Research Methodology

Module 1: Exploratory Research

This module consists of the following two parts:

Part 1: Secondary Research

Various journals, websites, literature, directories would be referred for generating initial information on the subject and also for facilitating collation of the information with respect to various states. Also, it would help us in determining the level of Government interactions (Governance) in a particular district/state, the number of PSUs in various district/states, number of applications received through the RTI Act, etc.

Part 2: Qualitative Research

This part consists of conducting in-depth interviews with information providers seekers:

• These interviews would be conducted in order to gauge an understanding from the perspective of various information providers
  • ConductFocusedgroupdiscussionswiththeinformationproviders
  • ConductaWorkshopwithkeyinformation providertounderstandtherequirements
  • This would help us in preparing a more descriptive research instrument (questionnaire) for the part 2 of this phase

• Thelistofserviceprovidersmayinclude
  a. PAs—Public Authorities
  b. PIO—Public Information Officer
  c. AAs—Appellate authorities
  d. Nodal Agency
  e. SIC—State Information Commission
f. CIC-Central Information Commission

g. Exempted Institutions

Module II: **Quantitative Research:** Face-to-face interviews with information seekers:

1. An adequate representation of information seekers will be taken:
   a. Common People
   b. Disadvantaged groups
   c. CBOs
   d. NGOs
   e. Activist Groups
   f. Media

2. Well-trained interviewers would conduct the interviews across these categories

Sampling considerations and sampling plan:

**Selection of districts:**

These selection of districts where the quantitative research will be conducted would be done on the basis of the following parameters:


b. Level of industrialization in that particular district.

c. Extent of computerization/usage of IT in various district departments.

d. Per Capita Income.

e. Rural Population.


g. Extent of RTI Implementation.
h. Regional Spread.

The above parameters have been chosen to include citizen base from varied backgrounds in terms of education, income etc. The level of industrialization and computerization in government departments has been considered to understand its impact on the effectiveness of RTI implementation. In addition, the importance of including rural and disadvantaged groups has also been taken into consideration.

The following steps shall be followed for the selection of district:

- District will be divided in terms of their population levels.
- Then literacy rates would be taken for the district and compared against the population.
- The district would be divided and selected as having high, medium or low literacy levels.
- Next step would be to compare the per capita income of various districts.
- The districts would be selected as having high, medium and low per capita income with respect to the population of the selected district.

**Tool & Techniques:**

**Sample Size:**

We propose to conduct the survey in two stages:

**Stage 1:** We propose to conduct 400 interviews per selected districts (2 Districts in total) which consider a minimum of 40 in-depth interviews overall across various stakeholders (information providers).

The exercise would be broken up into two parts. In the first part, after the first part, inputs from the client would be sought based on the findings of the same and then necessary modifications would be made for the second part.
The following approach will be taken for finalization of the sampling and survey methodology:

- Getting database of various information providers from the client (Database to be provided by various ClCs, SICs, Nodal agencies, etc.)
- Finalizing the hypothesis (through issues identified from secondary research)
- Discussion with Focus Group
- Preparation of the questionnaire (Structured and unstructured)
- Administering questionnaire for 30% Urban Population and 70% Rural Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Common people</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Disadvantaged people/groups</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Focus Group</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Stage II:** To measure the awareness on the people on the RTI Act we propose to conduct a random sampling of 5 citizens staying in close proximity of the 400 people to be interviewed. However, the sample size this is just an indication. The final sample size across all the above categories would be decided only after getting the database of RTI applicants from the client and discussions with key stakeholders during focused group discussions and envisioning workshop.

**Analysis:**

The analysis will be done by way of Rank Method.

The data collected from the sample would be categorically analysis by giving rank to the sample response in “awareness” and “no awareness” and then would be rank and hypothesis may be tested accordingly.
Result: The answer in awareness and no awareness would be analyzed by rank method. Having taken sample and response of them from among the common man, Disadvantage group and Focus Group contributed from the two Kheda and Vadodara District of Gujarat.

Recommendation: The recommendation will be discussed and finding may be furnishing according the response of the sample in all 400 sample by way of “awareness” and “no awareness” and finding accordingly.

Work Plan:
First Six Months (1 to 6): Literature Review.
Second Six Month (7 to 12): Questionnaire prepares and distributed to the sample
Third Six Month (13 to 18): Collection of Data, Analysis of data.
Fourth Six Month (19 to 24): Finding, Conclusion and Suggestion.

Chapter Plan:
1) Introduction
2) Literature Review
3) Objective of Study
4) Hypothesis
5) Data Collection
6) Analysis of Data
7) Finding, Suggestions & Conclusions
8) Bibliography/Reference.