



Strengthening Investigative Journalism through Right to Information-Baseline Survey Report

May, 2014

This baseline study was made possible with support from the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the sole responsibility of **Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives** and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of USAID or the U.S. Government.

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Executive Summary

CPDI started implementing project 'Strengthening Investigative Journalism through Right to Information' from February 20, 2014 which will end on March 19, 2015. This baseline study will be used as a yardstick to measure at the end of the project as to what extent the project has contributed to enabling journalists to improve their reporting techniques and promote investigative journalism by utilizing the Right to Information legislation. This study aims at capturing nature and status of the news reports being published in national and local media. It seeks to determine the quality of investigative reporting and the gaps in the reporting that are often assumed to be due to lack of information or due to wrong information. Furthermore, it tries to gauge level of understanding of journalists about the use of right to information legislation for investigative reporting. The methodology consists of two components, one of these is desk survey of newspapers and analysis, and the second component is the interviews with journalists of these newspapers. Survey of 6 national such as (the Business Recorder Lahore, the Dawn Islamabad, the Express Tribune Islamabad, khabrain Lahore, Jang Lahore and Ausaf Islamabad) and 6 local/regional such as Azkar, News Mart, and Assas from Islamabad, Abtak, Awaz, and Hotline from Lahore region selected randomly was conducted for two weeks. 12 interviews were conducted with randomly selected journalists belonging to different newspapers to gauge their knowledge about RTI, transparency, accountability and investigative journalism. The focus was on stories that contained information essential to be shared with people about significant events, frauds, initiatives and crimes. The analysis of the stories closer to investigative reporting was conducted that were published from March 10 to March 23, 2014. Out of a total 120 stories published during this period, 19 and 17 were published on page numbers two & three respectively and merely 15 stories were published on the 1st page of the newspapers. However, 15 news stories published on first page of the newspapers, 12 news stories mentioned the name of the reporter but nine news stories mentioned the source of information as 'anonymous'. In 20 news stories pertaining to negligence of public sector organizations, 11 stories were based on anonymous source. There was no story based on certified information attained through the use of right to information legislation for investigative reporting. The interviews with journalists reinforce findings of the analysis of newspapers. This study adequately highlights and reinforces the prevailing perceptions pertaining to reporting gaps in the stories filed by journalists. As the project 'Strengthening Investigative Journalism through Right to Information' aims at providing technical support to journalists on the use of right to information legislation for investigative reporting, it is hoped that when the findings of this baseline study will be juxtaposed with those identified by the similar study at the end of the

project, improvement in the quality of reporting will be discernable and more investigative stories will be filed by journalists as is presently the case.

Background and Rationale:

Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives, (CPDI) is implementing project titled 'Strengthening Investigative Journalism through Right to Information'. The main thrust of this project is to enable journalists to improve their reporting techniques and promote investigative journalism by utilizing the Right to Information legislation.

The baseline survey is the research based study to get the idea of nature and status of the news reports being published in national and local media. Following are the key objectives of this study:

To determine the quality of investigative reporting and the gaps in the reporting that are often assumed to be due to lack of information or due to wrong information;

To gauge level of understanding of journalists about the use of right to information legislation for investigative reporting.

Methodology:

The methodology consists of two components: one of these is desk survey of newspapers and analysis, and the second component is the interviews with journalists of these newspapers.

In the first phase, the survey of the 6 national such as (the Business Recorder Lahore, the Dawn Islamabad, the Express Tribune Islamabad, khabrain Lahore, Jang Lahore and Ausaf Islamabad) and 6 local/regional such as Azkar, News Mart, Assas from Islamabad, Abtak, Awaz, and Hotline from Lahore region, selected randomly, was conducted. The daily reporting (with the name of reporter) in these selected newspapers was analyzed along the lines of title, theme, origin, nature, and source of information (if mentioned) of the reported news for two weeks.

In addition, 12 interviews were conducted with randomly selected journalists belonging to different newspapers to gauge their knowledge about RTI, transparency, accountability and investigative journalism.

