



“बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ” JAYOTI VIDYAPEETH WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR

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NAAC Accredited University

Faculty of Law and Governance

Faculty Name- Ms. Tripti Negi

Program- BA LLB, BCom LLB, BBA LLB, LLB, Semester 8th

Course Name- Media Law

Session No.& Name – 2023-2024

Academic Day starts with –

Greeting with saying ‘Namaste’ by joining Hands together following by 2-3 Minutes Happy session, Celebrating birthday of any student of respective class and National Anthem.

Lecture Starts with-

Review of previous Session

National song’ VandeMataram’

Subject Name – Media Law

Topic – Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, enacted in 2005, has transformed the landscape of transparency and accountability in India. Media plays a pivotal role in promoting awareness, advocating for implementation, and scrutinizing the effectiveness of the RTI Act. Here are notes on the role of media in promoting the RTI Act:

Introduction to the RTI Act:

The RTI Act, 2005, was enacted to promote transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities by empowering citizens to access information held by them.

It provides a mechanism for citizens to request information from public authorities, making government processes more open and accountable.

1. Awareness and Education:

- Media platforms, including print, broadcast, and digital media, play a crucial role in creating awareness about the RTI Act among the general public.
- Through news reports, articles, documentaries, and opinion pieces, media organizations educate citizens about their rights under the RTI Act and how to exercise them effectively.
- Public service announcements, panel discussions, and debates on television and radio programs further contribute to spreading awareness about the importance of transparency and the role of the RTI Act in achieving it.

2. Advocacy and Campaigns:

- Media organizations often spearhead advocacy campaigns to promote the RTI Act and highlight its significance in fostering good governance and combating corruption.
- They collaborate with civil society organizations, activists, and legal experts to advocate for the effective implementation of the RTI Act and address challenges or loopholes in its enforcement.
- Through investigative journalism and exposés, media outlets uncover instances of corruption, misuse of power, and lack of transparency, reinforcing the need for robust implementation of the RTI Act.

3. Monitoring and Scrutiny:

- Media acts as a watchdog, monitoring the implementation of the RTI Act and scrutinizing the responsiveness of public authorities to information requests.

- Journalists use the RTI Act to access government records, documents, and data to investigate issues of public interest, such as corruption scandals, environmental degradation, and human rights violations.
- By reporting on the outcomes of RTI applications and highlighting instances of non-compliance or delayed responses by public authorities, media organizations hold government agencies accountable and press for transparency.

4. Empowering Citizens:

- Media coverage of successful RTI applications and the impact of information obtained through the Act empowers citizens to assert their right to information and hold government accountable.
- Through stories of individuals using the RTI Act to expose corruption, demand accountability, and advocate for policy reforms, media inspires others to exercise their rights and participate in democratic processes.

5. Challenges and Criticisms

- Despite its significant contributions, the role of media in promoting the RTI Act is not without challenges.
- Media organizations face threats, intimidation, and attacks from vested interests when they expose corruption or hold powerful entities accountable through RTI-based investigations.
- Some critics argue that media coverage of RTI-related issues may sensationalize certain aspects or prioritize specific cases over systemic challenges, potentially overshadowing broader issues of governance and accountability.

Conclusion:

- The media's role in promoting the RTI Act is indispensable in fostering transparency, accountability, and democratic governance.
- By raising awareness, advocating for implementation, monitoring government actions, empowering citizens, and highlighting challenges, the media contributes significantly to advancing the objectives of the RTI Act and strengthening democratic institutions in India.