

‘Pre and Post RTI Ground Realities and Corruption Vulnerability Analysis in NREGS, Swarnagayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana and Indira Awaas Yojana’

1) Common man Survey:

Fact about the Interventional area: In Jaipur and Tonk, two administrative districts of Rajasthan this pre and post surveys were conducted. In terms of RTI related work. It is the capital city of Rajasthan owing largely expended rural areas including 11 rural blocks with a history of a feudal state, was built almost 275 years back. The total geographical area of Jaipur district is 11,117.8sq. kms with the Population of 52.5 lakh (Urban Population-25, 93,791, Rural Population-26, 58,597, Male Population-27, 69,096, Female Population-24, 83,292 with Population Density of 471 per sq. kms, Literacy Rate-70.63%, No. of Sub-divisions-13, No. of Tehsils-13, No. of Panchayat Samiti-13, No. of Villages-2340 but two blocks are urban and rest 11 are rural blocks in which this project activities were implemented.

Tonk district is located in north- eastern part of the state bordering Jaipur in the north, Sawai Madhopur in the east, Bundi and Bhilwara districts in the south and Ajmer district in the west with total geographical area of 7194 sq kms, Population of 1211671 (2001 census), Population Density-168 per sq. kms, Literacy Rate-52%, Sex Ratio-934 females per 1000 males, No. of Subdivisions-7, No. of Tehsils-7, Panchayat Samiti-6, No. Of Villages-1093 and number of blocks are six where project activities are under implementation.

Research Methodology:

Both the surveys were carried out by project stakeholders down the line called as Consortium of Groups for Combating Corruption (CGCC) members at block level in all the seventeen rural blocks of both districts. Before starting the survey, all the CGCC surveyors were thoroughly oriented for conducting these surveys. The methodology in both the surveys was same with no difference. Survey methodology and all the questions were discussed one by one and a mock exercise of filling the questionnaires was also done to enhance the clarity level of all the surveyors. It was daylong exercise, done with the help of subject experts. At least two surveyors from each block were short listed and trained. The total sample size of the questionnaires was 600 including 413 of beneficiaries of NREGS, IAY and SGSY and other schemes and 187 of service providers form Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department from both the districts. Selection of respondents was done on basis of the location of his/her residence, which has to be centrally located of the town or village that was selected for response.

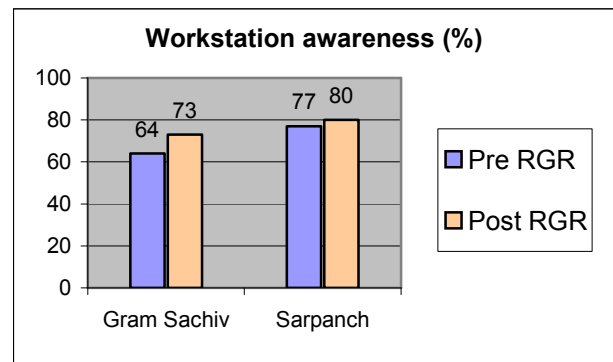
In Pre RGR Survey; majority of respondents were (77) males and 23% were females. Most of the (52%) respondents were in the age group of 30 to 45 years. 55% of the respondents were educated up to middle and secondary class and 15% were college and above level educated. Most of the respondents (62%) were beneficiaries of NREGS,

22% respondents were beneficiary of Indira Aawas Yojana and 16% respondents were beneficiaries of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana.

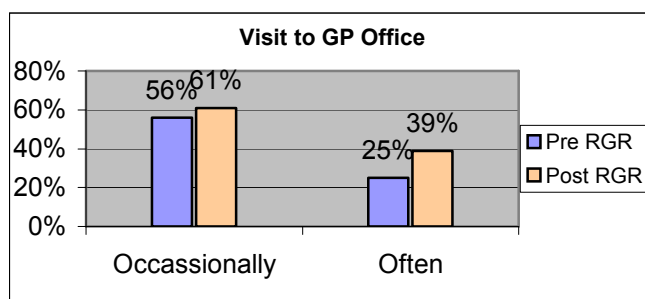
In post RGR survey, majority (84%) of the respondents were males, 65% were in the age group of 26 to 45 years, 56% were educated upto middle and secondary standard and 21% were graduate and above. 46% of them were professing agriculture work and beneficiaries of NREGS and 28% were unemployed youths. In this post RGR survey a classification of respondents has been done on the basis of rural and semi urban areas of blockhead quarters level as well.

Findings:

Awareness about the workstation: During survey it was found that only 37% respondents know the fact that where a Patwari sits but about the Gram Sachiv almost 64% people know about his office and about Sarpanch 77% villagers know that he is also supposed to be sit at GP (Gram Panchayat) Office. 64% respondents said that GP members also sits at GP which is wrong to say and show that they are not aware about the role of GP members because GP members usually do not sit at GP office but only come if any meeting of activity is there.

