

## EDUCATION CHOICE CAMPAIGN

*Fund Students, Not Schools*

Do you know how much city governments in India spend per child on education?

**Rs. 1000-1700/-**

**Not per year...per MONTH!**

*Imagine that sum in the hands of the poor parent and the quality of education that her child would receive!*

"...One survey found that 80 per cent of those who passed Class V from Municipal Corporation of Delhi schools in Delhi could not read or write, drop-out ratios are as high as 40 per cent in primary schools and go up to around 70 per cent by secondary school."

Business Standard, April 20, 2005.

The Education Choice Campaign aims at making available to the poorest children quality education that has so far been out of their reach.

The government has been running and managing schools for more than 50 years and the results are for us to see!

The 3-pronged approach....

### EDUCATION VOUCHERS

We believe that poor students should also be able to choose the school they want to study in. An "education voucher" is a coupon by the government that will cover the tuition, upto the specified amount, at any participating school. Vouchers also create competition among schools, providing them the incentive to improve performance.

### DEREGULATE, DECENTRALISE, DEPOLITICISE

Archaic licensing rules, centralization of decision making and politicisation of curriculum and textbooks have stifled the education system in our country. The license-permit raj should be abolished. The twin principles of autonomy and accountability must be introduced into the system.

### ENCOURAGE EDUPRENEURS

We must empower educational entrepreneurs or "edupreneurs" to serve the cause of education. Education should be granted the status of an industry so that edupreneurs can access credit. The ban on for-profit schools should be removed. Set up a body that would provide venture capital as well as regulatory and curricular advice to edupreneurs.

**THE FUTURE OF MORE THAN A HUNDRED MILLION CHILDREN IS IN YOUR HANDS.**

*Get Involved!*



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# Policy Review

No. 1

## Education Vouchers: Global Experience & India's Promise

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### Executive Summary

India has a two-tier system of government and private schools with all the attendant social, political and economic problems. Those who can afford, go to private schools; those who cannot, go to government schools. The children of the poor have no option but the poorly functioning government schools. This gross inequality of schooling opportunities needs to be addressed immediately. One route is to pressurise the government to increase its resource commitments and improve its delivery of education. The other proposition is to liberate the private sector so that it can reach out to as many parents - rich and poor. We emphasise delicensing, deregulation, decentralisation, depoliticisation, giving education an industry status and, promoting independent rating, certification and accreditation agencies. We offer education vouchers as a way to transform financing of education for the poor. Instead of giving grants to schools to provide 'free' education, the government would give that money directly to poor students in the form of education vouchers. The money would follow students and not schools. We describe the experience of eleven countries with education vouchers and draw lessons from their successes and failures. Many countries have seen significant improvements in learning outcomes after the introduction of vouchers, while a few have experienced very little change. However no country has found learning outcomes deteriorating with education vouchers. India has nothing to lose and everything to gain in experimenting with vouchers in education. In the end, a list of FAQs addresses other issues related to implementation of education vouchers.



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