



CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY
Social Change Through Public Policy

2013-14



Annual
Report

President's Note



The year marked several important milestones for Centre for Civil Society (CCS). Our School Choice Campaign entered its sixth year of advocating focus on learning outcomes, parental choice and efficient use of public funds; our Jeevika Campaign, after a decade of championing livelihood freedom for the poor, contributed to a national policy, the Street Vendors Act, protecting the rights of millions of street vendors; and finally, our Academy provided policy training to thousands of potential leaders of our great nation on the vital need to market liberal public policy.

In my 16 year journey with CCS, 2014 has undeniably been a milestone year. 'Advancing social change through public policy' has been the Centre's defining characteristic. Our focus continues to be in impacting positive change in the lives of millions. We started the year with an extensive strategy planning for the next three years. This process led to meaningful discoveries for ourselves as an organisation; the way we've strategised and structured our work; the way we allocated resources, human and financial; and the way we communicated why we do what we do to our audiences – both internal and external. Below are our revised organisational statements:

Vision: Each individual leads a life of choice in personal, economic and political spheres and every institution is accountable

Purpose: Centre for Civil Society advances social change through public policy. Our work in education, livelihood, and policy training promotes choice and accountability across the private and public sectors. To translate policy into practice, we engage with policy and opinion leaders through research, pilot projects and advocacy.

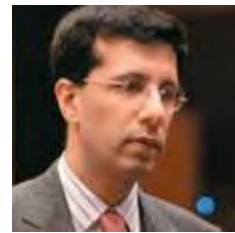
What has emerged out of this process of rethinking is a deeper sense of purpose, alignment and motivation for the whole CCS team.

Looking back, we are reminded of all the support that has kept our enthusiasm high and commitment staunch. Be it thousands of eager participants at our programs; our partners, funders and sponsors; leaders in the policy network who have been key allies; or friends, new and old, who have stood by us unconditionally – their spirit has, and will continue to be, the driving force behind our dream of a free society.

Hope you enjoy reading about our work.

Parth J Shah
President

Trustee's Note



India strives to be one of the world's fastest growing economies and yet little attention has been given to the biggest resource that can propel India's economic ambitions – the country's human capital.

Our country's school education system is systematically failing our children. Despite 97% enrolment in Class 1, only 35% reach Class 12. Programmes such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and legislations such the Right to Education Act (RTE), have ensured that children are in school but these have not resulted in our children getting a meaningful education. There is a growing body of data that points to abysmal learning levels in our schools. What else can be expected given that our education policies define, measure and hold the administration accountable to inputs alone!

Our country's future is at stake. There is an urgent need for us to start focusing on educational outcomes as a nation. As one of India's leading think-tanks, Centre for Civil Society (CCS) has been a front runner in advocating for an outcomes-based approach to education policy in the country. CCS has a unique approach to advocacy that combines data and evidence gathering with monitoring and tracking of progress. As the Annual Report illustrates, following are some key

highlights of CCS's work in FY 2013-14:

- Media advocacy through press conferences and workshops for making learning the priority in the RTE
- Re-launch of the righttoeducation.in portal in partnership with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Central Square Foundation with the objective of sharing best practices around RTE state rules and on-ground implementation
- Strengthening NISA, the national coalition of budget private schools, by supporting them to improve quality and promoting their right to exist even as they face closure under RTE's stringent input requirements
- Campaigns for improving awareness about RTE Section 12 (1)(c) among disadvantaged communities in Delhi and for providing 'school choice' to poor parents through vouchers

Further details about each of these initiatives, achievements, reflections on the year and lessons learned can be found under each sub-section of this report.

I particularly applaud CCS for being the only advocacy

organisation that has actively taken a stand on the issue of school choice for poor parents. With approximately 38% of our children enrolled in private schools as per DISE, clearly a large number of parents are actively opting for private school admissions for their children. And yet, RTE's focus on infrastructure and inputs may result in a large number of these schools getting wiped off the map. I am hopeful that with CCS's research and advocacy efforts policymakers and various other stakeholders will recognise the contribution of these budget private schools in delivering education to our children and instead of shutting them down, efforts will be made to support those that are delivering quality learning to our children.

Even 20 years after Liberalisation of the Indian economy, there appears to be a License Raj in the school education sector. It is important to

acknowledge that private schools are an integral part of the school ecosystem and ensure a healthy coexistence of both government schools and private operators. I hope that CCS will continue to advocate for deregulation of this sector, thereby promoting healthy competition and creating an enabling environment for the entry of new and talented entrepreneurs into the sector.

I wish CCS the very best in their endeavour to strengthen the education policy framework in India to fulfil the larger objective of school choice and better learning outcomes for our children.

Ashish Dhawan
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Advisor's Note



This has been an interesting year for Centre for Civil Society. The team has spent a lot of time focusing on what we need to do over the next three years and, with a new national government taking charge in Delhi, we are in for an interesting time. We want to be in a position where we can engage more meaningfully with policy and opinion leaders through our research, pilot projects and advocacy. The ideas that CCS stands for are not unique to us – individual rights, freedom of exchange, rule of law and limited government. Where we are unique, is that we continue to relentlessly raise these ideas to ensure that they do not get lost in public policy discourses where individual rights are trampled upon, where markets are undermined and big government leads to inefficient allocation of resources.

The Right To Education Act (RTE) was a hallmark legislation in our country. Thanks to various schemes of the government (mainly the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Midday Meal Scheme) we have been successful in getting nearly all children enrolled into schools across our country. This is no small achievement and the government has to take the major credit for this. However, the quality of education remains very poor and this is reflected in India's poor performance in various national and international tests and rankings. The RTE did not address this issue and there are many educationists who only pay lip service to this issue. We

remain amazed at the energy these children show and their eagerness to learn. On these travels I also met some very motivated teachers. It will be a shame if we do not meet the aspirations of these children and create environments where these passionate teachers can create engrossing learning environments in their classrooms.

CCS has been working a lot on promoting the idea of freedom of choice in selecting a school through various program, like the school voucher program and the 25% reservation in schools. During the past year we extended these concepts to the vocational training sector and are partnering the Government of Maharashtra, the National Skills Development Council and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation in a unique skill voucher program. We continue to support the National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA), which we incubated a few years ago. NISA works on various issues related to budget private schools, mainly related to the impact of the RTE and improving the quality of educational outcomes. These budget private schools provide choice to students and their parents and hopefully will be drivers to improve the quality of education across our country.

CCS continues to open the minds of young Indians through the *i*policy programs of CCS Academy, where

we debate issues related to public policy and challenge conventional thinking. As more universities set up public policy programs across the country CCS has started playing a role here also by providing faculty support to these institutions and also conducting ipolicy courses there.

We have also started engaging more actively with our alumni, who are excellent brand ambassadors for the ideas that CCS stands for. Some of our alumni have gone on to creating their own organisations that share

the same ideals of CCS, like D Dhanuraj who set up the Centre for Public Policy Research.

As we tread towards another year with our renewed vision, purpose and aspiration, we look forward to your continued support.

