

Research Foundation for  
Governance in : India

# **Activity Report**

# **Research Foundation for Governance (RFG)**

# **2009-2015**

## Table of Contents

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Research</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Awareness</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Lawtoons</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>LawForMe</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Team Members</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Mentors, Partners &amp; Sponsors</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Media Coverage</b>	<b>32</b>

## 1. Introduction

Research Foundation for Governance (RFG) is an Ahmedabad-based think-tank working primarily towards creating and promoting legal innovations and legal reforms in India. The organization conducts research on key issues in law and policy and hosts public events in order to raise awareness, particularly among the youth who are often disengaged from the democratic process. It champions the cause of seeking and creating innovations in the space of access to justice and also acts as a consultant in the implementation and development of Government policies.

The Foundation is a non-party, neutral and independent Foundation and does not support or endorse any political candidate/party or extreme political ideology.

RFG was started on 26th January, 2009 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Since its inception, RFG has been able to create a significant and positive momentum among the youth to bring about a change in the legal and governance structures of India. Our research has reached out to the stakeholders in all the relevant areas, including citizens from different walks of life, as well as the youth.

Now, RFG has over 3000 members who contribute in different ways such as by participating in research, making financial contributions, organising events as well as reaching out to people through social media campaigns.

Being an organisation predominantly working on the strength of interns and volunteers, RFG has hosted interns and volunteers from over 15 countries in the world and from prestigious institutions such as the University of Oxford, Cambridge, the London School of Economics, Wharton, McGill University, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad among others.

## 2. Research

### 2.1 Research on removing 'Entry Barriers to Litigation'



In the summer of 2009, RFG carried out a survey of law students, advocates and judges across six cities of India. The survey brought to light a disturbing statistic that only 12% of lawyers and judges believe that “bright youngsters” are joining the litigation profession. In other words, the most interested, ambitious and talented graduates are avoiding a profession which is the

foundation of the justice system, a profession which is in desperate need of the best graduates the country has to offer. Following this, further surveys were carried out and a national seminar was organized focusing on the bridge between legal education and “junior” level litigation. The project aims to show that, despite the fact that entrance to litigation is formally undemanding, there are certain informal “barriers” preventing and dissuading most of India’s top graduates from becoming advocates in the courts. The project also identifies what these “barriers” are, and presents evidence to show that they are discouraging the most qualified graduates, that is to say those who have graduated from India’s National Law Schools, from entering the profession.

Supreme Court Judge Mr. Justice Radhakrishnan (then Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court) and Dr. Madhava Menon, Founder Director National Law School graced the event as Chief Guests. Devang Nanavati – Advocate, Gujarat High Court, Sachin Malhan - Founder of Law School Tutorials, Vyapak Desai –Nishith Desai Associates, Rajshekhar Rao – Advocate, Supreme Court of India were other panelists.

## 2.2 Research on drawing parallels between Preventive Medicine and Law



Significant research and developments have been made in the field of preventive and social medicines, which have alleviated human suffering to a great extent. By spreading awareness about health and hygiene, vaccinations, spraying of medicines and other such measures, certain diseases have been reduced, and have been ‘nipped in the bud’.

Like medicine, the role of the legal system of a country is also to alleviate human suffering. So far, the Indian legal system has concentrated on ‘Remedial Measures’, rather than adopt a preventive approach. The existing courts in India are flooded with cases. The number of pending cases in the courts of Gujarat is 23,00,000. At the same time, the citizens are less aware about their legal rights, and fear the system.

The objective of this project is to draw a parallel between two disciplines which have similar objectives. Our hypothesis is to test whether similar paths can be followed and lessons be learnt by the Indian legal system from the Preventive and Social Medicine. We also aim to submit recommendations to the Legal Department and the Registry of the Courts to put the hypothesis in practice.

RFG is working on this paper drawing parallels between preventive medicine and law under the guidance of Professor Dileep Mavalankar of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

### **2.3 Research on ways to improve effectiveness of Legal Education**

RFG Conducted a survey on the quality and nature of legal education, revealed shocking results on the quality of legal education in law colleges in Ahmedabad. With few exceptions (mainly the National Law Schools providing 5 year integrated legal education) serious reform is needed in law colleges if the legal system of the country is to be improved

Justice delivery is dependent on the lawyers and judges in a society. To improve the standards of justice delivery in any country, it becomes crucial to oversee the way legal education is imparted. It is the responsibility of legal education to impart ideals of justice, equality and fairness in the society, and train bright young minds to become lawyers and judges for tomorrow.



