

## Chapter-1

### Introduction

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The idea of rights is as old as the State itself. It has been widely recognised that for survival, growth and developments, individuals need certain rights. In fact, it is the idea of rights that differentiates the humans from the animal world where the rule of might is right prevails. Therefore, one cannot even think to live in a society without some basic rights. Rights are concerned with the dignity of the individual. They secure identity of man and promote human grace.

Rights are of two types, viz. fundamental rights and legal rights. Fundamental rights, which are usually recognised by the constitution, are given more prominence than legal rights. Every democratic country confers some fundamental rights to its citizens and India is not an exception. Indian Constitution provides for six<sup>1</sup> fundamental rights in Part-III of the Constitution from Articles 12 to 35. Six fundamental rights are as follows

The fundamental rights which are in Articles 15, 16, 19 and 30 are only for citizens of India and the rest of the fundamental rights are for all persons who are on the soil of India.<sup>2</sup> The Indian Constitution provides for the right to equality in Articles 14 to 18,<sup>3</sup> the right to freedom in Articles 19 to 22,<sup>4</sup> the right against exploitation in Articles 23 to 24, the right to freedom of religion in Articles 25 to 28 and the cultural and educational rights in Articles 29 to 30 while the right to constitutional remedies is provided in Article 32 of the Constitution.

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<sup>1</sup> Indian Constitution originally provided for seven fundamental rights; Right to Property provided in Article 31 of the Constitution was removed from the list of fundamental rights by Forty-fourth (Constitution) Amendment Act. Right to Property is now merely a legal right.

<sup>2</sup> Basu D.D., *Introduction to the Constitution of India*, LexisNexis Butterworths Wadhwa, Nagpur, 2008, p. 86.

<sup>3</sup> Article 14 gives equality before law which means all citizens are equal before law and gives equal protection before law which means all persons will be equally treated in equal situations. Article 15 says that there should be no discrimination on the ground of religion, cast, race, sex or place of birth. Article 16 says that there should be equal opportunity in all matters of public employments. In Articles 17 and 18 there is abolition of untouchability and abolition of titles respectively.

<sup>4</sup> Article 19 gives freedom of speech and expression, freedom to assemble without arms, freedom to form association, freedom to move freely throughout the territory of India, freedom to reside in any part of the country and freedom to practice any trade or business. Article 20 gives protection in respect of conviction for offence. Article 21 gives protection of life and personal liberty. Article 22 gives protection against arrest and detention in certain cases. Singh, M.P., *Constitution of India*, Eastern Book Company, 2010, p. 117

Amongst the fundamental rights provided by the Indian Constitution the Right to Freedom and Speech mentioned in Article 19 (1) (a) is a significant democratic right. The scope of this right is very wide. Freedom of speech and expression includes expression of our views freely, though without harming the interests of any other individual, covers propagation and exchange of ideas, dissemination of information. Under this right, a person can express views and opinions on any issue through any medium e.g. words, writing, printing, picture, film, movie etc.<sup>5</sup> The scope of this right also includes the right to silence; thus a person cannot be forced to speak in case the person does not want to speak. Freedom of press is also provided by Article 19 (1) (a). The right to paint, sing, dance or to write poetry or literature is also covered under Article 19 (1) (a) because the common basic characteristic of all these activities is freedom speech and expression.<sup>6</sup> The right to receive information also flows from the right to speech and expression. Article 19 (1) (a) indirectly gives this right to all the citizens of India. If a person has information then he/she can express his/her feelings or opinion on any issue or matter.<sup>7</sup> Information is a great asset which would help formation of one's opinion and viewpoint on an issue.<sup>8</sup>

It has also been upheld by the courts that the right to secure information is an integral part of right to speech and expression under Article 19 (1) (a). In *People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India*,<sup>9</sup> the Supreme Court observed that the right of the citizens to attain information on matters relating to public acts flows from the fundamental right enshrined in Article 19 (1) (a). Securing information on the basic details concerning the candidates contesting election to parliament or the state legislature promotes freedom of expression. So the right to information forms an integral part of Article 19 (1) (a). In *State of Uttar Pradesh v. Raj Narain*,<sup>10</sup> the Supreme Court held that Article 19 (1) (a) not only guarantees freedom of speech and expression but it also ensures the right of the citizens to know, the right to receive information regarding matters of public concern. The Supreme Court also said that though freedom of press is not expressly guaranteed as a fundamental right but it is

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<sup>5</sup>Jain, M.P., *Indian Constitutional Law*, Lexis-Nexis ButterworthsWadhwa, Nagpur, Vol. I, 2010, p. 1415

<sup>6</sup>*Gandhi Menka v. Union of India*, AIR 1978 SC 597, (1978) 1 SCC 248; *UshaUthup v. State of West Bengal*, AIR 1984, Cal 268

<sup>7</sup>*NarasimhaRao, P.V. v.State*, AIR 1998 SC 2120: (1958) 4 SCC 626 : supra chs II

<sup>8</sup>Jain, M.P., *op. cit.*, p. 1414

<sup>9</sup>(2003) 4 SCC 399: AIR 203 SC 2363

<sup>10</sup>AIR 1975 SC 865, 884: (1975) 4 SCC 428

implicit in right to freedom of speech and expression.<sup>11</sup> In the famous case of *Bennett Coleman* case, the Supreme Court declared the policy unconstitutional. The Court stated that:

“The effect and consequences of the impugned policy upon the newspaper is directly controlling the growth and circulation of newspapers. The direct effect is the restriction upon circulation of newspaper...the direct effect is the freedom of speech and expression is infringed.”<sup>12</sup>

In another case, the Supreme Court accepted the plea of the newspaper with the following observation:<sup>13</sup>

“what may, however have to be observed in levying a tax on newspaper industry is that it should not be an overburden on newspaper which constitute the fourth estate of the country ... custom duty on newsprint is an imposition on knowledge and would virtually amount to a burden on a man for being literate”.

Parliament Act to control advertisement in certain cases was challenged on the ground that this is direct abridgment of the freedom of expression. But the Court ruled that the Act was not merely to curb advertisement against decency or morality, but to prevent self-medication by prohibiting instruments which might be used to advocate or spread evil.<sup>14</sup> In some cases, the Court also delimits the right to freedom of speech and expression. In a landmark decision, a full bench of Kerala High Court declared *bandh* organised by political parties from time-to-time as unconstitutional being violative of the fundamental right of the people. The Court refused to accept it as an exercise of freedom of speech and expression.<sup>15</sup>

Though the scope of right to freedom of speech and expression is very wide but according to Article 19 (2) there can be some reasonable restrictions on this right in the name of sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly

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<sup>11</sup>*Printer (Mysore) Ltd v. Assistant Commercial Tax Officer*, 1994 2 SCC 434

<sup>12</sup>AIR 1973 SC 106: (1972) 2 SCC 120-121.

