

LW416: LAWS RELATING TO RIGHT TO INFORMATION

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The subject deals with law relating to right to information which is one of the fundamental right implied under Article 19(1)(a) of the constitution and it emphasis on application to provide a strong understanding of the fundamental concepts related to RTI. It is expected from all the students irrespective of their academic stream to make themselves aware about the RTI.

Course Objectives:

1. Conceptualize the need, importance and various dimension of right to information.
2. Developing insight to right to information regime in India.
3. Provide application based approach to Right to Information Act.
4. Appraise on access to information in order to promote transparency and accountability.

Course Outcomes:

1. Comprehend the nature, scope and application of Right to Information from constitutional and legislative perspective.
2. Adequate exposure in drafting RTI applications and procedural requirement of RTI Act in obtaining information.
3. Exemplify the essence of RTI and its application in environment, educational institution and make student a responsive citizen.
4. Synthesis the concept of 'rights' and various 'reasonable restriction' under the RTI Act.
5. able to harmonise conflicting interest to preserve the democratic ideals.

UNIT I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION: TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 1.1. Historical Evolution of Right to Information
- 1.2. RTI and its relationship with Good Governance in democracy
- 1.3. Conceptualisation of RTI: A comparative Study

1.4. Right to Information and Indian Constitution

UNIT II: RIGHT TO INFORMATION LAW

2.1. Legislating the right to information- History

2.2. Salient features of RTI Act

2.3. Public Authorities and obligations

2.4 Composition, powers and functions of Information Commissions

UNIT III: IMPLEMENTATION OF RTI

3.1. Procedure to obtain Information

3.2. Exemption, limitation and restrictions on disclosure of Information

3.3. Appeal and penalties

3.4. Third Party Information and procedure

UNIT IV: APPLICATION OF RTI IN CERTAIN CASES

4.1. RTI and Environment

4.2. RTI and Educational Institution (Examination related matters and other issues)

4.3. RTI and Private Institutions, NGOs etc.

4.4. Drafting of RTI application and appeals

Textbooks:

Rao, Law relating to right to information, Jurisprudential and philosophical foundations, Pentagon Press, Vol. 1, 2009.

Sharma S.D. Sharma and Saxena, Priti , *Right to Information: Implementation Problems and Solutions*, Jain Book Agency, New Delhi, 2013.

References

Barowalia J N, Commentary on the Right to Information Act, 2010.

Dhaka Rajvir S, Right to Information and Good Governance, 2010.

Iyer Krishna (Justice) V.R *Freedom of Information*, Eastern Book Co. Lucknow, 1990.

Mustafa F., Constitutional Issues in Freedom of information; International and National Perspectives, Kanishka Publishers, New Delhi, 2003.

Narayana (Justice) P.S. & Reddy 'Freedom of Information and Law', Dogia Law Agency, Hyderabad 2003.

Rao, Law Relating to Right to Information, A Constitutional, legal and Human Rights Perspective, Pentagon Press, 2009.

Sharma Prashant, Democracy and Transparency in the Indian State: The Making of the Right to Information Act, Routledge, London and New York, 2015.

Shrivastava KM, The Right to Information: A Global Perspective, 2013.

Thomas Antkowiak M., Gonza Alejandra, The American Convention on Human Rights: Essential Rights, Oxford University Press, USA, 2017.

Verma R.K. and Verma Anuradha, Right to Information Law & Practice with case book on Right to information, 2010.

E-BOOKS

Bhat Sairam, "Right to Information and Good Governance," ed., NLSIU Book Series-3, (Bengaluru: National Law School of India University Bengaluru, 2016) <http://nlspub.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/RTI-BOOK.pdf>

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, "Our Rights Our Information, Empowering People to Demand Rights Through Knowledge."
@https://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/publications/rti/our_rights_our_information.pdf.

Department of Personnel & Training, "Guide on the Right to Information Act, 2005." @<https://www.drysrhu.edu.in/word/GuideonRTI.pdf>.

Gandhi, Sailesh Gandhi and Kachare, Pralhad, RTI Act (Authentic Interpretation of Statute)<https://satyamevjayate.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/RTI-Act-Authentic-Interpretation-of-the-Statute.pdf>, Government of India Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions,

Macovei Monica, Human Rights Hand Books, No. 2 "Freedom of expression. A guide to the implementation of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights" 2nd ed., 2001. @ <https://rm.coe.int/168007ff48>.