



মস্মেলন ২০২২

যুব সমাজ ও এমডিজি

আজকে দাঁড়িয়ে, আগামীর ভাবনা

১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২২, কৃষিবিদ ইন্সটিটিউশন বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা

# Addressing Asymmetries of Information to Strengthen Governance

Parallel Session 3: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

1 September 2022, Dhaka

Organised by



Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ

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### **About the exercise**

This document is an outcome of a collaborative process of the young students who have participated in drafting the thematic papers. The participants were selected through an online competition facilitated by UNYSAB and UNDP Bangladesh. On behalf of the Citizen's Platform, young CPD researchers have curated the papers under a coherent structure and guided the authors to complete the exercise successfully.

# Addressing Asymmetries of Information to Strengthen Governance

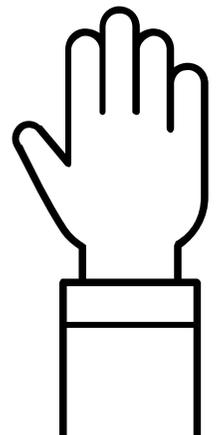
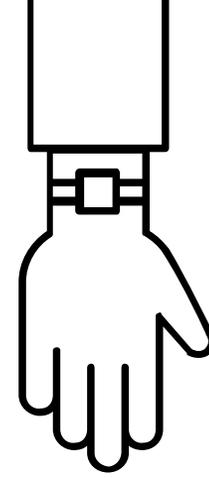
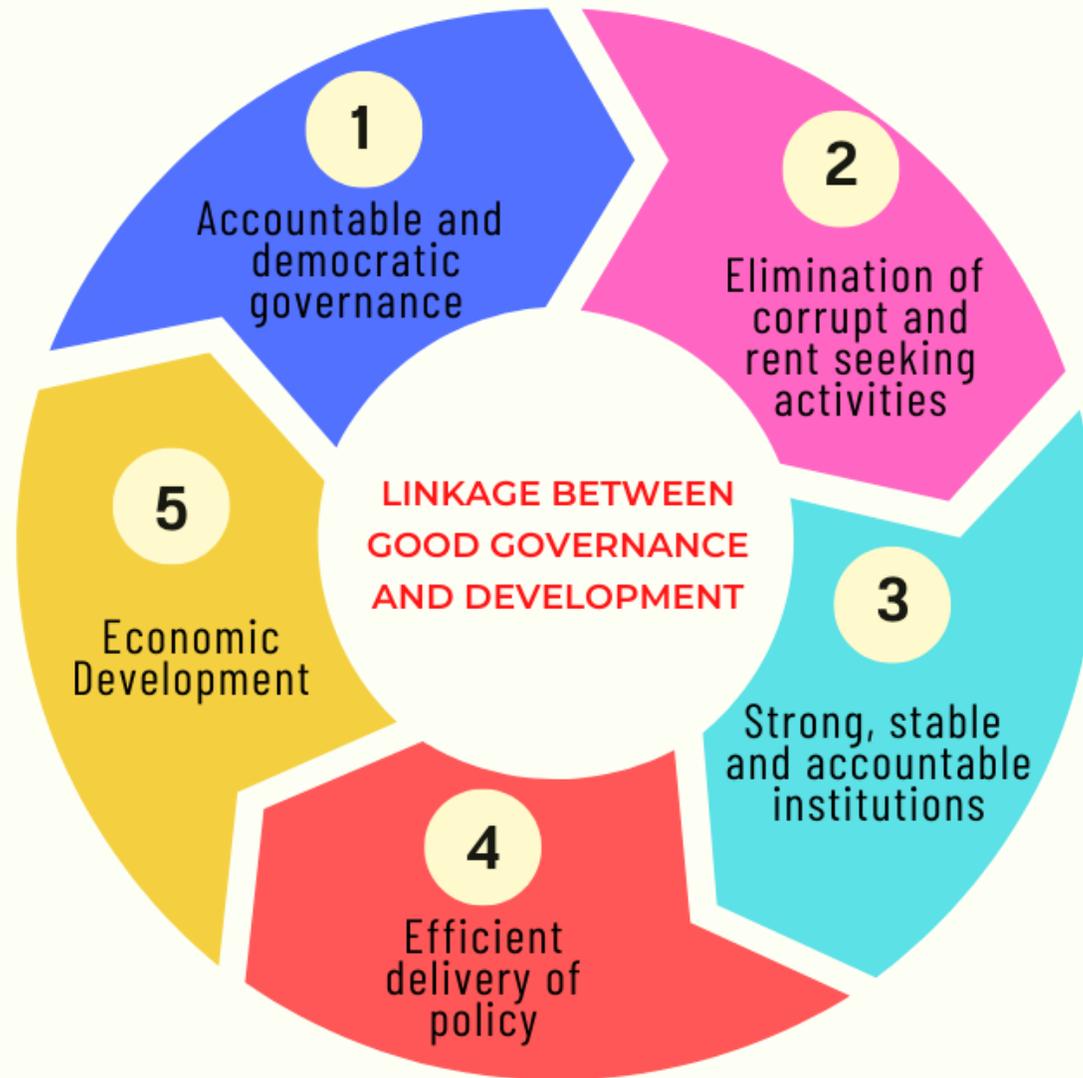
## Parallel Session 3: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

