2.1. Introduction

The right to information is implicitly guaranteed by the Constitution in democratic societies across the globe. It is indeed a powerful tool to the citizens to get information from the government institutions as a matter of fundamental right. The right to information laws covers almost all matters of governance and has the widest possible reach, being applicable to government at all levels—Union, State and Local as well as recipients of government grants in a developing country like India. The public information officers have the responsibility of providing information to the people in order to ensure openness, transparency and accountability in matters and actions concerning public welfare and progress. The judicial organizations have also upheld the fundamental right of citizens and provided the basis for the enactment and implementation of right to information laws and guidelines. The media also have a great responsibility of popularizing the beneficial effects of right to information and sensitizing the stakeholders of right to information through constructive reports and analyses. The present investigation was carried out in Karnataka to understand the use of right information among the media professionals who are the angel guardians of public interest and good governance. The review of past research activities carried out by the researchers on various aspects of right to information is furnished in this chapter under the following headings.

2.2. Right to Information Movement Studies

Roy (1996:157) examined the right to information movement in India and noted that Aruna Roy and associates created history in India by launching grassroots movement for greater transparency and accountability in administration and management of rural development projects. The study revealed that Rajasthan set the trend and created a large number of activists of right to information movement at the grassroots level.
Mander et. al. (1999:115) examined the right to information movement in India which received a fresh impetus from a courageous and powerful grassroots struggle of the rural poor in Rajasthan. The study revealed that the reverberations of this struggle led to a nationwide demand for a law to guarantee the right to information to every citizen, with widespread support from social activists, professionals, lawyers, and persons within the bureaucracy, politics and the media, who are committed to transparent and accountable governance and people’s empowerment. The scholars emphasized that senior press persons and activists contributed significantly towards the enactment of right to information legislation in 2005 in India.

Goetz and Jenkins (1999:73) examined the theoretical implications of the right to information movement in India and noted that the work of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan in Rajasthan had raised a series of practical and theoretical issues concerning the best means for combating specific instances of corruption. The scholars also examined the process by which the campaign in Rajasthan highlighted the human rights, participatory development and anti corruption in Indian society. The scholars suggested that central and state governments should formulate appropriate laws of right to information and strengthen participatory democracy in India.

Blanton (2002:27) examined the rise of a global movement for freedom of information and reported that in the past ten years countries ranging from Japan to Bulgaria, Ireland to South Africa, and Thailand to Great Britain enacted formal statutes guaranteeing their citizens' right of access to government information. The scholar noted that right to information legislations across the globe checked the menace of corruption in public offices and enabled the people to achieve the goal of participatory governance.

Goldberg (2002:74) examined the need for advocating for the right to information in Sweden and reported that advocacy enabled the social justice advocates to gain access and voice in the decision making of relevant institutions. The scholar also noted that the right to information initiative sought to improve decisions and policies that affect the environment and human lives by establishing
common global practices for public access to information, participation, and justice in environmental decision-making.

Roy and Dey (2002:155) examined the campaign for the Right to Information was born out of the MKSS’s struggle to ensure that all workers receive minimum wages. The scholars noted that the MKSS, with other like-minded organizations, had built upon an older demand for the extension of work guarantee since the Parliament had passed the NREGA (now MGNREGA, Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) in August 2005. The scholars pointed out that right to information would ensure transparency and accountability in all aspects of implementation of the programme in the rural areas.

Mishra (2003:123) examined the right to information movement of Rajasthan organized by the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) and observed that the movement was organized by the rural masses under the able guidance of Aruna Roy prepared solid grounds for the enactment of right to information legislation in India. The scholar pointed out that the establishment still has to attend to the much neglected question of accountability that goes hand in hand with transparency, for any meaningful institutionalization of the MKSS’ Jan Sunwai experiment. The scholar suggested that the governments should at least begin by fixing, in their Right to Information legislations, responsibility and accountability of those entrusted with giving information to people but stalling it in practice.

Shah and Agarwal (2005:171) examined the participatory approaches in public expenditure management in the context of right to information in India and noted that the work of a community based organization, the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS), in Rajasthan had eventually led to the enactment of legislations pertaining to the Right to Information (RTI) in Rajasthan as well as a number of other states in India. The scholars also noted that shocking revelations of corruption and misuse of funds embarrassed officials and led to apologies, investigations and in some cases the return of stolen funds.

Slough and Rodrigues (2005:187) examined the right to information movement in India and reported that civil society had played a major role in the enactment of Right to Information Act in India. The scholars noted that judicial
pronouncements and media comments had also contributed significantly towards the enactment of the Act. The scholars suggested that suitable amendments should be incorporated to the act in order to make it user friendly and good governance oriented in India.

Baviskar (2006:18) examined the relationship between knowledge and power in India and observed that the most crucial elements of knowledge which orient actions were not made available to the people even though the government enacted the RTI Act to facilitate public transparency. The scholar pointed out that the government failed to protect the interest of citizens by giving away the huge chunks of land at a discount, tax-free and exempt from labour laws and allied benefits to the people in order to set up Special Economic Zones. The scholar stated that people have a right know about the displacement and allied consequences in order to fight for justice in a democracy.

Venkatesu (2006:225) examined the right to information movement in India and noted that the right to information movement began in India in 1990s to earn the information as a fundamental right to promote transparent, accountable, responsible, participatory and decentralized democracy. The scholar noted that the battle for appropriate legislation for the right to information was fought on two main planks namely the demand for amendment of the draconian colonial Official Secrets Act, 1923 and campaign for an effective law on the right to information in independent India.

Singh (2007:178) examined the Indian grassroots initiatives for right to information and stated that excessive secrecy corroded democracy, facilitated corruption, and undermined good public policymaking. The study revealed that transparency had swept the world and India adopted groundbreaking national freedom of information laws to facilitate good governance. The scholar pointed out that people have a right to information about the transactions and implications in both public and private sectors since it would ensure greater openness and protection of public interest.

Gandhi (2007:66) examined the right to information movement from the point of view of good governance in India and noted that the constitution of central and state information commissions paved the way for good governance on the basis
of active people’s participation in India. The activist – cum-bureaucrat called upon the civil society, NGOs, media and activists to educate and organize the masses across the country and achieve the goal of good governance.

Baviskar (2008:19) examined the right to information campaign in India and noted that the movement began in 1990s but the initiatives of the National Campaign for People’s Right to Information (NCPRI) paved the way for nationwide campaign in 1996. The study revealed that the right to information movement had gained a new momentum during the 2004 general elections which enabled the emergence of the UPA government which was committed to enacting the RTI Act in India. The various government allies also played a vital role in driving change. The case study shows how inspirational grassroots campaigns can be scaled up by strong leaders and good networking to form effective national campaigns for right to information in India.

Webb (2010:227) examined the right to information movement in North India and noted the contradictions of cross-class mobilization which reveals the dominance of the ruling class in India. The scholar further pointed out that socially and economically dominant minority ruled the country by suppressing the truth and democratic struggle of the marginalized sections of society. The scholar considered that the right to information movement caused a severe blow to the power structure and enabled the masses to participate actively in the development process.

Roy and Dey (2010:156) examined the right to information from the points of view of people’s participation and state accountability in India. The activists noted that there was a need to examine the similarity and difference in the demands of grassroots movements for right to information. They pointed out that the eventual outcome would be a shift in accountability, away from hierarchical superiors to people themselves. They suggested that it is a vital and essential step in the direction of restoring sovereign power to the people by ensuring the right to information and people’s participation in the process of governance.

Right to Information Forum (2012:151) examined the RTI Act in Bangladesh and reported that the act was enacted to ensure free flow of information and people’s right to information. The study revealed that a combined effort by the civil society
organizations (CSOs), academics, media and legal experts were primarily responsible for the new law which was passed by the cabinet as an act in 2009. The study emphasized that through enactment of the RTI Act, Bangladesh has made a strong statement to the global community that it is committed to establish transparency and accountability in public institutions.

The Freedom of Information Advocates Network (2013:219) examined the global right to information movement in South Asia and noted that in Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh RTI legislations were passed to address issues regarding the delivery of public services, such as health, education and the provision of basic food supplies, as well as systemic governance issues. The study revealed that there was an ongoing need for imaginative initiatives from civil society groups regarding disclosure policies. The study suggested that there is also a need to promote greater openness and good governance by civil society groups, especially those working on RTI issues, so that they can set a good example for others.

Prudhvi (2015:143) examined the developments in India after the enactment of right to information legislation and reported that a lot of effort, protests, lobbying by civil society, activists, students, NGOs etc were put into it to bring out the act. The scholar noted that the law had brought in transparency in the governance up to some extent and has ushered in more maturity in the way of sharing power between the center and the state governments. The scholar suggested that the right to information commissions should be equipped with human resources to provide information to the people in the right time.

Singh (2015:177) examined the twenty years of right to information movement in India and reported that the movement which had begun in Rajasthan paved the way for the enactment of the act in the country. The scholar observed that the people are still struggling to get transparency oriented administration in the country. The elected representatives and government officials were scared of the act but the movement has to go a long way in India in view of the non-functioning of information commissions across the country according to the analysis.

Guru et. al (2015:77) examined the right to information movement in India and reported that the spirit of the movement inspired the citizens and administration in the country. The study revealed that the movement for right to information
affected the progressive thinkers and people of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and other states. The study emphasized that Anna Hazare, a true Gandhian and statesman launched series of struggles in India and fought for civil rights including the right to information democratically. The scholars suggested that right to information movement should be sustained in India in order to plug the loopholes and equip the information offices with full powers and resources for the implementation of the provisions of the act.

