



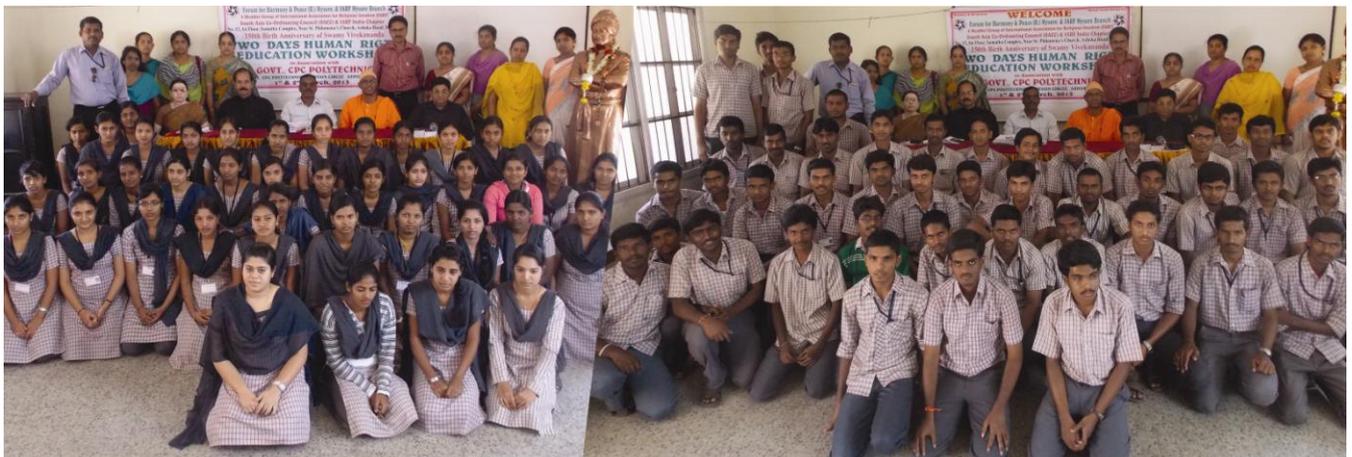
international association for  
**religious freedom**  
belief with integrity  
South Asia Coordinating Council

## Human Rights Education workshop

Held at Govt. CPC Polytechnic Mysore

Held on 1-2 March 2013

Sponsored by IARF SACC



# REPORT

Facilitators: Adv. Md. Shabeer Ahmed & Adv. Mrs. M.A. Hemalatha Rao

### At a Glance

Venue	Govt. CPC Polytechnic, Mysore District
Date	1-2 March 2013
Facilitators	Adv. Md. Shabeer Ahmed & Adv. Mrs. M.A. Hemalatha Rao
Number of Participants	85
Gender Balance	Female-43 & Male-42
Age Group	17-20
Religious Representation	Hinduism (comprising different sects)-71, Islam-11 & Christianity-3

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### Main Aim

Promotion of religious harmony, understanding and peace in the society.

### Objectives

Creation of awareness on human right and religious freedom and promotion of respect for different faiths and realization of religious freedom and dignity.

### Timeline:

1-2 March 2013

### The topics to be covered and activities per session:

**Session 1:** Statement of purpose, introduction of participants, initial assessment and statement of their expectations, participant pairs identify their concerns, sharing concerns, categorizing concerns, proposing goals, sharing goals and thinking about action.

**Session 2:** Opening the session, showing the video, awakening awareness; immediate responses after the first showing, deepening awareness; an inquiry into injustice, analyzing the injustice within a human rights framework.

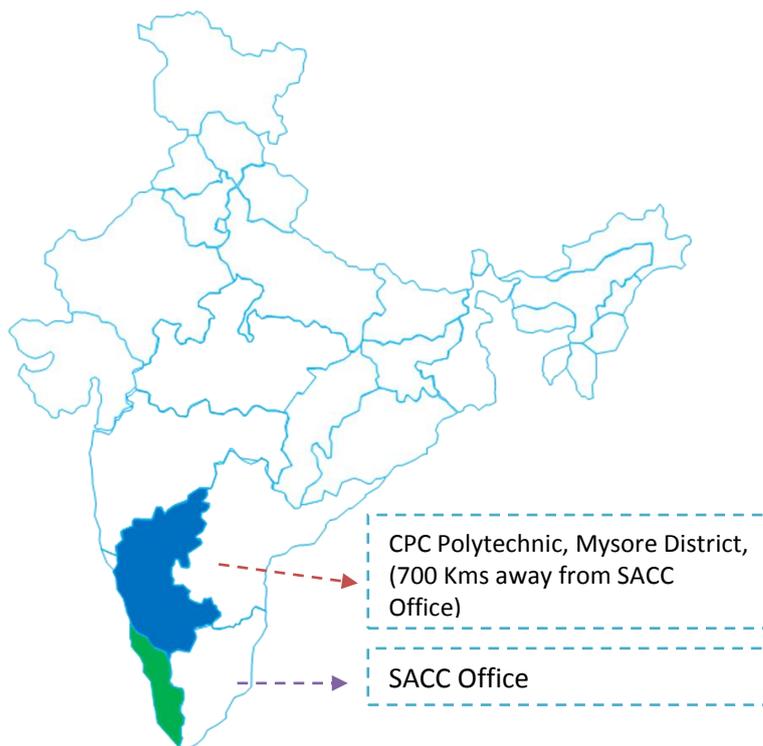
**Session 3:** Considering action, assessment of learning as action.

