

A Critical Examination on the Impact of the Right to Information on Transparency and Accountability

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Abstract: *This paper highlights the major impact and limitations of the right to information act on transparency and accountability, to gather public agreeability on certain categories of information that cannot be disclosed and to gain public opinion on the impact of the right to information on a country's economic growth. The Right to Information Act (RTI Act) is a crucial legislation that was enacted in India in 2005 with the aim of promoting transparency and accountability in the functioning of government institutions. It has allowed citizens to obtain information about government policies, decisions, and actions, thus enabling them to hold public officials accountable. By providing a mechanism for accessing information, the Act has helped in exposing corruption, inefficiency, and maladministration within the government system. The Central Information Commission serves as the apex appellate authority to hear appeals and complaints regarding the implementation of the Act at the central level. State Information Commission is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the RTI Act at the state level. The United Kingdom has the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which provides individuals the right to request and access information held by public authorities. Scotland has a separate Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 that covers public authorities in Scotland. This is an empirical research conducted using a simple random sampling method and collected a poll of 210 responses from the general public. According to the findings, the majority of the respondents agree that the right to information has helped to expose corruption and facilitated the country's economic growth and governance. The major findings indicate that improving service delivery and empowering citizens are the major impact of the Right to information act and lack of awareness and limited scope are the major limitations of the study. The majority of the respondents agree that certain information cannot be disclosed as a means to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the nation*

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