<sup>13</sup>*Indian Express Newspaper (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd. v. Union of India*, AIR 1986 SC 515 at 539 (1985) 1 SCC 641

<sup>14</sup>*Hamdard Dawakhana v. Union of India*, AIR 1960 SC 554: (1960) 2 SCR 671

<sup>15</sup>*Bharat kumar K. Palicha v. State of Kerala*, AIR 1997 Kerala

relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in the relation contempt of court, defamation and incitement to an offence.<sup>16</sup>

## **1.1 Right to Information**

The right to information comes under the scope of right to freedom of speech and expression. The freedom of speech and information not only to express his/her feelings or ideas but also to receive information. Communication or receipt of information is two sides of the same coin. Right to know is the basic right of a citizen and Article 19(1)(a) protects this right.<sup>17</sup> Right to Information is very important for right decisions in every field of life and right decisions are the key of success. Benjamin Disrali has rightly said that “*As a general rule, the most successful man is the man who has the best information.*” The Right to Information is a major step towards the real *Swaraj* as Mahatma Gandhi said that *the real Swaraj will come not by the acquisition of authority by a few but by the acquisition capacity by all to resist authority when abused.* Great philosopher Bentham supports this right by saying that *the more we are observed, better we perform.* Right to know is very necessary to curb corruption from society. The idea of welfare state has increased the power of state to great extent. As Lord Acton, the British historian, said: “*All powers tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely.*”

## **1.2 Why We Need Right to Information?**

In this ‘Information age’ when a communication culture has taken over and new ideas, new concepts and new movements are changing the world almost daily. The idea of a welfare state has increasingly encroached upon the daily life of a citizen. So, he should have a legal right to know as to what the government is doing on his behalf. We live in democracy and no democracy can survive without accountability and the basic postulate of accountability is that the people should have information about the functioning of the government. It is only when people know how government is functioning that they can fulfil the role which democracy assigns to them and makes democracy a really effective participatory democracy. Preamble of Right to Information Act, 2005 itself defines and as to why Right to Information is necessary. It says, “Democracy requires an informed citizenry and transparency of

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<sup>16</sup>Basu, D.D., *Introduction to the Constitution of India*, LexisNexis ButterworthsWadhwa, Nagpur, 2008, p. 101.

<sup>17</sup>Jain, M.P., *op. cit.*, 1420

governance which are vital to its functioning and also to contain corruption and to hold governments and their instrumentalities accountable to the governed (Right to Information Act, 2005).”

### ***Citizen Empowerment***

India is a democratic country and the persons who run the government are elected by the people of India. So the persons running the government derive their power from the people of India. That is why everyone has got the right to know how the government as well as persons working under the authority of the government is working. Right to Information is regarded as oxygen of democracy. More than 85 countries have national-level RTI laws or regulations in force including the major developing countries like India and China.<sup>18</sup> Right to Information is a key enabler of good governance, it gives the citizen the right to seek information and makes it binding on officials to store and make the information easily available to the public, with the exception only when withholding the information is in public interest. In the support of the Right to Information Supreme Court observed in *Peoples Union Case* that the foundation of a healthy democracy is to have well informed citizens and voters. The reason to have right to information with regard to the background of the candidate is that voter can judge and decide in whose favour he/she should cast his vote. Once Prime Minister of India stated that

“I believe that the passage of this Bill will see the dawn of a new era in our processes of governance, an era of performance and efficiency, an era which will ensure that benefits of growth flow to all sections of our people, an era which will eliminate the scourge of corruption, an era which will bring the common man’s concern to the heart of all processes of governance, an era which will truly fulfil the hopes of the founding fathers of our Republic.”<sup>19</sup>

### ***Ensure Accountability***

In the age of information its value as a critical factor in socio-cultural, economic, political development is being increasingly felt. In a few developing countries like India information needs to be assured in the fastest and simplest form

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<sup>18</sup>Sekhar, P. Chandra, “Right to Information in Strengthening participatory Democracy” in “Global Media Journal”, Indian Edition, Winter Issue, Dec. 2010

<sup>19</sup>Speech by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Right to Information Bill Debate in Lok Sabha, on May 11, 2005, New Delhi

possible. This process depends on the availability of information. People living in a democracy should be well informed. It is widely accepted that democracy does not consist merely in people exercising their franchise once in five years. People of a democratic country have to perform a lot of duties and have to take a lot of decisions as a citizen. Knowledge is power and information is the source of knowledge. Without information one cannot gain knowledge. So to make sound decisions people should have knowledge about what actually is happening in the government offices. If the citizens of a country are informed then the official of the country will be accountable and the decision making process will improve. Citizens can check the wrong policy and decisions through their right to know.

### ***Improve Decision Making***

The Right to Information was also supported in *S.P. Gupta v. Union of India* with the following words “This is new democratic culture of an open society towards which every liberal democracy is moving and our country should be no exception.”<sup>20</sup> The concept of today’s welfarestate is not only for maintaining law and order but also to make social life better for its citizens. If a person has information or knowledge then he/she can take right decisions on any issue and the decisions making process will improve in the government of state level or centre level because informed citizens are like a check on the wrong policies of the government. The frank committee of United Kingdom also observed the importance of the right to information. It said in its report at page no.12:

“A totalitarian government finds it easy to maintain secrecy. It does not come into the open until it chooses to declare its settled intentions and demand support for them. A democratic government, however, though it must compete with these other type of organisations has a task which is complicated by its obligations to the people. It needs the trust of the governed. It cannot use the plea of secrecy to hide from the people its basic aims. On the contrary it must explain these aims. It must provide the justification for them and give the fact both for and against a selected course of action. Now must such information be provided only at one level and through one means of communication. A government which pursues secret

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<sup>20</sup>*S.P. Gupta v. Union of India*, AIR 1982,SC 149

aims, or which operates in greater secrecy than the effective conduct of its proper functions requires, or which turn information services into propaganda agencies, will lose the trust of people.”<sup>21</sup>

### ***Improve Efficiency***

It is a landmark piece of legislation. It is a major step towards more accountable and efficient government. This right also improve efficiency in administration. If a government officer or public servant misuse his/her power in his/her own interest then a citizen with the help of this right can stop his/her wrong actions. This right is weapon in the hand of common people. The Right to Information is the right of the public to know how certain decisions are taken how the expender is being made by public authorities and the various aspects of functioning of a public authority. If a citizen has all these rights and he/she exercise these rights in the right direction then a public servant will never misuse his/her power and position and all this will lead to the efficiency in the administration.

### ***Remove Corruption***

The right to information is very important particularly for those people who are not in a power position. Most of the people give the argument in favour of official secrecy is that this is necessary in order to safeguard national security. They give this argument because if there is freedom of information in the society they will not be able to misuse their power and position.

