

“HUMAN RIGHT” CLUBS IN SCHOOLS.

(Student and Field worker handbook)

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Introduction

Recognition of the inherent dignity and of equal and inalienable rights of the members of the human family is the foundation of freedom peace and justice in the world. Disregard and contempt for Human Rights have resulted in Barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind.

If we hope for a better society, every individual however powerless he or she is should learn to use the “freedom of speech” to express opinion about issues around them. They have to discuss and take decision on that. He or she must be empowered to implement such decisions and evaluate them. In short, he or she needs an alternative structure which facilitates us to discuss the events taking place around us.

This interaction with other human beings is the only way we can practice and promote Human rights.

To ensure the practice of human rights we need to participate in solving day to day problems around us.

We need to take note of human right violations discuss it with others. We need a forum for doing this.

We call this forum “Human Right Clubs”. These clubs retain their democratic power and use it to identify problems, needs and rights infringements. After identifying the problem, they try to solve the problem by discussion, making resolutions and implementing them. These clubs serve as platforms for such processes.

In the context of schools these clubs make children aware of their rights, rights violations. They are empowered to fight against these violations and assert their rights. They believe they can rebuild the world of equality, justice and peace.

Through these Human Right Clubs children go beyond all social discriminations that adults have nurtured. Children can come together as one family and when they grow up they can treat everyone with equity and dignity.

Moreover, children by their nature involve selflessly in building a better society. This selflessness and self-confidence enables all children to grow in all fields. Their social vision is sharpened.

Therefore, with a desire to create such Human Right Clubs nationwide through NGOs networks and developmental agencies I present this book on the functioning of the Human Right Clubs in schools.

It is our firm hope that these Human Right Clubs will serve as foundations for the social changes favoring participative democracy, equity, brotherhood, love, sharing in the communities.

I thank all my friends who have contributed to the way of ideas, concepts, suggestions and encouragement,

Thomas Pallithanam
Director, “PARA”

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1. Assertion Song:

We shall overcome, we shall overcome

We shall overcome some day

Oh! Deep in my heart I do believe

We shall overcome someday

We shall walk hand in hand

We shall walk hand in hand

We shall walk hand in hand one day

Oh! Deep in my heart I do believe

We shall walk hand in hand someday

We shall live in peace,

We shall live in peace

We shall live in peace one day

Oh! Deep in my heart I do believe

We shall live in peace someday

2. About you Children

Dear children

About you....

You are esteemed

possess humane love

are Selfless and Seekers of social parity

are Transparent and guileless

are Gentle and Smiling

have Guts and are Achievers

have Clear thinking and sincere

have ability to vividly express your thinking and feelings

are skillful and industrious

are not diffident

are beyond disparity

do not know malicious things

are Blameless and Wonderful

know to Share with others

know to Love

do not have worries or fears

know to enjoy deep sleep

do not know to lie; you are born to achieve

God is seen in you

are the pillars supporting this globe?

Future depends on you

3. Why should we have Human Right club in our school?

(Rani is a person, (teacher) trained in the Human right clubs in schools)

Rani: Greetings! Friends

Children: Greetings

Ramesh: We really struggled to study our lessons without your help for the last three days.

Rani: Is it? Now I have come and it will be alright

David: Where did you go?

Rani: We had a training in which they taught us about constituting a Human Right Cub in school.

Meenu: Human Right Cub? That's news. Can you tell us about it?

Rani: Have you heard about "Slavery"? The black people of Africa were taken and sold as slaves to the farmers in America. These slaves had no freedom and they could be bought and sold like animals at their master's wish. Now don't you feel that this is something inhuman? Many people in America also felt the same. Slavery was abolished by Abraham Lincoln in 1865.

Thousands of people were killed during the 1st and 2nd world wars. This shook the conscience of the world. This feeling of lack of dignity for Human lives culminated to the declaration of 'Human Rights' by the united nations in 1948. It says that all Human beings are born free and in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. The UN declaration consists of 30 articles. We must practice these human rights and spread Human Right awareness among the students. For this we may form a Human Right club in our school.

David: In the new text books for the VIII and IX classes, I have noticed lessons on Human rights. We can read them and know about Human rights.

Rani: The Human right clubs are not only for knowing Human Rights but also for becoming a practitioner of Human rights. If you know that there is "Right to life" and when you see some one's life is violated by another and you do nothing about it, then your knowledge of Human Right is not meaningful. To be meaningful Human rights must be practiced.

Ahamed: In school our science teacher sometimes takes us to the lab for practical – he will

show us the chemical reactions that are described in the text book. After the practical we understand better.

Nitya: The other day our physics Sir took us to the lab and showed us the how the electric motor works! It was wonderful.

Ramesh: Only science subjects have these practical classes. In languages, Mathematics, and social studies we have no practical classes.

Venkatesh: It is not prescribed in the syllabus.

Jim: But we can understand more by having the practical.

Vidya: That's right. We want to understand more and also practice it. Then we can make the world better.

Rani: That is the purpose of all education: to make the world a better place.

David: So to understand more we need to introduce practical sessions in all subjects.

Ahamed: Then this "by hearting" or "Batti" method will stop.

Venkatesh: We get marks not for understanding the subject, but for writing the correct answers. We can write correct answers by studying it by heart. So finally the "Batti" method is good for getting marks.

Rani: We need both; understanding and writing correct answers. Writing correct answers without understanding will not lead you into higher education and good jobs. The one who has grasp of the subject can always find a job. No one will employ a person who does not understand the subject but only holds a degree. So understanding is very, very important

Nitya: I always try to understand and then get it "by heart"

David: That is right. I wish we had practical lessons in all subjects so we can understand what we are taught.

Vidya: Now tell us about "Human right Clubs"

Rani: The human right clubs are practical sessions for the Human right lessons in the text book.

Nitya: How do we do that? "Practice Human Rights?".

Why should we Human Right clubs in schools?

-Human rights are all about Human dignity

-Slavery abolished in 1865

Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948

-HR lessons introduced in AP text books in 2010

-Students should not only read lessons but also practice HR

-We need a group to discuss HR, monitor & prevent violations.

-This group of interested students is the HR club in schools.

David: Is it a lab where we do Human right experiments?

Rani: Listen I will tell you what happened to me when I was a student.

Nitya: Please tell, we want to hear that.

Rani: I was in the VIII class. We were 32 students in the class. One day some of us were returning from school and a street dog was barking at us. The boys chased it; threw stones at it. Finally, it bit one of the boys called Ravikiran. He was treated by a local person and we forgot all about it. After about two weeks Ravi Kiran became sick and since it was serious his parents took him to the specialist Doctor and they realized he had got “Rabis” that is the disease the mad dogs have. Since he had not taken the rabis injections the doctor could not help him. He died.

Jim: Then?

Rani: We all met in class, felt very sad. The class teacher suggested that we should keep one-minute silence for the soul of Ravikiran. We did that. When teacher went away we all talked. The boys said they were afraid of the street dogs. We girls supported them. We told the teacher about it. She said she could not help us. So we went to the Head master. He suggested we request the Panchayat president to remove the street dogs. After some hesitation we all went to the Panchayat president. We told him about the death of Ravikiran. We told him that we are afraid of walking on the village roads. There are many street dogs in the village. We requested him to remove the street dogs. But he was angry with us. He scolded us for taking up those kind of activities. There are adults and Panchayat ward members to support me of my duties. “You are students” he reminded us and our duty was to attend school and study the lessons. We had to return disappointed.

Chaithanya: Very sad story mam.

Rani: No it did not end there. On the way back some of us discussed this and one of the girls, Vineetha said she had read the “Child Rights” lesson. In that lesson there was “the right to Participation”. It meant the children also could make suggestions for the better “Governance” of the village. Since the children had the “Right to be heard” the Panchayat president must listen and implement the suggestion if it was good for the village. So then we decided to go back and tell him about our right to participation.

Sunitha: Did the president listen?

Rani: We were afraid. But Vineetha was brave. She told the Sarpanch what was written in the lesson. The sarpanch finally agreed. He replied that it was correct. Children have the right to participation. He promised to remove the street dogs within a week. He kept his promise. Within a week the dogs disappeared.

Vekatesh: That was wonderful. Vineetha was a great girl. We want to be like her.

Rani: We could go to the Panchayat President because we were a united group, we could discuss and Vineetha got the idea, the group supported her. Vineetha could not do this all by herself. Vineetha put the lesson into practice because she was member of a group.

Vidya: You are suggesting that we too must form a group to practice the Human rights lessons.

Rani: That's right. It is difficult to practice HR remaining alone. Those who are interested in practicing Human rights must come together as a group. This group will discuss human rights, monitor Human right violations, go to the local authorities, take preventive action.... These groups are the Human right clubs. The HR clubs help us to practice the human rights. If we do not practice then we reproduce the lesson in the examination, get good marks and forget about it later.

David: No. we want to practice the Human rights. We will form a group and practice Human rights.

Rani: I will help you to form this Human Right club.

Rani: That is why we have to start this Human right club. If you start practicing human rights as students you will be defenders of Human Rights as adults, the duty of every citizen.

4. Let us constitute a Human Right Club in our school.

Rani: Greetings children. Today let us talk about starting a Human Right club in our school

Ahamed: Yes, last time you told us that experience you had when you were a student.

Nitya: We were thrilled by that story. We all want to practice Human Rights like Vineetha.

Venkatesh: How shall we start the Human Right Club?

Rani: Once we start the club we have some obligations. You must know that before you start it.

Chaithanya: Tell us about those obligations.

Rani: Once we have formed the club we need to take up different tasks to spread Human Right awareness. We have to elect a Club President, Vice president and leaders for groups taking up different tasks like “child rights”

David: Wow! It is really interesting.

Rani: Not only that. There is still lot more. After electing the Club President and the different group leaders in our first meet, all the leaders and members will take oath. Then the consecutive meetings will be conducted formally.

Ahmed: Can you tell us in detail?

Rani: Every month the club meeting will be conducted. The Club President will propose someone as a Speaker for the meeting. Someone should second it. Then that member will preside over the meeting. Like this, for every meeting a different person will preside as Speaker. And all the members will be given opportunity to preside over the meetings. Once the Speaker presides over the meeting, he will invite someone to give a welcome talk. After that, Club President will read out the previous meeting’s report.

Nitya: What is previous meeting’s report?

Rani: All that we discuss, the resolutions we make in a meeting are noted down by the Club President and will write it as a short document. That report will be read in the next meeting. This is previous meeting’s report. Why we do that is to remind every member about the happenings and also to preserve a permanent record. If there is anything that needs to be added or altered that will be done and the meet will approve it. After this, the Club President will take attendance.

