



international association for

religious freedom

belief with integrity

Human Rights Education Workshop held at

## Kustia Sabuj Sangha

Kustia, Sonarpur, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Held on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013



# REPORT

Facilitator: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu

## At a Glance

Venue	: Kustia Sabuj Sangha, Kustia, Sonarpur, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal
Date	: 22-23 June 2013
Facilitators	: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
Number of Participants	: 31
Gender	: Female-14 & Male-17
Age Group	: 17-34
Religious Representation	: Hinduism-31 (Various castes and sub-castes)

## Introduction

Kustia is a government registered voluntary organization affiliated with Rama Krishna Mission Lokasiksha Parishad, Narendrapur, founded in 1985 with the objective to eliminate poverty and illiteracy from the society and spread education across the state. It is a backward, multi religious community, 45 km away from Kolkata city. Tension and misunderstanding is present among the people of this area.

The organization requested us to organize an HRE workshop in their organization in collaboration with IARF-SACC for sensitizing local youth about the importance of Human Rights and their role to protect it.

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> June & 23<sup>rd</sup> June 13 from morning 9:30 am to 5:30pm.

## Session outline

Inauguration

### 1<sup>st</sup> Session (on 22 June at 9:30 am to 1:00pm)

- Greetings from the facilitator for joining the 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 the workshop etc
- Proposing goal for social change to overcome obstacles to religious Freedom - Sharing goals
- Thinking about action
- Film show and responses after the show.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Session (2:00pm to 3:30 pm)

- 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).
- Majors Human Rights Treaties
- Relate the goals of the participants to the rights describe in the UDHR & DIDRB

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Session (3:30 pm to 5:30 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 (23<sup>rd</sup> June at 9:00 am -1:00pm)**

- 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 to 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 (3:30 pm – 5:30 pm)**

- Reviewing participants' 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 idea 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.

**Resources Required**

Cooperation and man power support from the local organization

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

**Language Problem**

There was no language problem existed (Both English and Bengali were used)

**Location**

Kustia Sabuj Sangha Hall, Kustia, Sonarpur block.

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

Yes

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

Tension and misunderstanding present among the people of this area. It is a backward, multi religious community, 45 km away from Kolkata city. In order to resolve tensions and misunderstanding we have particularly selected this area for organizing HRE workshop.

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

Both boys and the girls participated between the age group 19 to 35 years. 17 boys and 14 girls attended the program from different sects of Hindu community. No one has turned from Muslim community due to their prejudices even after several requests.

**What steps have been 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 patience during discussion. They started open and free discussion instead of loud voice. Since participants from different sects of Hinduism possibility of serious discussion and exchange of words were expected. However no such problems were emerged.

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

Yes

**Which faith traditions attended?**

Hindus (Various sects)

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

31 participants, 17 boys and 14 girls joined the program from different castes and sub-castes of Hindu community.

**Name of Potential Mediator**

Topesh Mondal



**Ayan Mondal (M), 20, Hindu Dalit**

Today is a memorable day of my life because this workshop has given me a lot of knowledge about human rights. From here I came to know that what a boy or girl should do to extend or to make people aware about their rights. The facilitator of this program Mr. Asit Basu worked so hard to make us understand about the subject. I'm feeling proud after I finished the training.

**Chandrani Halden (F), 23, Hindu**

This program is so beautiful and excellent. Moreover the program was very educative in nature. It gave us motivation to work for the well being of our fellow beings. Thanks a lot to IARF for this meaningful effort.



**Prasenjit Nazkar (M), 23, Hindu**

The program influenced me very much. The films were very informative to understand the subject clearly. I'll try to aware people about their rights and responsibilities. I'll be very active to work for the well being of people and society.

**Sneha Mondal (F), 19, Hindu Dalit**

This workshop helped me to know about the human rights. It enriched my knowledge about human values. Now I'm motivated not to tolerate any disturbance or harassment on human rights. This kind of workshop has to be organized in schools, college and other social organizations. It's true that all are born free and equal in dignity and rights. I'll definitely try to make this practice in life.



**Sourya Sinha (M), 18, Hindu**

I'm very proud to join this workshop. The workshop exposed present day problems of our society. I could learn about many social issues. Films were interesting to understand the subject. Thanks to IARF and facilitator for this program.

**View Photos** of the Workshop

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=115>