What is Question Box?

“What Question Box is an elegant shortcut to... ‘wiring people for change: social, economic and political...’”
UK Sunday Telegraph

“What Question Box is a really good example of how the net can extend beyond the physical boundaries of its wires...”
Question Box on Boing Boing

“Internet access is out of the question, especially in villages where electricity, and literacy, are in short supply. Now there’s an experiment to try to change that...”
As featured in ABC News
Question Box

Operation of Question Box

• Push the green button
• Connect to the Operator
• Ask Question
• Operator Searches
• Operator Gives Answer
• Happy User!

An Open Mind Project

www.questionbox.org
Why Question Box

Less than 5% of Indians are active Internet users, only 9 million Internet subscriptions

Mobile access & usage is exploding
- Indians adding 8 million mobile subscriptions monthly.

Only approx half of Indians are literate

25% of the developing world’s children are not in school

Bottom line: India & much of developing world are not going to access information via reading

www.questionbox.org
### Question Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Return User?</th>
<th>What was the question?</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Square root of 25</td>
<td>i am giving ans=5</td>
<td>i was not search anywhere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Lona related to which sports?</td>
<td>i was serching lona sports. and it is related to kabbadi.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.goindiago.com/sports/kabaddi/kabaddi1.htm">www.goindiago.com/sports/kabaddi/kabaddi1.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>He asked me India vs Australia match score.</td>
<td>i replied him ,match score india vs Australia,INDIA=210/5Overs 30</td>
<td><a href="http://www.action8cricket.com/Watch_Live_Cricket_Score.htm">www.action8cricket.com/Watch_Live_Cricket_Score.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>She asked me pumpkin price of ghaziabad?</td>
<td>I replied her pumpkin price is 320 rs/quintel.</td>
<td><a href="http://agmarknet.nic.in/SearchCmmMkt.asp">http://agmarknet.nic.in/SearchCmmMkt.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>He asked me the information of LLB entrance form of ccs university declared</td>
<td>i was giving the ans no LLB entrance form not declared</td>
<td><a href="http://ccsum.com/result/result.asp">http://ccsum.com/result/result.asp</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps

**Develop next gen Question Box**
- Solar Power Pilot
- Mobile Phone Backbone

**Large Scale Trials**
- Probably in ICT centers

**Learn:**
- Mass hardware deployment & maintenance
- Managing teams of Operators
- Develop a more advanced backend system
- Willingness to pay, as the centers will be manned & therefore can collect payments
- Economics of running the service at a larger scale
- Research Question Box use in new contexts
- Direct calls to Operator from user mobiles

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Thank You!

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