2.3. Right to Information and Democracy Studies

Noorani (1998:139) examined the law on right to information in India and noted that the law ensured citizens right to information under the control of public authorities. The study revealed that the law was made with a view to promote transparency/accountability to the governed. The scholar suggested that optimum use of financial resources would ensure the harmonizing of the conflict between the RTI and efficient operation of the government organizations.

Blumkin and Gradstein (2002:28) examined the relationship between transparency and governance across the globe and stated that the developing countries employed the canonical political agency model which indicated the importance of transparency, of the media, and of political contestability for taming corruption. The scholars emphasized that civil society, media and other stakeholders of good governance should play a responsible role in the enactment of right to information laws for protection of public interest.

Calabrese (2004:33) examined the global movement for communication rights and reported that civil society prevailed upon the state to enact suitable communication legislations across the world. The study revealed that the idea of civil society regained status as a radical aspiration, particularly in the writing of Antonio Gramsci. The scholar noted that the emergence of various social movements, communication theories and progressive legislations emphasized the need for right to information as an effective instrument of democracy. The study emphasized that free speech and global expansion of media were encouraging signs of a global movement for communication right.
Sathe (2005:165) examined the right to information in a democratic society like India and reported that people have a fundamental right to information in a democracy. The scholar opined that it was the most appropriate step on the part of Government of India to have enacted Right to Information Act, 2005. The scholar further noted that the Act provided a foundation for building an equitable and awakened society. The scholar suggested that adequate awareness building exercises would enable the people to make optimum use of the act as a powerful weapon against corruption and maladministration in India.

Shah and Agarwal (2005:171) examined the right to information movement in India and reported that the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) in Rajasthan mobilized the weaker sections of society and fought for the enactment of right to information in the country. The scholars observed that the MKSS held Jan Sunvai, or public hearings, at which official records of state development projects were exposed to the scrutiny of intended beneficiaries. The initiatives brought to the fore the corruption and misuse of funds by the officials. The study emphasized the role of MKSS in the institutionalization of right to information as an effective instrument of good governance, participatory communication and grassroots development.

Yashada (2006:234) examined the right to information in India and observed that right to information ensured active participation of people in the process of governance besides promoting openness. The study revealed that right to access information held by public bodies is a fundamental human right, protected under constitutional law of India. The scholar emphasized that Right to Information is a critical factor in ensuring country’s socio-cultural, economic and political development. The scholar suggested that in a fast developing country like India, availability of information needs to be assured in the fastest and simplest form possible.

Jenkins (2006:93) examined the right to information movement in the context of democracy and development in India and pointed out that there was a great deal of ambiguity in the relationship between corruption and democracy in India. The study suggested that corruption free governance and development would strengthen the democratic foundations in India and safeguard public interest after the enactment of RTI Act in 2005.
Banisar (2006:15) examined the freedom of information around the world and noted that several countries had adopted national regimes on access to information. The scholar noted that the national legislations on right to information had benefitted the people and heralded a new era of good governance. The scholar suggested that media and NGOs should launch awareness building exercises in order to ensure proper implementation of development programmes without any corrupt practices.

Roberts (2006:152) examined the need for blacking out the government secrecy in the information age in Mexico and stated that the information law formulated in 2002 proved to be a useful tool for scrutinizing political parties themselves since they were supported by public funds. The scholar pointed out that the use of new right to information laws benefitted the people and heralded a new era of good governance.

Baisakh (2007:13) examined the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Orissa and noted that the programme provided a minimum of 100 days of guaranteed employment in one fiscal year to every rural household. The study revealed that certain loopholes impeded the prompt implementation of the programme the scholar suggested that RTI Act should be used for better implementation of the NREGA.

Neuman and Calland (2007:135) examined the challenges of implementation of right to information laws in Latin America, the Caribbean and South Africa. The study revealed that the information laws were passed by the local governments in order to satisfy conditions of loans from international donors including the World Bank. The scholars noted that the degree of societal involvement in the demand for and drafting of legislation; alternative approaches taken by government; and embedding provisions for implementation into the law were the prominent factors which facilitated effective implementation of information laws. The scholars suggested that it is more productive to look at the processes necessary for the law’s effective implementation and enforcement, including the procedures for legal challenge to the use of exemptions.
Dahal and Sigdel (2007:46) examined the right to information in Nepal and reported that Nepal lagged behind other Asian countries in the enactment of right to information legislation due to lack of political will among the rulers. The scholars noted that people were aware of the utility of such legislation and put forth pressure on the government to make special legislation. The scholars pointed out that merely passing a bill will not do justice to information seekers until the bill-turned-law is implemented with conviction in Nepal.

Mendel (2008:120) conducted a comparative legal survey on the significance of right to information across the globe and noted that the free flow of information and ideas lies at the heart of the very notion of democracy and is crucial to effective respect for human rights. The scholar emphasized that public bodies hold information not for themselves but on behalf of the public. The scholar suggested that active social mobilization and media intervention would facilitate proper implementation of the provisions of RTI Act across the globe.

Bellver et. al. (2008:21) examined the need for strengthening transparency and accountability through access to information which fostered trust in government and minimized corruption. The study revealed that the World Bank provided ongoing support to access to information implementation through different instruments. The scholars emphasized that the RTI Act was crucial for the bank to provide assistance and build the capacity of the new commissions. The scholars suggested that anti-corruption agenda should be implemented in order to persuade the World Bank to remain actively engaged with developmental activities across the globe.

Kumar (2008:108) examined the process of good governance in India and presented an overview which centers on the responsibility of governments and governing bodies to meet the needs of the masses as opposed to select groups in society. The scholar noted that RTI Act heralded a new age of good governance and enabled the people to participate actively in the nation building activities. The scholar suggested that country wide awareness about the features and provisions of the act should be undertaken by the government and non-government agencies.
Ansari (2008:11) examined the impact of right to information on development in India and reported that RTI had significant bearing on good governance and development. The scholar also noted that the implementation of the law on right to know for setting up information regime therefore augurs well for strengthening the knowledge society as well as for increasing the accountability of public bodies. The scholar suggested that the capacity of the public authorities as well as the citizens to develop awareness and understanding of information and to make its effective use for the benefits of citizens should be improved.

Srivastava (2009:189) studied the right to information initiatives across the globe and noted that most of the countries realized the importance of right to information and enacted appropriate legislations. The study emphasized the role of various organizations in creating awareness among the people and sensitizing the authorities about the enactment of RTI Act. The scholar called upon the international organizations including the World Bank to prepare grounds for effective implementation of the provisions of the act all over the world.

Darbishire (2009:47) examined the future of the right to information across the globe and identified the four primary drivers of proactive disclosure throughout history. The study revealed that the provision to the public of information needed to access government services, which has expanded significantly in the past decade with growth of electronic access to services or e-government. The scholar emphasized that advancing proactive disclosure has resulted from the development of the right of access to information, as enshrined in access to information laws, which increasingly contain specific proactive provisions.

Mendel (2009:121) examined the right to information in Latin America and reported that the utilitarian benefits of the right to information had been recognized in the Latin American nations. The study revealed that Latin American nations had formulated right to information regulations on the basis of international standards on the right to information. The scholar suggested that the practice of the 11 States in Latin America should be standardized according to the principles of good governance and human rights in the new millennium.
Fox et. al. (2009:64) examined the grassroots right to know campaigns in Mexico and stated that right to information was a tool to hold the state publicly accountable. The scholars reviewed the historical, social and political landscape that grounded campaigns for rural democratization in Guerrero, including Mexico’s recent information access reforms. The scholars emphasized that resistance-oriented and negotiation-oriented social and civic movements would bring about greater transformation in the mindset of the policy makers and officials regarding good governance.

Tiwari (2010:220) examined the role of right to information as an effective tool of social development, good governance and strong democracy and stated that true democracy would not exist unless all citizens had a right to participate in the affairs of the polity of the country. The study revealed that Right to information is not only relevant in the context of misappropriation of funds, but also at a very basic level, it is an issue of human rights itself. The scholar concluded that free flow of information promotes accountability and transparency, prevents corruption and strengthens the capacity of community groups and civil society organizations to participate in decision making.

Kundu (2010:110) examined the democratic need of right to information act in India and noted that the act enabled the common people to gain the access to information held by a public authority. The scholar pointed out that the citizens would be put on the path of development. The scholar suggested that demystification of rules and procedures, complete transparency and pro-active dissemination of this relevant information amongst the public would check corruption in public offices in India.

Rani (2010:149) examined the right to information as an instrument of democracy with reference to India and noted that the RTI had made information accessible to the public which they were earlier deprived off. The scholar also observed that the act is applicable in various areas like consumer rights, food security, expose corruption etc. and in turn has lead to bring about accountability in society and strengthen democracy. The study emphasized that the right to information was a fundamental right of the people which facilitated corruption free governance in a developing nation like India.
Hazell et. al. (2010:83) examined the impact of Freedom of Information Act in U.K. and stated that the act had made Houses, MPs and peers more accountable and transparent, increased public understanding of parliament, public participation and trust. The study revealed that the new law had made parliament more accountable and transparent. The scholars opined that the FOI had led to major changes in parliament, particularly with the creation of IPSA, as well as several lesser changes.

Singh (2010:184) examined the evolution of the Right to Information Regime in India within the global and regional context. The scholar noted that the RTI Act had the potential of changing, forever, the balance of power in India – disempowering governments and other powerful institutions and distributing this power to the people. The scholar pointed out that the new legislation had the potential to deepen democracy and transform it from a representative to a participatory one, where governments, and their functionaries at all levels, are directly answerable to the people for their actions and inaction. The scholar suggested that the act has to be actualized through better infrastructure, manpower and initiatives.

