

Role of Media and RTI Act in Rural Society: An Analytical Study of Jaipur District

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Abstract

In the Democracy, Our country has already spent a honeymoon period of 13 years with the act. The Right to Information Act was notified in the Gazette of India on 21st June, 2005 and it became fully operational from 12th October, 2005. This new law empowers Indian citizens to seek any accessible information from a Public Authority and makes the Government and its functionaries more accountable and responsible. Logically therefore, RTI has helped to increase transparency in government or public dealings.

The world communication conference held in Tokyo, the Japanese committee for world communication made several proposals as the part of long term plan for the growth of an rich information society and to enlarge the scale of information transformation in Asia, We would like to attention on following two as first was that outward flow of information from the countries of Asia including Japan it was extremely small when compared with from countries of Europe and united states, but inward of flow of information into Asia was comparatively very little, today this unbalanced state of information communication was an increasing problem in Asian countries

So, we can understand this problem was such that it could not be overcome by efforts of a single country only, as it also affects all the developing countries.

It is fact that dependency of the human on others is exhibited in the continuum of the life cycle, we exist as the element of a social group.

In our social life, It is a natural tendency of human beings to communicate the Information each other and creating social groups in the Structure of human society, On enactment of this RTI act 2005, there is not denying to provide the required information with use of official secrets act in the Bureaucracy of country and now any citizen of country can get information from the public authority, We can say that RTI act is power of common man If our citizens has awareness about this act with proper publicity through Media and N.G.O,s in the country. So, Mass media has a very important role to create the awareness about power of RTI Act in the Society to excess the Information from the Public authority

Keys-NGO-Non Government Organization, RTI-Right to Information, Authority-System of Government, Gazette of India- A circulation by Government, Bureaucracy- A system management run by selected persons

Introduction

Information plays an important role in shaping the life of every individual. We need one or the other information in every aspect of our life. In a democratic set-up it assumes greater importance as elected representatives govern the country and citizens who elect them. We know that The

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Information is Prima facie something that flows between a sender and a receiver. But Shannon's definition of information is quantitative concerning possible selections from a repertoire of physical symbols *Shannon's as given a model of communication* includes six elements:

1. A Source
2. An Encoder
3. A Message
4. A Channel
5. A Decoder
6. A Receiver

Concept on RTI Act

International Covenant on Civil and Political rights 1966 says that "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression, the freedom to seek and impart information and ideas of all kind, regardless of frontiers. After several sustainable grassroots campaigns and political will on the part of the Government the long awaited Right to Information Act, 2005 got the ratification of both the Houses of Parliament on 12th May, and came into force from 12th October, 2005

As per manual of RTI Act 2005 the word Information is as any material in any form including the records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, log books, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic or hard form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any law for the time being in force.

Section 2 (i) defines the word 'record' as including forms -

- a. Inspect works, document, manuscript and file,
- b. Take notes, microfilm and certified copy of a document,
- c. Take certified samples of material or any Image.
- d. Obtain information in the form of electronic and print out.

The information under this Act includes any mode of information in any form of record, document, e-mail, circular, press release samples

Justification of the Study

This study is an attempt to analyse the impact of the Right to Information Act on rural people, based on the information given to them by the administration. The study has focus on problems faced by the people of rural areas in Jaipur district. due to lack of information and incapability in having access to information. There are still many villages where people do not have basic civic amenities and facilities like, roads, schools, hospitals, water supply etc. Due to lack of awareness and education, the many people even don't know about the Right to Information Act. The people have lack confidence to raise their voice against corruption, malpractices and misuse of government funds. For better implementation of the RTI act, the role of media needs to be analysed. The issues of inefficiency, corruption, backwardness and lack of proper implementation of government schemes should be covered by media.

Present research study plays an important role in the positive development and growth of ethics in the society as well as for the Nation. So, Ethical perspective of our mass media research on selected villages of Jaipur district will be based on following points-

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1. The Method of our Research has been scientific, thoughtfulness and based on intensive study.
2. No class, caste, society, reference, or issue will be used for fulfillment of selfish ends and limited benefits.
3. We have a aim to make beneficial for maximum people through our results of research.
4. Our Research has been healthy, purposeful, Prudential and Scientific.
5. Our Research has been positive and without any prejudice

Scope of Research Study

This Research study is has the broad scope for seeking the required Information from government authorities for different categorized different persons –

1. BPL Card holders can file RTI in any department free of cost without paying for getting any Information and they can get it in print and soft copy form
2. We can escape the and high light Corruption in any authorities within time without delay
3. Print media can High light hide Issues on Corruption by using RTI act as well as any common man also
4. RTI has given assurance for time bound services and right to appeal on high authorities to get Sealed and signed proof of required Information

It is hoped that RTI if implemented in true Aspects and spirit, could address the challenges of making governance inclusive and participatory through the strengthening the democracy and media importance. To effective implementation of RTI act following suggestions makes effective free flow of Information and creates transparency

Scope of RTI in Media

The government was forced to withdraw its decision of privatizing the Delhi Jal Board. This is one of the major achievements of Right to Information. This episode has cleared as to how the government bent before the World Bank to fulfil the interests of the multinational companies. The workers of Right to Information evaluated the documents containing more than four thousand pages carefully and exposed a frightening truth. This is an example for the media to learn and understand it. The media may hardly have its own such example.