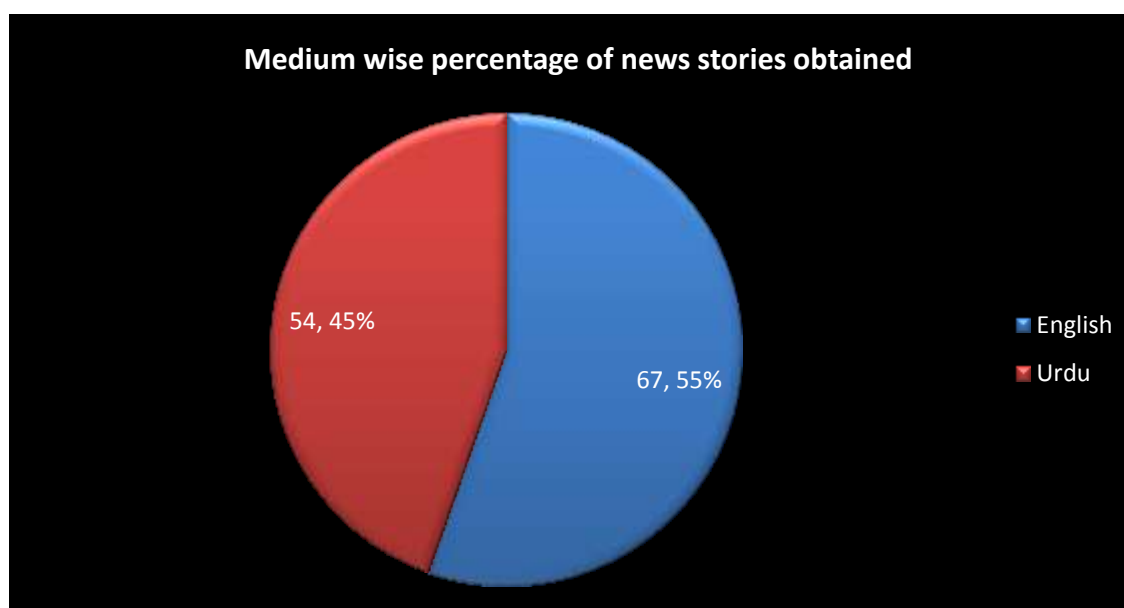
Results of Baseline Survey

The baseline survey consists of two components. One of these is survey of news stories published in newspapers and the other component is interviews with journalists. The results of the survey are given under two sections.

1. Survey of the newspapers

As stated earlier, for the baseline survey of newspapers, six daily nationals selected as sample were: the Business Recorder Lahore, the Dawn Islamabad, the Express Tribune Islamabad, the khabrain Lahore, the Jang Lahore and the Asif Islamabad. Similarly, six local/regional newspapers were: 'the Azkar, the News Mart, the Assas from Islamabad and the Abtak, the Awaz and the C-42 from Lahore region. Among sampled 12 newspapers, the nine newspapers were Urdu medium, while other three newspapers were English medium. The analysis of the stories closer to investigative reporting was conducted that were published from March 10 to March 23, 2014. The focus was on stories that contained information essential to be shared with people about significant events, frauds, initiatives, and crimes. There were total 121 such stories reported in these newspapers. Out of these 121 news stories, 67 (55%) news stories appeared in English medium newspapers while 54 (45%) were published in Urdu medium newspapers as shown in fig 1.

Figure 1: the chart showing percentage of medium wise news stories

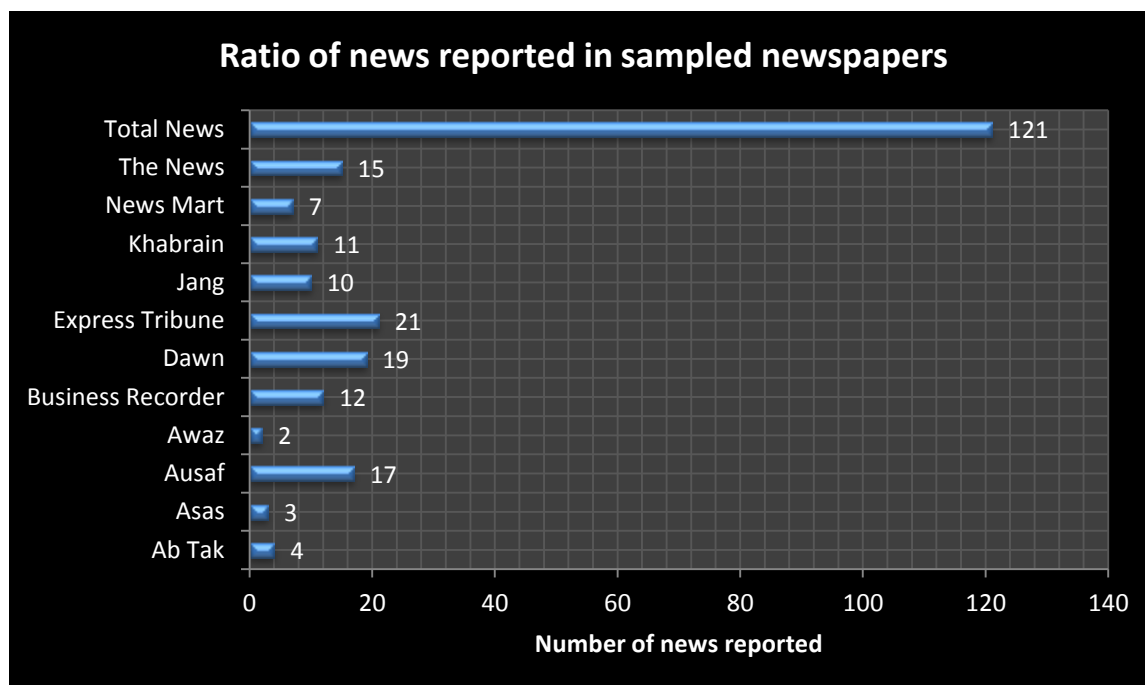


The survey data shows that news stories close to investigative reporting appeared in greater number in the national dailies than in regional and local newspapers. Such types of news stories published in English medium newspapers (3 newspapers) were greater in number (55%) than the number of stories (45%) published in Urdu medium newspapers (9 newspapers). The data also identifies the relationship of investigative journalism with medium of newspapers and reporting.