Luis Miranda
Chairman, Board of Advisors



**Idea Wins
2013-14**

The Economist cited the positive outcomes of our School Voucher for Girls and Delhi Voucher Pilots

Research Paper on Cost of Compliance was cited by Times of India

Results of School Vouchers for Girls pilot project were presented at the Annual International School Choice Academic Reform Conference (Florida, 2014)

Street Vendor's (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014 was passed in March 2014. Earlier, two state-level legislations enacted in Rajasthan and Bihar in 2012

**Policy Wins
2013-14**

Vikalp, our Skill Voucher program, was acknowledged to be the model for NSDC's STAR scheme, an INR 1,000 crore skill development scheme

SCC and NISA advocacy efforts have led to changes in RTE state rules and political support for Budget Private Schools (BPS)

2013 Intern Jai Vipra's paper on Gender Studies will also be taught by her Women's Studies professor as part of the curriculum for next year's batch.

People Wins
2013-14

10 graduates of CCS programs have been accepted to the Students for Liberty Charter team, and have started SFL chapters in 5 cities across the country

Ujwal Batra, an ex-intern, won the The Fund for American Studies Asia-wide essay competition on The Morality of Capitalism

Two blogs, www.lawlex.org and www.theindianeconomist.com were started by our graduates

3 partnership policy courses were initiated by CCS Grads

**Institution
Wins
2013-14**

From a handful of school association representatives from Delhi in 2011, today NISA represents over 8,000 schools from 19 states

Leaders in Education Advocacy and Policy (LEAP) established as a forum for people who value both public and private sectors in education and have a direct stake in the sector

Partnered with Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF), Department of Social Justice, Maharashtra and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to launch *Vikalp*: India's first Skill Voucher Pilot which will cover 3,000 students in Maharashtra over a two year period in 2013. India Development Foundation is an independent evaluator of the pilot

CCS ranked 50th among all think tanks in the world, 15th in Asia and No. 1 in India according to the University of Pennsylvania study on Think Tanks, 2013; consistently ranked among the top 100 think tanks since 2008

**Organisation
Wins
2013-14**

Over 200 media citation in leading national, international and regional dailies and magazines and over 10 national TV appearances; 13,000+ likes on Facebook and 100,000 visitors to our website; Six articles published on Azadi.me were syndicated for the print media. Azadi.me also has over 43,000 likes on Facebook

Coalition 25 set up in an effort to enable 25% category seats in mainstream schools as well as advocacy on a national scale for 25% reservation. First collaboration with Tech Mahindra Foundation to set up a pilot

Education

Research

Cost of Compliance

The Right to Education Act, 2009 sets forth certain norms and standards that every private school must meet in order to gain recognition, or face closure if they fail to meet these standards. These norms are input-centric, focusing on such aspects as size of classrooms and playgrounds, pupil-teacher ratio, and toilet and drinking water facilities, but do not take into consideration student learning outcome. A number of budget private schools in India, functioning at one-third the cost of government schools would require a significant fee-hike in order to meet these norms. We sought to support these budget private schools and seek reformation of the RTE norms that require these schools to make significant infrastructural changes or face closure. The findings of our study on Cost of Compliance for Budget Private Schools with RTE norms were published in the [Times of India](#).

Scholarship Disbursement Scheme for Minorities

We conducted a study on scholarship schemes for minority students, which studied the efficiency of the

A policy reform initiative of Centre for Civil Society, [School Choice Campaign](#) envisions developing an education market where all avail quality education of their choice. It aims to achieve this by bringing about much needed reforms in the education system in India today and increasing access to quality education for all, using the three-pronged approach of Education Vouchers, Regulatory Reforms and Encouraging Edupreneurs. The Campaign promotes efficient use of public funds and equity and quality through liberalisation.



disbursement of these scholarships and the minority community's access to them, and aimed to give recommendations to the Central Government, State Government and the community for improving the design, allocation, administration and utilisation of these schemes. Some of these recommendations included increasing the scholarship amount in keeping with the rising cost of living, including all minority groups studying in government schools under the scope of these scholarships in the spirit of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, revising and upgrading the advocacy strategy and the budget for these scholarships along the lines of highly visible schemes like Pulse Polio or Bhagidari schemes of Delhi Government and simplifying the procedures of all scholarship schemes.



Study of the Higher Education Regulatory Framework

Our research proposal to study the higher education regulatory framework in India was accepted by the International Growth Center. Given the increase of

private ownership in the higher education sector in the last few years, the project examines the three private routes of opening a higher educational institution in India – private university, private institution-deemed-to-be-a-university and a private college affiliated to a government university. The process of entering the sector is greatly hindered by the multiple levels of barriers and regulation and our study puts forth policy recommendations that would make the process smoother, facilitating the entrance of more players in the market, expanding the higher education sector and thereby increasing Gross Enrolment Ratio.

Public Private Partnerships in Education

We presented our paper on [Public Private Partnership \(PPP\) Models in Education](#) at the CII Conference on 13 March 2014. This paper takes on four case studies, to present different ways in which the formation of PPPs can be approached. It examines their different mechanisms, assets and weaknesses. The last example provides insights and potential lessons from programs run by the Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) in Pakistan.



Pilot Projects

School Voucher for Girls

Our research pilot, School Vouchers for Girls, which focused on demonstrating the viability of vouchers in education, reached completion in 2013. The study had provided vouchers to 400 girls from minority backgrounds in Seelampur, New Delhi for their primary education. The assessment showed that the voucher students scored better in all the three subjects of English, Math and Hindi, the difference margin being highest in English, at almost 10 percent. Parents who wanted their child to study till graduation level or more were almost 11 percent higher in the voucher population than in the control group and near 8 percent more voucher recipient children aspired to study till graduate level as compared to those who did not receive vouchers.



Coalition 25: Project Patang



CCS believes that the most powerful idea in the RTE Bill is the Section 12 (1)(c) – reservation of 25% of seats in private unaided schools across the country for the children of weaker sections and disadvantaged groups. We take pride that this is essentially the idea of the school voucher that we have strongly advocated over the last few years. Even though the government does not use this nomenclature, the 25% reservation has created a National School Voucher Program and the scheme, if executed in the best of its spirit, could go a long way in advancing education.

Coalition 25 is an initiative by CCS to help implement the 25% reservation rule in the private schools of Delhi. The Coalition will tie up with corporate foundations and other donor agencies to kick start the projects in some of the popular schools. The first step in this direction is Project *Patang*, which is being implemented in partnership with Tech Mahindra Foundation.

Project *Patang* aims to implement a holistic inclusion program (academic and social) in three private schools in Delhi, which can then be replicated in the other schools of Delhi and rest of India. In the process, we will be documenting the challenges and solutions to implementation of Section 12 of the RTE, and best practices will then be shared with the private schools.

