

Brief Report

4th

Participatory Course on Democracy and Human Rights (Module 1)



Centre for Human Rights Education-Pakistan

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Introduction

The first module of 4th Participatory Course on Democracy and Human Rights (PCDHR) was held on September 17-26, 2013 at Lahore under the auspices of Centre for Human Rights Education-Lahore with the financial support of National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

29 participants including Human Rights Defenders, University Students, Media Persons and representatives of different civil society groups from different areas of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan attended the training program.

In response to the call for applications this year Centre for Human Rights Education received 285 applications, however according to the policy the Selection Committee of CHRE selected 36 candidates were selected to participate, however 6 candidates were not able to participate due to their personal reasons.

PCDHR is.....

Participatory Course on Democracy and Human Rights is an intensive learning program designed for human rights defenders and educators working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and the students of the Social Science Departments (Sociology, Political Science, Gender Studies, International Relations, Mass Communications, Law etc.), the officials of different state institutions, media and other civil society groups.

PCDHR is a three week course that consists of two modules and at the completion of both modules the trainees are awarded with a certificate and are called the Alumni of CHRE.

CHRE believes on participatory learning approaches therefore the Course is mostly conducted in participatory methodology to enhance the understanding of the participants on the concepts of democracy and human rights and to enhance their skills to work effectively as human rights defenders.

PCDHR puts strong emphasis on “Putting Learnings into Practice” therefore the trainees are required to develop and implement an individual plan to ensure that the learnings are put into practice.

OBJECTIVES OF PCDHR

- Provide in depth knowledge to enhance conceptual clarity on human rights and democracy.
- Encourage the development of skills, and the formulation and application of policies, necessary to transform that information into practical professional behavior.
- Sensitize participants to their particular role in protecting and promoting democracy and human rights.
- Build partnerships and networking among the participants and their organizations.
- Plan and strategize for putting the participants’ learnings into practice through research and advocacy initiatives.

What is being said.....

Mr. Irfan Ali Ansari, Senior Producer, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation-Hyderabad said that.....

Knowledge cannot be measured in quantity so it is hard to say how much but I can say that there were many misconceptions prevailed in my mind about the human rights and its kinds. Now it is clear and vivid that we all are equal and has to treat each other on same grounds. No one is greater than any one. Being human being we have to respect to each other we would be counted as animals that just eat wander and die.

Mr. Mahmood Ali Bakht, Coordinator, Optimistic Youth Network-Swat said that.....

I learned more from my expectation & was very lucky to become a part of this training. My expectation was too limited but the course was much enough to clear the concept. I gained too much but I will share some of it:-

It was my 1st training on democracy & Human Rights. The history of democracy in different country and specially in Pakistan, process of democracy and the most important the word federalism (Federation) is new for me now have enough knowledge about it. Human Rights and what are the 30 article of Human Rights. What are UDHR and its purpose. How to work in field in group then how to make report from it, it was really a good experience for me. Know the way of working of different department by visiting them. Gained knowledge about UN, its member, its structure & the purpose it work for.

Ms. Almas Swaira, Program Officer, Transparent NGOs Network Pakistan- Faisalabad said that...

Content of the course was informative, diverse, full of learning and according to demands of time. I learnt a lot during all sessions. It was more than my expectations: I had lot of confusions and queries about report and proposal writing but after completion of this course I have got much satisfactory knowledge and now I am able to perform all official activities in better way

Ms. Memoona Noor, Chairperson, Noor Welfare Society for Special Persons-Khanewal said that...

It was a great experience. I got very useful information from this course. I learned about human rights, democracy, constitution of Pakistan, proposal writing, advocacy and child labor. I am working for disable persons. This course is really helpful in my field work especially UN articles for disable persons help me in my cause. My all work consists on basic needs especially rights of disable women.

Mr. Tariq Ali, Project Officer, Community Advancement & Support Welfare Association- Jacobabad said that...

As far as overall contents of the training are concerned these are very convenient and handy. The language was used precisely and neatly. Contents were knowledge absorbing. I genuinely liked all the contents delivered during the training course.