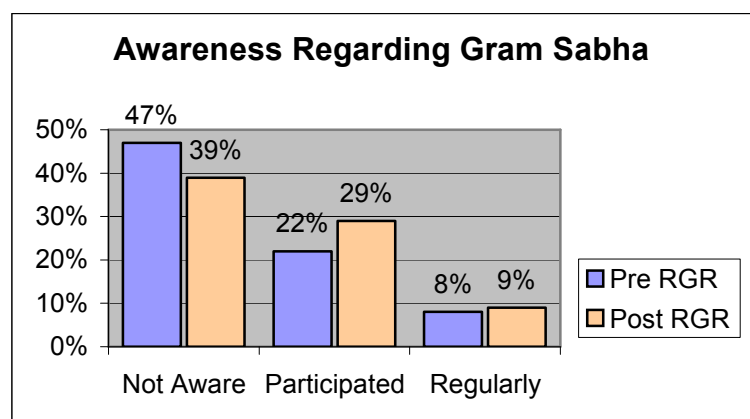


Even today, it could a big surprise for a person who believes in participatory democracy and think that a public representative like Sarpanch is known in the small area like Gram panchayat, but it is not reality. Sarpanch is unknown by a big chunk (20%) and Gram



Secretary by 27% of the local people. Rojgar Sahayak appointed under NREGS is unknown for majority of (61%) people.

Visit to GP Office: As far as the visits of the local villagers to GP office is concerned, only 25% respondents visit often and 56% visit occasionally. Out of total respondents 15% never visited GP



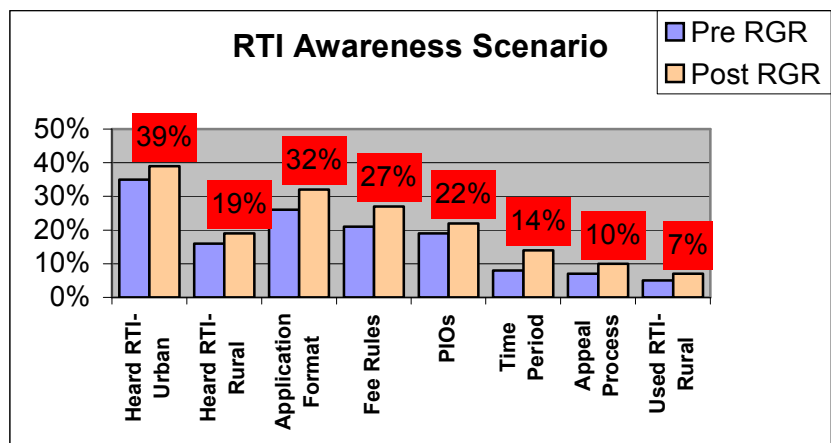
office any point of time in their life. Only 61% people visit the GP office for various sorts of works. 48% of the people who visit the GPs visit it very rarely and 13% of them visit it never. Remaining 39% visits the GP place regularly for different works.

Awareness regarding Gram Sabha: At the start of the intervention, 47% respondents have never heard about the provision of the Gram Sabha at all but around 08% respondents came to know about GP provision during last year but still 39% respondents not aware about it which seems to be the main reason of poor participation in Gram Sabha and in people’s planning. The current participation level in Gram Sabha is around 29%, which improved around 07% during project period. There are some people who regularly participate in the Gram Sabhas are only few (08% to 09%) which is less that the quorum mark which is 10% of the GP population. There are around 43% people who expressed their willingness to participate in Gram Sabhas if they are informed on time and their given suggestions are taken in to account. The people who don’t participate in Gram Sabhas said that they do not participate because of time constraint (20%), 19% said that it is wastage of their time to participate in such meetings, 18% don’t participate because of the reasons not mentioned here or say other reasons which are not defined here.

Awareness regarding RTI Act, 2005 among common man: In the selected two districts, only 39% people have heard about the RTI Act 2005 so by this it can be inferred that awareness regarding this act in rural areas is still not enough. As far as the awareness regarding the RTI application-filing process is concerned, 26% people know about Application format, 19% respondents know about Public Information Officer, 21% respondents known to fee rules for APL and BPL applicants, 08% respondents were aware about the Time Period in which information has to be provided to applicants and only 7% respondents are aware about the provisions of first and second Appellate Authorities.

Awareness regarding application filing process under RTI Act, 2005: The people who are aware about this Act and used this as filing

RTI application in various departments but their percentage is not more than 5.4% in these two districts. Only twelve respondents filed RTI application pot of 242 total respondents only in 33% percent cases information was provided by PIOs and out of them 75% of RTI applicants were not satisfied with the provided information but as far as going for first appeal is concerned merely 8.4% applicants opted this option and rest were decided for not going in to that due to various reasons.

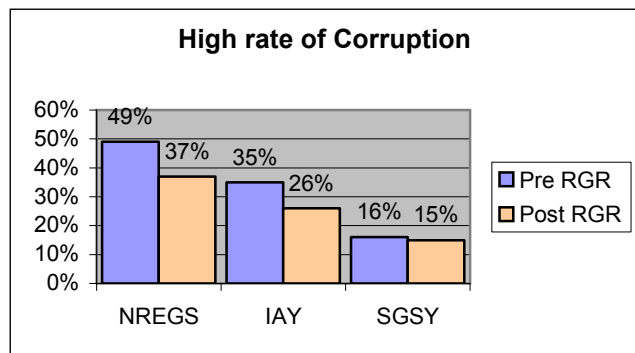


Aware about the potent law of RTI is still a concern in rural areas because only 19% of them have heard about this progressive legislation. But in the semi urban areas of the blocks headquarters in the two districts is quite high as 39%. Which was 35% before the start of the project.