**Session 4:** Reviewing our diagnosis and drafting a statement of concerns, sharpening our goals, planning our strategy.

**Session 5:** Enlisting collaborators, forming a task force, final reflections on human rights learning for tolerance and religious freedom.

### Methodology

Interactive and participatory through group discussions and exercises, role plays, screening of films, display of charts, etc.



## Report of Human Rights Education workshop held at Govt. CPC Polytechnic Mysore, on 1-2 March 2013

### **Issues rose**

Local issues of religious intolerance, discrimination and human rights were identified by the participants.

### **Assumptions**

Though by and large there is religious harmony in Mysore district there are however subtle and underlying issues of intolerance and discrimination. Participants discussed those issues in different sessions.

### **Risk factors**

There were no risks involved

### **Expected Learning Outcomes:**

#### **Short-term**

- | Clear understanding of UDHR and DEIDRB. Identification of issues related to these and attempts to find solutions.
- | Creating an environment of mutual trust and respect among the participants and towards their belief and practices.
- | Encouraging the participants to play an active role in establishing a society in which there is recognition of religious freedom and human dignity.

#### **Long-term**

- | Establishing communal harmony, peace and understanding in, Mysore District.
- | Realization of the right of religious freedom through understanding and respect for humanity and religious belief and practices.

### **Resources Required**

Meeting hall, chairs and tables, HRE literature, stationery, LCD Projector, PA system, snacks, food, etc.

**Materials:** What films and which sections of the HRE Manual/handouts are you going to use in the training sessions?

All the three films and the relevant handouts. Handouts on UDHR and DEIDRB and evaluation forms.

**Did you encounter any language problems among participants in terms of the materials (for example, handouts)? And how did you solve such problems?**

The selected participants were able to follow English and Kannada. Wherever there was difficulty with English, oral translations were made to regional language.

### **Community chosen**

Students from Govt. CPC Polytechnic, Mysore District

**Location** (Please indicate the state you are working in and also the town/village):

Mysore District, Karnataka State.

### **Distance from your home**

The community and the venue for the series was located within a distance of 8 kilometers (up & down 16kms)

**Have you already had contact with this community?**

Yes

**Why have you chosen this community/target group?**

We have chosen the community because they were the students of CPC Polytechnic Mysore District and they are young adults & adult. They have open mind to social issues problems. Through this programme awareness of human rights could be created among them. The enthusiasm and energy could ensure a long lasting impact.

**How did you ensure the balance of gender, ages etc?**

The participants were selected from both genders to ensure a balance of religious representation and gender. 43 female and 42 male students participated in the program. However a major number of participants were comprised of different sects of Hinduism.

**What steps have you undertaken to lessen the tension between the participants from different faith groups?**

- A friendly environment was created for the participants.
- A set of ground rules were also implemented.
- The facilitators were present to moderate the sessions.

**Do you have ice-breaking/team-building activities (please specify)**

There were games, energizers and role plays.

**a) Which faith traditions attended the program?**

Hindu, Muslim, Christian

**b) How many people from each faith group attended the workshop?**

Hindu-71, Muslim-11, Christian-03

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

All participants in the series were young adults.

**What have you adopted strongly to encourage attendance at all sessions?**

Contact numbers of the participants were collected early and informed them to attend the two day series. The management of Govt. CPC Polytechnic was also very cooperative in this regard. They also ensured regular attendance of students, since the program became a requirement of students' extracurricular activity.

**Names and faith traditions of at least 3 people in the group who were in the support team?**

Mr. Mansoor Ahmed (Muslim), Miss. Neha Fathima (Muslim) Mr. M. R. Preethan (Hindu) Mr. Madhusudhan M. A. (Hindu) & Mrs. B. K. Lakshmi (Hindu), Ms. Nagma Ara (Muslim)

**Name of potential mediator**

Miss. Neha Fathima (Muslim) Mr. M. R. Preethan (Hindu) Mr. Madhusudhan M. A. (Hindu) & Mrs. B. K. Lakshmi (Hindu), Ms. Nagma Ara ( Muslim)

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Participants' Comments (Selected)



**Keshava C. (M), 20, Hindu**

This is a very good program. Before this program I did not know anything about Human Rights. This program really enhanced my knowledge. Thanks to facilitators and organizers.



**Shifa A. (F), 17, Christian**

Program was very educative and interesting. Issues discussed in various sessions were very relevant. Films were very touching and interesting. This kind of initiatives will make lasting changes in our society. Thanks to all behind this endeavor.



**Mohammed Zubair (M), 20, Islam**

I really feel happy to involve in this program. All sessions were equally important. Efforts of United Nations and NGOs like IARF if doing tremendous efforts to maintain peace and harmony in the society. I could express my views and concerns in this program.



**Aruna Kumari M.S. (F), 19, Hindu**

It's very useful to us; we could learn many things about human rights. If we are following the right attitude we can achieve something good. Even we can pass this message to many others who are not aware about human rights and religious freedom.



**Naitha Khanum (F), 18, Islam**

The program is very good. We could improve our knowledge. It enabled us to know how to maintain good relationship with others and serving others. Thanks to IARF.

**Link to photos**

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=104>