

REPORT ON THE RTI TALK

MUJHE JAAN'NEY KA HAKH HAI!

R.T.I. and Civic Engagement

On February 4th, 2017, Mr. James John from AGNI gave the students of S.X.I.E. a charismatic talk on three topics- RTI, Civic engagement and elections. He began first by talking about the organization that he works for and briefed the students about the aims and objectives of the N.G.O., AGNI*-Action for Good Governance Networking in India.

He began his talk on RTI (2005) by providing a brief history the act which was an offshoot of Maharashtra RTI Act (2002 initiated by Anna Hazare. He spoke about the process of appeal and application under RTI and encouraged students to ask him questions in this regard. He provided them with booklets from which they could refer to templates of the letters needed to file an application.

In the next segment, Mr. John spoke about his experience with dealing with rescuing women and girls from the clutches of human trafficking. He shed light upon PITA* - Prevention of Immoral Trafficking Act. He spoke about the illegality of brothels and the states in India with the highest rates of of prostitution.

Finally, Mr. John spoke about citizens' role during the elections. He discussed with students about 4 pillars of India's democracy, namely, Legislative, Executive, Judiciary, and the Press. He asked the students in the audience where they stood with regard to these four pillars and led them to reflect on why that one minute spent by them on casting a vote in the polling booth counts. He asked students to let their vote be made use of rightly in a just and fair way for the betterment of nation. He ended the session with urging them to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming municipal elections and also be vigilant citizens.