Comparatively, the fig 2 describes that out of 121 news stories reported, maximum news reports were published in the Express Tribune (21), followed by the Dawn (19), the Ausaf (17), the News International (15), the Business Recorder (12), the Khabrain (11) and the

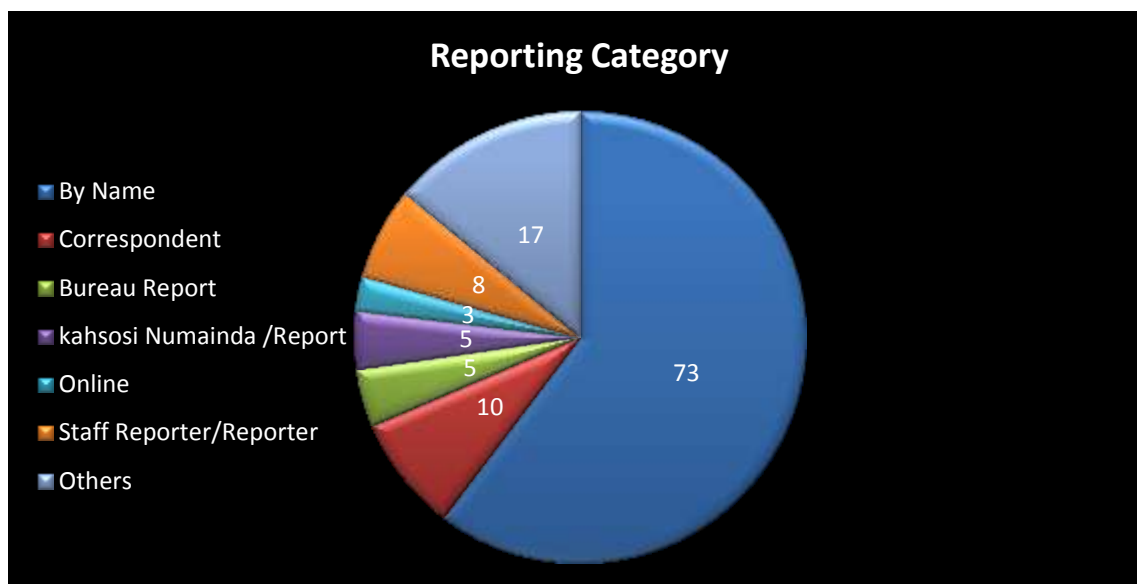
Jang (10). While in other newspapers of regional or local category, there was just three to seven news reports of such kinds published from March 10, 2014 to March 23, 2014 shown in fig 2.

Figure 2: the graph showing the number of news reports in sampled newspapers



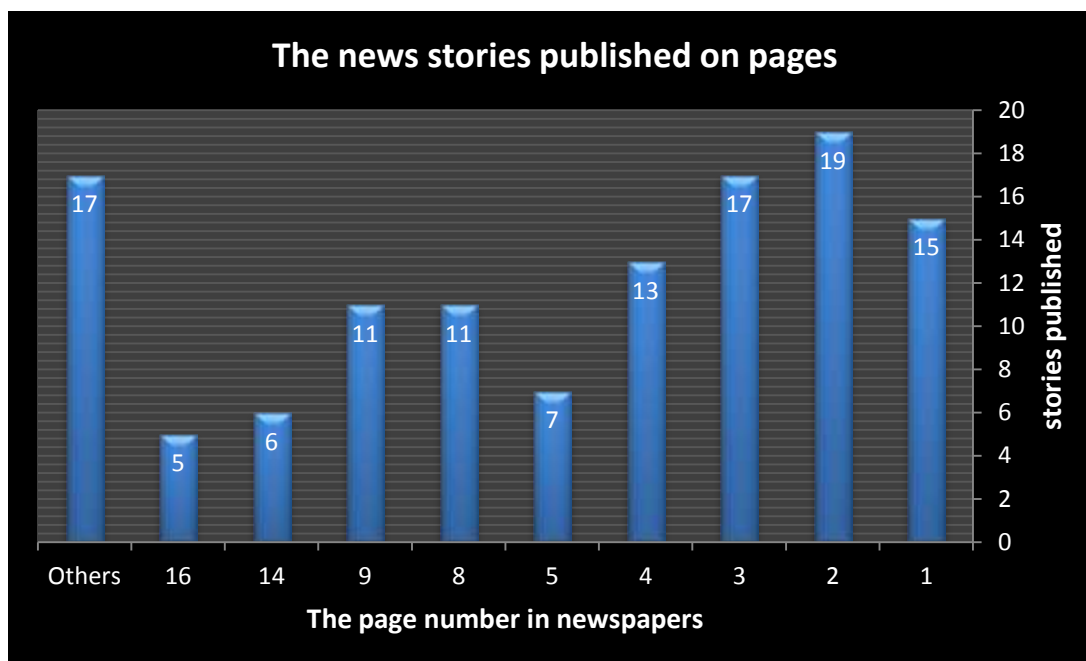
Significantly, the survey data shows that among the news stories published during the survey period, 73 (60%) news stories published mentioned the name of the reporters. Nevertheless, 10(8%) of the news reports published mentioned the category of correspondent as reporting news. Others categories of reporters were staff reporter/reporter, bureau report, khasosi numainda/report, online report and some other categories shown in fig 3.