There is much better argument for saying that public scrutiny of decisions related to defence and intelligence is likely to make a more secure society. Secrecy can lead to corruption and inefficiency in the security services which in turn undermine security.<sup>22</sup> Official Secret Act 1923 was a weapon in the hands of public servants. They misuse their power and position due to this act on the name of national security. As a result corruption spreads in all the fields of life. Individual and people become corrupt when there is no public scrutiny of what they do. If a person has the right to question then people will become less corrupt. Exercise of the right to know ensures transparency and prevents corruption in the functioning of public authority.

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<sup>21</sup>Khandelwal, Dheera and Krishna Khandelwal, *A Commentary and Digest on Right to Information Act, 2005*, The Bright Law House, New Delhi, 2007, p.807

<sup>22</sup>*Ibid*, p.12

## ***Transparency***

Right to Information promotes transparency and accountability in the administration both of which help to reduce corruption and increase efficiency in governance. It also increases participation of people in democracy. The right to information has gained widespread recognition as a foundation of democracy and a basic human right throughout the world. In recent years, there has been unstoppable global trend towards the recognition of right to information, but the global recognition of this right is not a new trend. In India, this right is also supported by one of the four Vedas. According to *Rig Veda* let noble thoughts come to us from all directions. Participation in governance is at the heart of any successful democracy. As citizens, everyone needs to participate not only at the time of elections but on a day-to-day basis – when decisions on policy, laws and schemes are being made and projects and activities are being implemented. Public involvement not only enhances the quality of governance but also promotes transparency and accountability in government functioning. But in reality how can citizens take part in governance? How can the public understand how decisions are being made? How can ordinary people find out how tax money is being spent or if public schemes are being properly run or whether the government is acting honestly and fairly when it makes decisions? How can government servants be made answerable to the public they are supposed to serve? Right to information is the only answer of all these questions. Through this right, people can actively take part in policy making directly or indirectly.

### **1.3 Right to Information Act, 2005**

The right to information Act was enacted On 15 June 2005, but the Act came into force on 12 October 2005. The Act extends to the whole of India except Jammu & Kashmir. The provisions of sub-section (1) of section 4, sub-section (1) and (2) of section 5 sections 12, 13 15, 16, 24, 27 and 28 came into force at once and the rest of the sections of the Act came into force on the one hundred and twentieth day of its enactment.<sup>23</sup> There is a provision of *Saumato Disclosure* in the Act according to which all public authorities are required to publish all the important information within one hundred and twenty days from the enactment of the Act.<sup>24</sup> All public authorities will appoint as many public information officers as are necessary to provide information to

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<sup>23</sup>Section 1, Right to Information Act, 2005

<sup>24</sup>Section 4, *Ibid*



the citizens within one hundred days from the enactment of the Act.<sup>25</sup> All citizens can make request for information under this Act and the request can be made in writing or nay electronic mean in Hindi, English or in the official language of the area in which the application is being made with such fee as prescribed by appropriate government. The applicant is not required to give any reason for making a request under this Act.<sup>26</sup>Persons who are of below poverty line need not to pay any fee for making a request. The information should be provided within thirty days (in normal case) and within forty-eight hours in the case of life and liberty.<sup>27</sup> If a person does not get information within the specified time period then he/she can make first appeal to such officer who is senior in the rank of central public information officer or state public information officer. The decision on the first appeal should be made within forty-five days from the date of the order. In a person is not satisfied with the decision of the first appeal then he/she can make second appeal to state information commission or centre information commission as the case may be and the decision on the second appeal should be made within ninety days from filing the appeal in time.<sup>28</sup>In public information officer provides incorrect, incomplete information, destroyed information which was the subject of the request or deny to give information then there can be a penalty of two hundred rupees per day on such public information officer but the penalty should not be more than twenty five thousand.<sup>29</sup> Information which affects the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, economic interest of the state, relation with foreign states, information which is forbidden to publish by any court, information which is a privilege of Parliament or State Legislature, information receive in confidence from foreign states, information including commercial confidence, cabinet papers including records of deliberations of the council of ministers cannot be provided under this Act.<sup>30</sup> There is also a provision of Central Information Commission. President of India appoints and removethe centre chief information commissioner. The chief Information commissioner can be removed on the ground of misbehaviour and incapacity.<sup>31</sup> There is also a provision of State

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<sup>25</sup>Section 5, *Ibid*

<sup>26</sup>Section 6, *Ibid*

<sup>27</sup>Section 7, *Ibid*

<sup>28</sup>Section 19, *Ibid*

<sup>29</sup>Section 20, *Ibid*

<sup>30</sup>Section 8, *Ibid*

<sup>31</sup>Sections 12,13 and 14, *Ibid*

Information Commission. Governor appoints the state Chief Information Commissioner and can also remove on the ground of incapacity and misbehaviour.<sup>32</sup>

#### 1.4 Survey of Related Literature

Survey of related literature is essential as it helps proper identification of the research problem and also in defining, refining, and defining the problem under study. It is also helpful in identifying the research objectives and laying down the hypotheses of the study. With this end in view, survey of some of the studies related to the present study is conducted in the present section.

Bakskh(2005)<sup>33</sup> explains how Right to Information can help in rural development. Government of India spends crores of rupees on rural development but because of corruption, the picture of rural India continues to be grim. Main reason behind this is the poor implementation of policies. Government data on achievement of rural development are satisfactory but the things are different in reality. This article shows how Right to Information can bring accountability in public distribution system, rural infrastructure, poverty alleviation programmes, employment generation programmes by way of ensuring participation of people in development programmes and the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions. These are some of the very important areas in rural development in which corruption is prevailing that is why in spite of spending crores of rupees in rural development, the picture of rural development is still not satisfactory. In the end of this article the writer says that all this need some prerequisites. People should have the knowledge about the right to information act and the procedure of making a request under Right to Information Act 2005. People who are living in rural areas should be made aware about the right to information act and its advantages.

Dogra (2006)<sup>34</sup> describes several important aspects of India's RTI experience as well as some wider issues related to transparency. The writer has been involved with the Right to Information campaign for several years. The writer has divided the book into twelve parts. In the first part, the writer discusses as to how after a very long struggle parliament passed law on right to information. MKSS contributed a lot in it. The writer also indicates some voices which support this act like Art.19 of

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<sup>32</sup>Sections 15 and 17, *Ibid*

<sup>33</sup>Bakskh, Pradeeps, "Right to Information and Rural Development" in *Kurukshetra*, July 2005, pp. 4-8

<sup>34</sup>Dogra Bharat, *Transparency and India's New Legislation on Right to Information*, New Delhi, 2006

UDHR, judgement of Justice Mathew in case of State of Uttar Pradesh v/s Raj Narnia 1975, judgement of Justice P.N. Bhagwati in case S.P. Gupta v/s Union of India. In second chapter, the writer explains how RTI solved long pending problems. Third chapter explains the challenges ahead before right to information. In the fourth chapter, the writer explains Indian experience about right to information. In the fifth chapter, the writer defines some good essentials of right to information law. In the sixth chapter, the writer examines the new law on RTI 2005. In the seventh chapter the book explains how MKSS movement bring transparency at grass root level. Right to Information is useful in exposing corruption in urban development work. The writer explains this in eighth chapter. Chapter nine explains that an NGO, SWRC sets an example of transparency and accountability. In tenth and eleventh chapter the writer points out the special responsibility of voluntary organisation to stop corruption and Delhi Water Project revives worst fear of privatisation respectively. In the last chapter, of the book the writer asserts that Right to Information is very useful in environment protection. People can also take information related to the corporate sector. In the end of the book, the writer inserts the Right to Information Bill 2005 and after RTI Act 2005 a primer. The book is very useful for a person who wants to know about Right to Information and its impact. The writer explains everything in a very simple way.

