



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

REPORT

Human Rights Education Workshop held at
KLE Law College, Bengaluru
On **4-5 April 2013**
Organized by **IARF SACC RFYN**

INTRODUCTION

"We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased the intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one's own feet." -Vivekananda.

The IARF through its young adult project by RFYN has been trying to bring about change in this world through young adults by way of training, human rights education, capacity building etc. For a second consecutive year the KLE Law College had invited the RFYN-HRE team to conduct a two-day program for its students of B. A. L. L. B (5-year integrated law course) in its campus in Bengaluru, the capital city of Karnataka, India. Our Young Adult Leader Gautham Bharathi, is a student of the college, who has been associated with RFYN from 2010 Kochi Congress initiated the dialogue with the college and this has culminated in the successful organisation of this 2-day RFYN-HRE program (4th-5th April 2013) in Bengaluru. Our team from the RFYN comprised of Ms. Anbumani Arumugam, President, RFYN International & Mrs. Nithya, Young Adult Leader and Mr. K. Ramachandran, HRE Facilitator under the able support and wishes from Dr. Thomas Mathew, SACC Chairman.

ABOUT KLE LAW COLLEGE & SOCIETY, BENGALURU

Over 9 decades ago, in 1916, the region of Karnataka experienced the birth of a new era – the Karnatak Lingayat Education Society. It was a humble initiative that would transform the bleak educational landscape in Karnataka and Maharashtra. The saga begins with its illustrious founders. Sri. Chachadi Veerabhadrappa Gunappa Desai, Sri. Artal Rudragouda and Sri. Vaijappa Anigol, who all collectively believed in providing education for the common man. Their efforts were ably supplemented by the seven visionaries – Sri. S.S. Basavanal, Sri. M.R. Sakhare, Sri. B.B. Mamadapur, Sri. H.F. Kattimani, Sri. Panditappa Chikkodi, Sri. B.S. Hanchinal and Sri. Sardar Veeranagouda Patil, with the collective contribution from renowned philanthropists of the region, such as Sri. Sirsangi Lingaraj, Sri. Raja Lakhamagouda Sardesai and Sri. Bhoomaraddi Basappa and help from other philosophers, intellectuals and educationists, the society began laying a strong educational foundation, with its base at Belgaum, Karnataka.

The commitment and dedication of the KLE Society has made it a vast educational phenomenon that manages over 216 institutions in the area of Healthcare delivery, Agriculture, Engineering, IT, Law, Pharmacy, Nursing... Over 9,953 employees and more than 83,420 students from kindergarten to doctoral programmes, the Society has indeed come a long way. And, in the process, become a key player whose commendable contribution to healthcare and education, has gained global recognition. Yet another chapter in the history of the Society has begun with the newly formed KLE University. Recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC), with the assurance that the Institutions will adhere to the highest moral and ethical standards in providing the finest of education

Its premier law institutions are bringing about a positive Change in millions of lives every year. The KLE Law College, Bangalore lives up to the aims of the K.L.E. Socithe Society's endeavours is the vision, leadership and dedication of the Chairman, Dr. Prabhakar B. Kore who completed 26 years of dedicated service as Chairman of the society. The collective efforts of every single member of the Society continue to propagate the piety by enabling students to Learn with Purpose so that they may go on to Live with Purpose.

When you step into KLE Law College you become part of an institution that believes legal studies are the means to an end. For, lawyers have the power to transform society with their knowledge, skills and sense of purpose. Whichever be the branch of law that interests you, at KLE Law College you will gain a foundation that marks you out as a complete professional. And the nurturing of ideals and values which enable you to play a positive role in creating a better world. Whether it's in the corridors of corporate houses, field of environmental law, pursuit of social justice or protection of human rights.

The vision of the KLE Law College is to give outstanding educational service to all people without any discrimination with a vision to expand the intellect of an individual and reminding law students of their responsibilities as social engineers and also to equip the graduates of law to be efficient in their domain and thereby contribute for the upliftment of justice and integrity in society.

