

Satellite Meetings

Library Services to People with Special Needs Section

The Homeless and the
Libraries:
Right to Information and
Knowledge For All



Empowering the Poor with Right to Information and Library Services

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Introduction

- **Information is playing a vital role in modern socio-economic developments. All Indian citizens are empowered with right to information act including homeless or people of special needs also.**
- **People can ask the government policies and programmes for eradication of poverty.**
- **Information literacy regarding various rights may change the scenario of society.**
- **We discuss various Indian government policies and role of information in empowering the poor.**

Right to Information Act



- The Government of India enacted the Right to Information Act in 2005 (RTI Act).
- It empowers citizens with the right to demand what activities and decisions are being made for downtrodden.
- Freedom of expression encompasses the freedom of speech and the corollary right to receive information. [Indian Constitution, article 19,(1)a]
- **RTI is a part of Fundamental rights in Indian Constitution.**

Right to Information means :

- Right to seek Information
- Right to obtain Information
- Right to inspect information
 - To get Certified copies/ Samples
 - To get Third party information also.

Object of RTI

- Transparency in Public Administration
- Prevention of Corruption
- Public Accountability
- Information Literacy
- Basic Fundamental Rights
- Eradication of poverty
- Practical regime of RTI to all citizens.



Census of India

- As per 2011 census the population of India is above **1210 Million** and is world's largest number of poor people found in India.
- As per economic survey the earning of 35% people is less than one US Dollar a day, and 86% less than two dollar a day.

People of Special Needs

- **Library can exist without walls but library services for homeless people are very difficult task.**
- **If a person is suffering from basic human needs like food, clothes and shelter, how can he/she mentally ready for getting the information?**
- **The information can change the life of homeless/poor people.**
- **They can also generate a lot of money and improve their socio economic conditions.**

Table 13.5: Poverty Ratios (per cent)

	Earlier estimates(URP) based on the Lakdawala methodology		Estimates (MRP)based on the Tendulkar methodology	
	1993-1994	2004-2005	1993-1994	2004-2005
Rural	37.3	28.3	50.1	41.8
Urban	32.4	25.7	31.8	25.7
Total	36.0	27.5	45.3	37.2

Source : Planning Commission.

URP - Uniform Reference Period, MRP- Mixed Reference Period.

Rural People are more poor than Urban

134th position of India in HDI

Table 13.1 : Trends in the Human Development Index (HDI) 1980-2011

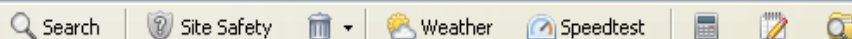
HDI rank	Country	1980	1990	2000	2005	2009	2010	2011	Average annual HDI Growth Rate (percent)		
									1980-2011	1990-2011	2000-2011
1	Norway	0.796	0.844	0.913	0.938	0.941	0.941	0.943	0.55	0.53	0.29
2	Australia	0.850	0.873	0.906	0.918	0.926	0.927	0.929	0.29	0.30	0.23
39	Poland	-	-	0.770	0.791	0.807	0.811	0.813	-	-	0.50
61	Malaysia	0.559	0.631	0.705	0.738	0.752	0.758	0.761	1.00	0.90	0.69
66	Russian Fed.	-	-	0.691	0.725	0.747	0.751	0.755	-	-	0.81
84	Brazil	0.549	0.600	0.665	0.692	0.708	0.715	0.718	0.87	0.86	0.69
92	Turkey	0.463	0.558	0.634	0.671	0.690	0.696	0.699	1.34	1.08	0.90
101	China	0.404	0.490	0.588	0.633	0.674	0.682	0.687	1.73	1.62	1.43
97	Sri Lanka	0.539	0.583	0.633	0.662	0.680	0.686	0.691	0.80	0.81	0.80
103	Thailand	0.486	0.566	0.626	0.656	0.673	0.680	0.682	1.10	0.89	0.78
112	Philippines	0.550	0.571	0.602	0.622	0.636	0.641	0.644	0.51	0.58	0.62
113	Egypt	0.406	0.497	0.585	0.611	0.638	0.644	0.644	1.50	1.24	0.88
124	Indonesia	0.423	0.481	0.543	0.572	0.607	0.613	0.617	1.23	1.19	1.17
123	South Africa	0.564	0.615	0.616	0.599	0.610	0.615	0.619	0.30	0.03	0.05
128	Vietnam	-	0.435	0.528	0.561	0.584	0.590	0.593	-	1.50	1.06
134	India	0.344	0.410	0.461	0.504	0.535	0.542	0.547	1.51	1.38	1.56
145	Pakistan	0.359	0.399	0.436	0.48	0.499	0.503	0.504	1.10	1.12	1.33
143	Kenya	0.420	0.456	0.443	0.467	0.499	0.505	0.509	0.62	0.52	1.27
146	Bangladesh	0.303	0.352	0.422	0.462	0.491	0.496	0.500	1.63	1.69	1.55
	World	0.558	0.594	0.634	0.66	0.676	0.679	0.682	0.65	0.66	0.66

