

CENTER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

SPECIAL EDITION

ANNUAL PLUS SIX REPORT

APRIL 06 - MARCH 07

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APRIL 07 - SEPTEMBER 07

AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The months from April 06-September 07, have seen CCS emerge with strategies that have taken the organization towards a different focus. The school vouchers programme has emerged as one of our key success and the organization, over the next three years, shall continue to focus on school education reforms for its research and advocacy work.

This shift in our strategy is clearly visible, through the outreach of the School Vouchers Programme, the continued policy advocacy and of course the constant feedback and guidance from parents, teachers, political leaders and many of our supporters in India and abroad. With distribution of 408 vouchers in Delhi, through which, those many number of students have taken admission in schools of their choice, CCS has achieved another benchmark; of making equal education possible for all.

The year also saw several other milestones; release of the handbooks in Jharkhand and Mumbai; involvement of CCS in the JNUURM and making the Delhi City Development Plan (CDP) accessible and available to all; popularity of *Jeevika* reached an all time high with over 128 films participating in the competition and so did the rewards associated with it. The top five winners of Jeevika 07 are also being supported in undertaking research to make a documentary on the proposed themes. The internship programme and the LSS remain popular amongst the student community and continue to grow in reach and geography.

The team at CCS has grown in the last year and a half, to include professionals from different fields, and so has the recognition received from institutes and organizations for its growing work; and our partners continue to provide support.

CCS, Annual Plus Six Report
2006-2007

As CCS continues towards achieving its vision of **creating an education system in India where all children have access to quality education of their choice**; there are still many more milestones to be accomplished.

In the year 2008, through an ever growing team, CCS looks forward to achieving many more milestones, especially with the school vouchers programme.

Parth Shah

CENTER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY: AN INTRODUCTION

The **Center for Civil Society** (CCS) set up as a think tank on August 15th 1997, is an independent, non-profit, research and educational organisation devoted to improving the quality of life for all citizens of India by reviving and reinvigorating civil society. CCS tries to change people's ideas, opinions and mode of thinking through different tools, which include research, seminars, advocacy and publications. The organisation champions limited government, rule of law, free trade, and individual rights.

Wanting to usher in an intellectual revolution that encourages people to look beyond the obvious, think beyond good intentions, and act beyond activism, CCS brings the intellectuals, citizens, civil societies and government together to achieve this aim.

THE VISION

To increase opportunity, prosperity, & quality of life for every Indian by reviving & reinvigorating civil society.

THE MISSION: SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY

1. Develop innovative **community and market based solutions** in the areas of education, livelihood, governance and environment
2. Bring these **ideas to current and future leaders** through outreach and advocacy

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ✓ Individual rights
- ✓ Rule of law
- ✓ Free exchange
- ✓ Limited government

A. IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

THE PREMISE: **Universal access to education and the quality of education** are two of the fundamental problems affecting the education system in our country. Though many different approaches have been tried, to address these problems, none has worked well. The reasons for the failure are many, but the result is a two-tier system of government and private schools that come with all the prevailing social, political and economic problems. Those who can afford, go to private schools; and those who cannot, go to government schools. Seemingly, the children of the poor have no option but to study in the poorly functioning government schools.

On one hand are the results of the census of 2001, according to which, 65 per cent of Indians are literate, with an ever decreasing gap between male and female literacy which stood at 75.85 and 54.16 per cent respectively. The increasing trends in number of children getting education has shown an increase in the number of schools in India as well as better access to education. Close to 95 per cent of the rural population now has a primary school within a kilometer of their habitation. On the other hand is the complete decline in the quality of education, proven by the findings of the survey undertaken by World Bank:

- Over 1.4 million teachers' posts are vacant in government schools
- 25 per cent of teachers were absent from school, and only about half were teaching, during unannounced visits to a nationally representative sample of government primary schools in India.

In our country, though the Centre is responsible for providing direction; policy and curriculum development, implementation and operations of the schools is handled by the state governments, which accounts for the large number of **Government run schools in the country**. It is these government operated schools; that not only have the reach, but provide free education; which attract the largest share (over 90 per cent) of student population. However, the system is completely devoid of any accountability or autonomy: the Government schools continue to receive grants irrespective of performance, teachers and principals have no say in school management nor can they be held

accountable for dismal results. Given such a scenario, absence of teachers is the most common problem plaguing government schools today!

In addition to the government schools, are a **small number of private schools**, not funded by the government, yet following the directions as laid down by the central government in terms of curriculum and policy implementation. However, due to a very high fee structure, it is the upper rich, who send their children to these private schools.

In the given situation, the school drop out rate; between KG to 10+2 is 90-93 per cent... Though we have been able to provide **universal access to education**, quality education remains an elusive dream.

BREAKING MYTHS AND MONOPOLIES: Amidst this scenario, emerged a new class of schools: **the budget private schools**. These schools are usually found in densely populated areas that may not have the best infrastructure, but are able to provide quality education at a very low cost. As per research (*Private Schools for the Poor: Prof, James Tooley*), these budget private schools have sprung up in most slum areas, and are serving majority of the poor children (65 per cent students in urban/semi-urban areas of Hyderabad, attended budget private schools).

To further understand the significance of the budget private schools, expenditure on education, by the poorer sections of the society, an “*Education for the Poor*” survey was undertaken initiated by CCS, and conducted by AC Nielsen ORG MARG.

Some of the highlights of findings

The sample details: ...

- 14 per cent of children from *SEC C, D, E households sent their children to private recognized schools. 28 per cent of children from SEC C households sent their kids to private recognized schools.
- 45 per cent of the parents, of children studying in government schools, mentioned that they have to spend money on private tuition.
- On an average parents are spending nearly Rs.2,200/- on private tuition and Rs.1,100/- on transport per year for their child's education
- Of the 95 per cent government school teachers, who had children in schools or colleges, 37 per cent were sending their children to private schools.
- The average fees charged by the private primary schools surveyed was Rs. 241/- per month.
- 42 per cent of them were charging fees between Rs. 100/- and Rs. 200/- per month.

Refer to <http://ccs.in/SurveyReport.asp> for details of the report.

**Socio-economic classes (SEC) are classified on the basis of education and occupation. For example, a person who is a petty trader and has completed his or her SSC/HSC would belong to the SEC C category but one who is a petty trader and has only upto 5 years of school education would belong to the SEC D category. If this person is illiterate he or she would belong to the SEC E category.*

With the successful establishment of the budget private schools, the myth that poor would want to send their children to schools that provide “free education” has been broken. The fact that the poor are choosing to send their children to schools, that provide quality education, has also challenged the monopoly of the government schools, which till some time back were the only education service providers for the poor.

Explanation: Research & Campaign - Fund Students not Schools

Providing solutions through the School Choice Campaign

THE OBJECTIVE: The School Choice Campaign, launched in January 2007, aimed to *create a consensus among policymakers for the idea of choice and competition in education using the concepts of education vouchers, deregulation and for-profit education. This consensus was to be translated in some form of legislative action by introducing a pilot voucher program and regulatory reform in private primary education supply.*

The campaign introduced the concept of the Education Voucher, which is a coupon provided by the government that covers full or partial cost of education at the school of student's choice. Through this voucher, the student would benefit, by getting the purchasing power to choose a school. The private schools would benefit, who would now be ready to admit poor students (the burden of providing education to the poor is not on the school but the government). And the government would be able to help the student directly, instead of indirectly through financing and managing schools, as through the voucher system, the schools collect vouchers from students and present them to government for payment.

