



Liberal Youth Forum Kick Starts Its Programs with Seminar in Delhi



The first Liberty and Society seminar was organized by Liberal Youth Forum- India and its partner, Prabodh with the support of FNF

Liberal Youth Forum-India in association with Prabodh (a Delhi based youth group) organized a three-day seminar from 1-3 Oct 2008, USO house, in New Delhi. The objective of the program was to engage and involve youth towards active citizenship. Ideas of liberalism were introduced by generating debate on critical issues like personal and economic freedom, good governance, rule of law and Public policy. The event was sponsored by Friedrich Naumann Stiftung- Fur Die Freiheit.

The seminar saw 20 bright young minds deliberating productive discussions on a host of issues. The workshop format was highly interactive and participants contributed enthusiastically. Sauvik Chakraborti and Amrita Johari delivered relevant lectures, which provided food for thought to budding liberals. Civil society organizations like Centre for Civil Society added value to the seminar by detailing out their ongoing School Choice program.

Documentaries like 'Tale of Night fairies' by Shohini Ghosh and 'As You Like it' by Rommani Sen were screened to spark off debates on issues of personal freedom. Another documentary by 'Satark Nagarik Sangathan' showed the participants how slum dwellers of Delhi used the Right To Information act (RTI) to hold their elected representatives accountable.



Group exercises helped participants in articulating actionable expressions. In an interesting series of skits, groups of participants were asked to pick a policy and evaluate it. The groups chose relevant topics like 'Shop timing in Delhi', 'Age consideration for selling alcohol', and 'sanitation in Delhi'.

A mind-jog activity on the principles of Rule of law helped participants to draw out arguments about Rights vs. development and rights of an accused vs. convict.

They also actively presented their points of view on topics like "Right to Death", "Sexuality", "Freedom to trade, "education reforms" etc.

Representatives from FNF and LYF India introduced the participants to the liberal youth movement in India and its various avenues.

The workshop was a successful debut attempt to reach out to youth in Delhi and similar programs will be organized by Liberal Youth Forum and its partners, Pratigya and Center for Public Policy and Research (CPPR) with FNF's support in Jharkhand and Kerala.

LYF India is a movement of young individuals, informal groups and formal associations collaborating to create access and choice in social, cultural, economic, political and environmental spheres for a freer and more prosperous India
