

Report on Ethiraj College at Egmore, Chennai

The International Association for Religious Freedom and, the P.G Department of Human Rights and Duties Education, The Ethiraj College for Women Chennai, celebrated the International Human Rights Day to mark the 60th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10th and 11th December 2008 at Ethiraj College Auditorium, Chennai.

The Program on 10th December was started with Welcome Address by Dr. M. Thavamani, Principal of the Ethiraj College and [the International Human Rights Day was inaugurated by the Chairperson of Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women. Dr. K. M. Ramathal .](#)

Adv. V. Rengapashyam, National Secretary, IARF, India Chapter delivered Key note address on the importance of the occasion with special reference to the importance of human rights day and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The report of the activities of the P.G Department of Human Rights and Duties Education, The Ethiraj College for Women on various outreach activities on human rights in the academic year 2007-08 was presented to the audience. The Inaugural came to an end with the Vote of Thanks delivered by Mrs. Sriranjini Sivasubramanian, Head, P.G.Department of Human Rights and Duties Education Ethiraj College for Women.

The Inaugural program was followed by a Stage Play on 'Domestic Violence' and on Religious fanaticism by the "Chennai Kalai Kuzhu" – a team which has been creating awareness on various human rights issues among public through street plays and stage plays over 25 years.

Members of "Karunalaya", a Chennai-based NGO, which dedicatedly works for the education and well-being of abused children, performed a traditional folk dance 'Kaliyalaattam'. Above programs captured the audience with full involvement.

The afternoon session of the Human Rights Day was celebrated with the screening of a movie named "Kanavu Meippada Vendum", which portrays the human rights issues and problems faced by women due to women trafficking and prostitution. After watching the film , followed a discussion with the Director of the film, Ms. Janaki Vishwanathan about the theme and contents of the film. Many of the Students and guests joined in the Discussion with sprit and raising questions and got clarification.

On the second day - 11th December, an Intercollegiate "Mime Competition" on "Any Contemporary Human Rights Issue" was conducted, where students from various city colleges participated and enacted on different issues pertaining to human rights and won prizes.

Three Short Films on Human Rights, by IARF- 'Rita's Choices', 'Sacred Grove', and 'Where is Home?' were screened to the audience which was followed with a discussion lead by Mr. K.Ramachandran, Facilitator, Human Rights Education, IARF, Chennai . Around the two hours discussion was very creative especially about the importance of religious freedom and choice of faith. Many participants were agreed that traditional religions especially tribal faiths are under threat and the political (ruling) powers and the international society are not much concerned about it.

The grand event came to an end with Valedictory Session, with welcome address by Ms R. Nithya, Lecturer, P. G. Department of Human Rights and Duties Education, Ethiraj College for Women and Participant in the Youth Seminar on Human Rights and Freedom of Religion and Beliefs held at Amman, Jordan, organized by IARF.

Dr. Thomas Mathew, Inter-National-President, International Association for Religious Freedom and Chairman, South Asia Coordinating Council (SACC), Kerala, delivered the valedictory address on the 60 years of UDHR and the need for human rights in today's world. Dr. Thomas Mathew distributed the certificates and Mementos to the winners of cultural programs from various Colleges. In team work, the Stella Mary's College for Women, Chennai got the 1st Prize and Anna Adarsh College for Women, Anna Nagar, Chennai got the 2nd Prize.

On the occasion of 60th Human Rights Day, the Chennai Human Rights Education participants 2006 – 2007 from various Colleges, Young Adults

Ms. Anbumani. A, participant International Human Rights Young Adult training Program at Netherlands in 2007 organized by IARF & R. Nithya, Participant in the Youth Seminar on Human Rights and Freedom of Religion and Beliefs held at Amman, Jordan, organized by IARF in 2008 and K. Ramachandran, Facilitator, Human Rights Education, IARF, Chennai Honored the International President, Dr. Thomas Mathew with a Memento for his Guidance and encouraging to do better work with Coordination on all the programs at Chennai.

Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr. M. B. Pavithra, Lecturer, P. G. Department of Human Rights and Duties Education, Ethiraj College for Women.

On December 10th HRE program around 2000 students were participated and second day on Dec 11th 2008, 150 selected participants were attended the full day program. This program was covered by National Television of India and famous news papers.

The whole program was aimed at spreading the cause of human rights and sensitizing the student population on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Important Information:

On the invitation to Dr. K. M. Ramathal, Chairperson, Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, Chennai at Ethiraj College for Women to Inaugurate the 60th H.R. Day on 10th December, 2008 by IARF-SACC and she accepted our invitation and directed to all the Chennai City Colleges (around 45) to celebrate the 60th H.R. Day on 10th December, 2008 with asking for the report of the performance.

K. Ramachandran,
Facilitator, Human Rights Education, IARF, Chennai.