Indian Government & NGO's Initiatives



- ***Govt. of India started various ICT based projects for eradication of poverty with public private partnership.***
- ***Akshaya – Mallappuram, Kerala: A joint project between local bodies (gram panchayats) in rural areas, municipalities in urban areas and private entrepreneurs in Mallappuram district of Kerala was started to bridge the digital divide by providing community access to computers and the Internet.***

- **AMUL : Anand Milk Union Limited (AMUL)** is the first cooperative dairy established in Gujarat having more than 3.3 Million members.
- It socially and economically empowers a huge population of women and dairy farmers.
- Amul spurred the White Revolution in India which in turn made India the largest producer of milk and milk products in the world.



Amul (**Hindi**: अमूल, **Gujarati**: અમૂલ) is the name of a **dairy cooperative** in India.

Acronym of *Anand Milk Union Limited*, AMUL is also derived from the **Sanskrit** word "*Amulya*", Amul means invaluable.^[2] Formed in 1946, it is a **brand name** managed by an Indian cooperative organisation, the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF), which today is jointly owned by 3.03 million milk producers in **Gujarat**, India.^[3]

Amul (Anand Milk Union Limited)

200px

Type	Cooperative
Industry	Dairy
Founded	1946
Headquarters	Anand , Gujarat, India
Key people	Chairman, Kheda District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited. (KDCMPUL)
Products	See complete products listing.
Revenue	▲ US\$2.15 billion (2010-11)
Employees	735 employees of Marketing Arm. However, real pool consist of 3.03 million milk producer members ^[1]
Website	www.amul.com

E-Choupal

- **Launched in June 2000, 'e-Choupal', has already become the largest initiative among all Internet-based interventions in rural India.**
- **'e-Choupal' services today reach out to over 4 million farmers growing a range of crops - soyabean, coffee, wheat, rice, pulses - in over 40,000 villages through 6500 kiosks across ten states (Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerela and Tamil Nadu).**

- **N-Logue Telecentres** – Madurai, Tamil Nadu: It provides a link between the doctors at Madurai Medical College and the villagers. Besides telemedicine, several other web-based services are also provided to the villagers.
- Financing ICTs for Poor.
- Distance Learning courses on Community Information Services.

- **TARAhaat –The project started as a business model to cater *un-served rural markets*.**
- ***Vision : To empower people to achieve their aspirations by using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).***
- **The project provides services like TARAbazaar (e-bazaar), TARAvan (mobile kiosks), TARA guru (e-education), TARA dhaba (cybercafé), TARA reporter (news), TARA dak (e-mail), TARA vendor (e-commerce) and TARA card (e-greetings).**
- **This project provides connectivity to franchisee kiosks through C-band satellite, VSAT or dial-up modem, according to the infrastructure available.**



Mon, July 16, 2012

Success Stories

TARAhaat - Success Stories

NREGS faces major hurdles in Bhojpur

A long history of armed clashes and caste-based discrimination has severely affected the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in Bihar's Bhojpur district

[Read More](#)

A helping hand for the elderly poo

Associations of elderly people, or vridha sanghs help the elderly poor get social welfare benefits in Jharkhand.

