

## **Activities Report 2003-04**

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**Submitted by Centre for Civil Society**

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### **Centre for Civil Society**

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## Educational Programs

### **CREATING 2715 NEW THINKERS!!**

#### **Residential Seminars**

- **Liberty & Society Seminars (LSS)**

The LSS aims to provide college students and recent graduates a greater understanding of the society, economy and culture within the classical liberal framework which emphasises limited government, rule of law, free trade and individual rights.

We conducted five seminars all over India in 2003. We received applications received from across India. For instance, participants travelled from Amritsar, Pune, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, and Chennai for the LSS in Bhopal.

**Table 1: LSSs in 2003**

|   | <b>City</b>  | <b>Number of Participants</b> | <b>Applications Received</b> |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Bhubaneswar  | 34                            | 42                           |
| 2 | New Delhi    | 42                            | 74                           |
| 3 | Cochin       | 43                            | 85                           |
| 4 | Bhopal       | 37                            | 59                           |
| 5 | Ahmedabad    | 38                            | 62                           |
|   | <b>Total</b> | <b>194*</b>                   | <b>322</b>                   |

The format includes lectures by academics, development professionals, media, CCS staff; working groups; documentary screenings and discussions and field trips. We conducted very enriching fieldtrips. In Ahmedabad with SEWA (Self-employed Women's Association), we visited their vegetable stall in the Agricultural Marketing Committee and also the SEWA Mahila Bank. In LSS Bhubaneswar, we conducted a field visit to the village Jagannathpur, to study the relief work done after the cyclone by CYSD (Centre for Youth and Sustainable Development). The local participants could converse with the villagers in Oriya and were translating their conversations with the entire group.

Distinguished speakers included Tathagata Satpathy, Ashok V Desai, TH Chowdary, Arvind Kejriwal, Ashraf Patel, Swaminathan Aiyar, TCA Anant, Jayanth Varma, Sudarshan Iyengar.

Our seminars in Bhubaneswar, Cochin, Bhopal and Ahmedabad were covered in local and national media, such as *Education Times*, *The Hindu*, *City Express*, *Indian Express*, *Metro Manorama*, *Mathrubhumi*, *Malayalam Manorama*, *Bhopal Today*, *Central Chronicle*, *Dainik Bhaskar*, *Hindustan Times Bhopal Live*.

#### *Feedback*

"Coming to LSS was like opening a Pandora's box of economics for an engineering graduate like me...If asked I could have pages of compliments. It was magnificent and well-done."

Vinay Kittur, LSS Bhubaneswar

"You have actually inspired me to start a revolution and move for social and economic freedom in our country."

Nupur Verma, LSS New Delhi

"To be bombarded with so many new ideas in such a short period of time is exasperating, yet, I feel I am a more enlightened person, more liberalistic in my view than before."

Ramu S, LSS Cochin

"Change in thought, in society, in human relations is inevitable. The LSS experts have brought to the fore ideas which have driven our century and will continue to mould us for centuries to come. It has certainly added to my awareness."

Ankur Gupta, LSS Bhopal

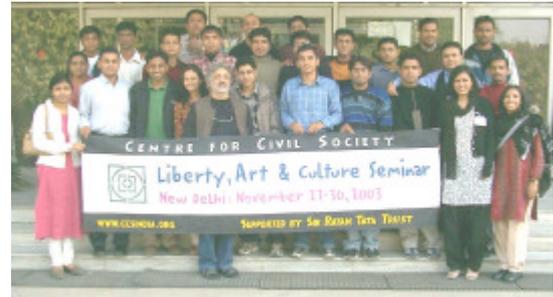
### Follow-up

- We conducted a *Competition* among LSS Graduates on the application of their learning at the LSS in their lives.
- We are started a quarterly e-newsletter, *E-Catalyst* along with the help of Yavnika (LSS Delhi 2003).

More details at [www.ccsindia.org/lss.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/lss.htm)

- **Liberty, Arts & Culture Seminar: November 27-30, 2003, New Delhi**

LACS is a four-day residential seminar for students of mass communications, media, journalism, & creative arts. It aims to provide a greater understanding of society and culture within the classical liberal framework that emphasises limited government, rule of law, free trade, and individual rights.



Sessions included: *Creativity, Liberty & Culture, Of Poverty & Prosperity, Indian Puppetry: Who Pulls the Strings?, War & Peace: Film Screening, Censorship & Freedom in India, Media & Society, Intellectual Property Rights for Arts & Literature, State Patronage of Art & Culture in India, Ugly & Immoral Market?, Economic Reforms Through Bollywood and documentaries like Greed and Sex, Drugs & Consenting Adults.*

Eminent personalities who engaged the students were Anand Patwardhan (Documentary film-maker), Dadi Pudumjee (Puppeteer), Juliet Reynolds (Art Critic & film maker), Ritu Menon (Kali for Women), K Jayakumar (Secy, Department of Culture, Govt of India), Sanjay Tandon (Indian Performing Rights Society), Amir Ullah Khan (India Development Foundation and theatre personality), and Umesh Anand (Editor, *Civil Society*).

For program details please visit [www.ccsindia.org/lacs.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/lacs.htm)

- **Advanced Liberty & Society Seminar** (December 25-28, 2003, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, Number of Participants: 20)

An advanced level seminar for graduates of CCS seminars.

