

Workshop cum Trip Report

State level Consultation on Right to Information, Bhubaneswar, 18th and 19th December, 2001

Jointly held by CYSD, Bhubaneswar and CHRI, New Delhi

17th December, 2001

The day before the consultation, CHRI team met with CYSD personnel organising the consultation to discuss and finalise the schedule. The team also checked the arrangements made for the consultations. We met with the CYSD Chairman, Mr. P.K. Sahoo regarding the consultation.

18th – 19th December

The two days consultation was well attended with over 60 participants from various fields like the print media, government, activists, funders, etc. There was active participation in the discussions by the people present at the consultation. The first days' discussions were focussed on the need and value of RTI and the contents of the law, which was related by the participants to their own work.

The next day (19th December), the process of social audit was discussed and the work done by Action Aid in Bolangir District of Orissa was appreciated by the house. The main focus of the discussion was the action plan to be adopted to take the issue forward at two levels, the grassroots/community level and the policy level. Further, the participants also discussed the contents of the law and made recommendations on the same.

Subsequently, CYSD and organisations in its network sat down together in a smaller group to chalk out a definitive action plan to push the issue forward with the media in the state, in political circles and in the government. Volunteers agreed to work on specific topics regarding the campaign for the issue.

A detailed report on the workshop is awaited from CYSD