

IARF SACC Human Rights Education in India Report of recently held Four HREs.



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Report of recently held four HREs

- 1. Govt. Zirtiri Residential Science College, Aizawl, Mizoram (April 24-25, 2012)**
- 2. Banipure Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Banipure, West Bengal (April 21-22, 2012)**
- 3. KLE Society's Law College, Bangalore (February 21-22, 2012)**
- 4. Ravi Junior College, Nagpur, Maharashtra (January 12-14, 2012)**

Govt. Zirtiri Residential Science College, Aizawl, Mizoram
April 24, 25, 2012

At a Glance	
Venue	Govt. Zirtiri Residential Science College, Aizawl, Mizoram (North Eastern hill state near Myanmar)
Date	April 24, 25, 2012
Facilitator	Prof. Asit Basu
Number of Participants	34 (Boys- 12, Girls-18, Staff Members-4)
Age Group	19-28
Religious Representation	Hindu-1; Muslim-1; Christian-28

Introduction:

Two day human Rights Education program was held at Government Residential Science College, Aizawl, Mizoram, a North Eastern Hill State near Myanmar on 24 & 25 April, 2012. 12 boys, 18 girls and 4 teachers participated in the program from Christian, Hindu and Muslim communities.

Introduction to Mizo

By origin the *Mizos* are tribal people of north eastern India. But in the 19th century with the missionary endeavor of the Presbyterians, the whole community converted into Christianity. Though there is no gender discrimination, there prevail differences among different denominations and groups. Intra -religious conflicts are common among them. Discrimination between rich and poor, village and city people is explicitly present in the society. They have little awareness about human rights but do not believe in the concept of intermingling. They are intended to maintain their socio-cultural and economic identity or in other words, they don't want to lose their socio-cultural identity.

Program in Detail

The program was inaugurated by Mr. Lalnunthara, the state lesion officer NSS on 24th April, at 9.30 am. In his inaugural speech he focused on the present socio-economic chaos in the country and highlighted the need of Human Rights Education to overcome it. He appreciated the IARF for organizing HRE in a place like Mizoram where only a few are conscious about basic human rights and duties. Chief Guest, Dr. Thomas Mathew, Chairman IARF SACC explained the role of IARF along with other NGO's and Governments to make this world, a place for everybody to live in peace and harmony. Prof. Asit Kumar Basu, Vice president of IARF India Chapter & HRE facilitator shared the purpose of HRE program and the role of students and youths in protecting Human Rights in the society. Four teaching staff members of the college also attended the inaugural function.

The Government College here whole heartedly accepted the IARF HRE workshop and selected students from different degree clashes. The students shared that they are very much aware about the interreligious problems across the world but have a feeling that it is not their problem. But now a days their community members have been leaving to other parts of India for searching job and education and they are facing different kinds of torture and humiliation because of their ethnicity and religion. Globalization forces them to leave their home land for a better life but it is always a

challenge for them. Discrimination based on religion and ethnicity makes them insecure in many parts of India. They shared their happiness that there are organizations like IARF to educate the people about the UDHR and stand with the basic human rights of everyone. They also shared their interest to work with IARF in the future through form a chapter branch.

Before valedictory program the participants' groups performed role play on various issues of the violation of Human Rights which they have been experienced. They also expressed their willingness to share the UDHR to other students in the college.

Ms. Lalmangaihi Hrahselin, Principal of the College gave her valedictory speech and distributed certificates and prizes to the best groups and best performers.

The organizers of the HRE were very generous to have a dinner with many dignitaries in the city. Because of them we have got admission in the government guest house which is much cheaper than the normal hotels with star facilities.

Main Aim:

- Sensitize people about the rights of freedom of religion & belief.
- Promote Religious Harmony & Peace in and around the hill state of Mizoram.

Objective:

Minimize socio-cultural and political conflict, violence and tension from the society. Eliminate all form of intolerance, humiliation and hatred through exchange of dialogue among different faith groups.

Timeline:

Two day program - On 24th & 25th April 2012 from morning 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Session outline:

1st session (on 24th April at 10.30 am to 1pm) –

- Greetings from the facilitator for joining this learning / action process.
- Introduction of participants & their expectation.
- Identifying their concerns about intolerance, religious discrimination & Conflict- sharing and categorizing their concerns
- Social purposes, learning goal, social goal of this HRE workshop
- Proposing goal for social change to overcome obstacles to religious Freedom - Sharing goals
- Thinking about action
- Film show '1st time' & responses after the show.