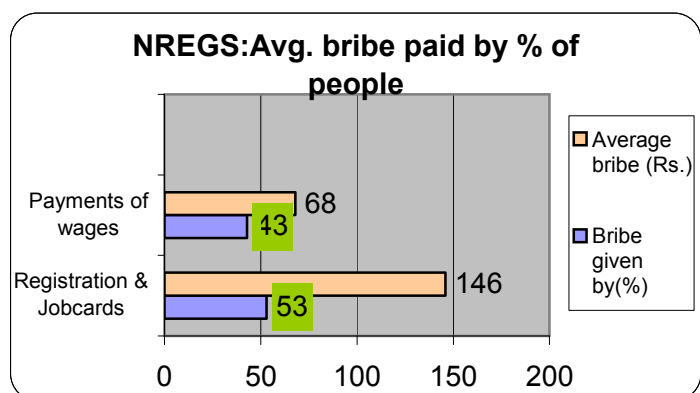
Regarding the filing process of RTI Act 2005; 32% people know about the request format that it can be made on plain paper as well. 27% people know about required fee and 22% know about the Public Information Officer. Only 14% people could correctly answered about the mandatory time period of 30 days but even less than this only 10% people are aware about first appeal and 04% about the second appeal.

The use of RTI Act 2005 in rural areas is very minimal and only 09% people used this Act as tool in various govt. departments for various purposes. 54% of out of total use of RTI was done in Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department itself. Here important thing to note is that in majority of cases roughly 80%, people came to know about this Act through NGOs only. In all the cases of using RTI, 62% applicants received information remaining people could not receive it. Only 27% applicants were satisfied with the information. These RTI applications (48%) were related to corruption issues and 32% were related to personal issues, remaining 20% were related to public benefit issues of the villages.

Prevalence of Corruption: Common villagers shared their views regarding their experiences of corruption specifically in rural development and Panchayatiraj department and 49% respondents expressed that in NREGS corruption is prevailing at high rate in comparison of IAY (35% said that it is high in this scheme) and SGSY (16%) schemes. But in case of Indira Aawas in majority of cases, GP officials give benefits after receiving some bribe. So if comparison is done there is less corruption in SGSY scheme but Indira Aawas Yojana comes somewhere in middle of both schemes out of selected three schemes.



Among the total respondents 74% had the opinion that corruption is rampant in the selected three schemes of RD Department. In selected three schemes, NREGS is most corrupt as said 37% respondents and 18% SGSY beneficiaries say that it is least corrupt scheme. The level of corruption is less in Indira Aawas Yojana in comparison to NREGS but more than SGSY as said



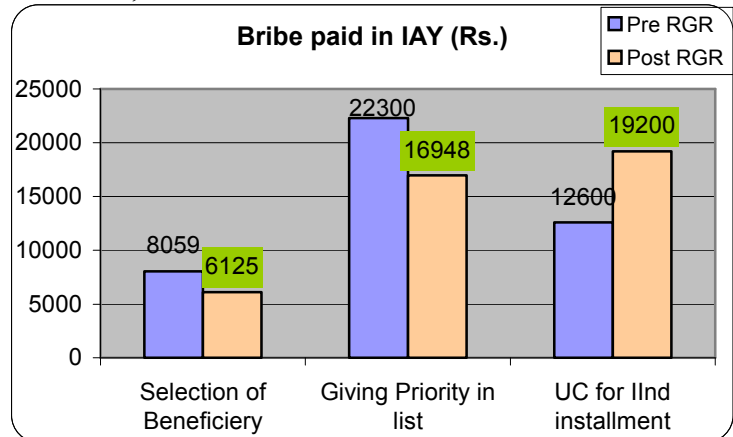
by 26% of respondents. 19% people said that corruption is equal in all the schemes as above because corrupt executives indiscriminately do the corrupt activities.

In the NREGS quantum and areas of Corruption are very high and wide. After discussing with the stakeholders certain areas were short-listed. These are as follows.

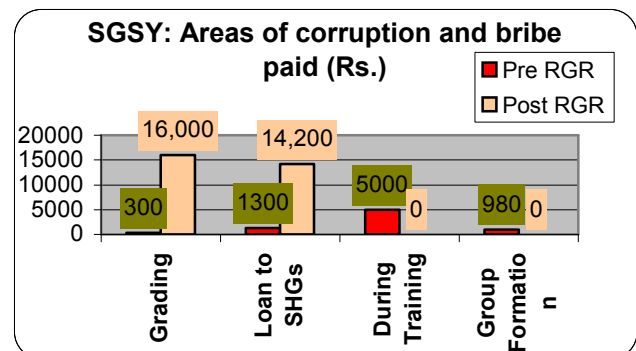
Registration for job and making job cards: At the initial stage when registration for entitlement for job was done and then job cards were made, lot of corruption had happened in this. As this scheme progressed and time passes most of the job cards were made but still number of cards are being made and service providers are taking bribe in 56% cases on an average Rs. 146 which is higher than pre RGR survey which was in 43% cases on an average Rs. 68. The main reason of this is that since most of the job cards are already made and these new cards are either left out cases or extra in the joint family in the name of any adult member therefore service providers charge heavy bribe for that. In the post RGR survey no case was reported in which bribe was paid for providing job and for measurement of the work done so these areas are no more areas of bog corruption now.

Payment of wages: This area is most corrupt area where beneficiaries have to pay lot of bribe. On every withdrawal a person has to give Rs. 40 as bribe to various service providers. Though the quantum of corruption is there in construction work and procurement under NREGS but those areas were not the focus of the activities.

IAY: This scheme is also sick of corruption. Since, beneficiaries of this scheme are BPL people who are gullible and raise their voice rarely. That's why in this scheme; corruption is prevailing at all stages especially in the following stages. *Selection of beneficiaries:* This is the first stage in which beneficiaries are selected from the BPL list. Lot of favoritism is done at this level and even bribes are taken and GP officials cut share of benefits given under this scheme. During Pre RGR survey total amount given, as bribe was 8059 and in Post RGR it is Rs. 6125.



