



CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Strengthening India's Voice for Budget Private Schools

The only national platform for low-fee and Budget private schools working on improving quality and affordable education for the poor.

Friday 14 September 2012—Centre for Civil Society in partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation brought 40 delegates representing over 6,000 low-fee and budget private schools across 12 states together on Wednesday 12 September at the YMCA in Connaught Place, New Delhi, for a National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA) two-day workshop.

NISA is the only national platform fighting for the voice of low-fee and budget private schools in India. The league of budget performing school association members aim to create an enabling ecosystem for budget performing schools that are working to improve access to affordable and quality education for the economically weaker. NISA's focus is to stress the key techniques for effective education delivery and institutional management by low-fee and budget performing schools to allow for effective use public and private funds for improved student performance.

The workshop discussed the individual advocacy efforts being organised by each state leader and concretised the brand for the alliance. Shantanu Gupta, Senior Coordinator for Advocacy for the School Choice Campaign said, "Centre for Civil Society presented the logo and launched the first phase of the website on day two. Members were very positive about the progress thus far and believe that the brand captures the essence of our struggle for equality and good education in India."

The two-day workshop had a host of speakers and presenters. A representative from Azim Premji came as a guest speaker to discuss assessment and accreditation in budget performing schools. Members from Absolute Return for Kids (ARK) showcased various Maths, English and Science teaching tools to help students and teachers better understand complex concepts. Attendees from Avanti Foundation took the opportunity to tie up with NISA members to extend their services in training higher secondary education underprivileged students for IIT entrance. A representative from Gray Matter Capital (GMC) also participated to present their latest report on budget private school management.

NISA members now gear up to host local workshops in their respective states in the coming three months. The workshops will bring the lessons learned by the state leaders to the local educationists and edupreneurs to begin implementing effective financial schemes and continue to higher the level of student performance. Centre for Civil Society and NISA State Leaders will be spending the next three months to complete preparation for the Summit for School Leaders Conference scheduled for 5 December 2012.

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 Friedrich Naumann Foundation

Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit (FNF) is a non-profit organisation that promotes liberal democracy, respect for human rights, rule of law and economic freedom. The foundation operates in more than 60 countries around the world, exchanging knowledge and experience with civilians, NGO staff, academics, politicians and policy makers. In conjunction with its partner organisations, the foundation provides policy consultation as well as educational programmes to create a more open world where people live freely and in peace.

For more information about NISA and our training workshops, please contact:

Shantanu Gupta
Mobile: +91-98719 29440
Email: shantanu@ccs.in