



Speech on 21.8.2010 on Presiding over of Andhra Pradesh Intellectuals Conference organized by All India Conference of Intellectuals at Jubilee Hall, Public Gardens, Hyderabad.

By

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At the outset I welcome his Excellency, Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Brother Judges of Andhra Pradesh High Court, Smt.D.K.Aruna, Hon'ble Minister of Govt. Of AP, the media persons, Advocates and all other dignitaries present. I am also thankful to Sh.Shivashankaracharya, Convenor of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka State in organizing this Conference.

It is a matter of pleasure that today we have assembled for discussing the Effective use of Right to Information for Better India and the Role of Intellectuals. It is delightful event for the Intellectuals to have transparency with the every corner, may be administrative, judicially or corporate office. The salient features of the Right to Information Act are as under:-

The Central Right to Information Act came into force on the 12th October,2005. However, before that 9 State Governments had passed State Acts. These were Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Assam.

The Right to Information Act,2005 provides for setting out the practical regime of Right to Information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority.

Right to Information Act,2005 mandates timely response to citizen requests for Government information. It is an initiative taken by Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions to provide a RTI Portal Gateway to the citizens for quick search of information on the details of first Appellate Authorities, PIOs etc. Amongst others, besides access to RTI related information/disclosures published on the web by various Public Authorities under the government of India as well as the State Governments.

It is a sword in the hands of the public and the law has been invented for the Intelletuals.

The task of intellectuals is not only to question the frames of knowledge dominant at the time of their writing, but also to develop creative analyses of the world around them. While intellectuals are not able to formulate conclusions that transcend all cultural and historical limitations, they can examine their surroundings to offer insight into the events of their day that might not be apparent from within the confines of the more narrow and conformist interpretations of their less innovative colleagues.

The role of intellectuals is thus to study society in a way that considers both the immediate and the future consequences of their analyses and policy suggestions. Although the allure of research funding may lead many to subscribe to the narrow orientations of established institutions, there is an appeal associated with approaching inquiry from a non-conformist point of view. The work of intellectuals that does not fall in line with the norms of contemporary social thought may provide the analyses that inform future critiques and find its way into the mainstream of social thought as the character of society changes over time. The task of the intellectual in this regard is to question existing frames of knowledge and view established hierarchies of authority with a critical eye.

An awareness of the threat to individual freedom posed by the rationalization of the social order should not lead intellectuals to reject the philosophical discourse of modernity, but inspire them to consider the aspects of its orientations that require critique and re-evaluation. The goal of intellectuals in this setting is to develop analyses with an informed but skeptical attitude that relies not only on the traditions of past knowledge but also on their own insight into the events of their time. They should become familiar with the existing assessments of the social world at their disposal as well as cultivate a sense of the ways these may fail to adequately reflect contemporary trends. Valuable insight into the nature of society does not stem from deductive reasoning or positive observation. Its origins lie in the ability of creative thinkers to synthesize the analyses of their predecessors and build on these to develop qualitatively new interpretations of the world around them.

While intellectuals are expected to investigate their milieu in an analytical manner, their conclusions should not rely solely on utilitarian considerations. They must recognize that the structure of modern society is grounded in the meanings individuals bring to their everyday experience and that these should not be subordinated to the more practical considerations of the established order. To the extent that intellectuals are able to incorporate the human dimension into their work, they can provide a valuable contribution to the ongoing reformation of traditional knowledge as well as to the future directions of modern civilization.

After the RTI Act-2005 enforced in country the government machinery and its employees have shown to discharge their duties transparently and much more accountability has demonstrated in official works functioning, so better implementation of this Act it needs proper awareness among the beneficiaries and common denizens and the NGO's and medias should take its responsibility.