

I Society & Public Policy Seminar

22-24 Jan 2010

Yusuf Sadan, New Delhi



"The seminar has definitely stimulated me and been a topic I cannot stop discussing with my peers and family!"

Nayantara Shaunik, Political Science,
Venkateswara College, DU

It was a good opportunity for me to share the experiences of the Afghan youth; also I've learnt from Indian youth and will try to adopt it for betterment of our vulnerable young community.

Mayel Enayatullah, British School of Languages
Afghanistan



We saw the completion of yet another terrific youth seminar on 24 January 2010 giving the year an excellent kick-start for the Centre for Civil Society (CCS). The I, Society & Public Seminar is designed for the youth, especially students. Seminar sessions were focused on analyzing problems of society and identifying the (public) policies responsible for it. Issues were looked upon from a broader perspective and examples from other countries cited to simplify things. The program was a mix of panel discussions, working groups, role plays, open forums and interesting short activities and energizers.

The Seminar started with a session on CCS followed by introductions of all the participants and their expectations from the seminar. In the next session titled 'Who am I?' students delved deeper into themselves to reflect on their past and shared their life's experiences with each other. One of the key aspects of this seminar is to encourage young people to be more receptive to other opinions and ideas. This session enabled them to share their personal experiences with co-participants.



The next important session was 'Why is India poor?' CCS President Dr. Parth J Shah asked the participants what they thought the reasons behind India's poverty were and then broke all stereotypical opinions like corruption, over population etc. This session was crucial to stimulate the participants to think about the real reasons for poverty in India. The discussions during the session helped participants understand the importance of economic freedom as it brought to light various viewpoints to break free of all pre-conceived notions.

The other important sessions included discussions on the effect of wrong public policy on the environment, the principles of a sound public policy, documentary screenings and group discussions. Nidhi Arora from Dhriti conducted a session on entrepreneurship where she explained the role of entrepreneurs and encouraged the young participants to take up entrepreneurial projects.

Participants Profile



38 students from 11 cities representing some of the most sought after colleges and institutions in India like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Lady Sri Ram College, Symbiosis Institute, St. Stephens, Punjab University, London School of Economics etc participated in the Seminar. Participants were a mix of technical and non technical students from varying backgrounds (Economics, Law, Engineering, Medical, Media etc).



During the course of the seminar, students were engaged in designing public policies on a few issues, on the basis of which the best group was awarded a prize. The Seminar concluded with a session where all the participants shared ideas on how they could keep in touch with CCS and be involved with our programs and activities and help in spreading the message of freedom and liberty in the days ahead.

Schedule

<i>22/Jan</i>	<i>Friday</i>	Speaker/Facilitator
9:00	Registration	
9:30	Introduction & Expectations	Manoj Mathew & Shabi Hussain
11:00	Tea Break	
11:30	Who am I?	Swati Chawla
2:00	Why is India Poor?	Parth J Shah
4:00	Tea Break/Group Photo	
4:30	Economic Freedom: The Forgotten Human Right	Prashant Narang
6:00	Break	
6:30	Documentary Screening	
<i>23/Jan</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	
9:00	Public Policy & Principles	Parth & Swati
11:00	Tea Break	
11:30	Entrepreneur of Tomorrow - Is that You	Nidhi Arora
2:00	Environment: The Tragedy of The Collective	Parth J Shah
4:00	Tea Break	
4:30	Designing Public Policy	Working Groups
6:00	Break	
6:30	Documentary Screening	
<i>24/Jan</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	
9:00	New Public Management	Parth J Shah
11:00	Break	
11:30	Graduate Activity: What Next?	Shabi Hussain
12:00	Reflection	Swati Chawla
2:00	CCS Café	CCS Team & Volunteers
4:00	ISPP Index Analysis	Parth J Shah
5:00	Closing Ceremony	Shabi Hussain
5:30	Departure	