



BON SECOURS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

NAAC Re accredited 'B++' grade

Affiliated by Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, Chennai

Vilar Bypass Road, Thanjavur – 613 006

RTI Act awareness programme - 2025

DATE: 05.05. 2025

OBJECTIVE

To underscore the significance of RTI Awareness by highlighting the critical role the Right to Information Act plays in promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance; raising awareness about citizens' right to access information; and emphasizing the importance of sustained efforts, active public participation, and institutional commitment to strengthen democratic processes—aligned with this year's theme, “RTI Begins with Me,” which calls for personal responsibility and community engagement in upholding the right to information.

PROGRAM

An RTI (Right to Information) Awareness Program was conducted in observance of RTI Awareness Day on 5th May, 2025, at Bon Secours College of Education. The program began with a brief evaluative session, during which participants were given a short questionnaire related to the Right to Education (RTE) Act. This interactive opening served to assess baseline awareness and engage the audience from the outset, setting the stage for a meaningful exploration of the RTI Act and its significance in ensuring transparency and accountability in public services.

Following the preliminary evaluation, the session featured an insightful address by Mr. Sugumaran, Professor at Periyar Maniammai University, who delivered a compelling and informative lecture on the Right to Information (RTI) Act. He emphasized the transformative power of the Act in promoting transparency, combating corruption, and enabling citizens to actively participate in democratic governance.

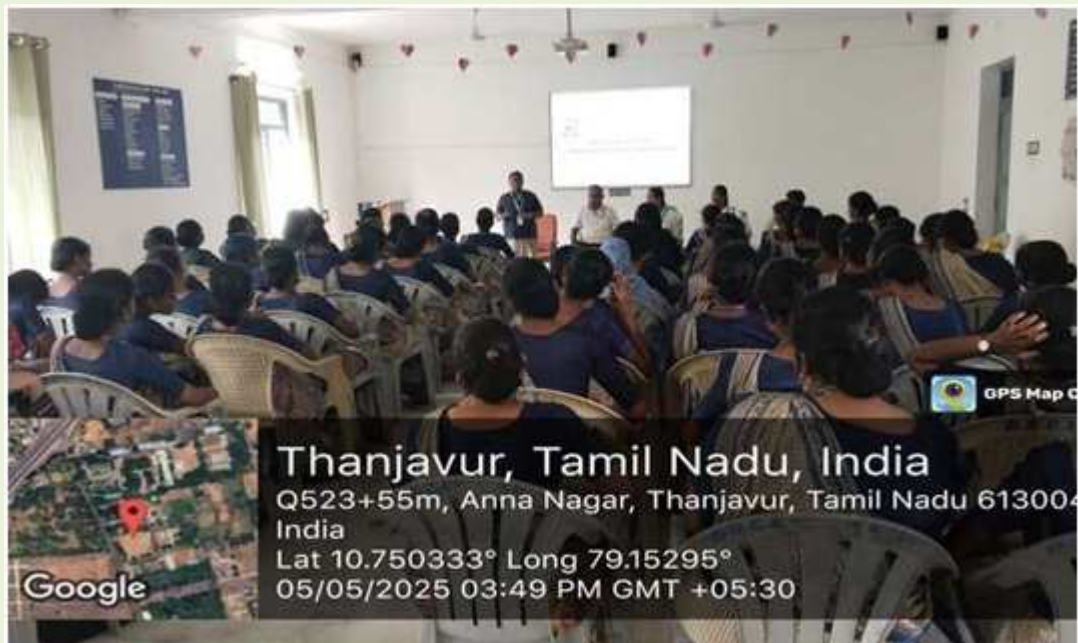
He was joined by Mr. Ajith, Assistant Engineer, Pollution Control Board, Thanjavur who shared practical perspectives on how RTI can be utilized to obtain critical information from various governmental departments, particularly in the context of environmental monitoring and regulatory compliance.

The program also featured Dr. Vedha Vasudevan, Manager, Pollution Control Board, Thanjavur, who added further depth to the discussion by highlighting real-life examples where RTI applications led to greater accountability in public service delivery. She elaborated on the significance of RTI in enforcing environmental standards and ensuring that regulatory bodies remain answerable to the public.

Together, the speakers provided a comprehensive overview of the RTI Act, including its historical background, objectives, scope, and procedural guidelines. They detailed the roles of Public Information Officers (PIOs), statutory response timelines, the appellate process, and best practices for formulating effective RTI applications. Additionally, they addressed common misconceptions and practical challenges encountered by information seekers.

The program concluded on an encouraging note with a recognition ceremony for pre-service teachers who demonstrated exceptional performance during the initial evaluation. Selected participants were acknowledged and presented with tokens of appreciation in recognition of their awareness and engagement, reinforcing the importance of informed and proactive citizenship. The event successfully fostered a sense of responsibility and empowerment among future educators, aligning with the core message of the program—“RTI Begins with Me.”

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