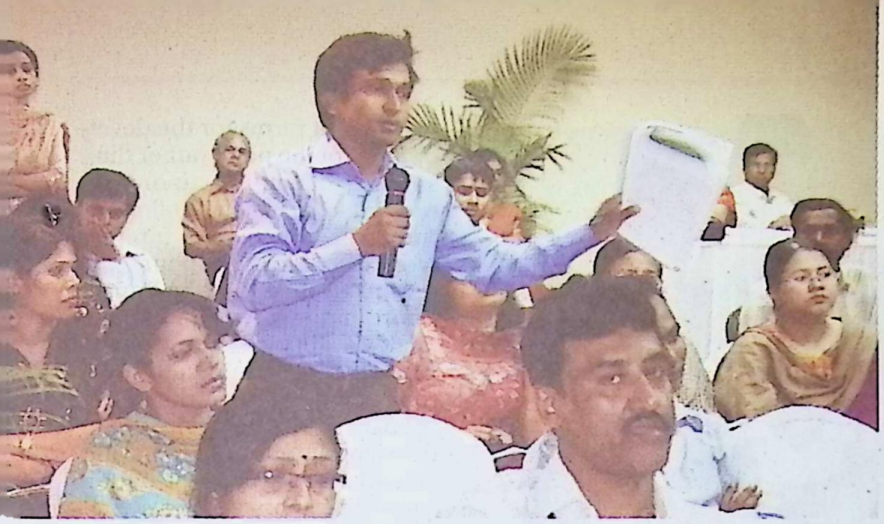


Upazilla is not above the law and is bound to abide by the RTI Law and provide all kinds of information to the people.



in Bangladesh. One of the most fascinating elements of the Mexican RTI Law is the Infomax, through the Mexican electronic system, which actually enables individuals to find out what other people want. Since it turns out that most citizens usually have similar queries, this technology has been playing a vital role in the RTI Law in Mexico.

In India and in Mexico, the RTI laws were established after years of demonstrations and petitions filed by the common people and the grass-roots. In Bangladesh however, the establishment of the RTI Law came about after the media and the urbanised sections of the society got involved. Therefore, some have shown scepticism regarding the whole RTI issue. In a country where people are unable to eat a proper square meal, how would the RTI Law make any difference to better the poverty-stricken conditions of Bangladesh? Why and how would these people ask the right questions, a necessity to get the ball rolling and begin practicing the RTI Law.

In yet another parallel seminar, titled 'Addressing RTI Needs for Rural Areas, Strategies and Mechanisms,' chaired by Anisatul Fatema Yousuf, Director Dialogue & Communication, CPD, several cases were presented by the speakers to stress on the strength of the role of the common people and what difference they are able to make once the RTI Law is properly understood by one and all, especially at the Upazilla levels.

While Ranjan Karmakar, Executive Director, Steps, spoke about how it is important for the common people in the rural areas to recognise the importance of the RTI Law for their own development, Bazlur Rahman from BNNRC laid down the strategies that can be used by these common people through the RTI Law and have the government take notice. "Good social governance can be established in the rural areas," says Rahman. He spoke about how regular workshops and special programmes can be organised for the common people and by the common people living in the rural areas as well so that several activities can be done within small communities. "Those living in the rural areas should be made stronger so that the RTI Law works," he says. "Plus, through the united efforts of these people,