CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

I.1 Introduction
The Right to Information Act 2005 has brought new dimension to the fundamental rights of a person as well as the administration of the government and the role of public servant in this country. Anna Hajare rightly said in an interview that, The Right to Information Act is Historical event in the Indian context, which is powerful tool to serve as an instrument in the process of Social transformation. The Act plays important role in Education and Agriculture sector. This Act is useful to employee, students, teachers, Management, NGO’s, farmers and end user that is consumers.

India is a country where different types of people live. By democracy process people created social Institutions, Government and Non- Government organizations. Our Constitution has given human rights and other rules and regulations to each and every person. So Right to Information is the best weapon in the hands of people and Government. However, its performance is based on government; every state is internally and externally sovereign. Therefore its state should act and react towards the people and their aspirations.

Right to Information Act came into force on 12th October 2005. It extends to the whole of India except the state of Jammu & Kashmir. By Parliament in the Fifty-sixth Year of the Republic of India enacted as follows:—

"Information" means any material in any form, including records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law for the time being in force;

"Right to Information" means the right to information accessible under this Act which is held by or under the control of any public authority and includes the right to, inspection of work, documents, records; taking notes, extracts or certified copies of documents or records; taking certified samples of material; obtaining information in the form of diskettes, floppies, tapes, video cassettes or in any other electronic mode
or through printouts where such information is stored in a computer or in any other device;

In general, “Right to Information” means ‘The right of all citizens to access information held by or under the control of any public authority including the right to

1. Inspection of work, documents, records;
2. Taking notes, extracts, certified copies of documents or records;
3. Taking certified samples of material;
4. Obtaining information in the form of diskettes, floppies, tapes, video, and cassettes or in any other electronic mode or through printouts where such information is stored in a computer or in any other device’.

Information helps to increases curiosity in democracy and its hidden administrative process, may develop the negative thinking among the people but transparency develops the interests among the people. Because of right to information literates and illiterates stand on the same line to access the benefits of the state and its services.

The word “Information” derived from the Latin word “Informare”, was used in English from at least the 14th century, but gained its current spelling only in the 16th century. The Oxford English dictionary gives several examples like news, intelligence and the communication of facts. The right to “Information” Act brought great impact on Indian Administration as well as on Indian society for social change. The increase in the population at present India has reached to 110 crores. So the sense of equality participation and keeping activism of democracy is more important in the present period. Therefore, what is and what can be the possible role of “The Right to Information” in the process of Justice and equality among the people of India. In 2002 parliament approved ‘Act to Right’ which belongs to all states and union territories. But all the states and union territories did not implement it. So that it was changed to “Right to Information Act 2005”. It has been implementing from 12th October 2005 in all over country.

I.2 Need of the study

The right to information has been recognized as a fundamental human right, which upholds the inherent dignity of all human beings. The Right to Information Act plays a crucial role in democracy - it is essential to ensure accountability and good governance. The greater the access of the citizen to information, the greater the responsiveness of government to community needs. Alternatively, the more
restrictions that are placed on access, the greater will be the feelings of 'powerlessness' and 'alienation'. Without information, people cannot adequately exercise their rights as citizens or make informed choices.

In a country like India, the people run our government by sending their representatives in the parliament. Indirectly people participate in the democracy system. Here not only representatives but also other government officials play an important role. People should have the right to get information about the work of representatives and their officials that is the detailed information about the administrative work. It is the duty of every citizen to think about the administration of the country and to be acknowledged about the laws passed by the government.

Generally the common people are engaged in their day-to-day activities. They don’t know what is happening in the administrative level such as in Grampanchayat at Village level, Panchayat samiti at Tahasil level, Zilha Parishad at District level, State government at State level and Central government at center. This type of problem can be solved by using a tool of ‘Right to information Act’.

The Osmanabad District has 8 Tahasils having population of 16, 60,311 lakhs as per census 2011 with 722 villages spread over 8 Tahasils. The District is Industrial backward and main occupation is agriculture. 80% of people live in rural areas of 722 villages in the District. The numbers of agencies are working for the development of the District, such as in the field of agriculture, finance, industry and social educational sector. The central and state government also issued various schemes for the development of the District, such as Rural Development Programmes, Industrial Development Programmes etc. But today, we also say that the District is backward because there are possibilities of non-implementing the various schemes by the department and their officials or any other related section. There is also the possibility of non participation of the people. In that sense there question about the responsibility of the schemes and policies that not implemented properly. The Act like Right to Information Act 2005 empowers the common people as a tool of enquires the various scheme and policies for their upliftment.

