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A Study on Impacts of Right to Information Act in India

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ABSTRACT

The Right to Information Act (RTI Act) enacted in India in 2005 has brought about significant changes in the country's governance and transparency landscape. This abstract provides an overview of the impact of the RTI Act on various sectors and stakeholders in India. The RTI Act aimed to empower citizens by granting them the right to access information held by public authorities. It has played a pivotal role in promoting transparency, accountability, and participatory governance in India. The act has facilitated the flow of information from government bodies to citizens, thereby enhancing citizen engagement and enabling them to make informed decisions. The impact of the RTI Act has been observed across different sectors. In the political sphere, it has fostered a culture of accountability among politicians and government officials. The act has enabled citizens to obtain information about government policies, decisions, and actions, leading to increased scrutiny and reduced instances of corruption. The act has also empowered marginalized communities to demand their rights and access entitlements. However, challenges and limitations persist in the effective implementation of the RTI Act. Instances of delays in providing information, denial of access, and lack of proactive disclosure have been reported. The act's effectiveness relies heavily on the responsiveness and commitment of public authorities to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability.

Keywords: *Right to information, transparency, citizens, corruption, accountability.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Democracy means that purposeful participation by the folks publically affairs. A democratic government should be sensitive to the general public opinion, that info should be sensitive to the general public opinion, that info should be created on the market to the folks. The proper to info implies the participation of individuals within the method of governance and administration that becomes inevitable. The proper info is that the solely rightful law in the Republic of India. This is often the foremost common, subject central and alter orientating law in Indian body

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history. The proper to info (RTI) Act influences the folks and impact on Indian Administration in larger transparency in functioning of public authorities; revelation of data relating to government rules, rules and choices, each public authority is remitted to take care of all records punctually cataloged and indexed in a very manner and also the kind that facilitates the knowledge right beneath the act. info is nothing however data, data makes man sturdy and powerful. If the knowledge ought to be associated with Government and Administration, the person becomes active in sensible governance and self defensive and growing nature. The RTI act empowers the folks of Republic of India against body corruption, irregularities and RTI Fellowship Report Irresponsive angle of body machinery. the proper to info promotes transparency and answerableness within the operating of each public authority. In different words, through this act, the voters of Republic of India are authorized to question, audit, review, examine and assess the government's acts and choices thus to make sure that these areas unite in line with the principle of public interest, sensible governance and justice. Enactment of Right to info. Republic of India forever took pride in being the biggest democracy, however with the passing of the proper to info Act 2005, it conjointly became AN responsible, interactive and democratic democracy. The usability and effect of the RTI should be publicized by awareness campaigns to the general people especially for the poor and marginalized people who are more victimized when compared to the rest. Enactment of Right to info. Republic of India forever took pride in being the biggest democracy, however with the passing of the proper to info Act 2005, it conjointly became AN responsible, interactive and democratic democracy. The main aim of the research is to analyze the impacts of the right to information.

(A) Objectives:

- To determine the extent to which the RTI Act has enhanced transparency and accountability in government institutions and processes.
- To investigate how the RTI Act has empowered citizens to access information, participate in decision-making, and hold public authorities accountable.
- To assess the responsiveness of government agencies to RTI applications and inquiries, including their timeliness in providing information and addressing citizen grievances.
- To identify legal and procedural challenges faced by citizens and public authorities in exercising and implementing the provisions of the RTI Act.
- To explore how the RTI Act has influenced governance practices, including decision-making processes, policy formulation, and service delivery mechanisms.

(B) Review of literature:

(Rai) This book offers a comprehensive analysis of the implementation and impact of the RTI Act, drawing from the experiences of activists and citizens involved in its advocacy and utilization." **(Rai; Pande and Singh)** Authored by prominent RTI activists, this book provides a narrative of the RTI movement in India, highlighting its transformative potential and impact on governance and accountability." **(Naib, *The Right to Information Act 2005: A Handbook*)** Written by a legal expert, this book delves into the nuances of the RTI Act, offering insights into its interpretation and application through various legal cases and judgments." **(Jain)** This comparative study examines the RTI Act in the context of other democratic countries, assessing its role in enhancing transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in governance." **(Bhat et al.)** This handbook provides practical guidance to RTI activists on how to effectively use the law to access information, navigate the bureaucratic process, and advocate for transparency and accountability. **(Bhat et al.)** This handbook provides an overview of the RTI Act, its provisions, and its potential impact on governance and transparency in India." **(Sharma)** This edited volume features contributions from various authors, examining the opportunities and challenges presented by the RTI Act in India and its implications for democracy and governance." **(Naib, *The Right to Information in India*)** Authored by a prominent lawyer and activist, this book discusses the legal framework of the RTI Act and its practical implementation, highlighting its role in promoting transparency and accountability." **(Barowalia)** This book explores the nexus between the RTI Act and good governance, analyzing the impact of the legislation on governmental transparency, citizen empowerment, and administrative accountability." **(Fiehn et al.)** Written by leading activists, this book provides case studies and insights into the grassroots impact of the RTI Act, showcasing how it has empowered citizens to demand accountability and transparency from the government. **(Fischer et al.)** This review critically evaluates empirical studies on the impact of the RTI Act in India, analyzing its effects on government responsiveness, citizen engagement, and accountability." **(Falaki et al.)** This review explores the relationship between the RTI Act and administrative governance in India, examining its impact on transparency, accountability, and the functioning of public institutions. "Citizen Empowerment Through Right to Information: **(Badejoko et al.)** This review synthesizes existing literature on the impact of the RTI Act on citizen empowerment in India, highlighting its role in promoting active citizenship and participatory democracy. " **(Flusund et al.)** This study evaluates the impact of the RTI Act on transparency and accountability in government institutions, assessing its effectiveness in curbing corruption and improving governance." **RTI and Its Impact on Corruption: A Study**

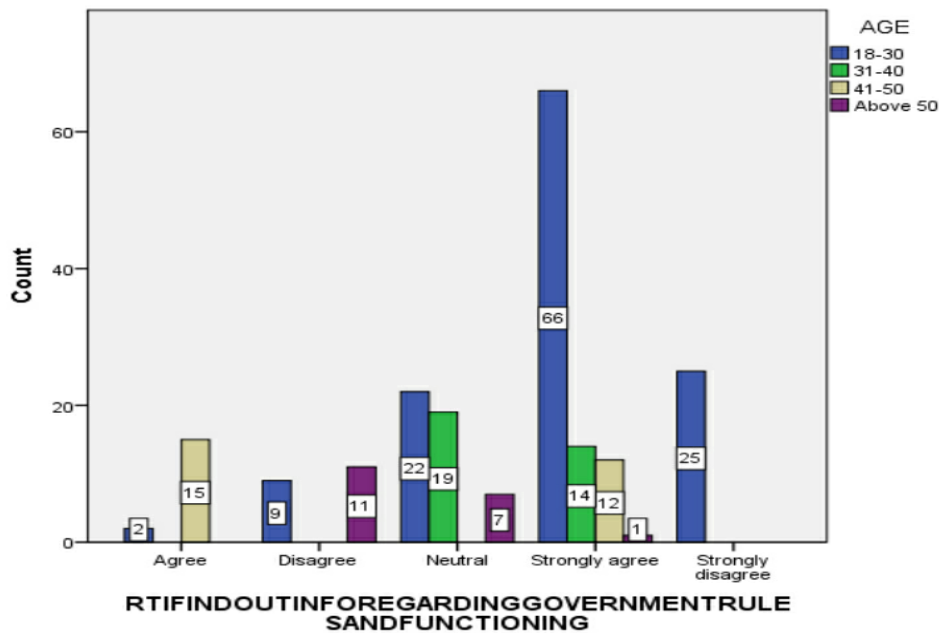
in India" by S. Manoharan (2019): This empirical study examines the relationship between the RTI Act and corruption levels in India, analyzing the role of transparency and citizen empowerment in combating corrupt practices."(**Roy and MKSS Collection**) This comprehensive review assesses the implementation of the RTI Act in India over a decade, analyzing its achievements, challenges, and future prospects for enhancing transparency and accountability. (**Li et al.**) This handbook provides a concise overview of the RTI Act, its provisions, and its significance in promoting transparency and accountability in India. It serves as a practical guide for citizens and activists interested in utilizing the Act. **Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration in India: Impact of the Right to Information Act" by M. P. Singh (2015):** This scholarly work delves into the impact of the RTI Act on transparency and accountability in public administration in India, analyzing its effectiveness and challenges. (**Azmoude et al.; Pande and Singh**) This review, published in 2018, investigates the relationship between citizen participation and the Right to Information Act in India. It analyzes data from RTI applications to understand patterns of citizen engagement, information-seeking behavior, and the effectiveness of the Act in promoting democratic governance." (**Pande and Singh; Jain**) Published in 2020, this review explores the role of the media in facilitating access to information and promoting transparency through the RTI Act. It examines the challenges faced by journalists in utilizing the Act and its implications for media freedom and investigative journalism in India.