Jim: What all works the Club President and the group leaders will do?

Rani: I will tell you about that later. First let me tell you about the benefits of conducting such meetings. What will we do if we face some problems? Whom we will approach?

Chaithanya: We will approach our dad and mom.

Rani: That's right. But our dad and mom cannot solve public problems. For that we must consult within ourselves how to solve that and take decisions. This meeting will enable us to implement those decisions.

Ahmed: But how can we solve problems ourselves?

Rani: That is a good question. We cannot solve problems individually. But as a group we can definitely find solutions. Not only that, all have fundamental rights. We as children have basic rights. When we know our rights we can find solutions to many of our needs, problems and rights-infringements.

Ramesh: After that the meeting will be over?

Rani: No, no. Then only important businesses will be carried out. After taking attendance, every group leader will present his or her department related concerns for discussion. For example, within the club area if any child is not attending school, the "child right" group leader will find out the details and present the information in the meeting for discussion. Other members will discuss that matter and decide how to send that child to school. Like that every group leader will put forward information for discussion and members will pass resolutions on that and send it to the Head Master or local Government officials. When we do that we can find solution to all our problems.

David: Wow! It is really wonderful to hear about this.

Venkatesh: Yeah that will be great.

David: Will the government officials oblige when we approach them?

Rani: Definitely they have to. We have the right to approach them for our needs. I will tell you about our rights later. So through our club we can discuss problems and seek solutions.

Chaithanya: Can we constitute a Human Right Cub in our school?

Rani: Certainly we will. For that only I have received training.

Ahmed: When will we constitute?

Jim: Before next week?

David: Who can join the Human Right Club?

Rani: For the time being only high school students are allowed to join the club.

Chaithanya: How will they know that there is a Human right club?

Rani: Our social studies Madam Ms. Lalitha also attended the training on human rights club. Madam will help us. She will request the head master to announce about the club in the school assembly. She will give a small speech inviting students to join the club. But before that we must make some preparations.

Saleem: Tell us we will do it.

Rani: I have brought a banner about human right club. We will tie it near the school assembly meeting. We will make some big posters inviting students to join this club. These posters also will be in school premises before the Head Master makes the announcement in the assembly.

Salim: There are many students who are good at making speeches and writing essays. In the club they will get opportunity to go to other schools and give speeches or publish their essays on human rights. Make a poster inviting these students to join the club.

Ahamed – There are students who want to be socially involved where injustice is done to some people. Make a poster inviting them to join the club.

David: Those who are interested in reading newspapers and seeing TV and collect news about human rights. Make a poster on this

Venkatesh – Your poster will invite those interested in singing, dancing, storytelling. Tell them they will be given opportunity to write songs and stories about human rights.

Chaithanya: Many girls feel insecure in school and in public places because the boys rag them. Make a poster inviting the girls to join club and create equality for boys and girls.

Ramesh: We all love children. Many children are not cared for by parents, they don't go to school or are afraid of teachers punishing them. Make poster inviting students to join the child rights group in the club and help these deprived children.

With the banner, posters and announcement I am sure many will join the club.

Rani: We will do so next week. Now we will disperse to our homes

(Members are leaving)

5. Let us Conduct Election

Rani: Greetings! Friends

Children: Greetings

Rani: The posters and banner and our Lalitha madam's speech in the assembly was super. Lot of students wanted to join the club. We admitted only 60 members. You are all members: Welcome to the Human Rights club. Have all the club members come? Shall we begin?

Ahmed: John has gone to his granny's home and he alone is absent

Rani: That's ok. Next week he will join with us. Count how many are participating.

David: Total 59 members. With John it will be 60.

Rani: All these 59 persons will be our club members.

Ok now we will elect the Club President, Vice president and the group leaders and all of you here will vote in this election. Ok?

Children: Yeah

Rani: Those who want to become President of this club, tell your names.

Chaithanya: I want to be.

David: I will...

Ramesh: I will...

Rani: Anybody else?

(Everyone is silent)

Rani: Ok. It is not just enough that you want to be Club President. Someone among the members has to propose your name and another member should second it. Then only you will be eligible to be a candidate. Can anyone propose these persons?

Ahmed: I propose Chaithanya as a candidate for the Club President

Venkatesh: I second it

Jim: I propose David as a candidate for the Club President

Nithya: I second it

Step 1.

Announce the club to the students in an attractive way in school assembly. Give basic idea about Human Rights and working of the club. Students voluntarily join. Collect their names and announce the election date

Venkat: I propose Ramesh as a candidate for the Club President

Sathya: I second it

Rani: Now all the three are eligible candidates. Now we have to vote. But before that, the four will come one by one and share about why do you want to become Club President? What you will do if you become Club President? How you will be useful to the club? Members will listen to you carefully. After that election will begin. Is it clear?

Children: Yes

Rani: First Chaithanya

Chaithanya: Greetings to you all. I am contesting for the School Human Rights Club Presidents post. If I become Club President, I will treat all children equally. I will not discriminate between any one. I will honor the dignity of every person. I will try to spread awareness of Human

rights among the students of this school and in the neighborhood. I will listen to everyone's problem and seek to resolve them. I will make efforts to conduct this club effectively. I will try to be exemplary to other children here. So, please vote for me and elect me as Club President. Thank you.

David: Greetings! I am also contesting for the Club President's post. Please vote for me. I will do all the duties required for the club. I will get more books on human rights in our school library so that all know about Human rights. I will contact human right experts to come and give classes to the club members so we will have a better idea on Human Rights. So please vote for me.

David: Thank you for giving me opportunity to contest in the election. Please vote for me and elect me as Club President. I will take note of the human right violations in the school or outside in our villages and find out how we can stop them. I will help everybody. Thank you

Step -2. Election. Assemble the club members. Explain the responsibility of the club president. Ask for candidates for the club president. Those who stand for the election to the club president make short speeches about what they intend to do as club president.

Ramesh: Greetings! If you vote for me I will approach elders and officials for your problems and try to settle them. I will educate the students on Human Rights by exposing on the school notice board cuttings from newspapers on human right violations. We can also find from TV news about human right violations and tell the students about it. If any Human Right violation takes place nearby I will take the club members to find out how it happened and the reasons for it and how to prevent such incidents. Thus you all will get Human Right awareness. So please vote for me.

Rani: We have listened to all the four candidates.

Now we will have the elections: In our civil elections one who gets simple majority is elected but a majority is opposed to him. For example, if there are 100 voters and 4 parties: WWW, XXX, YYY and ZZZ are contesting the results may be as shown below.

First of all, in our country around 60% people only vote. So

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| No candidate | 40 |
| WWW | 25 |
| XXX | 20 |
| YYY | 10 |
| ZZZ | 05 |
| ----- | |
| Total | 100 |
| ----- | |

The election commission will declare WWW as the winner. But you see 75% (40+20+10+5) do not want WWW. To avoid this mistake, we will have a new type of election where there is "CONSENSUS and NO OBJECTION". Three of you act as election commissioners. There are 59 voters: Distribute slips of paper:

Step- 3. Election: "Consensus and objection less method":
Voters write the candidate's name on top of the slip and their own name below. No. of votes won by candidates displayed on board. The voters who voted for the candidates with low votes are requested to give their votes to the three candidates in winning positions. They vote again. The voters who voted for the candidate with least votes are asked to give their votes to one of the first two candidates. Now ask the voters if anybody has any objection to the candidate with more votes to become the club president. If no objection he is declared elected and the second one as Vice president. If someone raises an (serious) objection the others are asked to verify this. If majority (raising hands) agrees to objection another voting is held.

Rani: Please write the name of the candidate on top of the slip and your own name at the bottom. I will explain the reason for this.

Collect the slips Verify No. of votes count votes won by each candidate:

Suppose the results are as follows

| | |
|------------|----|
| David | 34 |
| Chaithanya | 20 |
| Ramesh | 05 |
| ----- | |
| Total | 59 |

Now who are the students who voted for David: 34 students please stand. Can you tell us what ability you found in David to vote for him? By saying this you will let others know the good qualities of David. After hearing them you may change your vote. The same is done for the other two candidates. They vote again: this time results:

| | |
|------------|----|
| David | 20 |
| Chaithanya | 30 |
| Ramesh | 09 |
| ----- | |
| Total | 59 |

Those who voted for Ramesh: Ramesh may not win the election. If you wish you can give your 9 votes to David or Chaithanya- thus we can decide faster. 6 of them give the votes to Chaithanys and 3 to David xo final tally

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| David | $20 + 3=23$ |
| Chaithanya | $30 + 6=36$ |
| Ramesh | 0 |
| ----- | |
| Total | 59 |

Now Chaithanya has 13 votes more than David. Have the 23 voters of David any objection if Chaithanya is declared as the club president? If any objection comes up the voters are asked to verify this. If true, then Chaithanya cannot be the president. We have to vote again for David and Ramesh. If no objection is raised, we say Chaithanya will be temporarily declared as the President and if he does not perform well then again by consensus opinion David will be given the chance. Now I ask: Is there any objection if David is elected as the vice president? If there is objection we will ask the voters to verify it. If the objection is proved, then we cannot elect David as the Vice President. Ramesh will be given the chance, if voters do not have any objection against him.

Rani: Now I declare Chaithanya to be the President of this club and David as the vice president.

Now we have 6 groups in this Human Rights Club:

- **Human rights study group**
- **Human right monitoring group**
- **Human right Media group**
- **Human right culture group**
- **Human right gender group**
- **Child rights group**

Members can join the group they like:

Human rights study group will read human rights books/articles and write small essays or speeches.

Human right monitoring group will look out for any human right violations (injustice) taking place and find the facts. They will discuss it and try to bring justice for the victim.

Human right Media group will collect reports of human rights published in papers, TV or other media. They will try keep contact with reporters and TV people to publish news about the club's human right activities in the media.

Human Right culture group will collect songs, dances, stories, plays etc. on Human rights and perform them in the school and outside. They will also compose songs, stories with Human Right message. They will celebrate human right events.

Human right gender group will look into school and society and find where the girls (women) are discriminated or victimized. They will study the roles of men and women in the families, boys and girls in school, and look for human right violations.

Child rights group will study the rights of children and their violations. They will study why children drop out of school, about child labor, and the role played by children in society.

Small placards with these group names are displayed in the area. Those joining the groups can stand near the boards. They are only a small group of 10 members and they can elect their leader by consensus. Each of the groups should have boys and girls more or less in equal proportion. The gender group may have more girls.