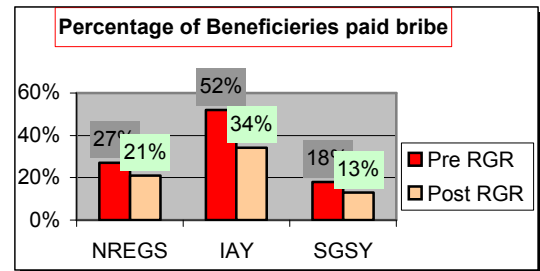
Changing the order up in the list: This area of corruption is also very big. The reduction in the bribe amount was reported from Rs. 22,300 to 16,948. Like wise in the Post RGR this form was noticed in which service providers demand bribe while submitting the utilization certificate of the first installment. In this area rate of corruption was reported higher than before due to initiating a new system of crediting the sanctioned amount



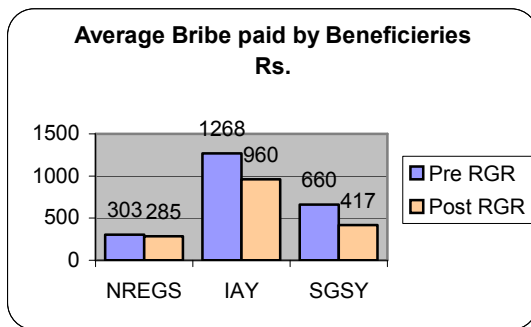
directly in beneficiary's bank account. The corruption in the first two areas is around 20 to 25% on an average and the new system of bank payments overall reduced the rate of corruption in this scheme.

SGSY: In Post RGR survey the facts came out for the changing areas of corruption was that grading and granting loan for those SHGs came up as big areas of corruption but in some areas like group formation and trainings, no corruption was reported. Due to various reasons corruption in these two areas of SGSY is happening. Banks are overloaded with social and commercial banking and grading and sanctioning loans to SHGs is in priority of these banks so NGOs and SHG members are giving bribe to bank officials to do so while they demand for this that's why these areas are more hot beds of corruption

Corruption Vulnerability Analysis: In post RGR 21% overall beneficiaries have accepted that they have paid bribe (Pre RGR 27%) to service providers and the amount of this given bribe was varied from one person to another which come on an average around Rs. 285 per beneficiary in whole interventional areas in NREGS which is Rs. 18 lesser than the Pre RGR figure of Rs. 303.

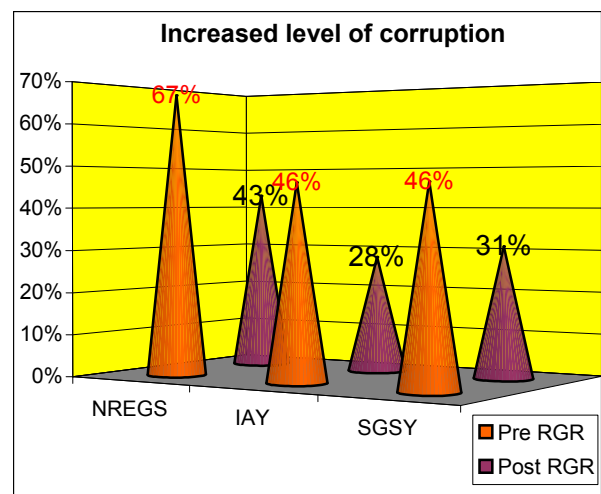


In IAY, only 34% respondents accepted (Pre RGR 52%) that they have paid cash bribe for availing the benefits of this scheme at various level of service delivery. In this case as well the amount of bribe demanded from beneficiary was different in most of the cases and after negotiations, the bribe paid to various service providers mainly to Gram Sachiv comes around Rs. 960 in each case.



In SGSY 13% beneficiaries said to pay bribe (Pre RGR 18%) mainly to bank officials for doing the long pending grading of their group and then accordingly sanctioning the subsidy loan and transferring it in their account. The bribed amount comes around Rs. 417 on an average in cash. One important aspect of this story

is that NGOs who are coordinating the ground level activities have to pay a fixed percentage of bribe at Zila Parisad level while getting check of their honorarium for tasks completed and as a result they start to compromise with the field activities therefore they can follow up properly with bank officials and their grading gets delayed and they have to pay bribe to speed up the process.



Trend in the level of corruption: As per the opinion of majority of the respondents, the level of corruption in NREGS is on the rise as said by 48% people which is 19% lesser than the last year in which 67% people had the opinion that it is increasing. Big chunk of respondents around 38% said that in the menace of corruption nothing had happened during last year and still it is static.

The level of corruption in IAY: Majority of the beneficiaries 34% said that the level of corruption is unchanged in comparison of last year but at the same time 28% people think that has decreased in last one year. But one fourth of the people do not know about this change if had happened. They are not in a position to say any thing regarding this.

The level of corruption in SGSY: The beneficiaries of this scheme as well told that level of corruption is static as mentioned by 31% which is 15% lesser than the pre RGR findings. 20% of people are unaware about his positive change if has happened during the year.