(C) Methodology:

The study used an empirical research design to inquire the general opinion of the public with regards to the research topic. The research is based on the analysis of impacts of the right to information act in India. The study used a structured questionnaire as a tool through which public enquiry was done. The sample is 200. This is a non-doctrinal study. Both primary and secondary data have been used for this study. The primary data for the present study is collected using sampling technique. The secondary data is collected from books, journals, articles and e-sources. The study used SPSS software to analyze the data collected through statistical measurements like: Percentage Analysis, graph and correlation. The independent variables are age, gender, education qualification and the dependent variable are RTI helps the people to find out the information regarding government rules and functioning of public authorities, Rate on the effectiveness of RTI act, Rate on scale that access to information can empower the poor and weaker section, Reasons for adoption of the right to information, Right to information is empowering the citizen with ability to get service under the authorities.

II. ANALYSIS

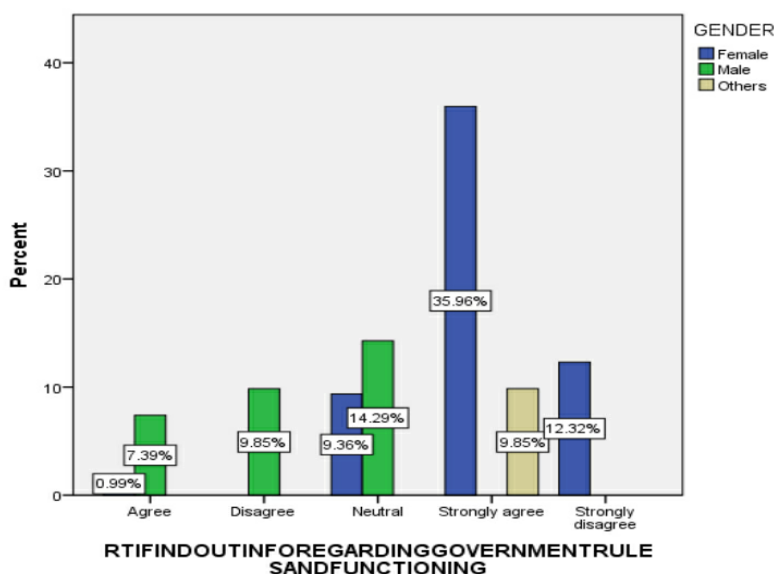
FIGURE 1



Legend

The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. RTI helps the people to find out the information regarding government rules and functioning of public authorities, And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of age groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the age group 18-30 and the lowest number of responses is from the age group.

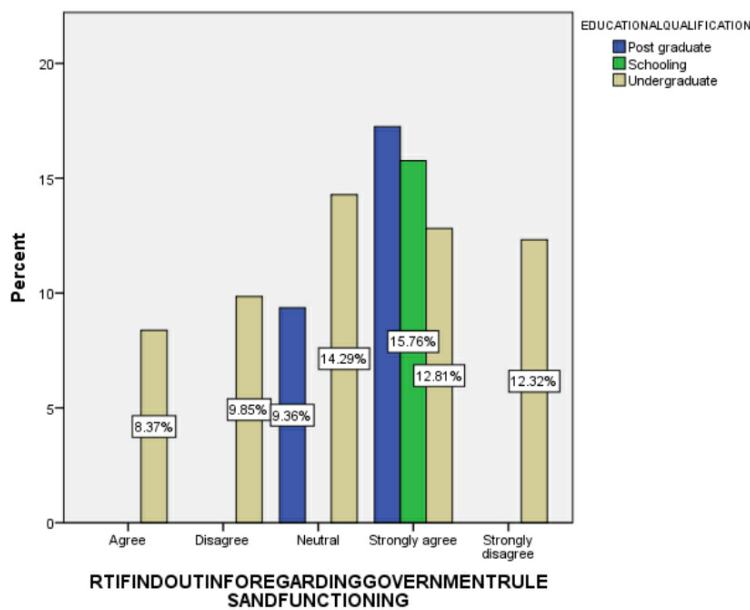
FIGURE 2



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The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. RTI helps the people to find out the information regarding government rules and functioning of public authorities, And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of gender groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the females are highest and the lowest number of responses is from the gender group.

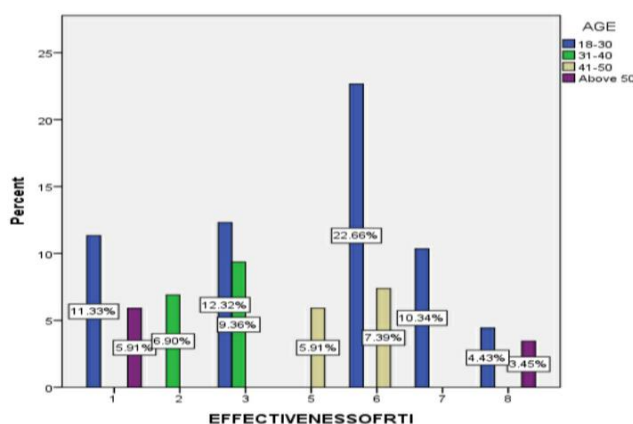
FIGURE 3



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The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. RTI helps the people to find out the information regarding government rules and functioning of public authorities, And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of Educational groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses from the post graduates are the highest number of responses.