Let me introduce those who have been elected as leaders to our club

Club President: Chaithanya

Human rights study group leader- David (Vice president)

Human right monitoring group Leader- Ahamed

Human right Media group leader - Ramesh

Human right culture group leader - Venkatesh

Human right gender group – Nithya

Child rights group leader - Jim

Step-4. Election of group leaders: Six small posters with names of the groups are displayed at different places. The role of the groups and activities are briefly explained. The members are asked to select their groups by standing near the posters. The groups are adjusted so that somewhat equal members with boys and girls are present in all groups. The gender group may have more girls. The group members elect a leader*. The names of the group members and leaders are recorded. The date of the oath taking ceremony with duties of groups announced.

My wishes to all those who have been elected. I hope you will fulfill your responsibilities in the respective departments sincerely and promptly.

Seelan: We have become leaders. But you haven't told us what to do?

Rani: wait, wait... Now you are just elected. You have to take oath. Then I will explain to you what you will be doing as leaders. I will write down how to take oath. In the next meeting all will take

oath. We will invite our school Head Master, teachers, village elders for that meeting. What do you think?

Children: Yes, that will be great

Chaithanya: Yeah then only our elders will come to know what we are doing.

Rani: You decide whom to invite

Chaithanya: Why don't we invite our village president for that function?

Ahmed: We can invite our school headmaster

Seelan: We can invite the elderly uncle who has retired from military service

Rani: very good. We will invite all the three people

Ramesh: Can we invite our parents for this function.

Rani: Sure. It is very important. They will want to know what the Human right club will do. Please bring your parents along with you.

Nithya: We can invite our SI of police also

Rani: Ok. The six groups will invite six guests; we will have one chief guest and five guests and the parents of the leaders and the members. It will be a nice meeting. We will have our oath taking ceremony next Saturday in the school hall. Is that ok?

Children: Yes, Yes

Rani: Very well. We must have that function in a grand manner. So we need to make preparation every evening. Ok? The Club president and the leaders can write the oath on a paper and bring it. One of the guests will administer the oath.

Children: Ok we will all come

Rani: Ok now we can disperse. We will meet tomorrow

*This being a small group the election will be consensus and objection less

6. Oath taking ceremony.

Rani: Have every one come?

Chaithanya: Yes, all are present. John also has come. Everything is ready

David: Some of our parents are also here

Rani: Good. Chaithanya, is Sangeeta ready to perform the welcome dance? Ahmed, you have to coordinate the whole function. Divya, bring flowers for this vase.

Divya: Ok

Rani: Its 5'o clock. See, SI of police and the Military uncle are coming. Welcome them with sweet and sandal paste.

(Club President and few other leaders are welcoming them and seat them on the stage. Children clap their hands)

David: See, our village president and school headmaster are coming.

Rani: Chaithanya, welcome them and take them to the stage

(All the leaders take their respective seats on the stage. Children clap their hands)

Rani: Greetings to you all. Let us all rise up and sing the assertion song. After the song, our Study group leader Ahmed will coordinate the proceedings.

(Children and the guests are standing. The assertion song was sung. After the song, everyone is seated)

Ahmed: I welcome all of you, especially, the guests and our parents who are present here. Now our club member Srihari will give welcome speech.

Srihari: It is my privilege to welcome our village president Mr. Mahesh who is present here to witness our Club Presidents' and leaders' oath taking ceremony. I welcome the head master who is very loving and concerned about everyone. Our head Master has taken utmost care that there are no school dropout children in this village. When we have any problem of theft or fight we approach the SI of police and he is at our service all the time. I welcome the SI to this meeting. Next Military uncle. He used to share with us his memories of long military life. Whenever I listen to him, I always wanted to join military and fight for our nation. But what will I do? Now I welcome military uncle who has bravely fought in wars to protect our country. Also I welcome our parents

who have come here to witness this great event. Finally, I welcome our teacher leader Laltha who is the guide for this club. I also welcome Ms. Rani who will guide all the leaders and members of our club. (Clap)

Ahmed: I thank Srihari who welcomed everyone. Now Madam Rani will tell us why we are having this meeting:

Rani: Dear Sarpanch, Head Master, super indent of Police, distinguished guests and dear parents:

I am sure we all have heard about Human rights. The other day I saw a parent beating a child very harshly. I felt pity for the child and I said "how inhuman!" We are so pleased when we see children sharing a chocolate or a fruit. We say how human it is to share. So we know some actions are human and some others are inhuman. We expect all to be human. Human rights are just clarifying these basic concepts we have. We want to live in a world where everyone is equal, where there is justice, sharing, love and peace. This is possible if we know and practice Human rights. The UN declared Human rights in 1948. But many of us do not know what these rights

Step-5. Oath taking ceremony.
Club president and each group leader invite guests from school and village + parents. Prepare one or two cultural items from club members. One club member acts as the anchor: Prepare agenda:

1. Invitation of guests
2. Assertion song (all)
3. Welcome speech (group leader)
4. Purpose of meeting (Rani)
5. Cultural programme (member)
6. Club president takes oath
7. Members take oath
8. Chief guests speak
9. Other guests speak
10. Club president speaks
11. Vote of thanks (member)

are, or take action when these rights are violated. The aim of education is to make our children good HUMAN BEINGS and then good, engineers, scientists or economists or politicians. We are starting a human right club in our school so that students know their rights, practice them and tell others about their rights. It will make them good HUMAN BEINGS. We request your support and encouragement for this club. Thank you one and all.

Ahamed: Thank you Madam Rani for clarifying the purpose of this meeting.

Now Sangeeta will perform a welcome dance and entertain our guests. (dance)

Ahmed: I thank Sangeeta who has given an exceptional dance performance. Now, the leaders will be taking oath. First I invite Chaithanya who has been elected as Club President of our club to come and take oath.

Chaithanya: Greeting to all. (with right hand held close to heart). The oath may be administered by the chief guest with Chaithanya repeating after him.

I, J. Chaithanya have been elected as Club President to the Potti Sriramulu Human Right Club. I pledge to know and fulfill all my responsibilities as President of this club and to help every child in their needs and take maximum effort to alleviate their problems. Also I will respect every child's dignity and treat all of them equally. I will live exemplary life so that this club will be united as one family and function effectively.

(clapping. Club President signs in the declaration form)

Ahmed: I wish Chaithanya who has been elected as our first Club President. Now I invite our Human right study group leader to take oath.

(All the leaders take oath. After oath taking was over)

Ahamed: I wish all the leaders of our club. Now all the members of the Human Right Club: Please stand and take the oath: Club President Chaithanya administers the oath.

Ahamed: I wish all the members a wonderful experience in the club.

Now our village president will give a speech.

Village president: Dear children, especially those who have taken oath as leaders of club, I greet you all. I have been elected as village president for the last three terms and am serving our village for the last fourteen years. But, never have I come across Human Right Cub or leaders. When some children approached me and said "We have constituted a Human Right Cub and our leaders will be taking oath. Can you come and preside over the function?" I wondered this is "children matter" and what am I going to do here. But after coming here, everything looks new and interesting. I feel very elated. We have never seen our Indian leaders in person. But I am overjoyed to see these leaders. I am wondering what all questions these leaders will ask me and put me in difficulty. But, you are all our village leaders and moreover you are our children. So you can approach me at any time with your needs and I promise to help you. I wish this club will function well and benefit all children.

Ahmed: I thank our village president for his assurance. Now I invite our headmaster to give a speech.

Headmaster: Greeting to you all. I was thinking to myself when these children were taking oath. “What is the need for all these? What can these small children achieve?” But later I understood that only these leaders and not the central and state leaders can effectively help in the village matters. Only these people will understand our local problems and we also can understand them better. And moreover only children will understand other children better. You have the right to resolve your needs and problems. You have the skill to do that. The elders may not have time for all this. But you have enough time and resources. You can think clearly and take right decision. So I wish you all the best and I am really proud of all of you. I assure my full cooperation. Thank you.

Ahmed: I thank our headmaster who has been a great help to us. Now, the SI of police will deliver a speech.

SI: I am not used to speak in public meetings. When I see you members of Human Right Cub, your leaders and all that is happening here I am really excited. We police officers are your supporters for Human rights. We do not tolerate any violation of Human rights. If you notice any violation of human rights you can bring it our notice. We are here to support you. I wish you that you will grow in unity and serve the community. Thank you.

Ahmed: I thank SI of police who has wished us well. Finally, I invite our military uncle.

Military uncle: Greetings! When I see all this, my memory goes back to the old days. It was in the year 1962. Our troops were fighting on the China border. One night, in deep winter, we were lying on the ground with guns in our hands to shoot down the enemy. Then suddenly I thought “Why should I be killing people like this”. Wars are started by selfish individuals who have no consideration for others. But, when I see you, young children who are selfless, clear minded and with noble characters I am full of hope that you will make a peace filled society where there is no war, no discrimination against any one. This club can find solutions to all problems among the students of the school. I pray and wish you all the best in your endeavors. Now that I am free and have enough time at my hand I assure you my full cooperation to all your efforts. Thank you.

Ahmed: Thank you, uncle. We hope your encouragement and advice will enable us to focus effectively on our vision. Now the Club President will give a speech.

Club President: Accepting our humble request, as elders with rich experiences you all have come here and have wished us. I think it is a great privilege for all of us to have you here. And you have assured your full cooperation to us in all our endeavors. We feel confident to go ahead without Human Right club activities. We may come and trouble you often with our requests. We kindly request your full assistance. Thank you.

Ahmed: I thank our Club President. Finally, Ayesha will deliver vote of thanks.

Ayesha: I thank our president who has presided over this function. I also thank our headmaster, military uncle and SI of police for their encouragement and promise to help us. I Also I thank all the parents and children who have come here. I also thank all the leaders who have taken oath and all the club members. Finally, I thank our guide Madam Lalitha and Rani on behalf of this club. Thank you.

Club President: Next meeting will be held on next Saturday at 4'O clock in the school premises.

Ahmed: National anthem

(Everyone stands up for the national anthem. After that disperses)

7. Manner of conducting a Club meeting

Rani: Shall we begin the meeting?

Children: Greetings

Rani: First, let us sing our assertion song. Every meeting should begin with the assertion song.
(children sing)

Rani: Ok. Today is the first formal meeting of our club. In this, I will teach you how to conduct weekly/monthly club meetings. Everybody listen carefully.

The Club president after consulting the group leaders will prepare an agenda for the club meeting. This agenda is an orderly way of conducting the meeting: So let us write a model agenda:

Agenda:

1. Assertion song.
2. Election of the speaker for the meeting (club president)
3. Welcome speech (by previously appointed member)
4. Attendance – Club president
5. Previous meeting report –Club president
6. Implementation of Previous meeting resolution (Club President)
7. Report from HR study group - (Leader)
8. Report from HR Monitoring group - (Leader)
9. Report from HR Media group - (Leader)
10. Report from HR Cultural group - (Leader)
11. Report from HR Gender group - (Leader)
12. Report from HR Child Rights group - (Leader)
13. Selection of topic for discussion from the group reports –Speaker
14. Approval of topic selected - Speaker

Step-6: Learn the meeting procedure

Prepare agenda. Conduct meeting following agenda. All members to express opinion on the selected problem. Write resolution (majority opinion) and plan of action. Implement plan. Write report (for next meeting).