Advocacy



Leaders in Education Advocacy and Policy (LEAP)

CCS began LEAP as a platform for public and private education institutes, leaders in education delivery, finance, and training and skill development service providers – those with a direct stake in education – to collaborate to improve the state of education in India. In November 2013, we had representatives from organisations including the Planning Commission, Absolute Return for Kids, American India Foundation, Acumen Fund and iDiscoveri along with renowned researchers Dr Jishnu Das, Senior Economist at the World Bank and Dr Geeta Gandhi Kingdon, Professor at London University meet and discuss the current education landscape and identify problems faced by the sector, along with actionable solutions to these

problems. A key take-away from the meeting was that India lacks credible data on education and schooling, and there is a need to form a meta-organisation that will take on the responsibility of sourcing and collating this data, to be made available for researchers when required.

RTE Portal

We revamped and launched our [RTE Portal](#), a one-stop resource for all RTE related information. The portal hosts information about the status of implementation of the RTE Act in different states, Supreme Court and High Court judgements around the Act, a discussion forum and a grievance redressal section for parents to ask questions and have their queries addressed either by in-house researchers or redirected to the appropriate local authority. The portal has received tremendous response from key stakeholders – parents and researchers have found it to be a useful resource and the MHRD cited it as a resource on their [website](#).



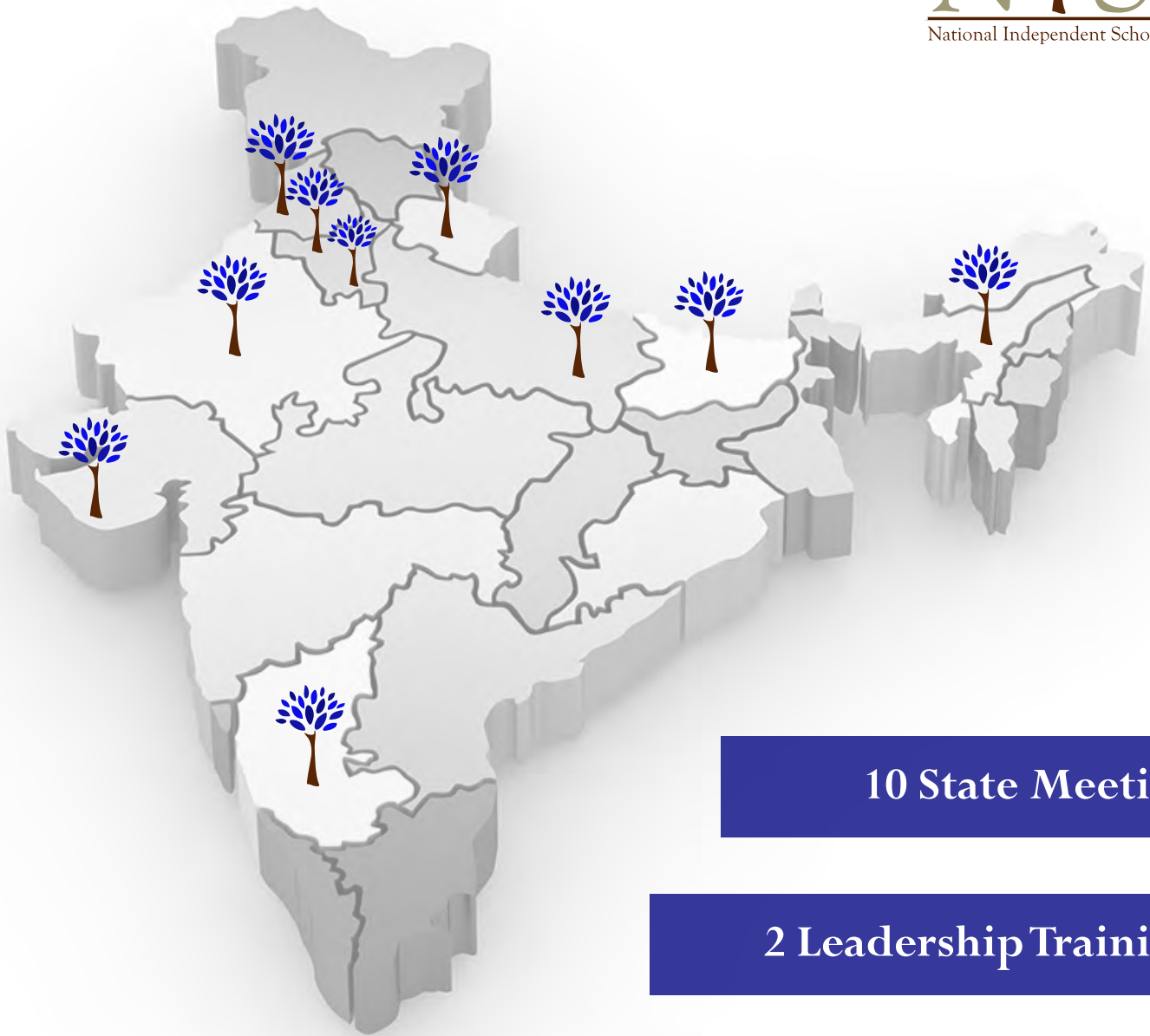
National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA)

[NISA](#) is a platform for budget private schools (BPS) from across the country to give them a unified voice to address their concerns about legislations and bye-laws which apply to them, and to facilitate quality improvement in schools. NISA now boasts membership of nineteen states – Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur,

Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Through their member associations, NISA now has a network of over 8,000 schools, reaching out to 20,00,000 students!

Committed to amplifying the voice of these small schools that face closure in the face of RTE norms, and to improving the quality of education being imparted in these schools, NISA has continuously engaged with school owners, edupreneurs, association heads, principals and teachers, through workshops, trainings and state and national level meetings.





10 State Meetings

2 Leadership Trainings

2 National Meetings

Boondein: NISA Coffee Table Book

Private schools have been serving the cause of education for the last decade, but the environment altered with Right to Education (RTE) Act being passed in 2009. This Act primarily aims at providing free and compulsory schooling for every Indian child between the ages of 6 and 14. Though the law recognises the effectiveness of private education sector, different interpretations of it have begun to undermine the efforts of this sector altogether. As mentioned above, the strict norms laid down by the RTE Act regarding infrastructure and other aspects, stand to close these private schools permanently. With this, the choice for parents between private and public school gets severely impaired.

Media reports that since the passing of the RTE, [2,983 schools have been shut down](#) across 17 states, and another 5,907 face threat of closure. In Punjab alone, 1,170 schools have been shut down. These figures, already staggering, become even more so when you consider on-ground figures. Our field coordinators in the [National Independent Schools Alliance](#) report that 4,331 schools have already been shut down in 17 states – 2,500 in Punjab, while another 15,083 face threat of closure (as on 18 March 2014) affecting over 18,00,000 students.

We journeyed to four states and visited a number of budget private schools with diverse financial and social structures. Forty five stories of fortitude and commitment of parents, teachers, students and school owners have been presented in *Boondein*, our coffee



“You are not a drop in the ocean, You are an entire ocean in the drop”

table book, which captures and showcases the essence of these schools, why parents prefer these schools to their government counterparts, and what made these edupreneurs start these schools; building evidence for their relevance and acknowledging their contribution in achieving universal education and schooling for all children in India.

