



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



Human Rights Education Workshop

Held at

Jan Sikshana Samsthan

Pithapuram Colony, Visakhapatnam-530003

Held on 16-17 April 2013

Sponsored by IARF SACC



REPORT

Facilitators: Prof. N. Prakasa Rao & Prof. E.P.S. Bhagyalakshmi

At a Glance

Venue	Jan Sikshana Samsthan, Visakhapatnam-3
Date	16 th & 17 th April, 2013
Facilitators	Prof. N.Prakasarao & Prof. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi
Number of Participants	33
Gender	Male-07, Female-26
Age Group	25-55
Religious Representation	Hinduism-27; Christian-03, Khasi -03

Introduction

Two day Human Rights Education workshop, sponsored by IARF SACC, Kerala was held at Jan Sikshana Samsthan (JSS), Pithapuram Colony, Visakhapatnam-3 on 16th & 17th April, 2013 in collaboration with JSS Officials. 33 Adults both Men and Women of different faith communities attended the program along with the JSS Officers of the Institute.

The District Chief of All India Human Rights Association, Visakhapatnam Smt. D. Visalakshi, inaugurated the programme by lighting the Lamp. Director of JSS Sri David Raju graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Prof N. Prakasarao & Prof. EPS Bhagyalashkmi, HRE facilitators spoke about the objectives and the importance of organizing HRE.

The Jan Sikshana Samsthan (JSS) is an institute sponsored by Human Resource and Development Department, Government of India, which provides short term training in vocational courses for uneducated and educated men and women, as part of empowerment and self reliance.

The participants were from both educated and uneducated and different faith group background. Most of the sessions were handled in Telugu, since they are not able not follow English. So conducting an HRE workshop in a place like JSS is always a challenging task. Most of the participants are house wives and working men.

Main Aim

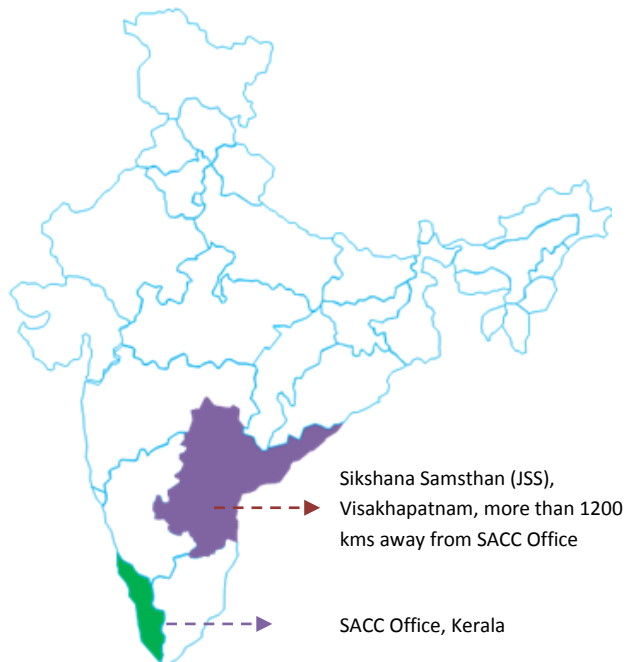
- Sensitize men and women about the rights of freedom of religion and belief.
- Promote religious harmony & peace.

Objective

- Minimize socio-cultural and political scuffle, conflict, violence and tension from the society.
- Eliminate all forms of intolerance, humiliation and hatred through exchange of dialogue among difference faith groups & traditions.

Time line

Two days programme – On 16th & 17th April 2013 from morning 9.30 am to 5 pm



Session Outline

1st Session (16th April 2013 at 10.00 am to 1 pm)

- Introduction of participants
- Expectations and Assessments
- IARF and HREP
- Identification of issues of religious intolerants & Discrimination

2nd Session

- Discussion on UDHR
- Discussion on declaration on elimination of all forms intolerance and beliefs (DEIB)

3rd Session

- Viewing of films
- RITA's choice
- Sacred grove
- Where home
- Discussion of films

4th Session (17th April 2013)

- Group exercise
- Identification of issues injustice in the three films and group presentations.

