CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

2010-2011
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conferences on Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops on Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media coverage</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Activities in Education</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## LIVELIHOODS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## OTHER SUBJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops subjects</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EDUCATION

Conferences on Education

School Choice National Conference 2010, Delhi

130 delegates consisting of educationists, education planners, and civil society representatives, and 17 expert speakers from around the world came together on 18 December at the India Habitat Centre for the second annual School Choice National Conference to discuss critical issues plaguing the Indian education sector, share experiences, and formulate a collective plan to advocate for reforms with the government. The conference titled ‘The Right to Education Act: Revolutionary, Redundant, or Regressive?’ focused on four broad areas: Right to Education Act: Opportunities and Challenges, Framework of Ideal School Ecosystem, Accountability in Education, and Re-visioning Indian Education.

Workshops on Education

Stakeholders discuss RTE Model Rules

School Choice Campaign in partnership with the India International Centre organized a RTE Model Rules Consultation with key stakeholders and policy makers on 16 March 2010 at IIC, New Delhi. The objective of the consultation was to facilitate fruitful discussion amongst education experts to provide a timely and much needed feedback to the Union Government, which in turn will help State Governments in developing their rules on innovative ideas on the implementation of the Act. Read more >>
Policy Roundtable for Members of Parliament on Right to Education Model Rules

Organised on 11 March 2010 at the Constitution Club, New Delhi, the program was attended by seven MPs and was chaired by Prof R Govinda, Vice Chancellor, National University of Education Planning and Administration.

Consultation on Right to Education Act: Scope for Muslim

School Choice Campaign (SCC) joined hands with Education Development Centre to put up a two-day consultation on “Right to Education Act: Scope for Muslims” on 18 and 19 May 2010 at the India Islamic Cultural Centre. The first day consultation led to important revelations, which were highlighted in the larger conference on day two. A compilation from the conference with action points has been sent to important and active participants and stakeholders. The program saw the participation of religious leaders of the community, activists and leaders from organizations actively working for the Muslim community. SCC made a presentation on how some sections of the RTE can be used as avenues for activism to bring changes in modal rules under the Act for better opportunities for Muslims.

A Comparative Analysis of Teachers and Para Teachers in India

As part of the Student First! Dialogue Series, an open forum discussion on “Teachers and Para-teachers: Professionalism and Performance” was organised on 5 May 2010 at the India Habitat Centre. The panelists of the evening were Mr Ram Pal Singh, President, All India Primary Teachers' Federation (AIPTF), Mr Ajit Singh, Director, Professional Development Projects, AIPTF and Mr Sudhanshu Shekhar Patra, Ph.D Scholar, National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NEUPA).
Media coverage

Right to Education in Media

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 (RTE Act) came into force on 1 April 2010. The School Choice Campaign has been directly involved in analysing and giving recommendations to improve the Act and is now providing workable implementation models. Articles on the RTE Act written by our team were published in the Financial Express, Ajay Shah’s Blog, Mint, Business Standard, Pragati and the Wall Street Journal. We are working with state governments to help draft Rules to implement the Act. Visit www.righttoeducation.in for details.

Right to Education Act: A Critique

The RTE Act is a mixed bag and some of its serious flaws need to be addressed, say Parth J Shah and Shreya Agarwal in the May issue of CFO Connect. Read more>>
Read more >>

Lok Sabha TV

Our flagship education campaign ‘School Choice’ was the central theme of a special program called Vishesh on Lok Sabha TV. Telecast on 30 January 2011, the special episode in Hindi titled Kya Hai Voucher Shiksha? explained to the viewers the meaning and relevance of voucher education. Budget private schools in North East Delhi who are empanelled for our School Vouchers for Girls pilot were featured in the show while opinions from experts like Parth J Shah, Amitav Virmani, Country Director, Absolute Return for Kids and PV Indiresan, Former Director, IIT Madras were also broadcast during the program.
Other Activities in Education

www.righttoeducation.in portal launched.

