

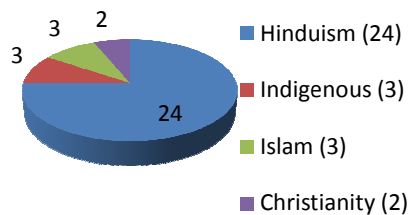
REPORT



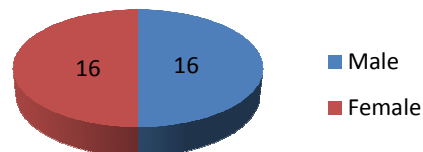
At a Glance

Venue	: Siddheswar College, Amarda Road, Balasore, Odisha
Date	: 6 th & 7 th October 2012
Facilitators	: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
Number of Participants	: 32
Gender	: Male-16; Female-16
Age Group	: 19-25
Religious Representation	: Hinduism-24; Indigenous -3; Islam-3 & Christianity-2

Religious Representation



Gender Balance



Introduction

Human Rights Education Program, sponsored by IARF SACC, Kerala was held at Siddheswar College, Amarda Road, Balasore on 6th and 7th October, 2012 in collaboration with NSS unit of the college. Thirty two students both boys and girls of different faith communities attended the program, along with two NSS program officers/ teachers of the college. Principal of the college inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp. Prof. Dr. Patra, Department of Political Science, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Prof. Asit Kumar Basu spoke about the objectives and the importance of organizing Human Rights Education Program.

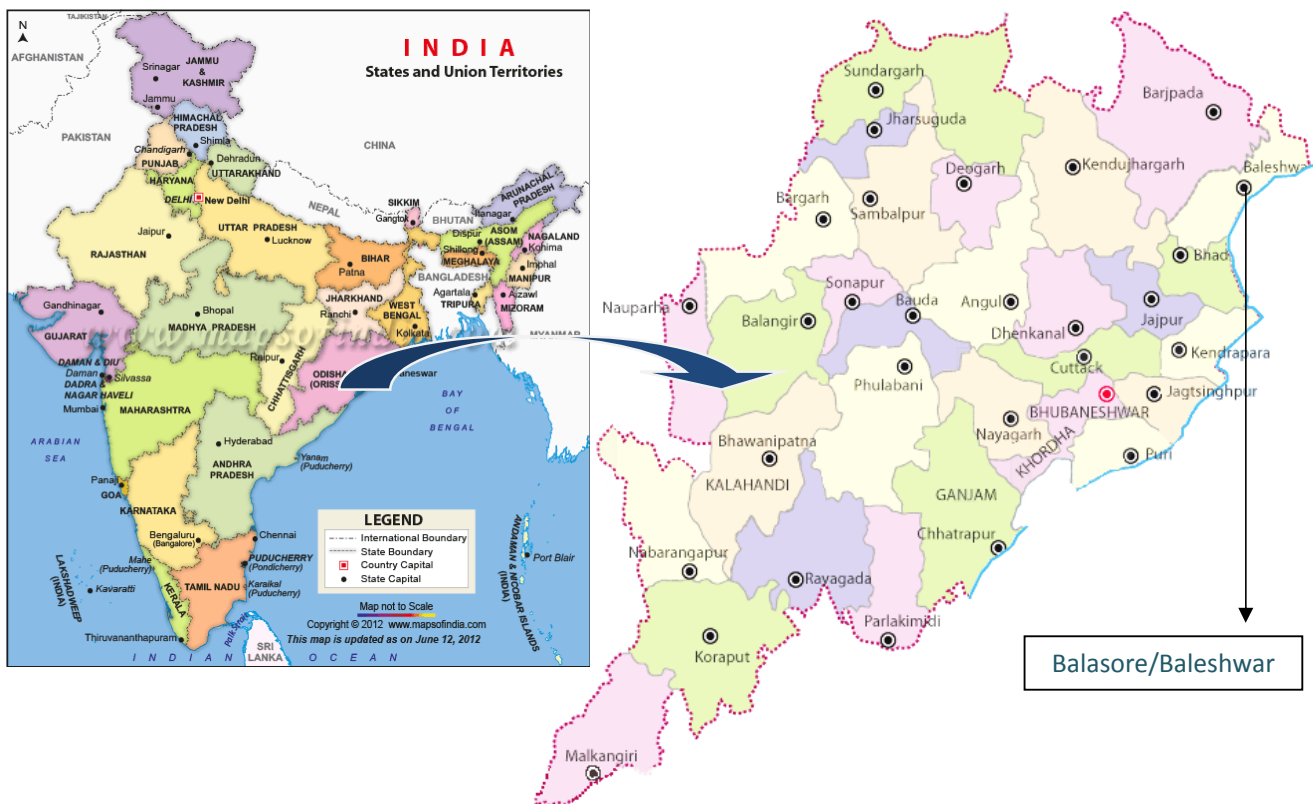
The Siddheswar College is situated in Amarda, 6km away from National Highway and surrounded by a cluster of Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Tribal Villages. Each of the villages had its own religious shrines, Temple, Mosque, Church and shrine of tribal deities. Balasore is a backward area with tribal domination. People are addicted to local alcohols. Literacy is gradually being increased among the local people with the help of Government and missionary activities. Members from the above mentioned faith communities joined the program.

Balasore (also known as Baleswar or Baleshwar) is an adjacent district of **Keonjhar**, where Graham Stuart Staines an Australian Christian missionary who was martyred along with his two sons Philip (10) and Timothy (6) while sleeping in his station wagon at Manoharpur village, in January 1999.

Lots of social and religious violence have been reported at several places of the state. The recent one was at the Kandhamal district. The region is also home to the Maoist activists (extreme left outlawed political group) who are the largest group operating inside India against feudalism and rights for the indigenous people through guerilla warfare.