2nd Session (2mp to 5.30 pm)

- Reading, acknowledging, & clarifying – Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- The declaration on the Elimination of all forms of intolerance & discrimination based on religion or belief (DIDRB).
- Majors Human Rights Treaties
- Relate the goals of the participants to the rights describe in the UDHR & DIDRB

3rd session (on 25th Dec at 10.30 am to 1 pm)

- Film show -'Rita's Choices'
- Responding the film - awakening their awareness

- Inquiry about injustice
- Analyses the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views & application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Applying HR (DIDRB) what actions may be undertaken

4th session

- Review – Rita’s Choices on the light of DIDRB & the said goal
- Film Show – ‘Sacred Grove’
- Responding the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about multiple injustices
- Analyses the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views & application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

5th session (2.00 pm to 5.30 pm)

- Review of Sacred Grove on the light of said goal
- Film show – ‘Where is Home’
- Responding the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about multiple injustices
- Analyze the inter-religious injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views & application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

6th session

- Reviewing their concern & goals
- Recommending actions
- Planning action for social change
- Strategic planning for action

Methodology:

Group works - discussions, lectures, case studies, Audio visual learning and group report presentation.

Issues rose:

Hatred, humiliation, intolerance, Religious conflicts, Rights to freedom of religion & belief these issues had raised and discussed in the program.

Assumptions:

Tribal and converted Christians are the major population of this hilly state. Sometimes they faced intra religious conflicts among each other & communal tension.

Risk factors:

It is a hilly tribal area, and the inhabitants are very few Hindus and Muslim and all most all the mizo tribal are converted Christians. Therefore a little tension and risks are found among them in regards to establish their rights.

Expected learning outcomes:

Short-term

Participants will be able to change their mind set up and will be oriented & motivated to accept the freedom of religion & beliefs as important Human rights.

Long-term:

All sorts of social violence, conflicts and tension will be resolved.

Resources Required:

Cooperation and man power support from the local organization

Teaching & training materials viz., pad, pen, power point, projector machine, flip charts, marker pen etc.

Language Problem:

There is no language barrier (English is used)

Location:

Govt. Zirtiri Residential Science College, Aizawl, Mizoram

Why have you chosen this community/ target group?

Tension & misunderstanding present among the young generation of this locality. It is near Himalayan ranges and boarder of Mizoram with Assam, Myanmar & Bangladesh.

Balance of gender, ages etc?

The male student participants were 12 in number and the female were 18 and age group of them was between 19 to 28 years. I the College authorities selected potential students of various faith groups for attending this HRE program. One Hindu girl, one Muslim boy and the other 17 girls and 11 boys of different denomination of Christian joined this program.

What steps are you considering to undertake in order to lessen the tension between the participants from different faith groups?

I have inspired and insisted the participants to maintain peace and to be calm and patience during discussion. They had insisted to start open & free discussion instead of loud voice.

Do you have ice-breaking /team building activities?

Yes

How many people from each faith attended?

Islam-1, Christianity-28 and Hinduism-1.

Name of Potential Mediator:

Mr. Zirlianggura & R.Lalramengzami, NSS Program Officers

Evaluation process:

Series wise evaluation will be made just after completion of the six sessions. A format has been prepared for this by the IARF, SACC.

Testimonials of Selected Participants

K. Lalpekhlu (M), 18, Christian



Human Rights Education program is very important and highly necessary in our day to day life. Most of us had not learned any Human Rights properly. We had learned them only in text book. But now I feel benefited after attending the workshop organized by IARF-SACC. I was very excited when I was selected to perform in this programme. The facilitator told us many important life facts and I hope all of us have got so many success tips. I hope more programs on human rights will be held in different corners of Mizoram. Thank you.

A. Sadam Husain (M), 19, Muslim



It helps to improve by simply knowing the simple thing that it is involved in our everyday life, and I specially give thanks to our research person, helping in our achievement of knowing the Human Rights.

Ultimately it helped me in learning systematically about our rights. It has changed my view of life as a girl and makes me more confident.

Nisha Chhetri (F), 20, Hindu



From this HRE, I have learned to interact with other group members, some of whom even I have never ever met. I have also gained much more positive perspective on all kinds of rights. Helping others to understand the rights which they never must have realized is also one motive which I have acquired through this program. I have also learned that cooperation with others will definitely help to solve problems better and also to have sympathy for those who are deprived of their rights.

It helped me in acknowledging the rights that I have and the rights of others as well.

Facinta L. Chhangte (F) 21, Christian



HRE gives me a great knowledge about the possibilities of human beings to enjoy the freedom of speech, worship and act. Each and everyone have their own rights to do whatever right according to the law and justice. Practicing the human rights in its strict sense there should not be any religious conflict, because everyone is equal.

There cannot be racism, whether rich or poor, black or brown, yellow or white. HRE told us that all human being is same; all has to live in peace and harmony and in brotherhood. If so there will not be any room for discrimination.

Phoebe Lalremruati (F), 18, Christian



This experience made us to realize our rights. It gives us information about what is going on around us and of the people whose rights have been deprived for so long. When I was in the middle school, I was underestimated by my classmates because of my low family status. Many a times I was abused and bullied. But now I have a positive and constructive view towards life because of this program. I think it is the high for us to work together and make this world a peaceful home for everyone.