For program details, please visit [www.ccsindia.org/alss2003.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/alss2003.htm)

### **(B) Non-residential Seminars**

- **Seminars in Kashmir**

We have successfully conducted one-day seminars in two colleges in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir with the help of Mr Arjimand Hussain Talib, Chairman, HIMAYAT (Himalayan Mission for Advocacy, Youth Awareness and Training). Given the tense political situation in Kashmir, we were advised by the local coordinator to avoid the use of the title, "Liberty & Society" for the seminar as it had different connotation for the locals. 'Liberty' in that state means 'freedom from India!' Hence, we chose to name the one-day seminars, "Path to Prosperity."

Both the colleges, Government College for Women and Amar Singh College (men's college), are among the top five colleges in Srinagar. The Seminar at the Women's College was inaugurated by Mr Muzaffar Hussain Beig, Minister of Finance, Law, Parliamentary Affairs, &

Planning, who is a law graduate from Harvard University and a Supreme Court lawyer in India. In his address, Mr Beig said that this was the first time a seminar was organised that explicitly discussed liberal philosophy behind liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation. He asked that we do such seminars regularly and at more colleges around the state.

## Path to Prosperity

### Government College for Women, Srinagar: June 26, 2003

|       |  |  |
|-------|--|--|
| 10:30 | <b>Introduction</b>  | Arjimand Hussain Talib<br><i>Chairman, HIMAYAT</i>   |
| 10:45 | <b>Welcome Address</b>   | Mrs Mehmooda Shafi<br><i>Principal</i>   |
| 11:00 | <b>J&amp;K: Encouraging Private Enterprise-Government's Priorities</b> | Muzaffar Hussain Beig<br><i>Minister for State for Finance, Law, Parliamentary Affairs, &amp; Planning</i> |
| 11:15 | Tea Break  |  |
| 11:45 | <b>Population:<br/>The Ultimate Resource</b>                           | Sauvik Chakraverti<br><i>Centre for Civil Society</i>  |
| 1:00  | Lunch Break  |  |
| 1:30  | <b>Environment:<br/>The Tragedy of the Commons</b>                     | Parth J Shah<br><i>Centre for Civil Society</i>  |
| 3:00  | Questions and conclusion   |  |



*Parth J Shah addressing students at Government College for Women*



*Students of Amar Singh College*

#### Media Coverage

- Greater Kashmir, June 29, 2003 [http://www.ccsindia.org/news\\_srinagar.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/news_srinagar.htm)
- Greater Kashmir, June 27, 2003 [http://www.ccsindia.org/news\\_srinagar2.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/news_srinagar2.htm)

#### Follow-up

The students were very interested to follow-up after the seminar. They are quite keen to take up research projects on local issues, such as economic consequences of banning trade in *shahtoosh* shawls, which are made from an endangered animal, *chiru* or the ways in which one of their biggest lakes, the Dal Lake, can be conserved and cleaned through market principles.

#### • Karnataka Seminars

Local Coordinator: Mr Arun Mascarenhas, Friends of Freedom, Mangalore Chapter

Arun and other graduates of our Liberty & Society Seminars at Chennai (2001) and Bangalore (2002) have formed an active group, "Friends of Freedom" in their town, Mangalore in Karnataka, Southern India. From three founder members, their membership has grown to 15 active members.

They conducted seminars for school students, college students, media, and civil servants in various cities in the state of Karnataka in Mangalore, Karnataka.

*Period: February 26-March 6*

| <b>Date</b>           | <b>Venue</b>  | <b>Audience</b>                                  | <b>Number of Participants</b> | <b>Title of Sessions</b>   |
|-----------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| February 26           | Canara College, Mangalore                               | College Students                                 | 200                           | Population: The Ultimate Resource  |
| February 28           | St Aloysius College, Mangalore                          | College Students                                 | 300                           | Population: The Ultimate Resource  |
| March 2               | Coorg Public School Gonikoppal, Coorg                   | School Students Grade 8,9 10                     | 100                           | Population: The Ultimate Resource  |
| March 4-5             | Indian Institute of Journalism and New Media, Bangalore | College students and faculty                     | 30 students and all faculty   | Population: The Ultimate Resource<br>Crisis of Collective Choice<br>Environment: Tragedy of the Commons<br>New Public Management |
| March 6               | Bangalore Agenda Task Force, Bangalore                  | Media, Commissioners of Municipality, and guests | 60                            | New Public Management  |
| <b>TOTAL OUTREACH</b> |   |  | <b>700</b>                    |  |

*Media Coverage:*

- *Deccan Herald Bangalore*, March 6 [http://www.ccsindia.org/news\\_sauvik\\_dh\\_bng.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/news_sauvik_dh_bng.htm)
- *City Express Bangalore*, March 7

*Period: September 1-4*

| <b>Date</b>           | <b>Venue</b>                 | <b>Audience</b>  | <b>Participants</b> | <b>Title of Sessions</b>                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---|
| Sept 1                | St Agnes Degree College      | College Students | 120                 | Population Causes Prosperity                          |
| Sept 2                | SDM Law College              | College Students | 150                 | Rule of Law Society                                   |
| Sept 2                | Roshni School of Social Work | College Students | 69                  | Population Causes Prosperity                          |
| Sept 3                | St Agnes PU College          | College students | 140                 | Population Causes Prosperity                          |
| Sept 3                | St Agnes College             | Faculty          | 20                  | Education: Role of Markets                            |
| Sept 3                | Canara PU College            | College students | 80                  | Population Causes Prosperity                          |
| Sept 4                | College for Leadership & HRD | College students | 13                  | Population Causes Prosperity<br>New Public Management |
| Sept 4                | Roshni School of Social Work | College Students | 90                  | Population Causes Prosperity                          |
| <b>TOTAL OUTREACH</b> |                              |                  | <b>682</b>          |   |

Arun submitted a detailed report with photographs on the series of seminars conducted which is reproduced in parts below.