Conducting an HRE Workshop in a district like Balasore and a state like Orissa is always a challenging task.

IARF SACC appreciates Prof. Asit Kumar Basu for taking bold steps in reaching the unreached with Human Rights Education.



Read more about Odisha- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orissa>

Read more about Graham Stuart Staines- <http://ibsresources.org/articles/staines.shtml>;
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_Staines

Religious Violence in Orissa- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_violence_in_Orissa

Main Aim:

- Sensitize student about the rights of freedom of religion & belief.
- Promote Religious Harmony & Peace in backward district of Odisha.

Objective:

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

Timeline:

Two day program - On 6th & 7th October 2012 from morning 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Session outline:**1st Session (6th October at 10.00 am to 1pm)**

- Greetings from the facilitator for joining the learning / action process.
- Introduction of participants and their expectation.
- Identifying their concerns about intolerance, religious discrimination and Conflict
- Sharing and categorizing their concerns
- Defining social purposes, learning goal and social goal of this HRE workshop
- Proposing goal for social change to overcome obstacles to religious Freedom
- Sharing goals
- Thinking about action
- Film show 1st time & responses after the show.

2nd Session (2pm to 3.30 pm)

- Reading, acknowledging and clarifying – Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- The declaration on the Elimination of all forms of intolerance & discrimination based on religion or belief (DIDRB).
- Major Human Rights Treaties
- Relate the goals of the participants to the rights describe in the UDHR and DIDRB

3rd Session (3.30pm to 5.00 pm)

- Film show – ‘Rita’s Choices’
- Responding the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about injustice
- Analyses the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views and application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Applying HR (DIDRB) what actions may be undertaken

4th Session (7th Oct at 9 am to 1 pm)

- Review – Rita’s Choices on the light of DIDRB and the said goal
- Film Show – ‘Sacred Grove’
- Responding to the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about multiple injustice
- Analyses the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views and application of Human Rights to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

5th Session (2.00 pm to 3.30 pm)

- Review of Sacred Grove on the light of said goal
- Film show – ‘Where is Home’
- Responding to the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about multiple injustice
- Analyses the inter-religious injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views & application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

6th Session (3.30 pm to 5 pm)

- Reviewing their concern & goals
- Recommending actions
- Planning action for social change
- Strategic planning for action
- Valediction

Methodology:

Group works - discussions, lectures, case studies, Role play, Audio visual learning and group presentation.

Issues rose:

Gender discrimination, Human Dignity, hatred, humiliation, intolerance, Religious conflicts, Rights to freedom of religion & belief.

Assumptions:

All the participants will have to present in all the sessions of two days program. After training all will come up with open and broad mind to accept the cultural differences of individuals or groups

Risk factors:

It is a backward town of Odisha State and heterogeneous in nature. The inhabitants are Hindus, Tribals, Muslims and Christians. There exists a little tension and risks among them with regards to establishing their rights of religious freedom and belief.

Outcomes:

Short-term

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

Long-term

All sorts of social scuffle, violence, conflicts and tension will be resolved.

Resources Required:

- Cooperation and man power from the local organization
- Supporting materials, Pad, pen, power point, projector machine, flip charts, and marker pens were required.

Language Problem:

Language was a problem because the participants preferred to speak in their mother tongue – Oriya, but they can understand English and Bengali as well.

Why have you chosen this community/ target group?

Since it is the backward region, all sorts of discriminations prevail in this society. Tension & misunderstanding is obviously present among the young generation of this locality. 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-education College, so both male and female participants attended the program (16 boys and 16 girls) and the age group between 19 to 25 years. College authority selected 32 students of various faith groups for attending this HRE program.

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

I inspired and insisted participants to maintain peace and to be calm and patience during discussion. They will be allowed to start open & free discussion instead of loud voice.

Have you had ice-breaking /team building activities?

Yes

Which faith traditions attended the Workshop?

Islam, Christian, Hindus, Tribals (Indigenous)

How many people from each faith attended?

Islam-3, Christian-2, Hindu-24 and Tribals (Indigenous) -3.

Name of Potential Mediator:

Mr. Gobindo Biswal, NSS Program Officer

Participants' Comments**Adhar Hasda (M), 23, Indigenous**

I was little nervous while attending the program, because it was for the first time I had been to such workshop. The sessions were very informative and inspired us a lot to serve our community and people. This knowledge should be imparted to many who are not aware about human rights. It would be much better if we could get some resources in our vernacular tongue for future reference. I wholeheartedly thank IARF for the great task.

Geetanjali Samal (F), 20, Hindu

We are highly benefited from the program. We could understand the basics of society, human rights and constitutional provisions related to Human Rights. This program has directly affected our lives, because we always fall victims to discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, color, language etc. After attending the workshop, our minds are open to other religions. I feel proud in attending the program organized by IARF SACC.

SK Arif Md Ameerri (M), 19, Muslim

I am really happy with this program. It was a great exposure for me. If my knowledge is true it was a new experience for our institution also. This kind of education really deserves much appreciation. The films were very touching and eye opening. Facilitator was very friendly and approachable. I'll join NGOs like IARF to stand for Human Rights.

Deepa Roul (F), 19, Christian

I could understand a lot about human rights. Earlier I had no idea about human rights. I think I am lucky enough to be a part of this program. I enjoyed the program, especially interactive sessions and films. Facilitator was very friendly and knowledgeable. This kind of program actually brings us to a new horizon in life. As a member of minority community, it gives lot of ideas and inspiration to me. Now I am confident enough to work for people and society. I extend my gratitude to IARF for organizing the workshop.

View Photos of the workshop: <http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=73>