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## PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT IN DEPARTMENT OF COLLEGIATE EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT: -

**T**he Democracy means meaningful participation by the people in the public affairs. A democratic government must be sensitive to the public opinion for which information must be sensitive to the public opinion, for which information must be made available to the people. The Right to Information implies the participation of people in the process of governance and administration which becomes inevitable.

**KEYWORDS:** agriculture, transportation medical facility, sanitation, irrigation, industry .

### INTRODUCTION :

The Right to Information is the only rightful law in India. This is most popular, citizen centric and change oriented law in Indian administrative history.<sup>2</sup> The Right to Information (RTI) Act influences the people and impact on Indian Administration in greater transparency in functioning of public authorities; disclosure of information regarding government rules, regulations and decisions, every public authority is mandated to maintain all records duly cataloged and indexed in a manner and the form which facilitates the information right under the act. Information is nothing but knowledge, the knowledge make man strong and powerful. If the Information should be related to Government and Administration, the person becomes active in good governance and self defensive and growing nature. The RTI act empowers the people of India against administrative corruption, irregularities and irresponsive attitude of administrative machinery. The Right to Information promotes transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority. In other words through this act, the citizens of India have been empowered to question, audit, review, examine and assess the government acts and decisions so as to ensure that these are consistent with the principle of public interest, good governance and justice.



### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study concentrates on whether the implementation of RTI Act in Administration and Government machinery, especially Aided degree colleges and Government degree colleges in the Collegiate Education Department To study the effective implementation of RTI with public participation in the Department of Collegiate Education

- 1) To find out the new methods for effective implementation and enforcement of RTI Act in administration.
- 2) To understand the living conditions after the RTI implementation, working process and problems in private aided colleges.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Department of Collegiate Education (DCE) is a sub branch of under Higher Education in Government of Karnataka. The DCE is monitoring the undergraduate colleges. 411 Government First Grade Colleges and 354 Private Aided First Grade colleges are working under the department. The study tries to assess the institutional response to RTI applications and what is the role of PIO's and find out the problems and also suggest remedies to overcome.

## The Research Methodology

The study focuses on the processing and performance condition of RTI in both Collegiate Education. Structured and semi structured Interview conducted with some randomly selected PIO's for the understanding the standing problems in RTI and interact with eminent RTI activities is the part of research agenda. The research program considers the experience from some RTI applicants and civil society groups. A survey also conducted for getting the opinions from expert like Information Commissioners and writers is becoming the part of in this research in primary data.

Major secondary sources is depending on hard and soft copy of departmental annual reports of RTI and KIC annual reports and different journals, Information Commissions judgments and website data were taken into consideration for the analysis. Monographs and published works of various writers, social workers and individuals will be gathered on various issues dealt in the different three reports.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

**Table No- 1.1 : Declared PIO, APIO and Appellate authority list in JD offices.**

Sl. No	Name of JD office	PIO of the office	APIO of the office	Appellate Authority
1	J D office, Bangalore	Assistant Director	Manager	Joint Director
2	J D office, Mysore	Assistant Director	Manager	Joint Director
3	J D office, Mangalore	Joint Director	Assistant Director	Commissioner of DCE
4	J D office, Darawad	Assistant Director	Manager	Joint Director
5	J D office, Kalburgi	Joint Director	Assistant Director	Commissioner of DCE
6	JD office, Shimoga	Joint Director	Assistant Director	Director of DCE

Source: JD office replied to my RTI letters.

Commissioner office and higher Education department declared JD is the PIO of the regional joint director offices, available assistant director of office Manager is APIO and additional director of Collegiate Education is Appellate authority. Gap between different offices and head office exists clearly.

## College Administration and RTI Performance

The Government First Grade Colleges and Private Aided First Grade colleges are the third stream and field and execution offices in the state. The Principal is the PIO of the Colleges: an Associate Professor/Assistant Professor is nominated as APIO of the College. Respective jurisdiction Joint Director of the collegiate education becomes Appellate authority to RTI in the college. Interestingly not like the head office record as they provide, each college have own allocation of Appellate authority, PIO and APIO to RTI in their college (as on certified copy

from JD office).

