Workshop on ‘Right to Information Act 2009’

A capacity building workshop titled ‘Right to Information Act 2009’ was organized on 12-13th of March. Mr. Venkatesh Nayak, Programme Coordinator- Access to Information Programme of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) was acted as the chief moderator of this workshop.

This workshop was focused on the RTI relating to its philosophy, human rights & governance, world-wide RTI situation & experiences and scope of TIB role to implement. The participants were worked out in several groups and practiced the techniques of using RTI with some issue based on newspapers cutting case. Moreover, Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB was moderated a session on the Challenges of Implementing RTI in Bangladesh with a comprehensive presentation on the start day.

TIB staffs along with the RTI core committee were participated in this two day long workshop. They have learnt the RTI act in brief and its scope of effective implementation.

RTI theme in YES capacity building camp 2012

An Annual Review and Capacity Building Camp 2012 were organized from 5-8th April for YES members of Dhaka. They worked out there in a RTI theme based group where YES advisor and TIB focal person coordinated the discussion and group-work. The YES members were devised a comprehensive plan with a mandate to filing RTI application. This camp was organized at HRDC, Proshika Manibik Unnayan Kendra, Koitta, Manikgonj.

The following major activities were planned to implement RTI for Dhaka YES in their campuses.

- Organizing study circle on RTI in each YES group;
- Filing RTI application and its follow up;
- Organizing Satellite Advice and Information Desk (AI-Desk) activities at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and National Orthopedic Hospital & Rehabilitation Center;
- Drama Script/Feature Writing Competition on RTI;
- Publishing Pictorial Wall Magazine in each YES group’s institution.
Information Fair and Seminar for RTK day 2012 with RTI forum:

On 27 September, TIB and RTI Forum jointly organized a daylong information fair at Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises in Dhaka. Mr. M Abu Taher, Chief Information Commissioner (In charge) and Information Commissioner Professor Sadeka Halim inaugurated the fair where 31 institutions including 8 Govt. organizations participated. Nearly 2000 people visited the stalls and received various IECs and application formats with the proper filing instruction. A seminar on ‘People’s Participation in realizing Right to Information’ also organized there.

Comprehensive Campaign for RTK day 2012 in Dhaka and CCCs:

TIB has observed the International Right to Know Day 2012 over the country with the support of CCCs, Swajan, YES Friends and Youth Engagement Support (YES). TIB organized round-table discussions, seminar, human chain, rally, debate, quiz, essay and painting competitions, signing campaign and setting information booths in CCC areas and satellite campaign vans in Dhaka city on the issue of RTI Act and its implementation. With the slogan ‘Janbo Janabo, Durniti Rukhbo’, Dhaka YES later organized discussion program, seminars on Right to Information Act and its implication at their campus. With various programmes organized in CCCs more than 2 lakh people were participated in these campaigns.

Campaign with visual documents for RTK day: (RDC/TVCs in a CD)

To observe RTK day, three television commercials (TVC) and three radio commercials (RDC) highlighting issues of health, education and local government were produced and aired by selected electronic media as Radio Foorti, Radio ABC, Radio Today and Radio Amar. Dhaka YES opened a face book page on RTI (https://www.facebook.com/rtibd) for campaign among social media users. On the other hand, Television Commercials (TVC) was displayed in CCCs to convey the RTI messages of the act to the mass people during 2012.
Publishing IEC materials for RTK day: (TIB Concept note, Leaflet and sticker - pdf)
With the theme of ‘Tathyae Shakti’ (তথ্যের শক্তি) almost 30 items of IEC materials on RTI act and its implementation such as concept note, leaflet, T-Shirt, sticker, booklet, Wrist bands were produced. And it was disseminated to some 4,00,000 people both in Dhaka and CCC areas. IECs RTI application formats campaign was widely continued with information desks and booths at Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Shere Bangla Agricultural University and ULAB campus and adjacent areas in Dhaka. The guardians of the admission applicants, teachers and students including staffs were received instruction for RTI application filing on spot.

Information fairs at Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) areas:
Information Fairs at 42 CCCs were organized as a part of the RTK day observance and RTI campaign till February 2013. In collaboration with the local level authorities and Upazila Union Parishad, here RTI was used to linking peoples demand with the service providers. Different Governments and Non-governments organizations took part to create awareness among the common people. The fairs inspire the organizations to be concerned for proactive disclosing of information. 279 stalls involving 173 govt. and 106 non govt. institutions participated in these fairs. Moreover, on hand RTI filing was demonstrated through information fairs and AI-Desks where and YES members of 17 CCCs reached 1500 people. Renowned folk singer Farida Parveen was also performed on the occasion in Bagura. In Barguna, community radio Loko betar was on aired the important parts of the fair as media partner.

Satellite AI-Desk promoting proactive disclosure in CCCs and Dhaka:
TIB’s Satellite Advice and Information Desk (AI-Desk) services focused on health, education and local government in all CCCs and Dhaka Medical College Hospital in Dhaka. Here RTI used to support the service providers for proactive discloser. Through these desks the services information distributing information leaflets by YES members. More than 2,00,000 people got services information in CCC areas and Dhaka.
Theater Campaign on RTI by YES: (yearly compiled- photo)
Some 150 street theater shows by the YES theater groups reached to some 33,000 people that emphasized RTI movement in CCC areas and Dhaka. Dhaka YES Theater groups produced two RTI focused story including 'Tathya-e-Pathya' in 2012 and in International RTK Day observance mass people were gathered through cultural programme. Here YES members’ supports spreading the RTI messages among the common people.

Orientation on RTI Act 2009 for CCC members:
Day long orientations on Right to Information Act 2009 were organized for the CCC members of 7 clusters as Rangpur, Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Faridpur, Sylhet and Rajshahi. The basics of RTI Act 2009, access to information, the process of receiving information, appeal process to Information Commission were shared with the participants. More than 300 CCC members and Presidents from 45 CCCs attended the series of orientation programmes in the month of March, November, December 2012 and January 2013.

Capacity on RTI Act for YES at CCCs and Dhaka: (yearly compiled- Photo)
On the issue RTI, capacity building training programmes i.e. day long orientation, workshops and study circles for YES members along with YES friends at the 23 CCCs and Dhaka. Dhaka YES members of Ruqayyah Hall and Development Studies department of Dhaka University, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Jahangirnagar University, East West University and YES-1 participated and learnt about the basics of RTI Act. TIB officials facilitated with a presentation on ‘how to apply and implement the act in Bangladesh’. At the end of the capacity programme, the participants demonstrated the request filing process for seeking information following RTI act.