

**CBSE Board Examination – 2025**  
**SOCIOLOGY**  
**Solved Paper**  
**Class – 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Delhi Sets | Series**

*Time : 3 Hours*

*Maximum Marks : 80*

**General Instructions :**

*Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:*

- (i) The question paper is divided into **four** sections - Section A, B, C and D.
- (ii) There are **35** questions in all. **All** questions are **compulsory**.
- (iii) Section A includes questions no. 1 - 16. These are Objective Type Questions, carrying 1 mark each. As per the question there can be one answer.
- (iv) Section B includes questions no. 17 - 25. These are Very Short Answer type questions, carrying 2 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 30 words.
- (v) Section C includes questions no. 26 - 32. These are Short Answer type questions, carrying 4 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 80 words.
- (vi) Section D includes questions no. 33 - 35. They are Long Answer type questions, carrying 6 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 200 words each.
- (vii) Question no. 33 is to be answered with the help of given graphics.

**Set-I**

**Q. P.**

**SECTION - A**

(1 mark each)

1. **Assertion (A):** Industrialisation leads to greater equality, at least in some spheres, such as, caste distinctions do not matter any more in trains, buses, etc.

**Reason (R):** Social inequalities are reducing in the world.

- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
  - (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not A the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
  - (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
  - (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.
2. **Assertion (A):** The old social movements functioned within the frame of political parties.
- Reason (R):** Old social movements were national.
- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
  - (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not A the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
  - (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
  - (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

3. As per the theory of Demographic Transition, which of the following statements are correct?

(I) Population growth is linked to overall levels of economic development.

(II) Every society follows a typical pattern of development.

(III) The development is related to population growth.

(IV) There are four stages of population growth.

**Options:**

- (A) (I) and (II)
- (B) (II) and (IV)
- (C) (I) and (III)
- (D) (I), (II) and (III)

4. **Assertion (A):** Often it is thought that imparting knowledge of 'scientific' farming methods will improve the conditions of Indian farmers.

**Reason (R):** The Indian farmers have been cultivating the land for centuries, much before the advent of the Green Revolution.

- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

5. Which of the following statements related to Tribal Identity is not true?

- (A) Assertions of tribal identity are on the rise.
- (B) This can be laid at the door of the emergence of a middle class within the tribal society.
- (C) Issues relating to matters of ethnic-cultural identity are becoming less important.

- (D) Issues relating to control over vital economic resources like land and specially forests, are on the rise.

**Based on the following passage, answer Q.No. 6 and 7.**

Social inequality and exclusion are facts of life. Social inequality and exclusion are social because they are not about individuals but about groups. In every society, some people have a greater share of valued resources money, property, education, health and power than others. People often face discrimination and exclusion because of their gender, religion, ethnicity, language, caste and disability.

6. Social inequality and exclusion are facts of life because:

- (I) This everydayness of social inequality and exclusion often makes them appear inevitable, almost natural.  
 (II) We often think of them as being 'deserved' or justified' in some sense.  
 (III) These are natural which can be changed.  
 (IV) The poor and marginalised are not blamed for their own plight.

Which of the above statements are correct?

**Options:**

- (A) (I) and (II)                      (B) (I) and (III)  
 (C) (I) and (IV)                  (D) (II) and (III)

7. Which of the following statements is not true related to Exclusion of Dalits?

- (A) The institution of untouchability does not refer to the avoidance or prohibition of physical contact.  
 (B) Untouchable castes are outside the caste hierarchy.  
 (C) Untouchability refers to a much broader set of social sanctions.  
 (D) They are considered to be so impure that their mere touch severely pollutes members of all other castes.

8. **Assertion (A):** The laws of a colonised country did not have to stick to the democratic norms that the British back home had to follow in Britain.

**Reason (R):** The colonial administrators were clear that harsh measures were taken against the labourers to make sure they benefitted the planters.

- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
 (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
 (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.  
 (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**Based on the following passage, answer Q.No. 9 and 10.**

The socialisation process involves a continuous dialogue, negotiation and even struggle against significant others (those directly involved in our

lives) like our parents, family, kin group and our community. Our community provides us the language (our mother tongue) and the cultural values through which we comprehend the world. It also anchors our self-identity.

9. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- (A) We don't have to do anything to be born into a community.  
 (B) No one has any choice about which family they are born into.  
 (C) No one has any choice about which country they are born into.  
 (D) These types of identities are acquired.

10. Community conflicts are hard to deal with because:

- (I) Each side in the conflict thinks of the other side as a hated enemy.  
 (II) There is a tendency to exaggerate the virtues of one's own side.  
 (III) There is a tendency not to exaggerate the vices of the other side.  
 (IV) In such conflicts, they are constructing matching but reversed mirror images of each other.

Which of the above statements are correct?

**Options:**

- (A) (I), (III) and (IV)              (B) (I), (II) and (III)  
 (C) (I), (II) and (IV)              (D) (II), (III) and (IV)

11. Why is the study of Social Movements important in Sociology?

- (A) Social movements were about protests which were perceived by elites as a major threat to the established order of society.  
 (B) Social movements were not seen as forces that led to disorder.  
 (C) Participants of social movements do not have their own shared understanding of right and wrong.  
 (D) Participants did not often resort to public protest.

12. While urbanisation has been occurring at a rapid pace, it is the biggest cities- the metropolises- that have been growing the fastest.

Which of the following statements related to urbanisation is not true?

- (A) These metros attract migrants from the rural areas as well as from small towns.  
 (B) The larger cities in India are not growing at such a rapid rate.  
 (C) Urban infrastructure can hardly keep pace.  
 (D) With the mass media's primary focus on these cities, the public face of India is becoming more and more urban rather than rural.

13. **Assertion (A):** Agriculture is the single most important source of livelihood for the majority of the rural population.

**Reason (R):** The rural is not just agriculture. Many

activities that support agriculture and village life are also sources of livelihood.

- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
 (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not A the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
 (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.  
 (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.
14. **Assertion (A):** There is absorption of different tribal groups into caste Hindu society at varying levels of the hierarchy.  
**Reason (R):** Tribal lands were colonised and the forests cut down.  
 (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
 (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
 (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.  
 (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.
15. Which of the following statements is true for westernisation?  
 (A) The changes brought about in Indian society and culture is a result of over 150 years of British rule.  
 (B) Westernisation does not involve the imitation of external forms of culture.  
 (C) The west did not influence Indian art and literature.  
 (D) Westernisation did not include the sub-culture of Indian intellectuals.
16. Put the following statements in the correct order.  
 (I) Workers have to work at the pace of the machine.  
 (II) The more mechanised an industry gets, the fewer people are employed.  
 (III) Two tea breaks of 7.5 minutes each and one lunch break of half an hour.  
 (IV) Workers get only 45 minutes rest in the entire day.
- Options:**  
 (A) (II), (I), (IV), (III) (B) (I), (II), (III), (IV)  
 (C) (IV), (I), (III), (II) (D) (I), (IV), (III), (II)

### SECTION - B

17. "By and large, work for most Indians is still in small-scale workplaces. Here personal relationships determine many aspects of work."  
 In large organisations work is not determined by personal relationships. What inference can you draw from this statement? 2
18. (a) "Cultural Diversity can present tough challenges." Support the statement with suitable examples. 2

OR

- (b) Give one argument each for and against secularism.
19. Adivasis shared a common hatred for dikus. Why? Give two reasons. 2
20. (a) Workers in underground mines face very dangerous conditions. Give examples. 2

