

HUMAN RIGHT EDUCATION FOR THE ROMA CHILD

by: Segun Saheed Lawanson

Abstract

Human Right Education is seen as a deliberate, participatory practice aimed at empowering individuals, groups and communities through fostering knowledge, skills and attitudes consistent with internationally recognised human rights principles and explains the goal of human rights education. The goal of the study was to examine human rights education with Roma children in day centres of Kirtimai. The objectives are to examine the theoretical frameworks of Roma children and their fundamental Human Rights, present workshop program to express rights of Roma child to education and finally to analyse the perception of children on their right to education. The theoretical framework is built on Human Rights to education of Roma children by reviewing the state of the Roma settlement and circumstances that surrounds denial to education. Despite the convention on the rights of child, it has been established that many European nations have systematically designed policies that have denied some class of people of their fundamental right to education and commonly are the Roma people who are the most popular minority group in the European soil.

The study was carried out within the Roma settlement by organizing a therapy talk program at day centres in Kirtimai to interact with children at the centre. The platform allows children to understand the basis of their fundamental right to education and gave room for them to express their thought on the right to education via drawing workshop. The outcome of the workshop shows that there is need for expression of rights to education without any form of bias to race, gender, colour, religion, language, nationality or social origin, and political status. This implies that students, parents and communities possess the right to take part in decisions affecting their respective schools, home, communities and the rights to get education. There is continual need for Human rights education in order to provide platform for learning that develops the knowledge, skills and values in the Roma child.

Keywords: Rights to education, Roma children, Discrimination, Poverty, Exclusion