

## Human Rights Education Workshop

Held at

**Vivekananda Seva Nikatan**

Narayanpur, Kankinara, Naihati, West Bengal

on 30 April-01 May 2013

Facilitator: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu



# REPORT

| At a Glance              |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Venue                    | : Vivekananda Seva Nikatan, Narayanpur, Kankinara, Naihati, West Bengal |
| Date                     | : 30 April-1 May, 2013  |
| Facilitator              | : Prof. Asit Kumar Basu   |
| Number of Participants   | : 32  |
| Gender                   | : Male-18 & Female-14   |
| Age Group                | : 17-24   |
| Religious Representation | : Hinduism-29 & Islam-3   |

### Introduction

Vivekananda Seva Nikatan is a government registered non-government organization, founded with the mission to abolish injustice and inequality from the society and extend cooperation in both regional and global level. Their work is based on the idea of Swami Vivekananda and work especially for the underprivileged youth, children and the women. They heard about HRE program of IARF and came to IARF Kolkata office with a request to organize such workshop in their organization in collaboration with IARF, SACC for sensitizing local youth about Human Rights and their role. The organization had its own old office house with small garden of fruit trees. President of the organization, Dr. Ambika Ghosal inaugurated and graced the occasion as president to the program and the secretary of the organization, Mr. Ashis Chatterjee grace the occasion as chief guest to the inaugural program. 14 girls and 18 boys attended the program from Hindu and Muslim communities. In spite of traditional orthodox family, two girls from same Muslim family also attended the program.



### Main Aim

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

### Objective

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

### Timeline

Two days program - On 30 April and 1 May 2013 from morning 9:30 am to 5.30 pm.

### Session outline

Inauguration

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Session (30<sup>th</sup> April at 09:30 am to 01:00pm)

- Greetings from the facilitator for joining this learning/action process.
- Introduction of participants, ice-breaking and the expectation.

- identifying their concerns about intolerance, religious discrimination and 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 1<sup>st</sup> time and responses after the show.

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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 and discrimination based on religion or belief (DIDRB).
- Major Human Rights Treaties
- Relate the goals of the participants to the rights describe in the UDHR and DIDRB

**3<sup>rd</sup> Session (03:30 pm 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 and application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Applying HR (DIDRB) what actions may be undertaken

**4<sup>th</sup> Session (1<sup>th</sup> May, 09:00 am -01:00pm)**

- 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 and application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

**5<sup>th</sup> Session (02:00 pm to 03:30 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 and application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

**6<sup>th</sup> Session (03:30 pm – 05:30 pm)**

- 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
- Rights to freedom of religion and belief

### **Assumptions**

It's a rural area, people are not so aware about the idea of interfaith and the rights of freedom of religion and belief. Most of the participants will try to establish their own opinion based on their knowledge.

### **Expected learning 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 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 and training materials- pad, pen, laptop, LCD Projector, flip charts, marker pen etc.

### **Language Problem**

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

### **Location**

Vivekananda Seva Nikatan

Narayanpur, Kankinara, Naihati, West Bengal

### **Have you already had contacted with this Institute?**

Yes

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

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

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

It is an NGO, so both boys and the girls had attended the program. I asked the organization to select potential students of various faith groups for attending this HRE program. 18 boys and 14 girls attended the program from Muslim and Hindu communities.

**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 patient during discussion. They started free discussion with open mind instead of making loud voice and unhealthy discussions.

**Did you have ice-breaking /team building activities?**

Yes

**Which faith traditions attended the program?**

Islam and Hindus

**How many people from each faith attended the program?**

Hinduism-29 & Islam-3

**Name of Potential Mediator**

Prof. Mrs. Swagata Das Mahanti

**Participants' Comments (Selected)**



**Sangita Chatterjee (F), 30, Hindu**

I enjoyed this workshop. It is very educative program. Films are very good in content. Promotion of human rights values is very important. Right to freedom of speech and right to freedom of religion are equally important. Thanks to IARF for this wonderful program.



**Sudip Kumar Parui (M), 17, Hindu**

This is a good program. I felt proud to join the program. I think this kind of education must be given to all, especially common people. Among the three films 'where is home' inspired me very much. I thank IARF for this program and happy to attend more programs of IARF.



**Rukshana Bano (F), 19, Islam**

I enjoyed this program very much. The film 'where is home' really changed my mind set up. In overall aspect the workshop dealt with the violation of human rights and religious freedom. Constant efforts of NGOs like IARF will make drastic changes in the society; especially the life of common people will be transformed.



**Subha Hazari (M), 18, Hindu**

I could learn many things from this workshop. It enriched my knowledge about human rights and religious freedom. I express my thanks to IARF for conducting this program. The opportunity to interact each other and express our views was very inspiring and promising. I'm expecting more programs in near future.



**Jubeda Begam (F), 30, Islam**

I felt proud to attend this program. Films were very educative and eye opening. All discussions were very important. Violations of Human Rights and Religious Freedom must be highlighted by everyone and steps have to be taken to tackle such issues. Thanks to IARF for organizing this kind of awareness seminars.

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**View Photos**

Follow the link given below to view the photos of the workshop

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=110>