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## Human Rights Education Workshop

at Chakla Suparna Shilpalay (CSS),  
Subarnapur colony, P.O. Chakla, West Bengal.  
on 16-17 February 2013



FACILITATOR: PROF. ASIT KUMAR BASU

# REPORT

## At a Glance

Venue	: Chakla Suparna Shilpalay (CSS), Subarnapur colony, P.O. Chakla, West Bengal.
Date	: 16-17 February 2013
Facilitators	: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
Number of Participants	: 32
Gender	: Female-14 & Male-18
Age Group	: 17-34
Religious Representation	: Hinduism-28 & Islam-4

## Introduction

*Chakla Suparna Shilpalay (CSS)* is a registered Non-Governmental Organization working in semi-urban and rural areas of West Bengal. The office of the organization is situated at Chakla, Subarnapur colony, 60 kms away from Kolkata city. The area is dominated by Hindu lower caste (SC) and refugees (illegally migrated from Bangladesh), who formed a colony along with local Muslims and a few Christians. They are very poor and earn their bread by working in nearby urban towns as daily laborers. Currently all the parents of the colony are eager to send their children to schools and colleges for education. Now they have realized that only education of their children can improve their standard of living by ensuring high salary jobs. So the literacy rate of the colony is very high at this moment. Even then violation of Human rights is very common across the area due to lack of Human Rights awareness among the people and as a result often conflict, discord, feuds are irrupted among the people of different religions in the locality.

## Main Aim

Establish freedom of religion and belief as essential human rights and avoid all sorts of intolerance, demean, tension, violence and conflicts from the society.

## Objective

Educate and motivate the people of different religious groups about human rights and eliminate all form of intolerance. Ultimately religious freedom, human rights and human dignity will be maintained through awareness classes.

## Timeline

Two day program - On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2013 from 9:30am to 5:30pm

## Session outline

### 1<sup>st</sup> Session - on 16<sup>th</sup> February 9.30 am to 1.15 pm

- 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 and conflict.
- Sharing and categorizing their concerns.
- Proposing goal for social change to overcome obstacles to religious freedom
- Sharing goals.
- Thinking about action
- Film show 1<sup>st</sup> time and Responses after the show.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Session (2:15 pm - 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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Session (on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 9:30 am to 1:15 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 (2:15 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
- Analyze the inter-religious injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views and application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

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

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

#### **Methodology**

Group discussion, group presentation, lectures, case studies, Audio-visual techniques used.

#### **Issues rose during discussions.**

- Social problems –Social Change
- Human Rights to freedom of religion and belief
- Intolerance, peace, religious conflicts.

#### **Assumptions**

The workshop will enhance the life of people; especially they will respect each other while knowing their unique rights and privileges. Therefore, upto certain extend tensions and intolerance can be treated.

#### **Expected learning outcomes**

##### **Short-term**

Participants have oriented, motivated and understood the freedom of religion and beliefs as essential human right and other rights of human beings.

##### **Long-term**

All sorts of social violence, conflicts and tension will be resolved, peace and harmony will be prevailed in the society.

#### **Resources Required**

Funds, manpower, teaching materials, training materials, training hall, audio visual equipments were required.

#### **Language Problem**

There was no language problem (Bengali was also used)

#### **Community Chosen**

Semi-urban Village

#### **Location**

Chakla Suparna Shilpalay (CSS), Subarnapur colony, P.O. Chakla, Pin - 743440,

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

Yes

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

Tension and misunderstanding are present in the young generation of Hindus and Muslims in this colony, so in order to mitigate this problem I have selected this area.

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

The matter was discussed with local organizers and finally selected 32 participants. Out of 32, 14 are female and 18 are male and the age group of participants falls between 17 to 34 years.

**What steps have you taken to lessen the tension between the participants from different faith groups?**

I insisted participants to have patience and initiate open and free discussion, exchange dialogue among each other by avoiding all tension.

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

Yes

**Which faith traditions attended the workshop?**

Islam and Hindus

**How many people from each faith attended the workshop?**

Islam -4 (2 Male & 2 female) and Hindus -28 (12 Female & 16 Male).

**Names and faith traditions of at least 3 people in the group who can be your support team**

- 1) Mousumi Debnath (Hindu)
- 2) Sumana Das (Hindu)
- 3) Anowara khatun (Islam)

**Name of Potential Mediator**

Dr. Amitava sarkar

**Participants' Comments (Selected)**

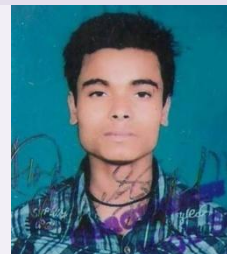


**Mousumi Debnath (F), 22, Hindu**

I learned many things about Human Rights and Religious Freedom. It really enhanced our knowledge and attitude. Explanation about Articles was very informative. The film 'where is home' is a great help to explain about human rights. At last I want to thank our trainer for his time and commitment to teach us.

**SK. Nurul Hassan (M), 18, Muslim**

The program really enriched my knowledge. Facilitator was kind enough to explain everything. All sessions were important. I happy to join upcoming programs of IARF. Knowledge about rights and constitutional provisions will enhance our attitude. Sincere thanks to IARF and facilitator.



**Sanker Dutta (M), 34, Hindu**

The program was very good and informative. I enjoyed it a lot. I got some interesting facts about religion, inter-faith and tolerance. The films are very educative and pass values to viewers. They present the real situation of our country. I also learned about UDHR, which gave more insights about our fundamental rights, State and national Human Rights Commission. I am grateful to IARF and Prof. Asit Basu.



**Anowara Khatun (F), 20, Muslim**

Before attending this workshop I was not aware about Human Rights and its violations. Now I am familiar with various articles. The causes of conflicts and violence based on religion occur due to immaturity and lack of knowledge. The films were equally good in explaining things. I enjoyed this workshop very much. I express my thanks to IARF.



**View Photos** (Follow the link)

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=95>