

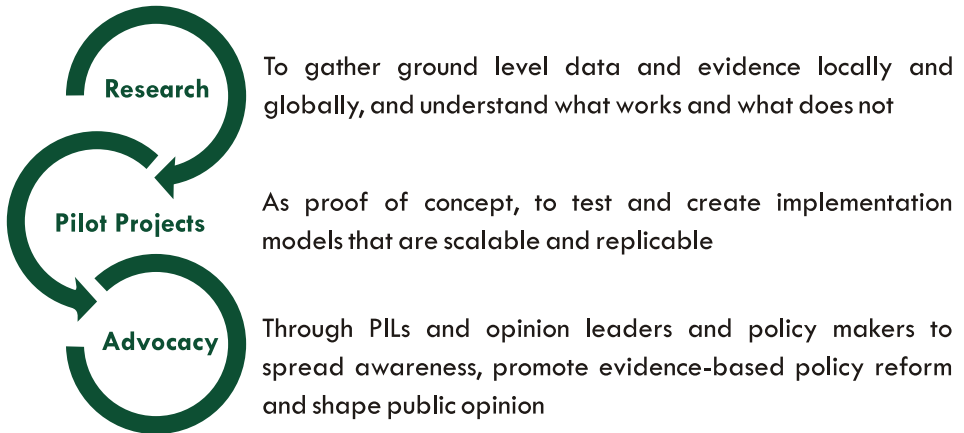
# SCHOOL CHOICE CAMPAIGN



The School Choice Campaign (SCC) is a policy initiative to ensure that all children receive quality education of their choice. Rooted in the philosophy that each child is unique, SCC believes that an education system can be called truly successful when it is flexible enough to cater to each student as an individual and yet ensure that the quality of education imparted in each institution is of the highest standard. Therefore, our work aims to reform education policy to make it more responsive to the needs of each student and give parents the choice to decide what is best for their child, whether it be a government, NGO, high-fee or budget private school.

## Approach

In order to reform the education landscape in India, we engage with policy and opinion leaders through research, pilot projects and advocacy.



## Wins

- Our ideas on learning outcomes and liberalising the sector have gained acceptance – states such as Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka and Uttarakhand modified and reformed their RTE state rules
- CCS has been advocating the use of vouchers to increase choice in education for several years. Section 12(1) of the Right to Education Act (25% seats for weaker sections in private schools) is essentially a school voucher scheme which could become the world's largest
- Progressive state governments in India have started adopting school choice ideas to devise innovative solutions to specific problems in their states: Pahal in Uttarakhand is a state-sponsored voucher program for urban deprived children
- Delhi Education Minister Arvinder Singh Lovely removed yearly cap on licenses to open schools, in 2006

# Projects

- RTE 2.0 – Building consensus and advocating for amendments to the RTE Act, 2009
- National Independent Schools Alliance – A national platform that focuses on protecting Budget Private Schools, improving quality and building their brand image
- *Boondein* campaign – A national campaign aimed at strengthening the voice of Budget Private Schools to ensure that poor children have the choice of quality education at an affordable price
- Coalition25 – A platform to bring together stakeholders (schools, government, civil society and businesses) to advocate for social and academic inclusion of students admitted under RTE section 12(1) (25% opportunity seats)
- *Patang* – A project under Coalition25 that is promoting and building an effective implementation model for inclusion by establishing learning centres in three private schools in Delhi to cater to students admitted under RTE section 12(1) (c)

## School Choice Campaign aims to:

### Promote Efficient and Accountable Use of Public Funds

- Fund students, not schools: give per-student grants to schools
- Provide principals financial and operational autonomy
- Encourage local level hiring of teachers
- Give genuine powers to School Management Committees
- Use learning-contract based PPP models
- Publish in a common format all data on budgets, learning outcomes and teacher quality

### Achieve Equity and Quality through Choice and Competition

- Encourage edupreneurs by removing entry barriers
- Actively support performing budget private schools that the poor choose
- Declare education as a priority sector for easier and cheaper access to credit and capital

### Strengthen the Education Ecosystem

- Make learning outcomes the central focus of all regulations
- Apply same standards and rules to private and government institutions
- Allow any student to take the CBSE Board exam
- Enhance the credibility and acceptability of the National Open School certificate
- Establish independent learning assessment and rating agencies
- Offer schools the choice to be non-profit or for-profit

Centre for Civil Society advances social change through public policy. Our work in education, livelihood, and policy training promotes choice and accountability across 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.



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