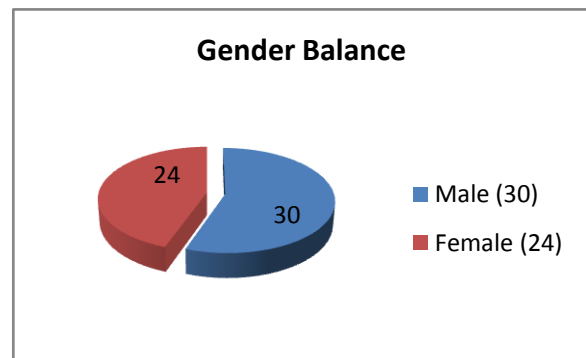
- To produce advocates who would take up profession with devotion and commitment.
- To enable the students to handle the new challenges of legal profession in the globalised world.
- To ensure the all round personality development of the students by giving fair importance to curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

PROFILE OF YOUNG ADULTS

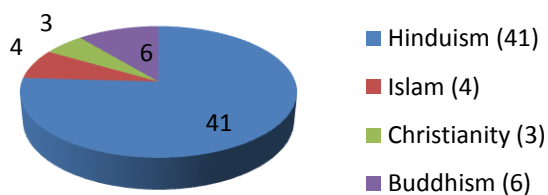
54 national and international delegates from 16 states within India and Bhutan attended the HRE program. Interestingly, the ratio of male vs. female participants was fair in the sense we had 30 male students and 24 female students. The mix of religion was there but majority of them being practicing Hindus (but varying in faith traditions, practices and worshipping deities) and a small percentage were from Islam, Christianity and Buddhism.

Gender Balance

Male : 30
Female : 24



Religious Background

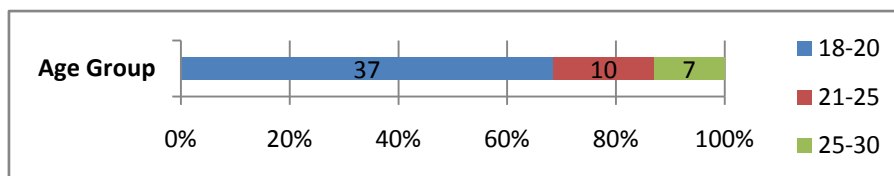


Religious Background

Hinduism : 41
Islam : 04
Christianity : 03
Buddhism : 06

Age Group

18-20 : 37
21-25 : 10
25-30 : 07



Countries

India : 48
Bhutan : 06

States

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | : 03 | 9. Meghalaya | : 01 |
| 2. Assam | : 01 | 10. Mizoram | : 01 |
| 3. Bihar | : 06 | 11. Orissa | : 02 |
| 4. Delhi | : 01 | 12. Rajasthan | : 03 |
| 5. Haryana | : 02 | 13. Tamil Nadu | : 05 |
| 6. Karnataka | : 06 | 14. Uttar Pradesh | : 11 |
| 7. Madhya Pradesh | : 01 | 15. Uttarakhand | : 01 |
| 8. Manipur | : 01 | 16. West Bengal | : 03 |

DAY 1 – 04.04.2013

Inaugural Function (9.00am-10.00am)

The 2-day HRE program had an auspicious beginning with the invocation seeking the blessings of the almighty for the successful organisation of the program as is the tradition in this part of the world. Ms. Nithya Anantapur, a student of the college rendered the invocation song. The program again went into an auspicious mood with the traditional lighting of the lamp by the guests on the dais. Ms. Jayashree, Faculty, KLE Law College introduced the guests on the dais to the participants. Mr. K. Ramachandran, HRE Facilitator, briefed the students about the IARF-HRE project briefly. Ms. Anbu Arumugam, President, RFYN International briefed the participants about the RFYN and its role in IARF-HRE project. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Thomas Mathew, Chairman, SACC and the Principal, KLE Law College; Dr. J. M. Mallikarjunaiah delivered the Presidential remarks on the occasion. Mr. Manojkumar Hiremath, Faculty, KLE Law College delivered the vote of thanks to one and all in this regard. A short and brief affair the inaugural function kick started the 2-day program.

