



STUDY OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS BELONGING TO BACKWARD AND NON BACKWARD CATEGORY OF JUNIOR COLLEGES IN NAGPUR CITY

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Abstract

Present paper deals with the awareness about Right to Information Act which was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2004. It was passed by both houses of Parliament with major amendments in May 2005. It is a very important act which changes the scenario of the society. The RTI Act aims to bring about transparency in the functioning of public authorities, contain corruption and hold Governments and their instrumentalities accountable to people. It creates a process for providing information to people. This is a very important law so it is necessary that everyone should be aware about this law. According to researcher junior college students are the young generation and future of the nation so they should be aware about this act. So researcher has taken a overlook with the help of questionnaire that how many students of back-ward and non back-ward category of junior college have knowledge about this act.



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Introduction

. Education is a vital element for individual's self fulfillment and for the development of society. It is also considered as an important instrument of social mobility, equality and empowerment both at the individual and collective levels. Education is a power and only way through which everyone on this land can live a complete life. The Right to Information Act (RTI) is an Act of the Parliament of India "to provide for setting out the practical regime of Right to Information for citizens" and replaces the erstwhile Freedom of information Act, 2002. The Act applies to all States and Union Territories of India except Jammu & Kashmir. Under the provisions of the Act, any citizen may request information from a "public authority" (a body of Government) or "instrumentality of State") which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days. The Act also requires every public authority to computerize their records for wide dissemination and to proactively certain categories of information so that the citizens need minimum recourse to request for information formally. This law was passed by Parliament on 15 June 2005 and came fully into force on 13 October

2005.^[1] Information disclosure in India was restricted by the Official Setets Act 1923 and various other special laws, which the new RTI Act relaxes.

The Right to Information Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2004. It was passed by both houses of Parliament with major amendments in May 2005. The assent of the President was received on June 15 and the Act was notified in the Gazette on June 21. The law will become operational by mid-October 2005.

This law was passed by Parliament to enable citizens to exercise their fundamental right to information held by public authorities all over the country (except Jammu and Kashmir). The RTI Act aims to bring about transparency in the functioning of public authorities, contain corruption and hold Governments and their instrumentalities accountable to people. It creates a process for providing information to people. The RTI Act places a duty on officers to provide information to people both proactively and upon request. It provides for a two-tier appeals mechanism to deal with complaints of unreasonable denial of information by public authorities..

Need and importance of study

The science and technology have improved a lot and new learning generation knows the technology very well. They are able to work with it and on it but ever though they are facing too much problems with reference to their family, society, Education, language and many more. It is just because the present learning generation or the students are less aware about their rights. The rights which we may call as Right to Humanism act, Right to information act, child rights and so on. Here we are particularly going to deal with Right to information act. Right to Information Act is the right to be requested or demanded by the students and others. Right to information act and fundamental freedom not only affects individuals but also creates conflicts within and between societies. All the claims of the individual can not be treated as rights to information. Only those claims which are essential for the development of society and are recognized as such by the society constitute rights. But one has to recognize the fact that this idea is not the reality and that what is conceptually recognized as rights is often not legally enforced or enforceable. So one must distinguish between what is morally and universally accepted as rights and what constitute a 'Legal rights' established according to the Law creating process and judicially enforce able in a given society. Right to information act affect the daily life of individual. Hence for the protection of Right to information act and for the proper development of students it is very essential that students know their rights and are fully conscious or aware of them. Students

occupy the key position in every program of education and in promoting world peace and Right to information act. Specially junior college students are the growing young generation of the country so they should be aware about this act for their future. students need to sensitize to Right to information act and how to use it in their day to day life for solving their problems.so researcher has selected the topic for research.

Statement of study

Study of Right to Information Act Awareness among students belonging to Backward and non backward category of Junior colleges in Nagpur city.

Operational definitions

Right to Information Act (RTI):

The Right to Information Act (RTI) is an Act of the Parliament of India "to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens" and replaces the erstwhile Freedom of information Act, 2002. The Act applies to all States and Union Territories of India except Jammu & Kashmir. Under the provisions of the Act, any citizen may request information from a "public authority" within thirty days.

In the present study the RTI means right to information for Indian citizens.

Awareness:

According to Oxford dictionary awareness means having knowledge, consciousness, knowingness, and cognizance of anything.

Backward category students:

The students belonging to a schedule caste (SC), schedule Tribes (ST) and Nomadic Tribes (NT) are the backward categories of students.

Non-Backward category students:

The students belonging to general category are non backward students.

6) Junior college students:

Students studying in 11th and 12th std. class are the junior college students for this particular study.

Objective of the problem

1. To study the Right to Information Act Awareness among the backward and non backward students of Junior College.
2. To compare the Right to Information Act Awareness among the boys of backward and non backward category of Junior College.

