



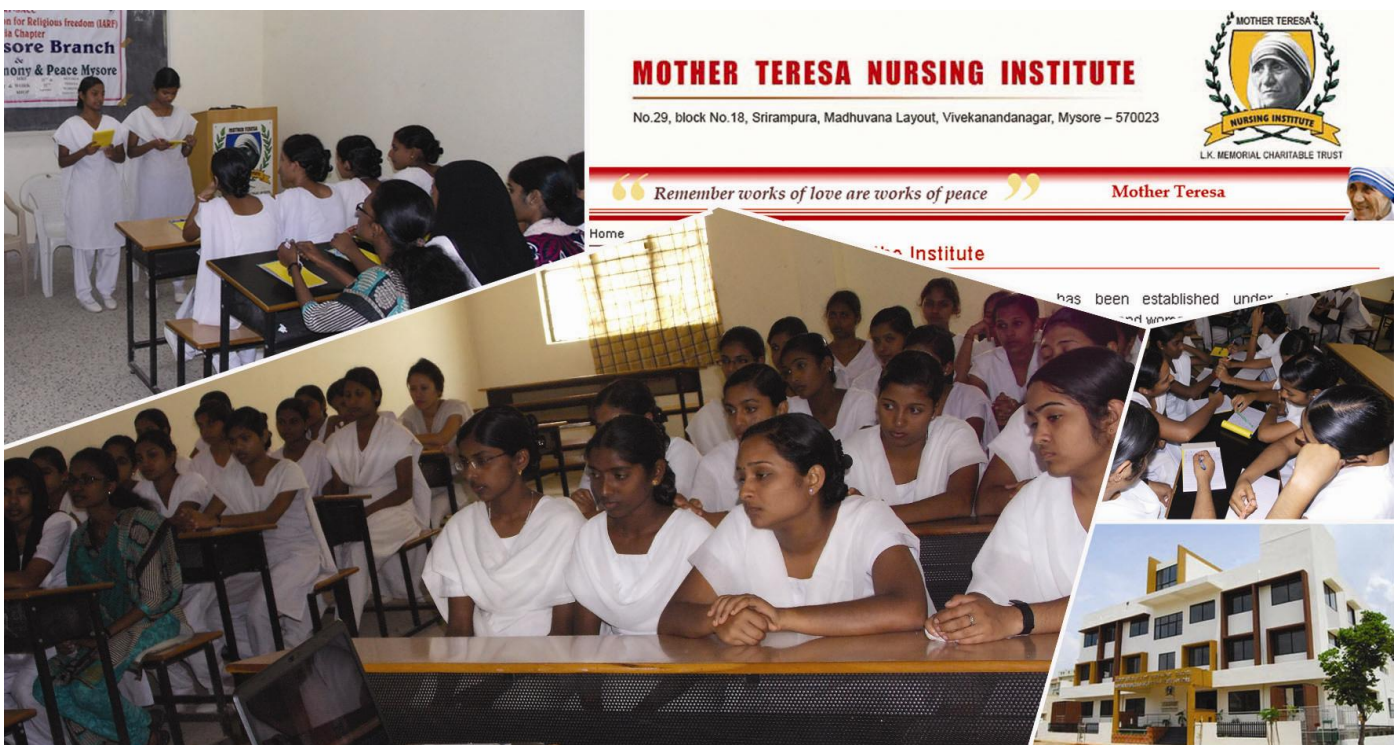
international association for

religious freedom
belief with integrity

Human Rights Education
Held at
Mother Teresa Nursing Institute, Mysore
On
21st and 22nd September 2012