"On Sept 1, 2003, I had arranged seminar in St. Agnes College, a premier institution of Mangalore and it was the first women's college in Mangalore, started about 120 years ago by missionaries...The seminar started by an introduction of Sauvik by Sushanth Salian (LSS Chennai 2001). The seminar went on for more than three hours, shattering all the false concepts in the students' mind. The students were taken by storm, at the end of the seminar, the students agreed that they were taught wrong by their text books. All of us were taken by surprise when Mr. D'Souza (Head of Department, economics) came forward and grabbed the mike and said, '**I am sorry students, forgive me as I have been teaching wrong things to you till today. And I am telling all this to you from my heart.**' Even after the seminar the students and the lecturers came to the staff room where Sauvik was having tea and inquired more and put their doubts forward in trying to gain more knowledge...About 120 students had attended this seminar.

On September 1, 2003, I arranged seminar for Sauvik in SDM Law College. We were welcomed by Principal Professor Rajendra Shetty and Vice Principal, Dr BK Ravindra, the seminar started at about 10 am in the morning with a total strength of 150 students. The topic was 'Rule of law society.' Students were dumbstruck with this new concept taught to them. Most of them liked it, even the lecturers liked this and one of them was keen on purchasing *Law and Economics* by Ullen and Cooter. Sauvik gave importance to Rent Control Act and Principal of strict liability. Property rights were also explained with examples like Ayodhya Issue and recent ban on cow slaughter in India...And what 5 years could not give them, 3 hours of seminar gave them, lot of knowledge imparted into the next generation lawyers.

2 September afternoon at 2.15 we reached Roshni School of Social Work, greeted by Principal Sr. Jacintha D'Souza and Professor Rita. This seminar was for students of Masters of Social Work. The topic was 'Population Causes Prosperity.' The students asked questions on globalisation and its impact of India, and many more questions like, why text books teaches us nonsense? Even this seminar was a success, and students were so impressed with Sauvik that after seminar they clicked snaps with Sauvik. Later on Prof. Rita discussed with Sauvik about having a meeting with Mayor of Mangalore on morning on September 4 and Principal also asked us to conduct one more seminar on 4<sup>th</sup> afternoon for their undergraduate students.

On 3 September morning we went to St. Agnes PU College, we were welcomed by Professor Surma Vijay Kumar economics lecturer in the junior college. The principal asked me to conduct one more seminar for all the lecturers, even science lecturers attended the second seminar which started at about 11.45 am and went on till 1.45 in the afternoon, nearly two hours. This seminar was also a huge success and I owe all this to Prof. Surma Vijay Kumar.

3<sup>rd</sup> afternoon we had a seminar in Canara PU College, the founder of this college was also the founder of Canara Bank. The principal Professor Gopal Nair welcomed us and lead us to a seminar hall of about 80 students were present, all the PU students were present. The students were interested in this topic and at the end of the seminar they said they wanted to join the Centre for Civil Society as members. Prof. Gopal Nair said that they were interested in having another seminar for the students, and I had to say sorry as Sauvik had to return to Bangalore on 4<sup>th</sup> night and all the days till 4<sup>th</sup> were booked.

4<sup>th</sup> morning we had meeting with Mayor of Mangalore, this was the day I was waiting for, thanks to Prof. Rita of School of Social work...The Mayor started with saying that he wanted to run the city on new principal but also wanted to solve the street vender's problems, Sauvik gave numbers suggestions on running the city and Mayor was much impressed with the new ideas and he was keen to have a seminar for the cooperators next time, he also took the book on New Public Management even the finance officer was much interested in this, he also took another copy of 'New Public Management'. Prof. Rita said that she wanted to have a seminar for all the NGO's in Mangalore.

The Mayor stated that he will surely have a seminar for the office bearers of the city corporation and the seminar would also include Deputy Commissioner, the IGP and SP of the Police.

Next at 11.30 am we had a seminar in CLHRD College (College for Leadership and Human Resource Development). Sauvik spoke on 'Population causes prosperity' and on 'New Public Management' it was continuous talk till 2.45 in the afternoon. The principal Prof. Sharma thanked us for the seminar and the brilliant seminar organised by " Friends of Freedom" and also welcomed us for another seminar in his College.

At about 3.15 in the afternoon we had the last seminar of the week; it was organised for the undergraduate students and lecturers of School of Social Work. The topic was 'Population causes prosperity.' The seminar went on till 5.00 in the evening. It was attended by 90 students, most of them were economics students. About 5 lecturers also attended this seminar."

A series of seminars was also conducted in December-January 2004.

#### Media Coverage

- "Urban Societies should govern themselves", *The Hindu*, November 4, 2003
- "India Should Adopt New Public Management, says Expert"

#### • Jaipur, Rajasthan

Local Coordinator: **Mr B L Bajaj**, a retired IAS (Indian Administrative Service) Officer  
Mr Bajaj is a staunch liberal after working in and looking at the government closely.