A survey conducted by the Research Foundation for Governance: in India (RFG) on the quality and nature of legal education, has revealed some shocking results on the quality of legal education imparted in law colleges in Ahmedabad. Barring a few, mainly the National Law Schools providing 5 year integrated legal education, all law colleges need serious

reforms, if the legal system of the country is to be improved.

### **RFG Impact**

RFG has been invited by the Gujarat National Law University as Special Observer on the Reforms related to legal education in the State of Gujarat

### **2.4 Research on Inner Party Democracy in Political Parties**

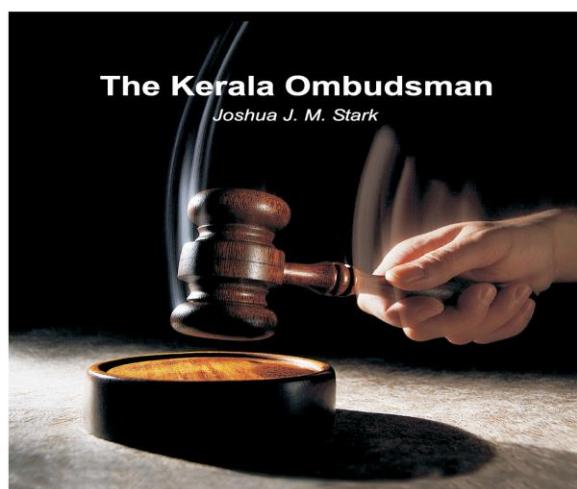
Political parties can have internal decision making processes that are democratic or undemocratic. Members could be given a say or party elites could be given total power over choosing party leaders and choosing candidates for elections. Democratic processes within political parties are beneficial for many of the same reasons that democracy is beneficial within a state: it promotes accountability through elections, it allows members to have their views better represented and it encourages politicians to compete for access to power. Inner-party democracy (IPD) is practiced in a variety of ways around the world, providing many possible models for other countries to adopt.



During our research it became clear that it is difficult to remove party leaders, there is little discussion or consultation with ordinary members when setting the party agenda, young politicians find it difficult to climb the ranks and gain influence, and the influence of family connections remains powerful.

To help combat these issues, RFG suggests several reforms. Party members should directly elect their leaders. This will encourage accountability and give members a larger voice within the party. Party members should also be able to influence candidate selection through use of a veto or 'no-confidence' vote. This will allow them to prevent irregularities of the nomination system while still enabling the party elites to make strategic decisions. Elected representatives should be able to dissent from their party openly, and parties should hold meetings more regularly and encourage open dialogue within the party. India should adopt laws that govern political parties to help give these reforms legal standing.

## 2.5 Research on lessons from the Kerala Ombudsman



ACCOUNTABILITY INITIATIVE



Research Foundation for Governance : in India

In a joint project with the Delhi-based Accountability Initiative, RFG explores the role of Ombudsman in grievance redressal mechanisms. The Ombudsman has long been one of the world's most prominent grievance redressal institutions. Originally from Sweden, it was widely adopted by other countries over the past five decades. Today Ombudsman's offices are familiar and established in the United States, Canada, most EU nations, New Zealand, the Philippines, Australia and many other countries.

In 2001 Kerala created an Ombudsman's office. Like others around the world it is tasked with resolving citizen's complaints against government employees and offices. Unlike the courts, the Kerala Ombudsman follows an informal process,

does not require legal representation, and attempts to ensure that its orders are followed before concluding a case. Despite being unique in India, the institution has had scant academic attention. This paper attempts to begin a conversation about the Kerala Ombudsman by presenting a detailed account of its powers, functions, strengths and weaknesses, as well as raising a few specific points of critical analysis.

This study is not only long overdue, but particularly timely. NREGA is currently working to create a nationwide system of Ombudsmen tasked with resolving complaints against NREGA work projects. On the eve of such a massive project, it is urgent that we consider what lessons can be learnt from one of the only other comparable Indian institutions. To this end, the paper will attempt to apply what is learnt from the Kerala Ombudsman to what we currently know about the NREGA Ombudsman.

## 2.6 Research on implementation of the Compulsory Voting Bill in Gujarat

The Compulsory Voting legislation was tabled in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly. The legislation, if implemented, will be extremely crucial in shaping the democratic process in Gujarat and will have historical impact on the lives of citizens.

In the wake of this, Research Foundation for Governance (RFG), conducted a detailed study on the phenomenon of compulsory voting and has drawn suggestions from people of Gujarat by conducting a survey. This was a cross-sectional survey on over 260 subjects covering all educational and socio-economic backgrounds in an attempt to assess what the citizens of Gujarat think about the Compulsory Voting Bill. We backed up this survey by organising one of the first public-debates on this issue in the State and took our findings to the youth population of the state. We then came up with a paper on this, analysing also how compulsory voting is being implemented in other countries.



