



# Centre for Civil Society

## Social Change through Public Policy

[www.ccs.in](http://www.ccs.in)

### REDUCING WASTE, FRAUD & ABUSE IN PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

CCS is improving the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs and building an informed citizenry through public policy meets, dialogues, research and publications.

#### AREAS OF WORK

- **New Public Management (NPM):** To improve public administration through values of a lean state, free markets and performance orientation.
- **Ward Level Management:** To empowers local representatives by decentralizing the administration.
- **Duty to Publish:** To advocate inclusion and expansion of suo moto publication of information by all government agencies and to mainstream a quantitative index to measure its compliance.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM):** To facilitate urban reforms across the nation
- **Citizen Handbooks:** To research the reality of public governance, an innovative step towards ensuring citizen participation in India.

*"It's wonderful to see the youth participate in such programs. Let me know what you are looking forward to in the next couple of years because that will be of great help to me. Encouragement is what I get when I know there are people interested and thinking about better governance because we really need to see people say that this is better than the best. It's your aspirations we need to fulfill, not our own."*

**Sheila Dikshit**, Chief Minister of Delhi

### DEVELOPING NEW LEADERS WITH NEW IDEAS

Since its inception, CCS has challenged conventional wisdom and inspired young minds to look deeper into root causes of India's problems and understand the impact of public policy on citizens through its **Liberty & Society (LSS)** and **I, Society & Public Policy (ISPP)** seminars and research internships. Armed with critical thinking, many of its graduates in colleges and leadership positions are contributing towards improving the state of governance in India and are spreading the message of liberty.

To expand its services to the media, CCS conducts **Business Journalism Workshops** and **Certificate Courses on Public Policy for Journalists** with an aim to increase the quality of ethical and informed reporting.

CCS organizes Policy Roundtables, a means of engaging with legislators on issues of national importance in order to address the existing gaps between policy research and policy making.

*"A transforming experience! The issues of livelihood and matters of public policy that I never had the chance to seriously ponder upon, have now set my mind racing..."*

**Tripti Bhatia**, CCS Intern 2009

*"The Researching Reality Toolkit shared by CCS is one of the best tools especially for journalists to ensure a sound understanding of issues and problems and would help us a great deal in writing article in the future."*

**Swayam Prakash**, Resident Editor, Prabhat Khabar (Patna)

### AZADI.ME: BRINGING THE BEST OF LIBERAL THINKING TO HINDIBHASIS

On the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of India's Independence, CCS launched [www.azadi.me](http://www.azadi.me), India's first Liberal Portal in Hindi as a resource bank for thinkers and as a medium to communicate with policy makers and the Hindi media.

The portal is a first step on the path of *Azadi* or *Swatantrata* (liberty or freedom) across all three dimensions of personal freedom, political freedom, and economic freedom.

Three broad categories provide extensive information and interactive avenues to connect the reader: Classics (literary works of some of the best known liberal thinkers and writers from around the world) Commentary (news, views and reviews of current issues) and Public Policy (analysis of legislations, campaigns and ideas for innovative and sustainable policy solutions).

Website: [www.azadi.me](http://www.azadi.me)

*"What the Hindi Media has left behind for decades now due to various parameters and forces, Azadi.me has taken up. I feel Azadi.me would open up minds and avenues and bring to light some interesting and key global developments and enable the common man to liberate himself from all that is holding him back."*

**Shravan Garg**, Group Editor, Dainik Bhaskar.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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*"Centre for Civil Society is doing a wonderful service in spreading the message of economic freedom, education choice and good governance. Its public policy solutions have great potential for leading India out of poverty, towards high quality education and a government that is efficient and effective. I am proud to be associated with CCS."*

**Gurcharan Das**, Author of India Unbound and former CEO, Procter and Gamble



CCS was ranked among the **Top 8 Think Tanks in Asia** in 2008 by a study conducted by the University of Pennsylvania

Performing Arts for School Choice won the **Templeton Freedom Award for Initiative in Public Relations** in 2009

Livelihood Freedom Campaign won the **Templeton Freedom Award for Free Market Solutions to Poverty** in 2005

I, Society & Public Policy Seminar (previously known as Liberty & Society Seminar (LSS)) won the **Templeton Freedom Award for Excellence in Student Outreach** in 2003



Established on 15 August 1997, the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) is an independent, non-profit public policy think tank devoted to improving the quality of life for all citizens of India by reviving and reinvigorating civil society. Through its award winning programs, CCS is a resource for innovative community and market based ideas for sound public policy solutions, particularly in the areas of education, livelihood, governance and environment. By bringing these ideas to current and future leaders, CCS is advancing opportunity and prosperity for all Indians.

