



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



# Human Rights Education Workshop

Held at  
Swarnachuda Degree College

Mitrapur, Nilgiri, Odisha.  
Held on 27-28 April, 2013  
Sponsored by IARF SACC



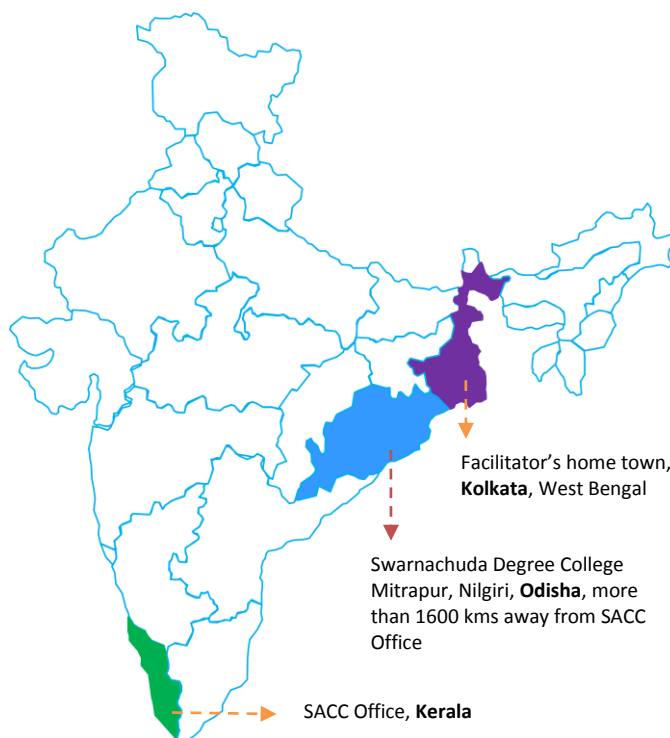
## REPORT

Facilitator: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu

### At a Glance

Venue	: Swarnachuda Degree College, Mitrapur, Nilgiri, Odisha.
Date	: 27-28 April, 2013
Facilitator	: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
Number of Participants	: 32
Gender	: Male-10, Female-22
Age Group	: 17-30
Religious Representation	: Hinduism-24; Christianity-4 & Islam-4

Swarnachuda Degree College is a Government sponsored Degree College, established in 1978 at Mitrapur town of Nilgiri Anchal of Odisha State. It is a backward rural area of Odisha state, 178 km away from capital city, Bhubaneswar. Mitrapur is a heterogeneous community with distressed and marginalized people. Religious conversion is very common here among the tribal people. Gender equality is hardly found here. The area is pre dominated by Hindu lower caste people and Tribal. Muslims and Christian are also live in good number. The locality has experienced few social discords during last 5 years in connection with religious conversion and other few religious issues. The Red Cross Unit (affiliated with Red Cross Society) of this College invited IARF to organize a HRE program at their College in collaboration with Red cross Unit and NSS unit of the College to sensitize the young students about Human Rights and to augment the cordial relation among different religious groups.



The program was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. R. B. Panda, Pro- Vice Chancellor of MV University, Principal of Swarnachuda College graced the occasion as chief guest and Dr. Umakanta Nayak, YRC counselor, graced the occasion as special guest, respectively.

All the speakers spoke about the importance of Human rights education. They all appreciated IARF for conducting such program which is relevant for the present social situation of India.

### 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 day program, on 27 -28 April 2013 from morning 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

### **Session outline**

Inauguration

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Session (on 27 April at 10.30 am to 1:00pm)**

- Greetings from the facilitator for joining the learning/action process.
- Introduction of participants, ice-breaking and the expectation.
- Identifying the concerns of participants about intolerance, religious discrimination and Conflict - sharing and categorizing concerns.
- Social purposes, learning goal and the social goal of the workshop
- Proposing goal for social change to overcome obstacles to Religious Freedom - Sharing goals
- Thinking about action
- Film show (first) and responses after the show.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Session (2pm to 3.30 pm)**

- 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).
- Major Human Rights Treaties
- Relate the goals of the participants to the rights, described in the UDHR & DIDRB

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Session (3.30 pm to 5.30 pm)**

- Film show - 'Rita's Choices'
- Responding to the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about injustice
- Analyzing the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views and application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Applying Human Rights (DIDRB) and discussion on what actions may be undertaken?

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Session (28 April at 9 am -1pm)**

- Review – Rita's Choices on the light of DIDRB and 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 (2.00 pm to 3.30 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 Human Rights to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Session (3.30 pm – 5.30 pm)**

- Reviewing their concern and 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 concept of interfaith and the rights of freedom of religion and belief. Most of the participants tried 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 upto a certain extend.

#### **Resources Required**

Cooperation and man power support from the local organization

**Teaching and training materials** – Pad, pen, laptop, LCD projector, flip charts, and marker pen etc.

#### **Language Problem**

There was no Language problem (Both English and Hindi were used)

#### **Location**

Swarnachuda Degree College, Mitrapur, Nilgiri, Odisha.

#### **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 rural area of Odisha state, 178 km away from Bhubaneswar capital city. In order to resolve tensions and misunderstanding we have selected this area.

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

It is a co-education College, 10 boys and 22 girls participated in the program between the age group 17 to 30 years. I asked the organization to select potential students of various faith groups for attending this HRE program. Accordingly students from Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Tribals attended the Program.

**What steps have you undertaken in order 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 noise and loud voice.

**Have you had ice-breaking /team building activities?**

Yes

**Which faith traditions attended the program?**

Islam, Christian, Hindus and Tribals

**How many people from each faith group attended the workshop?**

Islam : 04  
Christianity : 04  
Hinduism (including various sects and tribes) : 24

**Name of Potential Mediator**

Prof. S. K. Sovan Hassan

**Participants' Comments (Selected)**



**Sayad Rajababu (M), 18, Islam**

I enjoyed the program. Benefited much knowing human rights. The messages of films were awesome. Making a harmonious life is very important. Freedom must be given to one to practice his/her rights without any trouble. Thanks to IARF.



**Mamata Sahu (F), 17, Hindu**

This program is highly educative. Films are very important to pass the message. Rita's Choice presents a message that 'we should not interfere in the personal matters of others'. Government should take serious steps to protect the rights of poor and minority. Also the rights and privileges of minority must be protected. Prof. Asit Kumar Basu is a good facilitator. This type of program should be given to all college students.



**S.K. Babula (M), 21, Islam**

The program was very good. Seeing different between people of different religious groups should not be entertained. This kind of workshop cultivates a spirit of unity among participants. Subjects dealt in films are very important and need of hour. Thanks to IARF.



**Jyoti Patra (F), 17, Christian**

This program is very much beneficial for our social life. The opportunity given to express our views and ideas was very important and thanks to IARF for the same. Awareness about ones rights will decrease the possibility of violation of rights. I express my heartfelt thanks to facilitator and IARF.



**Gayatri Ghadei (F), 17, Hindu**

I enjoyed the workshop very well. It is beneficial for our social life, especially in the context of human rights. Facilitator, Prof. Asit Kumar Basu explained everything in detail. The message of love and harmony being taught by IARF may spread to various institutions and human beings.

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#### **View Photos**

Follow the link to view photos of the workshop

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=109>