**Table No-1.2 : Declared PIO, APIO and Appellate authority list in Government First Grade College.\***

Sl.No	Name of Government College	PIO of the office	APIO of the office	Appellate Authority
1	GFGC Kuderu	The Principal	Assistant Professor	Commissioner of DCE
2	GFGC Bapuji Nagar, Shimoga	The Principal	Associate Professor	J D of Shimoga
3	GFGC Virajapete	The Principal	Assistant Professor	J D of Mangalore
4	GFGWC Vijayapura	The Principal	Assistant Professor	Commissioner of DCE
5	GFGC Hindi	The Principal	Assistant Professor	J D of Darawad
6	GFGC Ramangara	The Principal	Assistant Professor	J D of Bangalore
7	GFGC Tenkanedeyuru	The Principal	Assistant Professor	J D of Mangalore
8	RC Govt. College Bangalore	The Principal	The Principal	The Principal
9	GFGC Kollegala	The Principal	Assistant Professor	Commissioner of DCE
10	GFGC Thyamagondlu	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Principal of the College

Source: The information provided by Colleges to my RTI applications

**Table No- 1.3 : Declared PIO, APIO and Appellate authority list in Private Aided First Grade College.\*\***

Sl.No	Name of Private Aided College	PIO of the office	APIO of the office	Appellate Authority
1	Sri. Kongadiyappa College, Doddaballapur	The Principal	Assistant Professor	Commissioner of DCE
2	Sri.Venkateswara Swamy College, Bantwala	The Principal	Assistant Professor	J D of Mangalore
3	The Rural College, Kanakapura	The Principal	Assistant Professor	J D of Bangalore
4	S Nijalingappa College, Bangalore	The Principal	Assistant Professor	J D of Bangalore
5	JSS Gundlupete	The Principal	Assistant Professor	The Commissioner of DCE

6	Poornapragna College Udupi	The Principal	Assistant Professor	J D of Mangalore
7	Cavery College, Cicyb AR Inamdar College Bijapur	The Principal	Supervisor of college	The Commissioner of DCE
8	Karnataka College Bidar	The Principal	Not appointed	The Director of DCE
9	Sri. HR Sri. Ramalu Memorial College, Gangavathi	Supervisor of college	First Division Assistant	The Principal
10	Mahanta Swamy College, Hamsabhavi	The Principal	Assistant Professor	J D of Kalaburugi

Source: The information provided by Colleges to RTI applications

Declared PIO, APIO and Appellate Authority details received from the college through RTI applications. Actually The Principal of the College is PIO, office administrative chief Manager or Superintendent or FDA is APIO and Regional JD is appellate authority for Government Colleges and Private Aided colleges as per the DCE manual of RTI. Many principals don't have information about department declaration on RTI. The Principal of RC College declared himself APIO, PIO and Appellate authority.

The Chief Secretary of the State (DO NO: DPAR/57/RTI/2009 DATED 05-12-2009) and Principal Secretary of Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms(DPAR) (DO NO: DPAR/18/RTI/2011 DATED 03-02-2011) directed to all department administrative heads to appoint RTI Coordinator in directorates, Corporations, District deputy commissioner office and Zilla Panchayats for the following purpose; Update of PIO's and APIO's list under the department, Supervision of RTI applications disposals and appeals, Preparation of three month, half yearly and annual RTI report and to submit it to the information commission Monitoring and updating of to the 4(1) (a) and 4 (1) (b) and disclosure of document in website.

### PROBLEMS AND FAILURES IN THE DEPARTMENT

1. The Department of Collegiate Education inspire of Chief Secretary Direction does not appointed/nominated Nodal officer in the department for RTI mechanism monitoring.
2. The Joint Directors of regions declared as PIO and Appellate authority there interest, some JD's declared himself as PIO and some JD's Appellate authority
3. First Appellate authorities are not conducting the hearing/ enquiry to PIO's who are failed to provide the information to applicant
4. The additional director of Collegiate Education is appellate authority to both regional offices and commissioner office.
5. Four out six Joint Directors of regions are not maintaining RTI register and fee collection, remittance, inward and outward registers.
6. College Principals are PIO's in College but 85 % of Principals don't know who is our Appellate Authority? some principals declared JD, some others declared Commissioner and others declared Director is Appellate authority.
8. The Commissioner is transferring the RTI applications under the Section 6(3) to subordinate JD's and Colleges unnecessarily, instead of providing information which is already exists in their office to the applicant. October 1st to 31st December 2015 the Commissioner of DCE transferred 40 present applications to subordinate efficacies.

9. Only 4 Government college Principal get training on RTI and other 28 Principals including private college not received any training. Other 36 Principals replied me to RTI application we didn't get any training on the RTI purpose.

#### CONCLUSION:

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) make a strict rule in RTI act to appointment of RTI Co-coordinator in each department, but the department are not interested to appoint co-coordinator. It is recommended to appoint co-coordinators at all levels immediately .

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