

Scope- RTI, elections and Civic engagement.

Mr. James John from AGNI gave the student a charismatic talk on three topics RTI Civic engagement and elections. He began first by talking about the organization he works for and briefed us with the aims and objectives of AGNI*-Action for Good Governance Networking in India.

He then spoke to the attendee about a brief history of RTI (2005) act which was offshoot of Maharashtra RTI Act 2002 initiated by Anna Hazare. He spoke about the process of appeal and application for the RTI and encouraged us to ask him questions. He also kept our presence felt by continuously probing us. Eg: MERC- you can have electricity bill enquiry from this committee. He provided us with booklets from which we could refer to formats and templates of letter while we file an application.

He then 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 Brothels. The states with highest amount of include Karnataka, Bengal, Jharkhand-this section of the program was very informative.

Lastly, he spoke about our role during the elections. He discussed with us about 4 pillars of India: Legislative, Executive, Judiciary, Press. Where we stand in the four pillars and why that one minute of voting counts. He expected us to and urged us to make use of this right and let our vote be made use of rightly in a just and fair way for the betterment of nation. He ended the session with urging us to vote and make use of whatever is our right. And also be a vigilant citizen.