



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

# Human Rights Education Workshop

Held at

**SVVP VMC Degree & PG College**, Visakhapatnam-17

On 30-31 January 2013

## REPORT



***PARTICIPANTS** with Facilitator, Guests and College Officials*

Facilitator: Prof. N. Prakasa Rao and Ms. Prof.E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi



<b>Program at a Glance</b>	
Venue	: SVVP VMC Degree & PG College, Visakhapatnam-17
Date	: 30-31 January, 2013
Facilitators	: Prof. N. Prakasa Rao & Ms. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi
Number of Participants	: 31
Gender	: Male-05, Female-26
Age Group	: 18-24
Religious Representation	: Hinduism-29; Christian-02 Hindus (Male-05; Female-24) Christian (Male-0; Female-02)

### Introduction

Two day Human Rights Education workshop sponsored by IARF SACC, Kerala was held at SVVVP VMC Degree & PG College, MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam-17 on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2013. The workshop was organised by B. V. Foundation for peace and harmony, a member group of IARF. 31 students both boys and girls of different faith communities attended the program along with the faculty of the College.

Prof. R. G. B. Bhagavath Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Damodaram Sanjeevayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam inaugurated the programme. Dr. N. A. D. Pal, Programme Coordinator, NSS and Smt .Vijaya Rajendra, Principal of the College graced the occasion. Prof. N. Prakasa Rao, spoke about the organisation and the importance of organizing HREP. Prof. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi, Spoke about IARF Statement of purpose. The SVVVP VMC Degree & PG College is situated in MVP Colony, 6 kilo meters away from the city. The participants are Degree & PG students, hence they have same knowledge about Human Rights in general, and on religious freedom right in particular.

### Main Aim

- Sensitize Degree & PG students about the rights of freedom of religion and belief.
- Promote religious harmony & peace among difference communities of students.

### Objective

- To create awareness among the students the need to minimize socio-cultural and political scuffle, conflict, violence and tension from the society.
- Eliminate all forms of intolerance, humiliation and hatred through exchange of dialogue among difference faith groups & traditions.

### Time line

Two days programme – On 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 from morning 9.30 am to 5 pm

### Session Outline

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Session (30<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00 am to 1 pm)

- Introduction of participants
- Expectations & Assessments
- IARF & HREP
- Identification of issues of religious intolerants & Discrimination

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Session

- Discussion on UDHR



- Discussion on Declaration on Elimination of all forms Intolerance And Beliefs (DEIB)

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

- Viewing of films
- RITA's choice
- Sacred grove
- Where home
- Discussion of films

### **4<sup>th</sup> Session (31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm)**

- Group exercise
- Identification of issues injustice in the three films and group presentations.

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

- Identification of local issues
- Action plan for addressing them
- Valedictory function & presentation of certificates

### **Methodology**

Participatory method - Group work, Discussions, Lectures, Case studies, Role play, Audio visual learning & Group Presentation.

### **Issues Rose**

Gender Discrimination, Human Dignity, hatred, suspecting each other, humiliation, intolerance, religious conflict, Right to Freedom of Religion and Belief.

### **Assumptions**

All the participants will have to present in all the sessions of two days programme. After participation the group come with open and broad mind to accept each other and accept the cultural differences of individuals.

### **Risk factors**

It is a Degree & PG College and students have common interest. The group consists of Hindus and Christians. There exist a little tension and risk among them with regard to religious freedom and beliefs but we could satisfy them conveniently up to their satisfaction.

### **Outcomes**

#### **Short-term**

Participants will be able to change their mind set up and will be oriented and motivated to accept the freedom of religion and beliefs as important as Human Rights. Participants have agreed to celebrate all religious festivals.

#### **Long-term**

To establish religious freedom clubs and all shorts of social scuffle, violence, conflict and tension will be resolved by understanding each other.

### **Resources required**

- Cooperation and man power from the local college where HREP conducted.
- Supporting materials, pad, pen, power point, projector machine, flipcharts and marker, pens were required.

### **Language problem**

There was no language problem since all were degree students. Most of the students follow English. However Telugu was also used.



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

Since participants are future PG Students, enriching religious freedom with right knowledge certainly helps to resolve religious conflict in particular and Human Rights in general. Therefore we have decided to organise the HRE workshop here.

### How did you maintain balance of gender and ages?

It is a co-educational College, so both male and female attended the programme (Male-05, Female-26) and the age group between 18-24 years. College authority selected 31 students of various faith groups for attending this programme.

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

By and large there was not much tension between the participants from different faith groups. During the discussion when tension arises facilitators insisted participants to maintain peace and to be calm and patient. They were given opportunity to start open and free discussion instead of making loud voice. There were live discussion on intra and inter religious marriages, somehow we inspired the participants to understand issues with open mind and act

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

Yes

### Which faith traditions attended the workshop?

Christians and Hindus

### How many people from each faith attended?

Christians-02 and Hindus-29

### Name of the Potential Mediator

Dr. Ms. U. Lawrance , Programme Officer, NSS.



### Participant's Comments



#### **K. Rambabu (M) 18, Hindu**

This programme has improved my knowledge on Human Rights. Now I am empowered to share my views with others. This programme is very good, but 2 day is not enough to understand fully about the Human Rights. The films were very interesting. I would like to know more and more in future. I like this programme very well.

#### **N. Rani Priyanka (F) 19, Christian**

This programme is very important and can bring the change in the thinking of the people about the religious system. Through this workshop I have learnt many things about other religion which I did no know earlier. So everyone should have the basic knowledge of other religions and should respect each other and survive with the feeling of brotherhood. Teachings of speakers were very informative.



**ADSH MADHU Priyanka (F) 18, Hindu**

This Programme is necessary and useful to understand and respect other religions and its values. Through this workshop I came to know that we have to respect all faiths. Being an Indian one should follow secularism and should not discourage or comment negative on other religions. One should take oath of respect other religions. I took an oath to do it. Thanks to IARF.

**U.K. Arathi Esther (F) 19, Christian**

This kind of workshop is necessary. It gives understanding about human rights and religious freedoms. It made us to work together. Through this workshop I came to know that we have to respect all faiths. Thanks to facilitator and IARF



View Photos:

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=92>