15. Opinions from all members –how to solve the problem selected- Speaker
16. Resolution – Speaker (Club president writes resolution)
17. Plan of action to implement the resolution – Speaker
18. Vote of thanks – (by previously appointed member)
19. National anthem

You can add agenda points if something urgent has come up or we need to do something. Now we shall conduct the meeting following this agenda. We begin our meeting with the assertion song. After the song, we have to elect the Speaker of that meeting. Club President will propose one of the member's name and someone has to second it. After that, the elected member will preside over the meeting as the Speaker. For every meeting, Club President has to propose a different member for the Speaker and by this all the members will have opportunity to conduct the meetings.

Club President: I propose Chandu as the Speaker of this meeting.

Nithya: I second it.

Rani: Now Chandu will be the speaker of this meeting and preside over this. He is responsible for the proper conduct of this meeting. No one should disobey him. While the meeting is proceeding no one is allowed to interrupt. Only after getting the Speaker's permission anyone can speak. No one should shout or scream. You must obey the Speaker immediately. Ok now the Speaker will conduct this meeting.

Speaker: Thank you for electing me as the Speaker of this meeting.

Rani: Now the Speaker will invite someone to give a welcome speech.

Speaker: I invite Jim to deliver welcome speech.

Jim: I welcome the Speaker, Club President and other leaders, club members and our guide Rani to this meeting. Thank you.

Rani: Now the Club President will read out the previous meeting's report.

Club President: Last week, September 18th Saturday evening 5'O clock, oath taking ceremony of our club was held in the school hall. The Village President presided over the function. Our school headmaster, SI of Police and military uncle participated as guests.

The function began with the singing of assertion song. Club President coordinated the program. Srihari gave the welcome speech and Sangeeta performed the welcome dance. After that the Club President and other leaders took oath. While speaking, our village president assured us of his help. The guests also spoke on that occasion and wished us the best and promised to help us. Ayesha delivered the vote of thanks. Club President announced the information about next meeting. With the national anthem the meeting came to an end.

Speaker: If there is any addition or deletion, please let us know. (silence) The meet approves the report.

Rani: Let us give a round of applause for the Club President. I just told him once how to write the report and has done a very good job. (clap). In the report he will mention if the resolution passed in the previous meeting was implemented. If not give the reason for it:

Now the Club President will take roll call.

Speaker: Club President will take roll call now.

(Club President takes roll call)

Rani: After the roll call, with the permission of the speaker all the leaders will present report about their departments.

Club President: We don't know what we have to do?

Rani: I will teach you what every leader should do and what their responsibilities are in the next meeting. Today I will show you how to conduct a meeting.

After all leaders have presented his department related concerns, information or observations, the Speaker will select one of the issues from the reports of the leaders for discussion. (The speaker notes down the issues presented in the reports. Once the presentations are over he again recalls the 6 issues and announces his selection). He will ask the members to approve the selection of topic. If approved, the discussion will carry on. If not the one who disapproves will suggest another urgent issue from the reports. The speaker asks for approval again and if approved carries on, if not previous issue is discussed. The speaker asks for the opinion of the leaders and members on that issue. All the members will express their opinion on the concerned issues one by one. You should not shout in the crowd. Everyone should think clearly about the issue and express relevant opinions. You can speak only if the Speaker gives you permission. If

the Speaker asks you to stop, you should stop immediately. Like this all the leaders should keep their department related issues for discussion. Is that clear?

All: yes

Rani: I will not be saying these things again and again. Now you are all club members. You have to behave as responsible members. Then only the Elders will heed to our requests when we approach them. They should appreciate our way of conducting the meeting.

As the group leaders have not been informed about their responsibilities they would not have started their work. So I will be talking only about conducting the meeting. After the members have discussed about a particular issue they have to take a decision on that.

For example, if there is a discrimination: the boys push out the girls near the drinking water tap. The girls always have to wait to drink water after the boys. The gender group will assess this problem and present it to the club. Then all the members will debate on those reasons and come with solutions to end this discrimination.

Gender group leader: I think the girls are not demanding to drink water first, or coming forward to drink water before the boys.

Rani: Yes, that is right. They do not demand because in our culture the girls do not demand anything. They take what is given? The girls have as much right to drink water as the boys. There cannot be any discrimination. This must first be discussed in the group meetings and then the group decision is brought to the club meeting. In the club meeting every one gives opinion and a final decision is taken. This forms a resolution for implementation.

Human Right Club on September 15th Saturday evening 5'o clock presided by the Speaker Chandu assessed the problem of discrimination of girls in the matter of "drinking water" in the school. It was resolved to request the head master to provide equal opportunity to the girls.

This resolution has to be written in the "Resolution Book" and the Club President and gender group leader should sign that. Under the leadership of the Club President and the gender group leader and few members should present that petition to the headmaster.

Gender group leader: If the head master did not do that?

Rani: We have to go to him two or three times and ask his help. The copy of the resolution given to him should be put in the record of the gender group. Even after repeatedly telling, the Head

Master did not oblige then the club should seek other ways to solve the problem. But our HM will surely help us.

Please understand that the students have the “Right to Participation”. This child participation is in “Governance” of the school/village/Mandal/District/State/Nation. When a section of the students of the school (here club) express their opinion the head master has the duty to listen to the students. This is called the “Right to be Heard”. If the opinion of the students is feasible and for the good of the school, the Head Master has a duty to implement it. In this manner the students participate in the Governance of the school. This is the core of the Right to “Participation”

Club President: Ok. We understand. Otherwise what can we do?

Rani: That is very easy. We can create awareness among the girls about their rights. They have equal right to drink the water. They can form two queues, or have separate taps.

Rani: Yes. For that purpose, only we have constituted the club. We can find solution to all our problems. Not only our problems but we should take up some of the human right violations in the neighborhood. All of us can live with good health and joy. Now about the meeting; this is how you should conduct discussions, take decisions, make resolutions and form plan of action. We have to look at all that is happening in the school from the human right perspective. Then we can diagnose the problems.

Study group leader: Can you tell more about plan of action

Rani: I will explain more about plan of action in the next meeting. Now we will see more about conducting meeting.

Club President: What else we have to do in the meetings?

Rani: First you have to discuss the issues like I have showed you. You have to take decision, make resolutions and frame plan of action. The club president will write the resolution in the book. You need to follow up whether the previous plan of action has been carried out. How it was done? All these things need to be done and after that the Speaker will invite some member to give vote of thanks.

Speaker: Shall I invite right now?

Rani: Yes. Now it is already late. So we will wind up for today. I will tell you about the duty of group leaders in the next meeting.

Speaker: I invite Vidya to give vote of thanks.

Vidya: I thank the Speaker who has presided over this meeting and our guide Rani who has taught us lot of things and our Club President and all other leaders. I also thank all the members who are present here.

Speaker: Now what?

Rani: National anthem

8. Duties of the Club President and Group Leaders of the Club:

Rani: Greeting to you all. Today we will learn about the duties of the leaders. Shall we begin?

(Assertion song was sung)

Club President: I propose Srihari to be the Speaker of this meeting.

Sangeeta: I second it

Srihari: I thank you for electing me as the Speaker of this meeting. Now David will give a welcome speech.

David: (as in the previous meeting welcomes all.)

Speaker: Our Club President will read the previous meeting report.

(Previous meeting report was read)

Speaker: Are there any addition or deletion in the report that was read. (silence) The report is approved. Now the roll call. (Club President takes roll call) Now Rani will explain to us about leader's responsibilities.

Rani: Before we speak about the duties and responsibilities of the club president and the group leaders, we must understand more about why we have formed this club or the objectives of the Human Right Club in the school.

Objectives of the "Human Right Club in Schools":

1. To understand about "Rights"- Human Rights. The 30 rights declared by UN. (Keep a copy in the file). To understand the history of these Rights. Discuss with others, other organizations about these rights. What happens when we do not practice (violate) these rights. Create awareness among the students about the Human Rights. Practice these rights and encourage others to practice.
2. To monitor and address human right /Child rights violations in school and neighborhood. To be sensitive to minor discriminations towards/among students. When Human Right violation takes place to find how it happened and how can it be prevented?
3. To use the media (newspaper, magazines, TV, human right related news articles) to create awareness on Human rights. To publish human right related news, stories and articles in the media. Establish links with local, national and international human right organizations and interact with them.

4. To advocate against any form of discrimination among the students, particularly gender/caste discrimination and promote a gender just society in the school and neighborhood. To make students aware of gender inequality and gender injustice common in our culture.
5. To develop a Human rights culture among the students by collecting / adapting / creating songs, skits, plays, dances with human right messages. To perform songs, dances, skits, tell stories, give speeches with HR message in school assembly, classes, school anniversary, etc. To develop a HR culture by the celebration of national and international human right days and historical events related to Human rights
6. To create awareness and promote practice of “child rights” (Right to live, protection, development and participation) among the students. Monitor child rights violations (school drop outs and child labor), in school and neighborhood. To take interest in the implementation of the “Right to Education” in the school and other schools. To celebrate child rights week and children’s day in the school.

Rani: Now let us learn about the role of the President of the club and the leaders.

CLUB PRESIDENT

Club President is the leader of this club. He or she will lead the club. Club President is responsible for the effective functioning of the club. He /she must feel responsible to achieve the objectives of the club: The spread of Human Right awareness in the school and neighborhood. Club President will sign all the resolutions, petitions to the Government officials and local authorities. All petitions and applications to School and Government officials are made in the name of the Club President. Club President is very vital for the success of the club. He must read the aims of the club and see that the aims are achieved.

Club President coordinates the activities of the groups. He / She will see that the different groups function well and take activities promoting the objectives of the club. He may call for a meeting of the group leaders before the club meeting and ask for their activity reports. He/she is responsible for calling the club meeting (once in a month or oftener), prepare agenda, prepare

meeting report and present it in the next meeting. Also he or she is responsible (together with the group leaders) to implement the resolutions passed by the club. Moreover, he or she should look after all outbound communications and letter correspondence. Then he or she should also preserve all things that belong to the club like notes, files, registers, reports, resolution documents etc. Before laying down your office the club president will call for club meeting, elect a new President and hand over all club materials to the successor.

