



**QUEST Alliance**  
C/O Azim Premji Foundation, 134 Doddakannelli, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore 560035  
Tel: 91-80-66144949/00 Fax: 91-80-66144903  
Email: [info@questalliance.net](mailto:info@questalliance.net) Web: <http://quest.eeaonline.org>



*Knowledge through Research and Partnerships*

*“The QUEST Alliance is a unique platform where the interests and capabilities of NGOs and the private sector can converge. Working together to leverage the power of existing and emerging information and communication technologies (ICT), the QUEST partners are leading the design of innovative and scaleable solutions to meet the education and training needs of children and youth.”*

**WILLIAM S. REESE** President and CEO, International Youth Foundation



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



“This project was made possible by the generous support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under Cooperative Agreement #RAN-A-00-04-00043-00 by the USAID/ANE Bureau.”



Photo source : Anita Khemka



Photo source: Quiksand Design

*It has been widely recognized that the power of ICT interventions needs to be fully leveraged to overcome the challenge of providing quality education for all. Significant resources have been expended by government and private agencies on ICT interventions related to education and skills training in India. Yet there is significant need within the community of providers, practitioners, funding agencies and users to become more effective in utilizing this powerful paradigm. These stakeholders have much to gain from the experience of diverse and tested initiatives as they seek to improve their own efforts, to evaluate the quality of innovative programs and to scale up successful interventions.*

## OUR MISSION

**The QUEST Alliance promotes the effective and responsible use of educational technologies (ET) to enhance the quality and relevance of formal elementary education and training for disadvantaged children and youth.**

## WHO WE ARE

The QUEST Alliance is a multi-stakeholder partnership working across India. It provides a vehicle for businesses, donors, non-governmental organizations and governments to optimize their collective resources around a social commitment to improve education and employability among India's disadvantaged youth.

Through its promotion of innovative and tested models, it is ideally positioned to lay the foundation for successful, sustainable programs that reach large numbers of young people. Building working partnerships - strengthened through shared goals and innovative solutions - is the key to QUEST's effectiveness.

The QUEST Alliance works to demystify the use of technology. Advocating for the effective and innovative use of proven educational technology tools, QUEST works to ensure proven technologies are easily accessible and adaptable in India's complex educational environment.

*"One of the things that is strikingly different about our partnership with the QUEST Alliance, as compared with our other financial partners, is that QUEST does not limit its role to a funder, but it participates in the project as an enthusiastic and interested partner. Its technical inputs on pedagogy and Instructional Design as well as monitoring and evaluation have been of immense help to our team at Drishti as well as to the Videoshala project. I am positive our partnership will result in very creative and innovative models of using media and communication for technology, empowerment and education."*

**STALIN K.** Founder & Director, Drishti Media

## VIDEOSHALA

Photo source: Drishti Media



Videoshala is an innovative program working with Drishti, Udaan and Video Volunteers in Gujarat, to produce educational videos that are contextual and rooted in the child's reality, while also integrating the values of Citizenship, Diversity and Democracy. The content development is being implemented in four video units, where people from the local community are trained as Community Video Producers. QUEST provided technical and financial support in the design and implementation of the project, including capacity building in the critical area of instructional design (ID).

## LIFELINE FOR EDUCATION

Photo source: Quicksand Design



The Lifeline for Education Project uses mobile technology and an interactive voice response system to provide much-needed academic support and instructional training to rural elementary school teachers in West Bengal. In partnership with One World South Asia, Vikramshila Educational Society and British Telecom and CISCO, this innovative project equips teachers with mobile phones and links them to an information database and an expert panel where they can access answers to specific queries. QUEST conducted preliminary needs assessment and provided financial and technical support in program design and implementation.

By leveraging each partner's unique perspective and expertise, the QUEST Alliance responds to education and employment needs with technical and financial resources. Partners also benefit from the extensive sharing of knowledge and lessons learned, which helps individual members strengthen the impact of their own programs and expand a culture of corporate social responsibility.