Mishra and Mishra (2006)<sup>35</sup> are of the view that RTI is a significant victory for the people of India. It empowers citizens to obtain information with ease. The writer explains global perspective on RTI and says that first it was started in Sweden in 1776. The authors observe that in contemporary system for an ordinary citizen, it is very difficult to obtain information but RTI is a strong weapon in the hands of people. Then the writer gives some basic knowledge about the RTI law. Further, writer explains contemporary experience with RTI and says that it is useful in enhancing the power of bargaining: it helps the civil society in playing an important role to combat corruption. This act is empowering poor. There are some ambiguities and contradiction in the Act, like the act is silent on the issue of ‘contempt’, one would think information with RTI is very easy but in reality it is not so easy. Further, the writers give some suggestions to make this Act simpler. They say that the act should be available in all the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule; awareness campaign

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<sup>35</sup>Mishra, B.K. and Aditya K. Mishra, *Right to Information: Need for Decentralization and procedural Implication*, Social Action, Vol. 56, Oct.-Dec. 2006, pp. 386-395.

must be conducted across the country in order to inform the people about the benefits of the Act. The Act procedure can be made simpler if an individual can deposit application in local panchayat. Training programme should be conducted for the officials. This Act can bind the officials and masses together.

Jain (2006)<sup>36</sup> traces the history of enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005 in India. Further the author shows the importance of RTI. He says that only this right is not sufficient for transparency in the government. Section 4 of this Act deals with suo motto disclosure of information by the public organisations. Recent amendment approved by cabinet is being currently debated in the parliament. Arvind Kejriwal observed that “The proposed amendment will only strengthen the corrupt officials.” Government agencies must put out information in an understandable way. The writer says that there are issues of national security and the Act mentions those areas and do not allow citizens to ask information about those areas. The writer says that this act is an historic opportunity to empower the common people and making the government answerable to them.

Gandhi (2006)<sup>37</sup> asserts that with right to information a citizen really feels empowered. It is a weapon through which the problem of corruption can be checked in various public departments. As per the rule in both state and centre government public servant have to submit an annual report in which details of moveable and immovable properties are provided. All this information can be asked by citizen under the Right to Information Act 2005. The writer says that in India we do not give respect to the right to an individual. True democracy is impossible until we do not respect an individual's right. If individual citizens are empowered they can bring great positive change in society. The writer says that right to information is available to every citizen and it is not expensive and does not require groups and organisation to make an RTI application. Further the writer says that if every individual demands information under RTI about illegal actions of the government then one day we will be able to transform ourselves into a truly participatory democracy. In the end of the article, the writer says that if we are able to get million regular users of right to information across the nation we can bring a major change in the governance of India.

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<sup>36</sup>Jain, R.B., *Opening Government for Public Scrutiny : A Critic for Recent Efforts to Make Governance of India more Transparent and Accountable*, Indian Journal of Public Administration, Vol. LIII, No. 3, July-September 2006, pp. 555-560.

<sup>37</sup><http://www.bcasonline.org/policy/Article%20by%20Shailesh%20Gandhi%20for%20February%2006.htm> 12 June

In his article, Kumbhar (2006)<sup>38</sup> explains how the Right to Information Act came into being in India and also explains its importance in Indian context. The author deals with the exemption clause and states that agencies like intelligence Bureau (IB) Criminal Investigation Department (CID), National Security Guard (NSG) and Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB), National Security Agency (NSA), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The author also discusses prospects and challenges of the RTI Act. The writer says that even though people can demand information from different departments and agencies yet the administration usually tries not to provide adequate and relevant information. On the basis of available data concludes as to which states are doing well in the direction of providing information under right to information and states that Maharashtra and Delhi are doing very well because there is a provision for penalizing PIOs in case they do not provide or provide false information. The author says that civil society can very well create those conditions which are necessary for the success of the RTI Act. Success of this Act is not possible without the meaningful participation of media. Media should spread awareness and should act as a watchdog of the society. The author concludes that this Act is a major step to curb 'Sarkari Corruption. But the journey is not over. It is rightly said about the right to information act that the struggle is like 'Second Battle for independence'.

Krishna and Khandelwal (2007)<sup>39</sup> in their book give comprehensive knowledge about all the aspects of Right to Information Act 2005 which is very useful for an ordinary citizen. The book has been divided into ten sections. The first section contains meaning of freedom of information, basic elements of Right to Information Law, the campaign for Right to Information in India and development on right to information in India. The first section also deals with global perspective of right to information. The second part of the book contains the whole Right to Information Act 2005. In the third and fourth section the author describes central rule under Right to Information Act 2005 and state rule under right to information respectively. In the fifth section the author discusses some cases related to RTI on which Supreme Court has given its decision. Sixth part deals with some related laws with RTI. In the seventh part author deals with international convention on Civil and Political Rights'

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<sup>38</sup>Kumar, Sita Ram, *Role of Civil Society in Taming Development through Information*, Social Action, Vol.56, Oct.-Dec. 2006, pp.333-343.

<sup>39</sup>Khandelwal, Dheera and Krishna Khandelwal, *A Commentary and Digest on the Right to Information Act, 2005*, The Bright House Law, New Delhi, 2007.

Laws. In the eighth part the writer has given guidelines on right to information. The ninth part of the book contains a handbook for public authorities. So, this book is also useful for public authorities and tenth part of the book contains specimen forms under the Right to Information Act, 2005. The book provides an analysis of each and every section along with explanatory notes so that the readers can grasp the ingredients of various sections. It also provides relevant cases, laws, decisions of various courts and information commissions. The book fulfils the requirements and needs of citizens seeking information from various public authorities.