Club president will consult the teacher/master in charge of the club in all matters and avoid any conflict between school and club. He will try to uphold the rights of children (club members) to express their opinion (right to participation) to the school /local authority. The children have the “right to be heard” and request the authorities to implement the opinion of members (resolution of the club meeting) if it is good for the students/school.

The club president must keep the club members united, know everyone by name. Encourage members to take active part in all group/club activities. If there are not sufficient members he will facilitate the admission of new members, and if any member leaves the club he will facilitate the admission of new member with the approval of the group leaders. He thus keeps the club functioning always. He should take up activities that bring good name and prestige to the club.

Club President: In the meeting report, should only the Club President sign?

Rani: Club President and the Speaker sign the report, it will be approved by the assembly.

Step -7. Learn the objectives of the club, duties of club president and the role of group leaders. Encourage and guide them to fulfill the objectives of the club. Attend club meetings, support club to implement resolutions passed in club meetings.

The role and duties of group leaders: The group leader

will cooperate with the club president, attend the group leaders’ meetings called by the club president and try to fulfill the aims of the club. He/she will guide the activities of the group, hold group meetings, prepare and present group reports in club meetings, support club president to implement club resolutions.

The group leader must keep the group members united, know everyone by name. If there are not sufficient members, he will request the Club President to admit new members and if any

member leaves the group he will facilitate the admission of new members with the approval of the Club President and group members. He thus keeps the group functioning always. He should encourage members to take up activities that bring good name and prestige to the group. Before laying down office, inform the president, call for group meeting, and elect a new group leader and hand over all group materials to the successor.

Chaithanya: We have no clear idea about the kind of activities we have do in the groups.

Rani: I will try to tell you some of the activities the groups can do. Besides these you can take up other activities that you think are good for the group. Any activity that will improve the school or benefit the students can be done. This will bring appreciation for your group from the HM and the teachers. When the groups are active the club works well.

Human rights study group and Vice president- leader- David. (The club vice-president is the ex-officio leader of this group).

The aim of the group is to take up activities that will educate or create awareness on Human rights for the following groups:

The Club members

The students of the school

The teachers and staff of the school

The leaders of the neighborhood community.

Any other group that needs or asks for such awareness.

Suggested activities are:

- i) Keep a copy of the 30 Human rights declared by UN in the file. Get explanations.
- ii) Collect HR literature from "PARA", internet, other HR NGOs.
- iii) Read the HR lessons found in school text books and be ready to explain them to students.
- iv) Establish and maintain links with HR NGOs, State and national HR commissions or other organizations

- v) Collect educative /awareness creation materials from newspapers magazines, other sources
- vi) Take up group reading/study of the articles of the HR and the history of the Human rights.
- vii) Organize discussions / seminars /workshops debates on relevant HR topics in school with the support of local experts, NGOs
- viii) Give small pep talks on Human rights, occasionally in school assemblies or social studies classes, in school functions.
- ix) Study the implementation of the RTE and discuss these in the group/club meetings.
- x) Any other activity that will bring awareness on Human Rights among the students.

Human right monitoring Group-Leader- Ahamed.

The aim of this group is to be attentive to Human right violations in the school, neighborhood, Mandal, District, state, nation and other nations. Get to know more about the violations particularly those occurring in school, nearby, find out causes, impact, and suggest remedies.

Suggested activities are:

- i) Keep a copy of the Human rights declared by UN and find out possible violations, give examples of historical violations/local violations
- ii) Take note of HR violations that exist or occur in the school.
- iii) Discuss this in the group /club and bring it to the notice of the school authorities.
- iv) Take note of existing HR violations or violations that occur in the neighborhood communities. After discussion in group and club bring this to the notice of the local authorities.
- v) Make newspaper cuttings of HR violations published. If the incident has occurred nearby, visit the area and make a report.
- vi) Expose HR violations through pictures, drawings, and writings in the school notice board.
- vii) Find out National and international HR violations from newspapers or other media and discuss these in group/ club meetings.

- viii) Through RTI to state / national Human right commissions find out about the Human right violation complaints they have received and discuss these in group/club meetings.
- ix) Establish links with the local NGO/ lawyers and find out about HR violations/ irregularities in MNREGA works or violence against dalits /BCs/ tribals. Discuss these in Group /club meetings
- x) Contact local police station once a month and find out about HR violation complaints they have received. Discuss these in Group/club meetings.
- xi) Any other activity that is useful to fulfill the aim of the group.

Human right Media group - leader – Ramesh

The aim of this group is to use the media to spread awareness on Human rights.

Suggested activities are:

- i) Keep a copy of the Human Rights declared by the UN in the file.
- ii) Collect HR related articles appearing in newspapers available in school. Make newspaper cuttings of these and expose them in the school notice board.
- iii) Inform by writing or phone to newspaper offices or TV offices about HR violations occurring in the local area.
- iv) Contact local language magazines and send them news/stories on major activities on Human Rights taken up by the Club during the month/year.
- v) Establish links with local (mandal/district) newspaper reporters and give them reports about local human right activities/violations.
- vi) Write letters to the editor giving clubs opinion about the National /international human right violations.
- vii) Discuss with the head master of your school (a prepared interview) about the implementation of the RTE in the school. Send a report of this to the local news reporter.
- viii) Use RTI to get reports on the implementation of RTE in different Mandals and districts. Share them with local newspaper reporters.

- ix) Make an annual report of HR club activities and get it published in the local newspaper.
- x) Make a human rights quiz for the students of different classes of your school and conduct quiz competitions.
- xi) Any other activity that is useful to fulfill the aim of the group.

Human right culture group - leader - Venkatesh

The aim of this group is to spread awareness on Human Rights through cultural activities.

Suggested activities are:

- i) Collect songs, dances, stories, skits on human rights from newspapers, magazines, TV and other sources.
- ii) Write rhymes, songs, dances, stories, skits, incidents about human rights.
- iii) Rehearse these above for performance in club meetings, school assemblies, class rooms, school anniversaries and other occasions.
- iv) Put up cultural performance with HR message during village festivals in the neighborhood.
- v) Teach songs, dances, action songs, skits to local primary school children with permission from the school HMs.
- vi) Select incidents from religious books like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bible, Quran, or any other famous book or fable and write stories skits songs based on stories/incidents from these with HR message.
- vii) Make a cultural performance to explain the human right lesson in the text book and perform it in the social studies class with teacher's permission.
- viii) Give cultural performance for the celebration of international Human right days
- ix) Any other activity that is useful to fulfill the aim of the group.

Human right gender group – Leader-Nithya

The aim of this group is to study the gender roles from the “human right” perspective. They will report gender violations against girls/women, stating causes, impact, status of victim and suggest remedies.

- i) Study the existing and occurring HR violations against girls in the school. Discuss this in club meetings and suggest remedies.
- ii) Observe and report: In the school who gets more opportunities to play games, boys or girls? Why? Discuss this in club/group meetings
- iii) Study student leadership opportunities in school. Are girls given leadership roles (like class leader/monitor) in school?
- iv) Observe the roles of boys and girls during club/group meetings (who sweeps the floor. Seating arrangement etc.) and suggest changes in roles to obtain greater equality of boys and girls.
- v) Study the drop out of boys and girls from different classes in the school and see whether more girls drop out. Find the reasons for the drop out of girls. Discuss this in club/group meetings.
- vi) Find out if there are toilets for girls in working conditions in the school. Do girls find it more difficult to manage without toilets than boys? Find out and discuss. Is this one of the reasons for girls dropping out from higher classes.
- vii) Study the roles of boys and girls at home. Who do more domestic work? Why? Can we claim there is equality between boys and girls at home? Discuss
- viii) Study the roles of daddy and mummy at home. Who does more domestic work? Why? Can we claim there is equality between men and women at home? Discuss.
- ix) Take the help of the local SI and find out the crimes committed against women and men. Do women get justice more than men?
- x) Use RTI to find out human right violations against women in the record of the state and national human right commissions. Discuss this.
- xi) Find if there is ragging of girls on the way to school or in school/ boys stalking girls or any other problems faced by girls.
- xii) Celebrate international HR days like "International Women's day" in school.
- xiii) Any other activity that is useful to fulfill the aim of the group.

Child rights group- leader – Jim

The aim of this group is to spread awareness on rights of children in the school and in the neighborhood.

The suggested activities are:

- i) Keep a copy of the UN CRC in the file.
- ii) Make a study of the UN Covenant on the Rights of Children (CRC), possible violations and discuss this in club/group meetings.
- iii) Study the violations of child rights in the school. Bigger boys bullying smaller boys/girls. Ragging of girls.
- iv) Is there any corporal punishment in your school? If there is discuss this in club/group meetings.
- v) Observe and find if there any school drop outs from your school? Find reasons for dropping out, try to bring them back to school.
- vi) Are there seasonal migrations in the neighborhood? If there is what happens to children's right to education during migration?
- vii) Are there tribal community (yenadi /erukula) in the neighborhood? Do their children go to school? Find out and discuss.
- viii) Use RTI to find out from the district "child welfare committee" the number of children brought to it who are not receiving "care and protection"?
- ix) Observe and see if there are any "differently abled" children in the school or in the neighborhood? Do they get equal rights with other children?
- x) Observe an Anganwady in the neighborhood. How many children attend actually? Why other children do not attend? Find reasons and discuss.
- xi) Observe the nutritional status of the children in Anganwadi? (weight required for the age). Reasons for malnutrition?
- xii) How is RTE implemented in your school with regard to school buildings, Drinking water supply, toilets in working condition for boys and girls separately, midday meals, and other parameters.

- xiii) RTE promises “free and compulsory” education. Find out the expenses incurred by parents for sending children to school on note books, on stationery like pen, pencil bag etc. Calculate the expenses. Discuss this.
- xiv) Is there a “School Management Committee (SMC)in your school. Is it functioning well (monthly meetings, attendance of members)? Is your school well maintained (minor repairs to floor, windows etc...)?
- xv) Find reasons why parents want to send children to private schools? Though RTE is providing uniforms and midday meals? Discuss this and find if Government is violating the rights of children to quality education?
- xvi) Are there any students in your school who cannot read and write the mother tongue? Find out the reasons.
- xvii) Celebrate Children’s day, child rights week in your school.
- xviii) Any other activity that is useful to fulfill the aim of the group.

9. Our Rights

Club President: Let us begin. (Assertion song)

I propose Sangeeta to be the speaker of this meeting.

Divya: I second it

Speaker: I thank you for electing me as the Speaker of this meeting. Now I invite Seelan to give a welcome speech (welcome speech)

Speaker: Thanks to Seelan for the welcome speech. Now our Club President will read the previous meeting's report.

