



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

Human Rights Education Workshop

Held at

INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, Visakhapatnam

On 14-15 September 2013



PARTICIPANTS with Facilitator, Guests and College Officials

REPORT

Facilitators: Prof. N. Prakasa Rao & Prof. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi

Program at a Glance	
Venue	: INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, Visakhapatnam
Date	: 14-15 September 2013
Facilitators	: Prof. N. Prakasa Rao & Prof. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi
Number of Participants	: 43
Gender	: Male-36, Female-07
Age Group	: 19-25
Religious Representation	: Hinduism-40 (Different Sects), Christianity- 02 & Islam - 01

Introduction

Two day Human Rights Education workshop sponsored by IARF SACC, Kerala was held at INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, Visakhapatnam on 14-15 September, 2013 in collaboration with BE Studies. As a national level institution 43 participants, both men and women of different faith communities across India attended the program.

The Indian Maritime University is sponsored by the Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India. It is a national unit, headquartered at Chennai and has a Campus in Visakhapatnam.

Sri E.A.S. Sarma, IAS (Retd.), former Energy Secretary, Govt. of India inaugurated the workshop by lighting the lamp. Earlier prayers from different faith communities were offered. The chief guest in his address said that when rights are equal responsibilities are also equal, but many stress about rights and ignores responsibilities. Hence workshop of this type should make the youth aware about responsibilities with rights. Many of our fellow citizens are not aware about the UN Declaration on Human Rights even after 63 years of Independence. He lauded the initiative taken by IARF to educate the young people on Human Rights.

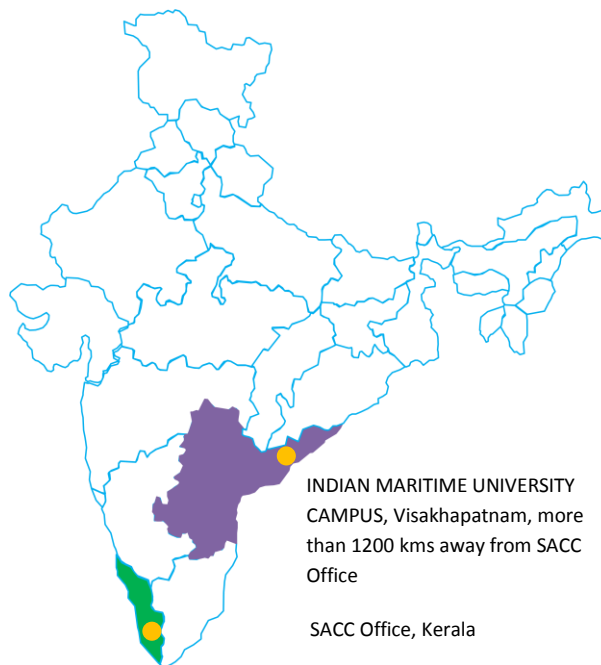
Prof. U.A. Ramesh, Director of IMU, Prof. E. P. S. Bhagyalakshmi, Mr. Md. Shamsuddin also spoke in this occasion.

Main Aim of the Series.

- Sensitize students about the rights of freedom of religion and belief.
- Promote religious harmony and peace among students of various communities.

Objectives

- To minimize socio-cultural and political scuffle, conflict, violence and tension in the society.
- Eliminate all forms of intolerance, humiliation and hatred through exchange of dialogue among different faith groups



Time line

Two Day program on 14-15 September 2013 from 09:30am-04:30pm.

Session Outline

Inauguration

1st Session (14th September 2013, 10.00 am to 01:00 pm)

- Greetings from the facilitator for joining the learning/action process.
- Introduction of participants and their expectations.
- Identifying their concerns about religious intolerance and conflict.
- Sharing and categorizing their concerns.
- Defining social purposes, learning goals etc.
- Proposing goal for social change to overcome obstacles of Religious freedom
- Thinking about Action
- Film show and response after the show.

2nd Session (02:00pm – 03:30pm)

- Reading, acknowledging and clarifying UDHR
- Discussion on UDHR and DIDRB
- Discussion on Major Treaties
- Relating the goals of the participants to the rights describe in the UDHR & DIDRB.

