



CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

School Choice National Conference

Delivering Education: from Policy to Practice

New Delhi, 27 November 2012 – On 04 December 2012, Centre for Civil Society is organising the fourth annual [School Choice National Conference](#), at the Theatre, India Habitat Centre. The theme for this year's conference is *Delivering Education: from Policy to Practice*. Join us for a day of high-powered talks, panel discussions and debates with 150 participants including government officials, policy and opinion makers, NGO leaders, academicians, school leaders, scholars, journalists and students coming together to discuss critical policy issues and to offer innovative solutions for the Indian education sector. (See below for schedule)

Given the recent reshuffle in cabinet, the portfolio of Human Resource Development has undergone significant change and education is an important policy issue for the press to keep track of. There is a strong need to have an open dialogue to track education policy, from the parliament to the classroom, to make an effort to align the disoriented wheel of delivery, to stop the evident leakages, and to better the delivery to cater to users rather than makers. We invite you to be a part of this dialogue, as children, parents, teachers, principals, teacher unions, private school management, educationists, school boards, education bureaucracy and the political class engage with education in different capacities and for different incentives.

The opening session (10am – 11.30am): *Sansad se Sadak Tak*, featuring **Hasmukh Adhia**, Principal Secretary, Education Department, Government of Gujarat, and **Amit Kaushik**, formerly of MHRD and UNESCO, aims to follow education policy from the tables of the MHRD and examine the challenges to take those policies to the classrooms.

The next session (12pm – 1.30pm) concerns the *Stakeholders* in education: Teachers, Parents, and students, and will feature **Rukmini Banerji**, who has led the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) since 2005 that has been acknowledged internationally for its innovativeness in involving citizens and for its impact on education policy and practice.

Baijayant "Jay" Panda, Member of Parliament, with his talk, "Is Education a Political Mudda?" will commence the third session (2.30pm – 4.00pm) on *The Unspoken Club*, to bring to light issues which get sidetracked during policy debates on education.

The conference culminates in a debate (4.30pm – 5.30pm) on the benefits Common Schooling Systems versus School Choice, with **Urmila Sarkar** from UNICEF defending uniformity in education systems.

The conference will be followed by a dinner talk (7.30pm – 8.30pm) from **John Danner**, CEO of Rocketship Education, on “The Future of Blended Schools”. Blended learning combines traditional classroom instruction with Learning Lab, which enables individualized instruction through online adaptive technology and tutors. Rocketship is building a network of high-performing, K-5 charter schools dedicated to eliminating the achievement gap.

About Centre for Civil Society

Centre for Civil Society is a globally recognised public policy think tank advancing personal, social, economic and political freedoms. The Centre challenges conventional wisdom to usher an intellectual revolution that encourages people to look beyond the obvious, think beyond good intentions and act beyond activism. Through research, outreach and advocacy, the team aims to promote choice, competition and community based policy reforms.

About School Choice Campaign

School Choice Campaign (SCC) is an award winning advocacy campaign for improving the education system in India, where all children receive quality education of their choice. Through proof of concept and policy meets, SCC is working towards efficient use of public and equity and quality education through free market competition and private participation.

For more information, contact:

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Schedule for the Day:

Tuesday, 04 December 2012	
9:00 am to 9:30 am	Registration
9:30 am to 10:00 am	Welcome & Opening Address Parth J Shah, <i>Centre for Civil Society</i>
10:00 am to 11:30 am	Session 1: Sansad se Sadak Tak: Interplay of Policy & Politics Chair: Amit Kaushik, <i>Educomp Infrastructure and School Management Ltd</i> Narendra Jadhav, <i>Planning Commission</i> (To be Confirmed) Hasmukh Adhia, <i>Education Department, Government of Gujarat</i> Shekhar Vidyarthi, <i>District Magistrate, Ambala, Haryana</i> (To be Confirmed)
11:30 am to 12:00 pm	Tea Break

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm	<p>Session 2: Stakeholders: Voice, Choice & Incentive Chair: Ashish Dhawan, <i>Central Square Foundation</i> Geeta Kingdon, <i>Institute of Education, University of London</i> Rukmini Banerji, <i>ASER Centre/Pratham</i> Gowri Ishwaran, <i>tGELF Services</i></p>
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 pm to 4:00 pm	<p>Session 3: The Unspoken Club Chair: Amitav Virmani, <i>Absolute Return for Kids</i> Jay Panda, <i>Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha</i> Annie Koshi, <i>St. Mary's School</i> Vyjayanthi Sankar, <i>Educational Initiatives</i></p>
4:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Tea Break
4:30 pm to 5:30 pm	<p>Session 4: Debate: Common Schooling Systems vs. School Choice Moderator: Luis Miranda, <i>Centre for Civil Society</i> Common Schooling Systems: Urmila Sarkar, <i>UNICEF</i> School Choice: Satya Narayan R, <i>Career Launcher</i></p>
5:30 pm	<p>Vote of Thanks & The Way Forward Shantanu Gupta, <i>Centre for Civil Society</i></p>
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Registration and Cocktails
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm	<p>Dinner Talk: The Future of Blended Schools John Danner, <i>Rocketship Education</i></p>