[Read More](#)

NREGA needs to be improved: K R Venugopal

Several kinds of irregularities and problems experienced in 13 states were highlighted at state and national NREGA tribunals held at the India Social Forum in New Delhi

[Read More](#)

How TARAhaat made a difference in the life of the person

Aseem opened his Kendra at Goniana Mandi in rural Punjab. Goniana Mandi is around 20 km from Bathinda and has a population of approximately 18000 people in and around the area. He soon realized that this TARAkendra was going to give him the satisfaction that he sought

[Read More](#)



LAND RECORDS ON WEB

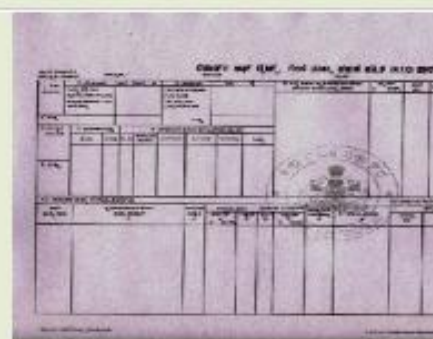
About Bhoomi | Procedure for Connectivity | FAQ | Feedback & Suggestions | Contact US

"Land records form the base for all land reforms and therefore regular online updating of land records is essential. BHOOMI has done it."

Bhoomi (meaning land) is the project of on-line delivery and management of land records in Karnataka. It provides transparency in land records management with better citizen services and takes discretion away from civil servants at operating levels.

The Revenue Department in Karnataka, with the technical assistance from National Informatics Centre (NIC), Bangalore, has built and operationalised the BHOOMI system throughout the state. The BHOOMI has computerized 20 million records of land ownership of 6.7 million farmers in the state.

BHOOMI has reduced the discretion of public officials by introducing provisions for recording a mutation request online. Farmers can now access the database and are empowered to follow up. In the



Verify RTC View RTC/Mutation Extract/Mutation



Computerized Land Record Management By NIC



SEWA

Self Employed Women's Association



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Self Employed Women's Association

SEWA is a trade union registered in 1972. It is an organisation of poor, self-employed women workers. These are women who earn a living through their own labour or small businesses. They do not obtain regular salaried employment with welfare benefits like workers in the organised sector. They are the unprotected labour force of our country. Constituting 93% of the labour force, these are workers of the unorganised sector. Of the female labour force in India, more than 94% are in the unorganised sector. However their work is not counted and hence remains invisible.

Self Employed Women Workers: Membership over 1.3 Million across seven states of India.

- ***So, Right to information and libraries can create an environment of information literacy among poor people, so they may be able to know their rights and improve their living standard.***
- ***To know the government initiatives for the welfare of the society.***
- ***After taking the benefits of policies they become well informed citizens.***



**Other policies of
Indian Government for
Eradication of Poverty and
Creation of Information
Literacy**

Right to Education



- **The government of India initiated essential free and compulsory education for all children from the age of six to fourteen years.**
- **The Right of children to Free and Compulsory Education Act has come into force from April 1, 2010.**
- **Right to education will be accorded the same legal status as the right to life as provided by Article 21A of the Indian Constitution.**

Right to food Scheme



- The Indian government started right to food scheme for children in schools.
- The Mid-Day Meal Scheme implemented since April 2002.
- This scheme attracts thousands of children towards primary education otherwise poor people are not sending their children to school.
- Its impact are positive to increase literacy and reduces the child labour in India.

Information Literacy

- Most of the policies are prepared by the government for the benefit of the society/ poor citizen but due to lack of proper communication, the policies are failed and real needy people are not able to get the benefit of it. So, the roles of libraries are very important in this regard to make them aware.

Information Literacy

- Only literacy can not change the way of life, there is a need of information literacy.
- As per census 2011, total literacy reached **74.04%** (Census 2011).
- Information literacy?



सत्यमेव जयते

CENSUS OF INDIA 2011

Information Literacy

- A well qualified person also may be computer ill-literate/ info ill-literate.
- Under Information literacy we are discussing Life Long Learning, but for poor people, there is a need to develop Community Information System/ Public Library System.

