Letter to Potential Study Participants

Dear [insert name of potential participant/organization contact]

We are reaching out to you regarding a research project on evaluating education technology for developing countries. This is a collaborative effort between the Comprehensive Initiative for Technology Evaluation (CITE) program at MIT, and IIM, Ahmedabad. As a developer/user of education technology, we would like to invite you to be a part of a pilot study we are conducting as part of the project.

The goal of the project is to develop and test a comprehensive framework that can be used to evaluate technologies aimed at enhancing education in developing countries. The need for such a framework arises from the failure of several technology-based initiatives in education that have failed to take into account socio-cultural factors that have hindered their adoption and/or effectiveness.

The framework developed as part of this project aims to thoroughly review all aspects of an education technology intervention that could inform one about the feasibility of it being adopted and used effectively in a specific context, and in turn measures that could be taken to enhance effectiveness of the intervention. By looking at the adoption from the perspective of various stakeholders, and at technical as well as socio-cultural levels, we hope both educational leaders and developers of education technology can make more informed decisions through this framework.

The pilot study would involve using the framework to evaluate the technology you are currently developing/looking to adopt. It will require data collection from the various stakeholders around the technology intervention, including teachers, students, school management, political stakeholders, software developers, as well as the community around the school that might be affected by this change. Any findings from the study will of course be shared with you, and the knowledge gained by you in using the framework should be valuable in future endeavors as well.

The study will take place over the next 1-2 months, with possible follow-ups if needed.

Sincerely,

Prateek Shah, Lead Researcher