Conclusions: Awareness regarding RTI is very low in rural areas and awareness about filing process is further down

2) For Service Providers:

‘RTI Ground Realities and Corruption Vulnerability Analysis in NREGS, Swarnagayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana and Indira Aawas Yojana’

Service Providers/PIOs/ First Appellate Authorities Survey

Methodology: The survey was conducted in the seventeen blocks of two districts, which are Jaipur and Tonk. Total 187 (121 from Jaipur and 66 from Tonk) service providers were interviewed. The respondents were from Rural Development and Panchayatiraj Department including Gram Sachivs, Sarpanchs and Pradhans only.

About the GP level programmes and implementation strategies and fact

In pre RGR survey total respondents were asked about the total number of schemes under implementation in their GP and 77% respondents said that the number of total schemes are up to 20 which is correct to say but rest 23% were event unable to tell the correct number of schemes under implementation.

In post RGR survey majority of respondents (83%) were males and 45% were in the age group of 26 to 40 years and another 45% were in the age group of 41 to 60 years. 75% of respondents were educated up to graduation and above. Among the respondents 55% were secretaries of GPs and rest were Sarpanch and other PRI members.

Advertisement of schemes: Respondents were asked about the strategies adopted for advertisement of public welfare schemes among the common masses then 55% respondents said that they are advertised by print media, signboards, Nukkad Nataks, TV & radio and with the help of NGOs. 31% respondents said that Gram Sabha and PRI members are good mean of advertising the govt. schemes. 14% people said that panchayat notice boards are also helping in to making the schemes known in masses.

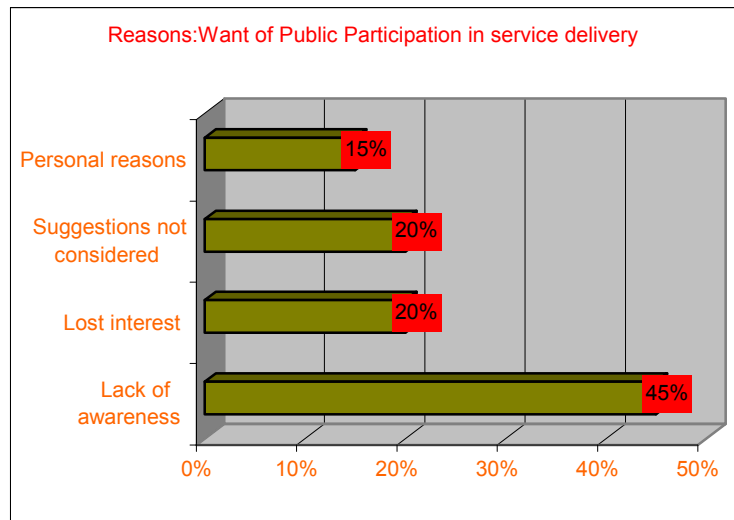
In Post RGR survey, all the respondents said that Gram Sabha is the main forum where most of the schemes, decisions taken for beneficiaries and other service processes are discussed in detail with Panchayat elected members and public as well. Other than Gram Sabha, monthly meetings (25%), during visit to nearby villages as well about various public schemes are discussed with villagers and as a result local people involve in the decisions taken by GPs. In NREGS, through social audit forums as well public participation is ensured as said by 11% respondents but in every social audit a big effort has to put by GP staff to ensure the presence of local people.

People’s way of knowing about schemes and Forums of public participation: 60% respondents said that if any thing has to know about GP they ask from local elected PRI members either at village or they visit GP office to know. Only 07 respondnets have habit of writing to GP officials for enquiring about govt. welfare schemes under implementation.

As per post RGR survey findings; It is onus of the public itself to visit the GPs offices and try to know about the means/forums of public participation otherwise GP officials do not take pain to make these provisions popular among them. In 65% cases, people who participated in the GP meetings they themselves visited without any prior information at GP office for some work but they are asked to participate in this. 50% People responded that Panchayat members also share the dates of such meetings with common people. 10% respondents said that via NGOs also, common people get information about such meetings and motivate to participate.

Lack of Public Participation: 45% respondents said that there is lack of awareness among people regarding the services rendered by GP and decisions are taken by them due

to various reasons important to mention is lack of education. 20% respondents said that people are not interested at all to participate in the public meetings and gram sabhas due to their lost interest in these meetings because of several reasons, which need to be explored. 20% respondents said that people very often blame



service providers that their suggestions and requests are not entertained and taken in to account and due to this they do not participate. 15% respondents said that various reasons like people are busy in their work, participating in meetings means wastage of time for them and they think that it is job of politicians and people who are economically well settled.

When service providers were asked about selection process of the beneficiaries 75% respondents said that name of beneficiaries of various schemes are selected by Gram Sabha itself and rest are selected on the basis of survey reports and during field visits as said by 14% of respondents. 11% respondents said that selection of respondents is also done on the basis of as per scheme norms and selection criteria. But some time selection is also done on political basis as well and this percentage is not much.