CCS launched this portal with an objective to provide a one point resource for all information regarding the Right to Education Act and its implementation. An integral part of the portal is the RTE Coalition, a group of like-minded organizations interested in contributing to make universal elementary education a reality in India. Read more >>

The Beautiful Tree” bags 2010 Fisher International Memorial Award

School Choice scholar Prof James Tooley’s pathbreaking book The Beautiful Tree, a Cato Institute publication won this year’s annual Fisher International Memorial Award.

SCC receives 133 contributions from the Rajagopalans Registry

CCS Graduate Shruti Rajagopalan pioneered a whole new way to supporting the Right to Education of Choice for the poor. She and Nandakumar registered for their wedding with School Choice Campaign. We received contributions from 133 of their friends, family and other guests. We thank all the well wishers and the Rajagopalans for their generous support. You can register special events and promote liberty in India.

Matrix for Drafting State Rules under the RTE Act

After several meetings, discussions, consultations on the RTE Act and the Model Rules with Members of Parliament, government officers, researchers, educationists, NGOs, private school associations over the last few months, School Choice Campaign (SCC) has drafted a matrix to assist state governments in the process of drafting Rules under the RTE Act 2009 to fill the lacunae in and elaborate on, the Model Rules provided by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development. The matrix has been sent to all state governments.
School Vouchers for Girls (SVG) Pilot Enters Second Year of Operation

SVG, the voucher pilot project run by SCC in north-east Delhi has completed its second year distribution of vouchers. A concurrent research evaluation, a study of the parent and the child to look into perceptive and learning level changes after a year of treatment to vouchers will be conducted this year. Comparisons will be made with an equal number of children who did not get any vouchers. The field work for the evaluation has been completed.

RTI Fellow at CCS introduces major changes in Delhi High Court (RTI) Rules

The Delhi High Court has incorporated all the amendments in the Delhi High Court (RTI) Rules 2006, which were recommended by CCS RTI Fellow Anoop Prakash Awasthi.

ENABLE – ARK & CCS’ School Access and Voucher Programme

Absolute Return for Kids has partnered with CCS, pioneers of School Choice reform in India, to implement ENABLE (Ensure Access to Better Learning Experiences), a school access and voucher programme for underprivileged children in Shahdara (North East and East Delhi). The ENABLE programme will provide up to 900 children an opportunity to access quality low cost private school education by funding their education for five years. Eligible children are aged between five and seven, and are either currently out of school, in government schools or attending unrecognised low cost private schools, and come from low income families (earning less than 100,000 INR a year).
**RTE Act & Private School Regulation: Policy Review by Dr Pauline Dixon**

The paper outlines an alternative strategy for the regulation of private unaided schools, allowing them to continue to make a significant contribution to “Education for All”. CCS’s Policy Reviews is a series that investigates existing and potential policies and their implications in the areas of education, governance, livelihood and environment.

**Student First Dialogue Series, Delhi**

An open forum discussion was organised on *National Curriculum: Does one size fit all?* on 8 September at the India Habitat Centre, Delhi. Janaki Rajan, Professor in Education, Jamia Millia Islamia University, Manisha Chaudhry, Head of Content Development, Pratham Books and Payal Mahajan, Education Consultant, Art of Learning were the panelists of the program. Moderating the discussion was Kenneth Jones, Fulbright Scholar and Associate Professor, University of Southern Maine.

**Delhi Government Accepts CCS Demand for a Common Admission Schedule for Schools**

Action for School Admission Reforms (ASAR), a helpdesk launched in Delhi by CCS and nurseryadmissions.com in 2008 to help parents and concerned others tackle the undue stress of the chaotic school admission process, has been successful in introducing the Common Admission Schedule (CAS) according to the Delhi Government Order. CAS is one of the five reforms advocated in the Parent’s Charter formed by CCS with parental consensus to bring about transparency, accountability, and standardization in the admission process.
LIVELIHOODS

Citizens Join Hand to Protect the Livelihood of Street Vendors in Jaipur

Jeevika Campaign in Jaipur in partnership with Great India Dream Foundation, Pravah Jaipur Initiative, AIESEC, Rajasthan Abhyudaya Sanstha, National Association of Street Vendors of India and Jaipur Mahanagar Thdai Thela Footpath Vyawasayi Union formed a Human Chain at Jal Mahal urging the government to protect the honest livelihood of poor working in the informal sector. Over 500 active citizens and students joined the Human Chain.