## 2.7 Appointment of Judges in India

Because of the spate of controversies which have surrounded the judiciary in the past twelve months, the Research Foundation for Governance has taken up the mandate to examine the crux of these controversies, that is, judicial appointments to the higher judiciary. As part of this extensive exercise, the researchers have adopted both a doctrinal as well as non-doctrinal approach.

While conducting a theoretical analysis of this problem which has significant and multifarious consequences, the researchers have conducted a thorough study of the relevant Constitutional Provisions which deal with appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and various High Courts. The researchers have briefly discussed provisions dealing with Additional Judges and Transfer of Judges, which suffer from the same controversies.



These provisions of the Constitution have been subject to severe judicial scrutiny and interpretation over the preceding decades, which has also been the cause of severe criticism. In this research paper, these judicial inconsistencies have been dissected and have been supported with empirical analysis. The researchers, via questionnaires, have interviewed several members of the existing Judiciary, retired Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts and practicing advocates.



With this backdrop, we consider it prudent to discuss the structure of this independent research paper. In the first part, the researchers propose to examine the independence of the judiciary, doctrinal bedrock for our bastions of democracy. As a part of this examination, this principle shall be studied in conjunction with the principles of democracy and separation of powers, all of which have been recognized as parts of the basic features of our Constitution.

## **2.8 Acquisition Of Land For "Development" Projects In India: The Need for Serious Reconsideration Of The Existing Law**

For a country that aims to maintain an 8% annual growth in GDP, it becomes important to



address wealth distribution within the society, for a sustainable growth. The state cannot expect to get away with an unjust land acquisition policy. The current land acquisition policy violates the democratic fabric of the constitution of India. The issue of Displacement is an example of how law has to be consistent with socio-economic and political circumstances, and appears to have failed in doing so. As it appears, there is a strong need to put legal thought into issues concerning the land acquirers as well as to thoroughly investigate issues regarding

removing the imbalance from the system. The project prepares a thematic background for a further study in this area.

## 2.9 Legislative Drafting



We have had the opportunity to assist the state departments as well as members of Parliament of India in drafting bills on varied subject matters. We are excited to develop this as a core activity of RFGI and help actively in the process of drafting legislation at various levels of the governance system.

## 2.10 Mediation



Efforts are currently underway by RFG to create processes and institutions for efficient justice delivery by organising mediation camps in collaboration with High Court of Gujarat and the Industrial Associations in the State.

### 3. Awareness Activities

#### 3.1 Voter Awareness (2009, 2012)

RFG tied up with Jaago Re! One Billion votes to spread awareness amongst voters to come forward and register themselves for the Lok Sabha elections 2009 and Vidhansabha elections 2012 in Gujarat. The concept of Jaago Re! was to make Forms 6, 7 and 8 available “online” for faster registration and locate the nearest Electoral Registration office. RFG with the help of volunteers from different areas helped, encouraged and motivated citizens to fill the voters registration forms and cast their votes.



#### 3.2 Seminar on 'Have the youth become indifferent to politics' (April, 2009)



With an aim to invite different perspectives on the issues of governance from the urban youth, who are perceived to be moving away from electoral politics, an interactive talk was jointly organised by RFG and Open Space Ahmedabad. The event also featured screening of a vox-populi film on the issues of politics and was attended by well-known personalities and youth-icons.

#### 3.3 Lessons on Governance for Children (May 2009 onwards..)



RFG in partnership with Bangalore-based organization Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship & Democracy launched a project titled 'Me & My Country'. Interactive sessions using teaching tools such as debates, case studies, presentations and role-plays are conducted to create awareness.

### 3.4 Youth Leadership Course (May- September 2009)



RFG collaborated with Volunteer Ahmedabad, Indicorps and Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. Aim of this project was to make the youth aware of how the government functions on the national, state and local level. Various themes like fundamental rights, human-rights and the Right to Information Act were taken up actively. In order to understand the system and functions of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, students were forced to take initiative in Ward offices, city civic centres and other departments of

AMC.

### 3.5 “Is India’s legal system hampering its economy & democracy?” (December, 2009)

RFG held a panel discussion on this pertinent issue and also screened its documentary ‘And Justice Gently Weeps..’ on this occasion. It was a privilege to have Mr Sunil Parekh, Prof. Dileep Mavalankar and Mr Girish Patel as panellists for the discussion.