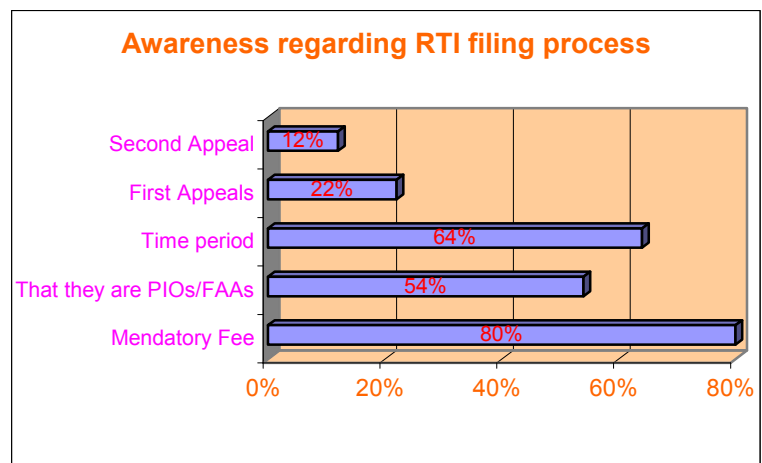
In post RGR survey: All the respondents (100%) said that during the last one-year, public participation in the decision-making and service delivery processes of the selected three schemes has gone up due to education, media and initiation of NREGS as said by 40% of respondents. 42% respondents said that due to rising in the level of awareness among common man regarding their entitlements and public participation provisions because of mass mobilization by NGOs (as said by 18% people) and IEC campaign of Govt., people are coming and participating in these meetings. 40% respondents also said that due to NREGS, people are visiting the GPs and block officers for various purposes and along with this, they also come to know several other things including these meetings and participate as well.

Awareness of RTI Act, 2005

78% respondents said that yes, they have heard about this act but do not know much in detail about this. So the real concern is that 22% percent of the functionaries at GP level are still not aware about the Act and question is that if they are not aware then definitely they will not be able to implement it. As per post RGR survey: Awareness of RTI Act 2005 among service providers of RD Department is increasing year by year. Around 86% service providers (including Sarpanch, Pradhan, BDOs and Gram Sachivs) are aware about this RTI Act 2005.

Awareness regarding filing process

The respondents were also discussed about the key provisions which are needful to implement the act effectively and it came to light that 18% of the functionaries were not know to the way in which application can be processed the



way means that they were not aware that application can be done in written in a format or there is no format for application. Only 80% respondents were aware about the required fee of Rs. 10 and very surprising to know that 46% functionaries were even not aware that they are designated as PIO or FAA (First Appellate Authority). Most of the (64%) respondents were aware that demanded information has to be provided within the stipulated time of 30 days. Total 78% of the respondents were not aware that there is provision of first appeal and second appeal (88% were not aware) at departmental and state information commission level respectively.

In the post RGR survey data: Now most of the service providers, around 90% are aware about the format on which RTI applications are requested. They are clear about the fact that there is not any prescribed format for RTI requests and that can be made on plain paper as well. Almost 83% Service providers are aware about the required fees for filing an application. Awareness of these officials about the Public information Officer appointed under this RTI Act is only 68% and same percentage of officials (68%) know correctly about the stipulated time period of 30 days for providing the requested information.

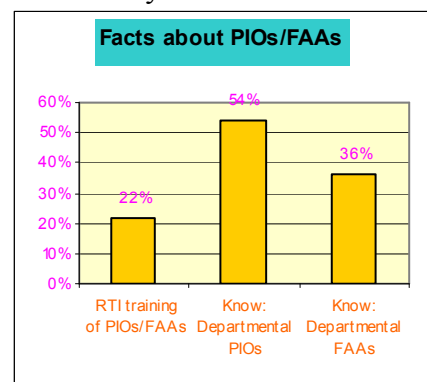
Awareness about the appeal is very less. Only 38% respondents know correctly about the first appeal and 22% of them know about second appeal. When it was asked by respondents about the PIOs and first appellate authority of their own department then only 64% of them replied correctly about PIOs and 48% about first appellate authority.

Training on RTI

Only 22% of functionaries are RTI trained in a superficial manner. They were educated about this in some monthly meeting just after this act came in to force in the year of 2006, but after that no any formal training was conducted. Their source of knowledge about the Act was mass media and their fellow colleagues at work.

In post RGR survey: Out of total respondents 34% people came to know about RTI during the last year through various sources and earlier they were not aware about this Act. Most of these new people almost 55% came to know about this Act through their departmental trainings on RTI.

Other main source of their learning was daily Hindi newspapers in which stories and articles on RTI are published and they read these thoroughly and try to learn more and more on RTI Act. NGOs also contributed in making the service providers aware about this legislation as said by 35% service providers. Few people (15%) came to know about RTI throughs TV as well.



PIOs/FAAs at office

When respondents were asked about the PIO of their office then only 54% respondents replied correctly and about the FAAs, only 36% respondents replied correctly.

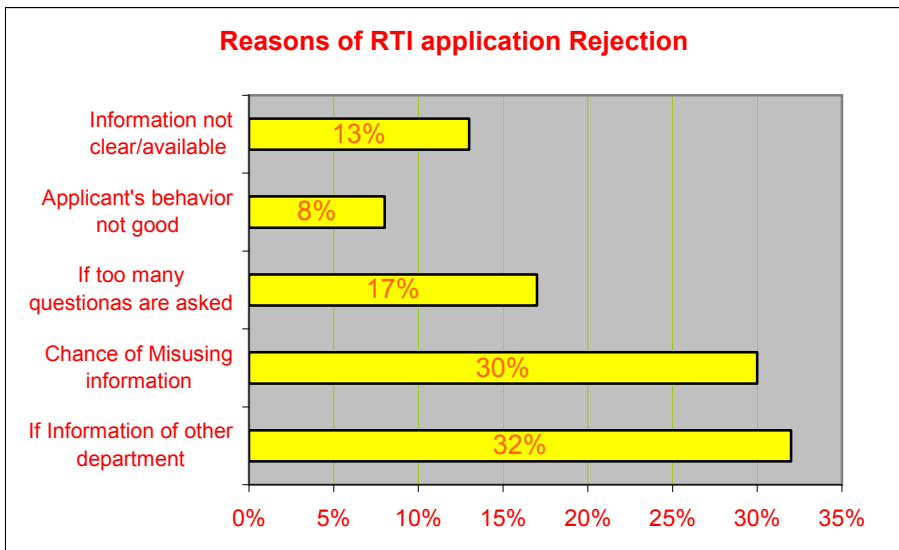
Possible reasons which are asked by PIOs before accepting any RTI Applications:

After keeping the previous experience in mind respondents were asked about the reasons which can be asked/looked at before accepting or rejecting the filed RTI applications can be rejected and it came to open that 32% PIOs ask about the objective of filing of RTI Application and if they are satisfied then only they accept the application otherwise they try to confuse him and motivate for not filing the same and assure then that their problem will be solved even if they will not file it. 24% PIOs ask to the applicant about the use of the demanded information and they ask that what you will do of the requested information? 14% of the respondents accepted that they ask to the applicant that your demanded information be not related to any public welfare so you cannot file any RTI application and finally they did not accept it by any mean. 19% PIOs said that they check before accepting any RTI application the personal relations and political motivation as well.

As per Post RGR survey findings: 50% respondents said that yes, it is legal to ask the reason of filing a request under RTI from applicants.

Rejection of RTI Applications

Respondents who were PIOs, asked about the possible grounds on which RTI applications are be rejected by most of the PIOs. In reply of this question most of the PIOs were very cautious to say but what ever came out of their mouth was sufficient enough to present the actual picture of the truth that at large scale, applications are denied to accept by PIOs. 32% PIOs said that applications can be rejected if any question is related to any other department. 30% PIOs said that if there is any doubt upon applicant that he/she will misuse the demanded



information then his application will not be accepted. 17% PIOs said that applications are rejected because number of questions are too much and applicants behavior with PIOs is not proper as said by 08% respondents. 13% respondents expressed that applications are

also rejected by PIOs because the demanded information is either not clear or demanded information is not available with PIOs or address of the applicant is not written on that.

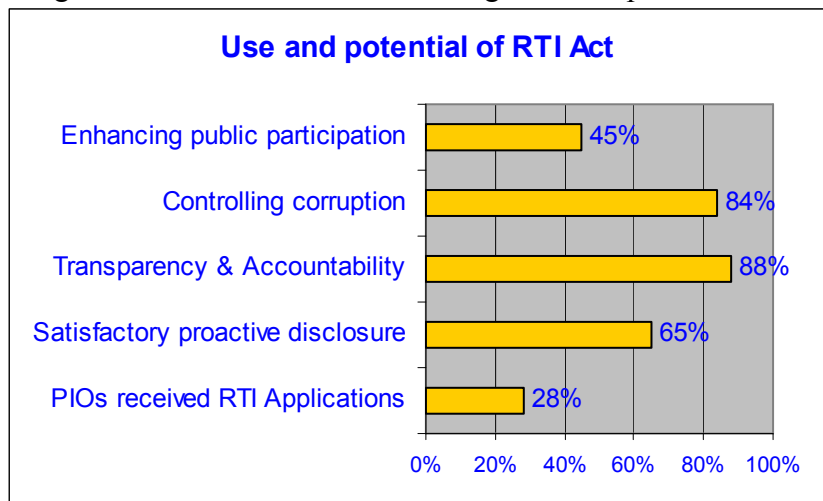
In post RGR survey findings: When respondents were asked about the grounds on which these RTI requests can be rejected. Two major categories of answers came up. One is that, 45% respondents said that they do not accept the requests if the application is related to some other department and 30% respondents said that if they think that applicants in any way will misuse the requested information and requester is misbehaving with PIO is not at all concerned with the applicant than they refused to accept the RTI Request.

Problems faced by PIOs and FAA

- Not proper training is imparted
- Record management is very poor at GP level
- PIOs are highly burdened with other work so as a PIOs providing the demanded information to applicants further complicate the problem
- Attitude of the applicant is to get some benefit rather than doing something good for public and they want to create trouble in the way of PIOs

RTI Applications

Only 28% of the total PIOs admitted that yes, they have received some RTI Applications filed by local community people or political party members. They said that on an average two RTI applications were filed in their office and all were responded appropriately. 65% respondents said that in the respect of section 4(1) b, GPs have proactively published about the filing process under RTI at office walls. They also publish the names of the beneficiaries, about schemes and annual budget and expenditures at walls and most of the records are put before Gram Sabha in which most of the elected members and villagers participate. They also publish on the notice boards about their day-to-day activities and this information is sufficient enough for common man. Remaining 35% respondents added to say that proactive disclosure of information is also done at worksites and at the public places which are prominent but lot more is required to be done and more and more infrastructure has to developed for disclosed and digitalization of records has to done otherwise nothing much can be done in his regard.



During post RGR survey as well; Majority of service providers (75%) accepted that yes, common men are filing requests under RTI Act to get information related to panchayat related programmes and activities. Most of the officials (65%) said that in last year itself they received 6-10 RTI requests on an average. 20% respondents said that they received 01-05 RTI requests and 10% said that they receive 10-25 requests on an average. 70% respondents also said that during the last year, number of RTI requests has increased manifold in comparison of previous years. They also said that these RTI applications help in improving the quality of services provided by GPs and also promotes public participation as said by 62% respondents.