Wright et. al. (2010:231) examined the landscape relevant to open government data in India, starting from the current environment in the government, the state of civil society, the media and the policies that affected it from the right to information legislation. The study revealed that the infrastructural problem of e-governance, right to privacy and power imbalances affected the transparency and accountability in governance. The scholars suggested that the open government data should be looked at differently and public awareness campaigns should be organized by the government and media in modern India.

Chaudhary (2011:39) examined the right to information in India and stated that the right to information was an integral part of the freedom of speech and expression enshrined in Article 19(1)(A) of the constitution, which is regarded as the first condition of liberty. The scholar amplified the significance of the right to information, particularly in empowering ordinary citizens to combat state corruption as well as to highlight some lacuna in the Right to Information Act. The scholar suggested that it is essential that the higher judiciary should realize its responsibility and should be covered within the scope of the RTI Act.
Peled and Rabin (2011:142) examined the constitutional right to information and the justifications supporting incorporation of that right into the constitutions of democratic states. The scholars highlighted the justifications which include anchoring administrative transparency, the individual’s right to obtain information from public authorities (and private entities in specific cases), and the authorities’ obligations to provide the information requested. The scholars suggested that a constitutional right to freedom of information will be more likely to introduce authentic changes in state administrative culture in addition to civil society, changes that may transform relationships between states and their citizenry.

Corrarino (2012:44) examined the right to information in the informal economy and stated that the right to information was broadly recognized in international law and in most countries’ national laws. The study revealed that in the informal economy, the right to information was not fully realized or respected and the workers were kept in dark about the laws governing their activities. The scholar suggested that a more complete understanding of the laws that govern the informal economy, as well as the associated enforcement processes, is important for ensuring that informal workers understand their full range of rights and duties.

Sultana (2012:193) examined the Right to Information Act, 2009 of Bangladesh and noted that the government brought about the legislation reluctantly. The study revealed that there was little compliance with the act since the policy makers and officials had negative mindset in Bangladesh. The scholar suggested that the mindset of all concerned towards right to information must need for promoting the regional right to information in practice.

Mizrahi and Mendiburu (2012:126) examined the implementation of right to information reforms in Mexico and reported that the Mexican law has been recognized by experts and practitioners around the world as one of the strongest information laws. The scholars noted that the implementation record of the Access to Information and Transparency Law at the federal level is a positive one since the number of information requests has increased consistently, and most of these requests receive positive replies. The scholars suggested that effective accountability requires the disclosure of information to generate effective administrative reforms, corrective actions, and actual sanctioning of public officials who abuse their power.
Dwivedi (2012:61) examined the freedom of media in India in the light of Article 19(1) and Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India and noted that the framers of constitution had preferred press freedom to be linked with social and fundamental responsibilities and the obligation to report objectively. The study revealed that certain media laws had curtailed the freedom of media in India but the RTI Act facilitated access to information pertaining to governance and development processes. The scholar suggested that media should popularize the utility of right to information as an effective instrument of participatory development in India.

Varun (2013:223) examined the right to information in Indian democracy and noted that greater transparency and accountability had become new possibilities of participatory democracy in India. The scholar noted that RTI Act had ushered in a new era of good governance in India. The scholar suggested that access to information should be enhanced through proper training and orientation programmes in India. The study emphasized the role of educational institutions, media organizations, judicial bodies and civil society in the promotion of good governance in India.

Borah (2013:32) examined the relationship between right to information and good governance and noted that government has the duty to inform citizens about day to day happening whatever within the government. The study revealed that right to information makes people aware of administration and gives them an opportunity to take part in decision making process. The scholar suggested that active participation of people, NGO's, civil society groups, coordination among RTI officials, integrity among government departments and political will from government and elected leaders would make right to information an effective instrument of good governance in modern society.

Kumar (2013:109) examined the relationship between the right to information and freedom of speech in India and reported that freedom of speech had guaranteed the right to speak and write openly without state interference to all citizens of the country. The scholar noted that right to information had ensured the enjoyment of freedom of speech in the country and facilitated corruption free governance and development in India. The scholar emphasized that democracy
would not be true to its essential ideal if those in power are able to manipulate the electorate by withholding information and stifling criticism.

Sharma (2013:173) examined the impact of right to information legislation in India and reported that the democratic process, in a substantive, redistributive, and bottom-up manner had not yet taken very deep roots in India. The scholar noted that most influential spaces for articulating the concerns of the poor and the marginalized sections of the society were ensured by the new legislation. The scholar also pointed out the deep fissures that continue to impact the evolution of the postcolonial state.

Friedman (2013:65) examined the impact of right to information legislation in India and reported that absence of well equipped information commissions had retarded the implementation of the provisions of the act. The scholar noted that all authorities had not appointed public information officers in order to respond to requests for information and give citizens the power to demand accountability from bureaucrats and politicians. The study emphasized that the RTI helped provide legal empowerment by giving ordinary citizens the feeling that the government is accountable to them.

Singh (2014:179) examined the role of right to information in democracy and reported that right to information legislation facilitated good governance based on accountability and transparency in India. The scholar observed that corruption and abuse of power were the inevitable fall outs of an unaccountable system of governance. The study emphasized that Right to Information Act, 2005 had categorically disclosed information’s related to public authorities to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority.

2.4 Right to Information and Civil Society Studies

Gothoskar and Kanhere (1992:75) examined the right to information in a democracy and noted that people asserted their right to information in India. The scholars noted that right to information is a prerequisite to good governance, participatory development and corruption free management of development projects in modern society. The scholars suggested that adequate public awareness
programmes should be organized across the country to popularize the beneficial effects of RTI Act.

Roy (1997:158) examined the need for transparency in the voluntary sector in India and stated that the NGOs were largely ineffective in improving the day-to-day lives of the country’s rural poor. The scholar also pointed out that the marginalized, the exploited and the very poor sections of the society were not taken into confidence by the NGOs while designing and implementing development projects across the country. The scholar suggested that the provisions of RTI Act should be implemented in government and non-government sectors to prevent corruption in the name of development.

Roy (1997:159) examined the people’s struggle for information about the implementation of various development projects in India and reported that people were denied the access to information on the utilization of funds. The study revealed that social activists had organized the people in different parts of the country and sought right to information. The scholar suggested that people should be given the right to information which is an effective instrument of good governance.

Mendel (1999:118) examined the principles on freedom of information legislation and noted that the importance of the right to information or the right to know is an increasingly constant refrain in the mouths of development practitioners, civil society, academics, the media and governments. The scholar emphasized that the free flow of information and ideas lies at the heart of the very notion of democracy and is crucial to effective respect for human rights. The scholar suggested that right to information should be incorporated under the fundamental rights of the people in order to facilitate good governance based on active people’s participation.

Stiglitz (2001:192) examined the relationship between the right to information and change in the paradigm of economic development and noted that information economics represented a fundamental change in the prevailing paradigm within economics. The scholar pointed out that problems of information were central to understanding not only market economics but also political economy. The scholar suggested that the information have not’s should be enabled to gain access to
development centered information resources and services in order to actively participate in the development projects.

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (2001:87) examined the global trends on the right to information with special reference to South Asia and noted that South Asian countries had realized the significance of right to information on the basis of international standards. The study revealed that Pakistan the Freedom of Information Ordinance was promulgated in October 2002 to provide transparency and freedom of information to all. According to the ordinance, Pakistani citizens have the right to access public records. There is widespread criticism that the ordinance has broadly defined exemptions and makes accessing information extremely difficult, however.

Vijayakumar and Vijayakumar (2004:226) examined the relationship between right to information in India and noted that library associations in India are active but their views are not strong enough to bring the expected changes in this field. The scholars called upon the library professionals to play an active role in sensitizing the policy makers and people about the enactment of right to information as an effective tool of participatory communication and development in India.

World Bank (2004:230) examined the utility of various development projects from beneficiaries’ point of view and reported that services were not delivered by the service providers including the government agencies on the basis of transparency, accountability and responsibility. The report emphasized that the service providers should enable the poor to monitor and discipline service providers, by amplifying their voice in policymaking, and by strengthening the incentives for providers to serve the poor. The World Development Report provided a practical framework for making the services that contribute to human development work for poor people on the basis of adequate information flow and greater transparency in governance.

Niranjan (2005:136) examined the salient features of RTI Act and noted that the Act empowered the citizens to probe the working of their government from the point of view of good governance. The study revealed that the information commissioners were appointed on the basis of political considerations. The scholar
suggested that frequent audits and vigilance would ensure the citizens’ right is not lost in the labyrinth of paperwork.

Dreze (2005:60) examined the relationship between transparency and rural development programmes at the grassroots level and noted that the implementers had not provided legal minimum wages to the rural masses due to lack of information. The scholar pointed out that the implementers had not followed the guidelines of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act due to lack of social commitment, political will and transparency in governance. The scholar suggested that the programme should be implemented in the rural areas on the basis of healthy provisions for transparency and accountability.

YASHADA (2005:233) conducted an awareness building workshops on right to information with the media and published the proceedings which are useful inputs for media intervention in regard to implementation of RTI Act in India. The resource persons noted that media had been less receptive to the practice of right to information in India. The participants observed that the citizens in both urban and rural areas have been using MRTIA to unearth corruption, mismanagement of public funds and the misuse of public resources and compel authorities to open up decision-making processes in the true spirit of transparency, the hallmark of a genuinely democratic Government. The workshop recommended that media should highlight the success stories and enable the people to make use of the provisions of the act and gain the benefit of good governance.

Kejriwal (2006:101) examined the RTI Act of India and noted that the act created a silent revolution from the point of view of good governance. The activists also noted that the public officials refused to adopt transparency, as required by the RTI Act. The scholar pointed out that this formidable tool of empowerment might slip out of the hands of citizens if amendments proposed by Manmohan Singh’s government are enacted. The scholar cautioned that the amendment should be passed by the Parliament after series of discussions and incorporation of progressive elements.