Jain (2007)<sup>40</sup> provides knowledge about right to information in a very simple language. The book has been divided in twenty nine parts. The first chapter of the book deals with historical background of right to information, history of MKSS and main features of Right to Information Act, 2005, and state level laws about right to information. In the second part, the writer tells the necessity of right to information and what is the position of RTI in other countries. These countries are U.S.A., U.K., Japan, South Africa, Pakistan, Hong Kong, France, Scotland, Canada, Chile, Colombia, E.U., Israel, Jamaica, Montenegro and New Zealand. In the third chapter, the author gives the details about the whole Right to Information Act, 2005. In the fourth and fifth chapter, the writer gives the details about RTI (regulation of fee and cost) Rule 2005 and information commission respectively. From part sixth to twenty fifth, the writer explains Right to Information Act in various states of India. Further, in chapter 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Jain gives details about Official Secret Act 1923 and The Public Record Act., 1993 respectively. In 28<sup>th</sup> chapter, author describes 'Satyagraha' as a powerful tool. In the last part of the book, the author tells what public audit is, what 'Jan Sunwai' (Public Hearing) is and what are the efforts of 'Jan Sunwai'. In the last chapter of the book, the writer also gives some case studies related to right to information. The attempts are made to outline the significance of Right to Information, particularly in empowering ordinary citizen to combat state corruption and to play an important role in participatory democracy.

Chhibber (2008)<sup>41</sup> in his article says that RTI Act came into existence to promote transparency and accountability. This right is also given in the constitution of

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<sup>40</sup> Jain, N.K., *Right to Information, Concept, Law and Practice with Position in other Countries and Case Studies*, Regal Publication, New Delhi, 2010.

<sup>41</sup> Chhabber, Bharti, *Right to Information Act. : An Instrument for Stronger and Vibrant Democratic Process in India*, VOL. 4, No. 15, March 29, 2008, pp.17-18.

India. In 1975, Supreme Court observed that in a responsible government like ours...there can be only few confidential matters. The writer says that according to section 7, the information should be provided in 30 days (in normal case) and in 48 hours (in the case of life and liberty). Penalties can be imposed on PIOs. In chapter VI, the Act also mentions some areas which are not covered under the act. In 1996, government proposed a bill for the amendment in the Act but the bill was not passed. Further the writer says that there is another dimension of the RTI Act. It is very costly. The writer gives an example that in Chhattisgarh a farmer was presented with a bill of Rs. 182000 as a cost for asking the documents under the RTI. The government has developed a programme to bring awareness among people about the Act. In many cases RTI is very successful like public distribution system, pensions and reforms, road repairs and telecom complaints. Under RTI, Ludhiana based NGO obtained a document according to which money collected for Kargil war relief and Tsunami victims was diverted in paying hotel bills. RTI has to play an important role to combat corruption only then it can be considered a step towards ensuring a vibrant democracy in India.

The book by Vermani (2008)<sup>42</sup> is an endeavour to bring to the readers comprehensive information about the legislation enacted in India to curb the corruption at various levels of various government and key departments. The author gives the brief background and sources behind the Right to Information Act and highlights the main features of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The author also gives a summary of the powers, functions, eligibility criteria and the processes of the Central Information Commission. The author also gives a brief summary about state information commission and explains as to what a person can do if he does not receive a decision within the specified time. Further, the author gives a brief summary of right to information act in different states of India. These states are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Delhi. The author also discusses the Whistleblowers Bill 2006 and the dilemma of whistleblowers. In the end, the author explains how a person should seek information and what a person can do if he does not receive satisfactory information. Thus the book provides a comprehensive description about how to use the right to information in different departments and states of India.

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<sup>42</sup>Vermani, Ashutosh, *The Right to Information*, Abhishek Publication, Chandigarh, 2008.

Saxena (2009)<sup>43</sup> says that RTI is a means in the hands of people to bring transparency and accountability in public offices. Right to Information is a milestone in the history of social legislation in India. Further, the writer says that RTI is supported in the case of S.P. Gupta v/s Union of India by the Supreme Court that disclosure of information must be ordinary rule. Further, in the first part of this paper, the writer says that mega objective of this act is to bring transparency, accountability and good governance. The municipal corporation of Delhi entertained over 20,000 queries since 2005. In the second part of this article, the writer says that RTI gets linked to various programmes being launched to translate inclusive vision into project and programmes. The writer gives the example of NREGA the world's biggest social security programme today. It has provided employment to more than 9.86 crore rural household so far. The writer says that well in administered state like Rajasthan the programme varies from 'average' to 'very good' from the network of Panchayats in its 33 districts. In the third part of this article the writer says that all this gives the overview about the potential and expectations from the legislation. The writer says that the major focus of the government would be reform of governance. The writer explains the essence of RTI in the coming days and certainty in the next five years.

Lingwal (2009)<sup>44</sup> in his article says that Right to Information Act allows every citizen to ask question from government about its policies and actions. Public information not only provides information to a citizen but also provides help where necessary. In this way, the right to information can remove the cobweb of corruption. In spite of all this, as per study of National Right to Information Award Secretariat, a person has only 39 percent chance of getting information because Public Information Officer and first appellate authority are from the same public office. So chances of getting information in a fare way are very low. The time limit of 30 days given to each of the Public Information Officer and the first appellate authority so the information seeker has to wait till the specified time expires. There is another reason which hampers the proper implementation of the Act i.e. 60 per cent PIOs and first appellate authority do not have training as to how to provide information and there is lack of awareness among public. Hyderabad government has launched on line certificate course on Right to Information which makes people aware about Right to

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<sup>43</sup>Saxena, A.P., *Right to Information: Towards Good Governance*, Prashasnika, Vol. XXXVI, No. 1-2, Jan- Dec. 2009.

<sup>44</sup><http://www.jaagore.com/article/right-information-act-path-leading-corruption-free-india> 12 JUNE.



Information Act. The proposed outcome of this course is that people will become aware and will get sound knowledge about the provisions of the Right to Information Act 2005. More people will ask questions to government about its policies and schemes. In the end of this article, the writer says that at last the government will have no other option but to bring transparency in the system.

Habibullah (2009),<sup>45</sup> who has been the first Chief Information Commissioner of India, explains that in spite of massive programmes of poverty eradication, the result is not satisfactory. The writer asks a question, that “If the current system is not able to stop corruption and what should replace it. Now right to information is an important tool in the hands of common people to combat corruption. The writer says that in NREGA many people demand information under RTI. It seems that this programme has got married with RTI. There is a lack of governance and this issue was also discussed in the high level conference in Delhi in 1997. Bureaucracy does not support change. 1991 was a year of near wholesale delicensing of industry. The Joint Secretary was asked to examine the restructuring of the department in the light of the functional change and according to the report the department should be closed down as it serves no purpose. The writer says that transformation from ‘Inspector Raj’ to ‘State Withdrawal’ is a radical change. Indian constitution supports this right indirectly in Article 19 of Constitution and Supreme Court has also supported in many cases like in the case of State of U.P. v/s Raj Singh. In the end of the article the writer says that RTI is not an anti-corruption Act. It is not only trying to seek this objective but also trying to make government more transparent. This Act establishes a master servant relationship between public and government. The writer ends the article with a question: “Will Indian public grasp the opportunity?”