Saakshar Bharat (SB)

Adult Education

- National Literacy Mission, recast as Saakshar Bharat (SB) launched by the Prime Minister on 8 September 2009, reflects the enhanced focus on female literacy.
- The literacy rate improved sharply among females as compared to males. While the literacy rate for males rose by 6.9 per cent from 75.26 per cent to 82.14 per cent, it increased by 11.8 per cent for females from 53.67 per cent to 65.46 per cent.

Free Information to BPL Person

- As per RTI Act, 2005, section 7, the applicant would pay the fee as prescribed for information to be provided in printed or in electronic format. But **no such fee shall be charged from the persons who are below poverty line (BPL).**
- Fee of Rs. 10 /- only charged with per RTI application (\$ 0.24).

Section 5 and Forms of RTI Act.

5. Charging of fee :- (1) Except in the case of persons who are below poverty line as determined by the State Government, the public information Officer/Assistant Public Information Officer shall charge the fee for supply of information at the following rates, namely :-

	Description of information	Price/ Fees in Rupees
1.	Fee along with application	Rs. 10 per application
2.	Where the information is available in the form of a priced publication.	on printed price
3.	For other than priced publication. of	Rs.10 per page of A-4 size
	subject to	smaller and actual cost
4.	Where information is available in electronic form Rs. 100 and is to be supplied in electronics form e.g. Floppy, CD etc.	minimum of Rs. 20 per page in case of larger size. Rupees 50 per floppy and per CD
5.	Fee for inspection of record/document fraction	Rs. 10 per 15 minutes or thereof.

Rights to Information and Libraries

- Library activities and services are always users centered.
- Libraries already try to provide best services to all its users. Librarians themselves are doing all the jobs keeping in mind users need.
- So, even before being asked by the users, Librarians are ready to provide information to them.

Public Library System and RTI

- **In those state where Public Library Act implemented and public library system functioning, the citizens are having the rights to get the information. If they are not getting information in time they may go to court of law.**
- **For effective implementation of RTI act, there is a need of strong Public Library System in each and every state.**

Right to Information in Web Environment

- Information available on the web or on other social media is for the use of the society.
- Web resources are created to have in mind its potential users. There is a need for balance between making web resources and the basic right of all users to have access to the web resources they need.

National Mission in Education through ICT

- Content generation and connectivity along with provision for access to the devices for institutions and learners are the major components of the Mission.
- About 400 universities have been provided 1 Gbps connectivity and more than 14,000 colleges have also been provided VPN connectivity. (National Knowledge Network)

Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Program

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

ate. ||
 ANDHRA PRADESH
 ARUNACHAL PRADESH
 ASSAM
 BIHAR
 CHHATTISGARH
 GUJARAT

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

What?

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National Commission on Libraries

- On the recommendations of NKC, the national library commission announced by Govt. of India to reform the Libraries and Information Services (LIS).
- The NKC had recognised public libraries as an important element of the foundation of a knowledge economy.
- More Libraries = More Information Literacy

National Commission on Libraries

- The commission as a statutory body to address **information and learning needs of the citizens of India,**
- To see the functioning of public and private libraries in India.
- A national census of all libraries would also be prepared.

RTI and E- Governance

***E-Governance = SMART Governance**

- **S= Small (Less Staff)**
- **M= Moral (Less Corrupt)**
- **A= Accountable**
- **R= Responsible**
- **T= Transparent**

*** (Ref: E-Governance By N. Vittal)**

IMPACT of RTI **case studies**

Services to People with Special Needs

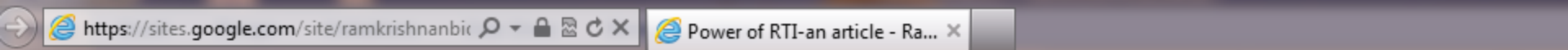
Positive effects of RTI

- Getting pending funds, pension etc.
- Work done within few days.
- Before giving reply, work completed.
- Transparency in work culture.
- Transparency in official procedure.
- Justice to a common man.