CCS Graduate Malavika Vyawahare Bags K.N Raj Fellowship to Study Bamboo Policy in North East

Malavika and her team (total four students of Delhi School of Economics) conducted fieldwork in Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh from 22 May to 15 June 2010 with an objective to decipher the affect of the existing bamboo policy on the livelihood options and commercial prospects of the poor, especially the tribal population in North East India.

CCS to Assist Jaipur Development Authority in Implementing its 2025 Master Plan

Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) has drafted a master plan to be implemented by 2025. CCS studied the plan and submitted its recommendations to the authorities which included provisions for street vending and hawking. After a consultation with the officials of JDA, they have agreed to include our ideas in the master plan. CCS will now be involved in the detail planning of the project.

Revival of Contract Systems for Street Vendors in Patna Put on Hold

Nidan and CCS led a delegate of vendors who met with the Commissioner of Patna Municipal Corporation (PMC) Mr Sridhar Chiruvello, Principal Secretary, Urban Development Mr Giris Shankar and Deputy Chief Minister, and finally convinced them to stop the revival of contract system for collecting revenue from street vendors in Meena Bazaar, Patna, a provision that PMC had introduced this year after a gap of four years. The delegation also met with the Bihar Urban Development Minister Mr Sushil Modi on
11 May 2010 regarding the policy implementation. CCS made a presentation on national policy to the Deputy Secretary, Urban Development Ministry and other officers. The recommendations will be presented to the Chief Minister in the coming days.

**Conference on “Economical and Social Growth of Urban Poor”**

CCS in partnership with Nidan organized a conference on 1 May 2010 (Labour Day) at the Kailash Community Hall, Bela Road Muzafferpur, Patna which was attended by over 700 workers. The conference was inaugurated by Mrs Vimla Devi Tulsiyayan, Mayor of Muzafferpur. Other speakers at the conference were Mr S P Singh, Education Officer, Central Board of Workers Education and Executive Director of Nidan, Mr Arbind Singh. CCS submitted a draft policy to the mayor for regulation of street vendors in Municipal area of Muzafferpur.

**Mass Awareness and Mobilization Activity on National Urban Street Vendors Policy in Jaipur**

As part of the Jeevika: Law, Liberty & Livelihood Campaign, CCS is conducting a series of mass awareness and mobilization activities in Jaipur to create an environment which is conducive for the government to implement Policy/Bill on urban street vendors. These activities include street theatre and lectures and talks by local leaders of the community. CCS has successfully completed three such activities thereby educating more than a thousand street vendors. Giving impetus to the movement is the recent CCS membership of National Alliance of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) which is a national federation of street vendors in India consisting of over 538 street vendor organizations and more than 3.64 lakh members across 22 states in India.
Livelihood Regulation Study Released

CCS organized a press conference to release the Livelihood Regulation Study of Jaipur in the Pink City Press Club, Jaipur on 9 August 2010. Former Chief Secretary of Rajasthan Mr M L Mehta released the study. Others present at the program were Mr Rakesh Tripathi from Nidan, Patna and Mr Ghanshyam Kotwani, Secretary of National Alliance of Street Vendors of India. A panel discussion was organised to discuss the study and challenges in the implementation of the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors Policy 2009.

Rally Demanding Legislation for Street Vendors, Jaipur

Thousands of street vendors from across Rajasthan marched to the State Secretariat on 30 September in Jaipur demanding passing of the long awaited Bill on Urban Street Vendors in the State Assembly and its early implementation. Organised by Jeevika Campaign in association with National Association of Street Vendors of India, a memorandum urging implementation of the legislation was also presented to the Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot at the end of the rally.

