

CHRI had conducted workshops on RTI for volunteers of AGNI (a Mumbai based NGO working on good governance) in November 2002. In 2003 CHRI conducted three follow up and network meetings with various volunteers in Khar (1st March), Mulud (2nd March) and Lokhandwala (16th March).

The objective of these meetings is to build awareness and capacity amongst the AGNI volunteers to use the right to information law and to get the group to pressurize the government to start implementing the Maharashtra law. Further, the participants discussed their frustrating experiences in interacting with government departments. The participants were provided with a User guide on the Maharashtra right to information law to facilitate them in using the law.

CHRI finds value in conducting these localized workshops as it helps keep alive the interest in right to information and build relationships with local NGOs.

Outcomes and future plans:

- CHRI's materials have proved to be useful to the participants, there has been a great demand for the user guide and AGNI has had to make copies to distribute it to its group of volunteers. Many of the AGNI ward co-coordinators produce local newsletters that contain general news and information that would interest citizens of the locality. One such newsletter titled "Voice of Wadala" has used the user guide and published a significant portion of it in the newsletter, which is circulated to all residents of the locality and to some other suburbs in Bombay.
- AGNI has taken up right to information as a programme activity and is actively interacting with the Government to explore the option of holding training workshops with CHRI for government officials.