*"The QUEST Alliance is a valuable platform for sharing ideas and the unique strengths of educational partners to meet a larger goal; the partners share their strengths and make it possible to cross collaborate and learn."*

**VIKAS GOSWAMI** Lead CSR, Microsoft India

## DIGITAL LIFE SKILLS TOOLKIT



Photo source: Lkishman Anand

Life skills are those critical inter-personal and professional skills that ensure youth are well prepared to lead healthy and productive lives. However due to prohibitive costs, the face-to-face approach is limited in its ability to reach out to at-risk youth living in very remote and rural areas, with life skills training. In an effort to benefit a greater number of at-risk youth and to take advantage of the power of educational technology, the digital toolkit will allow facilitators to conduct life skills training and workplace readiness modules in remote sites, thus improving access to quality training. The QUEST Alliance provided financial and technical assistance in the areas of Instructional Design and life skills content development to support the joint effort of CAP Foundation and Microsoft. QUEST is also partnering with the GE Foundation, Youthreach, Byrraju Foundation and Dr. Reddy's Foundation to customize the "Udaan Life Skills Curriculum" to reach out to India's most vulnerable youth.

The QUEST Alliance, along with its partners, has created a range of initiatives to improve quality education through the use of educational technology tools.

*"As one of the founding members, Azim Premji Foundation has helped create and steer the vision of the QUEST Alliance. Collaborating on the National Instructional Design workshop was an important first-step, providing a much-needed forum for various stakeholders to share knowledge and explore ideas for improving the quality of content development."*

**DILEEP RANJEKAR** CEO, Azim Premji Foundation

## PROMOTING CONTENT CREATION THROUGH LEARNER CENTRIC DESIGN



Photo source : Azim Premji Foundation

The QUEST Alliance hosted a three-day National Instructional Design Workshop in Bangalore during November 2 to 4, 2006. The workshop brought together 120 leading international and national experts on education and technology, content creators, NGOs and state government officials. The principal goal was to share lessons and explore ideas on how to enhance the quality of content development for educational technology tools in Indian government schools. The aim of the Instructional Design workshop was two-fold: 1) to present a systematic methodology for the design and development of quality e-content, and 2) to develop a set of policy recommendations to help guide practitioners and policy makers in developing and investing in technology-based education tools. The workshop was a collaborative effort of QUEST partners: the Azim Premji Foundation (APF), the International Youth Foundation (IYF), and Education Development Center (EDC) India. The QUEST Alliance continues to conduct multi-stakeholder workshops and round tables to generate e-Content policy recommendations.

# QUEST ALLIANCE : Knowledge Through Research & Partnerships

To conceptualize the many, distil the few, and spread the know-how on ICT in education and employability.

To nurture, nourish and develop competencies in the areas of learning, assessment, management of resources, programs and systems.

## HOW TO READ THIS POSTER

Activities



Mediums



Beneficiaries



Educational institutions and learning centers



## KNOWLEDGE AXIS

- Archiving project experiences and best practices from the field (case studies, multimedia documentation)
- Creating a community of practitioners
- Continuing evaluation and research
- Studying integration of technology in classrooms

Portal, repository of ET work in India, strategy papers in areas such as ID, web tools, discussion events, partner workshops, multi-media kits, large-format conferences



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Providing practitioners and decision makers with informed practices and skills in ID, evaluation etc
- Enhancing the capacity of practitioners in the effective use of ET
- Providing opportunities to students to engage in research and innovation through fellowships and internships

Small-format workshops, internships, learning events, consulting



NGOs

PRIVATE SECTOR

FUNDING AGENCIES

GOVERNMENT

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS



Workshops, roundtable discussions, policy documents, multi-stakeholder & special interest groups

- Leveraging core competencies of corporations to contribute actively towards improving the quality of education and skills training
- Developing recommendations for a national policy on the effective use of ET in school education
- Developing standards for effective use of technology in education and skills training



Consulting, learning events, proposal development, forums

- Designing and developing programs
- Implementing and evaluating pilots
- Highlighting innovation
- Creating synergies between corporations & NGOs
- Providing access to a network of resource partners

## ADVOCACY

To demonstrate and advocate the potential of ICT in education and employability.

