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religious freedom
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Human Rights Education Workshop held at **Quaide Milleth College for Men**

Chennai
Held on 16-17 July 2013



Participants with Facilitator and College Officials

REPORT

Facilitator: Mr. K. Ramachandran

At a Glance

Venue	: Quaide Milleth College for Men, Chennai.
Date	: 16-17 July 2013
Facilitators	: Mr. K. Ramachandran
Number of Participants	: 50
Gender	: Female- 27 & Male- 23
Age Group	: 17-35
Religious Representation	: Hinduism- 28 (Various castes), Islam- 16 & Christianity- 06

Introduction

Two day Human Rights Education workshop was held at Quaide Milleth College for Men¹, Chennai on 16-17 July 2013. The college is managed and administered by the Islamic community of Chennai. The Learning Group was consisting of college students and Faculty. Students comprising 27 female and 23 male from religious background and faculty from different departments participated in the program. Mr. K. Ramachandran facilitated the workshop. Ms. Nithya, Assistant Professor, Ethiraj College, Chennai and Internationally

trained Young Adult leader of IARF also joined the program and explained about IARF activities and its importance in the future and shared her experience with the participants.



Program was held more than 670 kms away from [SACC Office](#), Kerala.

With the help and cooperation of the College Principal and participants the program was successfully conducted. The design of the series was very much appreciated by all. The Principal and entire College Management was very much pleased about the program. Normally Islamic management is not open to programs like this; however the works of IARF SACC for the last many years were enough to convince the college about the project and to get permission to hold HRE workshop. Moreover mainly Muslim students are interested to study in Islamic Colleges, whereas here members of other religions like Christianity and Hinduism are also doing various programs. As a team, both the facilitator and participants enjoyed the program. The participants also assured to educate others in the community about HRE program and also they are willing to participate in IARF-Activities.

Certificates with group photo were issued to the participants at the valedictory service. The participants conveyed their gratitude to the facilitator and IARF.

Main Aim of the Series

- To make basic understanding about human rights, major human rights articles etc.
- To educate youths about harmony among different religious and faith groups.

Objectives of the series

- To propagate the Religious harmony to youths
- Make them to understand about problems based on religion and human rights and individual dignity as per article 18 of the UN Declaration.

¹ Though the name of College specifies 'men', in Tamilnadu Colleges for men also admit female students for studies; whereas male students are not admitted in women's college.

Timeline (Date and time of the series/session)

The workshop was conducted in two consecutive days.

1st Day 16th July, 09:00am to 04.00 pm Session – I to III

2nd Day 17th July, 09:00am to 04.00 pm Session – IV and V

Session outline

Breakdown of the topics covered and activities **per session**:

(16-07-2013)**First Session (09:00am to 10:30am)**

- Inaugural function
- Participants' Introduction and Expectation.
- Participants' Identity Concerns
- Statement of Purpose
- Sharing and Categorizing Concerns
- Stimulation exercise in learning groups: "Why am I here?"
- Introductory viewing of all 3 films. Immediate response

Second Session (10:45am to 12:55pm)

- Group exercise on UDHR
- Group exercise on DIDRB
- Viewing "Rita's Choice" and discussion
- Viewing "Sacred Grove" and Discussion
- Immediate Responses after the First Showing
- Deepening Awareness: An Inquiry into Injustice
- Analyzing the Injustice within a Human Rights Framework
- Recalling of the last sessions

Third Session (02:00pm to 04:00 pm)

- Viewing "Where is Home?" and Discussion
- Immediate Responses after the first showing within a Human Rights frame work
- Discussion, Action Group exercise and Chart presentation
- Evaluation of 1st Day Program
- Group Exercise for 2nd Day (planning for Role / Street play, mine etc.)

17.07.2013**Fourth Session (09:00am to 12:55pm)**

- Recalling the 1st Day program
- Presentation of Group Reports, Action Role Play, Group songs relevant to the Subject, etc.
- Statement of concerns sharing goals, Planning Strategy, etc.
- Presentation from 5 groups with peer and trainer review opportunities

Fifth Session (02:00pm to 04:00pm)

- Forming a task force
- Concrete planning for back home activities and individual presentation
- Final Reflection on Human Rights
- Learning for Tolerance and Religious Freedom
- Evaluation of 2nd Day and entire Series
- Valedictory Session including issuing of Certificates

Methodology employed

Lecture, Group discussion, Participatory learning, Film, Role/Street play, Mine, Group songs etc.

Issues rose during each session

How human rights are denied in and around our society/communities by inter religious and intra religious problems and also about the caste system.

Ideas and solutions to the issues identified by the participants

- Awareness program may be conducted at different stages and different places (Village, Town and City) through street play, hoardings, Slogan writings, public Media and trainers by giving training the selected students
- Youths in different Religions to be trained under one umbrella properly about the Human Rights and its values and about religious harmony.
- Participants are willing to co-operate with IARF at any time.