In 1998, secretly the privatization of the Delhi Jal Board was started with the help of the World Bank. The Parivartan's team scrutinized the documents, which contained more than four thousand pages, carefully. The facts indicated a frightening truth. It was revealed that in order to provide the tender to the multinational company Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) the World Bank had forced the Delhi Jal Board and the Delhi government to agree on disgraceful terms. Other concerning facts also came out. The cost of the water would have risen by six times if this plan has been implemented. The water would have been provided to only those areas were people would voluntarily agree to lay down the pipelines at their own expense.

Impacts of Media and Civil Society on RTI Act

Social activists and civil society organizations are enhancing the reach and awareness of RTI Act among the masses. It was mostly with the support of the social activists and CSO's that a person in a village is able to utilize the RTI Act for ensuring his fundamental rights.

Media can Coverage the Issues of RTI act to educate Citizen of our country to make a vital role in India democracy -

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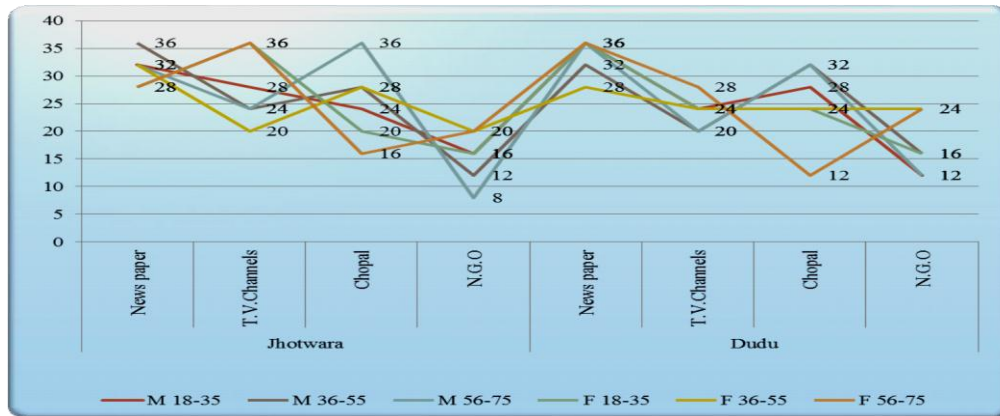
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1. Print Media can publish RTI-related articles each of the selected State publications for the society.
2. These articles must be as (a) news items (b) editorials (c) letters to the editor and (d) special features.
3. Coverage should be appeared on i) the front page, ii) in a special feature section.
4. In this coverage should be included the 3 most frequently things appearing as (i) subjects or departments, (ii) RTI processes, (iii) RTI actors, respectively.
5. It must be as keywords differ radically across the major categories of clippings (i) language and (ii) type of clipping - news item, editorial, letter to the editor, special features.

Main source of Information in Rural Area

In the Present study results shows that maximum 36 % male in age group of 18-35 years respondents told that news Paper is good available medium in Jhotwara area. While Minimum 16 % male respondents told that they have easy availability of local news through online in the same age group. And maximum 34% male under age group of 18-35 years determine that news paper is the best source of information in Dudu area.

While minimum 12% People told that they are getting such information through NGO in Dudu area. 36 % male in age group of 35-55 years shows that they have received better information through news paper only and in the same age group of 28 % told that they are getting information through Chopal on local discussion in rural area of Jhotwara. While 32% Respondents thinks that News Paper and Chopal was same source of information as scores of in age group of 36-55 years in rural area of Dudu.



As per above Graph, About 36 % male respondents told us that they have reach of local information through Chopal in age group of 55-75 years in Jhotwara, while in same age group of 36% male Villagers told that they have found the local news through News Papers in Dudu area & maximum 36% female respondents think that they have found of local news through T.V Channels in rural area of Jhotwara. While minimum 16% female respondents in same age group in Jhotwara think that NGO is easy source of information for local news. In age group of 36-55 years 32% female respondents say that they have awareness of more information through News Papers in Rural area of Jhotwara, According to above Graph 34% respondents of Dudu area think that newspaper is an easily available source of public information, While 31% respondents in Jhotwara area view newspaper as an easy source of public information.

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Conclusion

The enactment of the RTI Act, 2005 makes a noteworthy attempt to streamline the working of the public authorities in respect of providing information to the people in India. The authorities will require being technology savvy, alert and being responsible to the citizens

Lack of handholding of RTI applicants to fight corrupt officials in different departments. Research analysed regarding rural issues solution by RTI act with the help of Print media on most of Respondents wants to use maximum 57 % and max. 60 % for education works in both Jotwara and Dudu area respectively, Lack of strong informal network of NGOs/Media/vigilant citizens at grassroots as a watchdog agency in rural areas of Rajasthan against corruption and effective implementation of RTI Act. Certain citizens are using RTI as a complaint redressal mechanism and they are more interested in solving the problem rather than getting the demanded information. Common citizens rarely go for the first and second appeal due to absence of relevant papers/records and moreover, they are not inclined towards keeping track of the progress.

Until the introduction of the Right to information Act, information was the property of those people who are in the ruling side and secrecy was maintained. With the commencement of the Act, now the people have got right to take, see, check and inspect any information, which is not coming under the exemption list. But at the same time it require a lot of awareness campaign among the people in order to utilize the act to combat the corruption and get the services of the State, otherwise the present Right to Information Act 2005 will also become just like any other act

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