5th Session

- Identification of local issues
- Action plan for addressing them
- Valedictory function & presentation of certificates

Methodology

Participatory method - Group work – Discussions – Lectures – Case studies, Role play, Audio visual learning & Group Presentation.

Issues Rose

Gender Discrimination, Human Dignity, hatred, suspecting each other, humiliation, intolerance, religious conflict, right to freedom of Religion and belief.

Assumptions

All the participants will have to present in all the sessions of two days programme. After participation the group come with open and broad mind to accept each other and accept the cultural differences of individuals.

Risk factors

It is a developed town Visakhapatnam and participants have common interest. The group consists of Hindus, Christians and Khasis. There exist a little tension and risk among them with regard to religious freedom and beliefs but we could satisfy them conveniently up to their satisfaction.

Outcomes

Short-term

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

Long-term

To establish religious freedom clubs and all sorts of social scuffle, violence, conflict and tension will be resolved by understanding each other.

Resources required

- Cooperation and man power from the local institute where HREP conducted.
- Supporting materials like pad, pen, computer, LCD Projector, flipcharts and marker, pens were required.

Language problem

There was language problem since all are participants, most of them will not follow English hence local language Telugu mostly used.

Why have you chosen this community/target group?

Since it is a JSS and sorts of discrimination prevail in this. Tension and misunderstanding is obviously present. Therefore to undermine this uncongenial condition we have decided to organize this HRE workshop here.

How did you maintain balance of gender and ages?

It is a co-educational Institute. So both male and female attended the programme (Male-07, Female-26) and the age group between 25-55 years. JSS authority selected 33 students of various faith groups for attending this HRE programme.

What are the steps have you taken to lessen the tension between the participants from different faith groups?

By and large there was not much tension between the participants from different faith groups when tension arises facilitators insisted participants to maintain peace and to be calm and patience during the discussion. They were given opportunity to start open & free discussion instead of loud voice. There was lively discussion on intra and inter religious, marriages, somehow we inspired the participants to understand issues with open mind and act

Have you had ice-breaking/team building activities?

Yes

Which faith traditions attended the workshop?

Christians, Hindus and Khasis

How many people from each faith attended?

Christians-03, Hindus-27, Khasi - 03

Name of the Potential Mediator:

D. David Raju, Director Jan Sikshan Samsthan (JSS), Visakhapatnam.

Participants' Comments



K. V. L. Suchithra (F) 32, Hindu

This programme has improved my knowledge on Human Rights and now I can share my views with others. This programme is very good. But 2 day is not enough to learn. More days are necessary to learn about HRE in detail and future actions. I like this programme very well.



N. Sujatha (F) 30, Khasi

This HREP is necessary. It gave us the opportunity to understand better about other religions. It made us to work together. Through this workshop I came to know that we have to respect all faiths.



R. Ammaji (F) 50, Christian

This Programme is necessary and useful to understand and respect other religions and its values. Through this workshop I came to know that we have to respect all faiths. One should follow secularism (all religions are equal) being an Indian and should not discourage or comment negatively on other religions. Everyone should take oath to respect other religions and faith traditions. I, myself took an oath to do it.



M. Chandirao (M) 42, Hindu

This programme is very important and can bring the change the thoughts of the people about the religious diversity. Through this workshop I have learnt many things about the other religion which i do not know earlier. So everyone should have the basic knowledge of other religions and should respect each other and survive with the feeling of brotherhood.



B.V.M. Rani (F), 49, Christian

The workshop was very good. It really enhanced the quality of my life. All sessions were done in a well manner. Facilitators were very active in presenting the topic. The experience itself was very new to me. Thanks to IARF.

View Photos

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=108>