In this context to study the problem and prospectives of the Right to Information Act is a need of time. Osmanabad District is one of the backward District of Maharashtra State. There is no perennial source of irrigation in Osmanabad district where
agriculture depends mostly on tanks (largely rain fed) and wells. The central and state government has been implementing various schemes for the development of District. While implementing such schemes it is necessary to know all the aspects of these schemes to the common people. In that sense the researcher has decided to study whether the common people use the new Act ‘Right to Information Act’ as a tool for their upliftment.

I.3 Significance of the Study

With the passage of enactment of Right to Information Act immense scope was availed to the researcher to examine and study the contents, impacts, problems and prospects of the Act. Everybody is agreeing that the Right to Information Act is basically useful tool for Social Transformation but sometime there is possibility of malpractices and unhealthy practices. So here exists two side of this Act that is positive and negative side.

The shortcoming of this Act is that this act is misused. Some organizations are misguiding the society and general public for self interest. Some protective Information will not be distributed to the public as a secret of nation or society. This is also one of the important problems in Right to Information Act.

Another side of this Act is that it helps for promoting transference and accountability in the working of every public authority in the Democracy, Bureaucracy and Educational system, etc.

Hence this study is prepared exclusively for making a study about the Right to Information Act 2005. Therefore, the researcher has decided to Analysis the various practical problems and prospectives of this Act. For this purpose a subject is selected and entitled,

I.4 Objectives of the Study

The study has following objectives,

- To know the History and Structure of Right to Information Act in India.
- To study the practical problems and Prospectives of the Right to Information Act.
- To study and observe the awareness with regard to Right to Information Act in Business and Industry.
- To suggest ways for healthy and sound society by implementing Right to Information Act.

I.5 Hypotheses of the Study
The following hypotheses are framed and tested in this study.
H₁. Whether common people know about Right to Information Act;
H₂. Whether Right to Information Act helps in Social Transformation;
H₃. Whether Trade and Business uses Right to Information Act.

I.6 Research Methodology of the Study
The study has conducted on the basis of Case Study Approach.

I.6.1 Case Study Approach
Case study approach to research is rather a recent development in research. It involves a deeper investigation of a single unit, may be an individual, a family, an institution, a district, a community or any single event selected for intensive examination. Case study approach has been developed essentially as a problem solving technique and also as a suggestive device for improvements in various dimensions of the case under examination. Suppose, a firm has been selected for a case study, it not only help in investigating and finding solutions to some of the problems facing the firm but may also go a long way in suggesting improvements in the present functioning or operations of that particular firms. Thus case study method is more intensive in nature. The field of study is comparatively limited but has more depth in it. It aims at studying everything about something, rather than something about everything as in the case of statistical method.

According to P. V. Young, “A comprehensive study of a social unit, be that unit a person, a group, a social institution, a district, or a community, is called a case study”¹. According to Goode and Hatt “It is an approach which views any social unit as whole. It is a way of organizing social data so as to preserve the unitary character of the social object being studied”². The case study is thus a form of qualitative analysis involving the very careful and complete observation of a person, a situation or an institution. It is an inclusive and intensive study of an individual in which investigator brings to bear all his skills and methods or as a systematic gathering of enough information about a person to permit one to understand how he or she functions as a unit of society.
This approach to research may not be based on a given hypothesis or on any established conclusions but the study itself may help in developing a well founded hypothesis for further investigations. This approach to research is, therefore, an open and objective examination of a particular unit with a view to developing a hypothesis for further research. Case study approach is also flexible in character as a researcher has complete independence in approaching the problem from any that he considers as desirable and fruit bearing from his point of view.

Thus, by using case study approach we have conducted study in Osmanabad district of Maharashtra state.

I.6.2 Sample Method

After selection of the Osmanabad district for the study the question before us was the selection of sample. We have selected all the 8 Tahasils of the district for the study and 160 respondents are selected from these 8 Tahasils by using random sampling. The selected respondents again divided into 5 categories like Farmers Business, Servicemen, Government officials and Industry. The list of selected respondents is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Name of Tahasils</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Businessmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Omerga</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lohara</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Osmanabad</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Washi</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bhoom</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tuljapur</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Paranda</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Kalamb</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I.7 Data Collection
The necessary information of the study has been collected both from Primary Data and Secondary Data collection method.