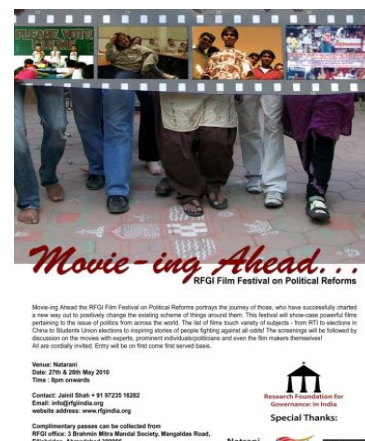
### 3.6 Launch of the Report on Inner-Party Democracy (March 2010)

The launch of RFG Report "*Democracy Within and Without*" followed by an interactive session on '*How Democratic are our Political Parties*' was a great success! The event was attended Members of Legislative Assembly from Congress and BJP including several prominent industrialists, academicians, senior civil servants, social activists, student politicians amongst others.



### 3.7 *Movie-ing Ahead* - The RFG Film Festival on Political Reforms (May 2010)

'*Movie-ing Ahead*' – the RFG Film Festival on Political Reforms' was to portray the journey of an individual or a group of individuals, who have successfully charted a new way out to positively change the existing scheme of things around them. This festival showcased powerful films pertaining to the issue of politics from across the world, with an aim to raise awareness, particularly among the youth who are often disengaged from the democratic process.



Movies screened at the festival were:

**a. Please vote for me**

A democratic experiment in a school in the communist China

**b. Empowering the Yard (Film from the American Centre)**

An inspiring project at a women's prison in Oklahoma

**c. Accounts and Accountability**

Story of how the Right to Information Act (RTI), the greatest weapon to bring about accountability in our governance system, came into being

**d. Black Pamphlets**

A film trying to find out the temper of youth and the mindset of student community towards politics and governance

### 3.8 Exploring Opportunities for Young Indians in Politics (August 2010)

On Friday, 6th August 2010, Research Foundation for Governance (RFG) in partnership with Global Young Indian Professionals and Students (GYIPS) and Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE), Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) organized a conference on 'Exploring Opportunities for Young Indians in Government.'



The conference was addressed by an illustrious list of professionals including:

- a. **Mr. P. K. Lahiri**, Former Chief Secretary, State of Gujarat
- b. **Prof. Ankur Sarin**, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
- c. **Mr. Anand Shah**, Board Member & Co-Founder, Indicorps, Ahmedabad
- d. **Ms. Shaheen Mistry**, CEO, Teach for India

### 3.9 Seminar on Privacy (March, 2011)



In partnership with Bangalore based Centre for Internet and Society, we organised a seminar to discuss Privacy Law in India.

### 3.10 Does India Need a Revolution to Clean its Politics? (April, 2011)



A proud moment for us to invite prominent speaker and noted academician Professor Meghnad Desai from the London School of Economics. Over 300 people from different walks of life attended his talk at the Ahmedabad Management Association.

### 3.11 Sparkle-in-Snaps (April, 2011)



RFG organised a competition inviting original photography entries from all over India on the theme of "Hope". Renowned photographer Mr Vinay Panjwani presided over the award

ceremony and some fantastic photographs made it to our exhibition. We received over 160 entries from all over India.

The winning entry titled 'When All Doors are Closed...' by Mr Paras Shah from Ahmedabad is displayed here.

### 3.13 Are Students Losing Interest in Campus Governance? (July, 2011)



The need for democracy should ideally demonstrated at the college level. However, the

realities in India have made more and more students turn away from seeking democracy and transparency from very early stage in their lives. Can anything be done to improve this? Along with the Liberal Youth Forum (LYF) in Delhi, we organised a one day seminar involving students from well-known educational institutions in Ahmedabad to explore what it would take for them to be involved more in the issues affecting them on their own campuses.

### 3.14 Screening of U.S. Presidential Debate (October 2012)



With the support of the **American Consulate**, RFGI organised the screening of the U.S. Presidential Debate on Foreign Policy. Experts on international affairs were invited to provide a perspective to understand the context of the debate and what the Indian democracy could learn from its American counterpart.