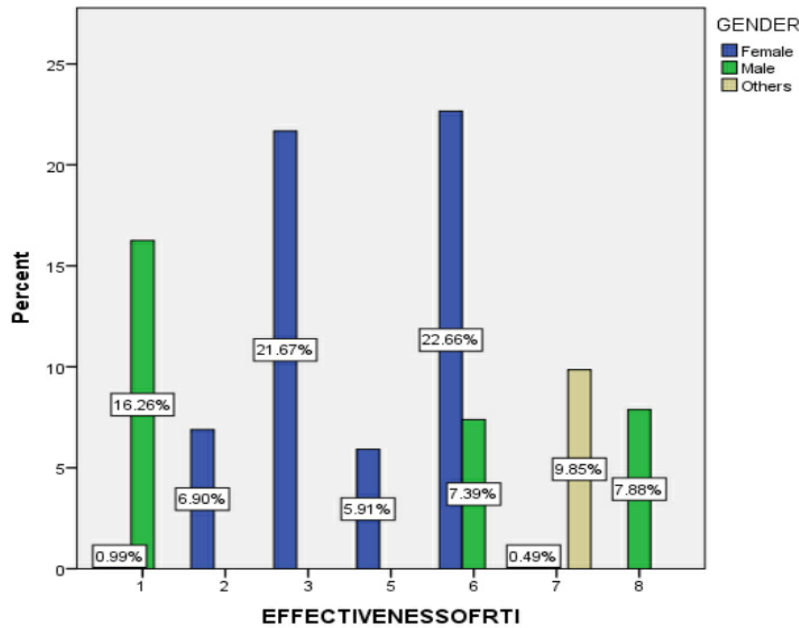
FIGURE 4



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The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. Rate on the effectiveness of RTI act. And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of age groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the age group 18-30 and the lowest number of responses is from the age group.

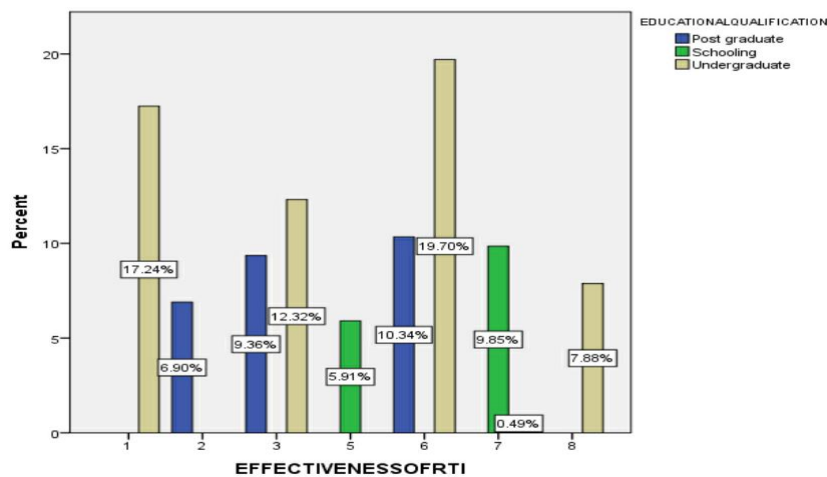
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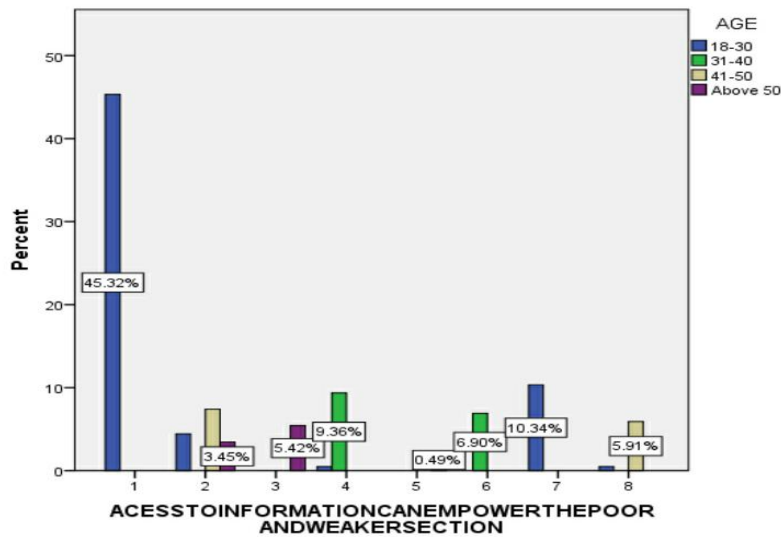
FIGURE 6



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The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. Rate on the effectiveness of RTI act. And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of Educational groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the undergraduate are highest number of responses.