Hubbard (2007:86) examined the role of information in the reduction of corruption in the Uganda’s education sector and noted that corruption was slashed in Uganda simply by publishing the amount of monthly grants to schools. The scholar
pointed out that transparency had resulted in the dramatic drop in the percentage of funds being diverted from Uganda’s capitation grant. The scholar opined that transparency campaign had made lot of difference in the implementation of educational programmes.

Fox (2007:62) examined the uncertain relationship between transparency and accountability and noted that the shameless and irresponsible officials were not vulnerable to public exposure. The scholar also noted that transparency could be either clear or opaque, while accountability could be either soft or hard. The scholar suggested that various stakeholders of good governance should be sensitized and motivated to implement the right to information laws and ensure corruption free development projects.

Samu (2008:164) examined the right to information with reference to human rights protection in India and observed that the information seekers were subjected to harassment by the public officials. The activist noted that State Information Commission officials should be oriented properly in order to prevent human rights violations in India. The study revealed that the erring officials should be punished by the law enforcement authorities.

Ghosh (2008:70) examined the complexities of obtaining information as per the RTI Act in India and reported that the officials had not demonstrated their commitment for providing the vital documents relating to financial irregularities. The activists also noted that the road to accessing information remains arduous due to absence of proactive role of the officials. The scholar suggested that adequate manpower and infrastructure would improve the functioning of the office of information commissioner across the country.

Kreimer (2008:106) examined the ecology of transparency in the context of freedom of information act and stated that effective implementation of development programmes is primarily based on the presence of informed citizens and active citizens. The study revealed that freedom of information laws enabled the people to gain the benefit of access to public information on various development endeavors. The scholar suggested that mass awareness and governmental preparedness would ensure effective implementation of freedom of information laws across the world.
Lagunes (2009:111) examined the Mexico’s Freedom of Information Law and stated that those laws empowered the interested parties to access all documents held by the government with only a few and stated exceptions in the interest of national security and public safety. The study revealed that the Mexican federal government was committed to transparency and accountability in regard to governance. The scholar also uncovered some differential treatment based on status of information seekers including the wealthy and politically connected citizens.

Puddephat (2009:144) examined the role of civil society in the formulation and adoption of access to information laws in Bulgaria, India, Mexico, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. The study revealed that civil society played an important role in obtaining the right to information against strong resistance from the state. The study also significantly contributed to a broader debate on the role of civil society as it relates to this essential right to information.

Sebagala (2009:169) examined the access to information in Uganda and noted that the people had to struggle for obtaining the right to information which is an effective instrument of good governance. The study revealed that Uganda was ahead of other African countries in terms of critical accountability mechanism and moved towards greater transparency and more openness which strengthened good governance. The scholar suggested that the development of training programmes for information officials and employment of officials with better knowledge about the law would facilitate effective implementation of the right to information laws in Uganda.

Hambuba (2009:82) examined the freedom of information from the point of view of women’s rights in Africa and noted that women’s organizations had not actively lobbied for the implementation of freedom of information law in Africa. The study revealed that the right to information was an effective instrument of empowerment of women in modern times. The scholar suggested that media should support the civil society movement for right to information in modern times to ensure good governance and empowerment of women.

Mason (2010:116) examined the relationship between information disclosure and environmental rights in the global context and reported that the Aarhus
Convention had diluted the spirit of participatory communication. The study revealed that given the potentially far-reaching ramifications of the Aarhus human right ecologically adequate conditions of life, it is not surprising that few parties have made more than a symbolic commitment to meeting it. The scholar suggested that environment related project authorities should share information with the activists and people in order to protect the environment and public interest.

Siraj (2010:185) examined the exclusion of private sector from freedom of information laws in Pakistan and noted that the main reason for the exclusion is that the laws have evolved in the conventional human rights framework, which has long imposed obligations for human rights on the state only. The scholar pointed out that exclusion of the private sector from the laws has deleterious effects on transparency and integrity in public policy as well as on capability of the citizens to exercise their human rights. The scholar suggested that an extension of the regime to the private sector has become vital for advancement of the human rights agenda.

Fox and Haight (2010:63) examined the availability of information on farm subsidies to the farmers in Mexico and noted that official transparency, through the publication of recipient lists, had made a substantial contribution to the debate over farm subsidies. The scholars suggested that people have a right to know who really receives the subsidies and their eligibility criteria in order to improve the delivery system.

Calland (2010:34) reviewed the impact of transparency and accountability in the context of RTI in India and noted that different practitioners approached the freedom of information with very different expectations about the change that will result from greater access to information. The study revealed that the emerging ‘theory’ of greatest interest is the idea that FOI can create an enabling space for less powerful social actors to engage more powerful institutions and actors. On this front, there is a fast-growing population of anecdotal evidence, but, again, no systematic assessment of the relationship between cause and effect.

Anam (2011:10) examined the evolution of the RTI Act in Bangladesh and stated that the act intended to ensure free flow of information and people’s right to information. The scholar also pointed out that civil society had vibrantly persuaded
the policymakers through social campaign, lobby and advocacy. The scholar suggested that the civil society should complement the government’s effort by engaging in capacity building of the supply side for better service delivery, awareness raising of the mass people to promote demand, and research to identify challenges of implementation at the ground level while suggesting possible realistic solutions to those problems.

Nirmala (2012:137) examined the role of NGOs in the promotion of right to information and participatory governance in India and noted that information and knowledge were critical for realizing the goal of good governance in India. The scholar noted that access to information was a decisive factor in the process of participatory development which is granted by the RTI in India. The study revealed that NGOs played a considerable role in the dissemination of development information and democratization of development process in India. The scholar suggested that NGOs should facilitate the process for free flow of information, which forms the basis for a healthy debate on issues of vital importance to every section of the society.

Shobha et. al. (2013:175) examined the utility of right to information from the points of view of inclusive development and empowerment of people in India. The study revealed that the RTI applicants encountered many problems in obtaining information from the various government agencies. The scholars also noted that inadequate staff, heavy work load, under payment and non-performance of the officials was responsible for the ineffective functioning of the system. The scholars suggested that the public authorities should be given adequate training and orientation to improve their performance as information providers.

Ahmad (2013:06) examined the teacher-trainees’ awareness regarding right to information in India and noted that the 21st century learners and teachers were encouraged to instill the values and morals which democratic process in India get strengthened. The study revealed that about 58% of the teacher trainees had moderate level of awareness about right to information. The scholar suggested that awareness level of users of RTI should be increased in order to achieve the goal of good governance in India.
Johri et. al. (2014:96) examined the use of RTI in India and reported that about 33% of the RTI applications sought to know what action had been taken or was proposed to be taken by a public authority on some matter that required action. The study revealed that the applicants were more interested in procuring the information about the outcome of government policies and programmes. The scholars suggested that decisions taken by a public authority be communicated to affected persons, but equally or perhaps even more important is to inform them about what action was taken or is proposed to be taken (and when) about decisions of the public authority, and complaints, requests, or applications to the public authority.

2.5 Right to Information and Governance Studies

Centre for Policy Research (1990:38) examined the freedom of information in India in terms of policy interests include climate change policy and governance at sub-national, national and international scales, the political economy of energy and water, the emergence of the regulatory state in the developing world and the role of civil society in global environmental governance. The research focuses on governance mechanisms to operationalize 'co-benefits' in the context of national climate policy.

Advani (1995:04) examined the judicial pronouncements on access to information with reference to India and noted that judicial institutions examined the opportunities and limitations of RTI Act in India. The study revealed that judicial pronouncements created a wealth of information and guidelines on the implementation of the provisions of the act in India. The scholar suggested that the practical difficulties in obtaining information from various public offices should be addressed by the judicial organizations.

Dogra (1997:59) examined the hope and despair of the RTI Act and noted that the act paved the way for good governance in India. The scholar observed that the formal state structures and their inefficiencies impeded the access to information on various development projects implemented by the central and state government agencies. The scholar suggested that right to information should be
guaranteed to citizens as a fundamental human right and effective instrument of good governance in India.

Bhatia and Dreze (1998:23) examined the role of right to information in combating corruption in public offices in rural India and noted that the foundations of democratic practice are identified as facility (functional democratic institutions), involvement (informed public engagement with these institutions), and equity (a fair distribution of power). The scholars also pointed out that public participation has a crucial role to play in the expansion of the reach and effectiveness of development institutions and enhancement of the provisions of right to information as effective instrument of good governance.

Bennett (2001:22) examined the access to information regimes in the age of globalization and noted that the new right to information legislations were not supplemented with education and training as well as attitudinal change among the officials. The scholar also pointed out that many countries did not promote a culture of open and transparent government due to absence of political will and social commitment. The scholar suggested that government agencies should expand right to information practices across the globe.

Islam (2003:88) examined the need and importance of transparency and accountability among the government institutions and stated that public institutions were not fully aware of the right to information as an effective instrument of governance. The scholar also noted that factors such as institutional competence and the quality of governance were dependent on access to public information. The scholar suggested that efficient information system should be built around sound manpower and techniques of information dissemination to ensure the success of right to information in modern times.

Ackerman (2004:02) examined the need for society’s participation in strengthening government accountability and stated that both exit solutions based in marketization and voice solutions grounded in coproduction impeded the process of good governance in modern society. The scholar suggested that the best way to tap into the energy of society is through “co-governance,” which involves inviting social actors to participate in the core activities of the state.
United Nations Development Programme (2004:222) examined the right to information which is fundamental in bolstering democratic principles of openness, transparency and accountability in societies and in eradicating poverty. The organization also brought out the practical guidance note on right to information which provided guidance on approaches for designing and implementing programmes in this area. The publication mainly focuses on the monitoring and evaluation of those programmes, paying particular attention to the use of appropriate indicators, including gender and pro-poor indicators.