I had not perception fully what the Human Rights are how are these being violated. I had expected that I will be fully acquainted from the basic principles of Human Rights from this training and this training really has provided me ample knowledge about basic Human Rights and Democracy. I had not any idea about what is the mechanism of UN on human rights and how many agencies; treaties are working under umbrella of UN for the promotion and empowerment of human rights. I comprehended all these significant things from this training course.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1ST MODULE

OPENING CEREMONY OF 4TH PCDHR.....

The opening ceremony of 4th Participatory Course on Democracy and Human Rights (PCDHR) with the theme of “Linking Democracy to Non-Discrimination: prospects and challenges in Pakistan” was held on September 17, 2013 at Dar-ul-Mussarat Training Institute-Lahore. PCDHR participant, members of the local civil society were present at this occasion.

The ceremony began with a performance on a motivational song “Meray Sapno Ko Janany ka Haq Hai (Rights to Information)” which voiced the rights of the citizens while PCDHR resource material kit was distributed among the course participants. At this occasion CHRE Alumni (trainees of pervious PCDHR) shared their experiences about PCDHR.

The speakers included Justice (R) Nasira Javed Iqbal, Mr. Farooq Tariq (General Secretary- Awami Workers Party), Mr. Salman Abid (Regional Director SPO), Mr. Nauman Asghar Advocate, Mr. Samson Salamat (Director CHRE), and Asshi Butt (Representative of Transgenders community).

The speakers emphasized that all citizen should promote a culture of non-discrimination, a basic principle of democracy in order to deal with the unrest and turmoil in the country.



SESSIONS CONTENT

Sessions Content	Facilitators/Resource Persons
Thinking about Human Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concepts of Human Rights - Underlying Principles of Human Rights - Human Rights Culture - Historical Background of Human Rights Human Rights Standards and Mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of United Nation Human Rights Systems - Main features of International Human Rights Instruments (ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, CEDAW, CAT, CRC etc.) 	Mr. Samson Salamat Mr. Faisal Ali Arian (Co-Facilitator)
Gender Based discrimination and violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definition/ introduction - Various types on the basis of gender - violence against women; ground realities and response of the civil society, media and state institutions 	Ms. Bushra Khaliq
Concept of non-discrimination and its importance in a democratic and diverse society	Mr. Samson Salamat
Democracy and its Principle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept of Democracy and its evolution - Principle of Democracy - Democratic Culture - Misconception about Democracy and how to deal these misconceptions Structure of Federal state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main Organs of the Federal state - Roles and Responsibilities of the different state institutions in federal Systems Political and Historical Overview of Pakistan (from Democratic and Federal Perspective)	Mr. Jami Chandio
Introduction to Legal and Judicial System of Pakistan	Mr. Mehboob Khan
Terrorism/ Religious Extremism in Pakistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contributing factors - Effects on national, regional and global peace - Response of the state, civil society and media in curbing religious extremism 	Mr. Naseer Memon
Research and Report Writing	Ms. Zainab Bibi
Advocacy on Human Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definition and Tools of Advocacy - How to design an effective advocacy campaign 	Mr. Hameed Gondal
Proposal Writing Proposal writing with RBA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difference between project and program - 5 Ws and 1H technique - Clarity of key terms (methodology and activity, objective, purpose and goal) - What qualifies as minimum standard to be a project 	Mr. Samson Salamat

EXPOSURE VISITS AND LOBBYING MEETINGS

Exposure Visit (assessment of the situation of human rights)

The participants visited the following to assess the situation of human rights.

- Brick kiln worker
- DASTAK (privately run shelter for women)
- Sanitary workers
- Sever men
- Dar-ul- Amman (government run shelter for women)
- SANGHAT (for briefing on elections)
- Fruit and vegetable market
- Tans-gender community
- Gypsies

Lobbying Meetings

Lobbying meetings were held with following state institutions/ departments to discuss human rights situation and to present recommendations. Following departments were visited:

- Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA)
- Labour Department
- Social Welfare Department
- Provincial Election Commission- Punjab
- Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Department

EVENTS DURING PCDHR.....

