



Press Release

[Centre for Civil Society](#) is hosting their 6th annual [School Choice National Conference](#) on Friday, 19 December 2014 at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The theme for this year's conference is 'Freedom in Education'.

Various organisations working in the education space have been advocating for freedom in education. The concept of freedom in the educational context is quite vast and has multiple aspects to it including curricular freedom, freedom to private and independent educators to run schools etc. CCS' School Choice Campaign is primarily interested in exploring freedom in terms of more autonomy to the schooling community and choice to students and parents. This year's conference will focus on Freedom in Education from the point of view of increased choice for students and parents.

The conference is slated to have big names in education in attendance—the keynote will be delivered by **Shri Parthasarathy Sen Sharma**, Secretary to Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh. This will be followed by a session on Perspectives of Freedom in Education, where **Madhav Chavan**, Co-Founder and CEO of Pratham will offer insights into Indian perspectives, while **Swaminathan Aiyar**, Consulting Editor to the Economics Times and a Research Scholar at the Cato Institute will offer a global perspective. SCNC will also explore models of freedom in education, that empower parents and students to exercise choice. **Erica Taraporevala**, Story Teller, **Prema Rangachary**, Director, Vidya Vanam and **Namita Dalmiya**, Associate Director at Central Square Foundation will explore alternative models of schooling, including home schooling, open schooling and how technology can enhance freedom in education. The last session of the day will bring together **J P Narayan**, President of the Lok Satta Party and **K Satyanarayan**, Founder & Director, New Horizon Media and **Dr Manisha Priyam**, Associate Professor, NUEPA to explore the regulatory frameworks required for freedom in education.

[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. The annual SCNC provides a much needed platform to identify critical issues in the education sector, review existing programs, explore strategies to face the challenges ahead and ideate on ingenious solutions to provide quality education to all children in India.

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