



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

Human Rights Education Workshop

Held at

ANDHRA UNIVERSITY, Visakhapatnam

On 04-05 July 2013

REPORT



PARTICIPANTS with Facilitator, Guests and College Officials

Facilitators: Prof. N. Prakasa Rao & Prof. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi

Program at a Glance

Venue	: ANDHRA UNIVERSITY NSS Conference Hall, Visakhapatnam.
Date	: 04-05 July, 2013
Facilitators	: Prof. N. Prakasa Rao & Prof. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi
Number of Participants	: 39
Gender	: Male-25, Female-14
Age Group	: 19-53
Religious Representation	: Hinduism-36 (Different Sects), Christianity- 02 & Unitarianism - 01

Introduction

Two day Human Rights Education workshop sponsored by IARF SACC, Kerala was held at ANDHRA UNIVERSITY NSS Conference Hall, Visakhapatnam on 04-05 July, 2013 in collaboration with Andhra University NSS officials. Altogether 39 participants, comprising NSS program officers and NSS volunteers of different faith communities attended the program. The workshop was organised by B. V. Foundation for peace and harmony, a member group of IARF.

***National Service Scheme**, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Govt. of India, popularly known as NSS was launched in Gandhiji's Birth Centenary Year 1969, in 37 Universities involving 40,000 students with primary focus on the development of personality of students through community service. Today, NSS has more than 3.2 million student volunteers on its roll spread over 298 Universities and 42 (+2) Senior Secondary Councils and Directorate of Vocational Education all over the country. From its inception, more than 3.75 crores students from Universities, Colleges and Institutions of higher learning have benefited from the NSS activities.*

Prof. GSN. Raju, Vice-Chancellor, Andhra University attended as chief guest and inaugurated the workshop by lighting the traditional lamp. During the inaugural ceremony different faith prayers were offered. The chief guest in his address said that rights are equal, but responsibilities are different depending upon the positions held in the society. He appreciated the efforts taken by the members of IARF to educate people on various aspects of Human Rights. Forums such as this would help to eliminate ignorance among people. Experts in the subject should come forward to enlighten the NSS officers and help society to become more civilized, he said.

Md. Shamsuddin, Secretary, Dr. Nad Pal, Program Coordinator, NSS, AU interacted in different occasions. Our facilitators Prof. N. Prakasa Rao and Prof. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi spoke in various occasions.

Main Aim of the Series.

- Sensitize Degree & PG students about the rights of freedom of religion and belief.
- Promote religious harmony & peace among difference communities of students.

Objectives

- To create awareness among the students the need to minimize socio-cultural and political scuffle, conflict, violence and tension from the society.

- Eliminate all forms of intolerance, humiliation and hatred through exchange of dialogue among difference faith groups & traditions.

Time line

Session Outline

Inauguration

1st Session (4th July 2013, 10.00 am to 1 pm)

- Introduction of participants
- Expectations & Assessments
- IARF & HREP
- Identification of issues of religious intolerants & Discrimination

2nd Session (02:00pm – 03:30pm)

- Reading, acknowledging and clarifying UDHR
- Discussion on UDHR
- Discussion on Declaration on Elimination of all forms Intolerance And Beliefs (DEIB)
- Discussion on Major Treaties
- Relating the goals of the participants to the rights describe in the UDHR & DEIB.

3rd Session (03:30pm-05:00pm)

- Film Show- Rita's choice
- Responding to the film-awakening their awareness.
- Inquiry about injustice.
- Analyse the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative Views and application of Human Rights to prevent such injustices.

4th Session (5th July 2013, 09:30 am – 01:00 pm)

- Review-Rita's Choice on the light of DEIB
- Film Show-Sacred Grove
- Responding to the film
- Inquiry about injustice.
- Analyse the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative Views and application of Human Rights to prevent such injustices.

5th Session (02:00pm-03:30pm)

- Review of Sacred Grove on the light of said goal.
- Film show- where is home?
- Inquiry about injustice.
- Analyse the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative Views and application of Human Rights to prevent such injustices.

6th Session (03:30pm-05:30pm)

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

- Valedictory function and distribution of certificates.

Methodology

Participatory method - Group work and presentation, Discussions, Lectures, Case studies, Role play, Audio visual learning & Group Presentation.

Issues Rose

Gender Discrimination, Human Dignity, hatred, suspecting each other, humiliation, intolerance, religious conflicts, Right to Freedom of Religion and Belief.

Assumptions

All the participants will have to present in all the sessions of two days programme. After participation the group come with open and broad mind to accept each other and accept the cultural differences of individuals.

Risk factors

It is a developed city and heterogeneous in nature. The members are from Hindu and Christian community. There exists a little tension and risks among them with regard to establishing their rights of religious freedom and belief.

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 as Human Rights. Participants have agreed to celebrate all religious festivals.

Long-term

All sorts of scuffle, violence, conflict and tension will be resolved by understanding each other.

Resources required

- Cooperation and man power from the local college where HREP conducted.
- Supporting materials, pad, pen, power point, projector machine, flipcharts and marker, pens were required.

Language problem

There was no language problem since all were degree students. Most of the participants are college lecturers. However Telugu was also used.

Why have you chosen this community/target group?

NSS program officers are college lecturers. They are people with lots of potential to influence students and society alike. Therefore we decided to motivate them with Human Rights values and insights.

How did you maintain balance of gender and ages?

NSS program officers are consisting of both male and female. Therefore altogether 39 participants comprising NSS officers and a few students attended the programme (Male-25, Female-14) and the age group between 19-53 years.

What are the steps have you taken 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 discussions. They were given opportunity to start open and free discussion instead of making loud voice.

Have you had ice-breaking/team building activities?

Yes

Which faith traditions attended the workshop?

Hindus, Christians and Unitarians

How many people from each faith attended?

Hindus-36, Christians-02 and Unitarianism - 01

Name of the Potential Mediator

Dr. Nad Pal, NSS Coordinator, Andhra University.

Participant's Comments



G. Ramalaskhmi (F), 53, Hindu

After attending the IARF Human Rights Education workshop I felt very happy because, India is a country having so many religions and philosophical systems. In this backdrop misunderstanding between the members of different religions and culture group is so common. Also violation of rights will be also common. So this program really narrated the need of applying human rights and religious tolerance in civil life.

Ms. P. Jyothi Civian (F), 38, Christian

This is a very good program. We could learn many things from the program. Now I understand clearly about the fundamental rights and duties. All three films were good and beautifully covered all issues. Thanks a lot for the program.



G. Nanaji RO (M) 54, Unitarianism

The program was very good. It highlighted the need of practising human rights and peaceful co-existence of different teachings in a pluralistic society like India. Films and discussions were really thought provoking. Thanks to IARF for organizing this meaningful program. Facilitators were really good.

P. Ramu (M), 32, Hindu

From the insights I got from the workshop what I understand is society cannot change by itself, unless the youth takes the initiative. If the youth in the society are awoken drastic changes can be taken place in the society and intolerance and violations can be shortened upto a good extend. Thanks to facilitators for this program.



View **Photos**:

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=119>