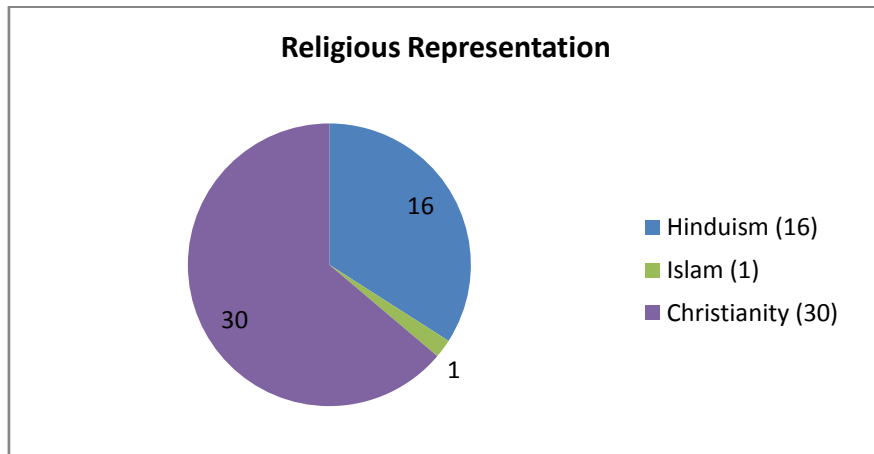
REPORT

Facilitators:
Adv. Md. Shabeer Ahmed & Adv. M.A. Hemalatha



At a Glance

Venue	:	Mother Teresa Nursing Institute, Mysore.
Date	:	21-21 September 2012
Facilitators	:	Adv. Md. Shabeer Ahmed & Adv. M.A. Hemalatha
Number of Participants	:	47
Gender	:	Girls-47
Age Group	:	17-45
Religious Representation	:	Hinduism, Islam & Christianity



Main Aim of the series

Promotion of religious harmony, understanding and peace in the society.

Objectives of the series

Creation of awareness of human right of religious freedom and promotion of respect between different faith groups and realization of religious freedom and human dignity.

Timeline

21st and 22nd September 2012. From 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (for two days).

Session outline

Breakdown of the topics covered and activities per session:

DAY – 1

- Registration
- Inauguration
- 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
- Close

Methodology employed

- Introduction in group by formation of pairs.
- Group interactions and discussions.
- Group exercises, preparation of charts and presentations.
- Viewing of films for sensitizing and creating awareness.
- Distribution of handouts on UDHR and DEIDRB.
- Songs and energizers & games conducted by the participants themselves.
- Formation and adherence to ground rules.

Issues rose during each session

- Denial of religious freedom, dignity and human rights related to these in the following issues:
 - Inter-religious and inter-caste marriages.
 - Loss of identity of tribal communities.
 - Discrimination based on religion and belief in educational institutions, jobs and government policies.
 - Inter-religious conflicts between different religious communities such as Muslims, Christian and Hindus.
 - Discrimination within families.
 - Government in action at the time of communal conflicts and support for religious majority community.
 - Religious intolerance and hatred.
 - Desecration & destruction of places of worship.

Ideas and solutions to the issues identified by the participants

- Creation of awareness on human right and religious freedom through the educational system, workshops, distribution of literature pertaining to it, etc.
- Inter faith dialogue for understanding and harmony.
- Understanding and knowledge of scriptures of one's own religion and other religions.
- Promotion of understanding and harmony through interfaith get-togethers, participation in the rituals, practices and festivals of different religions for better communal relations and understanding.
- Abolition of caste system and elimination of caste-based discrimination and intolerance through government policies, programs and legislation.
- Protection of places of worships by local communities and Government as per rule of law.

Assumptions that were made

There were assumptions of prevalence of religious intolerance and discrimination in Mysore. Accordingly it was assumed that the participants would show some initial resistance to freely discuss the issues that are directly related to them.

Risk factors and how they were taken care of?

It was felt that during the discussions and interaction some contentious and sensitive issues were emerged. At times these discussions tended to turn into debates and heated exchanges. This was taken care through a very friendly, interactive and participatory approach that was adopted from the beginning through ice breaking, songs and creation of an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Learning Outcomes

Short-term

- Mutual respect among the participants of different faiths and understanding of different points of view.
- Understanding of different religions, beliefs and practices associated with them.
- Understanding of concerns of religious discrimination and intolerance in the framework of human rights.
- Exploring the ways of promoting religious harmony and tolerance in the society.

Long-term

- Establishing religious harmony, peace and understanding in the society.
- Nurturing a culture of human rights in general and rights pertaining to religious freedom and dignity in particular.

What resources were used? Did the arrangements like equipment, meeting hall, and seating, etc. work smoothly? What difficulties were faced?