Mass Demonstration Demanding Early Implementation of Street Vendors Policy, Jaipur

CCS in partnership with the Heritage City Thadi-Thela Union organised a mass demonstration on 22 December in Jaipur. Over 100 street vendors from Sodala, Collectorate Circle and Vaishali Nagar, and representatives of Vidyadhar Bhimsaraiya and Basant gathered at the Jaipur Municipal Corporation headquarters. A group of representatives met the Chief Executive Officer and the Additional
Commissioner, Head Quarter to discuss key issues and submitted a memorandum demanding implementation of the street vendor policy in the city.

**State Level Convention on Street Vending in Patna**

CCS, Nidan and NASVI (National Association of Street Vendors of India) came together to celebrate Street Vendor Day on 20 January 2011 in Patna. To mark the occasion, a state level convention of street vendors of Bihar was organised in Shri Krishna Memorial Hall, Patna. The convention saw the participation of over 3000 street vendors from across the state. The convention pushed for legislation protecting livelihoods of street vendors in Bihar on the basis of the National Urban Street Vendors Bill 2004. The convention had three cabinet ministers from the current government in Bihar along with Members of Legislative Assembly, Members of Parliament, Mayors and several other leaders. The Minister for Urban Development promised to bring legislation for street vendors by the end of the next financial year.

**Lok Sabha TV**

On February 12, 2011, our Jeevika campaign was also featured on Lok Sabha TV in the program 'Insight Weekend'. This special episode covered the life of street vendors and highlighted their trials and tribulations. Amit Chandra, Jeevika Campaign Coordinator, CCS was interviewed for the program

**Jeevika on the Road**

Jeevika: Asia Livelihood Documentary Festival 2010

Jeevika Festival at the India Habitat Centre from 27-29 August saw the screening and discussion on the top 21 documentaries, theater performance by Asmita ‘Unsuni’, and a discussion on ‘Representation of Reality in Documentary Making’ amongst filmmakers.

The highlight of festival was the Awards Ceremony on the 29 August which saw a musical performance by Ekam Satyam, popular youth band from Delhi and an impressive guest panel comprising of ace actress Ms Shabana Azmi, Mr Sharad Yadav, MP and Chairman, Committee for Urban Development, Dr Adish C Aggarwala, President, International Council of Jurists and S M Khan, Director, Film Festivals, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, GOI

OTHER SUBJECTS

Conferences

India as a Global Power: Practicing Liberal Values at Home and Abroad

CCS welcomed around 100 MPS members, guests, and fellows to the 2011 Mont Pelerin Society Asia Regional Meeting from 10-13 February 2011 in Gurgaon, titled 'India as a Global Power: Practicing Liberal Values at Home and Abroad’. Over the three days, participants interacted with 26 world renowned experts through panel discussion and breakout sessions. The meeting was inaugurated by Arun Shourie. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, in his concluding address highlighted that the three big challenges for India are Energy, Water and Urbanisation. The commentary of Dr Gorawut Numnak, one of the participants at the meeting, highlights that there is nothing else stopping India from realising its potential, but itself.
Workshops subjects

Public Policy Workshop for Journalists in Jaipur

19 journalists representing eight media houses in Rajasthan participated in the Hindi program of the Certificate Course on Public Policy for Journalists (CPPJ) on 24 April 2010 in Jaipur. In partnership with Friedrich Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit (FNF) the initiative provides journalists with a better understanding of public policy, its formulation and evaluation of its impact on citizens thereby enabling them to better report on important social, political and economic issues.

Colloquium on the Indian Liberal Tradition

Twenty liberals from politics, media, academics, civil society and government came together at the “Colloquium on the Indian Liberal Tradition” held recently in Bangalore from 13-15 June 2010 to discuss and reflect on writings of Indian liberals with an aim to apply this understanding to current challenges and strategise for innovative approaches for the dissemination of liberal ideas today. It was organised in partnership with Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit (FNF).

