



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

Human Rights Education Workshop

Held at

KLE Law College

Chikodi, Belgaum District, Karnataka State, India

On 22-23, October 2013

Organized by IARF SACC RFYN



REPORT

Facilitators: Mr. K. Ramachandran & Mr. Gautham Bharathi K.

Program at a Glance

Venue	: KLE Law College, Chikodi, Belgaum District, Karnataka State, India
Date	: 22-23, October 2013
Facilitators	: Mr. K. Ramachandran & Mr. Gautham Bharathi K.
Number of Participants	: 106
Gender	: Male-56, Female-50
Age Group	: 18-30
Religious Representation	: Hinduism-90 (Different Sects) Jainism (Digamabara) – 12 Islam-03 Khasi-01

Introduction

The IARF through its young adult project by RFYN has been trying to bring about change in this world through young adults by way of training, human rights education, capacity building etc. For a second consecutive year the KLE Law College had invited the RFYN-HRE team to conduct a two-day program for its students of B. A. L. L. B (5-year integrated law course) in its campus in Chikodi, Belgaum District, Karnataka, India. Our Young Adult Leader Gautham Bharathi, is a student of the college, who has been associated with RFYN since IARF 33rd World Congress at Cochin, 2010 initiated the dialogue with the college and this has culminated in the successful organisation of this 2-day RFYN-HRE program (22nd-23rd October 2013) in Chikodi, Belgaum District. Our team from the RFYN comprised of Ms. Anbumani Arumugam, President, RFYN International and Mrs. Nithya, Internationally Trained Young Adult Leader, Mr. Gautham Bharathi, IARF-SACC-RFYN Trained Young Adult Leader and Mr. K. Ramachandran, HRE Facilitator under the able support and wishes from Dr. Thomas Mathew, SACC Chairman.

About Chikodi, Belgaum

More than 300kms away from Bengaluru, Chikodi is a Taluk town in the Belgaum district of Karnataka State, India. Chikodi is situated at the Karnataka border and surrounded by hills in all directions. Around 200–300 years ago, Chikodi was called as Chik-kodi (small village) where as the nearby Hirekodi (big village) was bigger than Chikodi. Over time, Chikodi experienced growth due to its famous betel leaves and came to lie on a major road. Farming is a major activity of the area and it has a rich sugar belt. The taluka has 3 Sugar Factories in its belt. Krishna, Vedaganga, Dudhganga rivers made the land fertile and precious for agriculture. Tobacco farming is one of the other major activities in Chikodi taluk major production is in from the villages namely Galataga, Shiragaonwadi, and Khadaklat etc. Nowadays trend of sericulture is booming in this area.

About KLE Law College & Society, Bengaluru

Over 9 decades ago, in 1916, the region of Karnataka experienced the birth of a new era – the Karnatak Lingayat Education Society. It was a humble initiative that would transform the bleak educational landscape in Karnataka and Maharashtra. The saga begins with its illustrious founders. Sri. Chachadi Veerabhadrapappa Gunappa Desai, Sri. Artal Rudragouda and Sri. Vaijappa Anigol, who all collectively believed in providing education for the common man. Their efforts were ably supplemented by the seven visionaries – Sri. S.S. Basavanal, Sri. M.R. Sakhare, Sri. B.B. Mamadapur, Sri. H.F. Kattimani, Sri. Panditappa Chikkodi, Sri. B.S. Hanchinal and Sri. Sardar Veeranagouda Patil, with the collective contribution from renowned philanthropists of the region, such as Sri. Sirsangi Lingaraj, Sri. Raja Lakhamagouda Sardesai and Sri. Bhoomaraddi Basappa and help from other philosophers, intellectuals and educationists, the society began laying a strong educational foundation, with its base at Belgaum, Karnataka.

The commitment and dedication of the KLE Society has made it a vast educational phenomenon that manages over 216 institutions in the area of Healthcare delivery, Agriculture, Engineering, IT, Law,

Pharmacy, Nursing and so on. Over 9,953 employees and more than 83,420 students from kindergarten to doctoral programmes, the Society has indeed come a long way. And, in the process, become a key player whose commendable contribution to healthcare and education, has gained global recognition. Yet another chapter in the history of the Society has begun with the newly formed KLE University. Recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC), with the assurance that the Institutions will adhere to the highest moral and ethical standards in providing the finest of education

KLE Law College, Chikodi

The K.L.E. Society's Law College was established in the year 1999. The vision of the college is *“to impart quality legal education to create social engineers to build an egalitarian society where all people shall have equal political social and economic rights.”* The college is located on the Miraj road and is housed on the first floor of K.L.E.Society's Basavaprabhu Kore Degree College.

Since establishment the college has been conducting a wide spectrum of programmes. The college has successfully conducted three State Level and one National Level Moot Court Competition till now. The participants in these events have always returned with pleasant memories of the same. Legal Literacy Programmes, Special Lectures, Seminars and Work Shops on various topic of law are conducted regularly. The commitment to the excellence is evident from the academic performance of the students who have secured ranks to the University regularly since 2003-04.



