

Education & e-governance promise new business for IT

S SHYAMALA

Chennai

YEAR 2009 promises growing opportunities in the education and e-governance space with most state governments enabling government schools and colleges with basic IT infrastructure.

Services providers such as Educomp Solutions, Everron Systems, NIIT and Dax Networks have been working with government schools and colleges across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andaman and Nicobar under various schemes, including the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

With a budget allocation of Rs 38,000 crore for education, the government

is keen on expanding its initiatives.

"Despite the general slowdown, expenditure on education will only continue to increase," says L Balasubramanian, president, school learning solutions of NIIT. Private schools are also automating teaching kits and administration processes to impart quality education.

The CBSE board has mandated additional IT kits along with basic educational material for maths and science teaching in schools.

"Government educational projects have become a regular source of revenue in the past couple of years. Almost all state governments are taking their educational initiatives forward," says Subashini Prabhakar,

NEW BASICS



- Most states are in the process of enabling basic IT infrastructure to government schools and colleges
- The leading services provider in the segment Educomp Solutions has been working with about 10,000 schools

chief technology manager of Dax Networks.

Apart from upgrading existing educational institu-

tions, the Centre is also planning new ones to tackle the looming manpower shortage across sectors. In the process, over 1,400 educational institutions will be set up across streams and all of them will need IT setups. Six of the 8 planned IITs will start functioning in the current academic year.

The Centre is in the process of setting up 30 central universities, 7 IIMs, 10 National Institutes of Technology, 20 IITs, five Indian Institutes of Science Education and two Schools of Planning and Architecture, 373 colleges in districts with low enrolment in college education and 1,000 new polytechnics.

shyamalaseetharamanan
@mydigitalfc.com