



international association for

religious freedom
belief with integrity

South Asia Coordinating Council

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION WORKSHOP

At

Khatalia Samridhi O' Unnyan Samity

Kathalia, P O- B. Gobindapur, PS - Bhangar, Dist. South
on 23rd & 24th February 2013

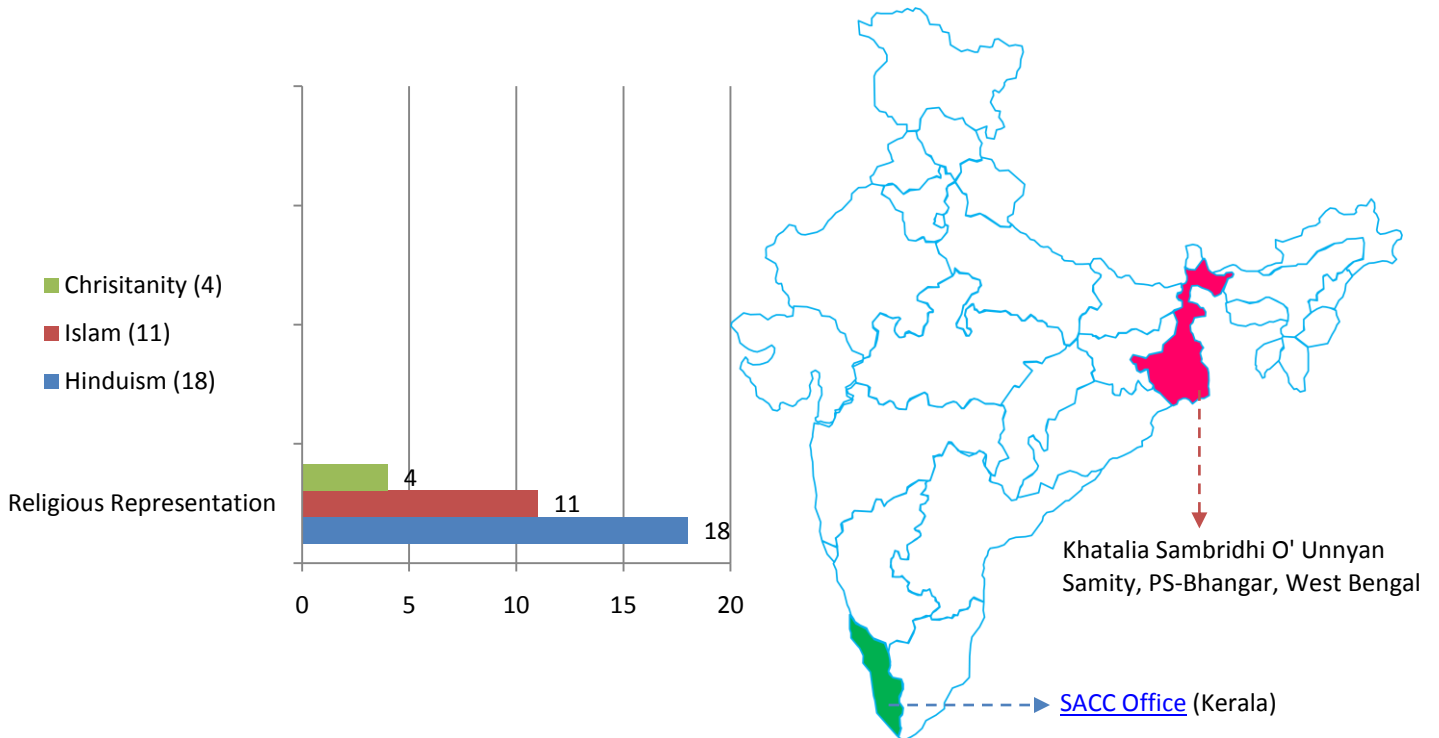
Facilitator: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu



REPORT

At a Glance

Venue	Khatalia Sambridhi O' Unnyan Samity Kathalia, PO- B. Gobindapur, PS - Bhangar, Dist.- South
Date	23-24 February 2013
Facilitator	Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
Number of Participants	33
Gender Balance	Female-3 & Male-30
Age Group	19-32
Religious Representation	Hinduism - 18, Islam -11 & Christianity-4



Introduction

Khatalia Sambridhi O' Unnyan Samity is a registered NGO, working in rural areas, among the marginalized people, mostly among women and youth. The area is dominated by Muslims in percentage. Among the entire population 64% Muslim, 33% Hindu and the rest 3% belong to the other faith groups. Discrimination, intolerance, quarreling, conflict are not new in this locality, they have been closely related with their life for a long time. However now they have changed their mind set up and willing to come out from this grave situation. Once, a few educated young people, comprising both Muslim and Hindus of this locality geared up to opt to improve the quality of life of the common people by bringing about a change in their society. Keeping this in mind they founded *Khatalia Sambridhi O' Seva Samity*. A few days ago leaders from this organization contacted and requested to facilitator of Rama Krishna Mission member group to organize a two day 'Human Rights education' workshop at their institution premises to make the local youth aware about Human Rights. Considering their earnest request and analyzing the situation and the need of that area, facilitator decided to conduct a HRE workshop at Khatalia village after receiving prior consent from IARF SACC. All together 33 participants joined the program which was held on 23rd and 24th February 2013. 11 boys from Islam, 4 boys from Christianity and 15 boys and 3 girls from Hinduism respectively joined the program.

