



CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

22 December 2011

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New Delhi: Budget private school owners from eight states came together at ASSOCHAM to form the National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA) with the objective of 'improving learning outcomes in budget private schools. To this end, it seeks to work alongside government to address concerns arising from current education policy, specifically the RTE Act.'

The members voiced their concerns regarding specific sections of the RTE Act, issues of capacity building, and governance with the goal of improving access, equity, and quality of education. The alliance nominated *R C Jain* as the national coordinator, and *Rajesh Malhotra* as the co-coordinator. At the behest of the members, Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi, agreed to function as an interim secretariat for the alliance. The members also selected state level co-coordinators who would work to implement the objective of the alliance namely, *Mohammed Anwar* (Andhra Pradesh), *D K Singh* (Bihar), *R C Jain* (Delhi), *K D Sharma* (Himachal Pradesh), *Sem Haokip* (Manipur), *C L Rose* (Rajasthan), *Sunil Srivastava* (Uttar Pradesh), *Sunil Ghildiyal* (Uttarakhand).

Five committees, namely, Finance led by *Subhash C Singh*, Advocacy by *Lakshya* and *Rajesh Malhotra*, Governance by *RC Jain*, Public Relations by *Mohammed Anwar* and *Santosh Sharma* and School Improvement by *Rajesh Malhotra*, *Sem Haokip* and *Sunil Srivastava* were formulated to represent the key functions of the Alliance.

"It's hugely important, the role that Budget Private Schools are playing in India. I value the formation of the alliance, because it enables these schools to influence the policy environment. Numerous studies show that Budget Private Schools outperform government schools at a fraction of the cost." James Tooley, budget private school owner and Professor of Education Policy at the University of Newcastle and chairman of 'The Beautiful Tree' trust that runs budget private schools in India.

'People have freely chosen Budget Private schools, even though a free government school is easily accessible. In a democracy, we respect people's right to choose their representative, how do we denigrate the parent's right to choose a school for their children?' questions Parth Shah, President, Centre for Civil Society.

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