

**State-level Sharing Workshop on Study Report of Status of Implementation of RTI Act in Orissa, venue- Hotel Sun Green, Near Toshali Plaza, Satya Nagar, Date- 21.3.09 at 10.30 AM jointly organised by "The Humanity" and PRIA, New Delhi.**

Dear friends

As you know, three years have passed since implementation of Right To Information Act in Orissa. To carry out the mandate of the Act, the State Govt. has declared its own offices as Public Authorities starting from Gram Panchayat to Secretariat covering the office of Tahasildar, Sub-Collector, Block office, Police, all Govt. Dept. etc. Each Public Authority has also appointed PIO, 1<sup>st</sup> Appellate Authority with a view to providing the information to the citizens. To make suo moto disclosure of information under section 4 of the Act, many dept. and office of State Information Commission has put in their website the information relating 17 subjects about their functioning. .

Following the mandate of section 28 of the Act, both the office of Speaker and Governor without framing their own Rules have started following the Rules made by the Govt. for providing information to the people. In the meantime belatedly, the High Court has also framed its own rules. This High Court Rules suffer from a lot of incongruities ever contradicting the spirit of the Act.

To make close analysis of operationalisation of RTI Act in the state and how it has succeeded in ensuring transparency and accountability in the administration and strengthening citizen's Right to Know and access to information held by the public Authorities, a state-level Study was undertaken covering 10 districts of Orissa ( these districts were taken as sample district), 12 Depts and office of Governor House, office of Speaker, Orissa High Court and Office of Orissa Information Commission. The study was a collective effort of five leading organisations of the state, *Open Learning System, Bhubaneswar, FARR, Rayagada, BATNET, Kendrapara, Young India, Puri and The Humanity, Bolangir. A team of five members like Mrs. Kasturi Mohapatra, Mrs. Pramila Swain, Mr. Binayak Swain, Mr. N.A.Shah Ansari , Mr. Pradeep Pradhan were given the responsibility to monitor the study. This study was supported by PRIA, New Delhi.*

With hard effort of the team members, the study has been completed and it has come out with a lot of startling findings especially to the functioning of Orissa Information Commission. the draft copy is attached herewith for your reference.

I would invite you to positively participate in the deliberation and share your views with the participants.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

**Pradip Pradhan**  
**Secretary**