3. To compare the Right to Information Act Awareness among the girls of backward and non backward categories of Junior College.
4. To study the Right to Information Act Awareness among the backward and non backward students belonging to art faculty of Junior Colleges.
5. To study the Right to Information Act Awareness among the backward and non backward students belonging to science faculty of Junior Colleges.

Hypothesis of the study

1. There is no significant difference in the Right to Information Act Awareness between backward and non backward category students of junior colleges.
2. There is no significant difference in the Right to information act awareness among Backward and Non – Backward category students of Junior College of Science faculty.
3. There is no significant difference in the Right to information act awareness among Backward and Non – Backward category students of Junior College of Arts faculty.
4. There is no significant difference in the Right to Information Act awareness among boys of backward and non backward category students of Junior Colleges.
5. There is no significant difference in Right to Information Act awareness among girls of backward and non backward category students of Junior Colleges.

Delimitations of the study

The study will be confined to English Medium students of Junior colleges of only science and Art faculty.

The study will be confined to backward students and non-backward students of science and art faculties of junior colleges only .

Variables

- Independent : Right to Information Act Awareness.
- Dependent : 1. backward students. ,
2. Non-backward students.

Methodology of research

Researcher applied Normative survey method for the study.

Population & sample

05 English medium junior colleges in Nagpur city are selected for this particular research. Among the whole population 200 students are selected from backward and non backward categories from arts and science faculties.

Table showing sample for the Research.

Sr. No.	Name of junior Colleges List	Backward class		Non backward class	
		Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
1	South point junior college	10	10	10	10
2	Apostolic junior college	10	10	10	10
3	School of scholar college	10	10	10	10
4	New nandanwan college	10	10	10	10
5	Gayatri conent & college	10	10	10	10
Total = 200		50	50		50

Research tool

The Right to information Act questionnaire created by researcher is used as a tool for collection of data, in which 15 questions are given in yes -no form to collect the information.

Data collection

Data is collected from the related sample using the developed Right to information act questionnaire.

Data analysis

For the present study the data is analyzed through the statistical methods for testing the hypothesis. For testing of each hypothesis mean, standard deviation (σ) & t value were computed for two groups.

Verifying The Hypothesis

Hypothesis :1- There is no significant difference in the Right to Information Act Awareness between backward and non backward category students of junior colleges

Table -1 Shows the Mean, SD (σ), t value of the scores of total number of Backward and Non- Backward category students of Junior College

Category	N	M	SD (σ)	t value
Backward	100	38.39	2.89	
Non - Backward	100	40.19	2.95	3.08**

* = Significant at 0.05 level

** = Significant at 0.01 level

Observation

From the above table we can observe that the mean score and SD of the Right to Information Act Awareness of Backward category students of Junior College are found to be 38.39 and SD is 2.89. The mean score and SD of Right to Information Act Awareness of Non - Backward category students of the Junior Colleges are found to be 40.19 And SD 2.95. The mean difference between the two groups are found to be 1.8

The t value is found to be 3.08 which is significant at both the levels i.e. at 0.05 and 0.01 level.

The t value is significant, thus the above hypothesis is rejected, which indicates that Backward and Non- Backward students differ as their scores of Right to Information Act Awareness is concerned.

Interpretation: -

The above hypothesis being rejected reveals that there is a significant difference in Right to Information Act Awareness between Backward and Non- Backward students of Junior Colleges. This may be due to the fact that they are living in educated family and society. hence they have much knowledge about right to information act than Backward category students.

Result: -

Non – Backward students are more aware of Right to information act than the Backward students.

Hypothesis :2 -There is no significant difference in the Right to information act awareness among Backward and Non – Backward category students of Junior College of Science faculty.

Table -2 Shows the mean, SD (σ), t value of the scores of total number of Backward and Non- Backward category students of Junior College of Science Faculty.

Category	N	M	SD (σ)	T
Backward	50	37.18	2.53	4.04**
Non - Backward	50	39.48	3.13	

*= Significant at 0.05 level

**= significant at 0.01 level

Observation

From the above table it can be observed that the mean score and SD of the Right to Information Act Awareness of Backward students of Junior College of Science faculty are found to be 37.18 and SD is 39.48.

The mean score and SD of Right to information act of Non- Backward students of Junior Colleges of Science faculty are found to be 39.48 and SD is 3.13. The mean differences between the two groups are found to be 2.3. The t value is 4 .04 which is significant at both the levels of significance i.e. at 0.05 and 0.01 level.

The t value is significant therefore the above hypothesis is rejected which indicates that there is no significant difference in the Right to Information Act Awareness among Backward and Non – Backward category students of Junior College of Science faculty.

Interpretation: -

The above hypothesis is rejected which shows that there is significant difference in Right to Information Act Awareness between Backward students and Non- Backward Students of Junior College students of Science faculty .