Ansari (2009)<sup>46</sup> discusses the link between RTI and elements of good governance. The major objectives of this Act are greater transparency, protection of citizens, government’s partnerships, greater accountability and reduction of corruption in the government departments. Further in this paper, the writer examines the impact of RTI on major indicators of development and explains that RTI plays an important role in education and health care. Both are critical services for the empowerment of

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<sup>45</sup>Habibullah, Wajahat, *Corruption and the Right to Information*, Seminar 594, Feb. 2004, pp. 30-34.

<sup>46</sup> Ansari, M.M., *Right to Information and its Relationship to Good Governance and Development*, Prashnika, Vol. XXXVI, No. 1-2, Jan- Dec. 2009.

people. Poor people can take better advantage of different schemes to get all related information under the Act. This right has also empowered the weaker sections of the society, mainly women, SCs/STs, minorities and disabled groups. With the use of the right, they can gain knowledge and can get their due share. RTI has also played an important role in environment protection because under this Act, they can ask questions on different policies which are harmful for the environment. In the end of this paper the writer gives some suggestions to strengthen the RTI. First of all, the development programme should incorporate transparency and accountability, secondly, a comprehensive information management system should be developed by each public authority thirdly a multimedia approach should be adopted to educate and train people. The role of NGOs is critical for creating effective demand for maximum disclosure of information and finally democratization of information and knowledge resources is critical for people development.

Rani(2010)<sup>47</sup> gives the salient feature of Right to Information Act 2005 and discusses the history of right to information in India. Further, in this paper, with the help of cases the writer shows how right to information is applicable in various areas like consumer rights, health services, water and sanitation, fake certificate, food services and NREGA. The writer also mentions the areas where right to information cannot be used like information on religion, security organisation like RAW etc. The writer also discusses some steps which were taken by government to promote transparency. For example the provision of transparency officer to be appointed within 30 days and not to reject an RTI application without prescribed fees. A drive was launched by CIC to dispose over three month old cases by divisional benches of state information commission. In the conclusion of this paper Dr. Padma says that many activists and NGOs are creating awareness about right to information. By such efforts they are creating informed and conscious citizen for our country. Democracy requires informed citizens who can play an important role to combat corruption and the appropriate implementation will make the government transparent.

ChandraSekhar (2010)<sup>48</sup>states that Right to Information has become an international term and that empowered by this Act an ordinary citizen can play an

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<sup>47</sup>Dr.Rani, Padma, Right to Information as a Tool to Promote and Strengthen Democracy, Global Media Journal—Indian Edition, Winter Issue, Dec. 2010.

<sup>48</sup>Sekhar, P. Chanhra, *Right to Information in Strenghting Participatory Democracy*, Global Media Journal—Indian Edition, Winter Issue, Dec. 2010.

active role in participatory democracy. Right to information took birth in Sweden in 1766, then in U.S.A. in 1966 and in Norway in 1970. By 2010, more than 85 countries have national level right to information law including India and China. Further, in this paper, the writer also discusses the background of right to information in India. Official Secret Act was a weapon in the hands of wrongdoers. Indian constitution gives the right to freedom of speech and expression in Article 19(1)(a) and right to life and liberty in Article 21 as a part of right to information. Section 74 to 78 of Indian Evidence Act 1872 also supports the right to information. Further the writer says that still corruption is still growing on in the form of 2G spectrum, CWG and Adarsh Society Scam. Right to information is a milestone in India to stop corruption and to bring transparency and accountability in the government system. Right to information provides information to every citizen and informed citizen can make sound decisions and all this will result into participatory democracy. In the end of the article the writer concludes the paper in the wording of Gandhi Ji that the real Swaraj will come not by the acquisition of power by the few but by the acquisition of the capacity by all to resist authority when abused.

Pushpa Raj (2010)<sup>49</sup> in her article says that right to information is not only a major component of democracy but also a fundamental human right. The constitution of the Kingdom Nepal, 1990, guarantees the right to receive and demand information regarding the matters of public importance. A law could not be enacted on right to information for some time more and Article 16 is adequate to guarantee right to information. The writer of the book proposes a bill to secure the right to access to information. Public Information Officer will pass the order either granting or rejecting the request and the information should be provided within 20 working days. This is the first book of its kind in Nepal. Though this concept was born in 1990s but in Nepal it's yet to be born. The judiciary in Nepal is never silent over this issue. The writer of this book has long experience in judiciary. This book attracts the attention of judiciary in Nepal towards the issues of right to information. People of the most developed countries (MDCs) can enjoy this right but the case is bit different in developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Because democracy in least developed countries is not functioning in a healthy manner. Right to Information is a major component of democracy and will solve many social and cultural problems

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<sup>49</sup><http://www.ekautipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/18/nation/editor-quits-under-maoist-threat/6313/> 12 JUNE.

of individual and society. This book is a milestone and a Bible for the concept of Right to information in Nepal.

Anand (2011)<sup>50</sup> focuses four case studies namely India, Indonesia, Uganda and Nicaragua. In these four cases, the writer tries to highlight some complexities in campaigning Right to Information Laws and implementing them. Further, the writer says that at present there are two schools of thoughts. One is supply led or state led mechanism and second focuses on human right based approach with right to information and its centre. The frame that is developed in this paper suggests that these two approaches need not to be considered exclusive. But it can be seen in term of Dreze and Sen's argument of democratic institutions and democratic practice. Further in this paper the writer says that right to information Law can be considered effective only when its influence results in transforming. The culture of local government offices from 'right on paper' to 'right to participate in governance'. And for this there is considerable need for NGOs. But at the same time the writer says that right to information is only one side of a coin and this will be remain incomplete without necessary measures for data protection and privacy issues. Otherwise, right to information laws can be threat for national security. The methodology for this study includes analysis of secondary sources of information as well semi structured survey with selected programme officer of Oxfam G.B. and its affiliates in number of countries. And for the case study the writer chose four countries namely – namely India, Indonesia, Uganda and Nicaragua.

Feinzing and Rana<sup>51</sup> wrote an article titled "The importance of RTI in Education: Putting a Human Face on a Fundamental Right". The article starts with the philosophical thought "If you have knowledge, let other light their candles by it". Right to information gained a lot of attention recently. Many countries have made legislation on right to information and in many international conventions it is accepted as a fundamental right such as in Universal Declaration of Human Right and International Convention on Civil and Political Right. Right to Information is very important regarding educational opportunities. The writer gives an example of two sisters which were visually disabled and could not go to university due to the lack of

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<sup>50</sup>Anand, P.B., *Right to Information and Local Governance: An Exploration*, A Journal for Human Development and Capabilities, PublicationRoutledge, Vol.12, No. 1, Feb. 2011, pp.135-151.