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Banipure Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Banipure, West Bengal
On: 21st & 22nd April 2012

At a Glance	
Venue	Banipure Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Banipure, West Bengal
Date	21st & 22nd April 2012
Facilitator	Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
Number of Participants	35 (Girls) + 5 Teachers
Age Group	19-30
Religious Representation	Muslims-5; Hindus-30 (Various Castes + Tribal)

Introduction:

Two day human Rights Education program was held at Banipure Mahila Mahavidyala (College), Banipure, Habra, West Bengal, near India-Bangladesh border on 21st & 22nd April, 2012. Thirty five Students (Girls) and teachers attended the program from both Hindu upper and lower castes, Muslim and Tribal communities.

Why Banipure?

Before 1971, this area was dominated by Muslims but after independence of Bangladesh in 1971 many Muslim families moved to Bangladesh and similarly many Hindu families forced to migrate here from Bangladesh leaving behind all their properties. As a result, migrated Hindu families formed some grievance over the local Muslim families. The local Muslim believed that they are the children of the soil, so they have every right to do good or bad there. They are religiously powerful because Bangladesh Muslims have been supporting them. Their relatives from Bangladesh visit their houses frequently crossing the border illegally. As a result, this boarder area became a place of religious tension and conflict among the migrated Hindus and the local Muslims. Now people of both communities are trying to be more powerful in the area by gaining Political powers. They usually quarrel for silly things and do not trust each other.

In spite of intolerance and misunderstanding among the two religious groups, we could also see some unusual love and good understanding. Another very striking thing of this area is, the migrated Hindus of this locality are very conservative. They do not believe in gender equality. The girls have only given with less freedom to go out alone and to attend schools/colleges. Women are oppressed and tortured by the society just because they are women, especially when they give birth to a girl child after marriage. This kind of discrimination is very common in this area.

Taking these backgrounds into consideration, we have selected this place for conducting our HRE program.

Program in Detail

The program was inaugurated by the Principal of the College on 21st April, 9.30 am. In his inaugural speech he focused on 'the importance of Human Rights & its relevancy in the present Global context'. Ms. Sarkar, NSS program officer of the college delivered a lecture on the 'genesis of Human Rights Movement in India & Europe'. Other teachers and staff attended the inaugural function.

Participants attended the two day workshop with full of enthusiasm and it is almost first time in their life to share openly about their own understanding (misunderstanding) about their own religion and other religions. They emphasized the so called caste system in that area makes lot of divisions and inhuman practices in the society. It was also new for them to hear that there are international law (UDHR) for the religious freedom and other human rights. Though they all agree that the religious freedom is vital to bring peaceful coexistence or at least tolerance among the members of the community but they were not sure who will take the initiative. Facilitator encouraged them it is our duty to take the imitative berceuse we know it.

The second day of the workshop was Sunday however all the participants came on time and participated very lively. The teacher Ms. Sarkar and group of young people selected to continue the HRE education in the college .They shared their hope it helps to bridge the division between the students and local communities based on religious bias.

Before the valedictory program, the participants performed role play in groups on the various issues of violation of Human Rights, which are very common in their locality and which they have also been experienced. During the role play one student was in tears while remembering the torture from her mother in law and in laws for having a girl child. Chairman enquired the reason to her; she said it was her own story. Bearing a girl child as first child is enough for a reason to divorce in her community. She was encouraged by others to fight back for justice and her right to have children of any sex.

In valedictory speech, Dr. Thomas Mathew, Chairman of IARF SACC addressed the participants highlighted the importance of accepting others as human beings, in spite of differences, which shows the quality of life.

The participants emphasized everybody's right to live with dignity should be focused by youths and they will follow it wherever is possible.

Later the Chairman and the Principal distributed certificates and prizes to the best groups and best performers of the two days HRE education program.

Main Aim:

- Sensitize people about the rights of freedom of religion & belief.
- Promote Religious Harmony & Peace in human society.

Objective:

Minimize socio-cultural and political conflict, violence and tension in the society. Eliminate all form of intolerance, humiliation and dislike through exchanging dialogue among different faith groups.

Timeline:

Two day program - On 21st & 22nd April 2012 from morning 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Session outline:

1st session (on 21st April at 10.30 am to 1pm)

- Greetings from the facilitator for joining this learning / action process.
- Introduction of participants & their expectation.

- Identifying their concerns about intolerance, religious discrimination & Conflict
- Sharing and categorizing their concerns
- Social purposes, learning goal, social goal of this HRE workshop
- Proposing goal for social change to overcome obstacles to religious
- Freedom - Sharing goals
- Thinking about action
- Film show '1st time' & responses after the show.

