



international association for

religious freedom

belief with integrity

Report of
Human Rights Education workshop
held at
ASHRAY, Sonapukur, Rajarhat, Kolkata
On 23rd & 24th January 2013



Facilitator: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu



At a Glance	
Venue	ASHRAY, Sonapukur, Rajarhat, Kolkata.
Date	23 - 24 January 2013
Facilitator	Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
Guest	Dr. Thomas Mathew, Chairman, IARF SACC
Number of Participants	33
Gender Balance	Male-25 & Female-8
Age Group	18-30
Religious Representation	Hinduism (Including Triabls)-30; Muslim-03

ASHRAY (means: shelter) is a national level registered NGO, working in different fields of development, like health, education, poverty alleviation, awareness building, social harmony, agriculture and environment.

The organization expressed their strong desire to organize a two day HRE workshop, in their community Hall at the organization premises in collaboration with IARF SACC.

This area is geographically an extended area of greater Kolkata. It is a Multi-religious, Multi cultural community. Sometimes, feuds and discord occurred in this area due to violation of Human Rights and ultimately it brought to disharmony in the area. People have no clear idea about human rights. The idea of organizing HRE workshop in the area is laid on it.

Main Aim

Ensure a congenial socio-cultural environment, harmony and peace in the area by protecting human rights and freedom of religion and belief.

Objectives

- To protect and promote the rights of human beings, right to freedom of religion. Educate and create awareness among the multi cultural community people.
- To acquaint with the Universal declaration of Human rights and treaties related to rights & freedom.

Timeline

23rd and 24th January 2013

First day- from 9.30am to 1pm & 2pm to 5.30 pm including inauguration session.

Second day- from 9.30am to 1pm & 2pm to 6pm.

Session outline

1st Session

Acquaintance and Goal Setting

- social purposes and the educational goals of this human rights learning workshop
- To introduce participants and sharing their expectation from this workshop
- Orient the participants about IARF- its motto and its HRE programme.
- Identify their concerns about intolerance, religious & other discrimination, conflict etc
- Sharing their concerns & categorizing their concerns
- Suggesting goal for social change action to achieve goal
- Show of three films
- First hand impression about the films
- In justice & discrimination identify in three films.



2nd Session

- Distribution of UDHR articles to participants
- Reading, clarifying, understanding and discussion on UDHR
- Reading, clarifying, understanding & discussion on DIDRB
- Discussion on Major Human Rights treaties
- To share & relate the goal of the participants to some of the rights describe in the UDHR & DIDRB

3rd Session

- Review of 1st & 2nd sessions
- Film show - Rita's Choices
- Their feeling, awaking awareness about human rights
- Inquiry about injustice
- Analyses the injustice within a Human Rights framework
- Alternative views & perceptions about the film
- Identify violation of human rights which are describe in UDHR & DIDRB
- Think action for executing human rights to prevent injustice

4th Session

- Review of 3rd session or Rita's choices in the contest of UDHR & DIDRB
- Film show – Sacred Grove
- Responding to Sacred Grove – awakening their awareness
- Identify multiple injustices
- Analyses the injustices in UDHR & DIDRB framework, moral issues
- Potential & important of human Right learning
- Action to prevent it.

5th Session

- Review of 3rd session
- Film show – Where is Home
- Awakening their awareness regarding the nature of violation of Human Rights
- Identify the effects of inter religious violence
- Analyses the responsibility in the contest of Human Rights.
- Action to prevent it.

6th Session

- Planning action for Social Change
- Reviewing their Concerns and change Goal
- Sharpening their goals and recommending action
- Preparing their strategy for action
- Form a voluntary team and action scheduled.
- Series Evaluation
- End

Methodology

Lecture session, Group discussion, Group dynamics, Case study, Audio-visual, group report presentation and role play would be used during organization of HRE series.

Issues rose

- Different form of injustices



- Nature of violation of Human Rights, especially of women's rights
- Educate people about tolerance, right to freedom of religion & belief
- Responsibility to prevent these injustice, intolerance and violation of fundamental Human Rights
- Social change

Assumptions

Local people wholeheartedly supported this workshop from different religious or faith traditions. They involved in this workshop willingly.