"Although the Right to Education is enshrined in the Constitution, it still has to get the legislature's sanction. I feel that school vouchers enhance the implementation of the Right to Education and at the same time give parents a choice to place their child in an environment conducive for learning."
T. K. Mathew, CEO, Deepalava

The survey conducted by AC Nielson also went a step ahead to test the acceptability of the concept of Education Voucher in India. Nearly all the respondent parents (98 per cent) liked the concept and 79 per cent of parents from SEC E households found the concept relevant to them.

The concept of education voucher is not new. These vouchers are being used in many parts of the world - Chile, Ivory Coast, Sweden, USA, Denmark, Czech Republic and UK. In some countries like Netherlands these have been *universal voucher programmes*. Here, irrespective of her parents' income, every child receives a voucher in the mailbox on her fifth birthday. Other countries have had *targeted vouchers* restricted to special disadvantaged groups like the African Americans in Milwaukee, USA or low-income parents in other countries.

THE STRATEGY:

- Expanding choice & competition through education vouchers: Once they receive the vouchers, the parents would have a choice of enrolling their children in any school—government or private. The revenue of a school would therefore depend on the number of students it has—both who pay directly and who pay through vouchers. The resultant competition among schools would improve the quality of learning, of infrastructure, of extra-curricular activities. To attract and retain students, schools would offer variety of services that students and parents value—mid-day meals, transportation, supplementary tutorials, after

school care amongst others. Therefore, with these school vouchers, people belonging to the poor strata would no longer be dependent on government schools for providing education to their children.

- Removing entry barriers; encouraging edupreneurs: With the emergence of the budget private schools, it has been proven that the education sector provides exciting entrepreneurial activities. The voucher campaign therefore also attracts those business/social entrepreneurs, who would want to invest in providing quality education.
- Making for-profit schools legal: The budget private schools are still un-recognised and thus remain under constant threat of closure. They are also unable to attract any loans/funding from private banks or institutions. On one hand, the government continues to support government schools which are also struggling with inadequate infrastructure and poor quality of education and on the other it has imposed several regulations and licenses that make it difficult for budget private schools to operate legitimately. There is an urgent need to deregulate and de-license the education system.

The indicators

1. At least 50 per cent of parents, with children in state schools, should be aware about school choice. Additionally, organize 2000 parent delegation to their elected representatives, to demand school choice.
2. All state education ministers & secretaries should be briefed about school choice individually/ in groups.
3. All elected representatives across all levels of the government (Members of Parliament, Legislative Assemblies, Corporations, & Village Panchayats) should receive persuasive material on the ideas of school choice & specific ways to implement them.
4. At least 1912 of the elected representatives should receive a delegation of citizens demanding school choice. Also, demonstrate the power of choice in school education, by establishing at least five projects, one being a private school choice fund that will support at least 9,400 students.
5. Establish or help establish at least five projects (including changes in education policies) that demonstrate the power of choice in school education

The Pilot campaign: Delhi School Vouchers programme

The Pilot School vouchers campaign was first launched in Delhi in January 2007, with help of partners – *Siksha*. This phase of the programme, initiated in Delhi, aimed at building intellectual

capacity & spreading awareness about the education vouchers. Held over **April – July 07** the campaign covered 13 slum colonies in Delhi. Through workshops for teachers, street theater for the public and public hearings; education vouchers were open for discussion and feedback amongst all the stakeholders.

The Delhi Campaign was a multi-tier campaign involving manifesto committees of different political parties, ward councilors, members of legislative assembly, ministers, educationists and prominent citizens. In the four districts chosen—East, Central, North-East and North-West; out of a total of nine districts in Delhi, more than 50 School Choice Activists met the residents of the 68 chosen wards. Campaign vans rolled along distributing voucher forms and giving presentations.

School Choice team met vouchers parents from all four districts personally and in groups to explain the voucher scheme in greater detail. Parents were given the option of transferring their vouchers to their younger children. Many parents come forth to transfer their vouchers to their daughters. Parents then registered their school choices with our school choice activists. At the same time, school choice team met with various school principals and managers in the four districts to brief them about the voucher project and the School Choice Campaign. Both budget schools and elite schools were contacted. A very supportive response has been received from these schools with most of them agreeing to participate in the project. CCS team had facilitated the admission process and oriented parents and schools on the implementation of the project.

More than 4, 50, 000 parents were made aware about the vouchers and by July 07, 1.5 lakh applications had been received from parents for 408 school vouchers. At



the end of July 07, a public lottery led by the local ward councilor was held in 68 wards. These school vouchers assured the parents a payment of upto Rs. 300 per month for upto three years. Chief Minister, Smt. Shiela Dixit and Education Minister, Shri. Arvinder Singh Lovely, presented the vouchers to the children, and most of the 408 children who were

awarded vouchers have now found admission in schools of their choice. More than 2.5 lakh parents signed a petition and submitted to the councilors for further pushing the inclusion of school voucher in the system.

Progress to date

STATE	LAUNCH & PARTNERS	ACTIVITIES	ADVOCACY
TAMIL NADU	In partnership with the <i>Society for the development of the Depressed Schools for India (SDD)</i> the programme was launched in May 07.	Workshop organised jointly by the East Coast Development Forum (ECDF) and National Advocacy Council for Development of Indigenous People (NAC-DIP) in June '07. Attended by over 50 NGOs and Community-based Organisations.	19 district level and 42 Block meetings have been held and 185 memorandums have been submitted to the <i>Gram Panchayats</i> to date. In addition 104000 signatures have been collected and 126 meetings with parents have been organised till end of September 07.
ORISSA	<i>Centre for Social Development and People's Rural Education and Action for India's Development (AID)</i>	Street Theater and district consultation meetings held in June 07 in the districts of Mayurbhanj and Gajapati.	Till date, 72460 signatures have been collected, 215 parents' meetings have been conducted involving over 4670 parents. 34 block level meetings and 19 district level meetings have been held till the end of September 07. 44 memorandums have been submitted to the <i>Gram Panchayat</i> .
JHARKHAND	<i>Phooleen</i> and a network of six NGO's from the <i>Jumav Manch</i> .	A parent's workshop and <i>Jansunvai</i> which was attended by over 180 people	Till Sept 07, 99800 signatures have been collected. 30 parents meetings with over 2800 participants have been held. In

			addition 18 block and seven district level meetings have been held, Nine memorandums have been submitted to the MLAs.
UTTAR PRADESH	Centre for Rural Education and Development Action (CREDA)		In the state, 532, 200 signatures have been collected, 1210 parents meetings held, which had over 59760 participants. Till the end of September 07, 95 block and 15 district level meetings have been held, and 596 memorandums have been submitted to the <i>Gram Panchayat</i> .