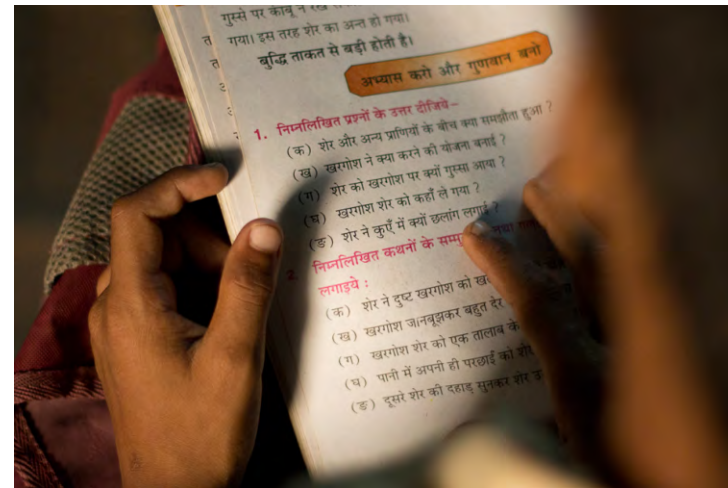
MyVote, My Choice Campaign

The 'MyVote, My Choice' Campaign was organised in the lead up to the Delhi Assembly Elections. NISA mobilised volunteers to attend rallies across Delhi, engaging with party members and the public in order to raise awareness about the idea of school choice and put school choice on the candidates' election mandates.



project. The aim of the project was to stress upon experiential learning as a method of teaching among budget private schools. Through the Earthian project, we reached out to over 150 schools.

A third partnership saw NISA tie in with Educational Innovations (EI) to co-create lesson plans with four schools in Delhi. Working with ten teachers from four schools, along the EI team, lesson plans are being created for Classes I-V in Math, English and Environmental Studies.



Quality Improvement

Partnering with STIR Education, NISA has held 12 micro innovation cluster meetings, as well as hosted a micro innovations competition to identify best practices in classroom innovations that can be adopted across the board in schools.

NISA also partnered with Wipro for their Earthian



NISA School Leaders Summit

The NISA School Leaders Summit saw budget private school leaders, educationists, researchers, investors, school principals and proprietors come together to examine the role of budget private schools in the education space, and to share and explore opportunities and innovative practices to improve quality of schooling and student performance.



School Choice National Conference (SCNC)

Our 5th Annual School Choice National Conference (SCNC) was our biggest yet. The theme was 'Education 2025: Student First!'. SCNC brought together educationists and educational planners, policy experts, activists and government officials to discuss and debate existing policies and share their vision for what education should be in 2025. Through panel discussions and expert presentations, we aimed to showcase innovative policy solutions – both national and international – that are being implemented to address current challenges in the Indian education ecosystem.



NISA School Leaders Summit 26 September 2013 | New Delhi

20 Speakers | 150 Attendees

Session 1: Barriers to Choice in Education

Session 2: School Leadership Training

Session 3: Running of Great Low-Fee Private
Schools

Session 4: School Financing Models





School Choice National Conference 20 December 2013 | New Delhi

16 Speakers | 190 Attendees

Theme: Education 2025: Student First!

Session 1: Vision 2025: Changing the Paradigms of Education

Session 2: Practice 2025: Teaching for Understanding

Session 3: Action Plan 2025: Rethinking Policy

Jishnu Das on 'Delivering Education: How the rise of private schooling changes everything'

Senior Economist at the World Bank and visiting fellow at Centre for Policy Research, Dr Jishnu Das [gave a talk at the Constitution Club of India](#) on the impact of the rise of private schooling on the education landscape in India. The talk emphasised how many parents are choosing fee-charging private schools over free public education, the rationality of these choices and the differences in learning outcomes between public and private schools.



James Heckman on 'The Value of Investing in Early Childhood Development'

Nobel Laureate Prof Heckman is the Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at The University of Chicago and an expert in the economics of human development. He addressed an audience of leaders in education policy and practice at the Taj

Palace Hotel in New Delhi. [In his talk](#), he raised extremely interesting points regarding the role of non-cognitive traits like in a child's performance and discussed his recent research, which focused on human development and life-cycle skill formation, with a special emphasis on the economics of early childhood development. Prof Heckman's talk provided the audience important new insights into such areas as education, job-training programs, legislation, social supports and civil rights.

SCC this year, through research and policy advocacy will endeavour to improve the state of education in India by focusing on effectiveness of RTE implementation across states and build ourselves as a knowledge hub for RTE and Budget Private Schools. We will be conducting a pilot on best practices in social inclusion and focusing on implementation of 25% reservation through Project Patang and Coalition 25. Simultaneously through NISA we also aim to build support and garner resources to protect BPS from input-centric RTE norms, create awareness on BPS issues and concerns through various publications and forums with all concerned stakeholders and expand our network to 25 states from the current 19.





Livelihood

CCS's work in the area of livelihood is geared at achieving greater livelihood freedom for the rural and urban poor, as well as promoting choice and accountability in the area of skill development for underprivileged youth through our skill voucher pilot.

Pilot Projects

Vikalp

We are now focusing on demonstrating proof of concept of the efficiency and success of vouchers in the skilling space. [Vikalp](#) our skill voucher program has been set up as India's first skill voucher pilot, in partnership with the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the National Skills Development Corporation.