- *Economics in One Lesson Seminar: Subodh Institute of Management & Career Studies, August 9, 2003.*

### Economics in One Lesson Subodh Institute of Management & Career Studies August 9, 2003



|       |  |                    |
|-------|--|--------------------|
| 9:30  | Introduction                                   |                    |
| 10:00 | <b>Population: The Ultimate Resource</b>       | Sauvik Chakraverti |
| 11:30 | Break  |                    |
| 11:45 | <b>Environment: The Tragedy of the Commons</b> | Parth J Shah       |
| 1:00  | Lunch  |                    |
| 2:00  | <b>Why is India Poor?</b>                      | Parth J Shah       |
| 4:00  | <b>CCS Presentation</b>                        | Manali Shah        |

#### Feedback

"Practical approach, try to bring out the irony in our country, and did the program with conviction."

Jyotsana Khandelwal  
MBA I Year

"Population of India is not a problem, but a resource. Trade restrictions, quotas, licenses should be removed so that the people can work freely."

- *New Public Management by Sauvik Chakraverti on August 8, 2003*

*Feedback*

"One of the most informative and interesting seminars I have experienced in the last decade."

Neeraj Gupta  
Urban Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan

"Seminar is very much relevant to present time and very fruitful to administrators, policy makers as well as research scholars and students of public administration."

Nemi Chand Golijaya  
Research Scholar, Jaipur

- *Why is India Poor? by Parth J Shah on August 11, 2003*

*Feedback*

"An excellent analytical presentation, provides solutions to the riddle of 'Why is India Poor?', also a must for bureaucrats. Highly commendable."

B G Sharma  
Retd Secy, Public Works Department, Government of Rajasthan

"Mind boggling, but excellent."

V K Gupta  
Financial Advisor, Government of Rajasthan

"We need substantial economic freedom to prosper."

Anil Juneja  
Joint Director, Audit, Inspection Department, Government of Rajasthan

*Follow-up*

Mr AK Pande, Director of the HCM Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration is very keen for us to design and conduct liberal training workshops for IAS officers in training.

*Media Coverage*

All events were covered extensively in local language (Hindi) newspapers. Mr Bajaj was very efficient in translating our message in Hindi. He now translates all our press releases to Hindi. All newspaper reports can be viewed at

[http://www.ccsindia.org/news\\_jaipur2003.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/news_jaipur2003.htm)

• **Kerala Seminars**

Local Coordinator: **Professor Babu Joseph** (President, Kerala Chapter, Indian Liberal Group)

He organised a series of dialogues with college students and general public in three cities of Kerala. He himself is a hard core libertarian and is working full time towards spreading the freedom virus in Kerala.

- Liberalisation in India: Problems & Prospects, Cochin, September 14, 2003 (Number of Participants: 20)

Media Coverage [www.ccsindia.org/news\\_cochin2003\\_cityexpress.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/news_cochin2003_cityexpress.htm)

- Economics in One Lesson, Cochin, September 15, 2003  
for Aspiring Journalists  
Number of Participants: 24



This Seminar was exclusively organised for selected students of Manorama School of Communication (MASCOM), the school of the *Malayala Manorama* in Kerala.

*Feedback:*

We asked the students to state three main ideas they would take back with them. Some responses:

"Limited government (which is a necessary evil), individual is important, division of labour and specialisation."

Gayathri Jayaraj  
Post Graduate Diploma, Journalism

"Liberalism can turn the mode of society. Through letting others live, we also can live peacefully. Economic freedom is essential for the prosperity of any country."

Shebin Paul  
Post Graduate Diploma, Journalism

- Liberalisation in India: Problems & Prospects, Thrissur, September 15, 2003 (Number of Participants: 35)

- Keepers of Forests: Foresters or Forest Dwellers?, Trivandrum, September 16, 2003

Chairperson: B R P Bhasker, Eminent Journalist & Social Activist

Speakers: Professor M K Prasad, Environmentalist & Scientist and Dr Parth J Shah, President, Centre for Civil Society (Number of Participants: 30)

Media Coverage [http://www.ccsindia.org/news\\_forestry\\_tvm.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/news_forestry_tvm.htm)

Professor MNV Nair, Public Affairs Forum, helped us in publicity, arrangement for venue and tea for the program. We also distributed copies of the paper written for the Forestry Conference earlier organised in March 2003 in New Delhi.

- Autonomy for Colleges & Higher Education Policy (Ashir Bhavan, Kacheripady, Banerji Road, Kochi, December 13-14, Participants: 41 College Professors & Lecturers)

The program was co-sponsored by the Kerala Forum for Higher Education, a group of vice chancellors promoting the cause of college autonomy. Three vice chancellors, Professor Ninan Abraham, Professor Pylee and Professor Vilanilayam spoke at the seminar. The chief guest was Professor Rajagopalan, Madras Christian College (MCC), Chennai. He spoke about MCC's experience with autonomy. Parth discussed issues regarding the appropriate role of government in the field of education in setting curriculum; in rating universities and colleges; funding of education and so on.

- What is seen and what is unseen (Ashir Bhavan, Kacheripady, Banerji Road, Kochi, December 15, Participants: 65 Journalists/ Journalism students)

Many of the students who attended this seminar were excited by the ideas. Since almost none of these students had heard these ideas before there were lots of questions and scepticism. After the seminar many students wanted to learn more about these ideas. They felt that the conditions in Kerala—unemployment, state of the economy and other relevant issues—would improve only by implementing the discussed ideas. Professor Babu Joseph, who was co-ordinating the seminars in Kerala, is contacting the students and following up.

