



Human Rights Education- Report

IARF- HRRC



12/5/2013

IARF- Human Rights Resource Centre, INDIA

Introduction

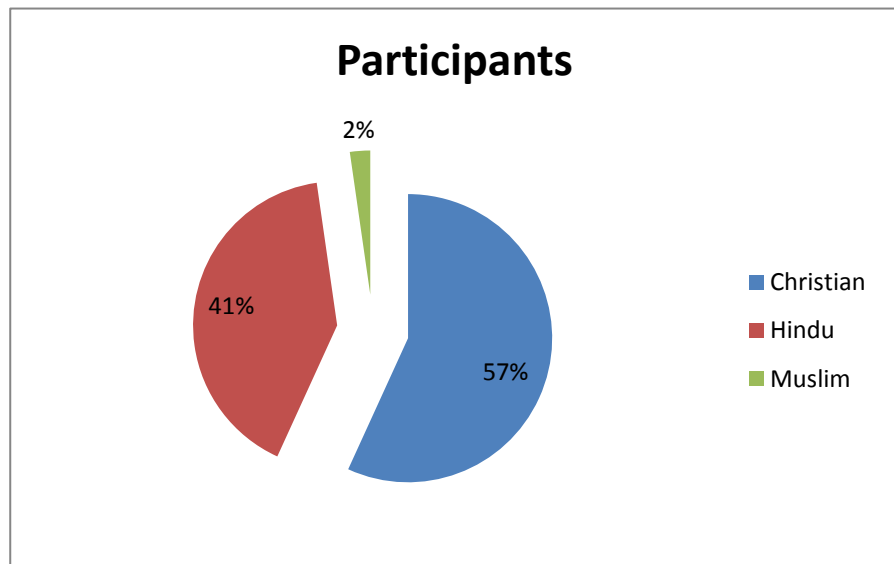
The IARF- HRRC organised the Human Rights Education and Training Program at Mary's College of Arts and Science at Tuticorin, Tamilnadu on 05th & 06th 2013. This event was organised by the Coordinator, HRRC Tamilnadu.

St. Mary's College, a Catholic institution of higher education for women, enjoys a heritage of 63 years as a Christian minority institution. Founded in 1948, by the combined efforts of the then Bishop of Thoothukudi, Mgr. Francis Tiburtius Roche SJ., Fr. B.S. Soosainather (former manager of the college) and the Servite Superiors for the higher education of poor young girls of this area ,St. Mary's functions under the management of the Congregation of Mother of Sorrows Servants of Mary also known as the Servites. As a Christian minority institution the college is meant primarily for the higher education of Catholic girls in Christian atmosphere. Other students, however, are admitted without distinction of caste or creed, and their religious feelings are respected.

Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, the College offers graduate and post-graduate courses. Besides the academics, the college aims at the all-round training of its students especially in spiritual, social and civic values. The motto of the college is FIDE VIVANT (Live by Faith)

Participants

The participants are from different second and third year graduate students from St. Mary's College. Tuticorin, Tamilnadu. The management had appointed Prof. Sudha to select the interested and enthusiastic students from different departments. She selected 44 interested students, who can communicate in English for the training program.



Program Module

The first session started with participants' self-introduction and ice-breaking, followed by the History of Human Rights and the UDHR. IARF's three India-produced video; docu-dramas helped participants understand certain key human rights issues in Indian particularly in their community. Six participants groups then brainstormed and produced creative presentations on the UDHR. The short UDHR articles film supported the participants to understand the UDHR in a better way. Based on the UDHR articles the Statue Tableau activity was conducted. The "statue tableau" helped the participants to bring different solutions for Human Rights related issues across the world.



The second day's sessions were presented with the short UDHR articles film. Based on this the Statue Tableau activity was conducted. The "statue tableau" helped participants bring different solutions for Human Rights related issues. They also shared their experiences of human rights violations such as child trafficking, workers' rights, religious freedom, gender discrimination, etc. After noon there was a deep discussion about future activities to support the Human Rights Resource Centre in creating human rights awareness in the region and around.

Issues discussed based on UDHR articles.

Tuticorin District has seen a painful Human Rights violation recently – an engineering college principal was killed by students as reprisal for asking them not to bunk lectures. This was discussed by participants in the training program.

They discussed the boldness that students would have to kill their Principal inside the campus, and listed a few reasons for the murder:

- The professors and principal should not have used harsh words in scolding the students. An assertive request would have been better; an opportunity for the students should have been given to avoid bad behaviour. Respect for the students and their individuality is necessary.
 - Instead of punishing the students, the principal could have encouraged them to get involved in extracurricular activities.
 - It would be good to have Human Rights Education and other value-related education for students as extracurricular activities.
- About the behaviour of the students, participants said:
- Students should respect their educators like their parents.
 - Instead getting into violence, they can share with Department Heads, professors, parents or NGOs.
 - If a student is affected by some issues, other students should come forward to help, instead of mocking.

The second issue raised was the bundle of skin diseases caused among those living near the plant of chemical company Sterlite & SPIC Ltd., which releases SO₂ that turns rainwater into acid rain. Best efforts best to stop this have been blocked by the company's influence on decision-makers.

The participants said they would like to gather their peers to protest against this, to secure a healthy life for people in this district. opportunity to share about the human rights issues in their community. Two girls came forward to share the issues, which affected them personally.

Future plan

The young adults were divided in to three different groups for future plan discussion. After the deep discussion the group representatives presented their plan for the future.

- ❖ The Participants have decided to support and make ti more active the existing Human Rights Club in the college.
- ❖ To support IARF-HRRC by organising many Human Rights awareness programs in Tuticorin District.



Feedbacks

With how many people do you intend to share your views?

Other comments: The Program was so nice and knowledgeable. I am now able to understand my own rights. It is very useful to direct my path towards right. My future aim is to become an IAS officer. The aim which I chosen must be full of social service. Therefore I must know this basic rights. I am also grateful because only because of this training I got an idea to sharpen my goal. Definitely saying, I would improve my knowledge even more better to give something to this society. I think, today India is not

...time to give your feedback.

Other comments:

So far I have attended many seminars regarding various topics & subjects. Compared to all those seminars these 2 days class was awesome. The facilitator was energetic & made the classes interesting each & every minute. Activities held by the Brother was really amazing. I had never attended such a enthusiastic meeting so far. It was very innovative & helped to grasp few ideas about the violations happening around us. To be frank we were much scared that these 2 days will be boring & very sad to miss

...time to give your feedback.

With how many people do you intend to share your views?

Other comments: At the very outset, I would like to thank you for this wonderful HR awareness programme. After this programme I came to know 'How foolish I am?' It increased my interest within 2 days. It's a miracle. The way you presented is too good. And I am so excited that I am also the member of this IRAP HREC. Thank you Sir. I am assure that you that I will give my best to aware the people about HR and I will fight for that till my life ends. Once again I thanking you for this wonderful opportunity and I am sure its going to take me to some other journey of this world.

Other comments:

This was the first seminar for me which was not boring and actively participated. Every information I was up to the point and I was able to share some of my views on the violation of human rights. Usually, I do not come forward to give my names for anything voluntarily, only by means of forcement I do it. But this was the only seminar I attended actively and I'm so happy that I'm elected as one of the council members. Now I'm having the courage to go to any place and

PHOTOS

