COPY OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Questionnaire for Doctoral study, Title: "Governance & Rural Development: Role of Right to Information Act"

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that I am doing Ph.D. on “Governance & Rural Development: Role of Right to Information Act” in the Faculty of Rural Studies at Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat. As a part of my research methodology I have to elicit the insights from Various stakeholders. You are requested to fill up the questionnaire and submit it online.

I am hopeful that despite your very busy schedule you will definitely make it convenient to send me your response very soon.

Yours truly, Prakash C Bacharwala, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Udhna Magdalla Road, SURAT - 395007 M-9723433973, E-mail: prakashbacharwala@yahoo.co.in

* Required

Name:

Gender: *

Category of Respondent (profession) *Please select appropriate option from the list

Name of the Organization

E-mail ID *

1. Do you think that the RTI Act will be useful to rural communities in redressing their grievances related to Rural Development? *CHOOSE APPROPRIATE OPTION
In your opinion what are the specific problems especially related to rural development that can be solved with the help of RTI? Despite lot of investments and efforts the desired results are not achieved in the areas like poverty alleviation and employment generation or to say in securing development of rural population. The rapid review of literature especially related to available evaluative literature of Rural Development Programmes identifies certain issues responsible for failure of RD programmes. We have identified following specific issues in rural development governance. Please select appropriate multiple issues listed below that you think can be addressed with RTI CHOOSE APPROPRIATE MULTIPLE OPTIONS

- Corruption
- Communication gap
- Delays / Deliberate delays
- Wastage
- Wrong beneficiary selection
- Un-transparent system of Rural development Governance
- Transfer of Money/Benefits to Non-Poor
- Dependency on Government
- Poor participation of beneficiaries
- Middlemen / Agencies take away the funds
- Lack of coordination
- Paperwork based Implementation Complexities
- Over lapping
- Lack of awareness
- Leakages
- Lack of accountability
- Absence of people’s participation
- Centralized trend of planning and deciding local priorities
- High Cost of delivery
- Absence of actual monitoring
- Absence of actual evaluation
- Use of less materials in construction than shown in the estimates or in the bills and vouchers
- Payment to fictitious workers listed in muster rolls
- Wrongful or arbitrary exercise of patronage or power selection of beneficiaries for government programmes in contravention of established rules
- Exploitation
• Exercise of official in favour of the powerful in the contravention of law or established principles of justice
• Failure to implement social legislation such as those related to minimum wages, gender and protection of disadvantaged groups
• Exercise of power in contravention of the rights and dignity of the individual
• Taking decisions that critically and adversely affect people without consulting them
• real poor are excluded and non poor are included

In your opinion what are problems related to Governance & Rural Development that can be addressed with the help of RTI? Please indicate as per your perception

In your opinion what are the problems related to rural development that CAN NOT be solved with the help of RTI? Please describe as per your perception

What is your opinion regarding free information to Below Poverty Line (BPL) persons?

Do you think that without the existence of this act is it possible for common rural citizens to get information (which is being provided under RTI)? *
According to your perception which category of people are using this act? *Select Multiple as per your perception

- Journalists
- Below Poverty line Citizens (BPL)
- Beneficiaries
- Advocates
- Activists / NGOs
- Government officers (including retired govt. officers)
- Academicians
- Political parties / Politicians including Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj
- Corporate people
- Middle men
- Persons with Malafied Interest / Wasted Interest

According to your perception which category of people are MISUSING this act? *Select Multiple as per your perception

- Journalists
- Below Poverty line Citizens (BPL)
- Beneficiaries
- Advocates
- Activists / NGOs
- Government officers (including retired govt. officers)
- Academicians
- Political parties / Politicians including Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj
- Corporate people
- Middle men
- Persons with Malafied Interest / Wasted Interest

Do you feel the RTI act is being misused? *CHOOSE APPROPRIATE OPTION

- Misused in Each and Every case
- Misused at large Extent
- Misused at some Extent
- Misused in Exceptional Cases
- Not Misused at All
Suggestions to curb the misuse of This act?

According to your perception which category of information is being asked CHOOSE APPROPRIATE OPTIONs

- Finance / Budget / Income - Expenditure / Allocation etc.
- Beneficiary Selection
- Government Schemes
- Services of Particular Department
- Grievances
- Promotion / Service Related Matters / CR / Transfer etc.
- land Related matters

In your opinion what arrangements can be made by the Office/ Department for helping people who are illiterate and/ or who live below the poverty line to make an application for disclosure of information at all levels?

Which part of the act is never implemented? Why?
Share your Views about Role of Right to Information Act in reforming the Governance in general and Rural Development in particular

"The use of Right to Information Act is very objective and productive in the development activity"  

"The instrument of Right to Information Act has provided an excellent opportunity to the beneficiaries for the direct and decisive participation in rural development"

The Right to Information Act has played a vital role in containing corruption in the rural development at all the stages and helped promotion of transparency in the process of rural development

"The BUREOCRATIC perception of the use of information act is very right in view of the irresponsible use of information act interrupting the very process of effective efficient and rapid rural development"

SHARE YOUR VIEWS REGARDING "improving the qualitative use of the instrument of Right to Information Act with an appropriate policy changes"

SHARE YOUR VIEWS REGARDING "improving the qualitative use of the instrument of Right to Information Act with education spread among the users"