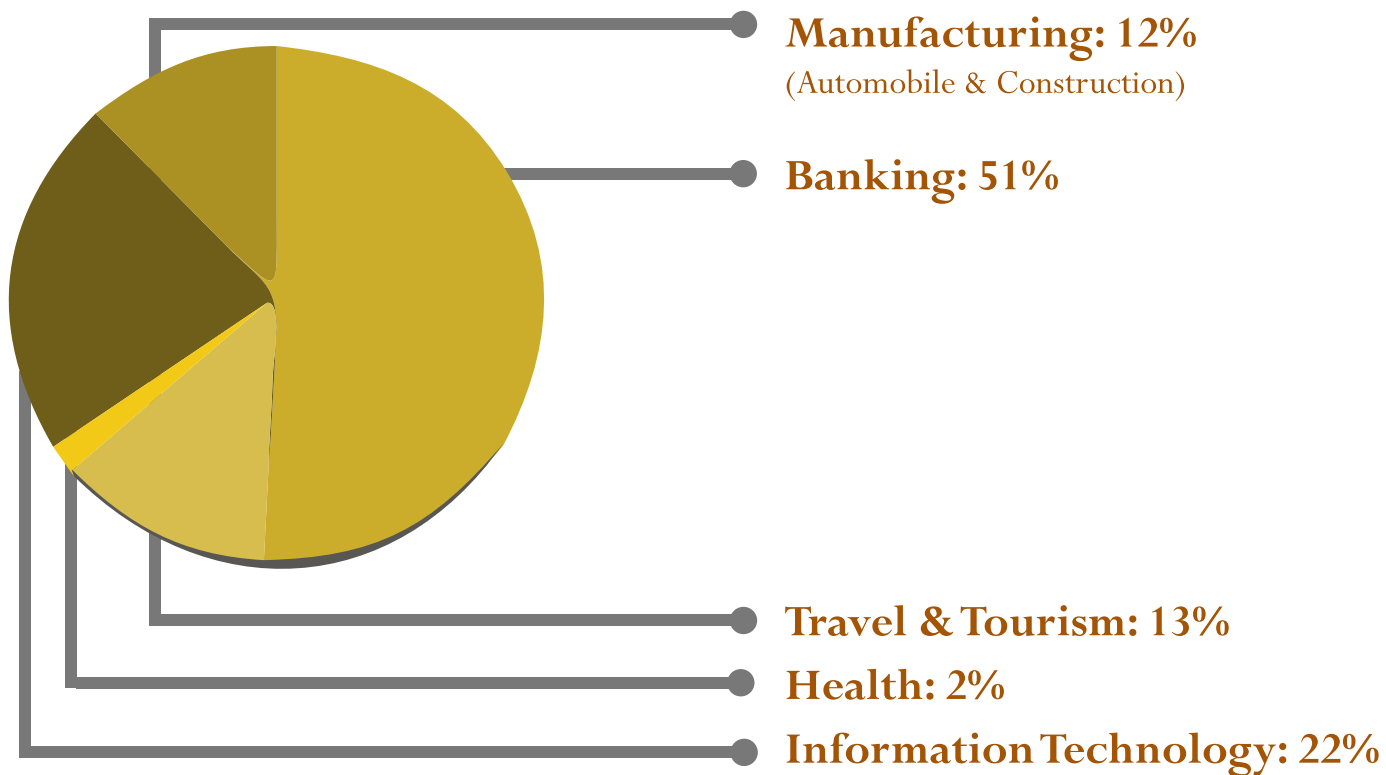
Vikalp reached out to over 1,000 young adults through mobilisation and career melas – 16 career melas were held between October and January, which received an overwhelming response. More than 1,100 students attended these melas of whom 791 applied to be a part of the pilot. 380 students enrolled in the first phase of this project. *Vikalp* was acknowledged by the NSDC as the model for their STAR Skill Development Scheme,

an INR 1,000 crore project launched by the Ministry of Finance and managed by [NSDC](#).

Through *Vikalp*, we hope to catalyse reforms in skill development by routing subsidies through vouchers. [India Development Foundation](#) has joined us as the impact evaluation partner, setting up a research design to evaluate whether demand for 'paid' training program increases as a result of vouchers, whether employability of participants improves vis-à-vis comparable skill development programs and the cost-effectiveness of the voucher program compared with similar programs.

In the next two years, *Vikalp* aims to get the Skill Voucher design integrated in at least two central government and two state government programs with the objective of enhancing choice and accountability in this high priority sector. In addition, we also plan to get corporates and Public Sector Units on board to route their CSR funds related to skilling, through vouchers. Given that *Vikalp* is the first voucher program in India which is being implemented end to end, the evaluation report will be valuable in building evidence for this high-potential-catalytic-tool and convincing policy makers and corporates to leverage this.

Sectoral Split in Student Enrolment



“The program promotes conscious consumerism. A student feels satisfied to know where his money is going. The program also caters to the section of the society that would not have been able to afford the courses due to higher fees.”

*Sushant Gamare
Voucher Recipient*

Advocacy

Jeevika: Law, Liberty & Livelihood Campaign

After a successful four year campaign for Livelihood Freedom in Jaipur and Delhi, that resulted in the notification of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act in March 2014, *Jeevika* came out with a [Campaign Blueprint](#), which will serve as a useful framework for those looking to replicate similar efforts in different parts of the country.



Jeevika: 10th Annual Asia Livelihood Documentary Festival

Our [Asia Livelihood Documentary Festival](#) is a unique platform for both professional and amateur filmmakers and students of filmmaking to showcase their work in the livelihood sector. Through the festival, we aim to draw attention to the regulatory barriers obstructing economic freedom for the base-of-pyramid population and advocate for removal of entry and exit barriers for the sector. This year's festival was our biggest yet, with 100 entries received from countries across Asia, including Singapore, China, Nepal, Malaysia and Bangladesh. Concurrent to the festival, we held three

panel discussions on Realising the potential of the bamboo sector in India: the case for regulatory reforms and their implementation, From *Swatantrata to Azadi*: the road to Economic Freedom, and Do we have the right policy framework for skill development in India, yet?

The award for the Best Long Documentary was given to Raja Shabir Khan for 'Shepherds of Paradise', while Vaidehi Chitre won the Best Short Documentary for 'Bottle Masala in Moile'. The award for the best student documentary was jointly shared by Rakesh Shukla and Saurabh Vyas for their films 'The Donkey Fair' and 'In Citylights' respectively.



CCS Academy

& Asia Centre for Enterprise



CCS Academy aims to work with current and future leaders, inspiring them to critically examine current policies in place and come up with innovative liberal policy solutions to some of the social challenges we face today. Through policy, our certificate course in public policy; the internationally recognised Freedom Caravan; conferences, seminars and trainings, Academy reaches out to young individuals, engaging them in dialogue on how to create free societies. Till date, Academy is proud to have had over 7,000 Graduates who have gone on to start organisations, run successful social campaigns, work with key government departments, leading political parties, national and international development organisations, and premier academic and media institutions. Many of them have come back to work at CCS, helping us further our mission.



Outreach

Freedom Caravan

Our internationally recognised [Freedom Caravan](#) went on a three-week journey around South India. This year, our theme was 'Why is India Poor?' and we had

acclaimed speakers including social activist Babu Joseph; K S Ramdas, CEO of the Jana Urban Foundation; and Barun Mitra, Founder of the Liberty Institute, interact with the students in each city, helping them critically examine the most commonly cited reasons for India's poverty and emphasising the importance of institutions and economic freedom for progress.