OR

- (b) Give one advantage and one disadvantage of the policy of liberalisation.
21. During the 1960s, scholars debated whether tribes should be seen as one end of a continuum with caste-based (Hindu) peasant society, or whether they were an altogether different kind of community. What is the basis for the argument for tribe and caste distinction? 2
22. Many districts of colonial India were administered through the Zamindari system. What problems were faced by the peasants due to the Zamindari system? 2
23. One of the negative outcomes of the Green Revolution strategy was the worsening of regional inequalities. Give two reasons for your answer. 2
24. The major epidemic diseases in the past were fevers of various sorts, plague, smallpox and cholera. But the single largest epidemic was the influenza epidemic of 1918-19, which killed about 5% of the total population of India at that time. Differentiate between epidemic and pandemic. 2
25. "Theoretically, the caste can be understood as the combination of two sets of principles." Name them and define any one. 2

### SECTION - C

26. From the 1950s to the 1970s, a series of land reform laws were passed at the national level as well as in the states. What were the reasons behind these reforms? 4
27. Sociologists use the term 'Social Stratification' to refer to a system by which categories of people in a society are ranked in a hierarchy. How does Social Stratification persist over generations? 4
28. (a) Westernisation does involve the imitation of external forms of culture. Illustrate the process of westernisation. 4

OR

- (b) The varied Social Reform Movements did have common themes. Yet there were also significant differences. Discuss.
29. Each one of us is born into a family, and most of us spend long years within it. Usually we feel very strongly about our family. The family is an integral part of lives. Elaborate. 4
30. "In India, the impact of the very same British industrialisation led to deindustrialisation in some sectors."

Identify the impacts on the basis of the above statement. 4

31. There is a close relationship between disability and poverty. Discuss. 4
32. "In response to harsh working conditions, sometimes workers went on strike." Justify taking the example of the famous Bombay Textile Strike of 1982. 4

### SECTION - D

33. The declining Sex Ratio in India 1901–2011 is given below :

Year	Sex Ratio all age groups	Variation over previous decade	Child Sex Ratio (0–6 years)	Variation over previous decade
1901	972	–	–	–
1911	964	–8	–	–
1921	955	–9	–	–
1931	950	–5	–	–

1941	945	–5	–	–
1951	946	+1	–	–
1961	941	–5	976	–
1971	930	–11	964	–12
1981	934	+4	962	–2
1991	927	–7	945	–17
2001	933	+6	927	–18
2011	943	+10	919	–8

Based on the above data, answer the following questions.

- (a) What are the reasons for the declining child sex ratio? 2
- (b) Based on the above data, compare the data of the 20th century with that of the 21st century and state your inferences. 4
34. Discuss the classification of Social Movements. 6
35. The Civil Society has been instrumental in taking many significant initiatives, the most recent being the campaign for the Right to Information. Discuss the initiative and its outcome. 2+4=6



# Answer

Set-I

## SECTION - A

1. **Option (C) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Industrialisation reduces some forms of social inequality, such as caste distinctions in public transport. However, Reason (R) is incorrect because social inequalities persist globally due to factors such as economic disparities, gender discrimination and social stratification.

2. **Option (B) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Old social movements were often aligned with political parties and had a national character. However, national scope is not the sole reason for their connection with political parties. As their ultimate aim was to reorganise power relations, so their connection with political parties was only a strategic need and not necessarily an outcome of their national character. Hence, both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and the Reason (R) does not explain the Assertion (A) well.

3. **Option (D) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The Demographic Transition Theory states that population growth is linked to economic development and follows a specific pattern of development which is related to the growth of population. However, it does not always indicate four stages, as different regions may experience variations.

4. **Option (B) is correct.**

*Explanation:* While scientific farming methods can improve agricultural output, Indian farmers have cultivated land for centuries, developing extensive traditional knowledge regarding soil, seeds and crops. Hence, both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true but Reason (R) is not a direct explanation of Assertion (A) because modern scientific techniques have advantages as well as disadvantages.

5. **Option (C) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Issues of ethnic-cultural identity have become more important, rather than less. Tribal identity assertions are rising due to economic and cultural concerns, particularly in the context of land and resource control. Also, the emerging middle class, shaped by modern education and reservation policies, is instrumental in shaping this awareness.

6. **Option (A) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Social inequality and exclusion appear natural because they are deeply embedded in society and social structure, often perceived as deserved or justified. This makes them difficult to challenge.