Bellver and Kaufmann (2005:20) examined the initial empirics and policy applications in the context of transparency and stated that the implementation of transparency-related reforms on the ground remains checkered around the globe. The scholars also observed a visible gap between the extent of the conceptual contributions in the transparency field and the progress on its measurement and empirical analysis. The study emphasized that transparency is associated with better socio-economic and human development indicators, as well as with higher competitiveness and lower corruption.

Singh (2006:181) examined the role of administrative reforms commission in the enactment of right to information in India and noted that the commission was appointed by the Government of India for giving recommendations for reviewing the public administration system of India. The scholar noted that the commission headed by Veerappa Moily submitted a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administrative system. The scholar also emphasized that the commission dealt with the right to information for good governance in India.

Banisar (2006:15) examined the global access to government information and stated that freedom of information allowed individuals and groups to protect their rights. The study revealed that freedom of information was also an important guard against abuses, mismanagement and corruption across the globe. The scholar further noted that about 70 countries around the world had adopted comprehensive Freedom of Information Acts to facilitate access to records held by government bodies.
Kejriwal (2007:102) examined the post-RTI Act in India and stated that the reluctant government and its indifferent officials were not committed to the strict implementation of the provisions of the act. The scholar also observed that the right to information relied on two very important nerve centers namely the process of filing the RTI application and the information commissions. The activists suggested that the RTI lines should be set up across the country to prevent delay in procuring the information from public offices.

Consumer Unity and Trust Society (2009:43) examined the status of right to information in India and observed that the RTI allowed citizens to inspect works, documents and records; take notes and certified samples of material and obtain information in the form of printouts, diskettes, floppies, tapes and video cassettes or in any other electronic mode. The study reported that some citizens well versed in the provisions of this Act tend to file frivolous applications for monetary gains. The study suggested that there is a need to impose differential fees, given that the time and expenditure involved in responses might vary widely across requests.

Mittal (2008:125) examined the role of RTI call centers in Bihar which allowed the applicants to seek information over the phone from any of the central government departments and organizations across the country. The study revealed that the RTI call centers expedited the process of obtaining information from the public offices in Bihar. The scholar suggested that such experiment should be conducted all over the country to achieve the goal of good governance.

Gandhi (2008:67) examined the role of government in guaranteeing right to information to the people and noted that the central and state information commissions were established to provide information on various subjects concerning governance and development in India. The scholar also pointed out that the commissions were not fully equipped with manpower and infrastructural facilities for effective implementation of the provisions of the act.

Kulkarni (2008:107) examined the relationship between right to information and good governance with reference to Maharashtra and stated that the right to information act paved the way for transparency in administration and governance. The scholar suggested that public information officers should be nominated to all
the government institutions to facilitate speedy dissemination of information relating to governance and development activities.

Center-School of Education (2008:35) examined the implementation of multi-tiered response to intervention models in Boulder and reported that the implementation of the provisions of RTI currently varied widely from state to state, both in its progression and in its emphases and components. The study reported that the provisions had not completely replaced the discrepancy model with RTI as a means for identifying learning disabilities. The study suggested that culturally responsive instruction is a necessary component in providing culturally and linguistically diverse students with equal educational opportunities.

Saxena (2009:168) examined the role of public authority in the implementation of RTI Act in India and noted that the public and private institutions engaged in public works were not brought under the act as public authorities. The scholar pointed out that the private companies performing public functions were considered as public offices in other countries. The scholar suggested that the RTI Act should necessarily extend to private bodies performing public functions, or dealing with public money and trust.

Goel (2009:72) examined the present status and issues concerning the RTI Act and noted that the role of the Centre/State Government was not satisfactory in the implementation of the Act. The scholar also observed that adequate support was not given to the Public Authorities for training, development of software applications, e-training modules, generating awareness amongst citizens etc. The scholar suggested that the Information Commission should be equipped with necessary powers and functions in order to ensure the compliance of the RTI Act.

Hazell and Worthy (2010:83) examined the assessing performance of freedom of information and noted that freedom of information in the UK measured against comparative data from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Ireland countries with access to information legislation and similar political systems. The scholars further opined that the freedom of information laws did not meet the objectives and expectations of the architects. The scholars suggested that the information seekers, information activists, media professionals and public officials should work together to achieve the goals of information laws across the world.
Desai (2010:57) examined the right to information in India and noted that large scale awareness building exercises were not carried out by the central and state governments on the procedural aspects of obtaining the right to information. The scholar suggested that mass media and outdoor media should be utilized for the public campaigns across the country. The scholar emphasized the role of NGOs and other progressive organizations in the strict implementation of the laws.

Venkatesan (2010:224) examined the attitude of the government towards RTI Act and stated that the act would be amended to avoid frivolous or vexatious requests and prevent the Centre from disclosing information relating to the Cabinet papers so as to ensure the smooth functioning of the government. The scholar also noted that office of the Chief Justice of India would be protected in view of the sensitivity involved. The study emphasized that certain organizations would be exempted since they possess sensitive information dealing with national security.

Moudgil (2012:127) examined the victimization of RTI applicants and noted that the applicants had become victims of circumstances due to certain bottlenecks and system failures. The scholar noted that most cases of victimization involved information related to issues of larger public interest and social welfare schemes. The study emphasized that a well-established mechanism consisting of set procedures to deal with such cases can go a long way in guaranteeing safety of applicants. The scholar suggested that monitoring by information commissions, human rights commissions, government departments and law enforcement agencies would safeguard the interest of RTI applicants and activists in India.

Guru et. al. (2015:77) examined the court judgments on right to information in India and reported that good governance required the freedom for the civil society to participate actively in the formulation of development strategies which affected communities and groups. The scholars noted that the national and regional judicial fora too had recognized the importance of right to information which offers several advantages to the mankind. Jurists have also upheld that right to information is a key livelihood and development issue. The study emphasized that judiciary had upheld the right to information and participation of people in the process of governance in India.
2.6. Right to Information and Policy Measures Studies

Noorani (1996:138) examined the role of Press Council of India in the formulation of Right to Information Act and noted that the burgeoning movement for the right to information in India had significantly sought to expand democratic space, and empower the ordinary citizen to exercise far greater control over the corrupt and arbitrary exercise of state power. The scholar noted that Press Council of India had provided the contents for the formulation of model legislation. The scholar pointed out that the Press Council draft had inputs from a range of people, and became a base draft on which many bills were formulated.

Taylor (2002:218) examined the state surveillance in the context of right to privacy and noted that the state’s use of technical covert surveillance equipment had become legally regulated over the past twenty years, albeit in a somewhat piecemeal fashion. The scholar argued that overt surveillance in the form of closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) should thus be legally regulated according to the principles established by the European Convention, and that such an extension of the ‘right to respect for private life’ need not be detrimental to the common good.

Ackerman and Sandoval-Ballesteros (2006:03) examined the global explosion of freedom of information laws and observed that many countries in the world had passed freedom of information laws for disclosure of public documents and strengthening of good governance. The scholars noted that national security exemptions were identified by the law makers. The scholars concluded that international standards had an impact on domestic laws concerning right to information.

Das (2006:49) examined the Right to Information Act 2005 and authored a book which is well read by the scholars interested in the right to information studies. The work contains various legislations and court judgments which provide insights into the pros and cons of Right to Information Act. The scholar has also offered certain suggestions for effective implementation of the act in the best interest of good governance.
Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2006:170) examined the utility of RTI in India and observed that the application of RTI in executive, legislature and judiciary would facilitate good governance in India. The commission also noted that the judiciary could be a pioneer in implementing the Act in letter and spirit because much of the work that the Judiciary does is open to public scrutiny. The commission pointed out that the transformation from non-transparency to transparency and public accountability is the responsibility of all three organs of State.

Sahu and Dwivedi (2006:162) examined the need for effective implementation of RTI Act in India and noted that the organizations with high use of information technology had not faced many difficulties in the dissemination of public information according to the provisions of the act. The study concludes that Information Technology is a tool in effective implementation of RTI Act, 2005. The scholars suggested that Public Information Officers should work with dedication and responsibility in the realization of the goals of the information movement.

Puddephatt et. al. (2006:145) examined the impact of right to information programmes and authored a guide which provided guidance on approaches for designing and implementing programmes in this area. The authors have focused on the monitoring and evaluation of those programmes, paying particular attention to the use of appropriate indicators, including gender and pro-poor indicators. It outlines the basic principles of programme evaluation, but concentrates on assessing outcomes. The scholars have dealt with the measures for effective implementation of the laws for the benefit of marginalized sections of society.

Chydenius (2006:42) examined the world’s first freedom of information act and observed that the world’s first freedom of information was adopted by the Swedish parliament in 1766. The study revealed that Anders Chydenius played a crucial role in the formulation of new law which paved the way for gaining of public access to government documents. The scholar stated that over the last 40 years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of countries that have adopted freedom of information laws inspired by the Swedish initiatives.
Jain (2007:89) examined the concepts, law and practice relating to right to information and authored a book which is well read by the professionals and researchers. The work contains about 30 components on various aspects of right to information which is very useful and significant at a time when the print and electronic media have become very powerful instruments in disseminating information to the public in no time. The work provides thought provoking and practically relevant inputs for effective implementation of right to information in India.