Main Aim

- Sensitize the young people about the rights of freedom of religion & belief.
- Bring Religious Harmony & Peace in the society.

Objectives

- Minimize socio-cultural and political conflict, violence and tension from the society.
- Eliminate all form of intolerance, humiliation and hatred through exchange of dialogue among different faith groups.

Timeline

Two day program - On 23rd & 24th February 2013 from morning 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Session outline

Inauguration

1st Session (on 23rd February at 10.30 am to 1pm)

- Greetings from the facilitator for joining this learning / action process.
- Introduction of participants & ice-breaking & the expectation.
- identifying their concerns about intolerance, religious discrimination & Conflict - sharing and categorizing their concerns
- Social purposes, learning goal, social goal of this HRE workshop
- proposing goal for social change to overcome obstacles to religious Freedom - Sharing goals
- Thinking about action
- Film show and responses after the show.

2nd Session (2pm to 5.30 pm)

- Reading, acknowledging, & clarifying – Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- The declaration on the Elimination of all forms of intolerance & discrimination based on religion or belief (DIDRB).
- Majors Human Rights Treaties
- Relate the goals of the participants to the rights describe in the UDHR & DIDRB

3rd Session (on 24th Feb at 10.30 am to 1 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

4th 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

5th Session (2.00 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 injustices
- Analyses the inter-religious injustice within a Human Rights framework.

- Alternative views & application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

6th Session

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

Methodology

Group works - discussions, lectures, case studies, Audio visual learning and group report presentation.

Issues rose

- Hatred, humiliation, intolerance, Religious conflicts etc
- Right to freedom of religion & belief

Assumptions

It's a rural area and communal tension porn zone. Most of the participants tried to establish their own opinion.

Expected learning outcomes

Short-term

Participants are able to change their mind set up and they have been oriented and motivated to accept the freedom of religion and beliefs as important as human rights.

Long-term

All sorts of social violence, conflicts and tension will be solved.

Resources Required

Cooperation and man power support from the local organization

Teaching & training materials – Pad, pen, power point project or machine, flip charts, marker pen etc.

Language Problem

There was no language problem (Both English & Bengali were used)

Location

Khatalia Sambridhi O' Unnyan Samity

Kathalia, PO- B. Gobindapur, PS - Bhangar, Dist.- South

Have you already had contacted this Institute?

Yes

Why have you chosen this community/ target group?

Tension and misunderstanding present among the young generation of this locality. It is a backward rural area of West Bengal, situated 60 km away from Kolkata city. In order to resolve this problem we have selected this area for organizing HRE workshop.

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

The boys of Muslim, Christian and the Hindus joined the program in the proportion of - 11 boys from the Muslim, 5 boys from the Christian and 15 boys and 3 girls from the Hindus communities between 19 to 32 years. I asked the organization to select potential students of various faith groups for attending this HRE program. As it is a backward rural area the women participants are less than the Men.

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

I inspired and insisted participants to maintain peace and to be calm and patience during discussion. They started open & free discussion instead of loud voice.

Did you have ice-breaking /team building activities?

Yes

Names of faith groups attended the program.

Islam, Hinduism and Christianity

How many people from each faith group attended the workshop?

11 participants from Islam, 4 from Christian and 18 from Hindu communities were attended.

Name of Potential Mediator

Md. Liakat Ali

Participants' Comments (Selected)



Indrani Kayal (F), 23, Hindu

This course is very helpful in our life. It will help us in every step of life. It's a step taken to peaceful society. I could gather lot of knowledge about human rights. I could also meet many people. Youngsters like us need to change the mind set up and uphold the idea of interfaith. Thanks to IARF and our facilitator.

Arup Mangal (M), 21, Christian

The workshop was very informative. Before attending this workshop I was not familiar with Human Rights and its relevance. Thanks to IARF for making me understand about Human Rights and religious freedom. Also providing a platform for all religious people is good enough to have healthy fellowship. This kind of initiative lessens the gap between people of different faiths and strata of society.



Kanika Manna (F), 30, Hindu

I am very happy to join this program. I'll teach my family and neighbors about human rights. Most often our rights are neglected and violated. But this seminar gave an impetus to fight for our rights. All topics discussed in the workshop were very good. Thanks to Prof. Asit Basu for coming all the way to organize this workshop for us.

Azizul Rahman (M), 23, Islam

This is a very good program. I could learn many things which I did not know before. A lesson has been given here is that, how to be a good human being? I wish this program should reach to the every nook and corner of our society. Then only violence will disappear from our society and everyone will treat equally each other. Thanks to IARF for this program.



View Photos: <http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=96>