2nd Session (2pm to 5.30 pm)

- Reading, acknowledging, & clarifying – Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- The declaration on the Elimination of all forms of intolerance & discrimination based on religion or belief (DIDRB).
- Major Human Rights Treaties
- Relate the goals of the participants to the rights describe in the UDHR & DIDRB

3rd session (on 10th Dec at 10.30 am to 1 pm)

- Film show –'Rita's Choices'
- Responding the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about injustice
- Analyses the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views & application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Applying HR (DIDRB) what actions may be undertaken

4th session

- Review on 'Rita's Choices' on the light of DIDRB & the said goal
- Film Show - 'Sacred Grove'
- Responding the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about multiple injustice
- Analyses the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views & application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

5th session (2.00 pm to 5.30 pm)

- Review on 'Sacred Grove' on the light of said goal
- Film show – 'Where is Home'
- Responding the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about multiple injustice
- Analyses on inter religious injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views & application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

6th session

- Reviewing their concern & goals
- Recommending actions
- Planning action for social change
- Strategic planning for action

Methodology:

Group works - discussions, lectures, case studies, Audio visual learning and group report presentation.

Issues rose:

The participants discussed thoroughly about the discrimination, hatred, humiliation, intolerance among men and women and Hindu- Muslim religious conflicts. They realized, Rights to freedom of religion & belief is not to be violated in any case.

Assumptions:

It's a rural boarder area, communal tension porn zone. All the participants tried to come forward to establish their own opinion.

Expected learning outcomes:**Short-term:**

Participants will be able to change their mind set up and will be oriented & motivated to accept the freedom of religion & beliefs as important human rights.

Long-term:

All sorts of social violence, conflicts and tension will be resolved. .

Language Problem:

No Language problem was felt since both English & Bengali are known to participants.

Location:

Banipure Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Banipure, Habra, WB.

Why have you chosen this community/ target group?

Tension & misunderstanding present among the people and young generation of this locality. It is a border area of West Bengal and Bangladesh and 60 km away from Kolkata city. In order to resolve this communal problem I have selected this area for organizing this HRE program.

How are you ensuring there will be a balance of gender, ages etc?

It is a Women's College so all participants are female and age group between 19 to 30 years. College authorities had selected potential students of various faith groups for attending this HRE program. Four Muslim girls and 29 Hindu girls attended the program respectively.

What steps are you considering to undertake in order to reduce the tension between the participants from different faith groups?

I inspired and insisted participants to maintain peace and to be calm and patience during discussion. They made open & free discussion instead of loud voice.

Do you have ice-breaking /team building activities?

Yes

How many people from each faith attended?

Islam-5 and Hindus-30

Name of Potential Mediator:

Ms. Saraswati Sarkar, NSS Program Officer

Evaluation process:

Series wise evaluation will be made just after completion of the six sessions. A format has been prepared for this by the IARF, SACC.

Comments of Participants (Selected)**Monika Mandal (F), 25, Hindu**

It is a unique program. It helped me to upgrade my knowledge, confidence and ability to speak and discuss various issues on human rights. From now onwards I will follow the rules and rights of human being.

Thanks to the IARF.

Jaya Shil (F), Hindu

We are grateful to join the human rights education program. It is very inspiring to understand the rights of human being. By attending this program I have acquired a lot of information. It will help me to serve every individual and the society at large. This learning and experience will help us to achieve our goal of improving the condition of people in the society irrespective of their background. I, myself was a victim of religious tradition but I got an opportunity to share it with others here and received lot of moral support from them. These kind of workshops makes things different.

Nisha Dey (F), 19, Muslim

It is a nice program. I am very happy after joining this program. I have learned a lot about Human Rights. I am willing to follow these rights in my own life and I will try my level best to protect it. It also enhanced my knowledge, confidence on many things in practical life. Moreover I learned to remove intolerance and misunderstanding based on religion or faith. I learned to argue peacefully for others right because all nations accepted the UDHR through United Nations.

Pinky Dhali (F), 21, Hindu (Tribal)

This program helped me to develop my knowledge on Human Rights. It also boosted my confidence level at a large. I must follow Human Rights in my life and motivate people to obey and respect the rights. This program really inspired me a lot and I want to get more training on human rights. I wish all colleges in this district will have these kinds of HRE workshops.

Rupa Sarkar (F), 19, Hindu (Dalit)

The program on human rights is a very important program for me. I have learned lot of things from this workshop. It has increased my confidence, my ability to speak with others courageously. I would like to join this kind of program again. I hate oppression and persecution of minority people in our society. We must live in harmony. It is first time hearing about UDHR and everybody's right to select my own religion.

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**Ravi Junior College, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
12, 13, 14 February 2012**

At a Glance	
Venue	Ravi Junior College, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
Date	12, 13, 14 February 2012
Facilitator	Adv. Amal Rohilla
Number of Participants	35 (M-17; F-18)
Age Group	17-19
Religious Representation	Hindus-18; Christian-1; Buddhist-16

Main Aim of the series

To educate and empower youths to know the values of Human Rights based on religious freedom, and promote peace within the community, other communities, states, and ultimately for global peace and Harmony.

