

About Centre for Civil Society

Social Change through Public Policy

Established on 15 August 1997, the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) is an independent, non-profit public policy think tank devoted to improving the quality of life for all citizens of India by reviving and reinvigorating civil society. Through its award winning programs, CCS is a resource for innovative community and market based ideas for critical public policy issues facing India today, particularly in the areas of education, livelihood, governance and environment. By bringing these ideas to current and future leaders, CCS is advancing opportunity and prosperity for all Indians.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

40 % of Indians are illiterate, government schools are failing India's children. CCS focuses on improving quality and access to education especially for the poor. By working with policy makers, education experts and grass root level activists, our School Choice Campaign is focused on removing entry barriers and encouraging edupreneurs, making for-profit schools and colleges legal and expanding choice and competition through education vouchers.

Website: www.schoolchoice.in

REMOVING BARRIERS TO LIVELIHOOD

After the 1991 liberalization, the poor do not seem to have gained as much as the rich. For them, it has been all LPQ (Licenses, Permits and Quotas) and little LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization). Street entrepreneurs (hawkers, cycle rickshaw pullers, small shop owners and many others) still suffer under the weight of regulations, restrictions and harassment by government, and lack basic economic freedom in the areas of their livelihood. Through publications, campaigns and innovative outreach programs including JEEVIKA (annual Asia Livelihood Documentary Festival) CCS campaigns for review, revision and removal of restrictive regulations that condemn street entrepreneurs and other entry level professionals to lifelong illegality and poverty.

Website: www.jeevika.org

REDUCING WASTE, FRAUD & ABUSE IN PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

Many communities in India do not have access to basic services like water, electricity and transport. The government is neither transparent nor accountable to citizens for its performance. CCS is improving the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs and building an informed citizenry. Through public policy meets, dialogues and publications, CCS promotes the principles and practices of 'New Public Management' for decentralized governance. Its Citizen Handbooks provide previously undocumented information on government's budgets, management and program delivery in various states.

DEVELOPING NEW LEADERS WITH NEW IDEAS

Since its inception, CCS has challenged conventional wisdom and prodded young minds to look deeper into root causes of India's problems and understand the impact of public policy on citizens through its *I, Society & Public Policy* seminars and research internships. Armed with a critical mind, many of its graduates in colleges and leadership positions are contributing towards improving the state of governance in India and are spreading the message of liberty.

AZADI.ME: BRINGING THE BEST OF LIBERAL THINKING TO HINDIBHASIS

On the 62nd anniversary of India's Independence, CCS launched AZADI.ME, India's first Liberal Portal in Hindi as a medium to communicate with policy makers and the Hindi media. Three broad categories provide extensive information and interactive avenues to connect the reader: Classics (literary works of some of the best known liberal thinkers and writers from around the world) Commentary (news, views and reviews of current issues) and Public Policy (analysis of legislations, campaigns and ideas for innovative and sustainable policy solutions.)

Website: www.azadi.me



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