Key Achievements

- Cap on licenses removed: In April 2006 CCS Education Choice campaign achieved a major breakthrough when Delhi Education Minister Arvinder Singh Lovely, removed the cap on the number licenses given out by the government to open schools. CCS has been constantly advocating with the Minister against the license, know as the Essentiality Certificate.
- Recommendations to the Planning Commission: Planning Commission is now debating government Sponsorship of a pilot program on education vouchers as part of India's XI Five-year plan. Also CCS president's has been appointed on the Working Group on Basic Education & Literacy of the Planning Commission.
- The AC Nielson study: In order to further understand the role of budget private schools and the acceptance of the voucher system in India, CCS commissioned AC Neilson to undertake an independent survey.
- Prof James Tooley joins CCS Education team: Prof James Tooley, Director, E.G. West Centre in UK is now Senior Research Fellow with CCS. Prof. Tooley has worked extensively on nature and extent of private education serving low income families in Asia and Africa.

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- Special Advisors: Anu Aga (corporate leader), Gurcharan Das (author & consultant) and TK Mathew (Director, Deepalaya, a non profit organisation running schools) have shown their support by becoming the Advisors for the Education Choice Campaign.
- Presentation to National Knowledge Commission, competent advisor to the Prime Minister's Office
- Network of NGOs at block, district and state levels is established in five states to propagate school choice.

In the Media

The School Vouchers programme has been covered extensively by newspapers, magazines and the electronic media, at local as well as national levels:

- The Hindustan Times (Hindi) has run 18 articles, the Times of India covered the campaign through seven articles and the Indian Express ran seven articles. In addition, regional newspapers have been constantly updating about the progress of the vouchers programme.
- Special articles in India Today and The Wall Street Journal Online

Photo Gallery



Street Play in progress in Jharkhand, to advocate the School Choice Campaign



Discussion with the village seniors on the School Choice Campaign, in Bihar



A citizens rally in UP, demanding funding for students and not schools

B. REDUCING WASTE FRAUD AND ABUSE IN PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

1. NEW PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

THE PREMISE - The aim of a business industry is the same as that of the government – implementing cost effective, efficient and people friendly systems. With these very objectives, where as the business industry has grown leaps and bounds since independence, the government systems have slowly moved away from these basic necessities. Hence the public administration is constantly criticized for its poor service delivery, lack of information, for being expensive yet slow and corrupt.

From here on emerges the need for New Public Management (NPM): a system which is transparent, efficient, and cost effective, focuses on accountability and is customer centric. It therefore aims at “learning from the private industry: transferring their instruments and mindsets suitably to the organization, processes and employees of the public administration”.

1. FIXING INCENTIVES TO MAKE GOVERNMENT’S WORK

THE OBJECTIVES-

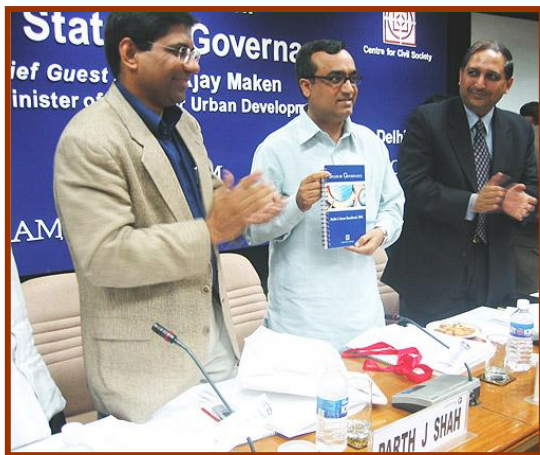
1. To drive efficiency within the current structure of urban governance across India by shedding light on the current operations and campaigning for unjustified public spending through legislative change.
2. To advocate institutional and procedural reforms so as to bring in transparency and accountability in governance to ensure efficient use of public funds through focus on results and outcomes.

In order to achieve these objectives, CCS has initiated two programmes:

1. Citizen Handbooks - Researching the reality of public governance
2. Duty to Publish - Bringing the public’s information into the public domain

PROVIDING SOLUTIONS THROUGH THE CITIZENS’ HANDBOOK:

A key pre-requisites towards achieving the above mentioned objectives, is an informed citizenry. ***The Citizen Handbooks*** are one of the steps which would lead to an increasing participation by the



citizens. The handbooks highlight the current structure of governance, operations and campaigning for unjustified public spending through legislative change. **These citizen handbooks would also serve means of creating a nation wide campaign that demand effective governance through policy change.**

Basis learning and recommendations of the Citizens Handbook of 2003, the ground was laid for the citizens handbooks of 2006. The ***State of Governance: Delhi***

Citizen Handbook 2006, released on 8th March 2006, is an administrative and financial analysis of departments, agencies, boards and issues of the *Delhi State Government*. The handbook aims increasing citizens' understanding of the workings of the government.

In addition to highlighting the current situation post lengthy interviews, in-depth discussions, statistical research etc, the Handbook also makes recommendations for improving the quality and effectiveness of governance. Being the capital, and thriving in diversity, it was also important to understand Delhi state's role in cultural issues like languages, archaeology and archives as well as in religion through the *Haj* Committee, *Gurudwara* Election Office, and the *Waqf* Board.

Highlights of the recommended policy level reform, as discussed in the Citizen's handbooks

1. **The Principle of subsidiarity:** Basis the tiers in the administration, the local government should be responsible for undertaking all tasks, and only those functions not possible to be carried out by the local government should be given to the state government. The national government should be entrusted with only those functions that the state government is unable to carry out.
2. **Separate Provision from Production:** The government can provide subsidy through food stamps or education vouchers, but need not be in the business of producing food or providing education. These activities can be best left to the markets (the School Vouchers programme exemplifies this recommendation, by making the state government responsible for being a Provider (by funding the vouchers), rather than implementer of education)
3. **Expand Choice and Competition:** Competition pushes up quality and pushes down prices. The telecom industry in India is an excellent example of the power of markets.
4. **Give Clean Subsidies:** Subsidies on items like kerosene distort prices. They create a perverse incentive to adulterate petrol with kerosene. There is little reason for farmers to economise the use of electricity when it is free. A more effective method is to provide subsidy on the output i.e. is the income.
5. **Outcomes, not Outlays:** This simple means that the output is more important than the process. The current administrative setup does exactly the opposite. Its lays emphasis on procedure and has little regard to the output. Outcome-based budgets are very uncommon.
6. **Implement the Right to Information Act: Duty to Publish:** The "Duty to Publish Approach to Right to Information Act" – under Section 4, which deals with *suo motu* or proactive disclosure of information by government agencies/ boards/ co-operations/ agencies, makes the RTI act of 2005, the most powerful piece of information legislature. This section requires all the government departments to publish all information except that which is permitted to be kept secret by the law. This would mean that no individual citizen would have to file a single RTI application for information that affects them such as the quality of roads, power, water supply, ration, since the government should already have placed all this information in the public domain.

The other State Handbooks & dissemination

1. ***The Jharkhand Citizen Handbook***, published and released in **January 2007** was a collaborative effort between CCS and ***Prabhat Khabar***, (leading Hindi daily based in Ranchi). This Citizen Handbook, is the first ever attempt in the state to analyse in detail the programs, budgets, personnel, and achievements of some of the important ministries, departments, and agencies of the state government.
2. ***The Mumbai Citizen Handbook*** was published and released in **November 2006** in collaboration with ***Praja***. The handbook looks at major departments of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation as well as other agencies concerned with civic governance. Each chapter contains recommendations and reforms for improving governance based on liberal principles and the concepts of new public

management. *Praja* also seeks to follow up on the recommendations made in the handbook to improve transparency, accountability and better governance in Mumbai city.