*“Centre for Civil Society is serving a vital role in facilitating India’s movement from a centralized economy to a free private enterprise economy. Its numerous seminars and publications spread understanding...its imaginative projects are guiding and affecting policy.”*

**Milton Friedman**, Nobel Laureate in Economics

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

School Choice Campaign (SCC) advocates policy reform ideas to improve quality and access to education especially for the poor. By working with policy makers, education experts and grass root level activists, SCC is focused on:

- Expanding choice and competition through school vouchers
- Pedagogical and operational autonomy to government schools
- Converting state funding to per student basis
- Delicensing, deregulation and decentralisation

SCC work spans across seven states- Delhi, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar. We have entered into long-term partnerships with 250 member NGOs in these states to take the message of school choice to the people, politicians and above all, policy makers.

### CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Reached out to more than 1, 21, 00, 000 parents directly and collected **27,38,651** signatures on petitions seeking school vouchers for their children through mass campaigns in 6 states.
- ▶ Run India’s first school voucher pilots, **Delhi Voucher Project** (2007) and **School Vouchers for Girls** (2009) enabling 806 children from poor families in Delhi to go to a school of their choice.

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

▶ Organise **STUDENT FIRST!** Dialogue Series on Quality Education for All – a monthly forum for debate by the nation’s foremost experts on national education policies and solutions to problems of quality in the education sector.

▶ Run **Action for School Admission Reforms** (ASAR) since 2008, a helpdesk for parents to lodge complaints, even anonymously, against unscrupulous schools to ensure fair and transparent school admissions in Delhi.

▶ Conduct **My Vote, My Choice!** campaign in the lead up to general elections to create political awareness on the disparities in educational opportunities. School Choice mascots (in colorful school uniforms) carrying two props, a hand and a pencil with the slogans **“If we can choose our governments... why can’t we choose our schools?”** interact with voters at election rallies, political meetings and public places.

Website: [www.schoolchoice.in](http://www.schoolchoice.in)

*“Centre for Civil Society is playing an important role in guiding policy reforms in the field of education. I particularly appreciate their concept of ‘Fund Students, Not Schools’ which holds great potential for ensuring quality education for India’s children.”*

**Arvinder Singh Lovely**, Delhi Education Minister

## REMOVING BARRIERS TO LIVELIHOOD

### JEEVIKA CAMPAIGN: LAW, LIBERTY & LIVELIHOOD

After the 1991 liberalization, the poor have not gained as much as the rich. For them, it has been all LPQ (Licenses, Permits and Quotas) and little LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization). People working in the informal sector (hawkers, cycle rickshaw pullers, small shop owners and many others) still suffer under the weight of regulations and lack basic economic freedom in the areas of their livelihood. Through research, publications, campaigns and innovative outreach programs on ground, CCS campaigns for review, revision and removal of regulatory barriers that condemn the poor working in entry level professions to lifelong illegality and poverty. The campaign envisions achieving legal recognition for the informal sector entrepreneurs so that they can focus on their livelihood activities without undue harassment and humiliations by public authorities or private mafia. As a part of the Jeevika Campaign, CCS also organizes **‘Jeevika: Asia Livelihood Documentary Festival’** which aims at capturing the livelihood challenges faced by the rural and urban poor across Asia, identifying and bringing to light policies and social, religious and cultural practices which prevent people from earning an honest living. The ultimate objective of Jeevika is to advocate with policy makers for changes in policies and with social leaders for changes in practices that can have far reaching impact on the lives of the poor.

Website: [www.jeevika.org](http://www.jeevika.org)



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[www.jeevika.org](http://www.jeevika.org), [www.azadi.me](http://www.azadi.me)