

Government of Assam

Case Study of Flagship PPP Project

**O & M of 50 Skilled Development Training Centers across
the State of Assam**

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**PPP Cell, Planning & Development Department,
Assam Secretariat, Dispur, Guwahati – 781006, Assam**

Description of the Project



Government of Assam under its overall strategy to improve the practical skill conditions of the local youth preferably the youth from Tea Tribes has established 50 Skill Development Training Centres (SKDC) in tea and ex tea garden areas across the state of Assam. The skills to be imparted were vocational training towards earning employment by the youths of the above area. The SKDCs are housed in small compact complexes equipped with necessary tools &

equipments including computers. The centres are under the administrative control of the Directorate for Welfare of Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes (WTT), under the Department of Tea Tribes Welfare.

Problem

The current setup in the Tea and ex-Tea tribe welfare department lacks the technical capacity and manpower to undertake operation and maintenance of these SKDCs and as a result, the infrastructure created was lying idle and started deteriorating.

Objective

The project was conceptualized so as to open up the chance of backward and tea tribe youths towards equipping themselves with better employability and self employment opportunities.

Reason for selecting PPP as mode for delivery of the project:

In light of non availability of technical skill and manpower towards operation and maintenance of centers and also to tap the efficiency and modern technology available in market, PPP mode for Operation & Maintenance of the centers was preferred.

Processes followed:

- Directorate for Welfare of Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes (WTT) requested PPP Cell under Planning & Development Department towards assisting them in handholding them through the Project Development process towards selection of Private Partner.
- PPP Cell, under Planning & Development Department undertook the Project and prepared RfP for selection of Transaction advisor for the Project.
- Planning & development department from state empanelled consultants' short listed 6 firms based on their strength for preparation of Techno Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) and bid documents towards selection of private partner.
- M/s Transbiz Associates, Guwahati was selected as Transaction Advisor. The Transaction advisor prepared the TEFR, Bid Document and Draft Concession Agreement.

- PPP Cell analyzed the TEFR, Bid document and Draft Concession agreement and suggested changes and modifications where ever necessary. PPP cell also involved National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC), Govt. of India, a body for facilitation skills towards involvement of fellow members in the Project.
- The TEFR established the viability of the project and RFP was issued in local and national dailies towards selection of private partner.
- Bidding Criteria : **“Maximum discount in fee structure to the students of tea tribe background”** (Base Rate Rs. 350/- per month/course)
- M/s H.P. Institute of Insurance, New Delhi was selected as winning bidder based on their maximum discount offer of Rs. 178/month/course from students of tea tribe background.

PPP Structure



O & M of 50 SKDCs with refurbishment of additional tools and equipments based on the requirement. The private partner is to operationalize these SKDCs in 330 days from the date of award.

Outcome

The project is operational. As on date, 28 SKDCs are made operational and about 3000 students have undergone various training courses which includes electrical, plumbing, healthcare, basic computer, mason etc.



The private partner is also facilitating to seek NCVT certificates



and placement for passed out students. As on now, about 800 students were facilitated towards gaining employment.

Specific details on involvement/ contribution of the ADB expert

ADB-TA team had handhold the entire process starting from preparation of bid documents to hire Transaction Advisor till the award and monitoring of project performance. The details involvement towards the above project is as below:

1. Preparation of Bid documents and contract agreement to hire Transaction Advisor
2. Evaluation of bids
3. Handhold the process of contract signing
4. Supervision of Transaction Advisor's performance and review of reports submitted by Transaction Advisor.
5. Floating of Bids for procurement of private partner.
6. Facilitation of the process towards sensitizing private operators in the chosen field.
7. Involvement of National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC), a body under Govt. of India so that their member bodies can be sensitized toward the opportunity and enable participation. PPP Cell also sensitized operators viz. Gram Tarang, Centurion University of Technology & Management etc. participated in the bidding process.
8. Assessment and evaluation of bids for selection of Private partner
9. Handhold in contract signing with the preferred bidder
10. Preparation of monitoring templates to review performance
11. Monitoring through project site inspection
12. Preparation of performance review report for implementing agencies

Challenges and opportunities/lessons learnt

- The Project is wide spread, almost all over Assam. Monitoring of private partners performance in terms of enrollment of students under Tea Tribe / Non Tea tribe needs a comprehensive mechanism and dedicated team.
- An effective Project Monitoring unit (PMU) with representation from Directorate for Welfare of Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes (WTT), District Commissioner of respective district and PPP cell / Planning & Development Department is needed to over look the implementation and adherence to the quality standards as envisaged in the concession agreement.
- As per the contractual obligation, the implementing agency was to handover the SKDCs to the private partner on award of the project. However, handing over of 11 SKD centers housed under ITI campus could not take place as on date due to inter departmental issues. Consequently, the project implementation to the extent of these centers are yet to be started as on date. Handling inter departmental issues needs to be tackled for successful implementation of Projects.