3. “*Public Eye on Public Services*” aimed at disseminating the findings of the citizens’ handbook, creating public debate around the issues highlighted and to look for local solutions to local problems, a series of seminars were undertaken. Between April - November 2006, nine such dialogues have been undertaken. These dialogues analyse the current status and recommended improvements/ alternatives to public services in Delhi. The dialogues cover issues such as - power, water, sanitation, storm water collection and water harvesting, traffic management, policing, education, and the overall quality of governance.

The nine dialogues held during 2006	
April -	Governance
May -	Demolition
June -	Role of Community in Water Reforms
July -	Water Reforms
August -	Police in Democracy
October -	Power Reforms
November -	Livelihood

DUTY TO PUBLISH - BRINGING THE PUBLIC’S INFORMATION INTO PUBLIC DOMAIN

Taking the findings from the Citizen’s handbook ahead, CCS took the initiative of making Duty to Publish a reality, through a campaign, initiated in March 2006. As a result a “*Duty to Publish Index*” was first published in June 2006 and subsequently, a revised and expanded version of the index was published in October 2006. This index measures the governments’ compliance with section 4 of the RTI Act.

Following the success of the report, the Central Information Commission has commissioned CCS to prepare its annual report for presentation in parliament.

Highlights of the findings of the survey:

The sample details: Covering 29 states and seven union territories, a report card on RTI compliance by the states was to be created. To do so, a survey was undertaken of the websites of the education ministries covering 37 key points of information, as required by the RTI Act. The study ranks education departments in 29 states and public service agencies in six metros based on the level of voluntary disclosure of information.

While not a single state in India showed more than 48 per cent compliance with the 'Duty to Publish' aspect of the RTI Act, over seven states showed absolutely no compliance.

1. The average state education ministry discloses **only per cent** of the information that they are required share
2. Madhya Pradesh publishes **87 per cent** and Uttaranchal – **76 per cent** of the required information. These two states are considered leaders in implanting the Act.
3. Chandigarh publishes 62 per cent, Delhi – 54 per cent
4. Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu get low 11 per cent and 5 per cent scores.

2. PARTICIPATING IN THE JAWAHARLAL NEHRU NATIONAL URBAN RENEWAL MISSION (JNNURM)

The JNNURM is a project of the central government, which would fund the development of urban infrastructure and services in select cities. The cities will have to carry out mandated reforms in return. The project began in December 2005 and would run for seven years.

Under the mission, the reforms mandated for state governments are:

1. Implementation of the 74th Amendment
2. Community Participation Law
3. Reform of rent control laws
4. User charges for water
5. Repeal of urban land ceiling act
6. Public disclosure law
7. Administrative reforms
8. Public-private partnership

9. Reform of municipal accounting systems

CCS role in JNNURM and the strategy

With the Delhi Citizen's handbook as the biggest strength, CCS has been assigned as the nodal body for civil society organisation for implementation of JNNURM in the city. CCS is coordinating Delhi-based organisations to evaluate, monitor, and guide the policy reforms entailed in the JNNURM for urban reforms and has also been organizing meetings to enable the civil society organizations to participate in the mission.

The strategy adopted by CCS for undertaking this role effectively would be through -

1. Participation in the making of the city development plan for Delhi and the plans for the various projects in the city
2. Coordinating with other like-minded civil society organisations to monitoring the implementation in Delhi
3. Spreading awareness of the reforms through publications
4. Assisting officials from Delhi and outside in carrying out the reforms.

"Urban reforms under JNNURM would have remained an engima, if CCS had not picked up the theme, unpacked and explained the tasks ahead. CCS has helped shown the reform pathway and demystified the processes required in the JNNURM cities on the reform side. Agra has taken cue from the Delhi series of reform strategies developed through the process of consultation by CCS and is being supported by then to develop its own reform agenda.

CCS's analysis of the Delhi CDP brought out some key concerns with respect to lack of citizen engagement and inclusion. CCS has helped to articulate these concerns and raise citizen's voices at the appropriate forum. I hope they will continue to lead the way for meaningful citizen-government interactions." - Dr. Renu Khosla, Director, Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE), New Delhi

Key achievements

1. To increase awareness of some important reforms mandated under JNNURM, CCS has brought out a series on nine select reforms, which included:
 - Implementation of the 74th Amendment: Pending Reforms

- Community Participation Law: Naga Raja Bill
- Rent Control Laws: Balancing the interests of Landlords and Tenants
- User Charges: A Case Study of Water Pricing
- Urban Land Ceiling Act: Appeal to Repeal
- Public Disclosure Law: Model Municipality Disclosure Bill
- Administrative Reforms: Rightsizing the Government
- Public Private Partnership: That Government is best that governs the least
- Municipal Accounting System: Getting the numbers right

The series on JNNURM reforms is available online at <http://www.ccs.in/jnnurmseries.asp>

2. CCS obtained the Delhi City Development Plan after considerable effort through RTI and had it uploaded on its website for the public. At the press conference on held on 16th March 2007, CCS highlighted that fact that the Delhi government had refused to provide a copy of the Delhi City Development Plan (CDP) under RTI. The CDP is a collective vision of the city and people's participation in it is not only advisable but mandatory. However, CCS went on to appeal the RTI response and obtained the copy of the CDP. It put up the CDP on its website for wide distribution, which can now be accessed at <http://www.ccs.in/delhicdp.asp>.
3. Delhi Citizen Critique of the City Development Plan – Under the JNNURM, Delhi submitted CDP to the Government of India, without any consultations on the same with the people of the city. Centre for Civil Society brought out the citizen's critique of the CDP with the help of various experts. The Critique was released in June 2007, and covered issues such as poverty alleviation, heritage management, water supply, sewerage, solid waste management, transport and urban finances. The comments from the experts are critical to

make the CDP a success and is hoped that the Delhi government shall include the feedback in the final plan.

➤ **Contributors to the Critique:**

Mr. Abhijit Roy (Independent Consultant), Ms. Alpana Kishore (NDPA), Ms. Anvita Anand (TRIPP, IIT-Delhi), Ms. Bharati Chaturvedi (Chintan), Prof. Dinesh Mohan (TRIPP, IIT-Delhi), Mr. Dunu Roy (Hazards Centre), Prof. E.F.N. Ribeiro (Frederick Ribeiro Associates), Prof. Geetam Tiwari (TRIPP, IIT-Delhi), Mr. Jagan Shah (Architect & Historian), Ms. Kalyani Menon-Sen (Jagori), Dr. Nalini Thakur (SPA), Mr. Ravi Kaimal (Architect), Dr. Renu Khosla (CURE), Mr. Sanjay Kaul (URJA), Dr. Satpal Singh (PRIA), Ms. Shipra Bhatia (Hazards Centre), Prof. Shreekant Gupta (Delhi University), Prof. Subir Paul (Ecogroup).

