

FELLOWSHIP REPORTS - 2012

The Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, is administering a Plan scheme titled 'Improving Transparency and Accountability in Government through effective Implementation of the Right to Information Act'. Under this scheme, DOPT offers short-term fellowships of 3 months' duration to researchers from the field of media / Civil Society professionals / RTI Trainers to conduct field based research on themes relating to RTI. The research output would enhance our understanding of the status of the implementation of the act, including its successes, constraints in its implementation and how those are being / could be overcome and what more needs to be done to help achieve the objectives of the Act.

In the year 2012 the fellowship was awarded to Shri Manu Moudgil, Shri Harsha Rajgatty and Ms.Rekha Rani.

Shri Manu Moudgil: He is a freelance journalist. The subject of the study done by him is victimization of RTI applicants and strategies for their protection. He has studied six cases of RTI victims from Gujarat and three cases from Rajasthan.

Shri Harsha Rajgatty: He is a journalist by profession. His research is an attempt to study the effectiveness of capacity building interventions of RTI on the marginalised groups in the region of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi district.

Ms.Rekha Rani: She is a RTI Trainer. The study done by her relates to securing entitlements under PDS and education, the systemic and procedural changes brought about by Public authorities in streamlining service delivery, the role of different stakeholders of RTI regime in prompting RTI as an instrument of governance, accountability and the barriers in realization of RTI in general. The study was conducted in two slums in East Delhi viz. Sundar Nagari and New Seema Puri.