



international association for  
**religious freedom**  
belief with integrity  
South Asia Coordinating Council

# Human Rights Education Workshop

Held At Balasore, Azimabad, Odisha  
Held on 26-27 January 2013  
Sponsored by IARF SACC



# REPORT

Facilitator: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu



<b>At a Glance</b>	
<b>Venue</b>	Catholic Conference Hall, Azimabad, Odisha
<b>Date</b>	26 - 27 January 2013
<b>Facilitator</b>	Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
<b>Guest</b>	Dr. Thomas Mathew, Chairman, IARF SACC
<b>Number of Participants</b>	32
<b>Gender Balance</b>	Male-14 & Female-18
<b>Age Group</b>	18-30
<b>Religious Representation</b>	Islam-7, Hinduism-22 & Christianity-3

Balasore Interfaith Organization (BIO) is an NGO and also a newly born IARF branch centre, situated at remote district of Odisha, North East of India facing to Bay of Bengal. The BIO is headed by Prof. Gobinda Biswal who is associated with a Government Collage here.

As it is a backward area, the people are not well aware about Human Rights. So, obviously violation of human rights is very common among the uneducated local people. The newly opened IARF branch is willing to gear up with enthusiasm for organizing a program which would help them to go long way with the commitments and principles of IARF for making this earth a space for living in peace and harmony. Therefore they decided to start their journey with a two day Human Rights Education Workshop.

It is a heterogeneous community in terms of religion and culture. Muslim, Christian, Hindu and tribal people are coexisting here. Sometime, violation of Human Rights creates disharmony in the area due to lack of proper human rights knowledge and orientation. Poverty, illiteracy, injustice and discrimination based on caste and religion are the main reasons of disharmony and conflict that actually roused from human rights issues. Tribals are often discriminated by the upper class in the region and that eventually force them to take weapon to find solutions for education, housing, job farmland etc. This situation creates unrest and violence which invite the presence of police force always. Ultimately the poor tribals fall victims to the brutality of upper classes with the consent of armed forces leading to severe human rights violations.

### **Main Aim**

Develop 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**

26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2013

First day- from 9:30 am to 1pm and 2pm to 5:30 pm including inauguration session. Second day- from 9.30 am to 1pm & 2pm to 6pm.

### **Session outline**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Session – on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 13**

- ◆ 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 program.
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Showing of three films
- ◆ First hand impression about the films
- ◆ In justice & discrimination identify in three films.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 and relate the goal of the participants to some of the rights describe in the UDHR & DIDRB

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Session**

- ◆ Review of 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## **4<sup>th</sup> Session on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. 13**

- ◆ Review of 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

- ◆ Review of 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

## **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 discussed**

- Different form of injustices
- Nature of violation of Human 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

**Risk Factors**

Emotional or sentimental talks of different faith groups would have made possibility to exchange hot arguments among each other. However all sessions were very peaceful.

**Expected Learning Outcomes****Short- term**

- To make the participants aware and educate about Universal Declaration of Human Right and DIDRB
- To identify the social injustices prevailing in our communities
- And take responsibility for protecting Human Rights 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 & effective Young boys & girls as participants
- Fund (money 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 problems among participants in terms of the materials? And how did you solve such problems?**

No such problem was there. All were able to follow English.

**Community Chosen**

A community of heterogeneous character – Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Schedule caste, tribe and other caste people live together at Balasore, Azimabad, Odisha.

**Location**

Conference Hall of Catholic Church, Balasore, Azimabad, Odisha.

**Distance from your home.**

425km

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

Yes

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

The local people of the area were in need of peace and harmony. There were communal tensions and discriminations often existed. So I realized that this community is better for human rights education.

**Into what category does this community group fit?**

The group/community is with few orthodox or fundamentalist. They always create conflict for minor religious issues.

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

To decrease the tension created very congenial homely atmosphere for open and free discussion (without any biasness), nobody attacked others personally during discussion. Facilitator's intervention or decision was final for settling all tension or dispute during discussions. Moreover an influential and potential mediator played vital role in controlling the situation.

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

Yes, ice breaking and team building exercises were done.

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

Out of 32 participants 18 were female & 14 were male. The age group was between 18 to 30 years only.

**a) Which faith traditions attended the sessions?**

Muslim, Christian and Hindu

**b) How many people from each faith group attended the workshop?**

Seven participants from Muslim, twenty two from Hindu and three from Christian faith group attended the program.

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

Yes. 80% participants were young.

**Name of potential mediator**

Prof. Gobindo Biswal

**Participants' Comments (Selected)**



**S. K. Hayazuddin (M), 19, Muslim**

The workshop was very good. I got basic idea about Human Rights and need of protecting others' rights. States like Orissa always appears in the newspapers often for human rights violation incidents. Hope this kind of programs will make drastic changes in our society. I expect more such programs in the day to come. I sincerely thank IARF SACC, IARF Balasore and respected facilitator for giving us the opportunity to take part in this workshop.

**Sayda Khatun (F), 18, Muslim**

It is a very nice program. I became aware about our rights. This was for the first time iam attending a workshop like this. Though I have heard of human rights I was not aware about what exactly it means? By attending this workshop I got more knowledge and insights. All sessions were informative and interesting. Truly, I will share this knowledge with my friends.



**Deepa Roul (F), 20, Christian**

It is a nice program. It increased our consciousness to know about our rights and how to complement it into my life. Three films screened during workshop were very touching. In one or other way we all have faced such discrimination and humiliation in our life. Hope SACC will reach us again at the earliest to give more knowledge about human rights and religious freedom. Thanks to all for this wonderful initiative.



**S.A. Salaka (F), 19, Hindu**

The program imparted good and valuable education on human rights. I could realize the human values through this program. The methodology adopted by the organizers was very satisfactory in learning all about human rights education.





**Pradip K.H. (M), 30, Tribal**

It is a nice program for me. Now I am aware about the human rights. This type of program should be conducted all over India. This will surely open the eyes of many to fight against atrocities and unrest in the society. Moreover it gives us lot of mileage to enthusiastically work for the well being of our society. Hope our generation will witness an equalitarian society. I will work for the society.

**View photos:** <http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=93>