### 3.15 Youth Power: Will My Vote Change Gujarat? (December, 2012)

On 9th December 2012, RFG organised an event on "Youth Power: Will my vote change Gujarat?" from 11 AM to 1 PM at the Ahmedabad Management

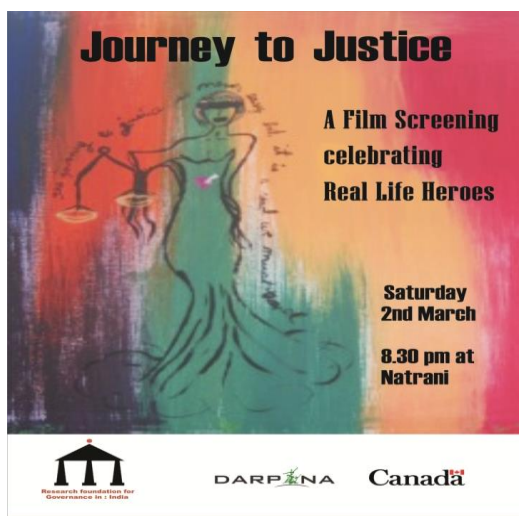
Association (AMA). The event started with a 2 minutes Vox-Pop Film shot by RFG volunteers on the streets of Ahmedabad capturing the views of the



common people on the upcoming elections.



### 3.16 Journey to Justice (March 2013)



With the support of the **Canadian Consulate**, RFGI organised a movie screening of Canadian Documentary “Journey to Justice”, followed by a Panel Debate with Dr Mallika Sarabhai, senior judges of the High Court of Gujarat and prominent journalists.

### 3.17 RFG Public Debates: (April 2010 .. ongoing)

One of the ways to achieve our aim is by way of monthly public discussions on various issues pertaining to governance. People from different spheres of society regardless of gender, age and creed can participate in discussion about contentious issues within Indian legal and political systems and can present their ideas on how to effectively to solve them. RFG maintains a high standard debate structure through which strong arguments are created and shared. We feel proud to say that our events are attended by highly distinguished judges, politicians, academicians, intellectuals and most importantly, dynamic youngsters, who share their valuable opinions on law and mechanism of powers in India.

#### 4. Lawtoons



##### **Introduction (December 2013 – Ongoing)**

Lawtoons is one of its kinds project that illustrates the laws and legal rights and make them easier to understand and fun to learn for children between the age of 10 to 14 years. Through the comic, we make interesting and inspiring cartoons on different laws and rights, which children and grown-ups really enjoy reading. This results in the idea of law and rights becoming more accessible.

Graphics and drawings are one of the oldest forms of story-telling known to human civilisation. Drawings and cartoons reach out and communicate much easily and effectively to children. We have partnered with the National Institute of Design for the illustrations and design, and have been consulting children's story-writers and child psychologists for the content of the stories.

The useful information about citizenship, democracy, laws and rights that children learn in their schools through the civics curriculum is often not effectively communicated, and passed off as 'dull and boring'. This often discourages young minds from understanding the laws and rights better. Even upon growing up, a common person is likely to be intimidated by the bulky law books full of legal jargon. This unfortunately, results in a society where most people find it difficult to relate to the idea of laws and legal systems, and feel disconnected.

##### **Response from Children**

A prototype of the comic book has already been created by us and shown to the audience. Revolving around freedom of speech, this pilot was loved by children from variety of backgrounds. We held workshops in the government schools as well as in international school in Ahmedabad, asking children what they know about the law. We then showed them the Lawtoons prototype and asked them what they preferred to study from – their textbook or the comic. The answer, as you can guess, was a unanimous vote for Lawtoons!

Inspired by the enthusiasm and excitement around the prototype, the project Lawtoons now aims to create and publish a series of these comics and also launch a mobile application of the cartoons.

Some of the legal elements we are already excited to start working on are laws concerning women, the rights of children, equality in our society, laws against exploitation as well as various rights such as the RTI and the Right to Education.

## **Potential**

We believe Lawtoons has a potential to address the issue of lack of legal awareness - an epidemic in many parts of the world. Lawtoons will help empower individuals by bringing them closer to their rights.

By bringing education and entertainment together, Lawtoons can also play an important role in becoming a teaching-learning tool across schools and other educational institutions.

## **Execution**

The project is being drawn and illustrated by designers from the National Institute of Design (NID) and the legal inputs shall be provided by Research Foundation for Governance: in India (RFGI). The story development is being done in consultation with the child psychologists to make sure we're communicating the law in an easy and understandable way, using the right colours and are reaching to the audience in the most optimum fashion.

More details are available on [www.lawtoons.in](http://www.lawtoons.in)

# LAWTTOONS

IN THIS  
ISSUE

"A SONG FOR  
EVERYONE!"