Figure 3: the chart showing the categories of reporters mentioned in news stories



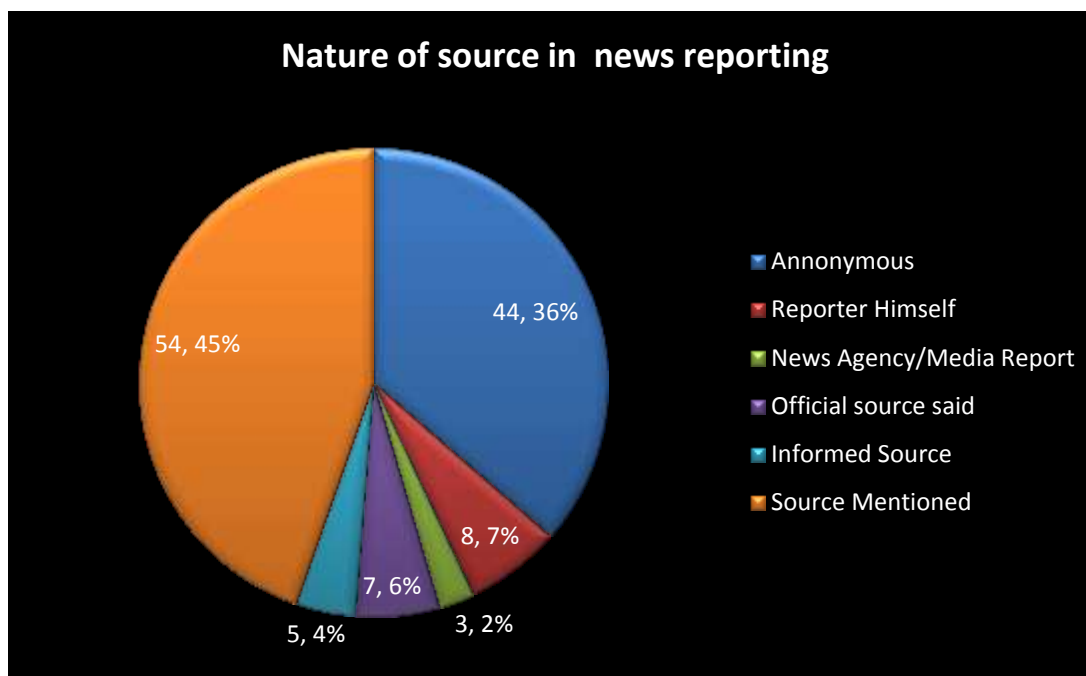
These other categories shows the gap of reporting because in news stories that do not mention the name of reporter may be devoid of authentic information being presented in reporting. On the other hand, a report published with the name of reporters necessarily entails the credibility of information and subsequently implied the accountability of reporter as well. Moreover, the significance of the news stories was explored through identifying these stories being published on the page numbers of the newspapers. The survey shows that maximum stories i.e. 19 and 17 were published on page numbers two & three respectively. It was followed by 15 news reports published on page one. Similarly, 13 news reports were published on page number four, and 11 news reports each on page numbers five and six. The data shows that significantly, out of 121 news reports, there were 15 news reports published on page one of the newspapers. Others news reports were published on different page numbers described in fig 4 below.

Figure 4: the graph showing the page numbers of published news reports in newspapers



Nevertheless, among 121 news stories reported in sampled newspapers, there were 54 (45%) news reports in which reporter mentioned the nature of source of information by sharing the name of persons who shared some information about the news story with the reporter. Simultaneously, reporters also mentioned the ‘anonymous’ source of information in 44 (36%) news stories. Similarly, in eight (approximately 7%) of the news reports, reporters claimed of getting information by investigating the news stories by themselves but there were no source mentioned. Seven (approximately 6%) and five (approximately 4%) news stories mentioned the categories of source of information as “official source said” and “informed source” respectively. Viewed critically, these two categories also fall within the category of news stories where source has been vaguely mentioned. Figure 5 describe the detailed nature of source if information mentioned in news reports.