4. Creating Networks for JNNURM - CCS has also succeeded in creating a strong network and civil society organisations, resident welfare association and individuals interested in JNNURM. This network will go a long way in monitoring the project and putting pressure on the government if required.
5. Paper on De centralisation - Presented in July 2006, at a JNNURM meeting in Delhi. Despite the 74th Constitutional Amendment passed in 1993 most states have not devolved powers to municipalities. The paper provides a background of the amendment and compares the provisions of the 74th Amendment with the provisions in the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act 1957.
6. Commentary of the Model Nagara Raj Bill - Under JNNURM, the central government has brought out a model bill in November 2006, to provide legitimate spaces for participatory governance. This bill includes the concept of area sabhas as, as presented above. CCS would not only be providing feedback on the bill, but will work with policy makers to implement the law in their respective states.

7. Policy-makers attempt to demystify government budget – CCS organised a policy meet on "**demystifying government budgets**" in December 2006, in New Delhi, in partnership with **Resource Centre for Legislators**. The aim was to present a practical guide for interpreting budget and data, so that relevant information could be extracted for use by MPs and voters, while being able to effectively influence budget allocations and utilization. Parliamentarians who participated included **Deepender Hooda, Sharad Joshi, Tapir Gao** and **Dharmendra Pradhan**. The meet was chaired by **Gurcharan Das** (Author), **RMS Liberhan** (Director, IHC) and **Prof. Vinod Vyasulu** (Director, Centre for Budget & Policy Studies, Bangalore).
8. Delhi citizens join hands for new charter for water management - At a CCS dialogue on **Water Reforms: State and Communities** held in collaboration with the India International Centre, 45 representatives from various resident welfare associations of Delhi adopted a charter of demands to manage the city's water supply. This included reviving the city's traditional water bodies and display of quarterly accounts on the Delhi Jal Board website.
9. Incorporation of various recommendations made in context of Public Grievances Commission in the new Delhi Public Grievances Act, 2006 to be tabled in the next assembly session.
10. CCS president was a member of the Steering Committee set up to suggest and oversee the preparations for National Convention to celebrate the first anniversary of the enforcement of the RTI Act in India (October 13-15, 2006). In addition he also presented CCS views on the panel Challenges in the effective implementation of the RTI Act.

In the media

- NDTV India did a one week long series on State of Governance in Delhi covering main issues as raised by CCS through the handbooks.
- 11 articles/ reviews in Outlook, Business Standard, Today, Indian Express, Education World, The Tribune, Chandigarh, Mumbai Mirror about the handbooks.
- Media articles about RTI, Duty to Publish Index, published in leading English and regional dailies got the attention of the Public Finance Accountability Department of World Bank and Article 19, a global transparency NGO working in development.

C. REMOVING BARRIERS TO LIVELIHOOD: THE LIVELIHOOD FREEDOM CAMPAIGN

THE PREMISE: The beginning of the 90s' brought a spurt in economic activities. The reason was simple – **the license raj**, which had been preventing industries from growing, and was therefore slowing the pace of economic progress in India; was abolished in 1991. Industries which had been tied down due to red-tapism, were now able to fulfill their true potential. Indians now had easier access to capital, and therefore the country saw the emergence of several millionaires in the ensuing decade.

However, this liberal reform did not apply to the small entrepreneurs, or to the farmers and daily wage earners. After the 1991 liberalisation, the poor did not seem to have gained as much as the rich. Street entrepreneurs (hawkers, cycle rickshaw pullers, small shop owners and many others) continued to suffer under the weight of regulations, restrictions and harassment by government and lack basic economic freedom in the areas of their livelihood.

This lack of government apathy towards the people, who are the backbone of the economy, has led to a huge disparity amongst the rich and the poor. Where on one hand, the rich have better access, more economic freedom, and therefore the ability to get even richer, the poor continue to live under the same restrictions of permits, licenses and quotas, therefore are denied economic freedom, pulling them further into poverty. Research undertaken by CCS over the past several years has proven that absence of this economic freedom is the main reason for urban poverty.

1. USING MEDIA, RESPONSIBLY

THE OBJECTIVES –

1. Remove all licenses and restrictions on entry-level professions.
2. Respect the property rights of street entrepreneurs, to their machinery and merchandise.
3. Decentralize the management of public space by creating ward-level governing committees.

By highlighting the conditions of the street entrepreneurs, through a visually impacting media, supported by research and publications CCS wants to remind the policy makers of the existing disparity, and therefore propose change in legislation.

(To know more about the various research and findings, as well as details of the proposed amendments, log on www.ccs.in or read Law, Liberty and Livelihood).

Explanation: *Jeevika* - The Campaign

Initiated in 2004, *Jeevika* is a search for documentaries that focus on legal and regulatory restrictions as well as socio-cultural norms and religious practices that prevent or constrain people from earning an honest livelihood in the vocation of their choice. Through these films, & therefore through *Jeevika*, an attempt is being made to focus on those policies which have liberalised certain industries that affect the middle classes, but continue to keep the entry-level professions under *licence Raj*, thus keeping the nation under imposed poverty.

Jeevika, through its search for films/documentaries on the theme of livelihood, aims at

- Taking stock of films already made on livelihood issues
- Encouraging established filmmakers, particularly the youth to make documentaries on livelihood issues
- Providing a platform to maximise the impact of these documentaries

The selection process for *Jeevika* is independent, transparent and rigorous with a two-tier evaluation process. The Screening Committee short-lists the top 15-20 films. The Jury selects the top three winners and the Best Student Film from these short listed films. The identity of the evaluation committee is disclosed only after the evaluation process is completed.

About *Jeevika* 2007

With *Jeevika* 2007, emerged a new strategy to support the young film makers. Apart from providing financial support to one or more of the directors of the short-listed entries for a future film project on

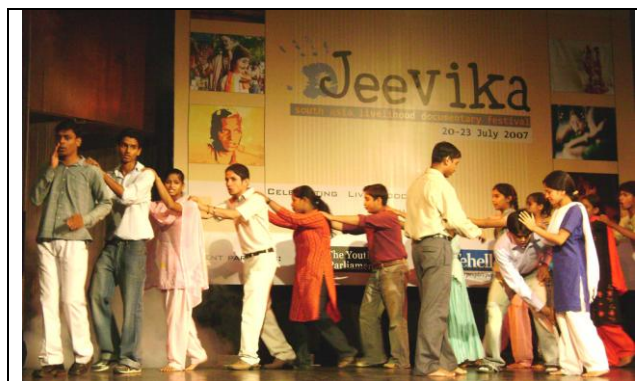
a related issue of livelihood, *five winning entries would also get support to undertake further research and make a documentary on the proposed theme.*

"JEEVIKA is a very important platform to make people aware of all kinds of injustice done to poor people. It is surprising to see how all South Asian countries have similar policies on livelihood. I would personally like to take these wonderful films and issues back to Sri Lanka". *Mr CR Jaysinghe, High Commissioner, Sri Lanka*

The *Jeevika* South Asia Documentary Festival was inaugurated at the India Habitat Centre, Delhi on July 20 and concluded on July 23 2007. During the two days, all 26 selected films were

screened and were attended by over 800 hundred people - media, academicians, policy makers, young students and the film makers. The Film Festival, held in July 07 showcased the winning movies, as well as a play and performance by a rock band. This was followed by a three day Research & Documentary Film Making Workshop

The number of South Asian countries, who participated in *Jeevika* increased and so did the number of entries which was over 128 films: by far the largest number of entries since its inception.