## 5. LawForMe and the Innovating Justice Award

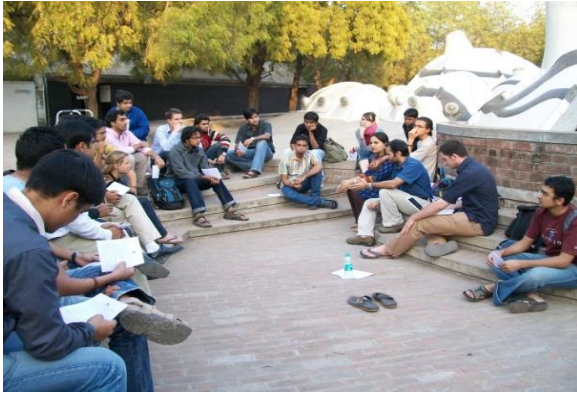
On November 26, 2014, RFG achieved a huge milestone. At the Innovating Justice competition organised by the Hague Institute for Internationalisation of Laws at the Peace Palace in Hague, RFG's LawForMe project became the winner in the category of most innovative justice idea for the year 2014. The project is to create a law, design and tech platform to make laws simple and accessible for people. The competition was held at the Peace Palace in the Hague and brought together prominent lawyers, judges, academicians and legal innovators from across the world!

The website for LawForMe can be accessed on: [www.lawforme.in](http://www.lawforme.in).



## 6. Events

### a. **Compulsory Voting, Blessing or Curse?**



**Zen Café  
January 2010**

### b. **Has the Indian Constitution fulfilled its promises?**



**Hutheesing Centre  
February 2010**

### c. **What if Women's Reservation Bill becomes a Law?**



**Zen Café  
March 2010**

**d. Future of Education in India**



**Law Garden  
April 2010**

**e. Values in Governance**



**CEPT  
May 2010**

**f. Caste Census**



**AMA  
June 2010**

**g. Bhopal Gas Tragedy**



**AMA  
July 2010**

**h. Gandhi and Gadugi**



**AMA  
August 2010**

**i. Paradoxical Indian Legal System**



**AMA  
September 2010**



**j. Role of Media in Governance**



**AMA  
October 2010**

**k. Is Government necessary for Good Governance?**



**AMA  
December 2010**

**l. Lokpal Bill**



**AMA  
April 2011**

**m. Is fasting necessary to change systems in India?**



**AMA  
June 2011**

**n. Is Team Anna true representative of people of India?**



**AMA  
August 2011**

**o. Why are heroes in India born only in Bollywood and Cricket?**



**AMA  
December 2011**

p. Has the common man become thick-skinned in India?



AMA  
March 2012

q. Is a strong leader better than a weak democracy?

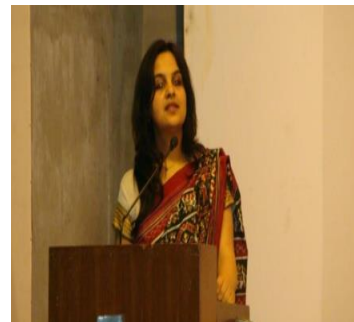


AMA  
July 2012

## 7. Team Members

### a. **Kanan Dhru:** *Founder & Managing Director*

Kanan Dhru is the Founder of Research Foundation of Governance (RFG). She is a law-graduate from the London School of Economics, where she was awarded the 'Honorary Studentship'. She has worked with the National Knowledge Commission - a Prime Minister's Advisory Body in New Delhi and the World Health Organisation in Geneva. She has been an External Consultant with McKinsey & Company and a Visiting Scholar at the Stanford University. She has been awarded many prestigious awards including the St. Gallen Wings of Excellence Prize, Wyse Emerging Leaders' Fellowship and the Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship. She is a Global Shaper at the World Economic Forum's Ahmedabad Hub and is one of the 37 'Indians of Tomorrow' featured by India Today in 2012. She is a columnist with several well-known newspapers and magazines.



### b. **Kelly A Dhru:** *Founding Member*

Kelly A Dhru has pursued an MPhil in Law (Jurisprudence) at University College, Oxford. She is a Supervising Editor of Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal. She finished her BCL with Distinction from University College, Oxford in July 2010. She was a topper in the first batch of Gujarat National Law University. She has had the experience of working on research projects of The World Bank, Rural Development Institute and has done her internships at different levels of courts in India.



### c. **Jainil Shah:** *Events Coordinator*

Jainil is an undergraduate student at H.L. Commerce College. He is an aspiring business student.

### d. **Apoorv Shah:** *Senior Research Associate*

Apoorv is a law-student at Gujarat National Law University and his interests are law, politics and management.

### e. **Anish Kumar Daolagupu:** *Freelance Illustrator, Lawtoons & LawForMe*

Anish is an animator and illustrator by profession. He is a graduate from the National Institute of Design (NID).

### f. **Jyotish Sonowal,** *Freelance Graphic Designer, LawForMe*

Jyotish is a graphic designer and a graduate of the National Institute of Design (NID).