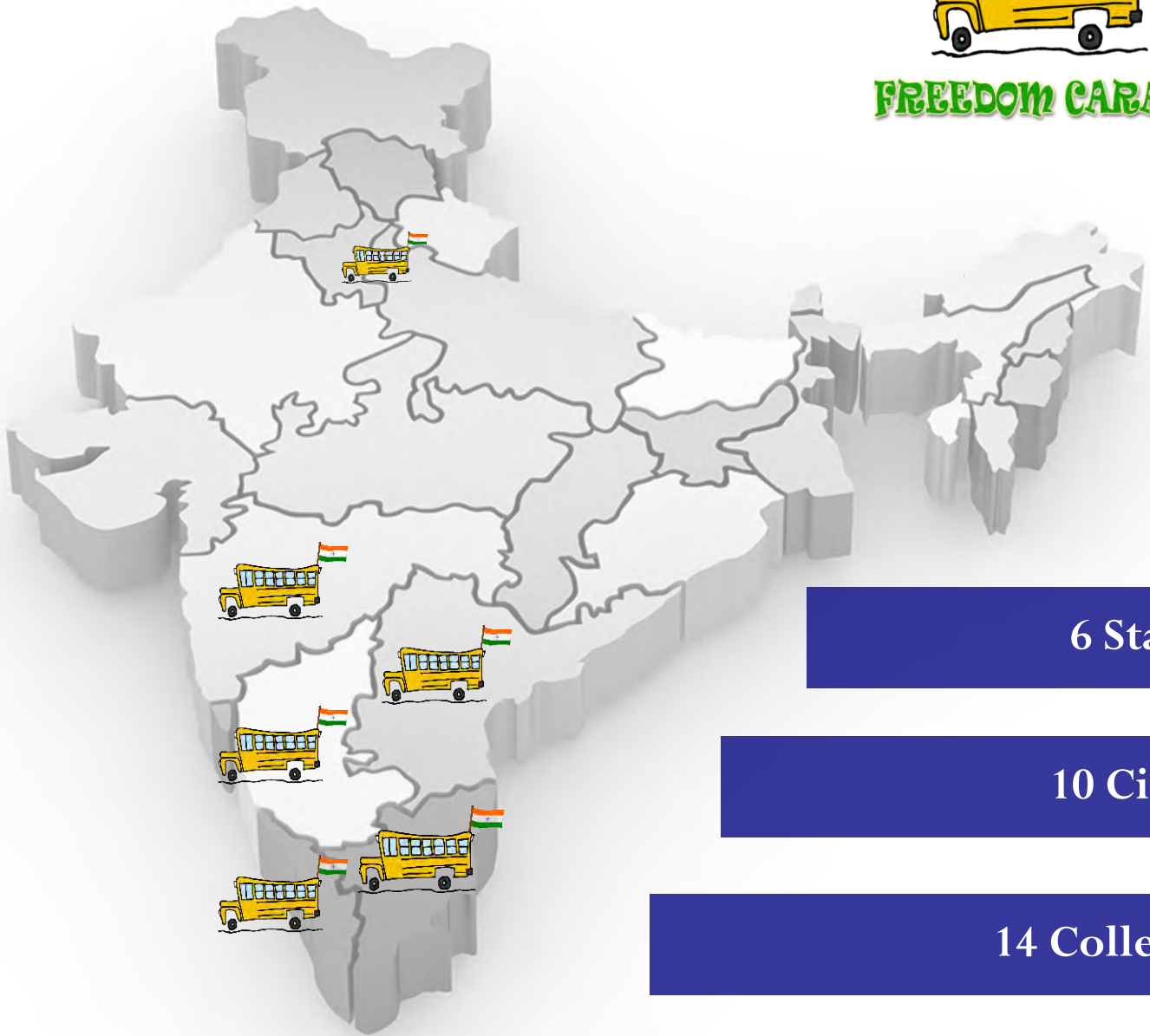


"The program was very informative and insightful for all of us, especially social science students, to enhance our knowledge about India and especially economic policies of the government and their role. A lot of input and areas were discussed which really made us think about our nation. Thank you very much for coming to our college and giving a beautiful presentation."

Roshan Monteiro
Faculty Member, St. Aloysius College



FREEDOM CARAVAN



6 States

10 Cities

14 Colleges

2250 Students

Colloquium

Colloquium is an effort to bring individuals together for an in-depth discussion – providing them an opportunity to get away from the distractions of everyday life to reflect on issues of fundamental and enduring importance. Our hope is that participants will go on to share their advanced understandings and develop innovative ideas and approaches for the advancement of liberalism today.



In June 2013, we held a colloquium, hosting 18 people, to discuss Welfare State versus Welfare Society in Bhubaneswar. Discussions explored the origins of the welfare state, the role of the state, the sustainability of a welfare state and the alternatives to a welfare state.

Friedman Legacy Day

A celebration of Milton Friedman's 101st Birth Anniversary was held on 31 July 2013. In the lead up to the dinner, CCS announced the Friedman on Campus Grant, which was awarded at the event. The Grant was an initiative by CCS to reward those young leaders who were able to come up with the most innovative and impactful way to spread Friedman's ideas to campuses across India.





CCS – Michigan State University Conference: Are Markets Moral?

Leading intellectuals and academicians from all over the world gathered at the India Habitat Centre for a [two day conference on 'Are markets moral?'](#). The speakers, which included Deirdre McCloskey, Richard Epstein, John Tomasi, Pankaj Mishra and Steven Lukes, presented papers that were released for the first time at the conference.

8 Speakers | 150 Attendees



Asia Liberty Forum: Advancing Liberty and Markets in Asia

[Asia Liberty Forum \(ALF\) 2014](#) showcased incredible stories of hope, commitment, passion and above all courage of individual's affecting change in some of the most difficult regions in our part of the world. Highlights included the keynote speech by Razeen Sally on Asia Liberty Rising, Guracharan Das's talk on the *dharma* of capitalism and the closing speech by Chanyang Ju on her escape from North Korea, which was both heart-wrenching and inspiring. The conference served as a catalyst for the formation of new relationships and alliances to advance liberty and markets in Asia.

39 Speakers | 200 Attendees | 41 Countries



Communicating Freedom

A new initiative by CCS this year was to reach out to young students in college to take them through the foundations of how to communicate freedom, using social media as a tool. Our communications team partnered with the Amritsar Policy Group and hosted a Communicating Freedom Workshop at SSSS College in Amritsar, Punjab.

3 Colleges | 140 Students



Policy Trainings

Internship

CCS hosted 14 interns from across the world for our annual six-week [summer Researching Reality Internship](#). These internships culminated in 14 working papers spanning topics from vouchers for maternal health care in India, privatising sewage treatment in India to communitisation of the Yamuna to combat water pollution and the curbing of counterfeit drug production in India. The paper by CCS Grad Jai Vipra has been included in the curriculum for Gender Studies in the coming year by her professor. Aniket Baksy, who wrote a paper on Bamboo Regulation was contacted by several consortiums and individual companies for advice as to where the Bamboo Regulatory schemes were most favourable for the establishment of industries. His paper is also a chapter in our publication Viewpoint 12: Bamboo Regulation in India: The Need for Reforms.

14 Interns | 16 Papers | 2 Published



ipolicy

ipolicy is a course in the liberal approach to public policy. The course involves a variety of interactive learning methods, including dynamic games, talks, dialogues, and documentaries, designed to provide participants with opportunities to explore and share ideas about policy-based solutions to social problems from a liberal perspective.

5 States | 250 Individuals

2 ipolicy for Journalists

7 ipolicy for Young Leaders

1 ipolicy for Development Leaders



"ipolicy helped me recognise the stereotypes I had. Instead of asking why, I began to ask why not? The course showed me the link between a free economy and a free society and how that can be strengthened by a liberal approach to public policy. I have also recognised my potential to become a change agent in contemporary society."