*Feedback*

"Rich in ideas and changed many beliefs"

Ligi Monica VJ, School of Communication & Management Studies, Cochin

"Education and informative, which helped me change my perception about liberalism."

Manjusha Mohandas, Kerala Press Academy, Cochin

"Making previous ideas washed out to an innovative aspect."

Abdul Rasheed P, Kerala Press Academy

"Confusing and contradictory to some pre-conceived notions..."

Vineetha Panikulam, School of Communication & Management Studies, Cochin

"Eye-opening towards human values in India.."

Terry Joey, School of Communication & Management Studies, Cochin

"Good ideas but less time for discussion."

Rousf NP, Kerala Press Academy

- Liberalisation & Women (Women Training Institute, Kottayam, December 17, 50 participants)

Parth delivered a lecture on liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation and how this effects women. The lecture was followed by a discussion and question and answer session.

- Economics in One Lesson Seminar (D C School of Management & Technology, Vagamon in Central Kerala, December 18, Number of participants: 94)

As part of the EOL, the lectures conducted were 'Why is India poor?' and 'Understanding Liberalism'. The participants in this seminar were students of the D C School of Management and Technology (DCSMAT). The dean of DCSMAT, Professor A Sreekumar, is a very enthusiastic supporter of CCS and its work. He is planning on incorporating material from CCS into the regular coursework at DCSMAT. He has in the past encouraged students to apply for the CCS internship and has promised to do so in the future. CCS has requested articles and work by Professor Sreekumar in the area of education for research and publication. CCS will be conducting seminars at DCSMAT in the future. DCSMAT purchased two sets of CCS publications for its library.

- Liberalisation & Labour (Cochin Port Seminar Hall, Cochin, December 21, Number of participants: 25)

This one-day seminar was the most unique of them all. Both CCS and the labour leaders gained a lot from this exercise. Parth gave a presentation on liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation and the impact of these on labour. Throughout the seminar there was considerable give and take of ideas and opinions. Parth's lecture was followed by presentations by various labour leaders on their perspective of the problems and challenges of liberalisation.

- Lectures by Dr Christopher Lingle

Report of the one-day student Leadership Seminar held at Trivandrum Government Arts College on January 23, 2004 by Professor Babu Joseph, CCS coordinator, Kerala

A one-day Students Leadership Seminar was held at Trivandrum Government Arts College on 23-1-04 at the joint initiative of Centre for Civil Society New Delhi, Liberal Group Kerala and the Economics Dept of the College.

**Dr. Christopher Lingle** a visiting professor of Economics at the University of Francisco Marroquin in Guatemala was the Chief Guest. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr D Maya Principal of the Govt Arts college and chaired by Professor N Salim Head of the department of economics.

The Key note address was delivered by Dr Christopher Lingle on the topic "**Globalisation Problems and Prospects**" followed by discussions. About 150 students selected from various College in Trivandrum city and 25 teachers participated in the seminar.

The second talk on **Liberalisation and its contemporary importance** was given by Professor Babu Joseph President Liberal Group, Kerala.

The objective of the one-day seminar was to dispel doubts in the minds of young people about globalisation and its practical problems. The active involvement of the participants in the seminar by way of discussions was sufficient proof that the objective was well served.

Principal requested the Centre for Civil Society and other co-sponsors of the Program to have such seminars in future too Dr Christopher Lingle on his part agreed to visit Kerala again in the month of June and conduct a series of programs in various colleges.

The Liberal Group Kerala requests the Centre for Civil Society to help the Liberal Group: Kerala in this regard and also express our sincere thanks for enabling us to conduct the program by way of faculty availability and financial support.

Babu Joseph (President, Liberal Group-Kerala)

### • Seminars in Northeast

Ms Nandita Hazarika, Eco-Systems India, was our local coordinator for organising seminars in the states of Assam and Meghalaya in the North-eastern region.

The seminars were very engaging as this region is very sensitive and there was a great need among students and faculty to encourage students to critically think about and debate issues.

#### - Liberty & Society Seminar

Venue: Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Guwahati, Assam

Dates: November 4-5, 2003

| November 4 |  |              |
|------------|--|--------------|
| 9:00       | Registration                                 |              |
| 9:30       | Introduction                                 |              |
| 10:00      | <b>Why is India Poor?</b>                    | Parth J Shah |
| 11:30      | Break  |              |
| 12:00      | <b>License Permit Raj: A View from Below</b> | Parth J Shah |
| 1:30       | Lunch  |              |
| 2:30       | <b>Understanding Liberalism</b>              | Raj Cherubal |
| 5:00       | Conclude first day                           |              |

| November 5 |  |              |
|------------|--|--------------|
| 9:00       | <b>New Public Management</b>                   | Parth J Shah |
| 11:00      | Break  |              |
| 11:15      | <b>Environment: Tragedy of the Commons</b>     | Parth J Shah |
| 1:15       | Lunch  |              |
| 2:00       | <b>Role of Greed in Society: A Documentary</b> | Parth J Shah |
| 3:30       | Break  |              |
| 4:00       | <b>You, Freedom, and CCS</b>                   | Raj Cherubal |
|            |  |              |

#### *Feedback*

"The Liberty & Society Seminar should be held every year in every school and college of the city as a student like me is the future of our country and if these ideas are instilled in the minds of each and every individual, then after few years our country will improve in many ways..."

