**Reporting on Education for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy, International Understanding and Tolerance**

**Questionnaire**

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A. Overall National Strategy

The vision of the Government is to inculcate human rights culture among all sections of the population of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

This is being done and would be done by appropriate training and sensitization on human rights through collaborative arrangements.

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B. Specific human rights education initiatives undertaken with respect to:-

(i) Higher education

At tertiary level, Human Rights Education already forms part of the curriculum of Jaw courses. Human Rights is an essential component of training of Police and Prisons Officers.

**(ii)** Teachers and educators.

(a) With a view to promoting respect for human rights through teaching and education, the Commonwealth Secretariat was approached by the Prime Minister's Office to ensure the integration of human rights across the curriculum, which will cover training of teachers, school textbooks and extra - curricular activities at pre-primary, primary and secondary level.

(b) In this respect, Mr Paul Me Adams, Consultant of the Commonwealth Secretariat was on official visit in Mauritius from 28 November to 2 December 2011 in order to have working sessions with the Mauritius Institute of Education on curriculum development and working of textbooks at pre-primary, primary and secondary levels to address the following:

(i) Integration of human rights across the curriculum;
(ii) Integration of human rights in school textbooks, and
(iii) Development, implementation and evaluation of human rights project in school.

(c) During his visit, Mr Paul Me Adams met with Panel Leaders of the Mauritius Institute of Education. A workshop was organized by the Prime Minister's Office on 2 December 2011 with all Sectors and Managers of State and Private Secondary Schools as well as unions of the Secondary Education Sector and human rights NGOs to sensitise them on the project and get their feedback. Some 136 participants attended the workshop.

(d) The report from the Consultant is still awaited.

(e) Upon receipt of the report, the Prime Minister's Office will work with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Mauritius Institute of Education and the Ministry of Education and Human Resources 011 the implementation of the recommendations made by the Consultant.

(iii) Civil Servants and Citizen

(a) Human Rights Education has been conducted for Citizens Advice Bureau Organisers, with a view to internalise human rights and their relevance to human beings.

(b) Human Rights Training is being mounted for 55 Youth Officers of 24 Youth Centres around the island. A Human Rights Education Programme is also planned lor 300 youths during the period JU11C to August 2012 in 10 Youth Centres. The programme is aimed at inculcating a human rights culture among young person with the ultimate goal of creating a human rights friendly island. The project is being introduced in 10 Youth Centres and will be extended to all Youth Centres on a permanent basis thereafter.

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**Question:** Is education for peace and human rights incorporated in national plans and strategies including those listed below where they exist?

**Answer**

National sectoral plans for basic education, higher education etc

**Pg 6**

**Answer**

1. The Strategy for Reform 2006 is a policy document that lays the foundation for the new curriculum at all levels. The document mentions "human rights" as a cross cutting issue at all levels and that human rights should be 'integrated into relevant subjects'.
2. In the Education & Human Resources Strategy Plan 2008-2020 of the Ministry of Education & Human Resources reference is made to human values, value-based lifestyle and citizenship among the education sector objectives.

**Pg 6 No. 6**

**Answer**

- Preschool, early childhood
- Primary school
- Secondary School
- Higher Education
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- Teachers

**Pg 7 No. 7**

**Answer - 7(a)**

- Mauritius is a multicultural country so Mauritian Students need to develop attitudes of respect and appreciation of the uniqueness of each individual. Education is therefore concerned with the development of the whole child as a unique individual and skills necessary to enable pupils to participate as contributing members of groups are developed.
- Underlying values e.g. socialisation with peers, friends, family etc., acceptance of each other, living together irrespective of gender, ethnicity, understanding of fairness for themselves and others that are consistent with human rights education are present as from the Pre-primary level.
- The National curriculum frameworks developed for Pre-primary, Primary & Secondary include components of Human Rights education.
- Aspects pertaining to citizenship and values such as peace do exist in the school textbooks for the primary schools.

  The use of media such as art and music are also used to promote human rights within schools (for example use of posters and banners)

**Answer – 7(b)**

Yes, it is mandatory for Teachers and Head Master to receive training.

The Mauritius Institute of Education which has the mandate for the training of Teachers/heads of schools etc has included peace and human rights in the training programme.

**Answer – 7(c)**

(i) Teaching and learning process and tools.

Activity sheets produced for the pre-primary and textbooks produced for the primary subsector have already included issues like respect for the elderly, tolerance, patriotism, etc

Although the responsibility of developing textbooks for the secondary subsector does not lie with the Ministry of Education & Human Resources a syllabus has been produced to guide the development of textbooks for the lower secondary. This syllabus clearly specifies that issues of human rights education must be integrated.

**Answer – 7(d)**

There is no problem with the school/learning environment.

The right norms and standards are followed.

The school timetable makes provision for Extra Curricular Activities to be held.

Human right clubs and benevolence clubs exist in schools.

All secondary schools have a student council to ensure that students voices are heard.

**Answer – No. 8**

The Ministry of Education & Human Resources

**Answer – No. 9**

Yes

12% of the state budget is allocated to Education

**Answer - No. 10**

Yes

**Answer - No. 11**

All the issues mentioned above are integrated into the curriculum in Mauritius

**Answer – No. 12**

(a) The State supports religious festivals of all religious groups.

The school curriculum also provides an awareness of the different cultures present in the Mauritian landscape through the main festival celebrated in Mauritius. Students are exposure to festivals of all the segments of the population. In addition these festivals have been declared public holidays so that all Mauritians can participate in them.

(b) At school there is no barrier to the use of language. Although English is the official language, French, kreol, Arabic and other asian languages (Hindi, Urdu, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Chinese) are taught.

Children in Mauritius have the right to learn and use the language and customs of their families whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

(c) Gender stereotypes have been removed from the textbooks and pictures show examples of boys and girls playing football or whole family helping with the housework. In the field of sports, activities traditionally reserved for boys are now being offered to girls through infrastructural facilities. More girls are being trained in 'Male' disciplines.

**Pg 10 Answer 12 (e)**

Youth are encouraged to join the scouts or girls guide movement.

**Answer – No. 13 (a)**

UNESCO Clubs carry out projects related to Peace education

**Answer – 13 (d)**

There exist interactions between schools and the civil society such that NGOs are welcome to carry out extra-curricular activities in schools.

**Answer – 13 (e)**

Expertise from the Commonwealth Secretariat was sought to help the Mauritius Institute of Education in the development of curricular materials and training.

**Answer – No. 14**

Commonwealth Secretariat

**Answer – No. 16**

- Capacity Building of teachers in the implementation of Human Resources Education integration should be enhanced
- A guidebook to assist teachers in the integration of Human Resource Education is required.
- Teachers to be trained on how to use the guidebook