



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

Human Rights Education workshop

Held At Sobha College of Education, Mararikulam, Alapuzha, Kerala

Held on 1-2 March 2013

Sponsored by IARF SACC



REPORT

Facilitator: Prof. T.K. Jyothiraj

At a Glance

Venue	Sobha College of Education, Mararikulam, Alapuzha, Kerala
Date	1 - 2 March 2013
Facilitator	Prof. T. K. Jyothiraj
Guest	Dr. Thomas Mathew, Chairman, IARF SACC
Participants	Teacher Trainees.
Number of Participants	50
Gender Balance	Male- 3 & Female-47
Age Group	18-43
Religious Representation	Islam-14, Hinduism- 20 & Christianity-16

Introduction

Sobha College of Teacher Education (PG) is an offspring of the Sobha Trust for Charity and Education. The college gives importance to community development which includes medical camps, donation of teaching aids to *Anganwadis* (Day care centers for women and children), orphanages etc., Seminars, counseling, Science Club and Mathematics Club etc., are some of the avenues for co-curricular activities. College gives more emphasis to women's education.

Interestingly this HRE was marked by the participation of 15 Students from Ferris University, First Women's University in Japan. They visited IARF Member Group, IFPP Pathanamthitta headed by Dr. Thomas Mathew as part of their internship in India. Their main indent was to study about Indian Culture, Education and Religious System. Though they are not aware about the complex religious set up of India, the time they with teacher trainees provided them enough insights and sparks. On the first day they joined HRE program and actively involved in discussions and cultural performs. The college management, teachers and supporting staff gave them a warm welcome and enjoyed the participation. The students had interactions each other and discussed Religious Freedom issues in India and Faith based traditional life of Japan. For many (both nationals), UDHR was an unknown information and that provided an opportunity for the facilitator to explain about UDHR and the role of IARF to reach the society and create more grass root HR activists on Human Rights.



College principal Dr. Sheela Rani inaugurated the workshop by traditional lamp lighting. Management and teaching staff of the college actively worked for the smooth execution of the program.

Main Aim

To promote and educate interfaith among various Religious groups / organizations to understand each other and give respect other Religion/Community.

Objectives

- Propagate about the religious harmony to reach various groups.
- Understand the awareness of Human rights and its importance.

Time line

1-2 March 2013. Five sessions were arranged in two consecutive days. Three hours has been taken for each session.

Session out line

1. Inaugural Function by inviting V.I.P. etc., to address the gathering and to start the program.
2. The program starts with Participants' introduction and expectation.
3. Briefing about the HRE Program, issues in Common Showing short films etc.
4. Presentation and Group Work about short films message in different angle.
5. Presentation from 4 or 5 groups with peer and trainer review opportunities by Preparing Chart, Role Play, Street Play, Songs & Dance etc.
6. Concrete planning for back home activities and Valedictory function by issuing Certificates etc.

On completion of each session assessment report will be called for.

Methodology

Lecture, showing short films, participatory learning, Group discussion and role play etc., from four or five groups.

Issues raised during each session.

How the minorities are over powered in certain areas, how the majority dominated in different places, necessity of tolerance while dominating by different groups, in balance arising by religious problems.

Ideas and solutions to the issues identified by the participants.

- The participants will attend all the sessions without fail, as the Series of sessions have arranged in two consecutive days by informing them well in advance.

Risk factors and how they were taken care of?

No such issues were raised

Expected Learning Outcomes

Short -Term

- To understand by the participants about UN Declaration and conventions etc.
- Equality among Human rights should be protected and interfaith to be developed.
- The values and faiths of the other religion/community should be respected
- The denial of Human rights to anybody should be avoided.

Long-term

Inter religion/community harmony and prevalence of peace.

What resources were used? Did the arrangements like equipment, meeting hall, seating etc work smoothly?

Computer, LCD Projector with Screen, furnished Hall, marker Board, Printed materials etc.,

Materials

HRE Manual, handouts, Video films CDs, provided to Facilitators during the Kolkata program and thereafter guide lines received from HRE Coordinator & SACC Office then and there.

Did you encounter any language problem among participants in terms of the materials? And how did you handle them?

There was no language problem. All were able to follow English.

Location

Mararikulam, Alapuzha, Kerala State

Distance from Home

Around 60 kms.

Reason for choosing this Community/Target group

The chosen group belongs to teaching community. The target level of HRE can be easily achieved through them.

Balance of gender, ages etc.

Here the participants were dominated by females in strength. They were aged between 22-35.

Steps taken to order to lessen the tension between the Participants from different faith groups

Views can be exchanged between the groups and understand each other faiths.

Have you had Ice-breaking/team-building activities

Yes, while forming groups in group discussion, the different religion/Community will be mingled in each group.

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

Most of the teacher trainees were young.

Attendance

- Assurance was taken obtained before starting the program
- The sessions are programmed continuously for two days for participants convenient.

Members of which faith traditions attended?

Hindus, Muslims and Christians

How many people from each faith attended?

Hindus - 20
Christians - 16
Islam - 14

Name of potential mediators

1. Alex Philip and Jyothiraj T K
2. Facilitators, HRE, Kerala.

Participants' Comments (Selected)



Sis. Rose Mary V.J. (F), 26, Christianity

The program was very useful and interesting. It was for the first time I could attend a program like this. Especially standing before teachers and colleagues itself gave me much confidence and courage. The sessions were very interesting. Facilitator explained different dimensions of human rights and its violations. As a member of a religious order I can be open to all faith traditions based on the insights got from the workshop. Thanks to IARF and our respected facilitator.

Mr. Girish (M), 24, Hinduism

I glad enough to join the program. Especially playing the role of supporting staff to HRE facilitator was a privilege. Films were very thought provoking. As future teachers and educators we could realize the importance of spreading human rights knowledge to each and every member of the society.



Shajina Rasheed (F), 22, Islam

I am very glad to attend Human Rights Education workshop organized by IARF. The content of the program is very much relevant to the present scenario. Films could pass great messages to the viewers. Interactive session really created high energy among us. Thanks to our college authority and facilitator.



Ms. Lalu G Nath (F) 43, Humanism

The workshop was very new to me. I got lots of unforgettable moments from the workshop. Especially the opportunity to interact with students from abroad was a new exposure. We could share each other. As followers of a common social system, we used to overcome and violate basic rights of people in one or other way. However the workshop gave us the basic tips to tackle with such violations and double standards. Thanks to its organizers.



Mr. Oormilachith R. (M) 21, Hinduism

The workshop presented us with variety of knowledge and lessons. The exposure I got from the workshop is immense. Since UN is playing a vital role in maintaining justice and equality, the HRE workshop maintained the standard as its spread international human rights idea. Films and topics discussed at the sessions were very interesting.



Photos of the Workshop *(Follow the link to view photos)*

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=98>