

***Implementation Audit of Karnataka Right to Information Act 2000(KRIA):***

At the end of 2002, CHRI with PAC (Public Affairs Centre) initiated an 'Implementation Audit' of the Karnataka Right to Information Act 2000 (KRIA). Volunteers were trained to use the RTI Act and file applications for seeking information from a wide range of public bodies in Bangalore. The aim was to test the working of the RTI law, document the problems faced by the applicants and the outcome of the applications so as to provide the Karnataka Government with adequate feedback for effective implementation of KRIA. A survey sheet was prepared for enabling step-by-step documentation of the entire process. The survey tracks these applications from the date of application until the final reply and tests whether the law is being implemented in providing information to citizens as envisaged under the Karnataka Right to Information Act. After two interim reviews of the process in February and April this year, CHRI and PAC analysed all the results of the applications filed and finalised the Implementation Audit Report.

***Outcome:***

The findings were communicated in an open public meeting held at the City Mayo Hall (Bangalore) on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2003. A large number of senior government officials and citizens attended the meeting which was given ample media coverage. This has resulted in the following outcomes:

- a) Pressure on the government bodies to ensure proper implementation of the Act.
- b) The Bangalore City Corporation (BCC) Commissioner, Mr. M.R. Sreenivasa Murthy announced that in the interest of transparency, the body would publish the programme of works taken up in all 100 wards of the city on the web and for works costing more than Rs. One lakh, a board would be displayed carrying details like cost, timeline for completion, authorities with whom complaints could be lodged etc. He also admitted that some responses to applications for information from the body were inadequate and this would be rectified.
- c) This event also gave us the opportunity for a wide distribution of our new pamphlet on KRIA 2000. This pamphlet explains the main features of the law in an easy to understand manner and was received with a lot of enthusiasm.
- d) Greater awareness on the issue amongst the citizens and government officials.

The entire exercise has been valuable for advocacy on the issue and merits replication in other places. CHRI plans to work towards this in the coming months.