

In April 2003, our RTI programme staff was invited on a field visit to Gujarat by ANANDI (a Gujarat based NGO). ANANDI is working on women empowerment in the tribal belts of Gujarat and has also finds mention in the Time Magazine for their exemplary relief work there after the communal violence in Feb 2002. They have helped the local women organisations there in setting up of information centres (Mahiti Kendras), which cater to the local information needs of the people. These centres have been effective in getting information without any legislation on RTI in the State of Gujarat. So far they have been dealing with information on issues like the widow pension schemes, relief money for earthquake victims, time and place for gram sabha meetings etc. Larger developmental issues and hard questions are yet to be put to the officials by these information centres. CHRI proposes to build capacity amongst these centres by explaining to them rights philosophy behind RTI and the working of the Freedom of Information Act 2002. We will be short listing and tailoring our existing material on RTI to make it Gujarat specific and translated in Gujarati for mass scale dissemination.