3rd Session (03:30pm-05:00pm)

- Film Show- Rita's choice
- Responding to the film-awakening their awareness.
- Inquiry about injustice.
- Analyse the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views and application of Human Rights to prevent injustices.
- Applying Human Rights (DIDRB) and actions may be undertaken.

4th Session (15th July 2013, 09:30 am – 01:00 pm)

- Review-Rita's Choice on the light of DIDRB and the said goal.
- Film Show-'Sacred Grove'
- Responding to the film, awakening their awareness.
- Inquiry about multiple injustices.
- Analyse the injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views and application of Human Rights to prevent such injustices.
- Action to be taken.

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

- Review of 'Sacred Grove' on the light of said goal.
- Film show- Where is home?
- Responding to the film, awakening the awareness.
- Analyse the inter-religious injustice within a Human Rights framework.
- Alternative views and application of Human Rights to prevent such injustices.
- Action to be undertaken.

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

- Reviewing their concerns and goals
- Recommending actions
- Planning action for social change
- Strategic planning for action
- Valedictory function and distribution of certificates.

Methodology

Participatory method - Group work and presentation, Discussions, Lectures, Case studies, Role play, Audio visual learning and Group Presentation.

Issues Rose

Gender Discrimination, Human Dignity, hatred, suspecting each other, humiliation, intolerance, religious conflicts, Right to Freedom of Religion and Belief, caste and religious reservations.

Assumptions

All the participants were expected to present in all the sessions of two days programme. After participation in the group, they 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 heterogeneous in nature. The members of the participating group are from Hindu, Christian and Islamic community. There exists a little tension and risks among them with regard to establishing their rights of religious freedom and belief.

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.

Long-term

All sorts of scuffle, violence, conflict and tension will be resolved by understanding each other.

Resources required

- Cooperation and man power from the local college where HREP conducted.
- Supporting materials, pad, pen, Computer, LCD projector, flipcharts etc were required.

Language problem

There was no language problem because the participants could understand English.

Why have you chosen this community/target group?

Since the participants represent the entire nation, all sorts of discrimination prevail in the community. Tension and misunderstanding is obviously present there. Therefore to undermine this uncongenial condition we decided to organize the workshop.

How did you maintain balance of gender and ages?

It is a co-education University, so both male and female participants attended the program. 43 participants (Male-36 and Female-07) in the age group between 19-25 years attended the workshop.

What are the taken to lessen the tension between the participants from different faith groups?

I inspired and insisted participants to maintain peace and to be calm and tolerant during discussions. They were given opportunity to start open and free discussion instead of making unnecessary talks.

Have you had ice-breaking/team building activities?

Yes

Which faith traditions attended the workshop?

Hinduism-40, Christianity-02 and Islam - 01

Name of the Potential Mediator

Prof. V.C. Ramesh, Director IMU Vishakapatnam Campus

Participant's Comments



Priyanka Khubchaivdani (F), 20, Hinduism

It was a very good experience. I learned many things about human rights which were very useful to us. I appreciate the organizers. All most all contemporary social issues were put up and debated. Speeches of dignified IAS and social activists regarding current affairs and role of government were inspiring. Hoping forward to participate in more workshops like this.

N. Vishal Chowdary (M), 19, Christianity
The workshop was well planned. All sessions were equally good and interesting. The knowledge and experience I got from the workshop is really beneficial. Thanks to Prof. Rao and IARF for organizing this program.



Shaik Farzana (F), 20, Islam

It was very excellent program. I could learn about many things about Human Rights. I had a very good experience in this seminar and my ideas and views about Human Rights have changed a lot. Now I have a broad understanding about implementation of human rights and its protection. Overall interaction with fellow participants and guest was an august experience.

Suraj S. Powar (M), 20, Hinduism
I found the workshop very informative. I could understand social, economic and other differences in life. Now the knowledge of the right can make our life more comfortable, otherwise the life could be more miserable. I feel the debate that took place was very realistic.



View **Photos:**

<http://www.iarfsacc.org/media/photos/index.php?cat=127>