Result: -

Non – Backward students of Science faculty of Junior College have more awareness about Right to information act than the Backward students of Science faculty of Junior College.

Hypothesis :3-There is no significant difference in the Right to information act awareness among Backward and Non – Backward category students of Junior College of Arts faculty

Table -3 Shows the mean, SD (σ), t value of the Scores of total number of Backward and Non- Backward students of Junior College of Arts Faculty.

Category	N	M	SD (σ)	T
Backward	50	39.6	2.77	2.42*
Non - Backward	50	40.9	2.60	

*= significant at 0.05 level

**= significant at 0.01 level

Observation:- From the above table we can observe that the mean score and SD of Right to Information Act Awareness of Backward students of Junior College of Arts Faculty are found to be 39.6 and SD is 2.77. The mean scores and SD of Right to information act Awareness of Non- Backward students of Junior College of Arts faculty are found to be 40.9 and SD is 2.6. The mean difference between the two groups is found to be 1.3. The t value is 2.42 which are significant at 0.05 levels and non- significant at 0.01 level. The t value is significant at 0.05 level hence the above hypothesis is rejected which indicates that both Backward and Non – Backward students differ as their scores of Right to Information Act Awareness is concerned.

Interpretation: -

The above hypothesis being rejected which indicates that there is a significant difference in Right to Information Act Awareness between Backward and Non- Backward students of

Junior College of Arts Faculty. Even though they have right to information act as a subject of study in their school curriculum the difference between them was found.

Result: -

Backward students of Arts faculty have less Awareness about right to information act than non- Backward students of Arts Faculty.

Hypothesis:4- There is no significant difference in the Right to Information Act Awareness among boys of backward and non backward category students of Junior Colleges.

Table -4 Shows mean, SD (σ), t of the Scores of total number of Backward boys and Non- Backward boys of Junior College.

Category	N	M	SD (σ)	T
Backward	50	39.6	2.96	2.99**
Non - Backward	50	40.9	2.70	

*= significant at 0.05 level

**= significant at 0.01 level

Observation:- From the above table we can observe that the mean score and SD of Right to Information Act Awareness of Backward category boys of Junior College are found to be 39.5 and SD is 2.96. The mean scores and SD of Right to Information Act Awareness of Non-Backward category boys of Junior College of Arts faculty are found to be 41.2 and SD is 2.7. The mean difference between the two groups is found to be 1.7. The t value is found to be 2.99 which are significant at both the levels of significance i.e. at 0.05 and 0.01 level. because the t value is significant hence the above hypothesis is rejected which shows that there is a difference between both Backward and non-Backward boys on Right to information act scores.

Interpretation: - The above hypothesis being rejected which indicates that there is a significant difference in Right to Information Act Awareness between Backward and Non-Backward boys of Junior College.

Result: - Non- Backward boys have more information about Right to information act than the Backward boys of Junior College.

Hypothesis :5-

There is no significant difference in Right to Information Act Awareness among girls of backward and non backward category students of Junior Colleges.

Table -5 Shows mean, SD (σ), t of the Scores of total number of Backward girls and Non- Backward girls of Junior College.

Category	N	M	SD (σ)	T
Backward	50	37.28	2.96	3.52**
Non - Backward	50	39.18	2.90	

*= significant at 0.05 level

**= significant at 0.01 level

Observation:- From the above table we can observe that the mean score and SD of Right to Information Act Awareness of Backward category girls of Junior College are found to be 37.28 and SD is 2.47.

The mean scores and SD of Right to Information Act Awareness of Non- Backward category girls of Junior College are found to be 39.18 and SD is 2.9. The mean differences between the two groups is found to be 1.9

The t value is found to be 3.52 which is significant at both the levels of significance i.e. at 0.05 and 0.01 level. because the t value is significant hence the above hypothesis is rejected which indicated that both Backward and Non-Backward girls differ as their scores of Right to information act is concerned.

Interpretation: - The above hypothesis being rejected reveals that there is a significant difference in Right to Information Act Awareness among the girls of Non –Backward category students of Junior College.

Result: - Backward girls have less Awareness about Women Rights than the Non- Backward category girls.

Conclusions:

1. Non – Backward students are more aware of Right to information act than the Backward students.
2. Non – Backward students of Science faculty of Junior College have more awareness about Right to information act than the Backward students of Science faculty of Junior College.
3. Backward students of Arts faculty have less Awareness about right to information act than non- Backward students of Arts Faculty.
4. Non- Backward boys have more information about Right to information act than the Backward boys of Junior College.

5. Backward girls have less Awareness about Women Rights than the Non- Backward category girls.

Suggetions:This act should be introduced in the syllabus so that students should be aware of this.

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