7. **Option (A) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Untouchability involves strict social sanctions, including avoidance of physical contact. It is a much broader system of exclusion, affecting access to resources, employment and social participation.

8. **Option (A) is correct.**

*Explanation:* British colonial laws in India did not follow democratic norms as they did in Britain. Harsh measures were imposed to benefit colonial planters, such as imposing stringent actions against the labourers, commonly through exploitative recruitment methods, coercion and penal legislation. This clearly showed how the colonial regime put economic exploitation before democratic rule, justifying the assertion and its reasoning.

9. **Option (D) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Identities related to community, family and nationality are ascribed rather than acquired. Individuals do not choose these identities but are born into them.

10. **Option (C) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Community conflicts are challenging because each side views the other as an enemy, exaggerates its own virtues and constructs reversed mirror images, reinforcing hostility.

11. **Option (A) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Social movements are studied in sociology as they challenge existing power structures and influence societal change, often perceived as threats by elites.

12. **Option (B) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Larger cities in India are growing rapidly due to migration, economic opportunities and media influence. The statement that they are not growing fast is incorrect.

13. **Option (B) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Agriculture is a primary source of livelihood; however, rural economies also rely on allied activities such as handicrafts, trade and dairy farming, making Reason (R) true but not the sole explanation for Assertion (A).

14. **Option (B) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Tribal absorption into Hindu society occurred at different levels due to historical processes like land colonisation and deforestation. However, these were not the only reasons for cultural assimilation.

15. **Option (A) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Westernisation in India was influenced by British rule, leading to changes in social customs, education, administration and culture over more than 150 years.

16. **Option (D) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Workers in industrial settings must keep pace with machines, making their work highly demanding. Due to this, they get limited rest, with only 45 minutes of break time per day, including two tea breaks of 7.5 minutes each and a half-hour lunch break. As industries become more mechanised, fewer workers are needed, leading to job reductions. This sequence highlights the impact of mechanisation on working conditions.

**SECTION - B**17. **Inference from the Statement on Work Relationships:** In small workplaces, personal relationships influence work culture, whereas large organisations follow formal policies. This indicates a shift from relationship-based to rule-based governance, ensuring efficiency and professionalism.18. **(a) Challenges of Cultural Diversity:** Religious, linguistic and ethnic differences may lead to tensions, as seen in communal riots or linguistic disputes like the Hindi-Tamil conflict in India.

OR

18. **(b) Arguments For and Against Secularism:** Secularism promotes equal treatment of all religions and prevents discrimination. However, critics argue it may marginalise traditional identities and weaken cultural heritage. Despite concerns, secularism remains vital for democratic values and religious freedom.19. **Reasons for Adivasi Resentment Towards Dikus:** Adivasis resented dikus due to land alienation. As zamindars, traders and moneylenders took over their traditional lands, forcing many into bonded labour or displacement. Dikus also charged high-interest rates on loans, paid unfair wages, and controlled trade, trapping Adivasis in poverty.20. **(a) Dangerous Conditions in Underground Mines:** Mining risks include toxic gas exposure, collapses and poor ventilation, leading to fatal accidents and respiratory diseases like silicosis. The lack of proper safety measures makes underground mining extremely hazardous.

OR

**(b) Advantage and Disadvantage of Liberalisation:** Liberalisation boosts foreign investment and economic growth. However, it harms small-scale industries, as they struggle to compete with large corporations (MNCs), leading to job losses and

economic insecurity.