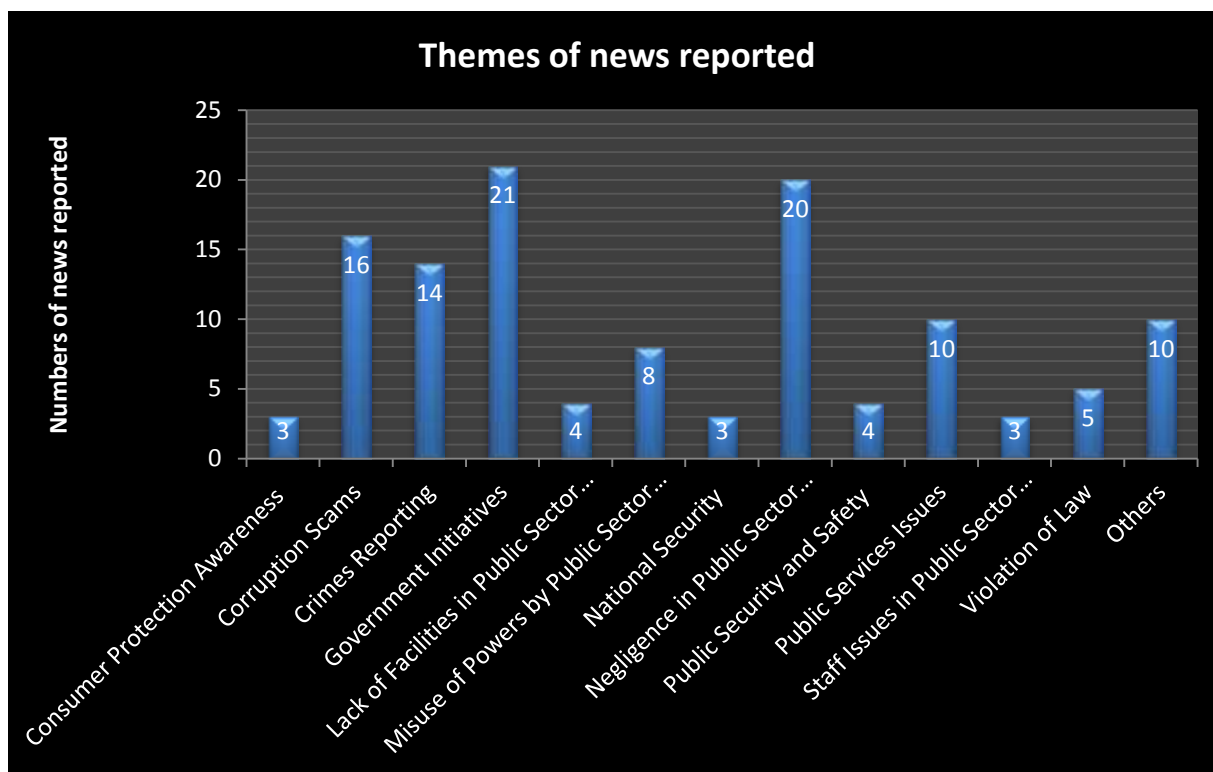
Figure 5: the chart describe the nature of source of information in news reports.



However, among these 15 news stories that were published on first page of the newspapers (see fig 4), though 12 news stories mentioned the name of the reporter but nine news stories mentioned the source of information as ‘anonymous’. In two stories, the reporter himself investigated without mentioning source and in other three news stories, the source was mentioned vaguely. In a significant story about corruption fraud published on page one of the Urdu newspaper, (News Mart), neither is mentioned the name of reporter nor source of information.

The themes of the reports identify the nature of areas or topics about which news stories were being reported in newspapers. Among these news stories, there were 21 news reports about governments’ initiatives both at federal and provincial levels, followed by 20 news stories about negligence of public sector organizations and departments about service delivery. Similarly, 16 news stories pertained to corruption scams, 14 were about crimes reporting and ten news reports were about public services issues. In 20 news stories pertaining to negligence of public sector organizations, 11 stories were based on anonymous source. Fig 6 provides details about the other categories of news stories.

Figure 6: the graph showing the details about the theme of news stories reported



2. Interviews with Journalists

Similarly, based on the survey results interviews were conducted with different journalists working in different newspapers to identify their professional approach for investigative journalism. The interviews results have been compiled here.

