

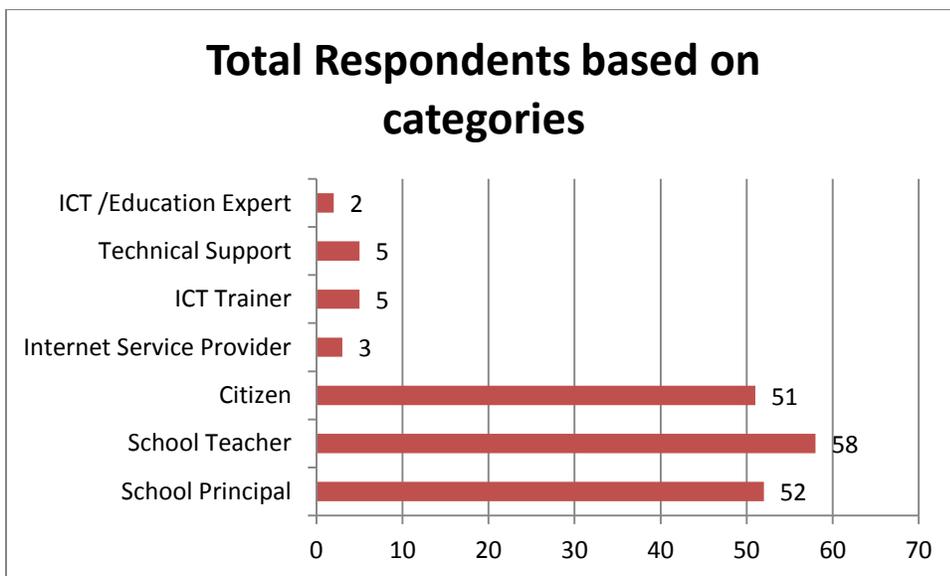
TATA-MIT Education Initiative Feasibility Study Survey

The **TATA Trust and MIT University, USA** are collaborating to develop an educational program for **high schools and B.Ed. colleges** in three states of India using modern educational technology and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The program aims to address the learning needs of students and prepare them for higher education and employment as well as to improve teacher education and provide a platform for research and innovation.

A **Feasibility Study** was conducted in **September, 2014** by Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) to understand the situation on the field with respect to technical infrastructure and support and the connectivity status in **high schools and B.Ed. colleges of Aizawl District**. The readiness of school/college staff, support staff and students was also an important study variable. The survey was conducted via an *Android tablet-based questionnaire*.

The following categories of respondents were interviewed during the survey in 5 blocks of Aizawl district:

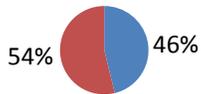
- High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools
- IT Trainers / Tech experts
- Technical Support Service staff
- Citizen user respondents
- Government of Mizoram officials (DIET, RMSA, Dept. of Education etc.)



Key Findings

Total Responses from School Management

- Internet available
- Internet Not Available



1. More than 50 % schools in Aizawl district do not have **internet connectivity**. The **maximum speed** of Internet is no more than **512 kbps**.

2. **BSNL**, followed by **Airtel** have provided connectivity to most schools. The **technical support** provided by them, however, is slow and incompetent, discouraging schools from getting Internet connections.

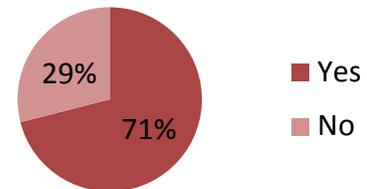
3. The **average number of computers** in each school is **13**.

4. **SCERT** (State Council of Educational Research and Training), Mizoram has provided 10 computers, 10 UPS and 1

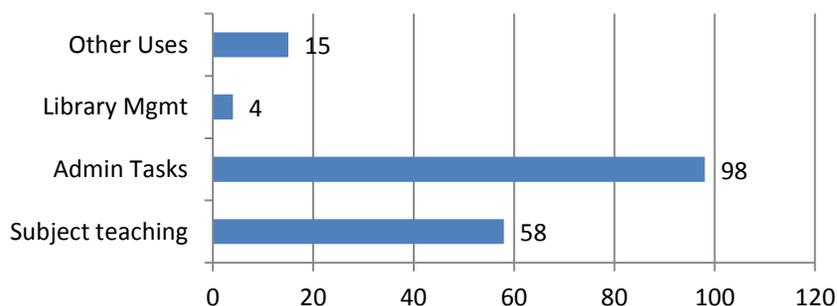
projector to most schools in urban and rural areas. Surprisingly, 71 % schools visited had setup computer labs, but not used frequently. Mizoram Board of School Education (**MBSE**) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhijan (**RMSA**) have also provided computers to some schools.

5. The average **student to computer ratio** was **5**.
6. Computers provided by Govt. bodies are mainly being **used for administrative tasks** and for **entertainment** purposes. Most computer labs are rarely accessed by teachers and almost never by students.

Computer Labs in School?



% of schools using computer for following tasks



7. **Removal of compulsory IT subject** from the curriculum was a major deterrent for schools not taking computer education or computer usage in education seriously.

8. **Only 1-3 teachers per schools had knowledge of computers and Internet.** Lack of Internet connectivity and lack of knowledge in both teachers and students were the main problems identified by teachers for adopting computers in education
9. **Necessity of having a trained IT teacher** with sufficient up-to-date knowledge was expressed by most teachers.

Based on the key findings and observations, DEF will be providing **recommendations** and developing a **business plan** for the successful implementation of the TATA-MIT Initiative.



Figure 1: Mizo High School with one of the best computer labs



Figure 2: Computers damaged due to rains/damp being left unused and unrepaired in the computer lab