Colloquium on Indian Liberal Tradition, Faridabad

The Colloquium on Indian Liberal Tradition was organised from 3–5 December 2010 at the Atrium Hotel, Faridabad. 21 liberals from different age groups engaged in intense discussion on the various dimensions of the Indian liberal discourse. From history, economics and social policies, to religion and liberal politics, the Colloquium, with pre-selected readings from great Indian authors, which formed the basis for discussion, challenged participants to examine, refine, and extend their own ideas in the company of inquiring colleagues. The program was a stark reminder that liberal values have been a part of Indian thought for a long time, and even today holds immense relevance to our social, economic and political dilemmas.
Liberty Fund Colloquium on “Liberty, Empire, and the Rule of Law”, Rajasthan

15 liberals from seven different countries came together to discuss *In Praise of Empires* (Deepak Lal), and *Justice and Global Politics* at the Liberty Fund Colloquium organized by CCS at the Neemrana Fort Palace in Rajasthan from 14-17 February 2011. Parth J Shah, President, Centre for Civil Society was the Director and Suri Ratnapala, Professor, University of Queensland was the Discussion Leader for the colloquium. These small, scholarly conferences focus on themes in economics, history, law, political thought, literature, philosophy, religion, and the natural sciences. They generally assume an interdisciplinary focus. To date, Liberty Fund has held over 3,000 such colloquia in the United States and abroad. Liberty Fund conferences are attended by invitation only.

26 students from over 24 colleges across India attend ISPP in Bengaluru

I, Society & Public Policy seminar in Bengaluru was organised from 17 to 20 June 2010 in the pristine and verdant environs of the Fireflies Ashram, located about 30 kilometers from the main city. Student participation was rife during the seminar which saw a number of activities from talks on various issues to field research.

CCS Alumni organizes Public Policy Workshop for Journalists in Patna

26 journalists representing 19 media house in Patna participated in a one day Public Policy Workshop on 21 August 2010 in Patna. Pioneered by the Centre for Civil Society (CCS), this new initiative started in 2009 in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit (FNF) with an objective to provide
journalists with a better understanding of public policy, its formulation and evaluation of its impact on citizens thereby enabling them to better report on important social, political and economic issues. Mr Swayam Prakash, Resident Editor, Prabhat Khabar (Patna Edition), alumni of CPPJ 2009 was the local coordinator for the workshop.

Policy Roundtables for Members of Parliament

CCS in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative organized two policy roundtables on 28 July and 4 August 2010 at the Constitution Club in Delhi. The former roundtable was on Parliamentary Transparency and the latter on Police Reforms.

Certificate Course on Public Policy for Journalists (CPPJ), Guwahati

Journalists representing eight media organizations from across four States of Assam, Tripura, Sikkim and Delhi participated in the three-day residential CPPJ in North East India from 11-13 October. The program saw the participation of celebrated speakers like Sam Rajappa, Director, The Statesman Print Journalism School, Kolkata, Dhiren Bezboruah, former Founder-Editor, The Sentinel, Kaamesh Salam, President, World Bamboo Organisation and Parth J Shah, President, CCS

I, Society & Public Policy Seminar (ISPP), Guwahati

23 students from 17 colleges across six States and one international student from Nepal attended the four-day residential ISPP seminar at the pristine environs of Siloam, Umsaw Khwan, Meghalaya, India from 7-10 October 2010. An interesting amalgamation of students from as diverse backgrounds as law,
engineering, business, political science, public policy, etc. made the group dynamics and participation during the seminar a successful one.

**CCS Chintan: Sanjeev Sabhlok & the Freedom Team of India**

Sanjeev Sabhlok, the founder of the Freedom Team of India (FTI), which is a forum for policy, strategy, and leadership development to promote freedom in India is a former Indian administrative service officer and the author of the acclaimed book "Breaking Free of Nehru". In his talk he outlined clear strategies required for mobilising people, virtual management of networks and working together as a team.