Play Performance during the inaugural ceremony of Jeevika 2007.

The winners of Jeevika 2007

- FIRST PRIZE: *Ambi Jiji's Retirement*, Nandini Bedi
- SECOND PRIZE: *The Right to Survive - Turtle Conservation and Fisheries Livelihoods*, Rita Banerji
- THIRD PRIZE: *Seruppu (Footwear)*, Amudhan RP
- BEST STUDENT FILM: *Prakash Traveling Cinema*, Megha Lakhani (National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad) & *Mandai*, Radhika Murthy (Film and Television Institute of India)
- SPECIAL JURY MENTION (GENERAL CATEGORY): *Maid in Lebanon*, Carol Mansour (Srilanka)
- SPECIAL JURY MENTION (STUDENT CATEGORY): *Baghe Bachcha* (The Tiger's Cub), Bishnu Haldar (Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata)

The Awards for the winners included:

1. Prizes worth Rs two lakhs
2. Specially designed Jeevika Memento
3. Financial support for future film on a related issue
4. Purchase of multiple copies for dissemination to educational institutions and NGOs Queries

Ms. Nandini Bedi, the first prize winner of Jeevika 2007, called Jeevika a great platform and said "CCS is the only organisation which is taking documentaries seriously and is making a point to advocate too. I am glad that I became a part of Jeevika and thanks a ton for proving me an opportunity."

To maximize the impact of the Jeevika documentaries, CCS disseminates copies of the winning films to educational institutes and development organisations all across South Asia. **Jeevika** films have also been traveling to various cities of Mumbai, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Los Angeles apart from Delhi.



Winners of Jeevika 2007

Key Achievements

1. Livelihood issues of South Asia discussed at the London School of Economics - Over 300 students of the London School of Economics (LSE) watched and discussed livelihood issues of South Asia following the screening of *Jeevika* films in their campus. This was one among the many screenings organized to educate students on how lack of economic freedom resulted in poverty and how students as future leaders could bring about change. Apart from LSE, another 300 students of various media, journalism and film-making institutes across India have been part of these screenings so far.

2. GLOBAL LAUNCH OF THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX OF THE WORLD, IN SEPTEMBER 2007.

Highlights of the Index

The most economically free country in the World, is Hong Kong, scoring 8.9 points on a scale of 0-10. It is followed by Singapore (8.8), New Zealand (8.5), Switzerland (8.3), Canada, the US and the UK tied at fifth place with a rating of 8.1. Germany shares the 18th position together with El Salvador, Oman and Austria with a score of 7.6.

Factors like lower unemployment, higher per capita GDP, higher income for the poor characterize nations with high level of economic freedom.

India is ranked at 69th position with a score of 6.6 in the current Index ahead of China which is ranked 86th with a score of 6.3. Though, India has improved its score from 6.5 to 6.6, it has slipped from 60th position last year.

The Economic Freedom Index of the World, which was started by Nobel-Prize winning economist Milton Friedman, measures economic freedom index of countries in five areas:

- a) Size of the Government
- b) Legal Structure and Security of Property Rights
- c) Access to Sound Money
- d) Freedom to Trade Internationally
- e) Regulation of Business, Credit and Labour

Economic freedom, which has grown worldwide considerably in recent decades, is not only important for improving the investment climate or attracting trade. The report demonstrates that there is also a strong connection between economic freedom and common well-being. Countries with higher economic freedom have higher average per-capita GDP and average per-capita economic growth. Importantly, the poor are also better off in countries with higher degrees of economic

freedom, resulting in the average income of the poorest 10 per cent, of population in these countries being higher.

The Global Launch, attended by over 100 individuals from various institutions/organizations, was inaugurated by Shri Kamal Nath, India's Minister of Commerce and Industry on 4th Sept 07. Dr Mark Mullins, Executive Director of Fraser Institute, Canada, Lord Meghnad Desai of the London School of Economics, Dr. Parth J. Shah, President of Centre for Civil Society, and Dr. Rene Klaff, Regional Director of Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Germany also shared insights into the findings of the report.

D. NEW LEADERS, NEW IDEAS

THE PREMISE: The youth today have access, opportunity and inclination towards contributing positively in growth and development of a nation. CCS, through the youth programmes, provides these very opportunities, believing that instead of strikes/*dharnas*/rallies, the youth can relate to social issues in a more productive and participatory manner. The objective of CCS's youth outreach programs is to create and sustain an intellectual revolution among India's youth. Through, seminars and internships, special graduate programme and documentary festivals the young people are exposed to other forms of social activism, this in turn helps them focus on the importance of institutions and policies, while supporting in channelising their energies and knowledge towards creating a better society.

PROVIDING PLATFORMS TO PARTICIPATE

THE OBJECTIVE: To engage the youth with social and economic issues through an understanding of public policy.

The objective is being achieved through three different programmes –

1. The Liberty and Society Seminars (LSS)
2. The Research Internship Programme
3. The Graduate Programme

The success of the programme is measured through two, simple yet effective indicators

- The impact of the program on the participant (Change in Me)
- The impact created by the participant in his/her external environment (Changing my World)

*The Youth programmes of CCS are supported by supported by **Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT)** under its initiative on Youth and Civil Society. The programme is divided into two cycles – July to March and April to September, for reporting purposes. The CCS youth initiatives shall therefore be referred/ discussed here-under keeping in mind these reporting cycles.*

1. Liberty and Society Seminars (LSS)

The Liberty & Society Seminar is a four-day residential seminar, held across the country, with an aim to engage young people in social and economic issues through an understanding of public policy. LSS provides a greater understanding of the larger world-society, economy and the culture-within the classical liberal framework that emphasises limited government, rule of law, free trade, and individual rights.

“LSS has helped me to see things on issues in a different way. We usually see our surrounding and curse the government. Now, after attending the seminar, I am in better position to analyse the problem and try to find a solution to it and discuss it with others rather than just blame the system”. LSS Graduate

The LSS from July 2006 to March 2007 have brought in many new ideas and successes. Attended by 207 students in six cities, five new sessions were introduced in this period. During the sessions of April to September 07, three new sessions were introduced: Film called “Sex, drugs & consenting adults”, Session by Facilitators on “designing sound public policy” and “Liberalism: As the Moral Basis of free Society”.

Coverage	LSS July 06 - March 07	LSS April - Sept 07
Number of colleges from where applications were received	99	62
Number of applications received	344	188

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Total Number of Participants	207	106
Number of cities covered	6	3
Diversity: Number of states represented through participation	20	21
Number of International Students	6	3

A. Outreach:

Each year, CCS employs various methods of outreach to publicise the LSS. The aim is to publicise more creatively, within a limited budget. The following chart provides insight into which methods have been most successful, during the two cycles and therefore proposes the best practices for the future programmes.

How have LSS Applicants Learned about LSS?