Demonstration against rape of minors

The participants of the PCDHR participated in a "Demonstration against Rape of Minors" staged by Mumkin Alliance-Punjab on September 19, 2013 at in front of Punjab Assembly, The Mall Road Lahore.

The demonstration was held to stop the rape of minors and particularly demand justice for Sumbal(5 years old gang rape survivor).

Protest against attack on the Church in Peshawar

Centre for Human Rights Education-Lahore and its members (belonging to the different parts of the country in collaboration with different civil society organizations) staged a peaceful protest on September 22, 2013 against bomb attack on the Church in Peshawar.



GLIMPSE OF SESSIONS, EXPOSURE VISITS AND LOBBYING MEETINGS





PROFILE OF FACILITATORS/RESOURCES PERSONS

Mr. Jami Chandio	Renowned Writer, Scholar, and Executive Director of Center for Peace and Civil Society (CPCS)-Hyderabad
Mr. Naseer Memon	Renowned Writer, Scholar, and Chief Executive of Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)-Islamabad
Mr. Mehboob Ahmed Khan	Legal Advisor of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)-Lahore
Ms. Bushra Khaliq	Director of Women in Struggle for Empowerment (WISE)-Lahore
Mr. Abdul Hameed Gondal	Program coordinator of South Asia Partnership Pakistan (SAP-PK)-Lahore
Mr. Samson Salamat	Director of Centre for Human Rights Education (CHRE)-Lahore
Ms. Zainab Bibi	Regional Program Coordinator of South Asia Partnership Pakistan (SAP-PK)-Peshawar
Mr. Faisal Ali Arain	Alumni of Centre for Human Rights Education (CHRE)-Lahore

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Sr. #	Name	City	Organizations
1.	Mr. Irfan Ali Ansari	Hyderabad	Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation
2.	Ms. Gulraiz Khan	Mardan	Development and Awareness for Women Needs
3.	Mr. Naveed Hussain	Nawabshah	Sindhica Reforms Society
4.	Mr. Raja Shaleem Samuel	Lahore	Lords Home Foundation
5.	Mr. Shahzad Murtaza	Multan	Voice of New Generation
6.	Ms. Rashida Zafar ali	Karachi	Helping Hands Trust
7.	Ms. Saima Anwar	Pano akil	Takhleeq Foundation
8.	Mr. Tariq ali	Jacobabad	Community Advancement & Support Welfare Association
9.	Ms. Imtiaz Channa	khairpur	Khairpur Rural Development Organization
10.	Ms. Rukhshinda sheikh	Hyderabad	Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai Welfare Society
11.	Ms. Moniza Inam	Karachi	The DAWN Newspaper
12.	Ms. Kahilda Parveen	Multan	Sojhala Organization
13.	Ms. Mamoona Noor	khanewal	Noor Welfare Society for Special Persons
14.	Mr. Muhammad Adeel Jadoon	Abbotabad	Youth Welfare Society
15.	Ms. Tanzeela Sehar	Sailkot	Meesaq Foundation
16.	Mr. Burhan ali	Mardan	Frontier Development Foundation
17.	Ms. Nuzhat Sultan	Lahore	Student
18.	Ms. Tehmina Iqbal	Islamabad	National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
19.	Mr. Muhammad Punhal Seelro	Shahdad-kot	Batool Welfare Organization
20.	Ms. Seema Memon	Hyderabad	SHEDS Organization
21.	Mr. Mahmood Ali Bakht	Swat	Optimistic Youth Network
22.	Ms. Sadia Batool	Lodhran	Public Welfare Organization
23.	Ms. Almas Sawira	Faisalabad	Transparent NGOs Network-Pakistan
24.	Ms. Rubina Aziz	Chitral	Kashkar Area Development program Chitral
25.	Mr. Umair Ahmed	Toba Tek Singh	Pak-India Peoples Forum for Peace and Democracy
26.	Mr. Rashid Bashir Chattha	Gujranwala	Al Rehman Welfare Society Gujranwala
27.	Ms. Sadia Iqbal	Lahore	Medecins du Monde
28.	Ms. Sana Asif	Lahore	Centre for Human Rights Education
29.	Ms. Neha Victor	Lahore	Centre for Human Rights Education