(after the report)

Speaker: If there are any additions or deletions in the report members can express now. (silence) Report is approved by all. Now roll of call.

(After roll of call)

Speaker: our guide Rani will explain to us about our rights.

Rani: Greeting to all. Today we are going to learn about some very important matters. Listen carefully. Do you know about United Nations?

Club President: I know. United Nations is an assembly in which all countries have their representatives. Our country India is also a member in UN. Problems of the world are discussed here. Our Indian Prime leader also delivered a speech in the UN last time.

Rani: Very good. You have good knowledge about UN. In 1948, (Dec. 10) the UN assembly made the universal declaration of human rights. All the UN member countries have signed that agreement. India is also a cosignatory assuring to uphold all those rights. I will enumerate the rights one by one. Take note of it. It will help you later.

Step-8. Learn the Human rights and their implications in the present context.

1. Right to live
Right to food & clean drinking water, health & shelter
2. Right to education
3. Right to nationality
4. Right to religious freedom
5. Right to play and relax
6. Freedom of speech
7. Right to Freedom, no slavery
right to association
8. Freedom from violence and torture
9. Right to democracy

ALL HUMAN BEINGS HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE

That means government should save everyone from all causes of death from violence, and injury.

Speaker: But still lots of people die young.

Rani: Yes. We must protect their lives. If any child dies at any corner of this world, it means we are deprived of our rights.

Club President: how can we prevent such occurrences?

Rani: Good question. Wherever children die, we need to investigate the causes of death. Then we must unite and raise our voices to protest and force the government to take action. Only then the government will be careful to prevent such deaths in future. (Children die because of the lack of clean drinking water, sanitation, health care, and nutrition. These are obligations of the government)

ALL PEOPLE HAVE RIGHT TO RECEIVE NUTRITIOUS FOOD

Jim : That is called food security now. The government must make food available at affordable rates. The fair price shops are doing this? We must study this “food security”. Is that the reason why they provide midday meals in schools?

Venkatesh: This is why Government gives supplementary food for the children of the Anganwady.

Rani: Yes. But we need to ensure that the meals are nutritious, hygienic and of adequate quantity. We must check the food given in the Anganwady

THIS MEANS THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE RIGHT TO OBTAIN CLEAN DRINKING WATER

Nitya: But in our state, many villages don't have water to drink even. They have to walk long distance to get water.

Rani: Yeah that is true. But we cannot leave the government just like that. Government is responsible to provide drinking water to us all. The club can make a study of the drinking water supply in the school, village: Quality of water, hours of supply difficulties faced by people etc.

THIS MEANS THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE RIGHT TO RECEIVE FOOD, SHELTER PROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LIVE HEALTHY LIVES

That means, Government cannot be reluctant to protect us from any sickness for any reasons. Government is responsible to prevent frequently afflicting diseases and to provide free medicines. We can find how government hospital works, how many patients come there, what kind of treatment they get. The common diseases and prevention methods.

David: Government has eliminated polio from India.

Rani: This means Government can remove other diseases also. All people can enjoy good health.

ALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO SANITATION.

Rani: this means that all houses must have working toilets. There must be drainage of the water in villages and towns.

Venkat: What about the garbage? Nowadays there is lot of garbage on the roads.

Rani: The Panchayats and municipalities have to provide the sanitation to the people by removing thr garbage and making drainage. People must cooperate with the Panchayat and municipalities by putting the garbage in the garbage bin and not throwing it anywhere. Is there a garbage bin in your school?

Saleem: We throw the papers all over. The wastage from the midday meals is not disposed properly.

Satya: The waste water from the hand pump is not drained. It makes a dirty area and some children fall into it.

Rani: The club can take up these activities and make your school campus clean.

ALL CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION FREELY

Rani: Government should fulfill this responsibility also. The Government has passed a “Right to education act” RTE. We have to see how it is implemented. This means that the government has to provide food clothes, books and stationery to the students up to 14 years (VIII class). No fees

are collected from the students up to class VIII. The government is giving midday meals and uniforms only. We can demand note books and stationery. You can calculate how much a parent spends on education of the child per year on note books, stationery, travel etc.

Nitya: In spite of all this the government is doing many parents are sending children to the private schools.

Rani: Find the reasons for this. The Government school teachers' children also go to private schools.

The club can make a study comparing the education given in the private school and in the Government school. What improvements can be made in government schools?

David: We will do this

Rani: Wow! Your club is moving very swiftly. I am really glad to see your progress. Like this only we must find solutions to all our problems.

ALL PEOPLE HAVE RIGHT TO CLAIM ONE COUNTRY AS THEIR MOTHER COUNTRY

Rani: This is the right to Nationality. We are all Indians. Right?

Children: Yes, we are all Indians.

Rani: Then no one can deny that we are Indian citizens. Even if some say so, we need not heed them. Though we may belong to various religions, we are born and brought in India and we are very much Indians. It means that we have an address. Some street children don't know their address.

ALL PEOPLE HAVE RIGHT TO FOLLOW RELIGIONS OF THEIR INTEREST

Rani: We have the freedom of thought and expression. That means we can worship any God whom we like. We can follow that religion. No one can deny us that right. If they do so, it is a crime. But no one should compel others to change their religion. It means that we respect all religions.

ALL HAVE RIGHT TO PLAY AND TO RELAX

Ramesh: then we can always be playing joyfully

Rani: No. It does not mean that. In between our studies, we have right to play and to relax for specific time. With rights we also have responsibilities. It is our duty to study. We must do everything at the appropriate time. Some people have no time to play: they have to work for 12 hours.

David: Many children after school hours are put to tuition till 8 in the night. They have no time to play.

Ramesh: Some schools have lessons from morning 8 to night 8. They have no play at all.

Rani: we have to discuss all these. Play, games, relaxation and entertainment are also necessary for a healthy life.

WE HAVE RIGHT TO THINK AND EXPRESS OUR OPINION ABOUT ISSUES THAT INFRINGE OUR RIGHTS

Rani: If anyone mentions something or does something that violates our freedom, we have right to express our opinion about it. You club members have the opportunity to express your opinion in club meetings.

James: Many people are afraid to express their opinion when rights are violated because of some powerful persons.

Rani: Yes, there is a culture of silence. They are afraid. You have to encourage them to speak.

David: We are afraid of speaking to the police also. They are protecting our rights?

NO SLAVERY: WE HAVE RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM THOSE WHO EXPLOIT ABUSE LABORERS. THE WORKERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO FORM UNIONS TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS.

David: But many people do not get fair wages and are working very extreme and dangerous conditions like workers spraying pesticide without protection, or workers cleaning underground drainages.

Rani: They have the right to be protected from such conditions. There are also child laborers. No one should compel children to work. No children should be hired as daily wagers or kept as bonded laborers.

Venkatesh: How can we control that?

Rani: First we must explain to the children and their parents about their rights and assist them to attend school. If they are not listening, then we must talk to the owner of the company that hires them. If they are also not listening, we must take it to the notice of government officials/police.

WE HAVE RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM VIOLENCES AND TORTURES

Rani: There is too much violence in our country: communal violence, violence against women (domestic violence) violence against children (corporal punishment), sexual violence. That is, no one should smack us or give severe punishment. No adult should use us, children for their personal gratification.

Nitya: The other day I read that a person died in the police lock up. The police must have done violence to him.

Rani: The police use violence and that is why many are afraid of police and police stations.

Venkatesh: But in school, teacher spansks us if we don't study properly.

Rani: If we are not studying properly or not performing our works, teachers can correct us by giving mild punishments. But they are not supposed to show their full rage and thrash us. If they do it is violation of our rights.

ALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO PUBLIC ASSEMBLY: groups of people can form into associations to and express their opinions.

Club President: That means we have a right to form this club.

Rani: Yes, we can. Workers can join and make a "union" to protect their rights and students can join together to get their rights. Children have the right to "participation". When they express

their opinions as a group, the elders must listen to them. (Right to be heard). That is why we can take our club resolutions to the head Master / Sarpanch or any local official connected with our request. They are obliged to listen to children's opinions. If our opinion/request is useful to the children, school or the people they have the duty to implement it. We must remind them of this right.

Nitya: When a single person is afraid to speak about violation of rights, several people can join together and speak about it.

THE RIGHT TO DEMOCRACY

David: We can make our own governments. We can elect our representatives. I can also stand for elections and become MLA.

Ahamed: That's right. But I hear for that you need a lot of money to stand for the elections.

Rani: Yes, true. Our right to democracy has become corrupt. Only rich people can become MLA or MPs. The poor do not enjoy much democracy. Their democracy consists in voting for one of the rich persons who stand for elections.

Venkatesh: But we students have no voting rights.

Rani: True. Children have the right to "participate in governance". They can form into a group discuss the problems affecting them in school, village, Mandal.....and express their opinions. They can make it into a petition and take it to the concerned officer. The officer has to listen and if possible implement the request of the children. In this way children also participate in the Government. It is training for citizenship. We learn to be democratic.

Jim: I am sure our club will do this.

David: People must know these rights and demand them. If the rights are not protected they can become hurdles on our way to development. So we have to protect the rights all the time.

We also have many other rights which I will explain to you later. Now you know about your rights and violation of rights. We have to make the students aware of these rights using all the means we have like, speeches, debates, media cultural performances. Whenever there is violation of rights you must stand together and protest against it. Will you do it?

All: Sure we will do it.

Rani: Now it is late. We will wind up our meeting.

Speaker: Jim will give vote of thanks

(after vote of thanks)

National anthem

10. Identifying the problems, our needs and violation of rights

Club President: Let us begin our meeting with the assertion song

(assertion song)

Club President: I propose David to be the Speaker of this meeting

Jim: I second it

David: Thank you for electing me as the Speaker of this meeting. Now Vineela will give welcome speech

Speaker: Now the Club President will read the previous meeting report.

(previous meeting report)

Speaker: If there are any additions or deletions members can express now (silence) The report is approved by the assembly. Now roll call.

(after roll call) now Rani will speak to us.

Rani: Last week we have discussed the RIGHTS we have. Now we will see how to identify situations where our rights are violated. For example, all children have the right to education isn't it?

All: Yes

Rani: then we need to take a survey to find whether all children are attending school. If not, we must investigate the reasons. We can find this through a survey.

David: how to do survey?

Rani: We need to collect details of total number of children in our area, how many are attending or not attending school, how many boys and girls, what is their age and what they do without attending school. These details have to be recorded in a note book and this is statistics. Each group should collect details pertaining to his or her department and record it. Then only they can identify the problems.

Nitya: We can also find out the number of students in the high school who cannot read or write

Venkatesh: Along with the above details we can mention the details about school, the facilities and inconveniences etc.,

Ahamed: What do you mean?