**CCS Celebrates 209th Birthday of Frederic Bastiat**

As part of the Atlas Global Initiative, www.azadi.me ran an essay competition dedicated to Bastiat from March to June 2010. Based on Bastiat’s life and his article (Candle Maker’s Petition) as reading materials for the competition, the assignment was to write an essay detailing the relevance of Bastiat’s theory in modern India. The winners of the competition are: Neeraj Kumar Singh (first), Manisha K Jha (second) and Satyam Mishra (third).

**CCS Team at International Programs**

Three team members from CCS got the opportunity to participate in much sought after international programs in the first quarter. Kush Verma, Sr Campaign Associate, School Choice Campaign attended “No Education: No Freedom, No Opportunity” and Baishali Bomjan, Manager, PR and Communication, attended “Strategic Political Communication” seminars organized by Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) International Academy for Leadership (IAF) in Gummersbach, Germany.

Manoj Mathew, Associate Director, Programs graduated from the Atlas Think Tank MBA program held in Virginia, US. He also attended the Atlas Experience and Heritage Resource Bank meetings in Miami and spent time at the Institute of Human Studies to understand their programs and strategies in advancing liberty amongst young people.

Shreya Agarwal, Research Associate participated in the “Strategy Planning” seminar from the 6-18 June 2010 organized by Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) International Academy for Leadership (IAF) in Gummersbach, Germany.

Parth J Shah, President was speaker at the Atlas Youth Conference in Jakarta where he made a presentation on single issue campaigns with specific reference to the School Choice Campaign. At the Economic Freedom Network Annual Meeting, he moderated
two discussions on Role of Private Agencies in Migration and Freeing Trade in Services. He was also a speaker at the second annual *Enterprising Schools Symposium* organized by Gray Matters Capital Foundation from 27 - 28 October in Hyderabad.

Premila Nazareth, CCS Trustee and Leah Varghese, Senior Associate, School Choice Campaign attended a four-day workshop on *Designing & Implementing Social Accountability Programs* organized by Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in South Asia in Bangladesh from 10-14 October. Leah also participated in a training of Master Trainers on Community Score Card (CSC) at the *Developing a Culture of Good Governance* program from 27-31 October.

Manoj Mathew, Director, Programs attended the *Environmental Sustainability in Asia Forum* to help Hitachi think through various business strategy and CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiatives on 2 September in Singapore.

Gideon Mathson, Research Assistant and Kumar Anand, CCS supporter attended the *Atlas Youth Conference* from 4 to 6 October and the *Economic Freedom Network Annual Meeting* from 6 to 8 October in Jakarta.

Amit Chandra, Campaign Coordinator attended a two week residential seminar on *Globalisation & Market Economy* organized by the International Academy of Leadership, Freidrich Naumann Foundation in Gummersbach, Germany from 10 - 22 October. Shreya Agarwal, Research Associate attended a four day *Moderators Training Workshop* organized by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation from 7-10 October in Katmandu, Nepal.

Bhupinder Chauhan, Assistant Office Manager and Ajay Jain, Web and IT Administrator participated in a training program on Salesforce (customer relations management software) on 16 September.

The second issue of STUDENT FIRST! quarterly e-magazine on education policies revolves around the theme of ‘Public-Private Partnership in Education (PPP)’ which, though not novel in the Indian school education sector, remains an important tool to help in service delivery. But, as with any policy instrument, the devil lies in the details of design and implementation. In this issue, Geeta G Kingdon poses ‘Some Policy Questions’, Janaki Rajan argues about the role of ‘PPPs in Universal Elementary Education’, and Baela R Jamil writes on ‘PPPs in Pakistan’. We also carry an interview with Soumya Kanti, head of PPP initiatives at Educomp.
Bamboo is a Grass, Not a Tree

We celebrate the government’s announcement declaring bamboo as a grass, not a tree. This comes as a huge relief to CCS’ long standing campaign demanding correct recognition for bamboo and establishment of the rights of tribal and forest dwellers. We hope that the final step of amending the Indian Forest Act will also be taken soon.