

## "Show my answer sheet Campaign"

Students of Nirma University undertook RTI as their topic of assignment 6 months back. A group decided to influence youths from colleges to make use of RTI for transparency. Group also designed and developed awareness a material like poster (I will send you a copy), which was circulated to few educational institutes.

Before 12th science results were out, MAGP had meeting at its office & decided to take-up this campaign. We decided to decentralize it to various cities where citizen's groups are active on RTI. We called up representatives of these groups to share this idea and all agreed. Model application was prepared both in English Gujarati and also a format of the complaint. Meanwhile helpline was continuously sharing this information that students can access their answer sheets.

Some of regular callers of RTI helpline voluntarily took up responsibility of their region. These canters were called as " Mahiti Adhikar Swayam Seva Kendra" Before results were out we had list of 26 such kendras where citizens had taken responsibility of guiding students to file an applications. The centres were not full time. Like shailesh swami from Bharuch and his wife could spare 2 hrs in the evening for this work. A tea staller from bhuj kept some 10 copies of the applications forms at his tea stall to guide students.

A press meet was called just before a day, results were declared where in it was shared that, MAGP is going to facilitate and guide students for making use of RTI to get their answer sheets. The list of regional cents went upto 56 after press meet. Many parents took responsibility to guide other students in their vicinity.

How to send model application form in villages? In the nearby STD/FAX booth, MAGP use to fax the application form and citizen use to collect it from there. In some interior places citizens came more than 4-5 km to get model application form. But once it reaches to one person in the village, he use to take responsibility to give to all others in his village.

All these data was maintained and shared frequently to one another. In ahmedabad itself, we had 5 centers. The one at law garden was just for 2 hrs a day. while others were run from the house of volunteers of our July campaign" Every day information about how many applications were made, who are running centers, about filing complaints for not getting information was shared with media. Media gave wide coverage to these. When board refused information saying it does not fall under section 7(1) of the act. students filed complaint to SCIC.

in each of these cities parents formed their mandal (groups). In ahmedabad and Rajkot we had meeting to discuss about future strategy. It was decided that students will argue on their own.

Meanwhile, Ms. pooja of 12th std. committed suicide, because she got less marks than expected. Students and Parents sent condolence message to her parents and urged in the media that parents should give moral support to children who are under depression. Media supported by giving articles appealing " Board exams can be given once again life is precious we will never get it back once lost" . We all on the helpline gave moral support to students who sensed depressed on the phone. MAGP office use to be crowded with students. Volunteers were working from 8:00 to 8:00 pm and were having dialogue with each of the students visiting office.

On the first hearing on 25th may, commission was crowded with students. Students aggressively argued, is it not the question of our life and liberty? if pooja would have got her evaluated answer sheet, she would have got answer to her question why I got less marks?

one of the students said to the commissioner, sir, is there any difference between the life style of doctor and life of peon? our results will decide whether we can become doctor or peon? is this not important for us?.

Board argued that this would create administrative problems as there are more than 7 lakhs students appearing for exams. Commission gave order in favor of students.

Meanwhile, some of the students who had appeared for re-checking and reassessment noticed that there are severe problems with evaluation of their answers. One student noticed that in her entire answer sheet, each of the answer written has got 0.5 marks!. the whole answer sheet is having 0.5 marks.

Another student, each of her answer on the supplement was initially had correct sign and then wrong sign. There was no mark put. When she questioned to the teacher, he answered " when there are no marks it is to be considered ZERO. these students are now determined to fight their case in high court.

So this was the story of "Show my answer sheet campaign"

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MAGP