



international association for

religious freedom
belief with integrity

Human Rights Education Workshop held at **Vivekananda Yuvak Sangha**

Jajur, Haripal, Hooghly, West Bengal

Held on 19-20 July 2013



REPORT

Facilitator: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu

At a Glance

Venue	: Vivekananda Yuvak Sangha, Jajur, Haripal, Hooghly, West Bengal
Date	: 19-20 July 2013
Facilitators	: Prof. Asit Kumar Basu
Number of Participants	: 36
Gender	: Female-22 & Male-14
Age Group	: 17-23
Religious Representation	: Hinduism-21 (Various castes and sub-castes), Islam-13 & Tribals - 02

Introduction:

Vivekananda Yuvak Sangha, is an NGO with Government registration, has been working since 1988 in the field of rural development. Agriculture and allied sector is their main focus of work along with human resource development.

Main Aim

- To enhance and promote Religious Harmony and Human rights irrespective of religion, caste, sex, color etc. and enjoy all sorts of freedom in democratic country which has lain down by national Government.
- Avoid social, cultural and political violence, intolerance and conflicts by accepting the differences of human beings.

Objective

- To educate, motivate and change the mind set up of the young people of different religious traditions about the rights of human beings and the concept of religion.
- To eliminate all form of intolerance through exchange of dialogue and enjoying religious freedom, human rights and dignity.

Timeline

Two day program- On 19th & 20th July 2013 from morning 09:30 am to 05:30 pm

Session outline

1st session (on 19th July at 09:30 am to 01:00pm)

- Greetings from the facilitator for joining this learning / action process.
- Social purposes and learning goal of this HRE workshop
- Introduction of participants & statements of expectation
- identifying their concerns about intolerance, religious discrimination and conflict
- Find out Social purposes and learning goal of this HRE workshop
- sharing and categorizing their concerns
- proposing goal for social change to overcome obstacles to religious freedom
- Sharing goals
- Thinking about action
- Film show 1st time & responses after the show.

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

- Reading, acknowledging, & 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

3rd Session (on 20th July at 09:00 am to 12.00 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

4th Session (12:00 pm-01:00pm)

- Review – Rita’s Choices on the light of DIDRB & the said goal
- Film Show – ‘Sacred Grove’
- Responding the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about multiple injustice
- 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 (02:00 pm to 03:30 pm)

- Review of Sacred Grove on the light of said goal
- Film show – ‘Where is Home’
- Responding the film - awakening their awareness
- Inquiry about multiple injustice
- Analyze 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-05:00pm)

- Reviewing the concern and goals of participants
- Recommending actions
- Planning action for social change
- Strategic planning for action

Methodology

Group Discussions, lectures, case studies, Audio visual learning and group report presentation

Issues rose

- Social problems – intolerance, tension, humiliation etc, and Social Change
- Human Rights and freedom of religion and belief
- UDHR and DIDRB

Assumptions

All participants were asked to present in all the sessions of two day program. After lectures all came up with open and broad mind to accept the cultural differences of individuals and groups

Expected learning outcomes

Short-term

Participants are able to change their mind set up and have been oriented or motivated towards positive attitude of life.

Long-term

All sorts of social violence, conflicts and tension will be resolved widely from the community.

Resources Required

Teaching kits and training materials, infrastructure, manpower, etc.

Language Problem

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

Location

Vivekananda Yuvak Sangha, Jajur, Haripal, Hooghly, West Bengal.

Have you already had contact with this Institute?

Yes

Why have you chosen this community/ target group?

Tension and misunderstanding present among the young generation of Hindus and Muslim communities in Jejur area of Hooghly district. So facilitator felt that the target group here would be ideal to resolve this problem if they are rightly given with human rights and inter-faith insights.

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

Before the commencement of workshop, prior to a week I had discussed the guidelines with the host NGO, who had sent students to attend the HRE program. As per the discussions the association selected 22 female and 14 male youth to participate the program from different faith communities between 18 to 26 years.

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

The facilitator had requested the participants to maintain calm and peace during discussion and insisted them to hold open and free discussion with mutual respect.

Have you had ice-breaking /team building activities?

Yes

Which faith traditions attended?

Islam, Hindus and Tribal

How many people from each faith do you expect to attend?

Hinduism – 21; Islam-13 and Tribals-2

Name of Potential Mediator:

Mr. Arunava Ghosh

Participants' Feedback (Selected)



Rupa Patra (F), 22, Hinduism

I feel proud to attend this program. I thank IARF for giving me a chance to join the program. The content of the workshop was rich enough to get overall idea about human rights and religious freedom. The films were very good to communicate well since they were filmed on reality. I could learn different types of human rights violations very clearly through films. Special thanks to Prof. A. Basu

Sabnom Khan (F), 17, Islam

The workshop really changed my mind setup. Now I have open mind to members of other religions. Facilitator reminded us about our duties and responsibilities. Thanks to IARF for giving us the privilege to know about human rights. I'm pledged to work for the well being of my fellow beings.



Laboni Soren (F), 17, Tribal

The program was really good. It's for the first time I was admitted to a program like this. So I did not feel ease at the first phase. But later facilitator and fellow participants really motivated me to involve fully in various activities. All sections of the two day workshop were really good. I'm thankful to respected facilitator and organizers.



Kanchan Malick (M), 18, Islam

Firstly I want to thank IARF for organizing this program. I'm very glad to participate in this program and gained lots of knowledge about human rights. If possible, this program should be conducted in many other places to provide opportunity for youngsters to learn about human rights. I loved this program very much.



Subha Singha Roy (M), 20, Hinduism

Human Rights Education seminar was very good. It provided me with a great opportunity to interact with many and enhanced my knowledge about human rights. Thanks to Prof. Asit Kumar Basu for selecting us to participate in the seminar. Group activities were really motivating and inspiring. I'm looking forward to attending more programs in coming days. Thanks to all.



View Photos of the workshop

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=120>