Venkatesh: Whether students are making use of the library or not, play grounds are well kept or not, whether students are coming to school in time or not etc.

Rani: The child rights group can make a drawing of our school campus and mark on it the following:

1. Big school building
2. Small school building
3. Midday meals hall
4. Water tap/pump
5. Library
6. Flag post
7. Stage
8. Play ground

Step-9. Identify Rights violations.

1. Right to education, survey of school infrastructure, students, child labor
2. Right to life, infant mortality, nutrition, health, hospital
3. Right to protection, Roads, street lights.
4. Media survey for rights violence /fulfillment
5. Survey of HR organizations, HR publications
6. Find/compose HR songs, stories, skits, poems, lessons, HR defenders
7. Gender: Girl drop outs, discrimination of girls in school admission, leadership, games etc.

School Details

Name : Kalvakurthy Mandal High school

Classes : Up to 10th Std

Class room : 7

Teachers : 7

Midday meal in charge: 1

Ground level staff: 1

Toilet : No

Drinking water : No

Other Details

Children of school going age: 464

School going: 448

Boys: 240

Girls: 208

Children taking midday meals: 430

Non-school going: 16

Child laborers: 11

Rani: There are many violations to the "RIGHT TO LIFE". Many people die in accidents and some die of diseases.

David: Children also die.

Ramesh: The HR monitoring group can find out how many children died last year in our Panchayat.

Jim: How can we find that

Rani: We can ask the Anganwadi teacher, she keeps a record. We can find this and tabulate.

Total No. Of children below 5 years in the panchayat;

No. of children below 5 years who died last year:

Sunitha: 3-6 year old children are attending anganwadi. They get nutritious food there.

Rammya: If they get good food and care then the death rate should reduce?

Rani: You must find out about the Anganwadi and the children there.

Chaithanya: Many children are absent from school because they are sick.

Nitya: we can check if the nurse is attending to the sick children.

Sunitha: The nurse is not regular and she does not visit all the sick children.

Rammya: We must talk to the Nurse.

Venkatesh: We must find out how the government hospital is working. Are children getting good treatment there?

Rani: Children also need protection to come to school: for example, if the roads are not proper children find it difficult to come to school. Find out the condition of the approach road to school:

Approach road to school: Mud/tar/cement/: describe the condition of the road:

The HR monitoring group can find out about the roads in the panchayat and their condition. You can make a sketch of the panchayat and mark all internal roads and number them.

Road No. 1: describe condition of road

Road No. 2: describe condition of road, street lights etc.

| Sl. No. | Name of the road | Type | Condition of the road |
|---------|-------------------------|----------|---|
| 1 | Approach road to school | Tar Road | Tar has gone in many places. Holes here and there |
| 2 | Internal road No. 1. | | |
| 3 | | | |

Kavya: The Media group can find out about all the publications in the district and get the names of local reporters. We can give the news about our survey to the local newspaper

Rani: That is a good idea. Find out and tabulate the results.

| Sl. No. | Name of the News paper | Language | Name of local reporter. |
|---------|------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | Name of the magazine | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Rani: The HR study group can find out about human right organizations, and NGOs

| Sl. No. | Name of the HR organization | State/national/international | Address/contact person |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | Name of the NGO | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Chaithanya: The HR study group can also make a list of literature on Human rights and their source:

| Sl. No. | Type of literature | Source | Remarks |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Universal declaration | Internet | From School computer room |
| 2 | History of Human Rights | Internet | From School computer room |
| 3 | HR defenders : Gandhiji | Book | School library |
| 4 | Nelson Mandela | Book | School library |
| 5 | Martin Luther King | Book | School library |
| 6 | Lesson on Human Right | Text book | High School text books |

Venkatesh: The human right culture group collect songs and tabulate:

| Sl. No. | Name of the song | Tune | Human right message |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | We shall overcome | | Equality of all |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| | Name of the story/fable | Source | Human Right message |
| 1 | The lion and the rabbit | Panchatantra | Fight human right violators |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | David and Goliath | Bible | Fight Human right Violators |
| | Rama and Ravana | Ramayana | Fight human right violators |
| | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1 | Nedumarru Primary school | 13 | 7 | 13 | 0 | 5 | 2 | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | |
| | Name of the UP school | Total No. promoted | | Boys joining class VIII | Drop out | Girls joining class VIII | Drop out | Remarks |
| | | Boys | Girls | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | |

Rani: Many parents also admit their sons (boys) to the English Medium school and Daughters (girls) to Government Telugu medium school. If your school is a Telugu medium school can you find from the girls in your school how many of their brothers are studying in the English medium school? If your school is an English medium school can you find from the boys how many of their sisters are studying in Telugu Medium school? Tabulate the findings.

| Sl. No. | Name of girl in Telugu Medium H. School | No. of girl's elder/younger brothers in Eng. Medium school | Name of boy in English Medium H. school | No. of boy's elder/younger sisters in Telugu Medium school |
|---------|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |
| 4 | | | | |
| 5 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | |

11. Designing Plan of Action

Club President: Let us begin with the assertion song

(after song)

Club President: I propose Ayesha to be the Speaker of this meeting

David: I second it

Speaker: Thank you for electing me as the Speaker of this meeting. Now Anita will give welcome speech

Speaker: Now the Club President will read the previous meeting's report.

(previous meeting's report)

Speaker: If there are any additions or deletions members can express now (silence) The report is approved by the assembly. Now roll call.

(after roll call) Now Rani will explain to us about designing a plan of action.

Rani: For designing a plan of action we need to focus on an issue. Let us take a simple issue. Suppose there is a drainage problem in the school campus. The waste water coming from the drinking water tap or coming from the place where students wash their plates after midday meals is not drained properly. This waste water gets clogged and forms an unhealthy cesspool breeding mosquitos. We want to provide drainage for this water to a safe place.

Now, we need to plan the details about what we should do first to solve this problem. How to do it? Who should do it? These details have to be discussed and a plan has to be designed. Then we need to finalize how to implement the plan, through whom and when to implement etc.,

Suppose we decide to do it by ourselves then we need to design a plan action with details about how and when are we going to do it? Who will do what job?

After implementing the plan of action, we need to re-evaluate whether we have done it properly? What are the gains? If not, what went wrong where? By evaluating like that we can implement future plans effectively.

Let me show an example. We have the right to education. If our child rights group leader Ramesh brings to the notice of the club about a child who are not attending school, we have to meet the parents of the children, discuss about it and analyze the reasons for discontinuing school. Then

we need plan how to send them back to school. In case, the parents do not have money to buy note books, then we need to decide how much expense it will incur to send that child to school. If only a small amount, we can decide to bear the expenses ourselves. Then we have to plan who will give how much and when. If it involves a big amount then we have to plan from whom we will collect, who will collect and when. (Action Plan=What is the activity? Who will do it? When? On what date).

If he is not going to school because of some problem in the school, then we have to find out the exact problem. Find a remedy and inform the headmaster about it. We may decide to meet the head master and inform him of the problem in the school. (who will do it? When?)

If the head master is not solving the problem, we may have to write a small petition and give it to him. (Who will do it? When?). Write it in the resolution book.

We have to properly implement such plans. After implementation we need to evaluate whether we have done it properly? What we have achieved through this? Did the child go to school? Is he continuing in the school or drop out again?

After designing plan of action, if we should leave it without implementation, then we cannot achieve anything. Many times we will require the help of elders and teachers in implementing plan of action. During such times, we must approach them and beseech their assistance. We may present this as follows: Suppose our resolution to admit a school dropout child back to school.

Resolution passed in club meeting: Readmit Niranjan to school (class VI).

Date: 1-6-2013.

Action plan in detail

| Sl No. | Activity | Person responsible | Time and date | Result |
|--------|---|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Meet Niranjan and find if he is willing to go to school | Child right group leader and 1 member (Sunitha). | 2-6-2013 Evening 6.00 | Niranjan agrees to return to school |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 2 | Meet Niranjan's parents | Child right group leader and 1 member | 3-6-2013 Evening 6.00 | Parents agree. Not able to meet the cost of note books: 200 Pgs 2 =15x2=30 100 Pgs 3=10x2=20 Total Rs.50 |
| 3 | Raise money for books, buy books | Child right group leader and 1 member | 5-6-2013 | Collected Re.1 from all club members –Rs.50 Books given to Niranjan |
| 4 | Plan Niranjan's admission, fix date, talk to HM | Child right group leader and 1 member | 6-6-2013 | Met HM. Date fixed as 7-6-2013. Niranjan and parents agree |
| 5 | Take Niranjan to school | Child right group leader and 1 member | 7-6-2013 | Niranjan admitted to school |
| 6 | Observe Niranjan for a month – prevent drop out | Child right group leader and 1 member | 8-6-2013 to 8-7-2013 | Niranjan continues in school. He is making progress. |

Also, you must preserve the copies (xerox) of all the petitions we give to any local authorities. All correspondences with and from officials will be kept in a file. Then only we can refer them when we need them. Shall we design a model plan of action now?

Club President: Yes, we will do it

Rani: You will design this plan of action and I will only observe you.

All: Ok

Speaker: Club President will write down all the details of our discussion. Suppose our resolution is to plant trees in the school campus: the action plan will say:

“Club President will ensure the planting of saplings in the school by all members”.

All members will come to school by 8 AM

David will bring the saplings

Ramesh will bring a pick axe to dig the ground.

Venkatesh will bring the water can

Rani: Very good. You have perfectly designed a

beautiful plan. This is how you should design a plan of action. Now you must implement the plan of action. Everyone should come without fail next Wednesday at 8AM to the main road. I will also come. That day we will taste our first success. In the coming days we will design many more action plans, implement them and get success.

Speaker: Shall we conclude now?

All: Yes

Speaker: Now Satya will deliver vote of thanks

(after that National anthem)

Step-10. Learn the action plan.

- ➔ Plan of action based on resolution.
- ➔ Break up resolution into **several small activities.**
- ➔ Who will do these? fix time and date
- ➔ Review the activity/resolution

12. Whom to Approach for our problems?

Club President: Let us begin with the assertion song

(after song)

Club President: I propose Divya to be the Speaker of this meeting

Nithya: I second it

Speaker: Thank you for electing me as the Speaker of this meeting. Now David will give welcome speech

(After welcome speech)

Speaker: Now the Club President will read the previous meeting report.

(after previous meeting report)

Speaker: If there are any additions or deletions members can express now (silence) The report is approved by the assembly. Now roll call.

(after roll call) Now Rani will explain to us about implementing plans.