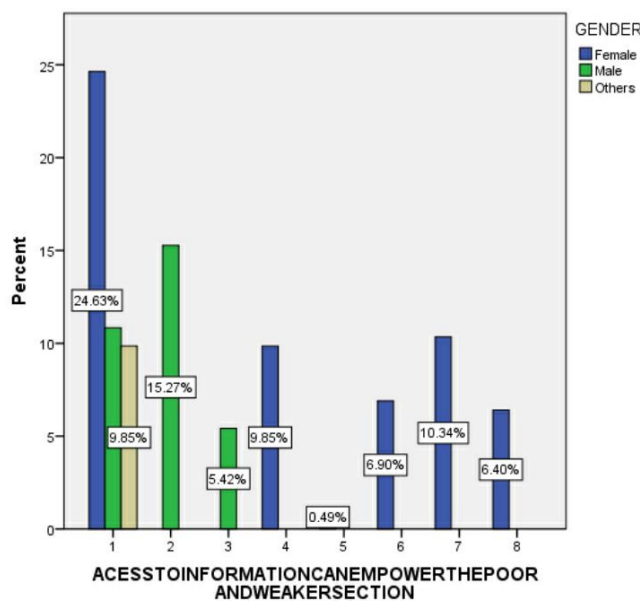
FIGURE 7



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The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. Rate on the access to information can empower the poor and weaker section. And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of age groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the 18-30 years are highest number of responses.

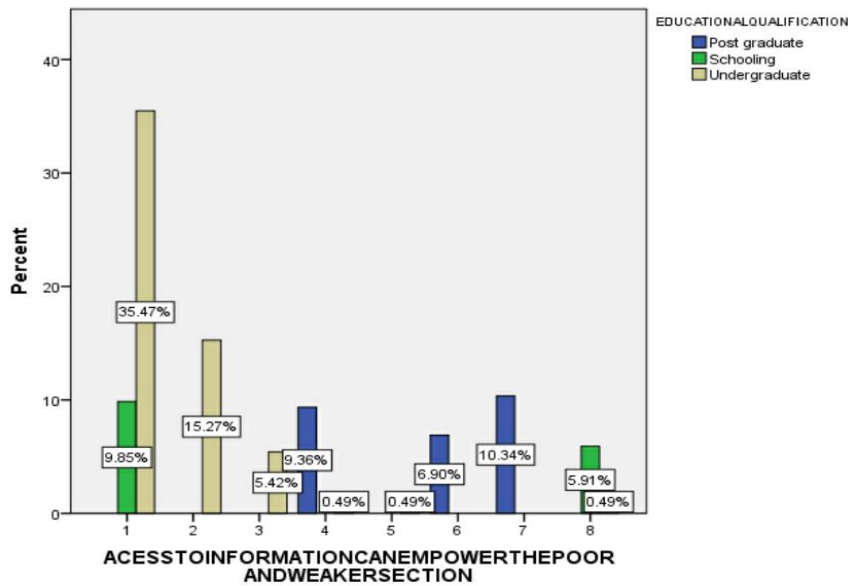
FIGURE 8



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The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. Rate on the access to information can empower the poor and weaker section. And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of gender groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the females are highest in number of responses.

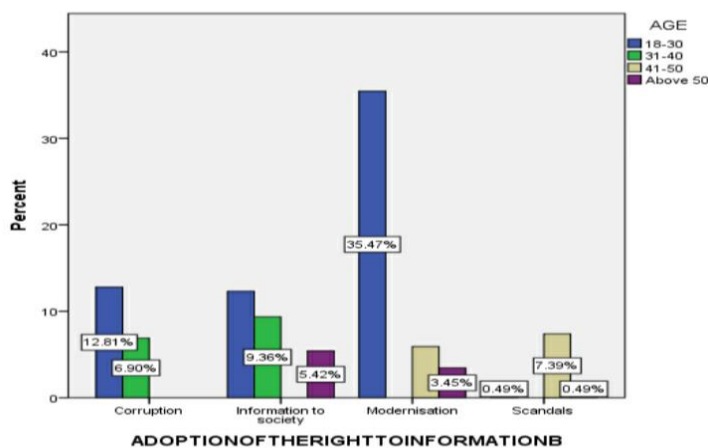
FIGURE 9



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The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. Rate on the access to information can empower the poor and weaker section. And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of Educational groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the undergraduate are highest in number of responses.