Aesa Dey

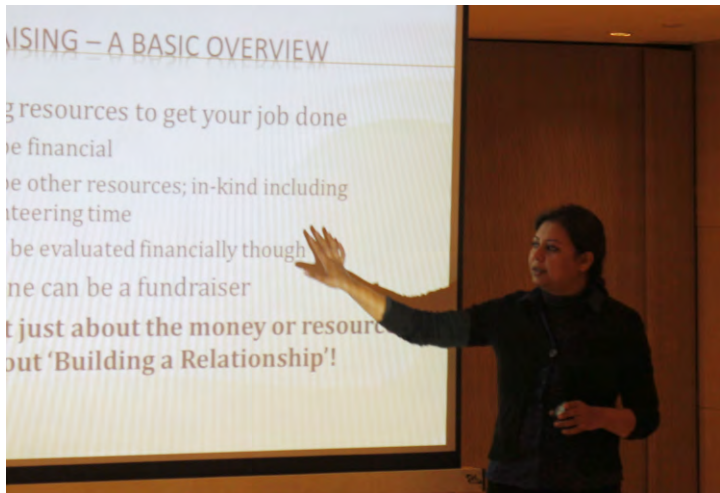
ipolicy Graduate

Annual Report 2013-14



ThinkTank Start Up Training

CCS hosted their second [Think Tank Start Up Training \(TTST\)](#) this year, providing training to young entrepreneurs who have recently started or are looking to start their own organisations. The aim was to have enterprising young individuals meet on a common platform, help them strengthen the core purpose and overall strategy of their organisation and provide them with training in the basics of fundraising and communication. TTST also facilitated the formation of a network for sharing of share best practices in think tank management.



8 Speakers | 22 Attendees | 14 countries



This year, Academy aims to foster active champions of our work in our focus states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan through our policy training and outreach programs, create a robust alumni network, connect our alum with each other, with new ideas and with a global network of opportunities to propel their intellectual growth, make personal connections and access resources to help them advance our shared vision. We also aim to introduce public policy modules in the college curriculum in focus states and strengthen our team's domain knowledge of our first principles and philosophy.

iJustice

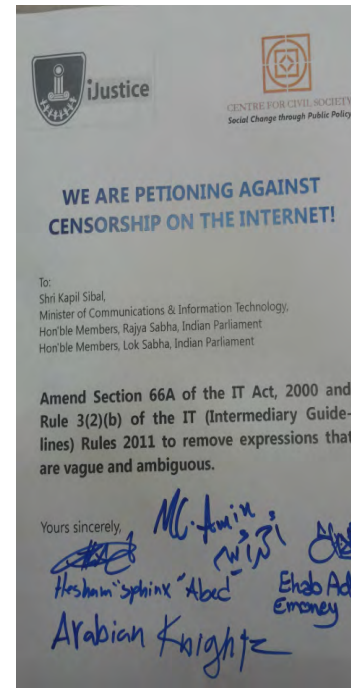
[iJustice](#) is a public interest legal advocacy initiative which supports and assists individuals and groups across India to challenge violations of fundamental rights and the rule of law. iJustice, through strategic litigation, aims at providing relief to the petitioner as well as setting precedents advancing individual liberty and the rule of law.

CCS is being represented by noted lawyer K. Venugopal, in the Supreme Court, on the matter of Aadhaar – the Unique Identification Scheme launched in 2009. We filed an application for impleadment in support of the UIDAI scheme which will improve governance and welfare delivery services by preventing leakages and ensuring effective implementation of direct cash transfers.

iJustice also launched their Freedom of Expression

campaign this March, in partnership with Teamwork Arts. We started a petition against censorship on the Internet, which was endorsed by over 200 individuals, including acclaimed Egyptian hip-hop band, Arabian Knightz. Our publication, *A Legal Guide to Freedom of Artistic Expression* was released at the event – details of which can be found in the publication section.

iJustice is spearheading our legal advocacy, supporting budget private schools that are facing closure in face of RTE recognition norms. We are challenging closure of these schools through RTIs, filing a writ petition challenging input-centric recognition norms of the RTE, and filing PILs in High Courts in Punjab and Haryana for due compliance with ensuring that children who are out of school due to closure are appropriately accommodated.



Communications

Our communication strategy has been strengthened as we reach out to larger audiences using new tools in an effort to spread our ideas. CCS has started fortnightly TweetChats – Twitter conversations on issues of current relevance. So far, these online debates have been a success and we hope to continue our engagement on our first principles using this medium.

Spontaneous Order

Our blog, [Spontaneous Order](#), regularly features

articles from our team on a liberal approach and opinion on current events. This election season, three of our blogs providing political commentary on party philosophy, ideology and manifestos received over 2,000 views.

- [An Open Letter to Aam Aadmi Party](#)
- [An Open Letter to AAP's Yogendra Yadav on Our COMMON Ideology](#)
- [Ek Hi Thali ke Chatte Batte – Do Indian Voters Really Have a Choice?](#)

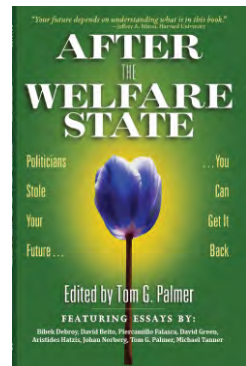


Azadi.me was the winner of the Atlas Social Outreach Challenge for outstanding work on social media

Publications

Books

After the Welfare State (Indian Edition)



Edited by Tom G. Palmer, this set of essays explores the phenomenon of the welfare state through historical and present-day examples and asks the questions: What has the welfare state wrought on economies around the world? Is it sustainable? And what should

come after the welfare state? The Indian edition includes a foreword by economist, Bibek Debroy. In his essay, 'The Ill-Fare State in India', he talks about the importance of ensuring equity in terms of access to inputs in a country, rather than focusing on equity of outcomes because liberalising the informal sector will do more to reduce poverty in India than welfare schemes.

Morality of Capitalism (Hindi)

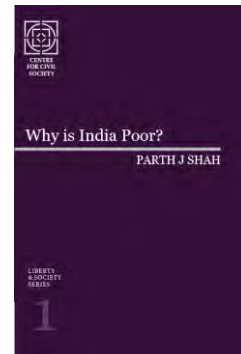
This remarkable series of essays, edited by Tom G. Palmer and originally published by the Atlas Network, brings together some of the best-thinking individuals on the ethical dimension of markets. The book was translated to Hindi for dissemination to a wider audience.



Liberty & Society Series

Why is India Poor?

This monograph addresses the vital question that all of us have asked each other at one time or another: Why is India Poor? It challenges the most commonly cited causes for India's poverty, attempts to offer plausible reasons for why India is poor and highlights the importance of institutions and policies that support economic freedom.



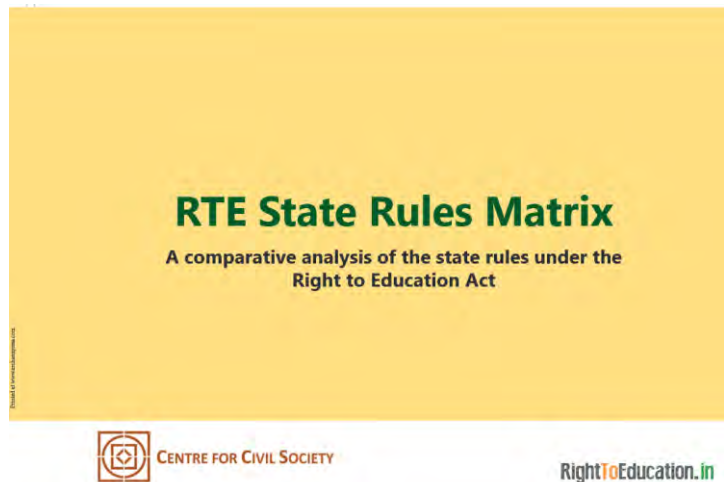
Environmental Challenges: The Tragedy of the Collective (Hindi)

We printed a Hindi translation of this monograph, which analyses some of the most common environmental problems we face today and explains why the command-and-control approach to solving these does not work. Instead, it applies the property rights approach which aligns the self-interest of local individuals and communities with preservation of the resource.

