enterprises to avail the benefits of the Information Age. Under this six-fold programme approach, DEF initiates projects in the areas of Access & Infrastructure; Education & Empowerment; Governance & Citizen Services; Markets & Social Enterprises; Knowledge Hub & Network; Research & Advocacy.

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[1] The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act is an Indian Legislation enacted by the Parliament of India on 4th August 2009, which describes the modalities of the importance of free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 years in India. RTE Act came into effect on 1st April 2010.