

Equitas' approach to human rights education for social change

For Equitas, human rights education is a process of transformation that begins with the individual and branches out to encompass the society at large. Ultimately, human rights education inspires people to take control of their own lives and the decisions that affect them. Our approach to HRE involves the dynamic interplay of the different paradigms described below. Taken together, they enable people to expand their views of themselves, of others, and of the world and to take action for social change in their societies that are consistent with human rights values and standards.

Systems approach

A systems approach helps us to analyse the broader (social, political, economic and legal) context of human rights and human rights education work. It enables us to see where our work fits with other local as well as global actions addressing similar issues. It also helps us better determine how our HRE work can advance human rights and contribute to social change in our communities and societies.

Why is it important?

Understanding the context leads to increased quality, relevance and effectiveness of our work.

Human rights-based approach (HRBA)

HRBA is a conceptual framework based on international human rights standards that sets the achievement of all human rights as the objective of social actions.

HRE is a social action that has a fundamental role to play in the realization of human rights. Therefore, it needs to be guided by HRBA, which emphasizes participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment and link to human rights.

Why is it important?

It provides an internationally recognized common standard of achievement for social actions.

Participatory approach

The participatory approach is the way we implement HRBA in human rights education and other social actions. It encourages social analysis aimed at the empowerment of participants to develop concrete actions for social change that are in accordance with human rights values and standards. It enables us to address human rights issues from the perspective of participants lived experiences.

Why is it important?

A participatory approach enables participants and groups to experience what living by human rights looks and feels like in the context of a training session or other social actions and in their daily lives. It also leads to changes in attitudes and behaviours in people's private spheres.

Learning spiral

The learning spiral is a model for designing social actions (like human rights education) in accordance with a participatory approach.

Why is it important?

It is a tool for planning education for social change which enables us to put a participatory approach into action.



Processes and perspectives for implementing HRE in line with HRBA

- Critical reflection
- Evaluation
- Gender perspective