

**The Right to Information and Children**  
World Vision India ADP Jagriti, Sehaspur and Mountain Children's Foundation,  
Dehradun  
**7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009**



On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2009, 20 children from Rampur, Badagaur, Laxmipur, Redapur, Kainchiwalla, Umedpur, Baniyawalla, Dhaki and Shankarpur (Sehaspur Block) attended a two day workshop on the Right to Information supported by World Vision ADP Jagriti, at Dehradun Uttarakhand .

The Mountain Children's Foundation conducted the workshop and provided technical support. Dwarika Prasad Nauni (State co-ordinator RTI )and Deepika Panwar (facilitator RTI) were facilitators at the workshop. The MCF provided a magazine and brochure to each child along with posters on the RTI.

The workshop started with an ice breaking game that the children enjoyed. A slide presentation then took the children through the Right to Information Act 2005. The slide which had the most impact was the one where the children learnt that there were other children from the villages of Uttarakhand who had harnessed the power of RTI for the good of their villages.

This ensured greater participation and understanding. The children were then divided into groups to discuss issues of their villages that would lead to the filing of an RTI application.



The issues they discussed were :

- 1- Computers not available in school
- 2- Non-existent school roads
- 3- Cleaning of gutters
- 4- Lack of teachers
- 5- Lack of water in their hand pumps and taps
- 6- Cost involved in building a school – require full budget and cost
- 7- Not receiving scholarship in schools
- 8- Electricity outage for long periods of time
- 9- No local buses for school children at school time. (Some schools are situated more than 8 kms away from their villages)
- 10- Non availability of material at the Public Distribution Shop.
- 11- The right people not receiving BPL cards
- 12- Problems with the quality of the mid day meal
- 13- Non availability of books at school (Free distribution books)

14- Broken flooring in school and no furniture.

After they had selected their issues the children were then taught how to write an application and what points must be kept in mind. The first day concluded early due to Ramzan fasts.

The beginning of the second day of the workshop was focused on checking the applications that were written by the children at home. Their technicalities discussed and corrections made.



A role play followed. This took a little time but both teams came out with well thought out skits one on the Public Distribution Shop (Ration Shop) and the other on the lack of teachers, computers etc in their school.

A quick recap on the act and its provisions and how the citizens can benefit was carried out through a short quiz. The applications they had written were finalized and made ready for posting. Each facilitator was given a print out with details on the act and how an application can be written to be used as a referral.



Feed back forms were filled. In the feed back form the children wrote that they had learnt something new and interesting, they enjoyed the games, they were sad that the time was so short.

**Conclusion and suggestions:** The children and their facilitators were active learners and have written several RTI applications. It will be the work of the facilitators in World Vision to support the children and encourage them to send the applications and help them in follow up.

The workshop had been planned for a longer time period (10am to 5pm – as shared with the facilitator) to incorporate more games but due to the restriction of time the games were limited. Next time a workshop with children is to be carried out it would be better to hold it in the village thereby allowing for more time to be spent with the children.

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**The Right to Information and Children**  
World Vision India ADP Anugraha Kotdwara and  
Mountain Children's Foundation Dehradun  
**10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009**



On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2009, 25 children and 5 Village Animators from Jhnadi Chaur West, Jhandi Chaur, North, Jandi Chaur East, Lalpani, Bishanpur attended a workshop supported by World Vision ADP Anugarha, at Kotdwar Uttarakhand.

The Mountain Children's Foundation, Dehradun conducted the workshop and provided technical support. Aditi P Kaur and Dwarika Pr. Nauni were the consulting facilitator for the workshop.

The workshop started late due to unprecedented heavy rain. The children were able to reach only once the rain abated a little. The workshop therefore started at 11:30 and was to end by 3. The workshop started with a short introduction by each child. This was followed by a quick question asking the children what they knew about RTI. The field animators were also asked to answer the question. Nobody really knew about the Right to Information.

A detailed discussion followed and the children were led through what RTI was and the process that had to be followed. The children were told of other children using the RTI and the success they achieved. This seemed the turning point of the workshop.

The children were divided into groups and they were asked to identify issues that would need an RTI application. After debate and discussion the children came up with the following issues:

1. Lack of Teachers in the school
2. Lack of furniture in the school
3. No Library in the school
4. No Fans in the school
5. No drinking water in their school
6. Not enough schools
7. No proper supply of water in the village
8. No proper supply of Irrigation water
9. Low voltage in the village
10. Large distances between light poles
11. Health – No doctors or medicine
12. Bad Quality of roads
13. Letters are opened read at the post office
14. Waste disposal
15. Ration Shop (Public Delivery System)
16. Lack of maintenance (roof leaking)of the school



The Children were then taught how to write an application and were asked to prepare an application at home for the following days workshop.

The next day the children arrived at 9 am sharp, which was wonderful, and we started with a game to help set the pace for the day of fun and learning.



This was followed by a detailed reading of each applications and suggestions for improvement. One or two children had gone home and discussed the right to information and had their family members help them write the application which we encouraged as we would like the family members also to learn about the RTI.

The children had picked up some interesting issues to write their RTI application on. They included the need for laboratories in their school, the Hospital and its lack of staff and medicine, industrial pollution and plastic pollution along with the normal roads and electricity.

The children were asked to finalise their application. Jamila from ADP Anugraha actually sent an RTI application on Birth registration and its process. For current births and delayed registrations.



A quick recap showed that the children understood the basics of the Right to Information and the Process of filing an application.

The feed-back forms indicated that the children were happy for the experience provided to them and quite firm that they would take the process forward.

**Conclusion and suggestions:** The children were active learners. They have written near perfect applications that are on important issues of their villages. All the applications are with the field animators. They can be sent when ever the animators or the children deem fit.

In a debriefing meeting with the Project Manager, Mr Philomon suggested that it may be useful to have the animators trained to ensure the CBOs and other community members learn of it as well.

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