<sup>51</sup><http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/ai/rti/india/articles/Imp%20of%20RTI%20in%20Edu.pdf.pdf> 10 June

information. Due to this lack of information many disabled students do not take advantage the quota for the disabled. Further the writer says that ‘The Outlook reported that for every Rs. 100 spent by government in the 1990s only 60 paise has gone to child education. India’s largest scheme on childcare reaches only 38 per cent of children. It does not matter that much money is allotted but the money should be used in the real spirit. HAQ researchers indicate that they experienced a lot of difficulties to get information from public offices to complete their studies as they did not find all the data from any source about children because schemes related to children are dealt by several ministries and departments. The whole article emphasises that funds which are allotted by government are not being spent and if they remain untouched, the funds are meaningless. In the end of the article, the writes says that people have the right to information so they can make pressure on government to make effective programmes to utilize funds. Knowledge is power but only if it shared. Awareness about right to information is a viable tool for those who are seeking to maximize educational and other opportunities provided by government.

Rai<sup>52</sup>says that right to information is a tool for empowerment and there is a great need of right to information to empower poor communities. Right to Information is central to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG). Right to information in India has received judicial recognition also. Many states of India enacted their own law on Right to Information. Tamil Nadu was the first one which made a law on RTI in India in (1996), second was Goa (1997) followed by Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in 2000. Dr.Rai also discusses Rajasthan’s experience on right to information and says that it is different from other states because the struggle for right to information was raised from grass root level. Civil society, known as the third sector of democracy, with the help of right to information, can certainly bring transparency. In the end of this article, the author says that right to information is a hope for the common people. However even after law on right to information it is very hard to find transparency in administration.

### **1.5 Statement of the Problem**

However, this powerful instrument to strengthen democracy in the country may succeed only if the citizens have adequate information about the provisions of

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<sup>52</sup>[http://www.napsipag.org/pdf/SHEILA\\_RAI.pdf](http://www.napsipag.org/pdf/SHEILA_RAI.pdf) 12 June

the Act. Having been enacted about six years ago, it would be appropriate time to know the awareness about the provisions of the Act and the present study is an endeavour in that direction. In the present study, an effort has been made to know the level of awareness among the educated youth about the provisions of the Act and the study was conducted on the students of different colleges situated in Rewari town of Haryana state. Thus, the research problem under study may be stated as:

Awareness of RTI Act Among College Students:  
A Study of Rewari Town in Haryana

### **1.6 Profile of Educational Institutions of Rewari Town**

Situated in south-west of Haryana at a distance of around 82 kms from the national capital New Delhi, 51 kms from the millennium city Gurgaon, and about 10 kms from the Delhi-Jaipur National Highway No. 8, Rewari is one of the rapidly growing towns in Haryana state. It is growing industrially as also as a centre of education. There are 7 colleges in Rewari town, four of which are degree colleges and three are colleges of education and the total student strength of 9090.

#### ***Ahir College, Rewari***

The Ahir College, Rewari (ACR) founded in 1945 is one of the oldest educational institutions serving Southern Haryana and affiliated to MD University, Rohtak. Rao Birender Singh Ex-Chief Minister and Union Agriculture Minister of India articulated his vision of distinctive institution against the backdrop of regional history and in the context of the aspirations and needs of contemporary society of joint Haryana and Punjab. The Ahir College, a non-profit, independent institution of higher education has yielded more than fifty years of fruitful service which integrates liberal studies and professional education to give its graduates both breadth and specialization.<sup>53</sup> The first Principal of this college was M.L. Khosala. In 1945, this college was affiliated to Punjab University Lahore and after that in 1947 it came under Punjab University Chandigarh. Now this college is affiliated to M.D. University Rohtak. The current Principal of this college is A.S. Yadav. This college has its own building. There are 20 regular and 45 ad-hoc teachers in the college. Many courses are running in this college like B.A., B.Sc. and B.Com. There are some self-financed courses in the college like B.B.A., B.C.A. and M.Com also. The college has a boy's hostel named, RBS Boy's hostel also. The college also has a library with audio-visual

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<sup>53</sup><http://www.punjabcolleges.com/11416-indiacolleges-Ahir-College-Rewari/>

aids like T.V. and C.D. player. There is a canteen and a dispensary in the college also. Total number of students in the college is 3442. Among them 1958 are male and 1484 are female. 2430 students are from rural background and 1012 students are from urban background. The college is accredited by NAAC with 'B' grade.

***KishanLal Public (KLP) College, Rewari***

This college was established in 1964. The first Principal of the college was Sh. H.L. Gupta and the present Principal of the college is Sh. P.K. Bansal who is an acting principal of the college. There are 93 teachers in the college among them 50 teachers are on ad hoc basis and 43 are permanent. Total strength of the students in the college is 3128, out of them, 1619 are male and 1509 are female. 1095 students are from urban background and 2033 are from rural background. This college receives grants-in-aid from the Haryana Government. The college is affiliated to M.D. University, Rohtak. The courses which are running in the college are B.A., B. Com, B. Sc. and self-financed courses like B.B.A., B.B.E., B.C.A., B.Sc., and Bio Tech. The college has canteen, library, computer lab and its own building with beautiful lawns. The college is accredited by NAAC with 'B+' grade.

***Rameswer Das Sarraf (RDS) College for Woman, Rewari***

This college is only for girls. This college was established in 1988. This college is affiliated to M.D. University Rohtak. The very first Principal of the college was Miss SwarnViz and the present Principal of the college is Dr.Sudha Sharma. Two regular courses are running in the college B.A. and B.Com. The total numbers of students which are studying in the college are 797. Among them 499, are from rural background and 298 are from urban background. There are 16 teachers in the college including Principal. B.A. and M.A. (Hindi, Sanskrit, and Political Science) are also running through distance education in the college. The college has its own building with beautiful lawns. There is also a canteen in the college. The college is accredited by NAAC with 'C' grade.

***Government College for Women, Rewari***

This college was established in July 2008. The first Principal of the college was Dr. L.N. Sharma and the present Principal of the college is Dr.Kamlesh Kumar Yadav. Total strength of teachers in the college is 14 and all are on deputation. Total strength of students in the college is 1288 among them 902 are from rural background

and 386 from urban background. This is women college so all students are female. The courses which are running in the college are B.A., B.Sc., B.Com B.B.A. and B.C.A. The college is provisionally affiliate to M.D. University Rohtak. NAAC has not given any grade to the college till now. It does not have its own building and running temporarily in Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School in Sector 4, HUDA Rewari.

#### ***RaoBerander Singh (RBS) B.Ed. College, Rewari***

This college was established in 1953. At that time it, was affiliated to Punjab University Chandigarh. Now, this college is affiliated to M.D. University Rohtak. The first Principal of the college was I.B. Verma and current principal of the college is Mrs.PreetiKiranArora. There are 135 total students in the college-100 in B.Ed. (50 arts and 50 science) and 35 students are in M.Ed. Among them, 20 are male and 115 are female. There are 70 students from rural background and 65 are from urban background. There are total 8 teachers in the college. The college has its own building with beautiful lawns and science lab. It is NAAC accredited with ‘A ++’ grade of.

