

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

held at

NBM Law College, Visakhapatnam

on 12th & 13th October 2012

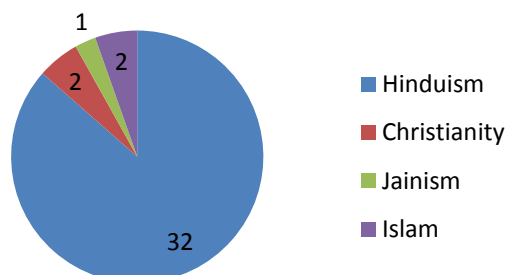
REPORT



At a Glance

Venue	NBM Law College, Maharanipecta, Visakhapatnam-12
Date	12 & 13 October, 2012
Facilitators	Prof. N. Prakasarao & E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi
Number of Participants	37
Gender Balance	Male-16, Female-21
Age Group	18-28
Religious Representation	Hinduism-32; Christian-02; Jains-01; Muslim-02

Religious Representation



Introduction

Two day Human Rights Education program, sponsored by SACC, Kerala was held at NBM Law College, Maharanipeta, Visakhapatnam-02 on 12th & 13th October, 2012. The workshop was organised by B. V. Foundation for Peace and Harmony, a member group of IARF. 37 students both boys and girls of different faith communities attended the program along with the faculty of the College. Sri K. Suryarao, Senior Civil Judge and Secretary Legal Services authority inaugurated the programme. Dr. P. Sridevi, Principal of the College, graced the occasion. Prof. N. Prakasa Rao, spoke about IARF and the importance of organizing HREP. Miss. E.P. S. Bhagyalakshmi spoke about IARF's Statement of purpose. The NBM Law College is situated in Maharanipeta, 6 kilo meters away from the city. The participants are law students hence they have some knowledge about Human Rights in general, and on religious freedom right in particular.

Main Aim:

- Sensitize law students about the rights of freedom of religion and belief.
- Promote religious harmony and peace among difference communities of students.

Objective:

- To create awareness among the students about the need to 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 different faith groups and traditions.

Time line:

Two day programme – On 12th & 13th October 2012 from morning 9.30 am to 5 pm

Session Outline:

1st Session (12th October at 10.00 am to 1 pm)

- Introduction of participants
- Expectations & Assessments
- IARF & HREP
- Identification of issues of religious intolerance and 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 is home?
- Discussion of films

4th Session

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

5th Session

- Identification of local issues
- Action plan for addressing them
- Valedictory function and giveaway 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, etc.

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 Law College and students have common interest. The group consists of Hindu's, Muslims, Jains, Christians. There exists a slight tension and risk among them with regard to religious freedom and beliefs but we could satisfy them conventionally till they satisfied.

Outcomes:**Short-term**

Participants will be able to change their mind set up and will be motivated and oriented to accept the freedom of religion and beliefs as important as Human Rights. Also decided to celebrate all religious festivals.

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 college where HREP was conducted.
- Supporting materials, pad, pen, LCD Projector, flipcharts, marker and pens were required.

Language problem:

There was no language problem since all students are good in English. Most of the students follow English and rest follow Telugu as such no language problem.

Why have you chosen this community/target group?

Since participants are future lawyers. Enriching with religious freedom right knowledge certainly we help to resolve religious conflict in particular and Human Rights in general. Therefore we have decided to organise the HREP work shop here.

How did you maintain balance of gender and ages?

It is a co-educational College, so both male and female attended the programme (Male-16, Female-21) and the age group between 18-28 years. College authority selected 37 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?

Islam, Christians, Hindus, Jains

How many people from each faith attended?

Islam-2, Christains-2, Hindus-32 and Jain-1

Name of the Potential Mediator:

Dr. P. Sridevi, Principal, NBM Law College.

Participant's Comments



S. Sasivenkatakathi, (F) 19, Christian

The two day workshop was very energetic programme. Implementation and protection of law to protect various rights, especially human rights and the right to practice religion is very important. It provides opportunity to talk about human rights and religious freedom. It also helps to unite the country religiously amidst of diversity.



Annepu Ramesh (M), 22, Hindu

Human Rights Education conducted at our college was very good. It makes peace and good conscious between religions, communities and groups in our society. So IARF have to conduct more workshops and seminars of this kind in religious institutions and other villages then only social change will take place. I have got good experience through attending workshop. Now I am very happy because I was known of social realities and its various aspects.



Zain Saleh (M) 25, Muslim

Knowing one's religion and knowing others' religion is equally good. However this will be incomplete unless it is read in the light of Human Rights. The constitutional values and other Human Rights instruments throw vast light on the areas where it is difficult to understand and interpret religious texts. The vagueness of the religious texts creates ambiguity in its interpretation but reading them and understanding them in the light of Human Rights and related values leads to a much better understanding of these scripts. This is what I understand through discussions held at the two days workshop.



Savitha G.Surana, (F), 24, Jain

Attending this workshop on HR has given vast information about the Human Rights and one's responsibility to fellow human kind. Through this workshop I gained knowledge about religious freedom in particular and Human Rights in general. I express my sincere thanks to IARF for organizing this workshop.



View Photos: <http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=74>