Goel (2007:71) examined the role of right to information in the process of good governance in India and noted that Right to Information Act, 2005 was a landmark for good governance since it helped the common citizens especially the poor and underprivileged to get their due from the government. The scholar pointed out that good governance primarily depended on the implementation of the Act in letter and spirit. The scholar suggested certain norms and guidelines for the effective implementation of the laws for good governance in India.

White (2007:228) examined the Official Information Act 1982 of Newzeland which is known for significant constitutional reforms. The scholar noted that all government information is not allowed for public disclosure due to security consideration. The study emphasized that certain clues about defence management and national security should be guarded by the government. The scholar argued that administrative and developmental information should be disseminated to the people to ensure transparency and accountability.

Jha (2008:94) analyzed the implementation of RTI Act, 2005 and noted that the act had the potential of solving the service delivery needs such as poor health, education, water, infrastructure, etc. The scholar reported that the Act was used by a large number of citizens across India in the beginning but slowly it is getting stuck in the web of bureaucratic complexities. The scholar found that the Public Information Officers and Information Commissions proved to be the biggest bottleneck in the implementation of RTI Act since the information seekers are aggrieved by the lethargic, poor and inefficient functioning of ICs in most of the States. Moreover, the ICs have sent wrong signals by being sympathetic to the PIOs who get away easily by not providing information to the citizens.
Tariq (2008:217) examined the implementation of Right to Information Act, 2005 in India and observed that information is life blood that sustains political, social and business decisions. The scholar found that the new law had emerged as the most potent tool to empower ordinary citizens to combat state corruption and to play an important and active role in participatory democracy. The scholar noted that civil society in India played a crucial role along with NGOs and media for the enactment of the Act.

Mishra et. al. (2008:124) examined the relationship between right to information and privacy and noted that right to information permits citizens to gain information under government control but it also threatens the privacy of patients and research subjects, especially those in government institutions. The scholars further observed that it is important for clinicians, administrators, information officers, patients, and research subjects to understand that the RTI Act generally does not require or permit disclosure of personal health information to third parties. The scholars suggested that the authorities should understand the need for safeguarding patient privacy in modern society.

Mendel (2008:120) examined the freedom of information and stated that several countries had given a serious thought to the subject in the recent times since development practitioners, civil society, academics, the media and governments had become major stakeholders. The scholar provided an accessible account of the law and practice regarding freedom of information, and an analysis of what is working and why. The scholar suggested that right to information should be implemented in modern times to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the administration of justice and delivery of goods and services by the public offices.

Patnaik (2008:140) examined the need for right to information and authored a book which serves as a practical guide to the implementation of the Act. The book reveals the global movement for freedom of information (FOI), and discusses the efforts made by international bodies for adoption of FOI. The scholar has also presented a detailed comparative study of FOI in five countries—the US, the UK, Canada, South Africa, and India. The scholar has provided the modalities of obtaining information from various public offices and enabled the citizens to understand the right way of obtaining information.
Ansari (2008:11) examined the impact of right to information and development in India and reported that the Right to Information Act 2005, the RTI hereinafter, was enacted by the National Parliament to dismantle the culture of secrecy and to change the mindset of the bureaucrats and political leaders and to create conditions for taking informed decisions. The scholar noted that RTI provides a framework for promotion of citizen-government partnership in carrying out the programmes for the welfare of the people. The principle of partnership is derived from the fact that people are not only the ultimate beneficiaries of development, but also the agents of social change in India.

Aiyar and Samji (2009:07) examined the transparency and accountability in the implementation of NREGA in Andhra Pradesh. The study revealed that the state government’s experience with implementing social audits was a unique experiment in integrating accountability mechanisms into the state apparatus. The study also offered some interesting insights into the effectiveness of regular, sustained social audits which suggests that social audits in fact have a significant and lasting effect on citizen’s awareness levels.

Aiyar and Posani (2009:08) examined the evolution, practice and emerging questions in public accountability in India and stated that citizens had begun to scrutinize the state it identifies some of the key limitations in the current discourse on citizen-led accountability initiatives, arguing for a research agenda that addresses some of these issues. The scholars emphasized that civil society, media and other progressive organizations assessed the public accountability of the policy makers and officials through certain parameters. The scholars suggested that people should not be taken for granted by the rulers since right to information facilitated participatory democracy in India.

Saini and Gupta (2009:163) examined the implementation and challenges of Right to Information Act, 2005 and observed that the provisions of the Act were not fully and properly implemented in India due to lack of will on the part of the bureaucrats and absence of pro-active disclosure of information in the offices concerned across the country. The scholars suggested that the services of NGOs should be utilized for the creation of awareness and educating masses of the
provisions of the act for corruption and nepotism free implementation of various development programmes of the central and state governments.

Neuman (2009:134) examined the access to information in modern times and stated that right to information scholars, specialists and activists had carried out studies on the impact of marrying the freedom-of-information enforcement body with data protection. The scholar also noted that questions regarding the number of commissioners chosen, the profile of the commissioners, and the commission’s interaction with the legislature and public administration merit additional consideration. The study suggested that information officials charged with order-making powers are best placed to meet these primary standards and to respond effectively to the enforcement needs of most political, legal, and bureaucratic environment.

Bindal and Bindal (2009:26) examined the Right to Information Act, 2005 and observed that India moved from an opaque and arbitrary system of government to the beginning of an era where there will be greater transparency and to a system where the citizen will be empowered and the true center of power. The scholars noted that the real and true governance can be achieved not by the acquisition of authority by a few but by the acquisition of capacity by all to resist authority when abused.

Simi et. al. (2010:176) examined the Right to Information Act in India and noted that the act provided effective access to information for citizens of India, which is under the control of the public authorities. The study revealed that the act promoted transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority. The scholars pointed out that the act has served to be an effective watchdog ensuring all those coming in purview of the Act to work in accordance with rules and regulations, without any irregularities. The scholars suggested that stricter implementation of this law requires not only political will but also active civil societies, RTI activists and few key democratic features, such as respect for the rule of law.

Roberts (2010:152) examined the Right to Information Act (RTIA), adopted in 2005 and stated that Indian citizens filed about two million requests for
information under the RTIA in its first two and half years. The scholar opined that the use of the law has been constrained by uneven public awareness, poor planning by public authorities, and bureaucratic indifference or hostility. The scholar suggested that the public authorities and civil society organizations should develop innovative approaches and ensure proper implementation of the provisions of the act in India.

Banerjee (2010:14) examined the Right to Information Act in India and authored a book which deals with the concepts and problems. It is a popular handbook which provides practical illustrations regarding the use of this act. The work provides thought provoking guidelines to the government officials, NGO members and students of public administration, law and communication.

Srivastava (2010:191) examined the Right to Information Act 2005 which was passed by the UPA (United Progressive Alliance) Government. The scholar noted that most of the people were not aware of their newly acquired power through the implementation of the act. The scholar pointed out that stimulation by the Government, NGOs and other enlightened and empowered citizens would augment the benefits of this Act manifold. The study emphasized that RTI would help not only in mitigating corruption in public life but also in alleviating poverty- the two monstrous maladies of India.

Jana (2010:91) examined the limitations of RTI Act, 2005 and stated that the act had categorically exempted information related to certain public authorities from disclosure. The study revealed that the scope of the right to information as a fundamental right was much wider than that of an ordinary statutory right. The dignity of the right to know has thus been reduced much. The scholar also pointed out that the restrictions imposed on such right under the Constitution, the Act itself, any other law and by judicial interpretation seem to be reasonable and strike a good balance between people’s right to know and secrecy maintained by the State.

Acharya (2010:01) examined the factors and circumstances which prompted the enactment of Right to Information Act in India and authored a book which contains the salient features of the act and guidelines on the implementation of the act. The work also provides certain useful details of achieving the objectives of the
law which make the administration open, transparent and accountable. The work enlightens the various stakeholders of right to information and advocates of transparency in governance.

Jha (2010:95) examined the evidence based research mobilizing action for RTI Act in India and stated that India had initiated some measures for making public institutions accountable to the people. It has mandated by law that people have the power to monitor and inspect the functioning of political-bureaucratic institutions on regular basis, which is also known as ‘social accountability’ in the present times. Social audit, community monitoring, Right to Information are some of well-known tools of social accountability. In recent times, the Right to Information has been successful in ensuring entitlements to the citizens. The scholar suggested that adequate case studies should be carried out by the future researchers to make the RTI Act more effective in India.

Mendoza (2011:122) examined the impact of right to information laws across the world and noted that more than 100 countries had enacted the legislations to give citizens the right to know what had happened in their governments. The study revealed that the Associated Press had tested these laws worldwide for the first time and found that such laws had spread rapidly over the past decade and presented a powerful way to engage citizens and expose corruption.

Naib (2011:132) examined the RTI Act, 2005 and authored a book which is a welcome addition to the body of knowledge on right to information laws. The scholar noted that the act came into existence after a prolonged freedom of information movement across the country. The work presents a detailed comparative study of FOI in five countries—the US, the UK, Canada, South Africa, and India. The scholar has also provided the comprehensive guidelines for public authorities and their obligations under the Act, which includes relevant central information commission decisions and the role of the public information officers.

Sivakumar (2011:186) examined the perspectives, practices and issues concerning the Right to Information Act, 2005 and noted that many constitutional provisions, social struggles and judicial pronouncements were mainly responsible for the enactment of RTI in India. The scholar pointed out that the act provided
provisions relating to the procedure and methods of obtaining information from public offices. The scholar emphasized that the real and true governance can be achieved not by the acquisition of authority by a few but by the acquisition of capacity by all to resist authority when abused.

Karnataka Law Journal Publications (2011:100) brought out a book on Right to Information Act, 2005 on the basis of a comprehensive examination of the existing laws. The work also contains specific rules, amendments, notifications and case laws about right to information rules of Karnataka state in particular. The work also deals with important judgments under right to information law delivered by the Supreme Court and High Court.

