



international association for
religious freedom
belief with integrity

Human Rights Education Workshop held at **East Calcutta Girls College**

Lake Town, Kolkata.
Held on 26-27 July 2013



REPORT

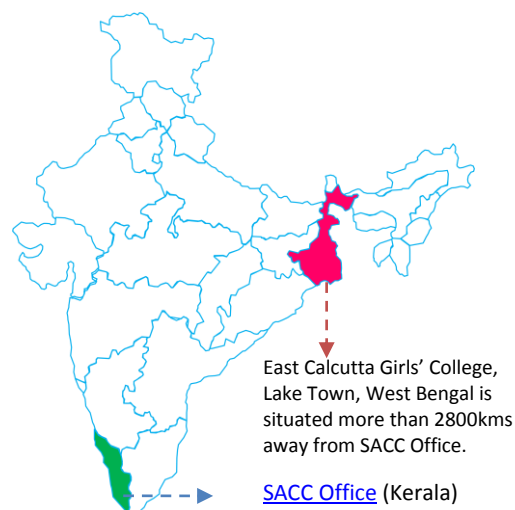
Facilitator: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu

At a Glance

Venue	: East Calcutta Girls' College, Lake Town, Kolkata.
Date	: 26-27 July 2013
Facilitators	: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
Number of Participants	: 32
Age Group	: 17-23
Religious Representation	: Hinduism-27, Islam-3, Buddhism-1 & Khazi - 1

Introduction

East Calcutta Girl's College, established in 1992, offers undergraduate courses in arts and sciences. The College is affiliated to West Bengal State University. The College visualizes a life-oriented and down to earth education which ultimately empowers the students to become more humane, liberal and practical in outlook. Along with educational up-gradation, the college aspires to nurture the minds of its students with a deep sense of integrity towards their country and society. Enabled and empowered they consequently respond pro-actively to concerns and conflicts inherent in today's hardcore materialistic world, especially those of women and underprivileged persons. Expectedly therefore, once out of the Institution they become the ideal agents to both transform and develop the world around them.



Objectives

- Inculcate a sense of dedication, discipline, understanding and social responsibility.
- To synergize women and the underprivileged regarding their basic human rights.
- To facilitate leadership among students and thereby enabling them to fulfill their commitments towards society.
- To foster interaction, kinship and cultural tolerance.

Main Aim

- Sensitize young girls about the rights of freedom of religion and belief.
- Promote Religious Harmony and Peace in backward conflict prone area.

Objectives

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

Timeline

Two day program - On 26th & 27th July 2013 from morning 09:30am to 05:30pm

Session outline

26th July 2013

1st session (09:30am to 01:00pm)

- Inaugural Function
- Greetings from the facilitator for joining this learning/action process.
- Introduction of participants and ice-breaking and expectation.
- Identifying their concerns about intolerance, religious discrimination
- 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 1st time and responses after the show.

2nd Session (02:00pm to 05:30pm)

- 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.

27th July 2013

3rd Session (09:30am to 11:30am)

- 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

4th Session (11:30am to 01:00pm)

- 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

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

- 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 injustice
- Analyses the inter-religious injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views and application of HR to prevent such injustices
- Action to be undertaken

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

- 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 to be raised

Hatred, humiliation, intolerance, Religious conflicts, Rights to freedom of religion and belief.

Assumptions

Tribals, Hindus and Islam are contributing leadingly to the population of this area. Sometimes they fight each other and communal tension prevails over the area, therefore these issues have risen in the discussion.

Risk factors

Little tension and risks were found in the area with regards to their communal feelings and violation of Human rights.

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 resolved.

Resources Required

- Cooperation and man power support from the local organization
- Teaching and training materials – Note Pad, pen, LCD Projector, flip charts, marker pen etc.

Language Problem

Language did not create any problem (Both English and Bengali were used)

Location

East Calcutta Girls College, Lake Town, Kolkata.

Have you already had contact with this Institute?

Yes

Why have you chosen this community/target group?

It is presumed, tension and misunderstanding present among the young generation of this locality, that's why it is chosen.

Have you ensured the balance of gender, ages etc?

No, it is a Girls College, so only girls attended the program between 18 to 25 years old. Total 32 potential students of various faith groups attended this HRE program.

Islam-3, Buddhism-1, Tribal -1 and Hinduism- 27

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

I had inspired and insisted participants to maintain peace and to be calm and patient during discussion. However, they were allowed to make open and free discussion instead of loud voice.

Have you had ice-breaking /team building activities?

Yes

Which faith traditions attended the workshop?

Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Khasi

How many people from each faith group attended?

32 potential students of various faith groups attended this HRE program.

Islam-3, Buddhism-1, Khazi -1 and Hinduism- 27

Name of Potential Mediator:

Prof. Mrs. Panchali Majumder, NSS Program Officer.

Comments by Participants * (Selected)**Manisha Singh (F), 19, Hindu**

I thank our facilitator for the wonderful program which has enhanced my knowledge about our rights and duties, broadened our minds. I now feel responsible for myself and take actions if my or friends' rights are violated. We were shown documentary films about which have shown us the reality of the society and some cruel injustice done which had violated their rights and duties. I feel that there is lot to be done for the development and a better future of our society, India and the world as a whole. This program should be conduct in the same manner all over India.

Hanifa Khatun (F), 18, Islam

This program helped me to enrich my knowledge on human rights. I enjoyed all three films which were very touching. This was for the first time I joined in a group activity and discussion. I give thanks to IARF for this great program. I'm looking forward to joining more programs in coming days.

Madhumita Tude (F), 18, Khasi

The program was very good. I really enjoyed this program. Discussions about social issues and violations were very informative. Now I can differentiate between human rights protection and violation. It will give us more power to resist with violations. NGOs with the help of Government have to work for a just society. I'll spread this knowledge to others in my community.

Ashim K. Bama (F), 19, Buddhist

The program was excellent. I had never attended this type of program earlier. It gives very pleasure to me, as far as the exposure I got concerned. The efforts of IARF are highly appreciable. Today violation of human rights are seen everywhere. I believe that this kind of workshop will influence people and motivate them to act against violations.

View Photos of the workshop

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=125>

¹ Due to security reasons and as a policy, College did not provide the passport size photographs of participants for reporting. Also the College did not allow facilitator to take photos of the workshop. However facilitator took some photos with the consent of participants for reporting.