Asim Shahzad

Reporter, Daily Express, Lahore

Mr. Asim Shahzad identified unemployment, inadequate healthcare facilities, problems with supply/charges of electricity, shortage of drinking water, problems related to the police, price hike, and corruption as problems facing the city, which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved by knowing who deals with the problem, by knowing what action has been or is being taken to solve the problem and by knowing how long will it take to resolve the problem. With regard to the question whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he answered that he always got information through his own sources. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered in the affirmative and said that 'yes, RTI provides right of information to citizens. With regard to the question that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories, he shared that RTI law was for everyone and the all citizens could have access to information held by public bodies

through the use of RTI laws. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered that RTI law could be helpful a lot but only for investigative stories where one would need verified data in support of the story. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he shared that though the RTI law for the province was not fully operational but some of his colleagues, especially Mr. Yousaf Abbasi had used RTI law for investigative reporting.

Furrukh Baseer

Senior Staff Reporter, Daily Dunya, Lahore

Mr. Furrukh Baseer identified shortage of drinking water, price hike, and corruption as problems facing the city, which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that as a journalist, his duty was to identify and report the problems and the government should be resolving the problems by formulating appropriate policies. With regard to the question whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he answered in the affirmative but said that there were 1.2 million government servants in the province and present 'incapable regime is not even effectively solving their problems alone', how could one expect from them to solve problems 90 million population in Punjab are confronting with'. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he shared that he had come to know about this law through seminars and conferences organized by NGOs. The prevailing secrecy culture in public departments and the fear of media prohibits the provision of public information by the custodians. With regard to the question that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories, he shared that 'the stage has not yet arrived wherein RTI law may be helpful for reporting'. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered that journalists had only heard about this law through seminars and conferences.

Naveed Chaudhry

Group Editor, Daily C 42, Lahore

Mr. Naveed Chaudhry identified unemployment, inadequate healthcare facilities, problems with supply/charges of electricity, shortage of drinking water, problems related to the police, price hike, and corruption as problems facing the city, which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved through good governance. With regard to the question whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he answered that 'he had spoken to Chief Minister Punjab and CM admitted

that despite all his best efforts the problems are not resolved to the desired level'. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered in the affirmative and said that 'this is right to information law recently passed by Punjab Assembly'. With regard to the question, that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories; he was of the view that proactive disclosure of information by public bodies could be helpful. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered that journalists could not depend on RTI law for daily reporting. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he shared that he had heard that some journalists in Islamabad were using this law.

Ata-ur-Rehman

Group Editor, Daily Nai Baat, Lahore

Mr. Ata-ur-Rehman identified price hike, transportation, corruption, mushroom growth of private sector schools/colleges/universities and increase in street crime as problems facing the city, which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved by knowing who deals with the problem, by knowing what action has been or is being taken to solve the problem and by knowing how long will it take to resolve the problem. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved by knowing who deals with the problem, by knowing how long it will take to resolve the problem and as our society is not merit based, problems can be solved through contacts. To the question as to whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he answered that Nai Baat has operationalised a fully equipped mobile van, which moves around and brings both citizens and officials, providing them a forum to interact. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered that it was such a law that empowered every citizen with right to information held by public bodies. With regard to the question that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories, he shared that, access to the records held by public bodies would certainly help in investigative reporting. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered our reporters use RTI law only when they are unable to have access to information through other means. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative.

Sabtain Ali

Chief Reporter, Daily Abtak, Lahore

Mr. Sabtain Ali identified unemployment, inadequate healthcare facilities, problems with supply/charges of electricity, shortage of drinking water, problems related to the police, price hike and corruption as problems facing the city which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved through good governance. With regard to the question whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he answered that he 'he had spoken to Chief Minister Punjab and CM admitted that despite all his best efforts the problems are not resolved to the desired level'. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered in the affirmative and said that 'this is right to information law recently passed by Punjab Assembly'. With regard to the question, that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories; he was of the view that proactive disclosure of information by public bodies could be helpful. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered that journalists could not depend on RTI law for daily reporting. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he shared that he had heard that some journalists in Islamabad were using this law.

Tariq Khursheed

Daily Waqt, Lahore

Mr. Tariq Khursheed identified unemployment, inadequate healthcare facilities, problems with supply/charges of electricity, shortage of drinking water, problems related to the police, price hike and corruption as problems facing the city which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved through good governance. With regard to the question whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he answered that he 'he had spoken to Chief Minister Punjab and CM admitted that despite all his best efforts the problems are not resolved to the desired level'. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered in the affirmative and said that 'this is right to information law recently passed by Punjab Assembly'. With regard to the question, that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories; he was of the view that proactive disclosure of information by public bodies could be helpful. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered that journalists could not depend on RTI law for daily reporting. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he shared that he had heard that some journalists in Islamabad were using this law.

Tariq Khursheed

Reporter, Daily Waqt, Lahore

He identified unemployment, inadequate healthcare facilities, problems with supply, charges of electricity, shortage of drinking water, problems related to the police, price hike, and corruption as problems facing the city which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved by the government through formulation of long term policies through the input of communities. To the question as to whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he answered in the negative. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered that he was aware about the law and also knew the related developments pertaining to the operationalisation of Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013. With regard to the question that how RTI law could be of help, he was of the view that it could be of tremendous help but only for investigative reporting. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered that he had used RTI law to get information about the dual nationality of Punjab public servants. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he said that recently some journalists have filed information requests and are waiting for the information.