#### ***Satish Public (SP) B.Ed. College***

This college was established in 1969. The college is affiliated to M.D. University Rohtak. The college has a beautiful building with library facility and beautiful lawns. The first Principal of the college was Dr. D. Singh and present Principal of the college is Dr. R.K. Bhaker. There are total 100 seats in the college (50 for Arts students and 50 for Science students). Among them, 19 are male and 81 are female, and 56 students are from rural background and 44 are from urban background. There are total 7 teachers in the college. It is NAAC accredited with ‘B’ grade.

#### ***Jinda Ram Mamorial College of Education***

The college was established in 2007. The college is affiliated to M.D. University Rohtak. This is the only private college in Rewari town. The first and current Principal of the college is Mr.NavinPipulani. Two courses runs in the college one is B.Ed. and second is D.Ed. There are total 200 seats in the college (100 for B.Ed. students and 100 for D.Ed. students). Among them, 36 are male and 164 are female and 124 students are from rural background and 76 students are from urban background. It is also NAAC accredited with ‘B+’ grade.

### **1.7 Objectives of the Study**



Following have been the main objectives of the study:

1. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the levels of awareness of male students about provisions of RTI Act.
2. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from rural and urban areas about provisions of RTI Act.
3. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Arts and Science streams about provisions of RTI Act.
4. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Arts and Commerce streams about provisions of RTI Act.
5. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Arts and Professional Courses streams about provisions of RTI Act.
6. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Arts and Teacher Education streams about provisions of RTI Act.
7. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Science and Commerce streams about provisions of RTI Act.
8. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Science and Professional Courses streams about provisions of RTI Act.
9. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Science and Teacher Education streams about provisions of RTI Act.
10. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Commerce and Professional Courses streams about provisions of RTI Act.
11. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Commerce and Teacher Education streams about provisions of RTI Act.

12. To know whether there exist a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Professional Courses and Teacher Education streams about provisions of RTI Act.

## **1.8 Hypotheses**

Following have been the main hypotheses of the study:

1. There exists a significant difference between the levels of awareness of male students about provisions of RTI Act.
2. There exists a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from rural and urban areas about provisions of RTI Act.
3. There exists a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Arts and Science streams about provisions of RTI Act.
4. There exists a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Arts and Commerce streams about provisions of RTI Act.
5. There exists a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Arts and Professional Courses streams about provisions of RTI Act.
6. There exists a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Arts and Teacher Education streams about provisions of RTI Act.
7. There exists a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Science and Commerce streams about provisions of RTI Act.
8. There exists a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Science and Professional Courses streams about provisions of RTI Act.
9. There exists a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Science and Teacher Education streams about provisions of RTI Act.
10. There exists a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Commerce and Professional Courses streams about provisions of RTI Act.

11. There exists a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Commerce and Teacher Education streams about provisions of RTI Act.
12. There exists a significant difference between the level of awareness of students from Professional Courses and Teacher Education streams about provisions of RTI Act.

## **1.9 Methods and Methodology**

The present study is an empirical study related to the college students of Rewari town in Haryana state. The study is undertaken to observe and highlight the level of awareness among college students about the provisions of RTI Act 2005. As explained in the previous section, there are 7 colleges in Rewari town with 4 degree colleges and 3 colleges of education and the total number of students in all these colleges has been 9090. Degree Colleges offer the following courses: B.A., B.Sc., B.Com., B.B.A., B.C.A., B.B.E., B.Sc.(Bio Tech.), M.A., and M.Com. In colleges of education, there are three streams: B.Ed., M.Ed. and D.Ed.

### ***Data Generation and Sampling Techniques***

Keeping in view the limitations of time and money, it was not possible for the researcher to contact all the 9090 respondents and obtain data from them. Therefore, it was decided to draw a representative sample of 500 students from the population. Considering the nature of population, it was decided to adopt the quota sampling technique. The researcher divided the entire population into the following five categories. The total number of students in each of these categories is indicated against the respective categories.

1. Arts courses (BA and MA)	4430
2. Science courses (BSc)	1511
3. Commerce courses (BCom and MCom)	1527
4. Professional courses (BBA, BBE, BCA, BSc Bio Tech)	1187
5. Teacher Education courses (B.Ed., M.Ed. and D.Ed.)	435
<b>Total</b>	<b>9090</b>

The quota of respondents in each of the five categories was obtained with the help of following formula:

$$= \frac{N1}{N} \times 500$$

Where

N1 = Total Students of Each Strata

N = Total Population of all Population

500 = Sample Size

On the basis of above formula, following quota was fixed in each of the above mentioned five categories:

$$\text{Arts} = \frac{4430}{9090} \times 500 = 243$$

$$\text{Science} = \frac{1511}{9090} \times 500 = 83$$

$$\text{Commerce} = \frac{1527}{9090} \times 500 = 84$$

$$\text{Professional} = \frac{1187}{9090} \times 500 = 65$$

$$\text{Teacher Education} = \frac{435}{9090} \times 500 = 25$$

Having decided the number of specified respondents in each of the five categories, the specific respondents were obtained with the help of lottery method. The lists of students in all the colleges were obtained and these were redesigned according to the five categories listed above. Thereafter, in each of five categories, the following numbers of respondents were obtained with the help of lottery method:

No.	Streams	Number of Selected Students
1	Arts	243
2	Science	83
3	Commerce	84
4	Professional Courses	65
5	Teacher Education	25
	Total	500

To obtain primary data from the above respondents, the researcher framed an interview schedule containing 27 items (Annexure-1).

Secondary sources of information used for the present study include the books, journals, reports, unpublished researches etc. For obtaining secondary information, besides the Central University of Haryana Central Library, the researcher visited different libraries including library of Jawaharlal Nehru University, library of Maharishi Dayanand University, library of Kurukshetra University, District Library of Narnaul and Rewari, library of Indian Institute of Public Administration.

### ***Techniques for Data Analyses***

The primary data generated by the researcher has been systematised, tabulated and thereafter analysed with the help of *t-test* to ascertain whether the means of two samples are significantly different. The null hypothesis and the alternate hypothesis can be specified as:

$$H_0: m_1 - m_2 = 0,$$

$$H_1: m_1 - m_2 \neq 0$$

The *t-test* is calculated with the help of following formula:

$$t = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{\text{s.e. of } (m_1 - m_2)}$$

With degree of freedom being  $n_1 + n_2 - 1$

Where

$m_1$  = mean score of first group

$m_2$  = mean score of second group

$n_1$  = number of observations in the first group

$n_2$  = number of observations in the second group

s.e. of  $(m_1 - m_2)$  = square root of  $[\text{var } (m_1) + \text{var } (m_2) - \text{cov } (m_1, m_2)]$

### **1.10 Limitation of the Study**

The researcher had to work under considerable limitations. The present study does not include the students of distance education because distance education students come once in a week and the researcher had lack of time. So, data was collected from the regular college students of different courses according to their proportion in total population.

Further, the researcher tried to know the difference between the level of awareness in male and female, and rural and urban. But male and female, and rural and urban students in the samples are not according to their proportion in the population – college students of Rewari town.