"I expected the seminar would be inter-disciplinary in manner, and discussion would be microlevel study. These were met."

"With my departure, I would like to hear three ideas in my mind, never give my opinion or idea over a topic until I have complete knowledge and reason about it; only being rich and want of wealth does not mean a man is greedy; and last but not the least, whenever CCS conducts another seminar anywhere, I would be there to participate in it."

- Liberty & Society Seminar

Venue: St Edmunds College

| November 7 |   |
|------------|---|
| 8:30       | Registration  |
| 9:00       | Inauguration by Ms Patricia Mukhim ( <i>The Telegraph</i> ) |
| 9:30       | <b>Why is India Poor?</b>                                   |
| 11:00      | Break   |
| 11:30      | <b>Understanding Liberalism</b>                             |
| 1:00       | Lunch   |
| 1:45       | <b>Documentary: Greed</b>                                   |
| 3:15       | Break   |
| 3:30       | <b>Environment: The Tragedy of the Commons</b>              |
| 5:00       | <b>You, Freedom, and CCS</b>                                |
| 5:30       | Close....   |

Read Ms Mukhim's speech at [www.ccsindia.org/speech\\_patricia\\_mukhim.pdf](http://www.ccsindia.org/speech_patricia_mukhim.pdf)

Media coverage: [http://www.ccsindia.org/ccs\\_in\\_news.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/ccs_in_news.htm)

**a. Doordarshan, the local government TV channel covered the event and telecast it on November 7.**

- b. "Seminar on Liberty & Society", *Assam Tribune*, November 12, 2003
- c. "Call to end license-permit raj", *The Telegraph*, November 8, 2003
- d. "Rights and society seminar", *Dainik Janasadhan*, Guwahati, November 2, 2003
- e. "Symposium to be organised", *Dainik Janambhumi*, Guwahati, October 30, 2003
- f. "Seminars", *The Telegraph*, October 23, 2003
- g. "Seminar for Youth", *The Telegraph*, November 4, 2003

- **Economics in One Lesson**, Khandelwal College of Management Science & Technology, Bareilly: February 28, 2004

Kaushal Kishore, a graduate of our Liberty & Society Seminar New Delhi in September 2003, took the initiative of organising a one-day seminar at his Institute. The Director is very keen to have an active follow-up with CCS and develop a long-term relationship. Kaushal is also keen to form a Friends of Freedom Group in Bareilly. Kaushal teaches at the Faculty of Bachelor in Education. In future, we could organise focussed seminars for these future teachers.

Media Coverage: [http://www.ccsindia.org/ccs\\_in\\_news.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/ccs_in_news.htm)

- **South Level Seminar on "Human Rights & Social Work Practise", March 8-9, 2004, Mangalore**

Due to the excellent work by Arun Mascarenhas in Mangalore and nearby districts, CCS had decided to co-sponsor a seminar organised by his Department of Social Work, St Aloysius College called "Human Rights & Social Work Practise."

[About the Seminar](#)

Social work profession aims at promoting humane values of justice, co-operation and concern for one-another. It is to promote the safeguarding of human rights ending oppression and exploitation. Thus looking at social work profession from 'human rights' perspective would provide the concept with a practical and liberative thrust. Interpreting social work from human rights perspective will surely make it very instrumental and powerful in bringing about a more humane society.

Issues covered include women's harassment at work place, community rights over natural resources, Rights of mentally ill; mergers and acquisition: effects on workers' rights.

300 students from all over the South participated. Parth spoke at the Seminar on Community Rights over Natural Resources. The college journal *Deeksha* published Parth's article, Economic Freedom: The Forgotten Human Right.

Media Coverage [http://www.ccsindia.org/news\\_mnglr\\_feb2004\\_vijayatimes.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/news_mnglr_feb2004_vijayatimes.htm)

- **Governance and Journalism Seminar: February 19-20, Ranchi, Jharkand (Journalists and journalism students. Number of participants: 60)**

CCS has found a new friend in Prabhat Khabar (PK), Jharkand's leading Hindi daily. PK is dedicated to informing its readers and addressing development issues facing the state of Jharkand. Topics ranging from economic freedom to Delhi Citizen Handbook and New Public Management were discussed at the seminar. PK will be collecting data in Jharkand and will use their clout as a very well respected newspaper to bring development or lack of thereof, to the forefront. [Media Coverage](#)

## **Research Internship Program**

We received 70 applications for our Internship program from students in India and abroad. We had an exciting two months with 13 young, enthusiastic, and especially hard working students in Delhi and 3 working from Vadodara, Dharward, and Nashik respectively. They toiled in the sun, collected information which is not too easy to get from unhelpful government officials, suffered through frequent power cuts, and still managed to have a good experience! We also selected interns to work in months of July-November.

Dilip Rangachari was the Research Guide for the summer interns. He guided the interns in preparing their detailed Plans of Action for every project and held weekly individual project meetings with them to assess the progress. With his eye for details and his detailed knowledge of power structures of Delhi, Dilip was the most notable Research Guide.

We organised rigorous training sessions for the summer interns in and outside the office. These include: *First Principles of the Research Internship* by Parth J Shah; *Experiences of Former interns* by Mayank Wadhwa (2001, 2000) & Anupriya Singhal (2002); *Research Training Session* by Shreekant Gupta, Delhi School of Economics and Laveesh Bhandari, Indicus Analytics; *Dealing with Government* by Neena Gulabani, Formerly with ACORD, Delhi; *riting Training Session* by TCA Srinivas-Raghavan, *Business-Standard*; *Understanding Government Budgets* by Mr G R Gupta, Deputy Chief Auditor, NDMC.

