



international association for

religious freedom
belief with integrity

Human Rights Education Workshop
Held at
B. D. College, Patna, Bihar
On
8th and 9th December 2012

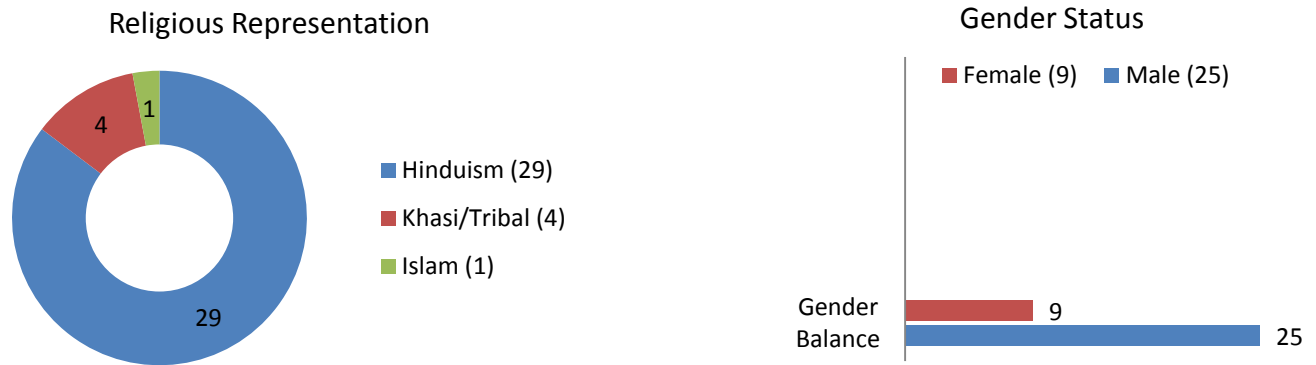
REPORT

Facilitator: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu



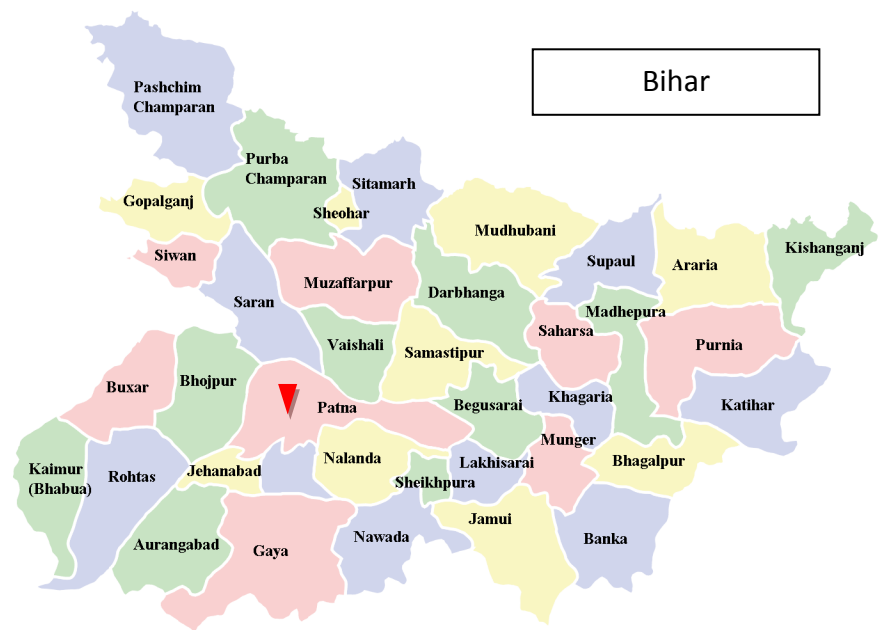
At a Glance

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| Venue | : B. D. College, Patna, Bihar |
| Date | : 8-9 December 2012 |
| Facilitators | : Prof. Asit Kumar Basu |
| Number of Participants | : 34 |
| Gender Balance | : Male-25, Female-9 |
| Age Group | : 18-26 |
| Religious Representation | : Hinduism-29, Khasi (Tribal) - 4 and Islam -1 |



Introduction

Patna is the capital of the Indian state of Bihar and the most populous city in Bihar. Patna is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the world. Ancient Patna, known as Pataliputra was a city in ancient India, originally built by Ajatashatru in 490 BCE as a small fort (Pāṭaligrama) near the River Ganges, and later the capital of the ancient Mahājanapadas kingdom of Magadha. Pataliputra reached the pinnacle of prosperity when it was the capital of the great Mauryan Emperors, Chandragupta Maurya and Ashoka the Great.



However modern day Patna is an unplanned city with quite dirty, crowded and unfairly combined of old and new residential building. Unplanned market place emerged at different roadside or side of rail line with private buffalo shed which made the city more unhygienic.