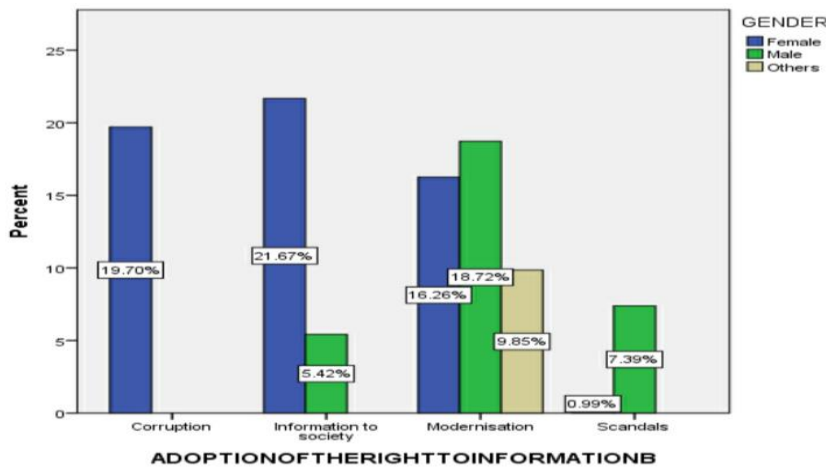
FIGURE 10



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The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. Reasons for the adoptions of Right to information. And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of Age groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the 18-30 are highest number of responses.

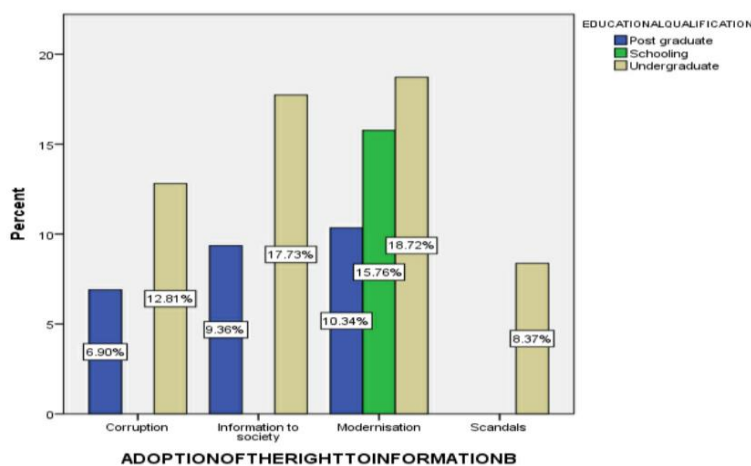
FIGURE 11



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The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. Reasons for the adoptions of Right to information. And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of Gender groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the females are highest number of responses.

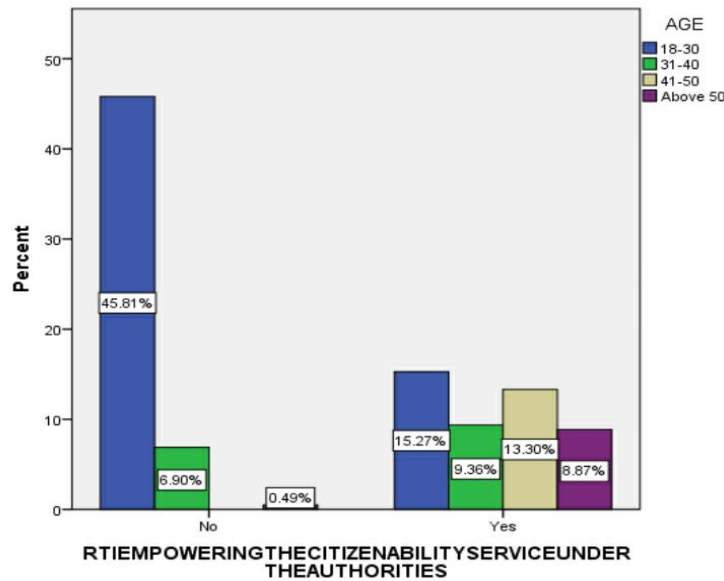
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The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. Reasons for the adoption of the Right to information. And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of Education groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the undergraduate are the highest number of responses.