21. **Basis for Distinction Between Tribe and Caste:** Tribes follow kinship-based egalitarianism, while castes have a hierarchical social order. Tribal economies rely on hunting and gathering or shifting cultivation, whereas castes have hereditary occupations with strict social stratification.22. **Problems Faced by Peasants Under the Zamindari System:** Peasants suffered from high rents, debt and evictions under zamindars. Exploitative moneylenders charged excessive interest, trapping them in poverty and landlessness, which worsened rural economic distress.23. **Reasons for Worsening Regional Inequalities due to the Green Revolution:** The western and southern parts of the country, and Punjab and Haryana benefited, while eastern parts of the country lagged due to unequal access to technology. Small farmers lacked resources, increasing regional and socio-economic disparities between wealthy and poor regions.24. **Difference Between Epidemic and Pandemic:** An epidemic affects a specific region (e.g., Bengal cholera outbreak). A pandemic spread globally (e.g., COVID-19). Epidemics need local containment, while pandemics require international cooperation.25. **Principles of Caste and Definition:** Caste is difference and separation based and also based on wholism and hierarchy. Wholism and hierarchy refer to the existence of castes as a ranked social order, constituting an interdependent system instead of separate groups.**SECTION - C**26. **Reasons Behind Land Reforms (1950s–1970s):** The land reforms aimed to reduce inequalities in land ownership, decrease dependency on food grain imports, and improve agricultural productivity to address rural poverty. The major reasons were the abolition of the Zamindari system to eliminate intermediaries, the implementation of land ceiling laws to prevent concentration of land, and tenancy reforms to provide security to tenants. These reforms were also crucial for supporting the Green Revolution by ensuring that farmers had direct access to land, thereby boosting agricultural output and rural development in India.27. **How Social Stratification Persists Over Generations:** Social stratification continues through various mechanisms, ensuring that social hierarchies remain intact over generations. Wealth and property are inherited, allowing economic advantages to be passed down. Family socialisation instils cultural and caste-based norms in children, reinforcing status. Endogamy, or marriage within the same

social group, restricts mobility. Educational and occupational opportunities are also shaped by one's social background, limiting access for lower strata. Thus, stratification is maintained through social, economic and institutional barriers over time.

28. **(a) Process of Westernisation:** Westernisation refers to the adoption of Western cultural traits, lifestyles and values by non-Western societies. In India, this process was observed in clothing styles, language use and social practices, such as the increased acceptance of individualism and modern education. The British introduced Western legal systems and parliamentary governance, which significantly influenced Indian society. M.N. Srinivas noted that Westernisation also impacted caste dynamics by weakening rigid boundaries, promoting social mobility and influencing political and economic institutions.

OR

28. **(b) Common Themes and Differences in Social Reform Movements:** Social reform movements in India had common themes, such as the abolition of social evils, the promotion of women's rights and religious reform. Reformers such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Jyotirao Phule worked towards eradicating practices like Sati and untouchability. However, movements differed in their approaches—some focused on revivalism, like Arya Samaj, while others promoted modernity, like Brahmo Samaj. Additionally, Dalit movements led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar focused on caste-based discrimination, unlike upper-caste-led reforms that often sought internal reform within Hinduism.
29. **Importance of Family in Life:** The family is a fundamental social institution that provides emotional, financial and social support. It plays a crucial role in socialisation, instilling values, traditions and cultural practices. In India, both nuclear and joint families offer a sense of identity and security. The family structure ensures economic stability by supporting dependent members. Additionally, it provides psychological support during times of stress. The emotional bonds within a family create a sense of belonging, making it an essential part of human life.
30. **Impact of British Industrialisation on India (Deindustrialisation):** British industrial policies led to the decline of India's traditional industries, especially textiles and handicrafts. Cheap, machine-made British goods flooded the Indian market, causing local artisans and weavers to lose their livelihoods. The focus on raw material exports, such as cotton and jute, further weakened domestic industries. Many skilled workers were forced into low-paying agricultural labour. Major centres of production, such as Bengal and Tamil Nadu,

experienced economic decline, along with cities like Surat and Masulipatnam, while Bombay and Madras grew to become colonial economic hubs. This led to widespread poverty and deindustrialisation in colonial India.