Meeting hall, films, LCD Projector, PA System, stationery, tables and chairs, etc were used. The arrangements worked smoothly.

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

Meeting hall, Sound System, Tables, chairs, Projector Screen & lunch for two days were provided by the Institute.

HRE Films, Stationery, Transportation Conveyance, tea/coffee, snacks, and Certificates were provided by Forum for Harmony & Peace Mysore. Photographs of the HRE Series of both the days were also taken by the facilitators. The program was telecasted in Amoga TV in Kannada at 6.30 on the same day which telecast the news in Karnataka.

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.

Did you face any **difficulties with regard to the use of the materials?**

No

Did you encounter any **language problems** among participants in terms of the materials (for example, handouts, and films)? And how did you handle them?

Since the HRE literature and films were in English, Some of the participants had little difficulty with language. Kannada is the Mother Tongue of most of the participants. The films were explained to them in Kannada for better identification and understanding of the issues. All the HRE related handouts had to be explained to the participants both in English & Kannada

How did the community receive the learning programme?

The learning programme was received with curiosity and enthusiasm.

Did you face any resistance from the community?

No

If you live at some distance from the workshop site, did this pose any challenges to you?

No

Do you feel the community/target group you chose was appropriate, why? Please give concrete examples.

The students and teaching staff of Mother Teresa Nursing Institute are open minded to important learning like HRE. Since there were representatives of different religions, the HRE series provided them an opportunity to come together and openly discuss the issues. It also helped them to understand different religions and to hear different points of view. A change in attitude of the students would help to create an environment conducive to mutual

respect and harmony. The students learning about rights would create far reaching impact on their family and community.

Please write about the composition of the learning group. How did you ensure a balance of gender, ages etc?
All participants were female between 17-45.

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 : 16
- Muslims : 01
- Christians : 30

Give details of the gender balance amongst the participants from these faith groups?

All participants were female

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

The participants were both young adults and adults

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?

Some of the participants expressed strong views about Conversion by Christians. In the ensuing discussion the Subject was clarified with examples by the Christians participants.

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

Introduction of the participants was done by forming pairs and introduced each other. There were songs. 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.

- Mr. M.R. Preethan (male, Hindu, 28 years)
- Mr. Mansoor Ahmed (male, Muslim, 36 years)
- Miss Neha Fathima (female, Muslim, 20 years)
- Mrs. B K Laskhmi Devi (female, Hindu, 55 years)
- Ms. Naghma Ara (female, Muslim, 30 years)

Name of mediator and the role he/she played

Dr. K V Lakshmi Devi Secretary of the trust & Principal of the college.

Conducted the ice breaker and introduction session,

Please give detailed information about participants' feedback and evaluation of the session / series

Initial Assessment of the Evaluation forms will be sent.

What areas of the session / series could have been done better and how do you plan to make these improvements in the next session / series

Discussion on UDHR and DEIRB could be improved by providing the relevant material in Kannada. For the future series the material would be provided in Kannada. Translation would be done. Similarly, videos would also be dubbed in Kannada.

Please share any further information that you wish to

The HRE literature needs to be translated in to Kannada language. The videos also need to be dubbed in Kannada. This will be very helpful for the participants to participate effectively.

Participants' Comments (Selected)



Nishida Jasmin (F), 17, Muslim

I feel very fortunate to take part in the two day workshop on Human Rights and Religious freedom. The workshop was very interesting. Facilitators really helped us to understand about Human Rights. The sessions were very useful. Films were interesting and thought provoking. Thanks to IARF for giving us much insights.



Roseline Mary A. (F), 22, Christian

The two day long workshop helped us to explore issues related to human rights and religious freedom. Group discussions were very effective and interesting. Now I'm committed to learn more and open minded to human rights and related issues. Now I understand, respecting others and caring others is important in my life. Thanks a lot to IARF and facilitators.



Chandini N.P. (F), 17, Hindu

The program was highly useful for me. The discussions based on films were very effective. The overall activities were enough to make sure the participation of each and every one. I will pass on the knowledge to my peer group and friends.

View Photos (Please follow the link given below to view photos of the workshop)

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=72>