Irfan Mirza

Correspondent, Al akhbar, Rawalpindi

Mr. Irfan Mirza identified shortage of irrigation water, problems with charges/ supply of electricity, lack of/ poor road connectivity, shortage of drinking water, proposed land accusations, problems related to birth/death certificates, problems related to police and corruption as problems facing the city which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved by knowing why the problem has occurred, knowing who deals with the problem and by knowing what one could do to solve the problem. With regard to the question whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he answered in the negative. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered that it was a law for information. With regard to the question, that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories, he only answered that it could be helpful but did not specify as to how. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative.

Ijaz Ahmed Khan

Reporter, Daily Nai Baat, Islamabad

Mr. Ijaz Ahmed identified inadequate healthcare facilities, problems related to educational facilities, /school, lack of poor road connectivity, proposed land acquisitions and transportation as problems facing the city, which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved by knowing what action has been or is being taken to solve the problem and by knowing what else one could do to solve the problem. With regard to the question whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he answered in the negative. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered that it gave 'right of information'. With regard to the question that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories, he only answered that it could be helpful but did not specify as to how. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative.

Azam Khan

Correspondent, Express Tribune, Islamabad

Mr. Azam Khan identified inadequate healthcare facilities, problems related to educational facilities, /school, shortage of drinking water, problems related to birth/ death certificate and problems related to the police as problems facing the city, which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved by knowing what action has been or is being taken to solve the problem and by 'knowing experts views on the issue'. With regard to the question whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he shared that he 'contacted relevant officials and mostly got the information. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered that 'it gives right to know from government departments'. With regard to the question, that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories; he shared that it could be helpful in filing 'more accurate stories'. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative.

Nasir Abbas Naqvi

Correspondent, Osaaf, Islamabad

Mr. Nasir Abbas Naqvi identified unemployment, inadequate healthcare facilities, lack and shortage of irrigation water, problems related to educational facilities, /school and problems with supply/ charges of electricity as problems facing the city which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved by knowing what action has been or is being taken to solve the problem. With regard to the question whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he shared that he got access to certified information through 'ordinary methods' and through his sources. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered in the affirmative but did not specify how. With regard to the question, that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories; he shared that 'complete information would be available'. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative.

Atif Sherazi

Correspondent, Jang, Islamabad

He identified unemployment, inadequate healthcare facilities, problems related to educational facilities, /school and problems with supply/ charges of electricity and problems related to the police as problems facing the city which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved by knowing who deals with the problem, by knowing what action has been or is being taken to solve the problem, by knowing what action has been taken on past complaints or requests and by knowing what else one could do to resolve the problem. With regard to the question whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he answered in the negative. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered in the affirmative and said that 'yes, RTI provides right of information to citizens. With regard to the question that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories, he shared the use of law will lead to bringing to the fore more 'informative stories to the public'. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative.

Faisal Munir

Correspondent, the News International, Islamabad

Mr. Faisal Munir identified inadequate healthcare facilities, lack and shortage of irrigation water, problems related to educational facilities, /school lack of/poor road connectivity, problems with disbursement of pensions, problems with electoral cards/ rolls, problems related to the police and corruption as problems facing the city which he was interested in reporting. He was of the view that these problems could be resolved by knowing what action has been or is being taken to solve the problem. With regard to the question whether he had ever tried as a reporter to get authentic and certified information from relevant government departments/ officials or other agencies, he shared that he got access to certified information through the use of RTI law. With regard to the question as to what did he know about RTI Act/Ordinance/law, he answered in the affirmative and shared that four provinces had RTI laws while federal government had RTI ordinance. With regard to the question that how RTI law could be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories, he shared that it would be helpful for investigative stories. When asked whether he had ever used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered in the negative. To the question as to whether he knew any journalist who had used RTI law for reporting purposes, he answered that Umar Cheema had used RTI laws to have access to information held by public bodies.

Recommendations:

Following are some of the key recommendations based on survey of the newspapers and interviews with journalists.

Formal Training Institute for Journalists:

There is need for the establishment of a formal training institute for journalists. The mandate of such a training institute should be to impart training to editors and journalists on various aspects of investigative journalism. It must be made mandatory for journalists to get professional certification from this institute to practice journalism.

Training to Journalists on RTI Legislation:

The fact that journalists have not started using, apart from isolated examples, effective, robust and highly progressive RTI laws recently enacted in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa shows that journalists lack the knowledge about the potential of these laws as tool for investigative reporting. Therefore, it is important that civil society organizations working in the area of transparency and right to information should focus on providing training to journalists on the use of RTI laws for investigative reporting.