Objective of the series

To achieve world peace and harmony, to eliminate all sorts of discrimination and intolerance based on religion and its practices.

Timeline:

12th & 13th; Time 9.30 am to 4 pm. and 14th Feb 2012 - 11 to 2 pm.

Session outline -

Please give a breakdown of the topics covered and activities per-session:

Welcome: The principal of the Junior college Shri. Ashok Thote presided the inaugural session. The participants were from Sonekar Junior College, Nagpur run by Ravi Bhaguddhesh Sanstha. The facilitator Smt. A.Rohilla explained the statement and purpose of IARF and its activities. Shri. R.Ingle, guest of honor, Lecturer of Sonekar College enlightened the participants, by speaking about religious freedom and Art.25 to 30 of Constitution of our country which gives freedom to profess and practice one's own religion without any interference of others or the state. The facilitator Mrs. A. Rohilla gave a brief introduction about the purpose of this workshop and requested the participants to involve them in the activities of peace building which is essential in the growing political, cultural, social, economic change around the world. She further demonstrated the importance of religious freedom for world peace and Harmony.

Session I: Participants were divided into four groups. Then they were asked to have their partner for the session (person next to him/her). It also allowed them to make acquaintance with each other. Then introduced each other in front of the audience and sharing their concerns. Then the groups wrote down the concerns of their groups, categorizing the concerns and proposing goal settings and think about action (2hrs).

Session II: Participants reflections, awakening awareness, deepening awareness, an inquiry into injustice, analyzing the injustices within a Human Rights frame work (3Hrs).

Session III: Analysis II Considering Alternatives. Analysis III- Applying HR standards and criteria - considering action. Group I Enlisting supporters for change, Group II - HR learning. Group III - HR

action for tolerance and religious freedom - summarized the simulation after viewing all 3 films. Wrap - up Assessment of learning as Action on intolerance and discrimination (3Hrs).

Session IV: Viewing film for second time and share awareness, response, analysis and other action, concepts of Social Justice Human Rights & Indian constitution.

Session V: Viewing all 3 films - Drafting strategy for change, statement, goals recommendations for change - presentation- framing a task force- final reflection on Human Rights leaning for tolerance and elimination of discrimination based on religion- Religious freedom Monitoring feedback-evaluation.

Methodology employed

Discussion, Lecture, Questions and Answers- Interchanging group views.- video, preparation of charts, group songs on religious unity and integrity, folk, theatre/street play etc.

Issues rose during each session

- Corruption – shortage of water, sound pollution. Air pollution, Water pollution, Garbage disposal, Interrupted water supply, Lack of greenery, poor condition of roads, Violence on weaker section - stigmatization of HIV - AIDS victims- Human and child trafficking, Communal Riots, Militancy in Manipur, Mizoram, Problem of Illiteracy and aged (old age). Addiction of youth to various things, rising prices, unemployment, discrimination, disunity in the community, population, child labour, Female feticide, failure in implementing projects properly, etc.
- Govt.'s failure to preserve the culture of tribal, interference of govt. in their religious practices as noticed in "Sacred Grove".
- Discrimination in the religious practices of communities, and within the same religious practices as it is noticed in "Rita's choice" and "where is Home?"

Ideas and solutions to the issues identified by the participants

Following topics were discussed:

Public awareness, Awareness about the pollution viz., air and water, stress for practical knowledge, encourage innovative ideas, equality, behavioral change, communication, think globally and act locally, give importance for moral values, formulation for grass root approach, transparency in administration empowerment of tribal women, sex education, campaign for "*Hath se Hath Milao*" give equal status for women, enhancing security and vigilance, eradicating poverty, empowerment of women, interaction between heads of religious communities, celebrate festivals together inviting all religious groups, family values, proper parenting, counseling of parents and children, motivating local leaders (formally and informally), lack of employment opportunities, motivating elders to join for income generating activities, awareness of old age rights, pension schemes. Lokpal Bill, employment ethics, price control, contentment, pre-marital seminars (for proposed couples).

Make awareness of healthy and responsible tourism, Sex education for youth for a healthy relationship, Awareness about HIV viruses, proper medical knowledge. Govt. control on price rise, govt. policy for to bring back black money from foreign banks, family planning, educational campaign by the govt. on various topics, knowledge on right to equality.

Everyone should be treated equally. Good education and proper family planning methods, free education for all, give job only after 16 years of age, gender equality, equal status in the family for girls and boys, astringent action against illegal abortion, plantation, low cost housing while widening the roads for people who are affected on the basis of rehabilitation etc.

Assumptions that were made

Implement governmental programs properly by agencies especially religious freedom and peace. Make awareness about the water and air pollution among the masses through interfaith activities.

Plant trees and plants to maintain ecological balance. Maintain cleanliness in surroundings. Govt. can initiate certain methodology for promoting harmony in the society in order to eradicate all kinds of social evil systems and intolerance based on religion and caste.