Session I – Introduction & Ice-Breaking (10.00am-11.00am)

We devised a few games to initiate ice-breaking and that kicked off fresh energy among the students. Later, we divided them into groups ensuring that there was a proper mix of religion, country, and gender in all the groups. Again, I am happy the moderators were an energetic bunch of young adult leaders and HRE trainers who have been with RFYN in the past and have been trained by IARF-SACC-RFYN. The moderators were K. Ramachandran, Anbu Arumugam, President, RFYN International, and Gautham Bharathi, Young Adult Leader, Chennai. The groups were left with the task of pairing up with each one and introduce the other person in the pair to their group. This simple task was very effective in enabling the group to know each other at a basic level. It was nice to see all the group members being so energetic and excited about the whole process which was simplified and gave them ample opportunity to get to know each other's skills.

Session II – “In Search of Nuclear Energy – A Human Rights Perspective” – Lecture by Dr. Thomas Mathew, Chairman, SACC (11.30am – 01.00pm)

This is a slight innovation over the normal HRE series design which we deliberated upon before finalizing it into the series design of the RFYN-HRE program. We have introduced two lecture sessions on Day 1 and Day 2 of the program. The first one was delivered by Dr. Thomas Mathew, who is an expert in this field of research on Day 1 after a short tea-break. The rationale for the choice topic is that nuclear energy is an important issue in human rights education. India’s defense policy is centered on building a nuclear arsenal for the protection of its homeland. Hence, we felt strongly that a lecture in this topic will enable students to understand the issues surrounding nuclear energy from a human rights perspective. A beautiful lecture session which was followed by an intense interactive session with the students from various backgrounds highlighted the need for more innovations such as these in the 3rd Phase of the World Human Rights Program by the UN itself which will percolate into our IARF-HRE project in the future.

Session III – Introduction to UDHR (2.00pm – 3.00pm)

The session after lunch brought back the students to the HRE mould with a brief introduction about Human Rights by Ms. Anbu Arumugam, President, RFYN International. The students settled into their 5 groups after lunch for the purpose of group work and presentation and to discuss the articles among themselves. Each group was given a set of articles to be studied by them after viewing the short film on the UDHR articles. They were given time to present their group work on UDHR and DIDRB on Day 2, a slight variation over the usual HRE format, because we wanted the students to have a practical and theoretical understanding of Human Rights before they present their views on the articles themselves. Without a basic understanding their presentation would be void of any originality of ideas and views and they would be simply reading a modified version of the articles themselves. Keeping this in mind, the UDHR session and short film viewing were sandwiched between the Lecture session and the 3-short films Rita’s Choice, Where is Home and Sacred Groove. After, the introduction to UDHR and Human Rights the groups were given time to go through the reading material provided to them in regard.

Session IV – Viewing of 3-Short Films followed by Group Discussion (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

The last session of Day 1 was the viewing of the 3-short films by the students. The session started a little early and went on till 4.30pm. The students went into their respective groups and watched the three short films Rita’s Choice, Where is Home and Sacred Groove. The film seems to have had a varied but strong impact on the students. They were not assigned any movie for their group work but were showed the films for fresh viewing. After the screening of the short films the groups were given the choice and film they wanted to do, again a slight variation from the normal HRE format, wherein all the groups are given one movie and characters to do their chart and group presentations. This was done based on the demand of the students and the discussion by the organizers, though we wanted to test the idea on the floor. It was successful as the groups chose the films they wanted to do a presentation based on how much they could connect to the idea and issue the film itself is based on. The 5-groups made their presentation after the screening of the movies. We wound up the Day 1 activities with a short tea break for the students.

