



# RTI campaign for youth: Lessons they learnt



Access to information is a fundamental right and critical for the exercise of basic socio-economic and political rights. Information can help assure that public services reach the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. It often happens in our societies; the most marginalized populations suffer the greatest due to limited access to information. This is particularly true for the youth, the most potential segment of the population.

To translate young people's potentials into actions, they need to be empowered that can make incredible changes in their families, the society and the country as a whole. Information is the right weapon to empower. With a view to creating awareness on RTI and enhance demand for information in the community, MRDI involved some youth groups in a campaign; and RTI youth camp was a part of it. Through the campaign, 33 girls and boys of three districts not only learnt what significant change information can make in their life, but also became committed actors to spread the message among their peers.



# QUOTES AND ACTIONS

“

We learned from MRDI how to find rays of light in a dark tunnel. In the RTI camp, I learned how to unveil injustice hidden behind complicated systems. I've got thirty-three friends, I got courage, exuberance and joy. 'We shall overcome', for sure.

”

***Sukanta Chandra Howlader***



“

This camp has turned me into an RTI changemaker. I feel confident, I can play the role.

”

***Ruby Talukder***



“

We have gained knowledge on RTI through this camp, and we will spread it among our peers.

”

***Masud Reza***



# QUOTES AND ACTIONS



“

We, the 33 RTI advocates will continue our journey to promote RTI. This is our commitment to the country; and credit goes to MRDI for showing us the path.

”

***Md. Shakil Ahmmed***

“

I guess, I made highest number of phone calls to MRDI's RTI help desk from Barishal, and always I got pleasant responses. My compliments.

”

***Shamama Akter***

“

This has been an amazing experience. I learnt many things in an entertaining environment. Funs and games along with discussions and exercises gave me a feeling of bonding with a new family.

”

***Mahfuz Nusrat***

“

The camp has introduced me to the RTI Act. I came to know MRDI and feel happy to have made many new friends.

”

***Sonia Akter***





# QUOTES AND ACTIONS

“

MRDI created the opportunity for me to learn about the Right to Information Act. Thank you MRDI!

”

***Laboni Akter Labonno***

“

As a youth changemaker, I am grateful to MRDI for its efforts to make the Right to Information Act known to future generations who will spread the knowledge among others, thus creating a sustainable impact in the society.

”

***Mehedi Hasan***



“

As a law student, I had some idea about RTI Act. But through this camp I have gained deeper perception about the provisions of the act and practical experience on how to apply it.

”

***MD. Momin U Ahmed***

“

People's right of access to information can curb corruption; and MRDI's campaign is a booster.

”

***Amina Yesmin***





# QUOTES AND ACTIONS

“

Overall, I enjoyed the camp and company of all the friendly participants. The best thing I learnt from this camp is that we can do anything we want to do. We wrote plays, acted, debated and what not in such a short time. Our confidence level has increased, which will help us to be more confident in doing any task in the future. It was one of the most beautiful camps in my life. I would like to work with MRDI for the rest of my life if given the opportunity.

”

*Al Amin*



“

Only proper application of the Right to Information Act can build a corruption free society.

”

*Salma Khatun*

“

I learnt a lot from the RTI Camp. I believe, transparency and accountability can be established by using RTI Act that will promote good governance at all levels.

”

*Metale Roy Mou*





# QUOTES AND ACTIONS



“

RTI Act is people's law.  
People can benefit from it if  
they are aware about it.

”

**Jahima Khatun**

“

Participating in the debate  
competition organized on the  
occasion of observing Right to  
Know Day 2021, I contacted  
the teachers and fellow  
competitors. I learnt a lot about  
RTI Act which was a great  
achievement for me.

”

**Sadia Sultana Urme**

“

Through the experience of  
the RTI campaign, I felt that  
the Right to Information Act  
could eliminate corruption  
from the society.

”

**Pallab Kumar Dey**

“

It appears from the lessons  
we learnt that if we know  
about the Right to Information  
Act and come forward to  
apply it, corruption will be  
eliminated from the public  
services one day.

”

**MD. Babul Hossain**





# QUOTES AND ACTIONS

“

The learning environment in the camp reminded me of my school days when we first learned the alphabets. Here we learned the basics of how to build resistance to corruption silently and find effective solutions through a very creative and entertaining way. RTI is a challenging task in social life but is effective for an ideal civic life.

”

***Khandkar Tanmoy Rahman***



“

I have learnt from the RTI camp that the Right to Information Act is the only way to give people back their fair share of right and MRDI is working hard to make it happen.

”

***Md. Shaiful Islam Shaon***



“

The people were in despair drowning in corruption. Now they know corruption can be eliminated by using the power of information.

”

***Farhana Yeasmin Pia***



# QUOTES AND ACTIONS

“

I met new friends at the RTI camp and gained knowledge on the Right to Information. The five days spent in the camp were amazing.

”

*Joy Sarker*

“

Had I not participated in the RTI camp organized by MRDI, I would not have been aware of the Right to Information Act-2009 and would not have been able to understand it has such a huge impact in real life.

”

*Apurba Krishna Roy*



“

What I have learnt about the Right to Information Act from the camp, I will definitely apply in my life. I will cherish the sweet memories of the lessons I learnt and funs we participated in.

”

*Sumaya Tasnim Smrity*

“

Participating in the Right to Information Camp, I myself have become aware of my right to get information and raised awareness of my friends and the community.

”

*Most. Shirin Akter*





# QUOTES AND ACTIONS



“

In RTI training organized by MRDI, we have learnt how to make people aware of RTI.

”

***Dipa Barman***

“

The RTI camp organized by MRDI provided me with the knowledge on details of the Right to Information Act-2009 which, I hope, will guide me in my future life. I learnt a lot from the RTI Camp and made wonderful friends from three districts of Bangladesh.

”

***Sabia Sabrin Suhi***

“

The days of the camp were wonderful. Especially the chitchat in the night, when everyone was singing and dancing and everything will always remain in my mind.

”

***Rownak Jahan Khushi***

“

Everyone has the right to information, which everyone needs to know.

”

***Nazmul Hassan***





# QUOTES AND ACTIONS

“

Participating in MRDI's right to information camp is a turning point in my life. I came to know that information is power, information is freedom. I am hopeful, this experience will be useful in my personal life and I will make it useful for the people around me.

”

*Umme Kulsum*



“

The quiz programme organized in the camp was very interesting. We had lots of fun during the courtyard meeting. Organizers made the event entertaining.

”

*MD. Alamgir Hossain*



“

I have learned about the RTI Act through the MRDI camp. I have also been able to make some people aware of this.

”

*Md. Abdur Rashid*





## Looking ahead ...

Empowered youths are the best changemakers. As the young people have realized the power of information, they will play the most vital role in raising awareness on RTI in the community and make service providers prepared to deliver information and services to the people. This will make the demand-supply chain of information functional, thus creating an enabling environment for open flow of information.

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