Risk factors and how they were taken care of?

There was no problem.

Learning Outcomes: Please give a detailed report of the outcomes of the session / series as Identified by you and the participants at the end of each session/ series.

Short-term

This subject was totally new to them. The learning process and enthusiasm about learning UDHR was wonderful. Participants knew nothing about UDHR. Hence, it was easy to start from the basic; Human Rights issues and then DIDRB. Participants were with full of energy and enthusiasm.

Every lecture, instruction and activity was done with great care, perfection and eager to know what is HR and religious freedom.

Participants had shown their interest in requesting us to conduct H RE programme again in their college.

Long-term

Participants' response was fine. Many sincerely joined us for promoting world peace and Harmony; I must say that this program was a successful one. I'm sure the participants who had shown their willingness to join us would be future young adults of IARF. Altogether the participants understood what are UDHR and DIDRB.

What resources were used? Did the arrangements like equipment, meeting hall, seating etc. work smoothly? What difficulties were faced?

Meeting Hall and sitting arrangement was good. Sound system was provided by the college. Managed what was deficit (like drinking water).

What was the contribution made by the community/ communities? Please give details.

Hall and sound system was provided by the community.

Materials: What films and which sections of the HRE Manual/handouts were used in the training sessions?

All three films Rita's Choice, Where is Home? and Sacred Grove; and HRE learning handouts, statement and purpose of IARF, UDHR, DIDRB were used in the training session.

Did you face any difficulties with regard to the use of the materials?

No difficulty.

Did you encounter any language problems among participants in terms of the materials (for example, handouts, and films)? And how did you handle them?

Yes. But translated in to Hindi.

How did the community receive the learning programme?

Response was good. Like to attend more such programs.

Did you face any resistance from the community?

No.

If you live at some distance from the workshop site, did this pose any challenges to you?

No.

Do you feel the community/target group you chose was appropriate, why? Please give concrete examples.

The community target group needs to be educated for better future of the nation to maintain peace and Harmony.

Please write about the composition of the learning group. How did you ensure a balance of gender, ages etc?

The learning group was junior college students. Participants shown keen interest in learning and knowing their rights as human and specifically based on religious freedom.

a) Which faith traditions attended?

Hindus, Christians and Buddhists.

b) How many people from each faith attended?

Hindu-18, Christians -1 and Buddhist-16

Total= 35

Give details of the gender balance amongst the participants from these faith groups?

Female : 18

Male : 17

Did you include any young people? If so, how many?

Yes. All were young.

Were there any serious disagreements and tension between the participants from different faith groups? If so, what were the points of disagreement and how they were resolved?

No.

What ice-breaking/team-building activities did you conduct? (Please specify)

Religious group songs by different groups and individual was really inspiring.

Please add the names, gender, faith traditions and approximate ages of at least 3 people in the group who were your support team. Please give contact details.

1. Paras J. Shankariya
2. Shubham D. Dhoure
3. Pratik M. Yondole
4. Sharddha R. Wakde

(All from Sonekar Junior college run by Ravi Bhaguddesh Sanstha, Siraspeth, Nagpur).

Name of mediator and the role s/he played

Shri. Ashok Thote principal Sonekar Junior college

Shri. Ingle Lecturer Sonekar Junior college

Adv. Anita Gupta practicing advocate, Nagpur.

Please give detailed information about participants' feedback and evaluation of the session / series.

In totality it was a successful series. The participants learned about HR and religious freedom. Participants had shown their interest in respecting other religious groups and willing to share and participate in other religious activities.

What areas of the session / series could have been done better and how do you plan to make these improvements in the next session / series?

At the end of two days hardworking we feel as if we are running short of time.
Evaluation and feedback form was not completed in all respect.

Participants' Comments (Selected)

1. Shobham D. Dhondre (M), 17, Hindu



The workshop was very nice. I learned about UDHR Article 18. I was not much aware about human rights. It was the first time I learned about human rights. In a pluralistic society like India, living together with different communities is very important; I believe it is possible only through the mutual respect and interactions. I will spread the news of religious freedom and respect other religions.

2. Sujata Samant (F), 23, Hindu



This program was very good. There were many things to learn from this workshop. This kind of HRE program should be conducted in various places. So that people become aware of Human Rights and religious freedom and they will be awoken from all kinds of discrimination which is in society. I was always against other religions but now I learned it hurts others as well as take away my inner peace. I will spread the things I learned, to my family and friends.

3. Bharti Krushnarao Wagh (F), 20, Hindu



I liked this program very much. I have been taught that we should no be indifferent to other people on the basis of religion and culture. With this workshop the differences based on religion could be removed. Gender inequality also must be removed. The knowledge of human rights should be spread to other communities and public at large. I learn to respect other religions. Please do more programs in our city.

4. Nimita Meshram (F), 24, Buddhist



It was really wonderful thing to know about Human Rights. As human beings we must be aware about our rights. IARF taught us what is human rights and UDHR. As a minority religious community member I learned my right is equal to others. It is a wonderful experience.

