

RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE HOLY BIBLE

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ABSTRACT

The Right to Information Act 2005 is gradually developed one. Right to information existed through in different context in various forms. This study tries to find points related to right to information from the Holy Bible.

KEY WORDS: *Transperancy, Accountability*

The Right to Information Act 2005 is gradually developed one. The evolution of Right to information can be traced back to the time of the beginning of the universe. The concept of information and command is continuously refined. In India, Right to Information is innovative in its current form. Right to information existed through in different context in various forms. This study tries to find points related to right to information from the Holy Bible.

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When light appeared darkness will naturally eliminate. By the enactment of RTI act the darkness of ignorance has gone away and the light of knowledge and information appeared. By accessing information people can leave in light. That is, they can get clear vision about governance and also actively participate in it. Independence lightens India. RTI act brightens the democratic governance in India.

“.....covered everything was engulfed in total darkness...” “let there be light” and light appeared.....separated the light from the darkness...” (Moses, Genesis: 1:1- 4, BCE1350-BCE400) Indian people are slavers in one kind or in another even got independence. Why? Still the old mind set is continuing here; Power is not feeling in mind, but fear and discrimination. They hesitate to approach government offices and fear bureaucracy. Most of the Indian people don’t know how much strong and effective one is RTI act. By using RTI act it can understand and realize the real situation and the correct picture of the country. “they were given understanding and realized that they were naked; ...” (Moses, Genesis: 3:7, BCE1350-BCE400)

Still most of the people in India think that we are nothing to go to the governance, especially illiterate and poor people.

“I am nobody. How can I go to the king....?” (Moses, Exodus: 3:11, BCE 1350-400) Now citizen is the king. The right of the citizens to obtain information on public matters flows from the fundamental right enshrined in Article 19(1)(a) which ensures Freedom of Speech and Expression. Also the role of media is linked to the freedom of information. “...Get out of my sight! Don’t let me ever see you again! On the day I do, you will die! Exodus: 10:28, BCE1350-BCE400)

‘Right to Equality’ (Article 14) promotes Right to Information. “Show no partiality in your decisions; judge everyone on the same basis, no matter who he is.” (Moses, Deuteronomy: 1:17, BCE1350-BCE400)

The objective of RTI act is transparency and accountability in the government functioning. “...he always does what he promises, no matter how much it may cost. He...cannot be bribed to testify against the innocent....will always be secure.” (David, Psalms: 15:4, 5, BCE14-BCE2)

“Some people think a bribe works like magic; they believe it can do anything.” (King Solomon, Proverbs: 17:8, BCE10-BCE2) “never satisfied with the wealth he has.” (King Solomon, Ecclesiastes: 4:7, BCE10-BCE2) Everyone expects, in democratic governance, bureaucracy to be responsive. They want replying to their requests and acting upon their needs. Administrators should be honest and faithful and leaders should be ideal. Do they as per the expectation of citizens without laws, rules and regulations? Human beings have a basic nature to do wrong. From birth evil thoughts involves in him. Therefore restrictions and control is essential by laws, authority and people. By the provisions of RTI act officials have to be transparent and accountable.

“...how evil their thoughts were all the time” (Moses, Genesis 6:5, and BCE1350-BCE400)

“....from the time he is young his thoughts are evil.” (Moses, Genesis 8:21, BCE1350-BCE400) Right to information is necessary to know the right information regarding decisions, policies and activities of government. Everyone should know the correct and the same information otherwise it will lead to the violence in the country.

“...violence had spread everywhere” (Moses, Genesis 6:11, BCE1350-BCE400) False information misleads the people causes negative impact in the society. Need correct information to take right decision. Otherwise anyone can trick others. It is dangerous. “....tricked me” (Moses, Genesis 3:13, BCE1350-BCE400)

“At first, the people of the whole world had only one language and used the same words.....They said to one another, “Come on! Let’s make bricks and bake them hard.” so they...to hold them together.... “Now then, these are all one people and they speak one language ...go down and mix up their language so that they will not understand one another.” So...scattered them all over the earth, and they stopped building the city.” (Moses, Genesis 11:1-9, BCE1350-BCE400) If people know what is happening in the governance they can help the administrators and give good suggestions. RTI makes the ways of knowledge. The intelligent people can talk sense.

“...Follow the way of Knowledge” (King Solomon, Proverbs 9:6, BCE10-BCE2)” The king and his officials approved this plan...”- (Moses, Genesis 41:37, BCE 1350-BCE400) “I make plans and carry them out. I have understanding, and I am strong. I help kings to govern and rulers to make good laws. Every ruler on earth governs with my help, statesmen and noblemen alike.” (King Solomon, Proverbs: 8:14-16, BCE10-BCE2)

Once RTI act was enacted the administrators and bureaucracy was not happy. The bureaucrats and state governments did not give warm welcome for RTI act. They feared this act because RTI can reveal secrets malpractices before the public and people can judge them. RTI can destroy corrupted and ill-behaved bureaucrats. They were despair. The act was not acceptable for them.

“...secret sins” (Moses, Psalms 90:8, BCE14-BCE2) “May sinners be destroyed from the earth; may the wicked be no more” (David, Psalms: 104:35, BCE14-BCE2) “The righteous hate the wicked, the wicked hate the righteous. (King Solomon, Proverbs: 29:27, BCE10-BCE2) But the righteous people like RTI act because they can shine brightly.

“The righteous are like a light shining brightly; the wicked are like a lamp flickering out.” (King Solomon, Proverbs 13:9, BCE10-BCE2)” When justice is done, good people are happy, but evil people are brought to despair.” (King Solomon, Proverbs: 21:15, BCE10-BCE2)

The state information commission and central information commission have power to punish the officials those who are not obeying the RTI act. “Punished them for their sins.” (Moses, Psalms 99:8, BCE14-BCE2) ...“Don’t be surprised when you see that the government oppresses the poor and denies them justice and their rights. Every official is protected by the one over him, and both are protected by still higher officials” (King Solomon, Ecclesiastes 5:8, BCE10-BCE2) RTI is for helpless, poor and needy people.

“.....you still haven’t told me what makes you so strong. She kept on asking him, day after day. He got so sick and tired finally told her the truth. “My hair has never been cut,” he said. “I have been dedicated to God as a Nazirite from the time I was born. If my hair were cut, I would lose my strength and be as weak as anybody else.” the Philistines captured him..” (Samuel, Judges: 16:15-21, BCE6)

RTI brings democracy in its true sense. “...Stand, then, as free people, and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.” (St Paul, Galatians: 5:1, CE47-CE51) RTI is for openness, transparency and enjoy freedom in the governance. “...Whatever is hidden away will be brought out into the open, and whatever is covered up will be found and brought to light.” (Jesus Christ, Luke: 8:17 CE 80). “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free... ‘You will be free?’...then you will be really free.” (Jesus Christ, John 8:32-36, CE90)

CONCLUSION

In the Holy Bible, there are several verses relate to the Right to Information. In India, it has been completed twelve years after the enactment of RTI Act 2005, but, the major problem is that many people are not aware of the act. For the people, training and awareness programmes are necessary for the success of RTI act. “Do you want to get well?” (Jesus Christ, John5:6, CE90)

REFERENCES

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