

# REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION



RAJA PEARY MOHAN COLLEGE,  
UTTARPARA, HOOGHLY, WEST BENGAL.  
DATE: 28<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012

## At a Glance

Venue	:	Raja Peary Mohan College, Uttarpara, Hooghly, West Bengal.
Date	:	28-29 July 2012
Facilitator	:	Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
Number of Participants	:	34
Gender	:	Girls-13   Boys-21
Age Group	:	19-30
Religious Representation	:	Hinduism-33; Christianity-1

**About College:** Raja Peary Mohan College was established 125 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1887 by a benevolent Zaminder of Uttarpara, Hooghly and a foremost social reformer of 19<sup>th</sup> century Bengal. The college has a beautiful view at the Ganga/ Hooghly River and the Dakshineswar Kali Temple.

**About Uttarpara, Hooghly:** The area is mainly inhabited by the Bengali Hindus and Muslims along with some Christians and migrated backward people from Bihar and Bihari Muslims. People obsessed with old and traditional values. Muslim and Bihar families are very conservative, still today most of them do not send their daughters to college for higher education. Very few Muslim and Bihar boys study in this college, but due to dearth of their interest, in spite of sustained request, they did not attend the HRE program. Total 34 students attended the program from Hindu lower & upper castes along with 1 converted Christians from Hindu.

Religious intolerance, discrimination, humiliation, hatred, inhuman activities are very common in the locality, which have been driving through violation of Human Rights. People are not aware of their rights and their role to protect it and they don't have any respect to the rights of others also. Women both in Muslim and in Behari community are mostly illiterate and very much neglected and oppressed comparing to women of Hindu Bengali community. The relevance of organizing this HRE program lies here.

**Inauguration of Program:** On 28<sup>th</sup> morning at 9.30 am, Dr. Kuntal Mukherjee, principal of the College inaugurated the two day HRE program and delivered a very impressive lecture on the importance of human rights especially, right to enjoy religious freedom & belief in the context of present global discord. Dr. Hrishita Gupta Bakshi, NSS program officer told that this kind of education is the need of the hour. Prof. Asit Basu explained why IARF SACC is there to conduct the HRE workshop.

**Aim:**

To enhance and promote Religious Harmony & Human rights irrespective of religion, caste, sex, color etc. and enjoy all sorts of freedom in democratic country which is ensured by Government. Avoid social, cultural, political violence, intolerance & conflicts by accepting the differences of human beings.

**Objective:**

To educate, motivate and change the mind set up of the young people of different religious traditions about the rights of human beings & the concept of religion. To eliminate all form of intolerance through exchange of dialogue and enjoying religious freedom, human rights and dignity.

**Timeline:**

Two days program – On 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> July 2012 from morning 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

**Session outline:**

1<sup>st</sup> Session (28<sup>th</sup> July, 9.30 am to 1pm) –

- Greetings from the facilitator for joining this learning / action process.
- Social purposes and learning goal of this HRE workshop
- Introduction of participants & statements of expectation
- identifying their concerns about intolerance, religious discrimination & conflict
- Find out Social purposes and learning goal of this HRE workshop
- sharing and categorizing their concerns
- proposing goal for social change to overcome obstacles to religious freedom
- Sharing goals
- Thinking about action
- Film show 1st time & responses after the show.

2<sup>nd</sup> Session (2pm to 5.30 pm)

- Reading, acknowledging, & clarifying – Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

- The declaration on the Elimination of all forms of intolerance & discrimination based on religion or belief (DIDRB).
- Majors Human Rights Treaties
- Relate the goals of the participants to the rights describe in the UDHR & DIDRB

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Session (29<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30 am to 1 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 & application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Applying HR (DIDRB) what actions may be undertaken

### **4<sup>th</sup> Session**

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

### **5<sup>th</sup> session (2.00 pm to 5.30 pm)**

- Review of Sacred Grove on the light of said goal
- Film show – ‘Where is Home’
- Responding 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

### **6<sup>th</sup> session**

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

### **Methodology:**

Group Discussions, lectures, case studies, Audio visual learning and group report presentation

### **Issues raised:**

- Social problems – intolerance, tension, humiliation etc, Social Change
- Human Rights to freedom of religion & belief
- UDHR, DIDR

### **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

### **Learning outcomes:**

Participants have been able to change their mind set up and have been oriented or motivated towards positive

*Short-term:*

Attitude of life.

*Long-term:*

All sorts of social violence, conflicts and tension supposed to be removed.

**Resources Required:**

Teaching kits & training materials.

**Language Problem:**

There was no language problem (Both English & Bengali were used)

**Have you already had contact with this Institute?**

Yes

**Why have you chosen this community/ target group?**

Religious, social, economic & political Discrimination, tension & misunderstanding present in the young generation of Hindus & Muslims in Uttarpara area of Hooghly district and in order to resolve this problem I have selected this target group.

**How are you ensuring there will be a balance of gender, ages etc?**

Total participants were 34, out of it 13 are female and 21 are male and their age range are 19 to 30.

**Name of Potential Mediator:**

Ms.Dr. Hrishita Gupta Bakshi

**Evaluation process:**

Series wise evaluation will be made just after completion of the six sessions. A format has been prepared for this by the IARF, SACC.

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**Comments of Participants (Selected)**

**Pinku Halder (M), 21, Hindu**



I knew nothing about this topic earlier. But after attending this seminar I came to understand what is all about Human Rights. This kind of awareness programs helps us in future while we confront with problems. We have to pass this knowledge to every nook and corner of the society. And let's try to become 'human' rather than human being. I thank IARF for making this project available in every parts of India.

**Payal Roy (F), 20, Christian**



Human Rights Education is a good attempt to improve our dignity. Violation of human rights is very much in our country. This kind of awareness will polish us and improve our approach to others. I could learn this subject very successfully. In fact the sessions were enjoyable and memorable. We expect more follow ups in this area of study. And also it would be much better if we could get more handouts for future reference.

**Sayak Bhattacharyya (M), 20, Hindu**



The program was excellent and helped me to know what human rights are and how they will be applied practically. It enhanced my knowledge about human rights. I have to stand against cruelty and injustices. Now I am moved to protect the rights of poor and oppressed class. I'm happy to join this program in future and also like to engage in social works. I express my thanks to the organizers.

**Kasturi Mukherjee (F), 26, Hindu**



arranging the seminar.

As a participant I am very much grateful to the organizers for arranging this touching educational program. This is the first time I learn about Human Rights and also the seriousness of human rights violations. I also could understand about the sensitive problems in our society. I want to work for people who are suffering from human rights violations and other social issues. I want to uphold and render my service to the people of my society. Many thanks and regards to IARF and our College for

**Sanjoy Nandi (M), 22, Hindu**



I am really thankful to my teachers, who informed about this program. It was really a meaningful program. The way our facilitator conducted the sessions were wonderful. It helped us to understand what actually meant by Human Rights. Participants were very active in all sessions. It was the first time I am attending a program like this. It also helped me to overcome my introvertedness.

View Photos of the event at: <http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=18>