Rani: Sometimes, we may find it difficult to solve our problems related to rights violations all by ourselves. We may need the assistance of school authorities, village leaders and officials. Though we have many rights,

government is responsible to implement the rights. So we can claim them only through government officers. So, after identifying our problems, we must write it as a petition and submit it first to Head Master / Village President.

David: Also we can inform military uncle and post master who are our well-wishers and get their support. If the Head Master says he cannot decide, we can appeal to the Mandal Education officer (MEO) or District education officer (DEO).

If the village president says he cannot give a decision without the consent of the panchayat members, our Club President along with few other representatives can participate in the Panchayat meeting and express our concerns. If we do that, definitely we will find solutions. If

Step-11. Whom to approach to solve the problems?

For all problems always approach the school headmaster first, take his advice.

For problems connected to school: Headmaster, MEO, DEO Collector

For problems outside school, panchayat president, MDO, RDO, Collector

For problems connected to law and order, SI, divisional officer, district officer.

Health: Nurse, PHC doctor, Mandal health officer, DM&HO, collector

Problems connected with children: Aganwadi teacher, ICDS supervisor, ICDS project officer, collector

Finally, meet collector with written petition and copies of petitions made to other officers.

we don't get answers to our problems even in the village council, then we have to attach the copies of the resolution, the petition to village president, and the details of what was expressed in the village council and send them to the Mandal level officials. We can find solution here. If we don't get solution here also, we must write about our needs and the actions we have taken earlier and attach the copies of all previous correspondences to the district officials like district education officer and finally to the District collector. Also our representatives can meet the Collector in person and explain our problems. Collector will be well informed about our rights and he or she will take immediate action to solve our problems.

If our problems are concerning development, we can approach the Mandal development officer (MDO).

If the problem is related to health, we can approach the village nurse, the doctor in the Primary health center, Mandal health officer, the district medical and health officer (DM&HO)

If our problem is related to law and order and rights infringement, we can directly approach the police officials, Sub inspector (SI) at mandal, Divisional inspector and district officer.

If our problems are related to government policies, we must express clearly in writing our opinion about the negative impacts of the policy and send copies to the Education Minister, chief minister, Governor and other leaders.

If our problems pertain to grave violation of Human rights, we can write to the national and state human rights commissions, chief justice of Supreme Court.

If the problems we deal with involves children worldwide or in a particular country that are affected by the said problem, we can express our protests, opinions and resolutions to UN, UNICEF, other world children bodies and world leaders and ask them to take necessary actions.

Club President: Can we express our opinions in UN?

Rani: Sure we can. If the opinions, we express and the counsel we give are just and true then we can take them anywhere and argue our case. Now the world gives much attention to children and their issues. Even our former President Abdul Kalam has often declared that the future growth and prosperity of our nation depends on children. That is why he spent most of his time interacting with the children.

Club President: How do we get the addresses and phone numbers of Government officers?

Rani: We can get their numbers by approaching government officers in our village. Our headmaster can also help us to get the information. If we record those details and preserve them, we can use them.

Venkatesh: You mentioned about Human right clubs in other schools. Do we have clubs in other places also?

Rani: Yes. Like our club there are many more clubs functioning in other schools in several districts of AP. We can network with these clubs also. May be we can organize all the clubs in a district and have a district forum of human right clubs.

Nitya: That will strengthen us. We can get the support of all district clubs in solving our problems.

Rani: That is right. We can associate with national and international Human Right organizations. They will support us.

Club President: This is really excellent. So let us grow into national level organization. Then our voice will be heard out nationally.

Rani: Yes. When we remain focused everyone at the state and national level, all leaders and officials will respect our voices and opinions. Our problems and needs will be settled.

Speaker: While listening to this, I hope we will achieve great things. Then there will be no problem for all the children.

Rani: Yes. That is very much true. In the next meeting I will clarify all your doubts and questions. Now shall we conclude?

All: Yes

Speaker: Now Nithya will give vote of thanks

(after vote of thanks)

Speaker: National anthem (after anthem meeting concludes)

13. Let us get clarifications

Club President: Let us begin with the assertion song

(after song)

Club President: I propose Venkatesh to be the Speaker of this meeting

David: I second it

Speaker: Thank you for electing me as the Speaker of this meeting. Now Suresh will give welcome speech

Speaker: Now the Club President will read the previous meeting report.

(previous meeting report)

Speaker: The report is approved by the assembly. Now roll call.

(after roll call) Now Rani will clarify the doubts and answer the queries of members.

Rani: I have already given you lot of details about this club meeting and it's functioning. If you need more clarifications, you can ask now.

Sangeeta: My mother refuses permission to let me go to Human Right Cub. She says it will affect my studies.

Rani: It is wrong for parents to think like that. By participating in club discussion, our minds get sharpened to think and take decision. And by implementing our tasks effectively, our confidence and skills develop. When our ability to take and implement decisions improves and our self-confidence boosts up, we can study more effectively. We develop lot of soft skills by coming together here and perform things together. You must explain these things to your parents patiently.

James: After we have formed this club, many of our members are studying better than before. I too scored good marks in this quarterly exam than previous times.

Rani: That is true. So, to say it will affect studies is not a valid reason. But you need to explain that politely to your parents.

Bhavani: Last week my uncle said, "Some people are taking the children and making them to do public works like cleaning the school campus that only adults are supposed to do. Is that right?"

Rani: No. That is not correct. It is not the purpose of our club to do public works that are hard and what only adults can do. But we saw, we have so many rights. Whenever those rights are

violated or denied, we will discuss about it together and take decisions to find answers to our problems. We will approach right persons for the implementation of our plans. If they do not listen to us, just to set an example for them we may take on smaller tasks and fulfill them. When we as children accomplish such tasks the adults will come forward to help us. This brings a good name to the club.

Bhavani: Thanks. Now it is clear.

Club President: Only 60 children have joined the club. What about other children?

Rani: Now we have set a model by constituting the first club. We will start working and after seeing the success we make other children may want to join the club. Then we can admit them

David: Can everyone attend this club?

Rani: Sure. No one should force them to join. They must join by themselves. At present we are admitting members from the VI to X classes only. These children can understand human rights better. We ourselves will try to understand the Human rights better. We will do this: by reading more human right literature,

By monitoring the violations of Human rights in the school and neighborhood,

By following the media where human right violations are published and by publishing our activities and success stories,

By developing and performing cultural activities like songs, dance, stories, with human right messages.

By trying to understand the Gender related violations of human rights and working towards the equality of men and women.

By studying and monitoring Child right violations in our school and neighborhood. The UN also declared CHILD RIGHTS in 1989 and our country India ratified it in 1992. There are many children who suffer violations to their Rights.

By contacting other Rights organizations and NGOs and inviting them to interact with our club members

They will inspire / encourage us.

From time to time we must evaluate the performance of our club. We ask some of the people who attended our oath taking function to monitor our club. This group will monitor all our

functioning and question our misjudgments. This monitoring commission can join with the whole group and discuss, make decisions, design action plans and implement. In that case, the functioning of the club will be very effective.

Rani: Ok any other doubts?

David: When will be our next election of the club president and group leaders?

Rani: The leaders whom we have elected will hold their responsibilities for one year. After one year, election will be conducted again. All leader posts are for one year. So every year we will have election. In this election I served as the election commissioner and conducted the election. In the next election, you have to elect one among you as election commissioner and he or she will conduct the election. He or she will be responsible till the elections are conducted properly and the elected leaders are declared. That election commissioner cannot stand for any leader posts. So you can elect the previous Club President as election commissioner or someone you prefer.

Club President: What if some leader commits a mistake or did not properly fulfill his or her responsibility.

Rani: When some leader commits mistake or does not fulfill responsibilities we must discuss that matter in the club and take steps to correct him or her. We can repeatedly encourage him or her by mentioning their skills and make them work effectively.

But if a leader deliberately misbehaves or insults the dignity of members, club should ask for explanation from him or her. If the club decides that his reply is not satisfactory then with the support of three fourth of the members, the club can dismiss him or her from the post. But that should be the last resort. We must make efforts to convince him or her of the responsibility and win them back.

Rani: Human Right Clubs are constituted with the social perspective. They are the platform that empowers children to uproot the violation of Human rights. The club functions in a democratic way. It enables Children to practice their right to participation. They will appreciate the values of democracy and become good citizens. School teachers can serve as guides and motivators for constituting such clubs. By this, teachers can contribute to the cause of social transformation.

Finally, I am going to tell you about an important matter. Till now I participated in your club meetings and helped you. Now you know how to conduct the meetings, discuss the issues and make resolutions. But hereafter you must properly conduct meetings on your own. Ok?

Club President: Won't you come again?

Rani: I will surely come. But I will not participate, but just observe. You must conduct meetings yourself. If you need any clarifications or have questions you can take my help. Also if you want more information about Human Right Club, you can directly write to this association and they will give you whatever assistance you need. Their address:

Director,
PARA,
Human right Education project,
Ravulapalem.
East Godavari District,
Andhra Pradesh – India

Any more questions?

All: No

Rani: Ok. From next week, you have to conduct meeting all by yourself.

All: Ok

Speaker: Shall we conclude?

All : Yes

Speaker: Our Club President will deliver vote of thanks

(after vote of thanks)

Speaker: National Anthem.

(after anthem everyone disperses)

14. Documents Needed for Every club

1. Roll call register
2. Minutes register
3. Resolution /action plan Register
4. File for every Group leader
5. Income – expenditure note
6. Incoming correspondences note book
7. Outgoing correspondences note book
8. Club President's seal
9. Club's round seal
10. Identity card for club members

15. Through Human Right Clubs....

A lesson on Human rights in the school text book is indeed sowing the seeds of human rights in the mind of the young students. It may not lead to the practice of human Rights. The Human Right Club in the school does more: It calls for commitment and action.

1. To facilitate full participation of children in understanding and Human rights, telling others about it and in taking action when rights are violated.
2. To raise children who have understood their dignity and disapprove of any discrimination in society.
3. To raise children who possess sharp wit, self-confidence and ability to perform.
4. To raise children who will understand the rights of others and respond to their surroundings, society, country and to the world.
5. To entirely eliminate child labor, exploitation of children, child abuse, child trafficking.
6. To empower children, learn to work with other children imbibing the values of democracy.
7. To raise children who will practice the "Right to participation" transform their schools and society and grow to be active citizens
8. To raise children who have comprehended the importance of discussion, debate and dialoguing.
9. To raise children who have the power to influence others with their expression of opinions.
10. To raise children who will ensure their safety and the safety of others.

Finally,

Children who got involved into Human Right violation issues cannot easily forget the experience. They will serve as foundations of Human Rights and build societies sustained by love, peace, sharing, harmony, brotherhood and justice.