31. **Relationship Between Disability and Poverty:** Disability and poverty are deeply interconnected, as financial hardships limit access to healthcare, education and employment for disabled individuals. Many disabled people struggle to find stable jobs due to social stigma and workplace discrimination, further pushing them into economic distress. Additionally, families with disabled members face increased medical expenses, worsening financial burdens. Poor healthcare facilities in rural areas exacerbate disabilities, reducing mobility and social participation. This cycle of social exclusion and financial instability reinforces the link between disability and poverty.
32. **Bombay Textile Strike of 1982 – Workers' Response to Harsh Conditions:** The Bombay Textile Strike of 1982, led by Datta Samant, was a major protest against poor wages and working conditions. Over 2.5 lakh mill workers demanded higher wages, better working hours and improved workplace safety. However, the strike resulted in severe economic losses, leading to the eventual closure of many mills. The government and mill owners refused to negotiate, causing workers to suffer long-term unemployment. This strike highlighted labour exploitation in India's industrial sector and the vulnerability of workers against capitalist interests.

#### SECTION - D

33. **(a) Reasons for the Declining Child Sex Ratio:** The declining child sex ratio in India is primarily due to sex-selective abortions, which have become more prevalent with the advancement of ultrasound technology. Deep-rooted patriarchal values favour sons over daughters, leading to female foeticide. Additionally, discrimination against the girl child results in higher infant mortality among girls due to neglect in nutrition and healthcare. Socioeconomic factors like dowry practices further discourage families from having daughters. Government interventions like the PCPNDT Act (1994) aim to curb these practices, but enforcement remains a challenge.
33. **(b) Comparison of 20th and 21st Century Sex Ratio Trends:** During the 20th century (1901–2000), the sex ratio showed a steady decline, from 972 in 1901 to 933 in 2001, with the sharpest drop between 1961 and 1971 (-11). The child sex ratio also fell significantly, reaching 927 in 2001. This decline was driven by increasing urbanisation, changing family structures, and the rise of sex-selective abortions.



In contrast, in the 21st century (2001–2011), the overall sex ratio improved to 943 in 2011, indicating positive demographic shifts due to awareness campaigns and policy interventions like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. However, the child sex ratio continued to decline (919 in 2011), reflecting persistent gender bias. While efforts are being made to address gender discrimination, the imbalance remains a serious social issue.

**34. Classification of Social Movements:** Social movements can be classified based on their scope, objectives and strategies.

- 1. Reformist Movements:** These aim to bring gradual changes within the existing social system without overthrowing it. *Example:* The Brahmo Samaj movement worked for social reforms like the abolition of Sati and caste discrimination.
- 2. Revolutionary Movements:** These seek to completely transform society by overthrowing the existing system. *Example:* The Indian Independence Movement aimed at ending British rule through political and social mobilisation.
- 3. Redemptive Movements:** These focus on personal transformation rather than structural change. *Example:* Narayana Guru led the Ezhava community in Kerala to reform their social practices and beliefs.
- 4. New Social Movements:** These focus on identity, environmental and human rights issues rather than traditional class-based struggles. *Example:* The women's movement includes both urban feminists and rural women fighting for their rights.

Thus, social movements play a crucial role in shaping society by advocating for justice, equality and sustainable development.

- 35. Right to Information (RTI) Initiative by Civil Society:** The Right to Information (RTI) Act, passed in 2005, was a result of sustained efforts by civil society organisations, particularly the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) in Rajasthan. The movement, which began in the early 1990s, sought transparency in government spending, especially in rural employment schemes. Their demand for access to records of government work led to a broader campaign advocating the right to information as a fundamental right.

The RTI Act empowers citizens to seek information from public authorities, ensuring government accountability, reducing corruption, and promoting citizen participation in governance. It has been instrumental in exposing irregularities in welfare schemes such as the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). It has also in uncovering financial scams, environmental violations and mismanagement of public funds.

However, the RTI Amendment Act, 2019, introduced changes that altered the tenure, salary and service conditions of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and State Information Commissioners (SICs), bringing them under government control. Critics argue that this weakens the autonomy of the RTI framework, affecting transparency and accountability. Additionally, RTI activists continue to face threats, and delays in information disclosure remain a challenge.

Still, RTI remains a powerful tool for participatory democracy, enabling citizens to hold the government accountable and demand transparency in governance.