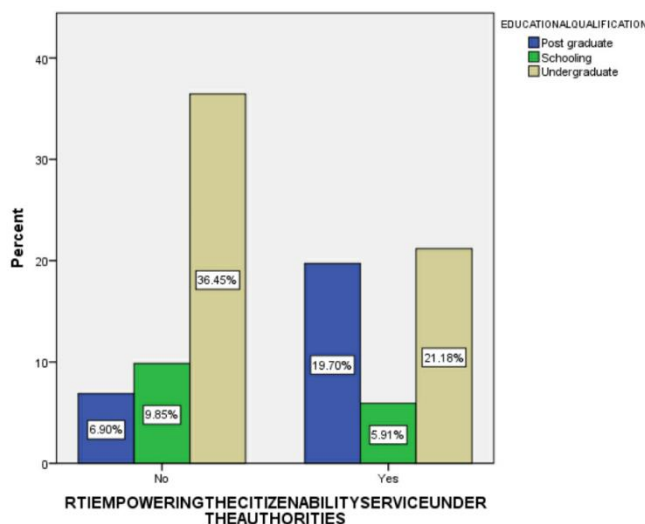
FIGURE 13



Legend

The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. RTI empowering the citizen ability service under the authorities. And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of Age groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the 18-30 are highest number of responses.

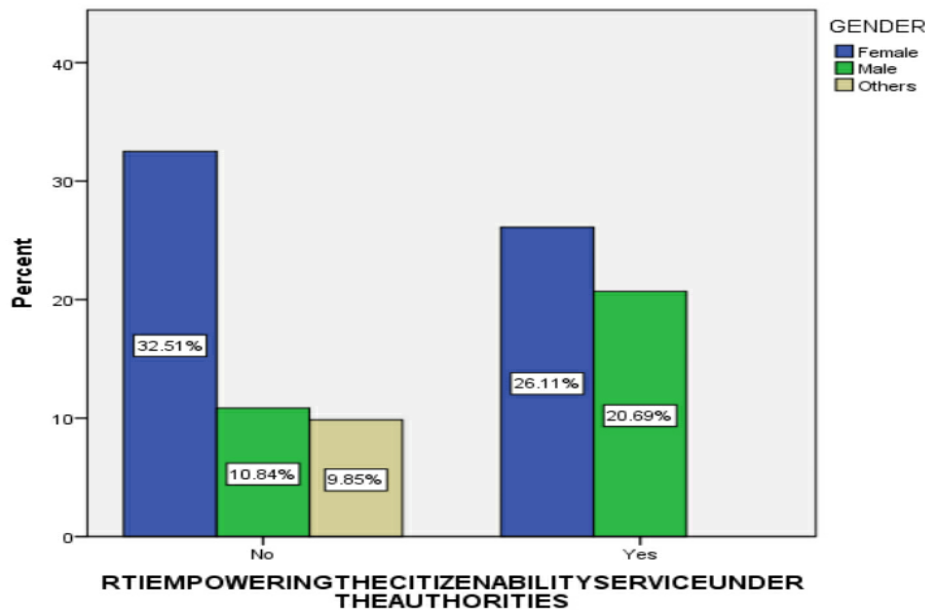
FIGURE 14



Legend

The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. RTI empowering the citizen ability service under the authorities. And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of Gender groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the undergraduate highest number of responses.

FIGURE 15



Legend

The graph represents the questionnaire accordingly. RTI empowering the citizen ability service under the authorities. And this survey was analyzed with the comparison of Gender groups of the respondents. The highest number of responses is from the females are highest number of responses.

III. RESULTS

From the above graphs the bar graph contained about the Age, Gender, Education Qualification. And the bar graphs were compared with the dependent variables and the questionnaires. **(figure1)**. The respondent of the age group 18-30 was the highest number of responses with the percent of 66%. **(Figure 2)** The respondent of gender group females are higher in number of responses when compared to other responses with the percentage of 35.96%. **(Figure 3)** The educational qualifications of groups post graduate are higher in the number of responses with 15.76%. **(Figure 4)** The respondent of the age group 18-30 was the highest number of responses with the percent of 22.66%. In **(figure 5)** The respondents of gender group females are higher in number of responses when compared to other responses

with the percentage of 22.66%.**(Figure 6)**the educational qualifications of undergraduate groups are higher in the number of responses with 19.70%.**(Figure 7)** The respondent of the age group 18-30 was the highest number of responses with the percent of 45.32%.**(In figure 8)** The respondents of gender group females are higher in number of responses when compared to other responses with the percentage of 24.63%.**(Figure 9)** The educational qualifications of undergraduate groups are higher in the number of responses with 35.47%.**(figure 10)** The respondent of the age group 18-30 was the highest number of responses with the percent of 35.47%.**(Figure 11)** The respondent of gender group females are higher in number of responses when compared to other responses with the percentage of 21.67%. In **(figure 12)** The educational qualifications of groups under graduate are higher in the number of responses with 18.72%. **(Figure 13)** The respondent of the age group 18-30 was the highest number of responses with the percent of 45.81%. **(Figure14)** The respondents of gender group females are higher in number of responses when compared to other responses with the percentage of 32.51%. **(Figure 15)** The educational qualifications of groups under graduate are higher in the number of responses with 36.45%.