## INNOVATION & INCUBATION

To innovate, incubate, evaluate, and evolve ideas and actions that bolster learning.



# ENGAGE WITH US

*"QUEST is the result of USAID's belief in the power of partnerships; the alliance is well suited to take the lead in promoting the effective use of technology in education and skills training. The USAID vision is for QUEST to evolve into an independent entity, generating and programming its own funds."*

**DANA FISCHER** Director, Office of Social Development, USAID India

## NGOs

Cross-fertilization of ideas, resources, practices through research and partnerships

Capacity building and support on program design and issues related to technology in education and employability

Stronger advocacy support through research and documentation

Funding innovation and new knowledge through scalable pilots

Access to experts in technology for education and employability through a global network.

## PRIVATE SECTOR

Assistance in the innovation of CSR programs in education and employability

Support in the management and implementation of successful, corporate branded CSR initiatives in support of community needs and corporate aims

Access to perspectives and partnership opportunities from a large and credible NGO network in education, employability and technology

Participation in multi-stakeholder dialogues that facilitate shared understanding and meaningful partnerships

## GOVERNMENT

Assistance in policy formulation and implementation through workshops and training

Participation in forums to hear collective opinions of civil society and private sector organizations on technology in education and skills training

Access to a repository of case studies, database of best practices and success stories

## FUNDING AGENCIES

Access to research and analysis related to technology in education and employability

Opportunities to co-invest in partnerships with the private sector and NGOs

Support in design, implementation and evaluation of multi-stakeholder programs

Access to a network of credible and experienced NGOs with expertise in enabling innovations and scaling up

## ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Utilization of a platform of innovative program experiences and extensive field data for empirical research

Opportunities to create a network with practitioners, policy makers and private sector organizations.

Access to student internship opportunities from a dynamic and experienced network of practitioners.

## OUR EVOLVING INITIATIVES

### CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

A unique opportunity for educators, facilitators, and trainers, as well as leaders from NGOs, government, and the private sector to share ideas, hear from experts, learn from what others are doing and debate the issues confronting us in the use of technology-based learning solutions for education and employability.

### KNOWLEDGE AXIS

QUEST presents an Information Repository and Resources hub where users can search for and access information on projects that have employed ICTs in the fields of education and skills training in India as well as other pertinent resources like research, evaluation and policy studies, reports, audio/video clips, and digital content.

### E-LEARNING FOR EMPLOYABILITY

Technology has a vital role to play in developing skills to gain entry to the workplace. E-Learning would serve as an effective vehicle to help learners in remote areas develop modern employability skills that are otherwise limited due to the shortage of qualified, effective trainers. E-Learning would also help differently-abled learners to access quality learning materials, learn at their own pace, in a non-invasive manner, and integrate into the mainstream workforce. When dealing with large numbers of individuals, while having to maintain quality, E-Learning remains an important option to instill 21st century employability skills among unemployed and disadvantaged youth.

### NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

The QUEST Alliance actively looks to build collaborative learning and sharing platforms to assist companies in designing strategic CSR programs. We hope to leverage the core competencies of companies in contributing actively to the education technology sector in India. QUEST will demonstrate existing innovations in the field and will hope to stimulate opportunities for greater corporate engagement in this area through a network of NGO partners, research and proven programs that make a difference.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The QUEST Alliance conducts capacity building and professional development workshops to enhance skills of present and future educational technology professionals in India. We aim to provide fellowships for graduate students to engage closely with the education technology sector in India. We also aim to connect with experts and practitioners in education and technology in order to share and learn from national and global best practices in this field.

## OUR PARTNERS



Alcatel-Lucent Foundation  
Azim Premji Foundation  
Byrraju Foundation  
CAP Foundation  
Dr. Reddy's Foundation  
Drishti Media  
Education Development Center  
GE Foundation  
Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative  
International Youth Foundation  
Microsoft Corporation  
One World South Asia  
Pratham  
USAID  
WIPRO Corporation  
Youthreach India