ViewPoints

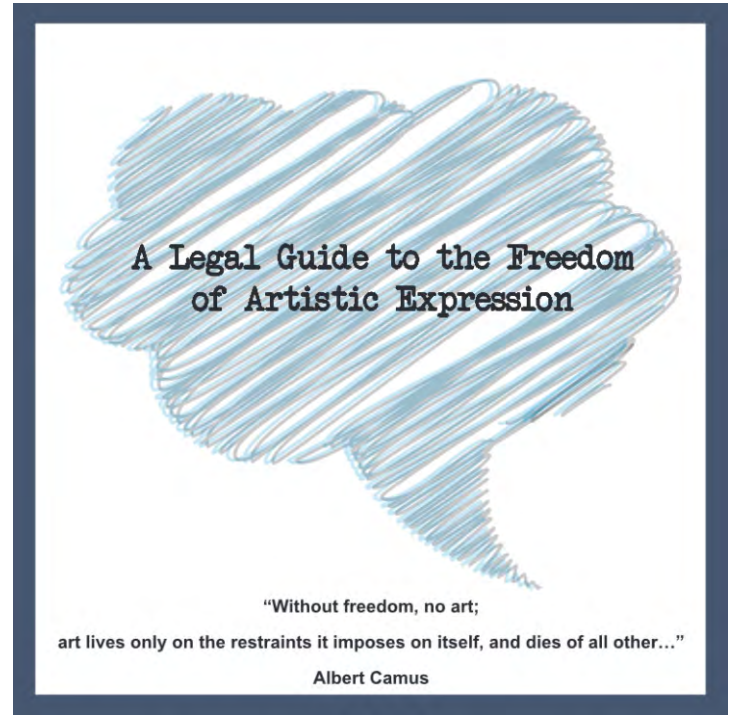
ViewPoint 12: Bamboo Regulation in India: The Need for Reforms

This memo examines the current state of laws and policies that affect bamboo in India, with the goal of setting out a broad framework for reforms that would pave the way for sustainable development of the country's bamboo sector.



RTE State Rules Matrix

A user-friendly resource that offers a comparative analysis of the state rules under the Right to Education Act. This Matrix broadly classifies the rules into seven key categories, further divided to provide clause level summary.



A Legal Guide to Artistic Expression

This publication, put together by iJustice, attempts to simplify and demystify the legal framework around freedom of speech, particularly freedom of artistic expression, in India.

Organisational Developments

CCS is now operating out of two states with offices in both Delhi and Maharashtra!

The academic environment at CCS encourages continuous learning and personal development. We support our staff in seeking out training opportunities for themselves that will strengthen their philosophical foundations in liberty and in their respective areas of competency. This past year, staff members attended international seminars and courses, representing CCS

Vision & Purpose Statement

Centre for Civil Society advances social change through public policy. Our work in education, livelihood, and policy training promotes choice and accountability across the private and public sectors. To translate policy into practice, we engage with policy and opinion leaders through research, pilot projects and advocacy.

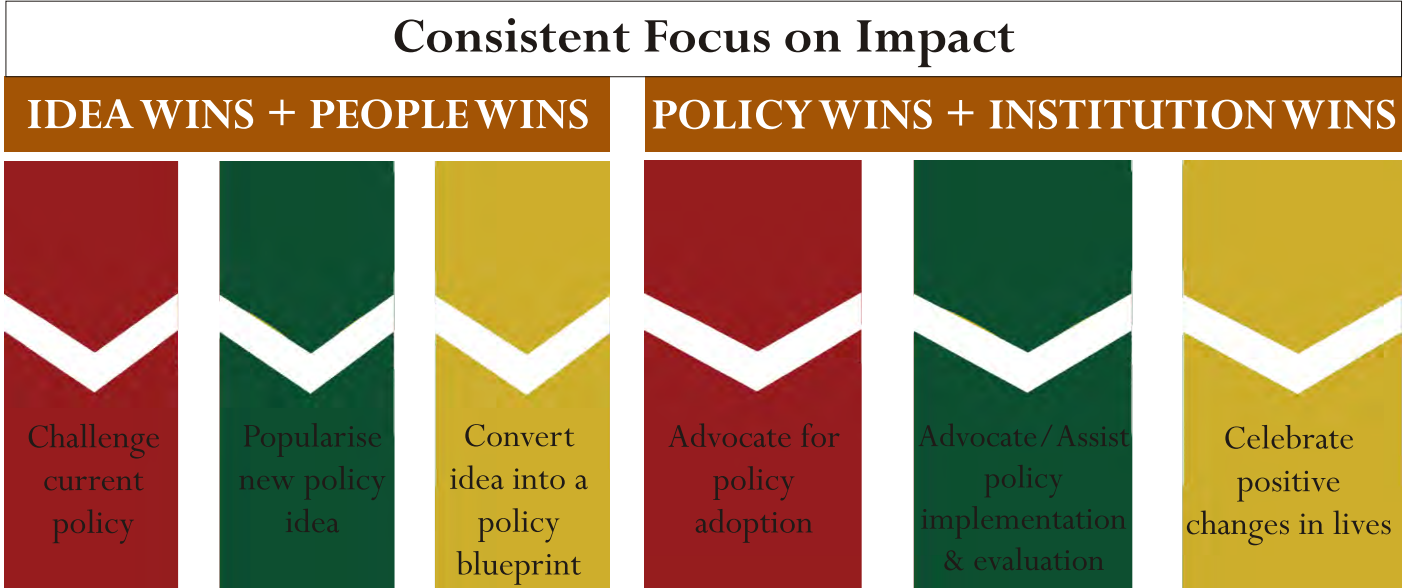
Our vision is that each individual leads a life of choice in personal, economic and political spheres and every institution is accountable.

at prestigious institutions such as the Institute for Humane Studies in Washington D.C., the Asia Institute for Political Economy in Hong Kong, Rothbard Institut in Belgium and at the renowned Liberty Forum organised by the Atlas Network in New York.

Parth has been invited to a number of international platforms to discuss CCS ideas this last year. He gave a talk at Melbourne University in December on the education scenario in India. He was also invited to speak at the launch of the Pakistan Annual Status of Education Report in Islamabad this January and at the [Harvard India Conference](#) in February, on 'Rights-based approach to policy-making', on a panel with Aruna Roy and Harsh Mander.



CCS Theory of Change



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