Project Coordinators, Manali and Naveen conducted intensive training workshops on how to write and format a research paper, how to search on Google, references and notes, and making presentations on PowerPoint.

## **Projects**

*ABCDs (Agencies, Boards, Corporations, Departments) of Delhi Government*

- (1) Why is Dead DEDA (Delhi Energy Development Agency) Still Alive?
- (2) Smells Like Green Spirit: Directorate of Prohibition
- (3) Delhi's Food, How Safe: Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration
- (4) Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation: A Review
- (5) Department of Art, Culture & Language: An Analysis
- (6) Employee State Insurance: For a handful of contribution, a bagful of benefits
- (7) Bhagidari: Good intention, But implementation?
- (8) *Dilli Sarkar's* Advertisement Expenditure: Information or Publicity?
- (9) Tourism Department: In Search of Tourists
- (10) Department of Environment, Delhi Government
- (11) *Gau Sadans*, A Scheme of Delhi Government
- (12) Holiday Homes for Industrial Workers, Department of Labour, Government of Delhi
- (13) Health Department, Delhi Government
- (14) Delhi Public Library: The Treasury of Sorrows
- (15) Right to Information Act, Delhi 2001
- (16) Overview of School education in Delhi

#### *License & Livelihood*

- (17) License & Livelihood: Railway Coolies in Delhi
- (18) License & Livelihood: Rickshaw Pullers in Nashik
- (19) Wine Industry in Nashik/ Maharashtra: An Analysis
- (20) Auto Rickshaw Regulation In Vadodara: A Reality Check
- (21) Heroes of the Market: Street Vendors in Vadodara
- (22) An Incite into Autorickshaw Services in Dharwad: Poor Drivers & Rusted 3 Wheelers
- (23) Primary Schools in Dharwad: Amidst Paisa-Power & Politics
- (24) How Long Can Delhi Stay Awake? Regulation on night trade in Delhi

#### *Others*

- (25) Crash Boom Bang: Second Hand Car Imports in India
- (26) Harvesting Rainwater: Catch Water Where it Falls
- (27) Life Insurance in India: A Historical Analysis
- (28) Private Water Supply in Delhi
- (29) Why Central Exams at All?
- (30) Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill 2000
- (31) Funding by University Grants Commission
- (32) Public Works Department, Delhi Government
- (33) Delhi Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation, Delhi Government
- (34) Backward & Forward Linkages in the IT Enabled Services/ Business Process Outsourcing Industry in India
- (35) Voucher schemes in the education sector: Is there a model for India?
- (36) What is it like starting and running a small business in India as a foreigner? & what is it like being a tourist in India?
- (37) Supreme Court orders in the famous "forest case" and documented the Court's different positions on the issue of forest encroachment.
- (38) The role of plantation companies and private forestry in India.
- (39) Community Management of Water Resources
- (40) Private solutions to Public Problems-Case Study of Sangam Vihar
- (41) Forestry and Livelihood
- (42) Electoral Reforms in India

#### **Publication of articles**

- (1) Mayank Singhal, "The Great Railway Bazaar", *Businessworld*, September 15, 2003
- (2) Kriti Kapur, "Delhi Public Library: An Overview", *Lehar Vision*, June 29-July 5, 2003

(3) Sabith Ullah Khan, paper on IT Enabled Services and BPO Industry, *Hindustan Times*

### **Jeevika 2003: A National Livelihood Documentary Competition**

(*Jeevika* means "Livelihood" in Hindi)

**Jeevika** is a search for documentaries that focus on legal and regulatory restrictions, bureaucratic process of approvals and licenses with attendant extortion and harassment as well as social and cultural norms and religious practices that prevent or constrain people from earning an honest living in the vocation of their choice. These procedures and practices coupled with the lack of rule of law, absence of transparency and accountability in governance, and poor enforcement of individual rights including property rights take away the freedom to earn a living.

We received **38** entries from students, amateur as well as professional filmmakers from all over India.

#### • **The Evaluation**

The Screening Committee including five members:

- Krishnendu Bose, Earthcare Films, Delhi
- Arshad Sardar, J Waltor Thompson, Mumbai
- Prashant Pandey, Student, MA Mass Communication, AJ Kidwai Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Milia Islamia. (LSS Graduate, New Delhi 2001)
- Pratim Dasgupta, Graduate, Department of Mass Communication & Videography, St Xavier's College, Kolkata
- Lijin Jose, Graduate, Centre for Development of Imaging Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

The Screening Committee shortlisted **nine** entries from the **38** entries that were received.

The Jury comprised Andre Beteille, Sociologist, Former Professor at Delhi School of Economics; Nikhat Kazmi, Film Critic, *Times of India*; Gargi Sen, Magic Lantern Foundation; Rita Panicker, Butterflies and Raj Liberhan, India Habitat Centre



Panelists at Prize Ceremony (L-R): Parth; Aruna Vasudev; Rajiv Mehrotra; Nandita Das; and Raj Liberhan

The Jury members chose the top three winners:

- ***Tales of the Night Fairies*** by Shohini Ghosh
- ***The City Beautiful*** by Rahul Roy
- ***Turf Wars*** by Sanjay Barnela and Vasant Saberwal

### **Publications**

#### **1. State of Governance: Delhi Citizen Handbook 2003**

The Delhi Handbook is a compilation of our studies of 25 Delhi government and MCD departments. With this path-breaking study, Centre for Civil Society hopes to further citizens' understanding of the workings of the government. The Handbook also makes constructive recommendations for improving the quality and effectiveness of governance. Reform minded politicians, public servants, and citizens are sure to find the contents of the Handbook innovative, refreshing and bold. The *Handbook* is a product of hard and grueling work on the part of many young researchers and interns at CCS.

