

**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN  
NON-BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH**

**Developing a Framework to Evaluate Educational Technologies for  
Effectiveness and Fit in Developing-world Learning Environments**

Non-minors Consent Form

You are asked to participate in a research study conducted by Scot Osterweil, Principal Investigator and Educational Researcher, from the Comparative Media Studies Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you are currently participating in the implementation of education technology as a Software Developer, School Administrator, Teacher or Student. You should read the information below, and ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether or not to participate.

• **PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are free to choose whether to be in it or not. If you choose to be in this study, you may subsequently withdraw from it at any time without penalty or consequences of any kind. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

• **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

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.

• **PROCEDURES**

If you volunteer to participate in this study, we would ask you to do the following things:

You will be asked to answer a series of questions related to the use of technology in your institution/classroom/community. These questions will either be asked during interviews or through written questionnaires. Interviews and/or written questionnaires will take no more than 90 minutes to complete. They will occur at the workplace locations of the study participants (if this is possible). They may also occur at a mutually agreed upon location if the workplace is not feasible for some reason.

- **POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS**

This is a study of the usefulness of a piece of technology, not the competence of the institutions, teachers, or students who use it. Please know that you are not the subject of this study. The study is focused on determining an institution's readiness for adopting a new technology.

- **POTENTIAL BENEFITS**

Benefits to participants in the study include learning about a new and interesting educational technology and about ways to better judge the 'fit' of a particular technology within a learning environment.

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- **PAYMENT FOR PARTICIPATION**

Subjects will not receive payment for participation in this study.

- **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law.

We may ask you for permission to audio- or videotape your interviews. If so, we will obtain prior written consent from you to do so and you will have the right to review/edit the tapes, know who will have access to them, how they will be used, and when they will be erased.

Personal information will not be identified and will be stored on a password-protected computer. No data collected will be reported publicly. Collected data will only be used to revise the existing framework/questionnaire.

- **IDENTIFICATION OF INVESTIGATORS**

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Scot Osterweil: Principal Investigator, (Phone: 617-324-3652), Comparative Media Studies Department, E15-315, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.

- **EMERGENCY CARE AND COMPENSATION FOR INJURY**

If you feel you have suffered an injury, which may include emotional trauma, as a result of participating in this study, please contact the person in charge of the study as soon as possible.

In the event you suffer such an injury, M.I.T. may provide itself, or arrange for the provision of, emergency transport or medical treatment, including emergency treatment and follow-up care, as needed, or reimbursement for such medical services. M.I.T. does not provide any other form of compensation for injury. In any case, neither the offer to provide medical assistance, nor the actual provision of medical services shall be considered an admission of fault or acceptance of liability. Questions regarding this policy may be directed to MIT's Insurance Office, (617) 253-2823. Your insurance carrier may be billed for the cost of emergency transport or medical treatment, if such services are determined not to be directly related to your participation in this study.

- **RIGHTS OF RESEARCH SUBJECTS**

You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. If you feel you have been treated unfairly, or you have questions regarding your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Chairman of the Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects, M.I.T., Room E25-143B, 77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139, phone 1-617-253 6787.

**SIGNATURE OF RESEARCH SUBJECT OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE**

I understand the procedures described above. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Subject

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Legal Representative (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Subject or Legal Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR**

In my judgment the subject is voluntarily and knowingly giving informed consent and possesses the legal capacity to give informed consent to participate in this research study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Investigator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date