Potential of RTI Act in combating corruption and promoting good governance

As per the opinion of the 88% of the respondents, RTI Act has that potential that it can promote transparency and accountability among service providers and policy makers. 84% respondents were agreeing with the fact that it has that much capacity that it can control on the corruption. But on the other side only 45% of the respondents were having the opinion that this RTI Act will increase public participation in the decision-making and service delivery process. So it means that Panchayat functionaries are confident enough that RTI applicant is not that much capable that they can influence the decision making of officials as well in the rural area.

In post RGR survey; Majority of service providers (around 75%) said that RTI Act 2005 is capable enough and enhancing the Accountability among govt. officials and also forcing them to maintain their official records properly as said by 85% respondents. 44% of service providers responded that this act is successfully combating corruption and compelling them for taking immediate action on the issues asked by RTI Applications as mentioned by 65% respondents.

82% of the total respondents replied that during last year they have observed that transparency in the selection process of beneficiaries, decision-making process and public expenditure has increased up to certain extent. They also reacted about the reasons, which contributed in to this increased level of transparency. Majority of respondents around 60%, said that due to effective implementation of govt. schemes and following the guidelines is the main reason of this increased level of transparency in select schemes but 55% said that due to suitable policy changes it has happened. Only 32% to 35% respondents made responsible to the efforts put by NGOs and people's demand for greater transparency in govt. service delivery and decision-making.

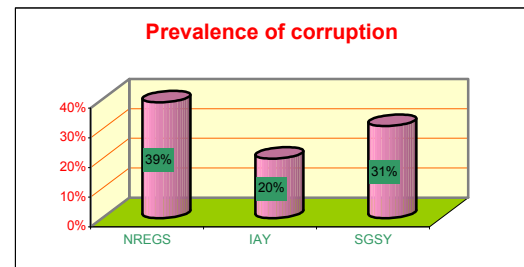
But on other side, POIs also think that RTI work is putting extra burden on the head of service providers as mentioned by 76% of respondents and sometime because of workload of the flagship schemes they are unable to respond these requests due lack of human and infra structural facilities at Gram Panchayat level.

Step taken to promote transparency and accountability

During post RGR survey, 35-40% respondents replied that they have proactively printed about rights and qualifications of beneficiaries and RTI Act, 2005 respectively on the walls of their GPs and 70% said that even they write about the annual income and expenditure details as well. 80% to 85% of respondents said that they have also proactively printed on the walls of GPs and other prominent public places.

Prevalence of corruption in selected schemes

Big chunk of the respondents, almost 39% were agreed that corruption is prevailing in the NREGS and most of the officials who are responsible for implementation are involved in that but rest of the respondents are either not accepting or saying that there is no corruption in the department. In the IAY, corruption is prevalent as admitted by 20% of the respondents and rest is in denial mode. 31% respondents accepted that corruption is integral part of SGSY and most of the programme implementers are involved in that but rest of the respondents are not ready to say anything about the issue.



Reasons of corruption in NREGS

- Lack of awareness among rural people
- People do not want to be indulged in the paper work.
- Some people don't have any supporting documents, which are necessary for making job card so in that case they offer or the concerned official demand some bribe.
- Some time GP functionaries take bribe in the name of higher officials and falsely tell to rural people that they are not taking bribe for themselves but higher officials will take this amount.
- As some respondents mentioned that always there is conducive atmosphere for corruption in NREGS and it is part of culture and sighted local saying '*KHAI BADI KI MAI BADI*' it means bribed money is bigger and works better than mother.
- As respondents admitted that higher officials who are responsible for monitoring are also involved in corruption specially in tendering process, construction work, purchase of materials and passing any bill, certain percentage of moneys is fixed at various points and that percentage has to be paid to concerned official otherwise those bills/mustrolls /accounts will not be passed.

Reasons of corruption in SGSY

As mentioned by respondents that SGSY schemes is not working effectively in the districts because bank officials have the opinion that these common people will not repay the loans sanctioned at all which seem to be true as per their history so they are very slow

in doing grading of Self Help Groups and if doing they are demanding bribes from NGOs facilitators.

Respondents opined that NGOs, which are given responsibility of community mobilization and facilitating the activities at ground level, are both victims as well as bribe taker. One side they are victim of the system and forced to pay bribe to the accounts people of DRDA and on the other side they are reimbursing these expenses from the SHG members. NGOs also do lot of savings by not doing or doing the programme activities by names shake only. So all are contributing and washing their hand in the flowing river.

Reasons of corruption in IAY

The benefit of this scheme is given to BPL family only but the selection process of BLP is not foolproof and numbers of non-eligible candidates are selected due to various reasons and take benefits of eligible BLP families. These powerful people create pressure and officer bribes on/to the service providers to change their order upward at the cost of actual beneficiaries. Even otherwise service providers also give people who are willing to pay bribe out of turn preference.

Usually most of the beneficiaries have to give some bribe before getting the check of sanctioned amount, which directly goes in bank for payment. Bank officials also demand some bribe while payments.

Measures for controlling corruption

- CSOs shall be part of the tendering process so that corruption can be avoided
- BSR rates must be updated as per market rates
- Social audit and CAG audit must to regular and measures have to be taken to reform the processes.
- RTI Act shall be promoted and more and more public awareness programmes has to be started
- People themselves have to be educated about the service delivery process.
- People has to be motivated for participating the gram sabha
- Complaint redressal mechanism has to be established
- More proactive disclosure of information at GP level must be done
- Entitlements of BPLs must be written at walls
- Pattern of payments in any welfare scheme must be written at office somewhere.
- Beneficiaries of NREGS shall also work sincerely