

## ICSEI's MISSION

It is almost 20 years since ICSEI was first established. The ICSEI Board feels that it is time to revisit ICSEI's mission. In this spirit, we are starting a dialogue with members about our mission.

The ICSEI Constitution states that:

*“The purpose of ICSEI is to enhance the quality and equity of education for all students in elementary (primary) and secondary schools”.*

In reflecting on this, we would like to explore how ICSEI can most effectively pursue our purpose. Thus far, ICSEI's mission has been to pursue this goal through sharing of research and practice across national boundaries, cultures, languages and conventions of schooling. What brings us together is a shared concern for social justice and for excellence in the schooling of all children. We believe that the purpose of education is to support children to grow into active, enlightened and self-confident adults, able to make a difference locally, nationally and internationally.

The ICSEI community brings together researchers, practitioners and policy makers, together exploring together ways of making schools better places for children, for the adults who teach them and those who lead them. This means developing a stronger theoretical base, not only for our own internal consumption but a base strong enough to challenge policies which are inimical to quality and equity. ICSEI should be able to offer its own alternative vision of the place of education in society.

ICSEI has always maintained a strong and influential research tradition. It does not privilege any forms of research or inquiry over others but rather seeks to find and utilize approaches which will give the best insights into the nature of effectiveness and improvement. The compass of research at annual conferences showcases studies at many levels within the system from micro level classroom effects to systemic reform on a national and international stage.

In realising its constitutional commitment, ICSEI unites people at its annual conferences which continue to be truly global both in their locations and in the backgrounds of those who attend them. These events, however, are simply celebrations of the wider work of ICSEI which is ongoing and extends beyond all national boundaries and constantly seeks to reach out to members who live in less financially privileged countries of the world. This is a demonstration of our concern for equity and for quality which grows out of the continuing challenge to ‘the way we do things round here’.

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