CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

6.1 FINDINGS

From the data obtained through survey method, the statistical analysis was done to derive the results. The statistical tools used for the analyses were chi-square, one sample t test, Friedman test and ANOVA.

The findings are:

1. There is a significant association between frequency of watching television and observation on RTI related content. 50.5% of the respondents watch television daily. Observation of RTI related content is more by regular television viewers than the others.

2. There is a significant association between frequency of reading newspapers and observation on RTI related content. 53.7% of the respondents read newspapers daily. Observation related to RTI related content is more by regular readers of newspaper than the others.

3. There is a significant difference between mean ranks towards maximum source of information on RTI. Based on mean rank obtained for different sources of information on RTI, mass media top the list of sources of information on RTI and hence mass media give the maximum information on RTI.
4. There is a significant difference between different educational qualification groups with respect to awareness of RTI by media. Applying Duncan Multiple Range test, it was found that the respondents with post graduation have significantly higher level of awareness on RTI through media.

5. There is a significant difference between age groups with respect to awareness on RTI related content by media. Through Duncan Multiple Range test, it was proved that the respondents of age group below 20 years have significantly higher level of awareness on RTI through media than respondents from other age groups.

6. There is a significant difference between exposure to mass media and awareness creation on people.

7. Among the English news channels taken for study, ‘NDTV 24x7’ carried more content on RTI compared to other English news channels. Among the regional news channels taken for study, ‘Pudhiya Thalaimurai’ carried more content compared to the other regional news channels. Among the English newspapers taken for study, ‘The Times of India’ was found to have more coverage on RTI. Among regional newspapers, ‘Dhinamani’ was found to have more coverage on RTI related content.

8. While comparing newspapers and television news channels, it was found that the coverage of RTI related content was more on television news channels.

9. Among the English news channels taken for study, the duration of coverage of RTI was more on ‘NDTV 24x7’.
Among the regional news channels taken for study, ‘Pudhiya Thalaimurai’ carried RTI related news for a longer duration. Among the English newspapers taken for study, the space devoted to RTI related content was more in ‘The Times of India’. Among the regional newspapers space devoted on RTI related content was more in ‘Dhinathanthi’.

10. Among the news channels taken for study, news reporting was the format widely used for presenting RTI related content in newspapers and television news channels.

11. Among the English news channels taken for study, ‘NDTV 24x7’ carried more RTI related news in the headlines (68.9%). Among the regional news channels, ‘Pudhiya Thalaimurai’ carried more percentage of RTI related news in the headlines (79.2%). Among newspapers, ‘The Hindu’ gave special importance to RTI by covering more RTI related news in the first page.

12. Among the newspapers and television news channels taken for study, television gives more importance to RTI related content by covering it more in headlines compared to newspapers.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

* There is very less cost involved in making all information that is available to a department/Public Authority (PA) in digital form and completely available to public. The whole information available with governments in digital form should by default be considered for proactive disclosure through digital means. Automated processes for proactive disclosure further reduce the cost of doing so. Every Public Information
Officer (PIO) can take the necessary action for converting the available information in digital form; hence disposal of request can be made easier.

- Newspapers are effective communicators even today in the age of the dominant electronic media, contrary to the popular belief; most of them are still dependant on newspapers as the primary source of information. Awareness on RTI can be increased by having regular articles on RTI in the newspapers.

- There is less coverage on RTI in television. By having regular reporting on RTI related news in news channels and through programmes such as documentary, discussion and features, the awareness on RTI can be increased significantly.

- To make RTI interesting, RTI awareness could be spread through tele-films, folk songs, serials and dedicated time slot for covering RTI stories.

6.3 CONCLUSION

A large section of the Indian population is unaware of their rights as citizens. Media as guardians of “freedom of speech and expression” can help eradicate this poverty of information, by disseminating accurate information in order to secure people their rightful entitlements. The general feeling amongst people is that RTI as well as the provisions related to freedom of speech and expression are more accessible to media. But as a matter of a legally accessible right, media and ordinary citizens have equal access to information under the Act. This is provided for in the Constitution in the form of Right to Equality (Article 14). Media are the prime beneficiaries of RTI as media personnel have the time to pursue information, use it and take it to its logical conclusion. The role of media is to function as a
constructive opposition in a democracy and not as an adversary of the
government. Independent institutions like media can play an important and
constructive role in the long-term well being of the nation as they constitute
the only entity within the state equipped to play such a role. With the right to
information on their side, media need no longer depend on questionable
sources of information, and can use RTI Act to access credible and authentic
information. This legislation is a powerful tool in the hands of media to get
the required information within a definite time period by applying for it. The
right to information heralds a new age of investigative and authentic
journalism.

Both individually, and jointly mass media are instrumental in
making RTI a powerful Act. When media carries information, it had
credibility and people receive information about RTI mainly through various
mass media. When there is regular media coverage on RTI, the awareness
level will increase significantly among the Indians.

6.4 AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Studies could be done in the following areas of research regarding
the RTI.

1. A study can be done with more number of television news channels
   in other languages of India.
2. A study can be done with more number other language newspapers,
   leading English dailies and magazines.
3. A study can be done with Internet medium to find its role of media in
   creating awareness regarding RTI.
4. A study can be done with the film medium to find its role in taking
   RTI to the masses.
5. A study can be done with the radio medium to find its role in taking RTI to the masses.

6. A study could be done with college students to find the role of media in taking RTI to the youth.

7. A study can be done with rural people to understand the role of media in taking RTI to the rural areas.

8. A study can be done with women to understand the role of media in taking RTI to the women.