RTI helps poor diamond polishers get back cancelled BPL cards

- Pravin, the only breadwinner of his seven-member family who got his Below Poverty Line (BPL) card reinstated, "The local district administration department had carried out a drive to put a check on bogus ration cards in the district in July 2008. During that drive, the officials cancelled my family's legal ration card. It was a crucial time for us as the entire diamond polishing industry was going through recession. The ration card had become a very important for us to survive us as the government had provided basic essentials, especially if a family held a BPL ration card."

Power of RTI in releasing funds to poor villagers



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Key information about the various financial assistance programs were provided by K.S.Kumaravelu in Vilathikulam (Tuticorin District)

The power of RTI in releasing funds to the villagers

Did you know that a small village in Tamil Nadu with 100 families can receive about Rs 10.5 lakhs every year?

Yes, every year. But villagers need to **KNOW** that such funding is available for them.

Enter RTI - Right to Information Act

The following analysis is based on various poverty assistance programs in Tamil Nadu. I am assuming that similar programs, somewhat adjusted, be available in most other states of India.

The recently concluded Elections in India, where 70% of the voters came from rural India, has proven that rural India has played a major role. And 'crorepathis' and 150 members of the Lok Sabha with criminal records. How do we make sure that the funds allocated for the rural poor in India are

What is RTI, who started it and how can RTI help here

RTI stands for "Right To Information". Many in the US might compare to the Freedom of Information Act. But it is not. In a country deep know his/her rights and obligations, RTI opens the window and brings in 'light' in previously dark areas. While RTI can be used in all most all sec help the poor people of India',



Pension Credited

- Complaints on the government complaint redressal website pgportal.gov.in.
- The website gave a complaint number. However, the last day of the expected reply ie the 30th day, but pension credited in Bank account before one day and received information by SMS.

- RTI is a powerful tool to get the information and justice, But people are having **fear to use** it frequently.
- RTI should not be misused by people to create a problem to an officer.
- If transparency is maintained in administration, then there is no need to use it frequently.

Conclusion

- **Internet, Libraries and other social media are empowering the users with information.**
- **United Nations and national organisations are taking care of basic human rights.**
- **It is the real democracy, if we implement rights to information effectively.**
- **Free flow of information can reduce the digital divide/ information divide among all citizens of the world.**

Conclusion

- **Information can change the life: by solving the problems of poor and make them creative and innovative person.**
- **By applying various National and International laws effectively for the benefit of the poor people of special needs; We can make them well informed, self dependent, and respectable citizens.**

Janne Ka Haq. RTI song: *We have the right to know ...*

- *My dreams have a right to know
why they have been shattering for years
like they do not want to get fulfilled*
- *My hands have the right to know
why they have been empty for years
they till today do not have a job*
- *My legs have the right to know
why they walk from village to village
why there is no trace of a bus.....*



Association for India's Development

aid courage | commitment | change



संघर्ष सेवा निर्माण



Work in India



India



Janne ka Haq (RTI song)

Janne Ka Haq. RTI song: We have the right to know ...

Lyrics by Charul & Vinay (Ahmedabad).

View in Hindi

mere sapnon ka janne ka huk re kyun sadiyon se toot rahe hai inko sajne ka naam nahin My dreams have a right to know why they have been shattering for years like they do not want to get fulfilled

mere haathon ko janne ka huk re kyun barson se khali pade re inhein aaj bhi kaam nahi hai My hands have the right to know why they have been empty for years they till today do not have a job

mere pairon ko yeh janne ka huk re kyon gaon gaon chalna pade re kyon bus ka nishan nahi My legs have the right to know why they walk from village to village why there is no trace of a bus

meri bhUkh ko yeh janne ka huk re kyon godamon mein sadte hain daane mujhe mutthi bhar dhan nahi (paddy) My hunger has the right to know why are foodgrains rotting in the godowns I dont even have a handful of grain.

meri budhi maa ko janne ka huk re kyon goli nahi sui davakhane My old mother has the right to know why are there no medicines in the clinics

natti tanke ka saman nahi why there are no bandages or stitching aid

History of AID

Vision

Bylaws



Thank You

From: **Vivekanand Jain**, Banaras
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