Assumptions that were made

The participants were informed well in advance about the program and the sessions were arranged consecutively for two days.

Risk factors and how they were taken care of

The participants were very much interested in the program and co-operative. No risk factors in the program

Learning Outcomes**Short-Term**

- Interfaith fellowship by attending functions, *poojas* (Prayer in Hinduism) of other religion/community and to give due respect to other members of other religions.
- Maintain equality among all races.
- The protection of Human rights.
- Study about different problems internationally and its remedy through U.N. Declaration and conventions.

Long-Term

- To maintain Inter-religious harmony and peace throughout the world

What resources were used? Did the arrangements like equipment, meeting hall and seating, etc. work smoothly? What difficulties were faced?

With the help of College authorities the program was conducted smoothly. No such difficulties were felt.

What was the contribution made by the community/ communities? Please give details.

The college provided meeting hall, PA system and seating arrangements.

Materials: What films and which sections of the HRE Manual/handouts were used in the training sessions?

As provided to the facilitators during the training program at Kolkata during August 2005 the CDs, video films, handouts, HRE Manual, SACC office Guidelines etc. were used.

Did you face any difficulties with regard to the use of the materials?

No

Did you confront any language problems among participants in terms of the materials (for example, handouts, and films)? And how did you handle them?

No, all the participants were good in English, so they could easily understand the materials.

How did the community receive the learning program?

As this is a new approach at college level, the community received the learning program well with great satisfaction.

Did you face any resistance from the community?

Participants from three major religions participated in the program. No resistance from the community was emerged.

If you live at some distance from the workshop site, did this pose any challenges to you?

Yes

Do you feel the community/target group you chose was appropriate, why?

Yes, before fixing the program facilitator came to understand that different religions are participating in the program comprising students and faculty.

Please write about the composition of the learning group. How did you ensure balance of gender, ages etc?

The learning Group is consisting of college Students and Faculties. 27 female and 23 male with different age and religious background participated in the program.

Please write about attendance of participants at the session/series? For example, did you have problems getting the same people for each session etc?

There was no problem, all the participants were from the same college and everybody has attended at their own interest to learn about Human Rights Program

a) Which faith traditions attended?

Hinduism, Islam and Christianity

b) How many people from each faith attended?

Hinduism : 28

Islam : 16

Christianity : 06

Give details of the gender balance amongst the participants from these faith groups?

The learning group consists of college Students and Faculties. 27 female and 23 male with different age and religious background participated in the program.

Did you include any young people? If did so, how many?

Yes; all participants were young?

Were there any serious disagreements and tension between the participants from different faith groups? If so, what were the points of disagreement and how they were resolved?

No such disagreements were formed during the sessions.

What ice-breaking/team-building activities did you conduct? (Please specify)

By mixing participants, different groups were formed; hence, the group activities and participants' active role were good.

Please add the names, gender, faith traditions and approximate ages of at least 3 people in the group who were your support team.

- Mrs. K. Yasmin (F), Lecturer, Islam, age 37
- S. Rabheka (F), B.com 1st year Christianity, age 18
- V. Manjula (F), B.com 1st Year, Hinduism, age 18

Name of the mediator and the role he/she played

K. Ramachandran, Facilitator, Chennai has conducted the entire program and played the role of mediator.

Participants' Feedback (Selected)



T. Geetha (F), 18, Hindu

The workshop empowered us morally well. The facilitator was very friendly and approachable. We are looking forward to actively engaging in human rights education project, especially for women and children. So that the entire society will make a shift to their belongings. Thanks to facilitator and organization.



A Reshma (F), 18, Islam

The program was very informative and interesting for all the participants. The workshop has increased our standard and morale. Interaction with friends in a formal way gave us more insights. All sessions were equally important and good. We'll share this knowledge and inculcate a good culture in the lives of many.



S. Rebhekai (F), 18, Christian

The workshop gave us lots of wonderful experiences. We could interact with our friends in a healthy way. The topics discussed in all sessions were very sensitive and demanding serious response and attention by youths. We all will join together hereafter and give our best for human rights education.



N. Rajapandian (M), 19, Hindu

I really like the Human Rights Education program by IARF. We felt very friendly atmosphere to discuss and learn more about human rights with various group activities. Really the program has contributed much to our thoughts and elevated our standard. Thanks to IARF for the program.



M. Mohammed Hussain (M), 18, Islam

Human Rights Education seminar was very useful and gave us important lessons highly useful for our present and future life. Same time religious freedom must be preserved for everyone. This kind of workshop will be really a benefit to the common people like us in a long term point of effect. Thanks to IARF.



B. Suresh (M), 20, Christian

I enjoyed the two day seminar organized by IARF. The days we spent in seminar brought us lots of changes to our thoughts. The films communicated with us that everyone's freedom must be secured. I'm really happy to engage in this kind of project. Hope we'll be informed about similar projects of IARF in the days to come.

Link to the Photos of the Workshop

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=122>