



international association for

religious freedom

belief with integrity

Human Rights Education Workshop at Jameela Beevi Memorial Centre for Teacher Education, Kayamkulam, Kerala

On 14th and 15th December 2012.

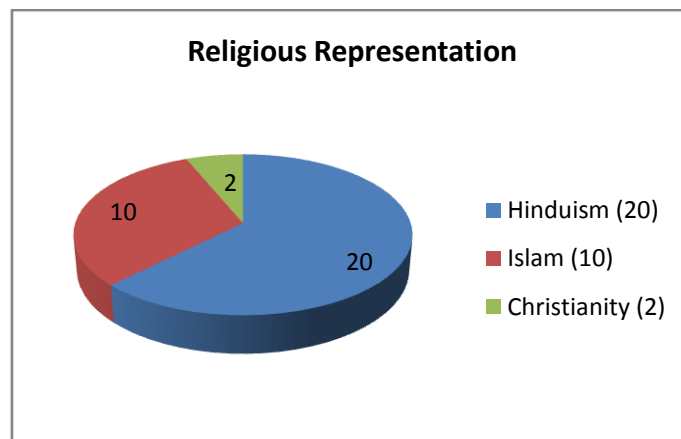
FACILITATOR: PROF. T.K. JYOTHIRAJ



Participants with Facilitator & Guest

At a Glance

Venue	:	Jameela Beevi Memorial Centre for Teacher Education, Kayamkulam, Kerala
Date	:	14-15 December 2012
Facilitators	:	Prof. T.K. Jyothiraj
Number of Participants	:	32
Gender	:	Female-29 & Male-3
Age Group	:	20-35
Religious Representation	:	Hinduism, Islam & Christianity



Introduction

Kayamkulam is a town on the Arabian Sea in the Alappuzha district of Kerala, Indian state. Located on the western coast of India, it was an ancient maritime trading centre. One of the largest thermal power plants in Kerala, run by the NTPC, is situated in Kayamkulam. Kayamkulam is a thickly populated and religiously sensitive place where Hindus and Muslims are equally dominated. But the educational backwardness of the place creates communal tensions in the area. Human Rights Education programs of IARF are highly beneficial for purifying and educating the youth of this area about interfaith and respect for other religion.

Jameela Beevi Memorial Centre for Teacher Education is founded by Al Amen Socio Cultural and Educational Society, as a memorial to Mrs. Jameela Beevi P. K. Kunju Sahib who has the founder of the society. Considering the socio-economic and educational backwardness of the people of Central Travancore, Al-Haj P. K. Kunju Sahib, the former Finance Minister of the Kerala, and his wife Mrs. Jameela Beevi founded a network of educational institutions such as the Azad Memorial Nursery School, Al-Amen Public School, and M.S.M. College.

The members who participated in the program interacted well and they came forward to pass the message of interfaith and the ideas of UDHR in the community. This can help in maintaining communal harmony in the area.

Main Aim

- To promote and educate interfaith among various Religious groups / organizations to understand each other and give respect other Religion/Community.

Objectives

- Propagate about the religious harmony to reach various groups.
- Understand the awareness of Human rights and its importance.

Time line

14-15 December 2012. 09:30am-04:30pm. Five sessions were arranged in two consecutive days. Three hours were taken for each session.

Session Outline

Breakdown of the topics covered and activities per session:

DAY – 1

- Registration
- Inauguration by inviting dignitaries and guests to address the gathering and to commence the program.
- Introduction of participants, expectations and assessment
- About IARF and HRE Project
- Identification of issues of religious intolerance and discrimination in groups
- Presentation by groups
- Screening of “Rita’s Choices” followed by discussion
- Discussion on UDHR & DEIDRB
- Screening of “Sacred Grove” followed by discussion

DAY – 2

- Reflections on Day – 1
- Screening of “Where is Home” followed by discussion
- Group exercise – identification of issues of injustice in the three films and presentations
- Identification of local issues and action plan for addressing them
- Presentations
- Evaluation
- Concrete planning for back home activities and Valedictory function by issuing Certificates etc.

Methodology

Lecture, showing short films, participatory learning, Group discussion and role play etc., from four or five groups.

Issues rose

How the minorities are over powered in certain areas, how the majority dominated in different places, necessity of tolerance while dominating by different groups, in balance arising by religious problems.

Assumptions that were made

The participants will attend all the sessions without fail, as the Series of sessions have arranged in two consecutive days by informing them well in advance.

Risk factors defense

If any tension prevailed or opinion differs during the sessions, Facilitator has to resolve/settle the problem amicably.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Short -Term

- To understand by the participants about UN Declaration and conventions etc.
- Equality among Human rights should be protected and interfaith to be developed.
- The values and faiths of the other religion/community should be respected
- The denial of Human rights to anybody should be avoided.

Long-term

Inter religion/community harmony

What resources were used?

Computer, Projector, Screen, DVD, PA System, Conference Hall, marker Board etc.,

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

All the three films – “Rita’s Choices”, “Sacred Grove” and “Where is Home” were screened. UDHR, DEIDRB, IARF’s Statement of Purpose, etc. handouts were used prominently throughout the series.

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

Meeting hall, Sound System, Tables, chairs, Projector Screen etc were provided by the Institute.

Materials

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 such problem arose. However vernacular language was also used.

Community chosen

Hindu, Muslim, Christian

Location

Kayamkulam

Distance from Home

Around 30 kms.

Reason for choosing this Community/Target group

The chosen group consists of Teacher Trainees who can influence the future generation. The target level of HRE can be easily achieved through them.

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

Male -3 & Female-29

Please write about attendance of participants at the session / series?

The participants attended all the sessions. Attendance pro forma would be sent.

a) Which faith traditions attended?

Hindus, Muslims and Christians

b) How many people from each faith attended?

- Hindus : 20
- Muslims : 10
- Christians : 2

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

All participants were youth

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 such problem existed.

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

Introduction of the participants was done by forming pairs and introduced each other. A patriotic song by students at the opening created a receptive environment. Groups were formed for the participants to carry out interactions and exercises closely as teams.

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

1. Jaifar Sadik (M), Muslim
2. Vibin Idiculla (M), Christian
3. Sree Lakshmi (F), Hindu

Name of potential mediator:-

Ms. Vidyaja. She was very efficient in conducting the program

Participants' Comments



Jaifar Sadik K.N. (M), 24, Muslim

This seminar was my first experience. Today's society is witnessing lots of human rights violations. Therefore the seminar organized by IARF is very relevant. I'm thankful to Prof. T.K. Jyothiraj for the insights given to us through this seminar.



Vibin T. Idicula (M), 24, Christian

From this seminar I got much knowledge about Human Rights. It is much relevant to our societal life. Most of the people of our society are not aware about Human Rights. As a member of society, now I am committed to spread the news of human rights and help others.



Sabitha V. (F), 27, Hindu

The two day workshop was very good and interesting. I got many ideas about the values and importance of human rights. It also gave us the platform to share our ideas and opinions. It was for the first time, I could attend such thought provoking sessions. The speeches delivered by guests were very informative and eye opening. Thanks to our facilitator.



Manjusha M. (F), 30, Hindu

I could gain much knowledge about Human Rights from the seminar. Documentaries screened were very good. Our society must be changed for the existence of equality. I hope I can impart this knowledge to many through my career. I thank IARF for the relentless efforts to educate many without any selfish motive.

View Photos of the Seminar

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=86>