



international association for

religious freedom

belief with integrity

Human Rights Education Workshop held at Belley Ma Sarada Seva Kendra

Rathtala, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Held on 28-29 June 2013



REPORT

Facilitator: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu

At a Glance

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| Venue | : Belley Ma Sarada Seva Kendra, Rathtala, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal |
| Date | : 28-29 June 2013 |
| Facilitators | : Prof. Asit Kumar Basu |
| Number of Participants | : 30 |
| Gender | : Female-12 & Male-18 |
| Age Group | : 17-19 |
| Religious Representation | : Hinduism-27 (Comprising various sects) & Islam-3 |

Introduction

Belley Ma Sarada Seva Kendra is a Government registered Non-Governmental Organization working to eliminate poverty and inequality from the village and urban society of West Bengal. Its administrative office is situated at Bellay, Rathtala, North 24 Parganas district, 45 km away from Kolkata city. The area is dominated by migrated Hindus from Bihar and Bangladesh, along with some Muslims and few Christians. Violation of human rights is very common across the area. Due to lack of Human Rights awareness among the people, irruption of conflict, discord and feuds are occurring constantly in this area.

Main Aim

Establish freedom of religion and belief as essential human rights and avoid all sorts of intolerance, demean, tension, violence and conflicts from the society.

Objective

Educate and motivate the people of different religious groups about human rights and eliminate all forms of intolerance, so that people may possess religious freedom, human rights and dignity.

Timeline

Two day program - On 28th June and 29th June 2013 from morning 9:30 hrs to 17:30 hrs.

Session outline

1st Session - on 28th June at 09:30am to 01:15pm

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

2nd Session (2:15pm to 5:30pm)

- Reading, acknowledging and clarifying of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- The declaration on the Elimination of all forms of intolerance and 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 (on 29th June at 9:30am to 1:15pm)

- Film show – 'Rita's Choices'.
- Responding to the film - awakening participants' 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.

4th Session (2:15pm to 3:45pm)

- 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 Human Rights to prevent such injustices.
- Action to be undertaken.

5th Session (3:45pm to 5:00pm)

- 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

6th Session (5:00pm to 5:30pm)

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

Methodology

Group discussion, group presentation, lectures, case studies, Audio-visual tools etc.

Issues rose

- Social problems and Social Change
- Rights to freedom of religion and belief
- Intolerance, peace, religious conflicts etc.

Assumptions

The host organization has cooperated in all possible ways to conduct this Program.

Expected learning outcomes

Short-term

Participants have been oriented, motivated and understood the freedom of religion and beliefs as essential human right.

Long-term

All sorts of social violence, conflicts and tension will be resolved; peace and harmony will be prevailed in the society.

Resources Required

Funds, manpower, teaching materials, training materials, training hall, audio visual equipments etc.

Language Problem

There was no language problem at all. (English and Bengali were used)

Community Chosen

Students from semi-urban village setting

Location

Bellay Ma Sarada Seva Kendra, Bellay, Rathtala, North 24 Parganas

Have you already had contact with this community?

Yes

Why have you chosen this community/ target group?

Tension and misunderstanding were present among the young generation of Hindu and Islamic communities in this semi urban area. So in order to mitigate this problem this areas had been selected.

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

Already communications have been made many times to ensure the balance of gender and age.

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

Participants were strictly insisted to have patience and initiate open and free discussion and to exchange dialogue each other avoiding any kind of tension.

Did you have ice-breaking /team building activities?

Yes

Which faith traditions attended the workshop?

Islam and Hinduism

How many members from each faith group attended the workshop?

3 from Islam (male-1 and female-2) and 27 from Hinduism (Different sects), (female-10 and male-17).

Names and faith traditions of at least 3 people in the group who were in the support team?

Sarina Gaji (Islam), Mustak Ali Mondal (Islam) and Koushik Das (Hindu)

Name of Potential Mediator

Subhash Das

Participants' Comments (Selected)



Arijit Aieh (M), 17, Hindu

I'm very happy for the privilege given me to participate in this program. I have only a peripheral understanding about human rights. After attending the program I got lots of knowledge and insights about human rights. Hopefully, I'll apply the knowledge in future. Thanks a lot to the facilitator. Now we are committed to build an ideal society.

Serina Gaji (F), 17, Islam

The Human Rights Education workshop was a great opportunity for all of us. The program helped us to develop our knowledge about human rights. Moreover, now we are inspired to build peace and harmony in the society. When we cultivate peace and harmony there will be no room for inequality. Facilitator was very knowledgeable.



Chinmoy Biswas (M), 17, Hindu

I am sure that this program helped me to increase my knowledge about human rights. This program not only gave us knowledge about human rights, but also pointed out some social problems and their solutions. Facilitator of the program is very skilled in explaining things to us. I'm really excited to join more programs in future.

Sumana Saha (F), 18, Hindu

I'm very happy to participate in this program. I enjoyed all sessions of two day program. I'll keep all insights and apply for the betterment of my society. Overall I learned many things from the program. Thanks to all who really worked behind this program.



Mustak Ali Mondal (M), 17, Islam

I learned many things from this workshop. All sessions were equally important and inspiring. I'll share this valuable knowledge with my family, friends and fellow beings in my society. We have to cultivate peace and harmony for the well being and development of our country. I would like to attend more programs to enhance my knowledge and commitment. Thanks a lot to the organizers.

Photos of the Workshop (Selected)

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=116>