B. D. College is situated in this city, and two km away from Patna Railway Station.

Bihar is known for its caste hierarchy and the common hatred or humiliation towards others caste people. Human Rights are the neglected and less discussed subject among the higher caste people. Higher caste people are the privileged and powerful groups. They are well to do in all respect, whereas the lower caste people are the poor and the illiterate people. So they are being deprived in many ways. Caste, class, gender and religious discrimination are very common in this society.

Therefore, it was a challenging task before the IARF SACC to organize a Human Rights Education workshop in the state to sensitize the young people. The educated, powerful and privileged people who are in different top positions in academic institutions do not want to percolate the idea of 'Human Rights' to the young blood for their self-interest and for the fear of losing power. Therefore, naturally, hindrances will come from these so called educated privileged people for not to provide such things to the youths and it may be revealed in the form of non-cooperation.

But with the honest effort, all hindrances were conquered and achieved the desired objectives. As a result on 8th and 9th December 2012, two day 'HRE' workshop held at B.D. College, Patna in collaboration with College NSS Unit. Dr. B.N. Jha, principal of B.D. College inaugurated the program and graced the occasion as President. Dr. Jahar Prasad Singh, Principal of S.U. Hilsa College graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Main Aim:

- Sensitize people about the rights of freedom of religion and belief.
- Promote Religious Harmony and Peace in backward state of India.

Objective:

Minimize socio-cultural and political 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 days program - On 8th and 9th December 2012 from morning 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Session outline

1st session (on 8th December at 9.30 am to 1pm) –

- **Inauguration**
- Greetings from the facilitator for joining this learning / action process.
- Introduction of participants and ice-breaking and the expectation.
- Identifying their concerns about intolerance, religious discrimination and Conflict-sharing and categorizing their concerns
- Social purposes, learning goal, 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 and responses after the show.

2nd Session (2mp to 5.30 pm)

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

3rd session (on 9th Dec at 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 and application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Applying HR (DIDRB) what actions may be undertaken

4th session

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

5th 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 and application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

6th session

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

Methodology

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

Issues rose

Hatred, humiliation, intolerance, Religious conflicts, Rights to freedom of religion and belief.

Assumptions

Tribal, lower caste Hindu, Muslim and converted Christians are the major population of this state. Sometimes they fight each other and communal tension prevails over the area, therefore this issue raised in the discussion.

Risk factors

Little tension and risks are found in the area in regards to their communal feelings and violation of Human rights.

Expected learning outcomes

Short-term

Participants change their mind set up and oriented and motivated to accept the freedom of religion and beliefs as important Human rights.

Long-term

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

Resources Required

- Cooperation and man power support from the local organization
- Teaching and training materials like pad, pen, power point, LCD projector, flip charts, marker pen etc.

Language Problem

There was no language problem (English and Hindi are used)

Location

B.D. College, Patna, Bihar.

Have you already had contact with the Institute?

Yes

Why have you chosen this community/ target group?

It is presumed, tension and misunderstanding present among the young generation of this locality, that's why it is chosen.

How did you ensure the balance of gender, ages etc?

There are Nine (9) Girls and twenty five (25) boys joined in the program and age group between 18 to 26 years.

What steps are you considering to undertake in order 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 were allowed to start open and free discussion instead of loud voice.

Did you have ice-breaking /team building activities?

Yes

Which faith traditions attended the program?

Islam, Tribals, Hindus

How many people from each faith attended the program?

1 from Islam, 4 from Khasi /Tribal and 29 from Hindus.

Name of Potential Mediator

Dr. Shyam Narayan Singh, NSS Program Officer.

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.

Participants' Comments (Selected)



Mritunjay Pandey Abhimanu (M), 20, Hindu

The program was very good. Mentors were very friendly and supportive. We were exposed to lots of violations in terms of discrimination, inequality and injustice to the people. I thank coordinator, mentors and guests for giving us lots of knowledge and insights. Interactives sessions gave us much confidence to raise our voice against corruptions and injustice. Thanks to IARF for giving us this great opportunity.



Mantu Kumar (M), 19, Khasi (Tribal Religion)

I am happy with the program, especially the films I like most. Films exposed many injustices happening in the day to day life of individuals. I thank IARF SACC for organizing such workshop. I kindly request IARF to organize this kind of program regularly in our state.



Puja Kumari (F), 17, Hindu

We got the previlage to attend Human Rigths Education workshop. It would be much helpful if we could get some supportive literature in our language. The films were realy eye opening to discrimination and injustice. Facilitator was very friendly and approachable. I am ready to work with IARF.



Prof. A. G. Zeenat (F), 55, Muslim (HOD, Urdu, BD College, Patna)

The program is very useful for new generation students for their career and talent. I appreciate the efforts of IARF SACC. I hope, the beneficiaries of the workshop may take part in global human rights movement.

Click the link to view Photos

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/iarfsacc/sets/72157632305908195/>