IV. DISCUSSION

From the above graphs the bar graph contained about the Age, Gender, Education Qualification. And the bar graphs were compared with the dependent variables and the questionnaires.**(figure1)**.The respondent of the age group 18-30 was the highest number of responses.**(Figure 2)** The respondent of gender group females are higher in number of responses when compared to other responses. **(Figure 3)**The educational qualifications of groups post graduate are higher in the number of responses.**(Figure 4)** The respondent of the age group 18-30 was the highest number of responses.In **(figure 5)** The respondents of gender group females are higher in number of responses when compared to other responses.**(Figure 6)**the educational qualifications of undergraduate groups are higher in the number of responses. **(Figure 7)** The respondent of the age group 18-30 was the highest number of responses.**(In figure 8)** The respondents of gender group females are higher in number of responses when compared to other responses.**(Figure 9)** The educational qualifications of undergraduate groups are higher in the number of responses. **(figure 10)** The respondent of the age group 18-30 was the highest number of responses. **(Figure 11)** The respondent of gender group females are higher in number of responses when compared to other responses. In **(figure 12)** The educational qualifications of groups under graduate are higher in the number of responses. **(Figure 13)** The respondent of the age group 18-30 was the highest number of responses. **(Figure14)** The respondents of gender group females are higher in number of responses when

compared to other responses. **(Figure 15)** The educational qualifications of groups under graduate are higher in the number of responses.

V. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The Major Limitation of my study is the sample frame. The sample frame in general public samples. The impacts relating to Right to information in India. Being in the state list is also one of the major drawbacks. The restrictive area of sample size also has other major drawbacks. The restrictive area of sample size is also one of the major drawbacks. The physical factors are the most impactful right to information in India and a major factor limiting the study.

VI. SUGGESTION

Identify variations in the implementation and utilization of the RTI Act across different states and sectors, including differences in responsiveness, transparency, and accountability. Assess the impact of the RTI Act on governance processes, administrative efficiency, and citizen engagement. Explore whether the act has led to better policy-making, reduced corruption, and improved service delivery. Examine the role of media organizations and civil society in utilizing the RTI Act as a tool for investigative journalism, advocacy, and public interest litigation. Evaluate the extent to which the RTI Act has empowered citizens, particularly marginalized communities, and assess levels of awareness and understanding of the act among the general public. Identify challenges and limitations in the effective implementation of the RTI Act and propose policy recommendations for addressing these challenges and enhancing its impact. By conducting this research, a deeper understanding of the long-term impacts of the RTI Act in India can be achieved, enabling policymakers, civil society organizations, and citizens to make informed decisions and contribute to the strengthening of democratic processes, transparency, and accountability in the country.

VII. CONCLUSION

Though the RTI is a remarkable piece of legislation yet it has issues and challenges in its execution and implementation especially in the downtrodden areas. The technicalities of filing an RTI application should be more simplified. The literacy rate of rural India is quite low and thus they find it quite difficult to comply with the procedures. The usability and effect of the RTI should be publicized by awareness campaigns to the general people especially for the poor and marginalized people who are more victimized when compared to the rest. In this aspect, the role of NGO'S and the media is highly anticipated. There is an urgent need to protect the whistleblowers who are targeted or attacked so easily. The impending bill should be passed or

else an ancillary strict measure should be taken in this regard. Children are considered resources for the future health of a nation. Therefore, RTI act should be added in the school syllabus to arouse curiosity of children about RTI at the grass-root level. To ensure accountability the RTI shall target mismanagement, abuse of discretion, corruption and other administrative malpractices. One can see Right to Information as the key to strengthening participatory democracy and promoting people-centric governance. Downtrodden sections of the society can be empowered by giving them access to information so that they can demand their welfare and actually bring into operation the numerous beneficial schemes of the government, which due to lack of administrative intent to bring them in action mostly remain on paper. In a fundamental sense, therefore the Right to Information Act, if used and implemented prudently, has the potential to unleash a good governance system more responsive to community needs, and this is the basic premise of democracy.

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