DAY 2 – 05.04.2013

Recap of Day 1 (9.00am – 10.00am)

Day 2 started with a recap of day 1 sessions and impressions of students on what we organised for them on day 1. The students felt the session by Dr. Thomas Mathew was a very important one for all of them with the awareness the lecture created on nuclear energy. Most of them felt it was an eye-opener for them. Another aspect that was highlighted was during the introduction session many of the students shared that they did not know what UDHR was and at the end of the day they were much more aware of the articles and the very concept of human rights. Thirdly, the group work on 3-short films brought out lot of creativity while they made their presentation and it also made re-focus their minds to bring to light their thoughts on the issues brought out in the movie they viewed. The recap is an important tool to assess the mindset of the target group, in this case the students, with regard to the series design and also to measure the impact of the program thus far.

Session V – “Human Rights & Communal Harmony” -Lecture by Mrs. Nithya, Young Adult Leader & Assistant Professor, Department of Human Rights, Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai (10.00am – 11.00am)

On Day 2 we had Mrs. Nithya deliver a lecture on the topic “Human Rights & Communal Harmony”. She is an Assistant Professor who teaches Human Rights at the college level. She is also a Young Adult Leader who has been associated with the RFYN since 2008. She attended the International Young Adult Conference in Jordan in 2008 organized by IARF-RFYN. She has also organized several programs hosting IARF-SACC-RFYN in her college since then. This lecture was a tad different in that it was an interactive-cum-lecture session because of the nature of the topic. Communal harmony is a very sensitive issue in India, and our group was a mix of several religions, caste, community, regional diversity. Hence, we wanted to set up the issues based on the views and reactions of the students by making it participative. The students were all totally moved by the methodology and issues brought out in the lecture by Mrs. Nithya.

Session VI – Group Work based on UDHR & DIDRB (11.30am – 01.00pm)

After the intensive lecture session, the group broke for a short tea-break to refresh their minds and the group work on UDHR articles and DIDRB articles began after tea. Each group was given few articles and was asked to present their explanations and views on the articles. After, the presentation on UDHR the same process was followed for the presentation on the articles in DIDRB. Interestingly, it was nice to observe that each member of the group presented some part of their group work, which means participation was wholesome and not one person leading the entire group. The other variation which as organizers we did not plan but allowed it on the floor was that, there was a request from the students that they wanted to have a question & answer session against each group on the explanations that were given for the articles. This enabled a further group discussion which extended the understanding of the students. They were made to justify their views and explanations on UDHR and DIDRB and not merely do a group presentation for the program.

Session VII – Feedback & Reflections (2.00pm – 3.00pm)

The RFYN-HRE program content officially ended with this session, though we had the certificate distribution and valedictory after this session. We gave the students the feedback format and asked them to write down their views on the 2-day program. After the written work, the floor was open for the students to express their views on the 2-day program, and it was heartening to see that 6-

students are attending this program for the 3rd time, the HRE program last year in their college, the Mysore RFYN International Conference and the RFYN-HRE now. They expressed that they had no reservation in signing up for the program when the announcement was made in their institution. Another aspect was we had planned for a 45-student program this time around. But due to heavy demand the college gave us a list of 48 participants on the day we reached for the program, during registration we had 6 students from Bhutan who wanted to register for the program on the spot. We the organizers agreed and the final strength of the RFYN-HRE program was 54.

Valedictory Function (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

The valedictory function was a brief affair with main focus on the distribution of the certificates to the students. The function started with Ms. Nithya Anantapur rendering the invocation. The scheduled guests could not make it to the program due to some other commitments and they had expressed their inability to join us but sent in their wishes for the program. The welcome address was delivered by Mrs. Anitha, Senior Faculty, KLE Law College. Mr. K. Ramachandran delivered the presidential address and Mr. Manojkumar Hiremath, Faculty; KLE Law College also addresses the gathering and Ms. Anbu Arumugam, delivered the vote of thanks. The participants were given their certificates and the 2-day program came to a close. As a token of our appreciation to the students we made arrangements to give them ice-cream instead of tea on that evening.

View Photos of the program:

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/photos/106048874172816275704/albums/5864311088984426593>