I.7.1 Primary Data
The Primary Data is collected on the selected 160 respondents of 5 categories in Osmanabad district. For that purpose the researcher has designed a systematic questionnaire. The questionnaire was distributed to the respondents. The researcher has tabulated the data collected through filled questionnaire from sample 160 respondents of all 8 Tahasils of Osmanabad district.

I.7.2 Secondary Data
The Secondary Data is collected from the published sources like books, journals, newspaper, websites, etc.

I.8 Techniques of the Study
The data collected with the help of research methodology are analysed by using various Tools and Techniques of statistical method. In order to analyse the problems and prospectives of Right to Information Act of sample respondents we have used simple descriptive statistics, such as
- Percentage,
- Trends,
- Graph.

I.9 Limitation of the Study
The study is limited to 4 years only, as this Act has commenced from 2005. The problems and prospective will be studied on the basis of analysis of these 4years. In respect of investigation is restricted to 160 members selected from the district. Since the Right to Information Act and its implementation procedures is same throughout the India, the study based on collected data from the Osmanabad district can give interference which is common to all districts. It is almost impossible to cover this vast and diversified area without any loopholes. Hence a sample has been drawn from the universe. We are well aware of the limitation of a survey method based on sampling techniques. At times, analysis will be done based on options and observation.
I.10 Chapter Scheme of the Study:

The study has divided into the following Chapters and sub chapters…

Chapter I – Introduction and Methodology of the Study

The frame work of the study is mentioned in this chapter; that includes introduction of the theme, objectives, hypothesis and methodology is mentioned.

Chapter II – Review of Literature

An attempt has been made in this study to examine the role and impact of Right to Information Act in India. For that purpose we have reviewed 50 research work done by various researchers and authors in this study. Out of these 50 review of literature majority of review’s had been taken from websites, news article, cases of RTI Act etc. These reviews helped us to understand the theme of the subject in detail for further analysis.

Chapter III - History and Structure of Right to Information Act

The chapter History and structure of Right to Information Act, dealt with the need, concept of Right, Information and Right to Information Act. The chapter also dealt with the importance of Information in our day today life. This chapter concluded that the law by themselves is not adequate, so Right to Information Act which came into force on 12th October 2005 is the best only if it is adequately used by common people.

Chapter IV – Analysis of Implementation of RTI act by Central government

The chapter Analysis of Implementation of RTI Act by Central government dealt with an overview of Implementation of the RTI Act by Ministries, Departments and other Public Authorities and Central Information Commission during 2006-10 i.e. status of RTI application received and their disposal of complaints/appeals, details of total amount collected during 2006-10.

This chapter concludes that the Right to Information Act is compulsory for the Government and their officers. But this act by themselves is not adequate if only common people take 100 percent use of effective measures given by Central Information Commission.
Chapter V - Profile of Osmanabad District
The Chapter Profile of Osmanabad District dealt with History and statistical information of Osmanabad District. It also dealt with Geographical and Economical profile of Osmanabad District. The chapter also dealt with the role of farmers, Industries, Servicemen and Government officials Implementing Right to Information Act.

Chapter VI – Data Analysis
For the purpose of study, all 8 Tahasils of Osmanabad District were selected. From each Tahasils 20 respondents were selected randomly and again divided into 5 categories such as Farmer respondents, Business respondents, Servicemen respondents, Government Officials respondents and Respondents from Industry (From each category 32 respondents of all 8 Tahasils). Total 160 respondents randomly selected from Osmanabad District.

For the purpose of Data Analysis, 32 respondents of each category had given Pre designed questionnaire about 12-14 questions. We have tabulated the data collected through filled questionnaire from sample 160 respondents of all 8 Tahasils of Osmanabad district. The data from five categories like Farmer, Business, Servicemen, Government Officials and Respondents from Industry analysed for the purpose of knowing awareness, problems and prospectives of RTI Act.

Hypotheses Testing:
The hypotheses framed in this study are tested on the basis of percentage of primary data analysis. The indicators of accept and reject of the hypotheses are above 50 per cent and below 50 percent respectively.

Chapter VII – Observations and Conclusions of the Study
This chapter includes the observations and conclusions drawn on the basis of Data analysis of sample respondents such as Farmer respondents, Business respondents, Servicemen respondents, Government Officials respondents and Respondents from Industry where awareness and use of Act, problems and prospective of the Right to Information Act have been observed of each 5 sample categories of total 160 respondents.

Questionnaire:

Bibliography: