

RTI FORUM MEMBERS' NAME AND ADDRESS

Brief on RTI Forum

The demand for a right to information law was raised by civil society groups and media persons, realizing that if Bangladesh were to have any chance of improving governance, curbing corruption and establishing accountability in public institutions, then a law on RTI would be key tool to do so.

In this regard, Manusher Jonno Foundation along with its partners, non partner organizations, civil society members, academicians media professionals and other stakeholders have taken the initiatives to bring together all those organizations working on issues of transparency and accountability for the benefit of the people under an umbrella in order to create joint force.

The right to information forum, which is comprised of 30 plus organizations and individuals, was launched on 21 August 2008 to work with government and other stakeholders to expedite enactment of the RTI law. Their lobbying resulted in the RTI ordinance 2008. when the present government came to power the RTI forum lobbied with parliamentarians and policy makers for enactment of the law in parliament. It also rallied concern on some of the existing weaknesses and worked for revision of some of the clauses.

Purpose of RTI Forum

The RTI forum was formed to as a loose coalition to lobby for the enactment of the RTI law and monitor its implementation. The mission of the RTI Forum is to build capacity among its members to facilitate the use of RTI as an empowering tool for the people particularly poor and disadvantaged people; mainstreaming right to information in all development agenda; building awareness on the law and its use and supporting public authorities towards an accountable and transparent work culture.

Scope of RTI forum work includes

Play a watchdog role for with relevant authority to monitor proper implementation of the RTI law 2009, identify loopholes, advocate revisions if necessary.

Sharing of knowledge and encouraging cross learning and documentation of best practices

Taking progressive actions for proactive disclosure and setting accountable and transparent system with in own organization.

Linking up with similar regional and international level efforts

Playing watch dog role to monitor performance of public institution as information Providian agency and information commission as guardian institution to protect people's right to know

Undertaking research on compliance of government and non- government authorities of the RTI law

Putting out Press release to inform general public about progress in implementation, non compliance etc.

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