DAY 1 – 22.10.2013

Inaugural Function (10.00am-10.30am)

The 2-day HRE program had an auspicious beginning with the invocation seeking the blessings of the almighty for the successful organisation of the program as is the tradition in this part of the world. Ms. Vanishree, a student of the college rendered the invocation song. The program again went into an auspicious mood with the traditional lighting of the lamp by the guests on the dais. Prof Vijay Muradande, Faculty, KLE Law College introduced the guests on the dais to the participants. Mr. Gavutham Bharathi K., Young Adult Leader briefed the students about the IARF-HRE project briefly. The inaugural address was delivered by Mr. K. Ramachandran, Retd. Administrative Officer, Police Department, Tamilnadu Facilitator, IARF-HRE Project & National Vice President, IARF, India Chapter and the Principal, KLE Law College; Prof B. Jayasimha delivered the Presidential remarks on the occasion. Mr. Manojkumar Hiremath, Faculty, KLE Law College delivered the vote of thanks to one and all in this regard. A short and brief affair the inaugural function kick started the 2-day program.

Session I – Introduction & Ice-Breaking (10.30am-11.30am)

We devised a few games to initiate ice-breaking and that kicked off fresh energy among the students. Later, we divided them into groups ensuring that there was a proper mix of religion, country, and gender in all the groups. Again, the moderators were an energetic bunch of young adult leaders and HRE trainers who have been with RFYN in the past and have been trained by IARF-SACC-RFYN. The moderators were K. Ramachandran, and Gautham Bharathi, Young Adult Leader, Chennai. The groups were left with the task of pairing up with each one and introduce the other person in the pair to their group. This simple task was very effective in enabling the group to know each other at a basic level. It was nice to see all the group members being so energetic and excited about the whole process which was simplified and gave them ample opportunity to get to know each other's skills. Group exercise on DIDRB and UDHR was undertaken after the group formation.

Session II – Group Work (12.00pm-01.00pm)

The students settled into their groups for the purpose of group work and presentation and to discuss the articles among themselves. Each group was given a set of articles to be studied by them after viewing the short film on the UDHR articles. They given time to present their group work on UDHR and DIDRB because we wanted the students to have a practical and theoretical understood of Human Rights before they present their views on the articles themselves. Without a basic understanding their presentation would be void of any originality of ideas and views and they would be simply reading a modified version of the articles themselves.

Profile of Young Adults

Total number of participants to the program was **106** students. In terms of Gender we had **56 Male** and **50 Female** participants.

Age Group – We had 29 participants in the age group of 18-20; 27 participants in the age group of 21-22; 30 participants in the age group of 23-24 and 20 participants in the age group of above 24 years.

Religion/Faith – 90 participants belonged to Hinduism; 12 participants belonged to Jainism (Digambara Tradition); 3 participants belonged to Islam and 1 participant belonged to Khasi Tradition.

Education Background – In all we had two groups of students in the program. One group were pursuing direct LLB program and the other group pursuing 5-year integrated BA & LLB program in the college. In the BA & LLB group 17 students from I year; 6 students from II year; 7 students from III year; 8 students from IV year and 5 students from V year. In the LLB group we had 31 students from I year; 13 students from II year and 19 students from III year.

Session III – Viewing of 3-Short Films followed by Group Discussion (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

The students went into their respective groups and watched the three short films Rita's Choice, Where is Home and Sacred Groove. The film seems to have had a varied but strong impact on the students. The groups chose the films they wanted to do a presentation based on how much they could connect to the idea and issue the film itself is based on. The groups made their presentation after the screening of the movies. We wound up the Day 1 activities with a short tea break for the students.

DAY 2 – 23.10.2013

Session IV - Recap of Day 1 (9.00am – 10.00am)

Day 2 started with a recap of day 1 sessions and impressions of students on what we organised for them on day 1. Another aspect that was highlighted was during the introduction session many of the students shared that they did not know what UDHR was and at the end of the day they were much more aware of the articles and the very concept of human rights. Secondly, the group work on 3-short films brought out lot of creativity while they made their presentation and it also made re-focus their minds to bring to light their thoughts on the issues brought out in the movie they viewed. The recap is an important tool to assess the mindset of the target group, in this case the students, with regard to the series design and also to measure the impact of the program thus far.

Session V – Group Work based on UDHR & DIDRB (11.00am – 01.00pm)

After the recap session, the group broke for a short tea-break to refresh their minds and the group work on UDHR articles and DIDRB articles began after tea. Each group was given few articles and was asked to present their explanations and views on the articles. After, the presentation on UDHR the same process was followed for the presentation on the articles in DIDRB. Interestingly, it was nice to observe that each member of the group presented some part of their group work, which means participation was wholesome and not one person leading the entire group. This enabled a further group discussion which extended the understanding of the students. They were made to justify their views and explanations on UDHR and DIDRB and not merely do a group presentation for the program.

Session VI – Feedback & Reflections (2.00pm – 3.00pm)

The RFYN-HRE program content officially ended with this session, though we had the certificate distribution and valedictory after this session. We gave the students the feedback format and asked them to write down their views on the 2-day program. After the written work, the floor was open for the students to express their views on the 2-day program. They expressed that they had no reservation in signing up for the program when the announcement was made in their institution. Another aspect was we had planned for a 45-student program this time around. But due to heavy demand the college gave us a list of 106 participants for the program. We the organizers agreed and the final strength of the RFYN-HRE program was 106.

Valedictory Function (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

The valedictory function was a brief affair with main focus on the distribution of the certificates to the students. The function started with Ms. Vanishree & Group rendering the invocation. The welcome address was delivered by Prof Miss Padmashree Gonde, Senior Faculty, KLE Law College. Mr. K. Ramachandran delivered the presidential address and Mr. Gautham Bharathi K., delivered the vote of thanks. The participants were given their certificates and the 2-day program came to a close.

View **Photos** of the workshop

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=128>

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/photos/106048874172816275704/albums/5945186727867587169?authkey=CMbNwtepgcOWDA>