

The media too.  
whereas the whistle  
blowers are



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

The Right to Information Act (RTI) is an Act of the Parliament of India “ to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens” and replaces the erstwhile Freedom of information Act, 2002. The Act applies to all States and Union Territories of India except Jammu & Kashmir. Under the provisions of the Act, any citizen may request information from a “ public authority” (a body of Government or “ instrumentality of State”) which is required to reply rapidly or within thirty days. The RTI and whistle blowing has been identified with some differences with respect to information and disclosure connected there with. Firstly, RTI is a reactive approach, whereas whistle blowing is a proactive as well as reactive approach. The applicant for RTI requests for the required information within the definition of information provided in Right to Information Act.

Most of the information is exclusive in nature. But there are no such inclusive and exclusive factors for information disclosure in whistle blowing. The whistleblower considers such information for disclosure which majorly harms the public health and safety. RTI provides perfect platform for whistle blowing. Many RTI activists have been threatened to death. Some of the noted RTI activists who lost their life are Amit Jethwa, Satish Shetty, Datta Patil, Sola Ranga Rao, Vitthal Gite, Lalit Kumar Gupta, Kameshwar Yadav, Vishram Laxman, Sasidhar Mishra & Venkatesh. Both RTI activists and whistle blowers are victimized for their act.

Both need protection. The whistle blowers protection Act does not include the provision to protect RTI activists for their RTI disclosures (G Sampath 2014) Secondly, all RTI activists can be considered as whistle blowers but, all

whistle blowers are not mainly being called RTI activists. The RTI activists are those always fighting against corruption.

They can be noted very frequently in the media too. Whereas the whistle blowers are among the common public, who unexpectedly fight against the wrongful act in their work place. Some of the noted whistle blowers are Satyendra Dubey, Shanmugham Manjunath. They are usually and preferably anonymous fighters.

The RTI activists use the formal mechanism as mentioned in the process of RTI Act for getting the information, whereas the whistle blowers get information informally by their observation. The information obtained by RTI applicant is secondary, whereas the information obtained by whistle blower usually is primary. Therefore, RTI can be defined as getting formal information through formal means and ending with mostly informal or even with formal disclosures. Whistle blowing can be defined as knowing informal information through informal means and ending with formal or informal disclosures.

Both RTI Act and Whistle Blower Protection Act seek the identity of applicant and informant as in case of RTI and whistle blowing respectively.