Various Sources of Publicity	LSS July 06 - March 07	LSS April - Sept 07	Change
Mailers, Posters and Publicity Material	35%	42.61%	▲
Notice Board & Poster	25%	32.97%	▲
Website & Internet	4%	5.30%	▲
LSS Mailing List	5%	1.88%	▼
Newspapers	1%	2.60%	▲
Network	64%	57.39%	▼
Teacher/HOD	20%	6.90%	▼
Local Coordinator	8%	12.76%	▲
Friend/ CCs Graduate/ Senior	28%	27.11%	▼
CCS Programs	3%	3.72%	▲
Others (e.g. Youth Organisations)	6%	6.9%	▲

Key Achievements

- Three of the LSSs (Goa, Delhi and Cochin) happened in cities which had Friends of Freedom (FoF) presence. All three made a presentation about their activities at the seminar and added to their member base after the seminar. The local coordinators in Goa and

“Any view could be challenged just step back & look at it in a different perspective, that’s what we learned here at LSS!!” LSS Kolkata Graduate

Cochin were also the FoF coordinators. This helped the participants to develop a comfort level with them and enabled better post-LSS communication. It also provided the FoF Coordinators training on the job of organising seminar etc.

"I always favoured borders but after attending LSS I realised how important it is to live in a society without borders, competition for economic development. It is after attending LSS Seminar, I have gained confidence to speak about my ideas. "
Rai Kumar Verma. LSS Graduate

2. FoF Goa played an important part in organising the LSS.

3. A street play on Right to Information was conducted in New Delhi by Prabodh - a group of CCS

seminar graduates in Delhi. The skit named "*Gabbar Singh files an RTI*" left people in splits, while educating them about the process of filing an RTI.

Key Learnings:

1.The use of indirect outreach or different publicity media has gained, which could be attributed to growing awareness about CCS over the years.

2.There has been a significant drop in publicity through the teachers/HOD. This reverse trend needs to be further analysed.

3.Use of notice boards/posters is emerging as a more effective outreach media, and needs to be explored further.

Photo Gallery



LSS Session in Progress, Bangalore September 2007



Kolkatta LSS, session in Progress



Discussions during the LSS, Delhi, October 2007



The participants at LSS, Kolkatta, September 2007

2. Research Internship

The Research Internship programme, is aimed at providing a hands-on experience of public policy. Covering spheres such as Education, Governance, Environment and Livelihood, the interns are

“The internship exercise involved so much thinking, debating and introspection –it showed me that there are so many alternative ideologies and solutions –equally plausible –to anything that I thought ‘right’.” *Stuti Gujral*

required to interact with everyone: from the cycle rickshaw puller on the road to the Government Official, to investigate and understand policy making in theory and on ground policy implementation. Every year **30 students** are selected

from all over India and abroad through a competitive process of a written application and an

interview. Their work is published in newspapers, college magazines, our books, and some interns are also interviewed by the media.

Research Associate (RA), Application Status	Internship- July 06- March 07	Internship - April – Sept 07
Total Number of Applicants	220	139
Number of Applications received from India	210	133
Number of Applications received from Abroad (USA, Canada, Germany, Russia, Nepal, Britain)	10	6
Number of Applications received for Summer (Delhi)	150	58
Number of Applications received for Summer (Outside Delhi)	58	48
Number of Applications received for non- Summer (Delhi)	4	13
Number of Applications received for non- Summer (Outside Delhi)	8	20
Number of Applications short listed for interview	69	71
Total number of students accepted for internship	20	27*

*3 interns opted out and 3 others were barred during the course of the internship due to unsatisfactory performance.

Research Areas

Interns (called Research Associates – RA) research and write papers on the impact of critical public policies in areas such as livelihood, education, governance and environment. The project allocation for the interns is done keeping in mind the areas of research that they had specified in their applications. Several drafts were prepared before finalizing the list of projects.

The Benefits

- Training in skills of research, analysis & writing through hands-on projects
- Publication of select papers in newspapers, magazines, and CCS publications such as *The Economic Times*, *Business World*, *The Statesman*
- A certificate of successful completion of the program

The internship helped me realise the power of statistics and figures. They help to prove a point far more easily than just a dry statement. Also, the internship taught me to look at any issues from not just one angle but many, before I draw conclusions about anything. Makes me feel a lot more connected to the society I live in".
Radhika Miglani

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- A monthly stipend
- A chance to participate in international seminars
- A chance to compete for prizes for best published articles after the internship

Sessions undertaken for Internship Programme July 06 - March 07	Sessions undertaken for Internship Programme April - Sept 07
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantifying Corruption: Analysis of 3 crucial papers - Mark Miller (PHD student at Berkeley, California) ▪ Public & Private Choice - Gautam Bastian (Editorial Associate, CCS) ▪ Participation in Local Government: working group and discussion - Makarand Bakore, RA, CCS ▪ How to write a research paper - Sushmita Pratihast (RA & Internship Coordinator, CCS) ▪ Economic advice giving through an institutional economics perspective - Dr. Susanne Cassel (MPA, KSG, Harvard University) ▪ Public Policy and Urban Governance - Dr Shreekant Gupta (Director, NIUA) ▪ How to write a newspaper article - Dr Deeptipriya Mehrotra (Prof. at LSR and freelance columnist) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation' taken by Naveen Mandava (Doctoral Fellow in the RAND Graduate School for Public Policy and also an RA with CCS previously) ▪ 'Understanding Government Budgets' by Ila Patnaik (Faculty at National Institute of Public Finance and Policy) ▪ A one to one discussion over Plans of Action with Naveen Mandava ▪ 'Writing Research Papers' by Sushmita Pratihast (Analyst, Indicus Analytics and internship coordinator with CCS, 2006) ▪ 'Understanding the RTI Act and filing an RTI' by Makarand Bakore (Senior Research Associate, Governance, CCS) ▪ Informal Interaction with Shruti Rajagopalan and Mayank Singhal (Intern, 2003) ▪ Session on 'Government and Markets' by Dr Christopher Lingle (Research Scholar at the Center for Civil Society in New Delhi and professor of economics at Universidad Francisco Marroquin in Guatemala) ▪ 'Writing for Media' by Sruthijith K (CCS Supporter and Copyeditor, Mint)

3. Graduate activities

Each year, CCS provides a host of activities in which graduates of seminars and interns can participate to continue the engagement with CCS. During the period of July 06 to March 07, there

were 258 participants, and in the period of April to Sept 07, there were 106 graduates. The activities, which are a part of the graduate programmes discussed below.

Friends of Freedom (FoF): Liberal Youth Forum – As a part of the graduates programmes, members form or join groups called **Friends of Freedom** in their respective cities. FoF is about the change *in* the members themselves and the change *through* them in the community. There are currently 10 groups across India in Ranchi, Chennai, Amritsar, Changanessary, Goa, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Guwahati, Pune, and Delhi Through different activities, specific to their cities, the FoF aim at a better understanding of public policy issues in relation to self and society and for actively campaigning on issues of concern in their local communities.

The activities motivate, train and engage existing members of the group and also attract and engage new members and general youth audiences. Some of these activities are:

- ❖ Initiating discussions around public policy issues at educational and social institutions
- ❖ Research and documentation on local issues
- ❖ Local campaign through street plays, public hearings or *jansunvayi* on specific issues
- ❖ Writing for local media on these issues
- ❖ A pro-active filing of RTI applications to bring about change at the local level
- ❖ Translation and circulation of books and articles in local languages
- ❖ Freedom Fest: A Festival to engage youth in the city to create awareness about the FOF and public policy issues. The Festival could include activities such as quiz, debates, sessions on 'How to use Right to Information', documentary screenings, poster-making, slogan writing amongst others.