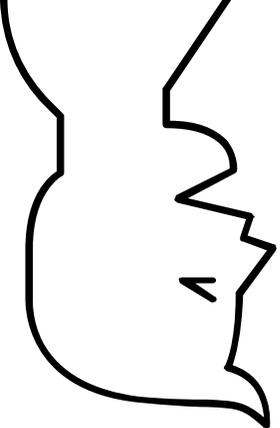
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# Introduction





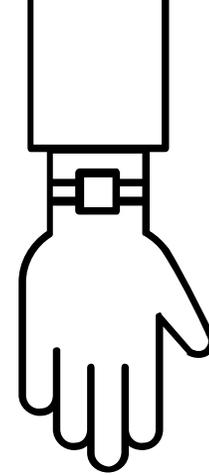
*“The enactment of the Right to Information Act is an epoch making incident in the history of Bangladesh. it will greatly help establish accountability and transparency in every sphere of society and the administration.the government will continue to work to safeguard the peoples’ right to information.”*

*- Sheikh Hasina,  
Prime Minister of Bangladesh*



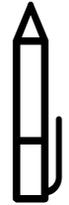
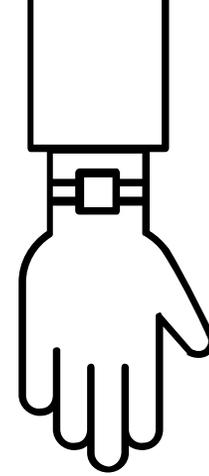
# Current Context

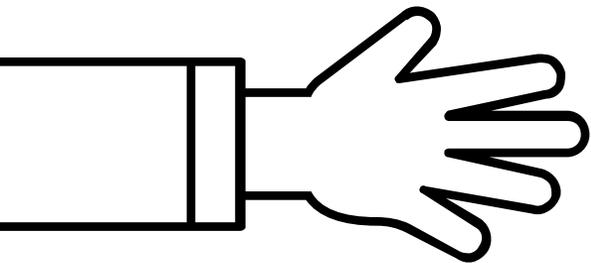
- ▶ While governance has always been a concern in Bangladesh, the RTI act and whistleblower acts are landmark legislations that moved Bangladesh towards the path of better public access to information and in turn good governance
- ▶ That is not to say that the RTI does not have its drawbacks
- ▶ Implementation and utilisation of RTI still needs work
- ▶ Awareness of RTI, its benefits, and its necessity is a major gap in the current context



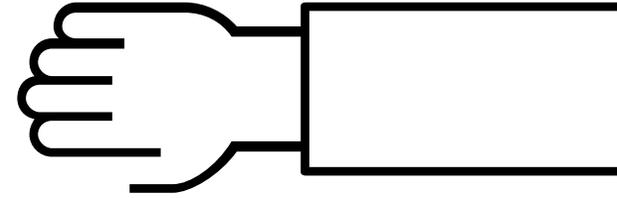
# Issues

- ▶ Surveys shows, most citizens at large are unaware of RTI therefore 2/3rd of Designated Officers do not get a single application
- ▶ Bureaucratic approach
- ▶ Loophole of the Digital Security act & misuse of Section 31 of RTI act
- ▶ Dhaka centrism





moving towards  
good governance



# Policy Focus

## Government

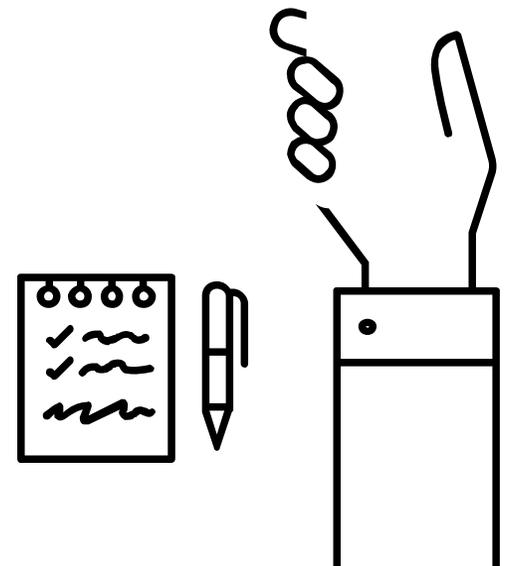
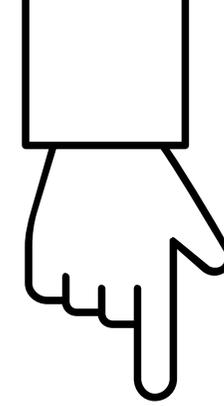
- ❖ Political internalisation of the need for public access to information is necessary
- ❖ Needs assessment must be conducted on the current state of the legislature
- ❖ Resources must be allocated towards keeping public sources of information accessible and updated
- ❖ RTI Implementation Cell must be established to monitor the implementation of the RTI Act
- ❖ Decentralisation of the complaints system

## Community

- ❖ Stronger awareness of the rights to public information must be created
- ❖ Non-state actors such as NGOs and Civil Society organisations must be engaged at the grassroots level

## Youth

- ❖ Workshops and training modules to build awareness of the rights that the youth enjoy must be undertaken by both state and non-state actors



University level workshops are an effective means to increase awareness by bringing the 3 key stakeholders together: government, community, and youth.



# Thank You



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