Murad and Hoque (2011:128) examined the RTI Act in Bangladesh in the light of Johannesburg Principles Freedom of Information Legislation and noted that the notion of freedom of thought, of conscience, of speech and rule of law become worthless if the people are deprived of access to information. The scholars presented an overview of RTI Act and observed that the development scenario could be changed by empowering people with right to information or freedom of information in modern society.

Kannan (2011:97) examined the need for adopting the RTI Act as a mechanism to fight corruption and promote aid delivery in India and reported that the existence of the RTI Act compounded with the near non-existent public discourse on the issue of aid throw up significant challenges. The study revealed that there is no provision under the act to protect the identity of applicants, thereby compromising their safety. The scholar suggested that the RTI activists should be given adequate security by the state since there is scope for it to become a powerful tool to curb corruption and ensure accountability in the effective delivery of foreign aid.

Janssen (2012:92) examined the relevance of open government data and right to information and stated that OGD movement and RTI movement created an open debate about their objectives and possible mutual benefits, and join forces in ensuring that both RTI and OGD actually meet their aims of increasing transparency. The scholar noted that in United Kingdom and the Netherlands, the
data sets requested under the Act should be provided in a format which is capable of re-use. The scholar observed that cooperation between OGD and RTI would bring together the extensive experience of the RTI movement with its rights-based discourse and the technical skills and media awareness of the OGD movement.

Nayak et. al. (2012:133) examined the use of right to information laws in India and noted that most of the Information Commissions had maintained comprehensive data on the use of the provisions of the act. The study revealed that the information commissions had not enabled the people to engage with Governments and public authorities through legitimate methods. The scholars suggested that information commissions should be granted the status of autonomous bodies and equipped with adequate manpower and state of the art facilities.

Sharma (2012:172) examined the impact of RTI Act in India and observed that the leadership of the grassroots movement was embedded within the ruling elite and possessed the necessary resources as well as unparalleled access to spaces of power for the movement to be successful. The scholar noted that while there is much to celebrate in the consolidation of procedural democracy in India over the last six decades, existing economic, social and political structures may limit the extent and forms of democratic deepening occurring in the near future. The scholar suggested that adequate media campaigns, legal literacy programmes, social mobilization activities and effective functioning of information commissions at national and regional levels would ensure good governance in India.

Singh and Karn (2012:182) examined the implementation of Right to Information Act, 2005 in India and noted that the new legislation tried to build a new institutional mechanism for ensuring transparency and accountability in the functioning of public institutions. The study revealed that the implementation of the RTI Act has been quite uneven across states due to inadequate awareness and system failures in the country. The scholars suggested that the efficiency of the implementation mechanism and delivery of justice in times of non-compliance should be improved on the basis of political will in India.

Yadav (2012:232) examined the features, significance and relevance of Right to Information Act, 2005 and brought out a book which contains the specific extracts
from the important judgments delivered by various courts in India. The scholar has pointed out that the act is an important step in promoting a transparent, vibrant and accountable government in a developing country like India. The study emphasizes that the legislation would usher in an era of participatory governance and eliminates the scourge of corruption in India.

Lemmens and Telfer (2012:112) examined the relationship between the right to information and clinical trials transparency and noted that right to information reduced the limits imposed on access to clinical trials data by international trade obligations and related national rules. The scholars pointed out that the right to information should also inspire civil society to develop further tools to ensure the transparency and the reliability of medical research. The scholars suggested that civil society, activists and other responsible citizens should promote reliable and accountable evidence-informed healthcare systems for the protection of public interest.

World Bank (2012:229) examined the implementation of right to information in India and observed that the importance of transparency had indeed increased manifold in the government agencies. The study revealed that inadequate planning and preparation among the public authorities had caused a setback to the implementation of the provisions of the RTI Act in India. The study emphasized that civil society, media and non-government organizations should work together and facilitate timely and proper implementation of RTI Act in India.

Das (2013:50) examined the factors associated with the enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005 and authored a handbook which contains the rules, regulations and other related laws. The work also provides the judicial pronouncements made by the Supreme Court and High Court on the imperativeness of right to information legislations in India. The author has also provided adequate information about the functional areas of information commissions and feedback of intellectuals and activists about the information laws with reference to India.

Shilpa (2013:174) examined the role of right to information art in the process of corruption free good governance in India and observed that there was a need of good governance and transparency since there are unprecedented corruption at all
levels in India. The study revealed that Right to Information Act enacted by the Government of India had introduced a new era of good governance in the country. The scholar noted that RTI is a vital tool for good governance since it ensured transparency and accountability in all walks of life.

Jain (2013:90) examined the need for empowering the poor with right to information and library services in India and noted that the government started various ICT-based policies for eradication of poverty with public private partnership. The scholar also observed that the right to information and libraries would create an environment of information literacy among poor people, so that they may know their rights and improve their living standard. The scholar also emphasized the Indian Government initiatives like right to food scheme or midday meal scheme for schoolchildren, right to education, right to information and role of libraries in modern India.

Assessment and Advocacy Group (2013:160) analyzed the functioning of information commissions and noted that the key to increasing accountability of public authorities lies in bringing about attitudinal changes within the government at various levels. The civil society groups have also demanded more stringent implementation of the provisions of the Act. The Indian media have also served as the watchdogs of public interest. The elected representatives and bureaucrats have not put forth best efforts for the strict implementation of the Act on account of their negative mindset and irresponsible behavior.

Myneni (2013:131) examined the right to information law in India and authored a book which contains about 10 chapters and a number of case references relating to various sections of the Right to Information Act. The scholar has pointed out that right to information had emerged as a social revolution in India against corruption. The scholar has also emphasized that Right to Information Act is an effective tool for the redressal of public grievances and enhancement of accountability in the process of governance.

Barowalia (2013:17) examined the Right to Information Act and authored a book which provides adequate details about various policies of governance aimed for the welfare of the people. The book contains series of decisions which are based
on the provisions in the Right to Information Act 2005. It also contains provisions having far reaching consequences. The work is indeed a welcome addition to the body of knowledge on right to information laws in India.

Africa Freedom of Information Centre (2014:05) examined the state of right to information in Africa and reported that right to information in Africa and provided support to members and country groups to effectively advocate for freedom of information at country and regional level. The study revealed that people need information to be able to adequately express themselves on matters of governance, holding leaders accountable, influencing service delivery and decision–making and for promoting and protecting their human rights.

Trapnell (2014:221) examined the implementation of right to information and noted that the adoption of the provisions of right to information legislation was not adequate and useful across the globe. The scholar stated that effective RTI legislation is an essential tool which empowers the citizens in modern times. The scholar suggested that policy makers and other stakeholders of development should increase the transparency of government by providing regular and reliable information to the public and facilitate relevant use of administrative information.

Bhattacharyya (2014:24) examined the right to information and its application in India and reported that RTI is an essential step in ensuring transparency and accountability in governmental systems and processes. The study revealed that right to information is a condition precedent to a good and transparent government in a developing nation like India. The scholar suggested that intellectuals and activists should sensitize the policy makers, officials and people about the best means of application of right to information which allows citizens to participate in the process of governance of the county.

Heerden (2014:85) examined the constitutionality of statutory limitation to the right of access to information held by the state in South Africa and reported that the rule guaranteed individuals an unqualified right of access to information held by the state, eliminating the qualifying proviso of the equivalent right contained in the interim Constitution. The scholar noted that the rule had been criticized for its poor
implementation. The scholar suggested that lengthy and expensive procedure should be simplified for the benefit of people who seek official information.

Rout (2014:153) examined the role of right to information in a democracy and stated that the Right to Information Act, 2005 is a legislation passed after years of people’s struggle for securing transparent, accountable and public participatory governance. The study revealed that the statutory authorities and people were not fully equipped to make use of the new legislation. The scholar suggested that proper orientation to the information providers and receivers would go a long way in achieving the goal of good governance in India.

Rajak (2014:147) examined the right to information as an effective instrument of fight against corruption in India and stated that transparency in government is required to check the corruption by the cracking ball of secrecy. The study revealed that the prevalence of corruption, lack of accountability, efficiency and effectiveness demands the requisite changes and transformations to ensure good governance. The scholar also suggested that countrywide awareness about the application of right to information should be ensured to fight against corruption in India.

Singh (2014:179) examined the relationship between right to information and democracy in India and noted that right to information has ushered in a revolutionary transformation from opacity to openness in governance mechanisms in India. The study revealed that RTI has widened and streamlined the scope of people government interaction with a noticeable bulge in people’s participation. The scholar suggested that media, NGOs and civil society should play a vital role in facilitating good governance based on active participation of people in India.

Murugkar and Zhiyong (2014:130) made a comparative analysis of right to information and open government information regulations of India and China and stated that right to information act was enacted mainly because of active civil society groups in India. The study revealed that many media, judicial and civil society organizations worked for the enactment of right to information act which is an effective instrument of good governance. The scholars found an altogether different environment in China wherein the civil society movement could not play a decisive role in the government information regulations formulation. The scholars also
pointed out that the future path towards openness in governance in these two countries would be decided by myriad of factors, some of them unique to these countries.

Gupta (2014:76) examined the impact of RTI Act in India and noted that RTI was judicially recognized as part of Article 19(1)(a) of Indian Constitution. The scholar observed that it is imperative to obtain correct information for the healthy functioning of a modern democracy since well informed citizens would gain the benefits of development and become good citizens. The scholar suggested that adequate implementation mechanisms, manpower, tools and techniques would ensure effective implementation of the provisions of RTI Act in India.

