



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

# Human Rights Education Workshop

Held at

**BABA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE (BITS),**

P.M. Palem, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

On 28<sup>th</sup> December 2013

## REPORT



***PARTICIPANTS** with Facilitator, Guests and College Officials*

Facilitator: Prof. N. Prakasa Rao and Prof. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi



<b>Program at a Glance</b>	
Venue	: BABA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE (BITS), P.M. Palem, Visakhapatnam.
Date	: 28 <sup>th</sup> December, 2013
Facilitators	: Prof. N. Prakasa Rao & Prof. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi
Number of Participants	: 52
Gender	: Male-22, Female-30
Age Group	: 18-22
Religious Representation	: Hinduism-48 (Comprising different sects and sub-sects) Christianity-03 Islam-01

### **Introduction**

One day exclusive Human Rights Education workshop financially supported by IARF SACC was held at Baba Institute of Technology & Science, P.M. Palem, Visakhapatnam on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2013. 52 students both boys and girls of different faith communities attended the program along with the faculty and staff of the College. The workshop was organised by B. V. Foundation for Peace and Harmony, a member group of IARF. Due to time limit inaugural and valedictory sessions were held in simple way.

Prof. DBV Jaganmadhan, Principal, BITS inaugurated the workshop by lighting the traditional lamp. Earlier prayers from different faith groups were offered. Prof. Jaganmadhan in his address told that youth should sense the responsibilities along with rights. Proper understanding of religion is the need of the time, and misconception of religion will eventually create problems and rift. Therefore true meaning of religion should be made clear and practiced rightly.

Sr. BSV. Reddy, Programme Coordinator, NSS, BITS, Prof. N. Prakasa Rao and Prof. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi spoke about the importance and need of organising the workshop.

BITS is a highly acclaimed educational institute, offering various programs. It's a highly reputed institute of the area.

### **Main Aim**

- Sensitize students about the rights of freedom of religion and belief.
- Promote religious harmony & peace among different communities where students are coming from.

### **Objective**

- To create awareness among the students about 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**

One day program – On 28<sup>th</sup> December 2013 from morning 09:30 am to 05:00 pm

### **Session Outline**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Session (09.30 am to 01:00 pm)**

- Introduction of participants
- Expectations & Assessments
- Introduction on IARF & HREP



- Identification of issues of religious intolerants & Discrimination

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Session (01:30pm-03:00pm)**

- Discussion on UDHR
- Discussion on Declaration on Elimination of all forms Intolerance And Beliefs (DEIB)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Session (03:15pm-05:00pm)**

- Viewing of films
- RITA's Choice
- Sacred Grove
- Where Home
- Discussion on films
- Group exercise and Action Plan
- Identification of issues injustice in the three films and group presentations.

### **Methodology**

Group work, Discussions, Lectures, Case studies, Role play, Audio visual learning, Group Presentation etc.

### **Issues Rose**

Gender Discrimination, Human Dignity, hatred, suspecting each other, humiliation, intolerance, religious conflict, 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 the inhabitants belong to different faith groups. The participating group consists of Hindus Christians and Muslims. There exist a little tension and risk among them with regard to religious freedom and beliefs.

### **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**

To establish religious freedom forums, to eliminate all sorts of social scuffle, violence, conflict and tension by understanding each other.

### **Resources required**

- Cooperation and man power from the local college where workshop 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 able to follow English.

### **Why have you chosen this community/target group?**

Since it is a co-educational Technology College, discriminations and tensions occur sometimes. Enriching religious freedom with right knowledge certainly helps to resolve religious conflict in particular and Human Rights in general. Therefore we have decided to organise the HRE workshop here.



### How did you maintain balance of gender and ages?

It is a co-educational College, so College authorities selected 52 students of various faith groups for attending this programme, comprising (Male-22, Female-30) and the age group between 18-22 years.

### What are the steps have you taken to lessen the tension between the participants from different faith groups?

Both facilitators inspired and insisted participants to maintain peace and to be calm and patient during discussion. There existed no tension between the participants from different faith groups. They were given opportunity to start open and free discussion.

### Have you had ice-breaking/team building activities?

No. Due to time limit we did not have ice-breaking/team building activities.

### Which faith traditions attended the workshop?

Hinduism (different sects and sub-sects), Christianity and Islam

### How many people from each faith attended?

Hindus (different sects) : 48

Christians : 03

Islam : 01

### Name of the Potential Mediator

Dr. B.S.V. Reddy, Associate Professor, BITS & Programme Officer, NSS.



### Participant's Comments



#### **Yadam Reddy Balaji (M) 22, Hindu**

It was a very good program. The program has definitely pressed us to improve our approach towards our responsibilities and rights. It will surely increase the harmony and brotherhood in the society. Moreover the changes will impact the upcoming generation too. Thanks a lot IARF for this program.



#### **Rubi Farhnaaz (F) 19, Islam**

It was a beautiful experience. I have achieved a lot personally from this workshop. The insights I got from the workshop will surely benefit me in the days to come. Respecting others and helping weak is really a virtue. I will work for the progress of my community and fellow being. Thank you.



#### **Vandana (F), 20, Christian**

The program has improved my knowledge about human rights a lot. Facilitators have played vital role in shedding lights to our minds. The workshop really opened my heart and mind to a new thinking. Guarding ones rights and helping others is very important. Thanks to facilitators and IARF for inviting us to this program.



**P. Srikanth (M), 19, Hindu**

The workshop was a good awareness program. Knowing ones rights and responsibilities are very important in social living. Making right environment for harmonious habitation is a prime responsibility of everyone. Therefore we are pledged to live accordingly. This kind of workshop will increase our burden to be responsible. Thanks to IARF.



View Photos:

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=130>