Thank you.

5. Gopal Meshram (M), 22, Buddhist



We should bring our parents also for this kind of program. Because there are very few who think of society. Parents make religious boundaries for us. Through these kind of education only we can overcome it .We have learned how to cultivate joy and happiness in the society which I wish to share with my friends and community. Every young adult should help to promote this kind of program. I agree that education is the main tool to change the intolerance and ignorance.

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KLE Society's Law College, Bangalore
On 21st & 22nd February 2012

At a Glance

Venue	K LE Society' Law College, Bangalore.
Date	21 st & 22 nd February, 2012
Facilitator	Mr. K. RAMACHANDRAN
Number of Participants	52 (Male-20 & Female-32)
Age Group	19-22
Religious Representation	Hindu-46; Muslim-2; Christian-3; Jain-1

Main Aim of the Series

To educate and to understand about harmony among different religious groups and faith.

Timeline: date and time of the series/ session

Two consecutive days.

1st Day- 21st February, 2012 (09.00 am- 04.00 pm) Session-I to III

2nd Day -22nd February, 2012 (09.00 am - 04.00 pm) Session- IV and V

Objectives of the series

- (1). To propagate the Religious harmony to young youths
- (2). Make them to understand on religious problem on human rights and dignity as per article 18 of the U.N. Declaration.

Session outline -

Breakdown of the topics covered and activities per session:

First Session (21-02-2012) 09.00am to 10.30 am

Inaugural function

Participants Introduction and Expectation.

Participant Identity Concerns

Statement of purpose

Sharing & Categorizing Concerns

Simulation exercise in learning groups:"Why am I here?"

Introductory viewing of all 3 films. Immediate response and Evaluation of 1st Day Program.

Second Session (21-02-2012) 10 .45 am – 12.15 pm

Group exercise on UDHR

Group exercise on DIDRB

Viewing "Rita's Choice" and discussion

Viewing "sacred Grove" and Discussion.

Immediate Response after the First Showing.

Deepening Awareness: an Inquiry into Injustice

Analyzing the Injustice within a Human Rights Framework.

Recalling the last sessions.

Third Session (21.02.2012) 01 .00 pm- 04.00 pm

Viewing "Where is Home" and discussion

Immediate responses after the first showing within a Human Rights frame work

Discussion, Action Group exercise and Chart presentation
Evaluation of 1st Day Program
Group Exercise for 2nd Day (planning for Role / Street play, mine etc.,

Fourth Session (2.02.2012) 09.00 am - 12.15 pm.

Recalling the 1st Day program
Presentation of Group Reports, Action Role play, Group songs relevant to the Subject
Statement of concerns sharing our goals, planning our Strategy
Presentation from 5 groups with peer and trainer review opportunities

Fifth Session (22.02.2012) 01 .00 pm- 04.00 pm

Forming a task force
Concrete planning for back home activities and individual presentation
Final Reflection on Human Rights
Learning for Tolerance and Religious Freedom
2nd Day and Series evaluation and Valedictory Session including issuing of Certificates

Methodology employed

Lecture, Group discussion, Participatory learning, Role / Street play Mine, Group songs etc.

Issues rose during each session

How human rights denied in and around our society / communities by interreligious and intra religious problems and also about the caste system?

Ideas and solutions to the issues identified by the participants

- Awareness program may be conducted at different stages and different places (Village, Town and City) through street play, hoardings, and Slogan writings, public media and trainers by giving training to the selected students.
- For Religious violence, youths in different Religion to be trained under one umbrella properly about the Human Rights and its values and about religious harmony.
- Participants are willing to co-operate with IARF at any time.

Assumptions that were made

Religious freedom is the fundamental human right and the Government has a prime role to make sure about it. Civil society should act through various programs instead of a mute spectator while community is divided.

Risk factors and how they were taken care of

The participants were very much interested in the Program and co-operative, no risk factors in the program.

Learning Outcomes:

Detailed report of the outcomes of the session/ series as identified by you and the participants at the end of each session/ series.

Short-Term

- Interfaith on religion, attending functions, poojas of other religion/ community and to give due respect to other religious people.
- Equal in all race.
- The protection of Human rights.

- Study about the different problems internationally and their remedy through U.N. Declaration and conventions.

Long- Term

To maintain Inter religions harmony and peace throughout the world.

What resources were used? Did the arrangements like equipment meeting hall and seating etc. work smoothly. What difficulties were faced?

With the help of College authorities the program was conducted smoothly.

What was the contribution made by the community/ communities? Please give details.

Nil

Materials: What films and which sections of the HRE Manual/handouts were used in the Training sessions?

As provided to the facilitators at the training program at Kolkata during August, 2005 the CDs, video, films handouts, HRE Manual etc., were used.

Did you face any difficulties with regard to the use of the materials?