Qureshi (2014:146) examined the role of right to information as a tool of good governance and reported that all citizens of the country had the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes right of holding public opinion and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas from the public authorities. The study revealed that human security, shelter, food, environment and employment opportunity were all bound up with right to information. The scholar suggested that public officials and citizens should be sensitized by the non-government organizations and media about the timely dissemination of public information in order to ensure good governance.

Trapnell and Lemieux (2014:221) examined the drivers of effective implementation of right to information and noted that the mapping and related drivers are meant to serve as both a guide to the development of implementation strategies, as well as a heuristic for understanding the dynamism and interdependence of implementation components. The scholars also observed that there is no one strategy or approach to RTI implementation that works best in all contexts, as implementation of reform efforts across the entire public sector will be characterized by variation. The scholars suggested that a national coordinating strategy could be valuable for implementation of right to information act.

Chowdhury (2014:41) examined the impact of RTI Act and noted that the citizens have begun to use the provisions of the Act to expose corruption and maladministration in the country. The scholar noted that the bureaucrats who
worked in the information commissions and other departments as information officers had developed a negative attitude towards the Act and treated it as a burden. The scholar found that the ineffectiveness of information commissions is another factor hampering the RTI. The activists have also opposed the government's practice of appointing retired bureaucrats as information commissioners who spent their professional lives opposing disclosure of information.

Khunger (2015:105) examined the operational issues and major concerns of Right to Information Act and noted that the citizen’s right to information followed as a natural corollary in a democracy and any attempt to wide information or to create opacity cannot augur well for its health. The scholar also noted that the people have a right to know every public act, everything that is done in a public way, by their public functionaries. The scholar suggested that policy makers and public officials should implement the provisions of the act without any ulterior motives.

Murkute (2015:129) analyzed the case studies on the RTI Act, 2005 and stated that the people are entitled to gain the benefit of access to public information available in different forms in order to ensure good governance. The scholar also noted that RTI Act heralded a new era of transparency in governance and benefitted the people immensely. The scholar suggested that mass awareness campaigns should be launched by the government and non-government organizations to enable the people make use of the benefits of the act.

Bhushan (2015:25) examined the role of judiciary in the enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005 and noted that the courts often followed the practice of asking the government and public authorities to file reports in sealed covers in court. The jurists pointed out that often the orders and judgments of courts are based on their perception formed on the basis of these confidential reports, which is not only a violation of the right to information of the opposite party, but also in violation of the principles of Natural Justice, considered to be sacrosanct. The scholar has pointed out that judicial decisions have played a crucial role in creating awareness among the stakeholders of right to information in India and facilitating the enactment of the Right to Information Act.
Guru et. al (2015:78) examined the impact of Right to Information Act, 2005 and reported that it had the potential of fundamentally altering the balance of power between the government and citizens in India. The study revealed that proper implementation would ensure good governance and eliminate corruption and thereby move up the ranking of the country in the index of honesty in the governmental and institutional operations. The scholars observed that the information officers still sustained the colonial legacy and failed to adjust with the new environment of ‘disclosure and transparency’. The scholars suggested that information commissions should not depend on government for budget, staff and other requirements and function independently.

Guru et. al (2015:79) examined the right to information laws in the world and reported that Sweden, America, European countries and other countries of the world witnessed right to information movement in the fag end of the 20th century for right to information. The study revealed that a big step forward was the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in 2000, which included both freedom of expression and the right of access to documents. The scholars noted that there was significant increase by nations in the recognition of the importance of access to information both as a human right and as an important right to promote good governance and fight corruption. The study concluded that by 2015, more than 100 countries had national-level RTI laws or regulations in force including the major developing countries like China and India.

2.7 Right to Information and Media Studies

Das (2006:49) examined the impact of RTI in India and stated that the officials in the government and non government organizations have been made more alert and conscious. The scholar opined that a sense of awareness to complete the work within the schedule time has been developed among them. A fear psychosis has been developed due to the fixation of the accountability. The Act is able to check corruption to some extent. It has also brought out transparency in public administration. The mass media are able to get more reliable sources of news and hence they are able to create a sense of social awareness among the people up to a certain extent, according to the study.
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (2007:216) examined the role of media in the realization of the goal of social accountability and reported that the media had not played a pro-active role as the angel guardian of public interest due to lack of professional ethics and accountability in modern society. The study revealed that media had not explored the feasibility of de-escalating journalism in a post-conflict environment. The study suggested that media should disseminate information about governance, development, environment and other subjects in order to facilitate the goal of inclusive development in modern times.

Right to Information Assessment and Accountability Group (2008:150) examined the role of news media in popularizing the beneficial effects of RTI Act and noted that the news media had not played a crucial role in sensitizing various stakeholders of good governance about the utility and relevance of new legislation. The study pointed out that news media should disseminate the success stories of RTI activists who fought for the rights of the people. The study suggested that the lapses of public office in disseminating information sought by the activists and other citizens should be covered by the media.

RTI Assessment & Analysis Group and National Campaign for People’s Right to Information (2009) explored the need for safeguarding the right to information of the people in India and reported that access to information, especially government information, would significantly help them solve many of their basic problems. The study also examined the role of media in promoting awareness among the people about the RTI Act and stated that most people got to know about the RTI Act through news papers, followed by television and radio, and friends and relatives and NGOs.

Srivastava and Manzar (2011:190) examined the relationship between right to information and Internet and observed that the Internet was one of the most democratic forums, where the expression of one’s views knows few barriers and borders. The study revealed that ICTs played an important role in bringing disparate activist groups together in a developing country like India. The scholars suggested that there is a need to properly catalogue, index, and digitize government policies, applications, schemes, papers, announcements, etc. so that these records can be easily accessed.
Digambarrao (2012:58) examined the awareness among the college students in Aurangabad, Maharashtra about the right to information and reported that the act had enabled the people to gain access to information held by or under the control of public authorities. The scholar pointed out that people should know about what is happening in their society. The study further emphasized that access to information not only promotes openness, transparency and accountability in administration, but also facilitates active participation of people in democratic governance process.

Gatty (2012:69) examined the use of RTI among the marginalized sections of Indian society and reported that government agencies and NGOs were not actively involved in the public campaigns on the utility of right to information laws in India. The scholar further noted that absence of coordination among the members of marginalized communities and RTI facilitators also caused vacuum and backwardness among the weaker sections of society. The scholar suggested that the marginalized groups need to be prepared to access Information and Communication Technology [ICT] to empower them with newer technologies such as computer literacy so that information could be procured in a speedier and cost effective manner.

Chitra and Neelamalar (2013:40) examine the role and effectiveness of right to information with reference to print media in India and reported that media had a great responsibility of bringing social change by providing information to the people about various development programmes and curtailing corrupt practices in the name of development. The scholars further noted that the free distribution and wide reach of the Internet and social media channels is critical in the fight to reduce corruption and renew the social fabric.

Surie and Aiyar (2014:215) examined the implementation of RTI in India and noted that the awareness of importance of transparency has increased manifold but the infrastructure was not adequately built around it to allow it work better in India. The scholars also opined that civil society groups and media played a crucial role as facilitators of RTI in India. The scholars suggested that media should use the law to unearth stories and investigate issues in India.
Guru et. al (2015:80) examined the relationship between right to information and media and reported that the access to information had increased with growth of print and electronic media and the Internet. The study revealed that the right to information regime had enabled the media to cater to the needs of people in times of peace, crises and disasters. The scholars observed that media also realized the significance of right to information from the points of view of good governance and judicious development in India. The scholars suggested that media should serve as a link system between the government and society and play a crucial role as instruments of good governance.

2.8. Inferences of Review of Literature

The review of literature on right to information has led to draw the following inferences. They include:

- There is more number of scientific investigations which are carried by the scholars at the global level than national level on right to information.
- A majority of the scientific investigations are carried on right to information and policy measures in India and abroad.
- Adequate scientific investigations are conducted on the role of civil society in the enactment of right to information in India and abroad.
- Adequate scientific investigations are carried out on the role of right to information in a democratic system with a focus on good governance in India and abroad.
- Moderate numbers of scientific investigations are carried out on the organization of right to information movement in India and abroad.
- Some scientific investigations are carried out on the role of public authorities in the implementation of right to information in India and abroad.
- Quite a few scientific investigations are carried out on the role of media in the organization of right to information movement and dissemination of public information in India and abroad.
- Media intervention for right to information management is not adequately investigated by the researchers in India and abroad.
- There is not even a single scientific investigation on the use of right to information by the media professionals in Indian sub-continent.
2.9 Summary

The rights to information laws are formulated in India and abroad to check corruption in public offices and create social awareness among the people about openness, transparency and accountability in the management of administrative and developmental operations. The right to information assumes great significance in modern times since it is an effective instrument of participatory governance. The scholars have examined the role of media in the promotion of right to information and reported that the media had not played a pro-active role as the angel guardian of public interest due to several in-built constraints and system failures. The review of literature clearly indicates that adequate investigations are not carried out across the globe on the role of media in the dissemination of success stories of RTI activists who fought for the rights of the people. Prominent studies carried out on this subject include - Niranjan (2005:136), Centre for Good Governance (2006:37), Roberts (2006:152), Baviskar (2008:19), Kulkarni (2008:107), Mendel (2009:121), Desai (2010:57), Srivastava and Manzar (2011:190), Dwivedi (2012:61), Gatty (2012:69), Chitra and Neelamalar (2013:40), Shilpa (2013:174), Varun (2013:223), Qureshi (2014:146), Surie and Aiyar (2014:215), Guru et.al (2015:78) and Guru et.al (2015:79). The review of literature confirms the fact that not even a single study is carried out in India on the use of right to information by the members of the fourth estate.