RTI Helpline for Journalists:

The study also shows that there is need for RTI Helpline which provides technical support to journalists pertaining to filing information requests with public bodies, maintaining follow-up and lodging complaints with relevant public bodies in cases where information requests are unlawfully delayed or denied. CPDI, in collaboration with USAID Citizen Voice Project has recently launched such a helpline which needs to stay functional for an extended period of time till journalists start employing RTI laws for investigative reporting in greater frequency as is presently the case.

Incorporating Right to Information Legislation in Syllabi of Journalism:

Presently, media and communication departments in different colleges/universities are not teaching about the role of right to information legislation for investigative reporting. The civil society groups working in the area of right to information and transparency need to get engaged with media and communication departments and help them develop courses pertaining to right to information legislation and investigative reporting.

Conclusion:

This study adequately highlights and reinforces the prevailing perceptions pertaining to reporting gaps in the stories filed by journalists. As the project 'Strengthening Investigative Journalism through Right to Information' aims at providing technical support to journalists

on the use of right to information legislation for investigative reporting, it is hoped that when the findings of this baseline study will be juxtaposed with those identified by the similar study at the end of the project, improvement in the quality of reporting will be discernable and more investigative stories will be filed by journalists as is presently the case.

Annexure:

Information Clearing House (Baseline Survey)

Interview Questionnaire Guideline

Section 1:

Name of Interviewer:.....

Name of Interviewee:.....**Newspaper:**.....

Designation:.....

Date:.....**Location:****District**.....

Objective of the interview: The basic objective of conducting this interview is to gauge the level of gaps in the news reporting of journalists being published in national and local media. The analysis based on these interviews coupled with Newspapers survey will help to understand the key areas of gaps in generating investigative reporting based on authentic information.

Section 2:

Q1. Which are the problems facing this city you are keenly interested to report? [Do Not Read Out Options and tick appropriate option]

1. Unemployment
2. Inadequate health care facilities
3. Lack/shortage of irrigation water
4. Problems related to educational facilities/school
 - 4.1 Absent/incompetent/negligent schoolteachers
 - 4.2 Problems with the mid day meals
5. Problems with supply/charges of electricity
6. Problems with seeds/agriculture extension services
7. Indebtedness
8. Lack of/poor road connectivity
9. Shortage of drinking water
10. Problems with the ration shop/ PDS
11. Lack of access to credit
12. Lack of veterinary care

- 13. Proposed land acquisitions
- 14. Problems with disbursement of pensions e.g.
 - 14.1 Old age
 - 14.2 Widow
 - 14.3 Disability
 - 14.4 others
- 15. Problems related to birth/death certificates
- 16. Upcoming projects
- 17. Problems with electoral card/rolls
- 18. Problems related to the police
- 19. price-hyke
- 20. transportation
- 21. corruption
- 22. Any other (*specify*) _____

Q2. How can these problems be resolved? And if any authentic information can be beneficial? If yes, how? [Select as many as you can, but don't read options before participants]

- 1. By knowing why the problem has occurred
- 2. By knowing who deals with the problem
- 3. By knowing what action has been or is being taken to solve the problem
- 4. By knowing what action has been taken on past complaints or requests
- 5. By knowing how long it would take to resolve the problem
- 6. By knowing what else you can do to resolve the problem
- 7. Others (please specify)

Q3. As a reporter, have you ever tried getting authentic and certified information from relevant government department/ officials/ or other agencies? If so, what has been your experience?

Q4. What do you know/understand about the RTI Act/ordinance/law?

Q5. Can RTI law be helpful in acquiring information for reporting news stories, if yes, how?

Q6. Have you ever used the RTI Act/ordinance/law for your reporting?, if yes, When & What happened ?

Q7. Has any other person/journalist in your knowledge, who had used RTI for reporting purposes? If yes, When & What happened?

Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives, (CPDI) is an independent, non-partisan and a not-for-profit civil society organization working on issues of peace and development in Pakistan. It is registered Under Section 42 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984 (XLVII of 1984). It was established in September 2003 by a group of concerned citizens who realized that there was a need to approach the issue of peace and development in a an integrated manner. CPDI is a first initiative of its kind in Pakistan. It seeks to inform and influence public policies and civil society initiatives through research-based advocacy and capacity building in order to promote citizenship, build peace and achieve inclusive and sustainable development. Areas of special sectoral focus include promotion of peace and tolerance, rule of law, transparency and access to information, budget watch, legislative watch and development.



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Centre for Peace and
Development Initiatives

409-B, Nazim-ud-Din Road, F-11/1, Islamabad
t: +92 51 210 82 87, 211 23 15
f: +92 51 210 15 94 e: info@cpdi-pakistan.org

A Company setup under Section 42 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984

www.cpdi-pakistan.org