No

Did you encounter any language problems among participants in terms of the materials?

(For example handouts and films) And how did you handle them?

No, all the participants well in English language.

How did the community receive the learning program?

As a new approach at college level, the community received the learning program well and satisfied.

Did you face any resistance from the community?

Three major religions have participated in all 5 groups and I didn't face any resistance from the community.

If you live at some distance from the workshop site, did this pose any challenges to you?

Yes.

Do you feel the community/target group you chose was appropriate? Why?

Please give concrete examples.

Yes, before fixing the Program I came to understand that different religions are participating in the program. The participants were Students & Faculties.

Please write about the composition of the learning group. How did you ensure a balance of gender, age etc.?

The learning group consists of college students Male-20 and Female- 32 different age/religion participants were there students & Faculties

Please write about attendance of participants at the session/ series? For example, did you have problems getting the same people for each session etc? (Please attach the Participants' Attendance Pro forma) - The questions immediately following will provide a summary of what is on the attendance pro forma.

There was no problem, all the participants were from the same college and everybody has attended at their own interest to learn about H.R. Program.

Which faith traditions attended?

Hindu, Muslim, Christian & Jain

How many people from each faith attended?

Hindu	:	46
Muslim	:	02
Christian	:	03
Jain	:	<u>01</u>
		52

Give details of the gender balance amongst the participants from these faith groups.

Male	:	20
Female	:	32

Did include any young people? If did so. How many?

Yes. All the participants were young people except one Faculty.

Were there any serious disagreements and tension between the participants from different faith groups? If so, what were the points of disagreement and how they were resolved?

No

What ice-breaking/team-building activities did you conduct? (Please specify)

Yes: By mixing various religion different groups were formed, hence, the group activities and their active participation were good.

Please add the names, gender, faith traditions and approximate ages of at least 3 people in the group who were your support team.

College Students

1. Srinithi, Male, Hindu, age 18
2. Manish Kumar Tripathi, Male, Hindu, age 23,
3. Saurabh Bhutra, Male, Hindu, age 25
4. Amreen Fathima M, Female, Muslim, age 25
5. Nikita Singh, Female, Hindu, age 18

Name of mediator and the role he/she played

K. Ramachandran, Facilitator, Chennai has conducted the entire program. Mr, Md. Shabeer & Mrs. Hemalatha, Facilitators from Mysore was also joined and shared the ram with their experiences.

What areas of the session/ series could have been done better and how do you plan to make these improvements in the next session/series?

All the participants were very smart and understanding, everything went on well.

With the help and Co-operation of the College Principal and active participants the programme was successfully conducted. Both the facilitator and participants enjoyed the programme as a team spirit and as IARF-Human Rights Family. The design of the series was very much appreciated by one and all. The participants conveyed their gratitude to the IARF - HRE Personnel.

The prindipal Dr. J.M. Mallikarjunaiah & the coordinator for the program Mrs. Jayashree, Lecturer, were very much happy with the program. The participants also assured to educate others in the College and community about HRE and also they are willing to participate in other IARF-Activities/ HRE program organized by the IARF in future.

Mr. Md. Shabeer Ahmed, IARF International council member, National secretary IARF India chapter addressed the gathering at Inaugural Function on 21st February 2012.
Mrs. Hemalatha, National secretary IARF India chapter, addressed the gathering at valedictory Function on 22nd February 2012. The certificates were issued to the participants affixing with Group Photo taken at the time of valedictory function.

Participants' Comments (Selected)

Priyanjali (F), 18, Hindu



The two days seminar held was excellent and knowledgeable. This type of collaboration makes cooperative feeling between people. This kind of educations make strong enough to fight against the injustice and discrimination based on religion. This was really a very nice experience and expect much more in coming days.

Praneeth G.N. (M), 21, Hindu



The program was well organized. I learned a lot especially about the fundamental right of every human being. Awareness about the UDHR will be fruitful for us as law students to act for the voiceless. Many kind of humiliations based on religion is common in our society so HRE is a tool to avoid it. It is a beginning to act for others right.

Abhilash Thomas (M), 31, Christian



Well monitored, well structured, furnished and intimated program. It motivates us and encourages us to interact with the society when it is divided for vested religious interest. Religion must be a uniting force not an advocacy for fanaticism.

Aditya A (F), 18, Hindu



The program was very helpful to understand the real aims and objectives of HRE and it was an interactive program too. UDHR gives lot of confidence for us especially to youths, to live without fear. Government is a mute spectator sometimes so NGO's like IARF open our eyes. I wish to work for organizations like IARF to uphold the dignity of all human beings.

Aashita Jain (F), 20, Jainism



It was a fun warming session. Glad to join. Lot of information and awareness got through these two days program. I felt tired sometimes because of the length of the program but always refreshed by others' stories and thoughts. People are not much aware about the role of United Nations but here we learned UN role to bring peace and human dignity.
Looking forward for more sessions like this.

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