### g. **Ninad Satish,** *Freelance Graphic Designer, LawForMe*

Ninad is a graduate of the MIT Institute of Design, Pune

## **Interns and volunteers:**

- RFG has over 50 local volunteers in Ahmedabad consisting of students from prominent academic institutions and working professionals
- The Foundation has also hosted around 25 interns from more than 15 countries including UK, USA, Romania, China, New Zealand, Netherlands, Canada, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Scotland, Poland in less than two years.
- International researchers from prestigious universities such as Oxford, LSE, UCL, NUS, Wharton, amongst others have actively contributed towards the organisation's research and awareness activities
- Member Strength of RFG is over 3000 and growing fast



## **8. Mentors, Partners and Sponsors**

The organisation has constantly received encouragement and support from various corners of the society. The following individuals in particular, have constantly guided the organisation:

- Shri Sam Pitroda, Advisor to the Prime Minister of India
- Shri Madhava Menon, Founder Director, National Law School, Bangalore
- Shri Kirit Joshi, Advisor, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat
- Shri Meghnad Desai, Professor Emeritus, London School of Economics
- Shri Dileep Mavalankar, Director, Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar
- Shri Sunil Parekh, Financial Consultant
- Shri Girish Patel, Senior Counsel, High Court of Gujarat

- Shri Sekhar Mukherjee, Professor Animation & Cartooning, National Institute of Design
- Smt Margie Sastry, Former Content Writer, Amar Chitra Katha

Within the last two years, RFG has developed partnerships and associations with prominent organisations from across the country. The following is a list of some of our partner organisations:

- Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship & Democracy
- PRS Legislative Research, Centre for Policy Research
- Accountability Initiative, Centre for Policy Research
- Indicorps
- Association for Democratic Reforms
- Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation
- Bar Association of Gujarat
- Global Young Indian Professionals and Students (GYIPS)
- Open Space
- Center for Internet and Society
- American Consulate
- Canadian Consulate
- Centre for Civil Society
- Liberal Youth Forum

During the last two years, several institutions and individuals have sponsored our activities. The following is a brief list of our donors and supporters:

- Wagh Bakri group
- Reliance Foundation
- Gujarat NRE-Coke
- Signet Foundation
- Tanna Associates
- IQue ideas
- Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
- Gujarat Law Society
- Mr. Ravi Malhotra
- Mr. Sunil Parekh

9. Media Coverage





- Yourstory: Two lawyer sisters and their Lawtoons (May 16, 2015)
- Huffington Post: Case for Legal Innovations (March 28,2015)
- Divyabhasker: Lawtoons a major presentation during Chittrakatha (November 8, 2014)
- DNA: Teaching Laws the comic book way (November 8, 2014)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Toon into law (November 8, 2014)
- Hindustan Times: Lawtoons - a comic series to teach children their rights (November 2, 2014)
- NavGujarat Samay: Lawtoons : a novel concept (July 9, 2014)
- Gujarat Samachar: Lawtoons: an interesting educational experience (April 23, 2014)
- Times of India: Crime doesn't really pay, find fresh law graduates (Apr 05, 2014)
- Times of India: Comic Book to Draw Young Minds to law (Mar 23, 2014)
- How Technology is Disrupting Courtroom: (World Economic Forum Blog) (Mar 19, 2014)
- Times of India: Lawyers take a different course (Mar 01, 2014)
- Divyabhaskar: Pagloo will inform about laws (Jan 24, 2014)
- DNA: Following in Swami's Footsteps (Jan 18, 2014)
- LiveMint: Research Foundation for Governance in India: Learning Law Through Debates (Nov 01, 2013)
- Kanan Dhru: a Young Beacon of Change: (Sep 10, 2013)
- Huffington Post: Creating a Better Society at What Cost? (Sep 03, 2013)
- Times of India: Women with a Drive (Mar 17, 2013)
- Chitralkha (Dec 19, 2012)
- India Today: The Change Agent: Kanan Dhru, got youngsters interested in politics (Dec 14, 2012)
- Business Standard: Justice Delayed is (23 Nov, 2012)
- Hindu: Law students not keen to practice in courts (18 Nov, 2012)
- Ahmedabad Mirror : Garvi Gujarat (April 30, 2012)
- Education Times: Seat of Power (Mar 27, 2012)
- DNA: This is India (Nov 13, 2011)
- DNA: Let's not miss the Anna Opportunity (Aug 22, 2011)
- DNA: Gujarat student unions can train youth in leadership roles (July 23, 2011)
- DNA: Is fasting a must to change the system? (June 12, 2011)