The activities undertaken by the FoF, in the different cities are highlighted below –

City	Activities
Chandigarh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organised a two-day training on basics of liberalism and public policy and setting goals for the year (detailed report in annexure 17) ✓ Working on a project on Right To Information
Changanacherry	Working on publicity for LSS Chennai; otherwise inactive

Cochin	Organised livelihood documentary festival Jeevika in collaboration with Centre For Public Policy Research, Rajagoiri College
Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organised Jeevika documentary screening in collaboration with Law Students association of India, Faculty of Law, Delhi University followed by a discussion on <i>Child Labour: Is Banning it the only Solution</i> ✓ Organised a workshop on the <i>Community-based Market Solutions to Environmental Woes</i> on August 19, 2007 at CCS Office ✓ Organised a workshop on <i>Economic Freedom</i> on August 12, 2007 at CCS Office ✓ Organised Jeevika documentary screening and a lecture by CCS research scholar Prof. Christopher Lingle as a part of the <i>International Youth Day</i> celebrations in Maharaja Agrasen College
Goa	Planning a Jeevika Documentary screening in collaboration with Cine Magic on December 14-15, 2007
Jaipur	Two-day LSS in Jaipur with new members of FOF on October 24-25, 2007
Ranchi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organised a <i>Are We Really Free Campaign</i> ✓ Organised a Jeevika Documentary Screening

Key Achievements

1. Shabi Hussain from FoF Ranchi helped in getting 200 *Right to Information* applications filed.
2. FoF Cochin working on creating the first RTI literate village in India
3. Shourie Anand (Prabodh-FoF:LYF Delhi) and Prabhjot Sohal (Coordinator, FOF:LYF Chandigarh) attended an international workshop called Basic Liberalism Workshop organised by Liberal Youth South Asia 6-10th September, 2007 in Colombo, Sri Lanka
4. **Prabodh** organised a workshop on Community-based Market Solutions to Environmental Woes on August 19, 2007
5. FoF Ranchi conducted ***Are We Really Free Campaign***
6. Kolkata and Jaipur formed an FoF after the LSS held in the cities
7. FoF Amritsar, organized a festival titled **Know your City**. The event which saw a participation of over 300 students, included presentations, film screenings and discussions on issues of public policy, Right to Information and education choice.

"It was great attending the freedom fest at Amritsar and meeting so many enthusiastic students. I fall short of words to praise their efforts and hard work they put in to make the fest a success. FOF has become quite popular among Amritsar students. I wouldn't be surprised if we get to see people from other towns of Punjab as well next year..." Prashant Narang, post attending Freedom Fest in Amritsar.

eCatalyst Newsletter - This is the quarterly e-newsletter which is compiled, edited and published by the graduates. The **eCatalyst** provides the graduates a platform to express and communicate the learnings, thoughts and feelings of the graduates in peer environment. They share their views on issues and events, experiences at workshops and programs, achievements, books or websites of interest to others and any forthcoming opportunities.

Three issues of eCatalyst have been created and published during the year, by the graduates and are accessible on <http://www.ccs.in/news-letter.asp#>

Liberalism in Life Competition (LILC) - To motivate graduates to stay on the learning curve, CCS organises a competition to demonstrate their understanding and real life implementation of the ideas discussed at the programs is organised. Entries for the competition range from an essay, a diary entry, a narrative on a field visit, an article on the program or the ideas or independent research work done on specific issues. Prizes given to the best entries include cash prizes and sponsorship to a student among the winners to attend a seminar organised by similar think-tanks in the USA.

During the period of July 06 through March 07, the following were the contest highlights –

- Three films received as entries for LILC for the first time
- Responses received in both English and Hindi.
- CFW graduates sent “memoirs” from the seminar as entries for LILC.
- 15 graduates wrote on their experiences and sent in as a part of the entry

Communicating Freedom Workshop (CFW) - The CFW aims to develop expertise of CCS graduates so as to expand the lingual and geographical outreach of CCS programs to engage youth with public policy. Training is provided in public speaking, facilitation & moderation, leadership & succession building, management & team building,

CFW gave me a chance to get in touch with like minded youth catalysts. These young people's dreams are potent and they are in a hurry to better their world. Some participants wanted to create a borderless world and some of them wanted to shape a place where everyone has equal educational opportunities. They realize that social change cannot be brought about overnight, and are ready to do their bit, starting from improving the self, neighbourhood, their college, their social network, besides learning about the youth of India. All in all, I made friends for life and realized the power of ideas". Yavnika Khanna.

networking, documentation, writing, how to present specific policy issues to different target groups, evaluation & impact assessment.

The CFW workshop was organised on 2nd to 5th Aug, 2007, with a shift in focus: was shifted from running campaigns to individual development of participants. This in turn would help them understand themselves and their conception of liberalism better.

Advanced Liberty for Change Seminar (ALCS) - This advanced level four-day residential seminar strengthens the understanding and application of principles of sound public policy gained by the graduates of CCS programs. It aims to provide a deeper and advanced understanding of public policy issues; to provide a platform for program graduates to present their work and learn from each other and to make them better change agents.

An **ALCS** was organized for four days, between 21st and 24th December in Mumbai. This seminar was aimed to provide graduates of past seminars a deeper and advanced understanding of public policy issues besides providing them a platform to learn from each other, making them better change agents.

E. OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INITIATIVES

1. **New program on public policy for youth launched**
2. **CCS president at the Atlas**
3. **CCS President at the Asia Liberty Forum & Economic Freedom Network**
4. **Policy Advocacy : Changing the Climate of Opinion –**
 1. **Policy Meets:** To bring new ideas to parliamentarians and connect policy researchers with policy makers to enable informed policy debates and decisions. So far, nine meets, have been organized, which have helped network with over 50 policy makers.
 2. **Individual briefings with Policy Makers:** Initial interaction at the Policy Meets has led to develop interactive relationships with MPs: Ajay Maken (Minister of State for Urban Development): Mr. Maken hosted a Policy Lunch at his residence which led to

the highest ever participation of policy makers and has also become a regular speaker at CCS events.

3. Deependar Singh Hooda (MP, Rohtak, Haryana): Impressed by the vouchers solution, Mr. Hooda, held several deliberations with CCS to implement a pilot vouchers program in Haryana. He also spoke in defense of private education at our Livelihood Documentary Festival. Mr. Arvinder Singh Lovely (Education Minister, Delhi Government) Implemented CCS policy recommendation and is keen on further reforms

List of Abbreviations

ALCS	Advanced Liberty for Change Seminar
CCS	Center for Civil Society
CDP	City Development Plan
CFW	Communicating Freedom Workshop
FoF	Friends of Freedom
HOD	Head of Department
JNNURM	Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission
LILC	Liberalism in Life Competition
LSE	London School of Economics
LSS	Liberty and Society Seminars
NGO	Non Government Organisations
NPM	New Public Management
RA	Research Associate
RTI	Right To Information
SEC	Socio Economic Category
UP	Uttar Pradesh