A glimpse of what the media had to say about the *Handbook*.

“If one small NGO can put all this together, think of what our mass circulation newspapers could do if they chose to be newspapers instead of advertising gazettes.”

T N Ninan, *Business Standard*, November 9, 2003

“Yet much of the problem stems not from a callous government but a lazy, ineffective citizenry that fails to utilise rights they are entitled to. This has just been proved by a bunch of youngsters who, under the guidance of an NGO called Centre for Civil Society, have put together the Delhi Citizen Handbook, 2003. This is timely, coming just before the Delhi election. But it is no mere election-directed pamphlet. It is a thoughtful guide on how the governance of a city can be improved, and how citizens themselves can play an important role in taking control of the rules that control their lives.”

Swaminathan S Anklesaria Aiyar, *The Times of India*, Nov 16, 2003

For more details regarding the Handbook: [www.ccsindia.org/delhihandbook.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/delhihandbook.htm)

Media Coverage of Handbook: <http://www.ccsindia.org/dhinmedia.htm>

Take a look at [Top Ten Findings](#), [Top Ten Reforms](#) and [Delhi's Fiscal Marksmanship](#) for a quick tour of the *Handbook*.

We are working to accomplish a few goals—get the reform ideas expressed in the Handbook implemented and replicate similar work in other cities and states. The Handbook generated a lot of interest from various groups in and outside of Delhi. Other institutions and governments have expressed their interest in doing similar work. Media continues to be interested in the findings. NDTV, for example, plans to do news segments on various departments and schemes discussed in the Handbook.

We are in the process of working with Delhi government officials to implement some of the reforms. Though this is a time consuming process, we are encouraged by the positive response we have received from certain key individuals and departments of the Delhi government. After the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, we intend to work with few other cities and states in the area of good governance. We are working on ‘transferring technology’ or a ‘how to’ of the Handbook to a group of journalists and editors at *Prabhat Khabar*, the leading Hindi newspaper in Jharkand. Soon we expect them to be able to do the data collection and analysis in their state. This would have a tremendous impact on day to day reporting and popularising of Handbook style reform.

**2. BR Shenoy: Economic Prophecies**

**3. BR Shenoy: Theoretical Vision**

**4. Terracotta Reader: A Market Approach to Environment**

**5. Law, Liberty & Livelihood: Making a Living on the Streets**

**6. The Morality of Markets**

### **Legislative Analysis: Education Choice Campaign**

The Union government has drafted a new Free and Compulsory Education Bill. We believe that if passed into law, this bill will do terrible damage to the cause of quality and affordable education for all the children in our society. The Bill requires that all private schools must reserve upto 20% of seats for poor children that will be selected by education authorities. It does not address in any way the rot that exists in government run schools and to make

matters worse, puts the same government officials who manage the existing decrepit schools, in charge of a large portion of private schools.

Consistent with our philosophy and research, we champion an educational system that fosters choice and competition. We believe this can be achieved by deregulating the education sector—abolish the license permit quota raj—and implementing private and public education voucher system: Fund students, not schools!

Read the Bill and our critique "Will we ever learn?" at [www.ccsindia.org/edu\\_policy.htm](http://www.ccsindia.org/edu_policy.htm)

### **CCS Team**

#### **A new team member: Raj Cherubal, Vice President**

For all of us at the Centre, it is a great pleasure to welcome our new team member Mr Raj Cherubal as the Vice President. Raj is returning from his successful career in dotcom. His experience in managing start-ups will be very pertinent at this stage of growth of the Centre. We are indeed grateful, with admiration, to Raj's wife Ana and children Aishwarya (8) and Rahul (6) for their courage and commitment. Ana is also helping us with the library and outreach programs during the hours when the children are at school.

Parth was invited to 'construct' a theme paper on "Transparency Guarantees" by Dr Vinay Bharat-Ram at the **National Conference on Amartya Sen's Development as Freedom** (July-August 2003). The paper can be accessed at [www.ccsindia.org/transp\\_guarantees.pdf](http://www.ccsindia.org/transp_guarantees.pdf)

Parth reviewed *The Public & The Private: Issues of Democratic Citizenship* edited by Gurpreet Mahajan and Helmut Reifeld and *Does Civil Society Matter? Governance in Contemporary India* edited by Rajesh Tandon, Ranjita Mohanty in *Business World*, December 2003

Parth participated and spoke at **Regional Seminar and Learning Event on Local Governance and Pro-poor Service Delivery** organised by the Asian Development Bank at Manila, Philippines (February 10-12)

Parth moderated a *Panel Discussion on Street Hawkers* in Chennai and gave *Political Science Endowment Lecture* at the Madras Christian College, Chennai (March 11)

Parth delivered a lecture on *Free Banking* at Madras School of Economics (March 11)

Our new colleague, Sanjay Kumar Sah (Indian Languages Coordinator) published his first article at CCS on Right to Information published in a Hindi newspaper **Jansatta**