- Frontline: Sacrificial lambs (June 4, 2011)
- Divya Bhaskar: Lord Meghnad Desai (April 2, 2011)
- Gujarat Samachar: Lord Meghnad Desai (April 2, 2011)
- Live Mint: Gender gap in judiciary (March 7, 2011)
- India Business Law Journal: Vantage Point (February, 2011)
- DNA: Citizens debate Government's role in good governance (December 24, 2010)
- DNA: Film gives students lessons on democracy (December 1, 2010)
- Times of India: Reel lessons make real life politics easy for students (November 29, 2010)
- Times of India: Chinese documentary to be screened today (November 27, 2010)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: On Media Today (October 28, 2010)
- Sandesh: Foreigner makes documentary on representation (September 10, 2010)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Gujaratis favour Mandatory Voting (September 7, 2010)
- Times of India: Reward those who vote rather than punish who don't (September 6, 2010)
- Divyabhaskar: Kartikeyan speaks on Indian legal system (August 26, 2010)
- Times of India: Talk on Indian legal system today (August 26, 2010)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Story of Votes (August 24, 2010)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Gandhigiri (August 13, 2010)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Exploring Talent (August 7, 2010)
- Times of India: Youth all game for e-voting (August 5, 2010)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Debate on Bhopal Tragedy (July 7, 2010)
- Times of India: Public Debate on Bhopal Gas Tragedy (July 5, 2010)
- Times of India: Casteism still strong in India (June 11, 2010)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Some youth power this (June 11, 2010)
- Times of India: Cinema, public debate pave way for political reforms (May 30, 2010)
- DNA: Politics on silver screen (May 27, 2010)
- Times of India: Short film festival on political reforms (May 24, 2010)
- Divya Bhaskar: First film festival on political reforms in Ahmedabad (Gujarati - May 22, 2010)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Lawyers protest SC's decision to challenge HC's verdict (March 14, 2010)
- Indian Express: Ex-judges criticise SC move to challenge order on RTI (March 13, 2010)
- DNA: Ahmedabad youth ponder cost of women's bill (March 12, 2010)
- Sandesh: Ministers 3000 times wealthier in 5 years (Gujarati - March 8, 2010)

- Ahmedabad Mirror: Minister turns debate on democracy into media-bashing (March 8, 2010)
- Times of India: No internal debate happening within political parties (March 8, 2010)
- DNA: Democracy in action at RFG debate in Ahmedabad (March 8, 2010)
- Times of India: Democracy in political parties? Experts to debate (March 6, 2010)
- DNA: Political parties lack internal democracy, a study says (March 6, 2010)
- City Bhaskar: Youth Should Take Interest in Politics (Gujarati - March 5, 2010)
- DNA: Has Constitution helped us? Youth gives divergent views (January 26, 2010)
- Times of India: Youth discusses relevance of Indian Constitution (January 26, 2010)
- Divya Bhaskar: Youth discusses Constitution (January 26, 2010)
- DNA: Speak Up (January 14, 2010)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Youth debate compulsory voting (January 13, 2010)
- Indian Express: People divided over compulsory voting (January 13, 2010)
- Indian Express: Three-year law colleges could be a thing of past (January 13, 2010)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: India's legal system worst: HC lawyer (December 15, 2009)
- Times of India: 'India's legal system needs to be updated' (December 14, 2009)
- Times of India: Experts to discuss Indian legal system (December 12, 2009)
- Indian Express: No three-year law college in Ahmedabad has requisite faculty strength: survey(December 9, 2009)
- DNA: 'More youths in politics will ensure better governance' (December 7, 2009)
- Times of India: Students to get a lesson on governance (September 21, 2009)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Foreigner helps NGO create benchmark for politics (August 4, 2009)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Gujarat needs more law schools (July 8, 2009)
- Times of India: Some appointments in judiciary political: CJ (July 8, 2009)
- DNA: Appoint law officers on merit, says chief justice (July 8, 2009)
- Indian Express: Bar Council to consider junior lawyers' issues (June 2, 2009)
- Indian Express: Most junior lawyers in HC unhappy over working conditions (May 20, 2009)
- Hindustan Times: Why I didn't want to Vote (May 3, 2009)
- Indian Express: Disillusioned voter (May 3, 2009)
- DNA: Speak Up (April 28, 2009)
- Times of India: Well-known personalities debate youth participation in politics (April 27, 2009)
- Ahmedabad Mirror: Amdavadi youth talk on why they shun politics (April 27, 2009)

- Indian Express: Seminar on youth participation in electoral politics (April 27, 2009)
- Indian Express: RFG & JaaGo Re! One Billion Votes awakens 8,000 voters in Ahmedabad (April 18, 2009)