

Human Rights Education Workshop
Held at
Deshbandhu Mahavidyalaya (Chittaranjan College)
Chittaranjan, Burdwan, West Bengal
on 9-10 March 2013

Facilitator: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu



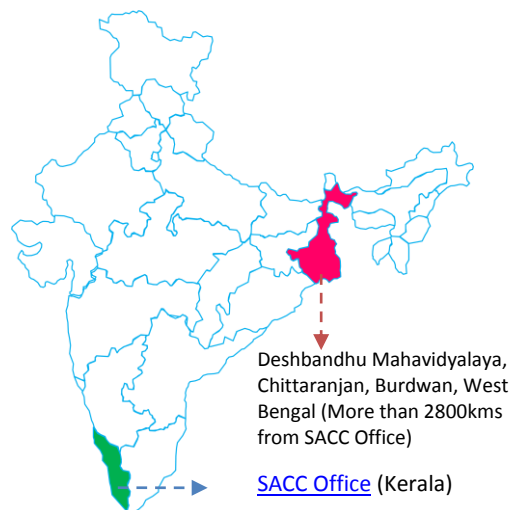
REPORT

At a Glance

Venue	Deshbandhu Mahavidyalaya (Chittaranjan College), Chittaranjan, Burdwan, West Bengal
Date	9-10 March 2013
Facilitator	Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
Number of Participants	40
Gender Balance	Female-23 & Male-17
Age Group	18-35
Religious Representation	Hinduism (Comprising different sects)-35, Christianity-3, Islam -1 & Sikhism-1

Deshbandhu Mahavidyalaya, Burdwan is an affiliate institution of the University of Burdwan and a registered academy of University Grants Commission imparts instructions on general degree courses in Science, Humanities and Commerce streams and professional degree courses in Advertising, Sales Promotion and Sales Management, BBA (Hons) & BCA (Hons).

The institute was established in 1973, under the aegis of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Hindustan Cables Ltd. and a group of philanthropists, it travelled a terrain of hard times and had landed, with the blessings of the Govt. of West Bengal, the U.G.C., the CLW, the HCL, the people of the locality and many other well wishers, to a plateau ultimately. Deshabandhu Mahavidyalaya was established with the specific objective to cater to the need of Higher Education of the locality. This College has also the goal to develop healthy student - teacher relationship, to inculcate among students values that will help them live in harmony with the world at large and to help them become efficient members of the futuristic society. This College also does not ignore the imperative to generate employment as well as helping students to bring their learning bear upon every day of existence.



Chittaranjan is an industrial small town with Metropolitan Characters. People of different castes, classes, religions and languages live here, who once came here to work in Indian Railway locomotive Works centre and Hindustan Cables Ltd. Contemporary social and cultural problems are predominant in this industrial belt which leads to conflicts, discords or violence very often. Human Rights face resistance and in consequence human rights are being violated. Therefore, it is utmost important to sensitize local people about the important of Human Rights and the nature and types of violation of Human Rights, particularly the rights of religion and belief. Forty (40) participants attended the HRE program. Out of which 23 are girls and 17 are boys, including teachers.

Main Aim

- To enhance and promote Religious Harmony & Human rights irrespective of religion, caste, sex, color etc. and enjoy all sorts of freedom in democracy which has led down by national Govt.
- Avoid social, cultural, political violence, intolerance & conflicts by accepting the differences of human beings.

Objective

- To educate, motivate and change the mind set up of the young people of different religious traditions about the rights of human beings & the concept of religion.
- To eliminate all form of intolerance through exchange of dialogue and enjoying religious freedom, human rights and dignity.

Timeline

Two days program – 9th & 10th March 2013 from morning 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Session outline

1st session (9th March at 09:30 am to 01:00pm)

- Greetings from the facilitator for joining this learning / action process.
- Social purposes and learning goal of this HRE workshop
- Introduction of participants & statements of expectation
- Identifying their concerns about intolerance, religious discrimination & conflict
- Find out Social purposes and learning goal of this HRE workshop
- Sharing and categorizing their concerns
- Proposing goal for social change to overcome obstacles to religious freedom
- Sharing goals
- Thinking about action
- Film show 1st time & responses after the show.

2nd Session (02:00pm to 03:30pm)

- Reading, acknowledging and 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 (03:30pm to 05:30 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 (10th March from 09:30 to 11:30pm)

- Film Show – ‘Sacred Grove’
- Responding the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about multiple injustice
- Analyses the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views & application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

5th Session (11:30pm to 01:00pm)

- 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 (02:00pm-05:00pm)

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

Methodology

Group Discussions, lectures, case studies, Audio visual learning and Group report preparation.

Issues rose

Social problems –Religious tolerance & intolerance, tension, humiliation, repression, oppression etc, Social Change, freedom of religion & belief, UDHR, DIDR

Assumptions

All the participants had present in all the sessions of two days program. After training all came up with open and broad mind to accept the cultural differences of individuals or groups

Learning outcomes

Short-term

Participants had able to change their mind set up and had been oriented or motivated towards positive attitude of life.

Long-term

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

Resources Required

Teaching kits & training materials.

Language Problem

There was no such language problem (Both English and Bengali wereused)

Location

Deshbandhu Mahavidyalaya (Chittaranjan College), Chittaranjan, Burdwan, West Bengal

Have you already had contact with this Institute?

Yes

Why have you chosen this community/ target group?

Tension and misunderstanding present among the young generation of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians in Burdwan district and in order to resolve this problem I have selected this community/ target group.

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

Already I had discussed it with the College Authority which has sent 23 girls and 17 boys to attend this HRE program, aged between-18 to 35.

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

Participants were requested to maintain calm and peace during discussion and insisted them to start open and free discussion.

Do you have ice-breaking /team building activities?

Yes

Which faith traditions attended?

Hinduism, Christianity, Sikhism & Islam

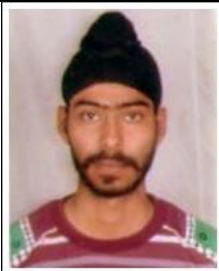
How many people from each faith attended?

Hinduism (Comprising different sects)-35, Christianity-3, Sikhism-1 & Islam-1

Name of Potential Mediator

Prof. Apurba Roy

Participants' Comments (Selected)



Sandeep Singh Johal (M), 20, Sikhism

HRE workshop organized by IARF SACC is one of the most educational experiences in my life. I would like to attend this kind of programs again in future, so that I would come to know all about the human rights. I think this program will contribute much to my future.



Sunita Tudu (F), 21, Christian (Tribal)

I could learn about human rights by attending this workshop. It is very informative program. Women in our society are being suffering from humiliation and oppression. Awareness program like this can help to change their mind set up.



Siba Prasad Mandal (M), 37, Hindu

In my opinion this kind of workshop spreads knowledge to all in the society. From this workshop I could enrich my knowledge about human rights. Now I began to share my knowledge with my family, friends, colleagues and different community groups, so that they may know their duties, rights and privileges. I thank Prof. Asit Kumar Basu for his valuable service and contribution to this program.



Sagarika Nandy (F), 35, Hindu

This program is very good and easy to understand. All films screened in different sessions were very good. I shall try to spread this knowledge to my society. I suggest that this type of program should be held in our college in future too. Thanks to IARF for arranging this type of program.



Sofid Ali (M), 21, Muslim

This is a very good program. I could learn many things from this program. Religious discrimination is a serious issue creeping in the society now. This kind of workshop really gives an inner push to people to work together for interfaith program.

Photos

Follow the link to view the photos of the workshop

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=106>