



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



Human Rights Education Workshop

Held at Sri Lakshmi Ladies Association, Mysore

Held on 21-22 February 2013

Sponsored by IARF SACC



REPORT

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

At a Glance

Venue	Sri Lakshmi Ladies Association, Mysore
Date	22-22 February 2013
Facilitators	Adv. Md. Shabeer Ahmed & Adv. Mrs. M.A. Hemalatha Rao
Number of Participants	66
Gender Balance	All participants were female
Age Group	18-45
Religious Representation	Hindu (Comprising different sects)-63, Muslim-02 & Christian 01

Main Aims of the Series

- Promotion of religious harmony
- Promotion of understanding and peace in the society
- Propagation of human rights.

Objectives

- Creation of awareness on human rights and religious freedom.
- Promotion of respect among different faiths and realization of religious freedom and dignity.

Timeline

21st and 22nd Feb 2013

The topics covered and activities per session:

Session 1

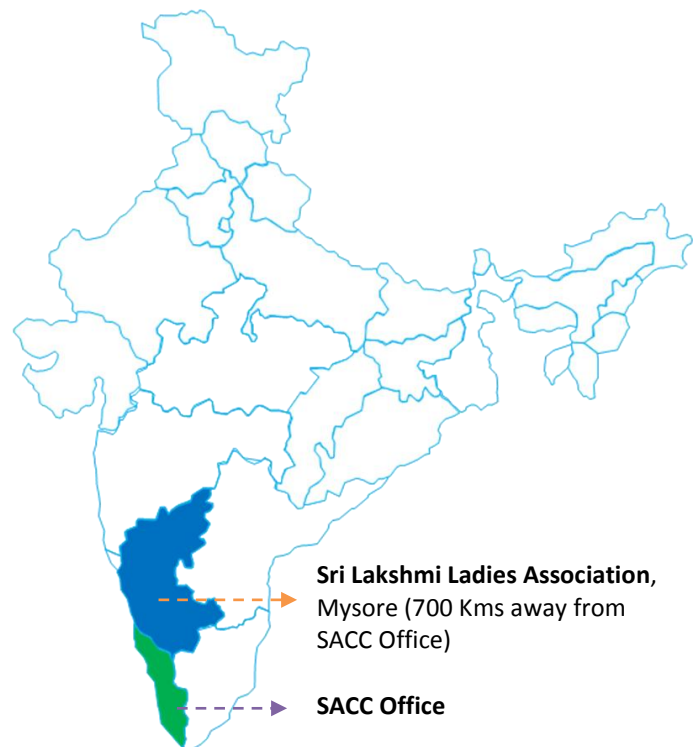
- Statement of purpose
- Introduction of participants
- Initial assessment and statement of their expectations
- Participant pairs identify their concerns
- Sharing concerns
- Categorizing concerns
- Proposing goals
- Sharing goals and thinking about action.

Session 2

- Opening the session
- Screening 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 diagnosis and drafting a statement of concerns
- Sharpening goals
- Planning strategy.

Session 5

- Enlisting collaborators
- Forming a task force
- Final reflections on human rights learning for tolerance and religious freedom.

Methodology

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

Issues raised

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

Assumptions

Though by and large there is religious harmony in Mysore Taluk, Mysore district there are however subtle and underlying issues of intolerance and discrimination.

Risk factors

There are no factors 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 Taluk, Mysore District.
- Realization of the right of religious freedom through understanding and respect for humanity and religious belief and practices.

Resources Required

Infrastructures like meeting hall, chairs and tables, LCD Projector, PA system, HRE literature, stationery, Refreshments, etc.

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

All the three films (Rita's Choice, Where is Home and Sacred Grove) and the relevant handouts on UDHR and DEIDRB and evaluation forms were mainly used.

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

The participants were able to follow English and Kannada. However Kannada and Hindi were also used for better understanding.

Community chosen

Grassroots level Social Workers from Sri Lakshmi Ladies Association, Mysore District

Location

Mysore Taluk, Mysore District, Karnataka State.

Distance from facilitators' home

The community and the venue for the series was located within a distance of 18 kilometers (up & down 36)

Have you already had contact with this community?

Yes

Why have you chosen this community/target group?

We have chosen this group because they are grassroots level Social Workers. The participants were young adults & adult. They were open to new ideas and teachings. Through this programme awareness on human rights was imparted on them and eventually they would spread this knowledge to others.

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

A friendly environment was always maintained. The facilitators were very alert and always presented to moderate the sessions.

Did you do any ice-breaking/team-building activities (please specify)

Ice-breaking/team building activities were done. Games, energizers and role plays were performed.

a) Which faith traditions attended?

Hindu, Islam & Christian

b) How many people from each faith attended?

- Hindu (Comprising different sects)-63
- Muslim-02
- Christian 01

How did you ensure the gender balance amongst the participants?

Since the organization is working for women, all the participants were female from the different faith traditions.

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

Majority of the participants in the series were young adults.





Names and faith traditions of at least 3 people in the group who can be your 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. Naghma Ara (Muslim)

Name of potential mediator(s)

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

Participants' Comments (Selected)

	<p>Shubha Lakshmi (37), Hindu It was my first experience. The seminar was very encouraging to us. Adv. Shabeer Ahmed and Adv. Mrs. M.A. Hemalatha contributed much to our life.</p> <p>Thanks to our organization for this program.</p>
	<p>Muntay Begum (32), Islam I thank respected facilitators for organizing this program. All sessions were encouraging, especially as women it is really giving some fuel to fight against atrocities arise against us. It would be better if you can provide materials in our local language.</p> <p>Special thanks to IARF.</p>
	<p>Smitha Prasanth (26), Hindu The workshop was very good. It imparted lot of knowledge and creative ideas to lead a meaningful social life. Most often due to ignorance people miss their privileges and rights. But this kind of program is really eye-opening to common people.</p> <p>Thanks to IARF for this great project.</p>
	<p>Maryn Popy S. (25), Christian I really got benefitted from this workshop. All sessions were equally good. Films were very impressive and paved way for some creative discussions. It was really a good opportunity for us to interact each other and share our concerns. Thanks to respected facilitators.</p>

View Photos

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=103>