Risk Factors

Emotional or sentimental talks of different faith groups can make a scope of exchanging hot arguments among each other.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Short- term:

- To make the participants aware and known about Universal Declaration of Human Right & DIDRB
- To identify the social injustices prevailing in our communities
- And take responsibility for protecting Human Rights and bring back justice.

Long Term

- To develop a congenial and peaceful environment where all people will live together in harmony irrespective of caste, creed, religion, belief and culture.

Resources Required

- Local support
- Teaching materials
- Training materials
- Good and effective boys and girls as participants/beneficiaries
- Fund (as per budget)

Materials

All the three films, all handouts including UDHR, DIDRB & Major treaties would be used in the HRE workshop

Did you face any language problem?

There was no such problem arose. Participants were able enough to follow English.

Community Chosen

A community in heterogeneous character – Hindu, Muslim, Schedule caste and higher caste people are living together at Sonapukur, Rajarhat, Kolkata 7000145

Location

Community Hall of ASHRAY, Sonapukur, Rajarhat, Kolkata -700145.

Distance from your home

25kms

Why do you find this community eligible for the training program? Please give concrete example.

Six months ago a Communal conflict was occurred in this region between Hindu & Muslim. So finding an opportunity to interact with both communities might be a unique opportunity to build peace.

Into what category does this community group fit?

The community comprising few orthodox or fundamentalists and they create conflict for even minor religious issues.



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

Out of 33 participants 8 are female & 25 are male, Age group was between 18 to 30 years.

Do you have your own set of ground rules – specify

- To lessen the tension we had created a very congenial homely atmosphere for open & free discussion (without any biasness),
- Nobody had attack others personally during discussion
- Facilitator's decision was final for settling any tension or dispute during the HRE session. Two influential & potential Mediators were present in the session always to control the reverse situation

Have you had ice-breaking/team-building activities?

Yes, ice breaking & team building exercise.

a) Which faith traditions attended?

Muslim, Hindu and tribal

b) How many people from each faith attended?

Four participants from Muslim and twenty nine from Hindu faith group among them three tribal Hindu attended

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

Yes. All participants were young.

What steps have you taken to strongly encourage attendance at all sessions?

I told them the importance of attending all sessions of this series and the norms of this HRE training. Those who will attend all the sessions only they will be given the HRE certificate.

Name of potential mediator

Mr. Sujay Mondal



Rahamat Elahi (M), 23, Muslim

I got following advantages by attending the two day Human Rights Education workshop.

1. Knowledge about Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. Common understanding about social discriminations.
3. Human Rights should be protected by the rule of law.
4. All human beings are free and equal in dignity.

In short, the workshop was a very good experience for me.

Suparna Mondal (F), 23, Hindu (Dalit).

The two day program really enriched my thoughts. It gave me a clear knowledge about Human Rights, which showed us the healthy way of living. The entire program I enjoyed very much. Facilitator, Prof. Asit Kumar Basu was very good in explaining everything in detail. The experiences of co-participants were equally incredible. Thanks to all.



Munmony Mondal (M), 21, Hindu (Dalit).

HRE is a better concept to change the mentality of all living in society. This kind of education enables us to protect ourselves and others from discriminations, intolerance, hatred, issues based on gender, color etc. The facilitator was kind enough to explain various articles of UDHR. Films also featured violations of human rights.



Marufa Khatun (F) 24, Muslim

I got many insights from this workshop. I'll pass this message to many to help them to defend their rights and privileges. Violations against women in different dimensions are increasing every day. Knowing ones right will help to take appropriate steps against injustices, violations and double standards. Thanks to IARF for this great endeavor.



Tanuja Majumder (F) 28, Hindu

It is an excellent program and a very good effort to wake up people from their sleepiness and fight against discrimination, superstition, orthodox views etc. Joining this program is a big turning point in my life. Observing surrounding circumstances along with a perfect way of justification and solutions is great. It also helped me to justify the quality of my nature and to find out my faults. Comprising all together, it helped me to build a respectable personality.



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<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=91>