

Right to Information (RTI)

The **Right to Information (RTI)** Act is a significant piece of legislation in India that promotes transparency and accountability in government institutions, ensuring that citizens can access information held by public authorities. **Bahra University**, being a recognized educational institution, is subject to the provisions of the **RTI Act, 2005**. The university would establish a framework for the implementation of RTI to allow the public, including students, staff, and the community, to access information related to its activities, policies, and operations.

RTI at Bahra University: Objectives and Implementation

1. **Transparency and Accountability:** The university would be committed to providing transparent access to information regarding its policies, academic programs, administration, finances, and other operational matters. This ensures that students, staff, and the public are well-informed about the university's functioning.
2. **Designated Public Information Officer (PIO):** Under the RTI Act, Bahra University would appoint a **Public Information Officer (PIO)** who would be responsible for receiving requests for information, processing them, and providing the requested details within the prescribed time frame. The PIO would also be tasked with handling any appeals or grievances related to the RTI requests.
3. **Information Request Procedure:** The university would establish a clear and easy-to-follow procedure for submitting RTI requests. A designated section on the university's website or a physical counter would provide guidelines on how to file requests, the format of the application, and the fees, if applicable.
4. **Time-bound Disclosure:** As per the RTI Act, Bahra University would provide the requested information within 30 days from the date of receiving the request. If the request pertains to the life or liberty of an individual, the university would process it within 48 hours. If the information is denied, the university would provide a valid reason for the denial.
5. **Online Information Portal:** Bahra University could also establish an online platform where students, faculty, and the public can easily access certain categories of information proactively, such as annual reports, academic calendars, staff details, and policies. This would further streamline the process and make information easily accessible without the need for formal requests.
6. **Training and Awareness Programs:** The university would conduct periodic training sessions for its staff, especially for the designated PIOs and other officials handling RTI matters, to ensure proper understanding and compliance with the RTI Act. Awareness campaigns would also be run to inform students and staff about their rights under the RTI Act.
7. **Exemptions and Confidentiality:** While the university would ensure the maximum disclosure of information, certain sensitive information, such as personal data of students or staff, confidential research data, and national security-related matters, would be exempted from disclosure under the RTI Act.

Appeals and Complaints

If a request for information is denied or if the information provided is inadequate, applicants can file an appeal to a higher authority within the university. The university would have a designated **Appellate Authority** to handle such cases. If the applicant is dissatisfied with the decision of the university's appellate authority, they can further appeal to the **State Information Commission**.

Appellate Authority: Dr. Umesh Thakur

Public Information Officer (PIO): Ms. Abha

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