Brief Overview on the State of Human Rights Education (HRE), and Challenges of Introducing HRE in Africa- Hankering Conundrum

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Format

- HRE in Africa
- Challenges to Introduce HRE in African Continent

Normal is an illusion. What is normal for the spider is chaos for the fly-
Morticia Addams

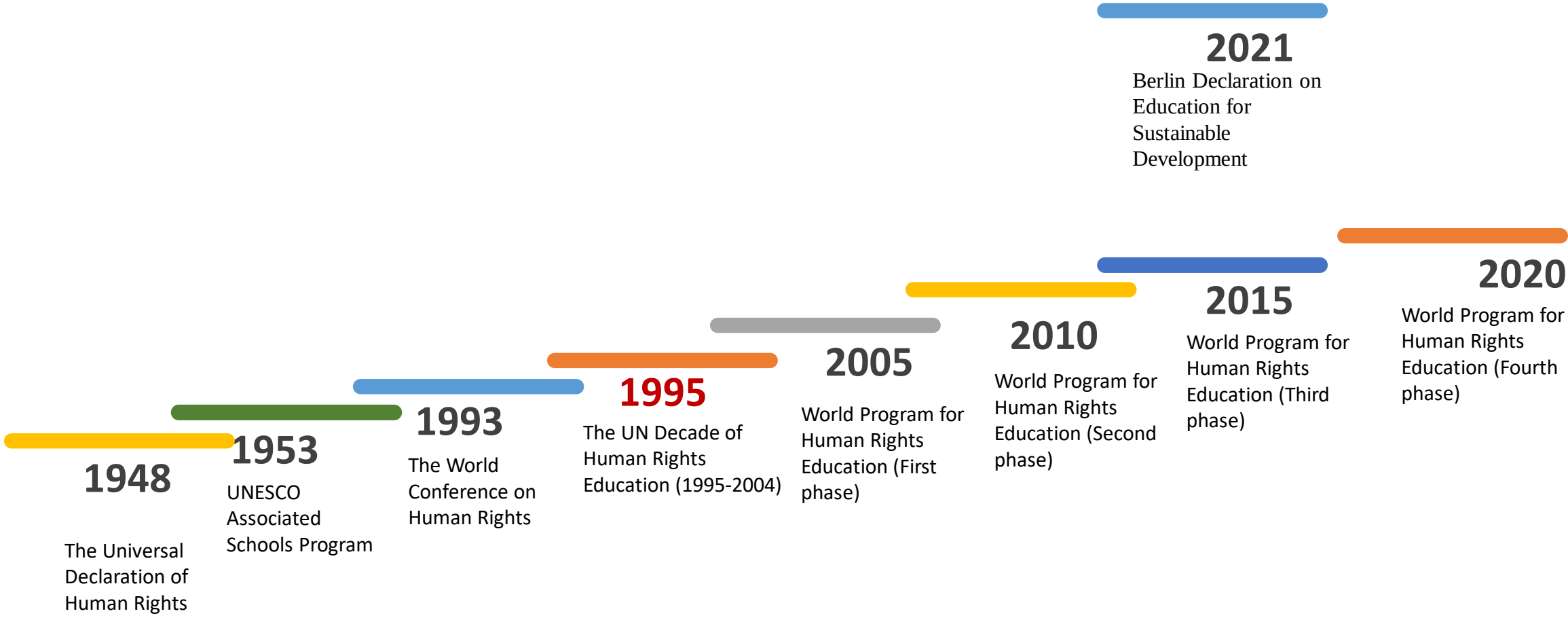
Human Rights Education

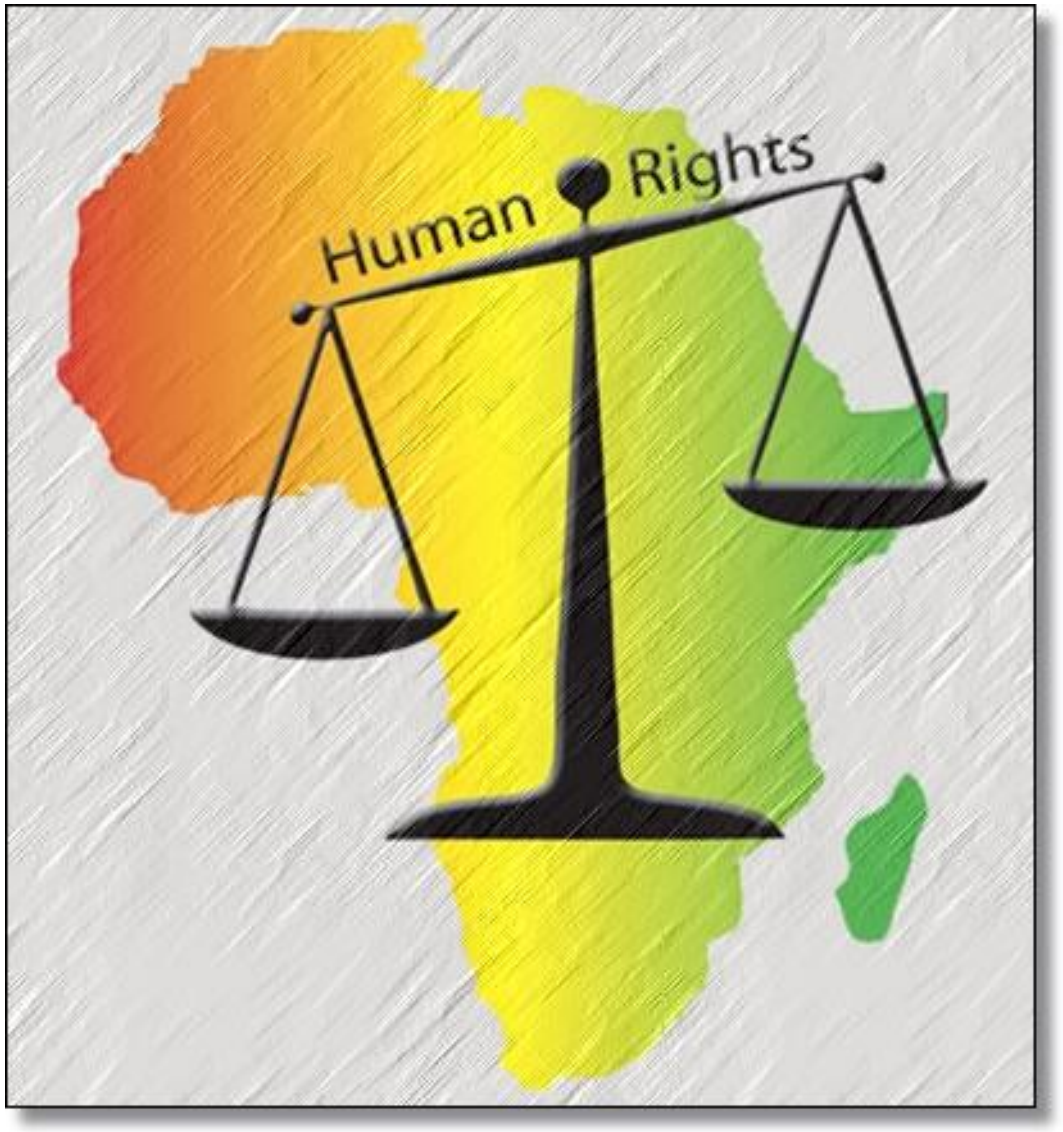
- Conscious incessant socio-cognitive and eco-ethical learning process
- Preparedness toward taking rational decisions through the conscious filtration of HR ideologies, sociocultural context, and political will

Right to Education

Education about Human Rights

Timeline


1948
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
1953
UNESCO Associated Schools Program
1993
The World Conference on Human Rights
1995
The UN Decade of Human Rights Education (1995-2004)
2005
World Program for Human Rights Education (First phase)
2010
World Program for Human Rights Education (Second phase)
2015
World Program for Human Rights Education (Third phase)
2020
World Program for Human Rights Education (Fourth phase)
2021
Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development



“Violent conflicts have been a feature of relations among the states from the pre-colonial period to contemporary times” (Falaiye, 2013, p.9).

HRE in Africa

The United Nations

ACHPR

The UN Decade for Human Rights Education

The World Program for Human Rights Education

NGOs, International Organizations, and Civil Society

Formal Education Perspective

- The state of HRE is progressive in a few and regressive in other African countries.
- The available courses are conceptually imprisoned, dominated by the UN conventions, declarations, frameworks, and covenants.

Challenges to Introduce HRE in African Continent

Colonization and Decolonization

Mystified Education Systems

Teacher Education

Role of African States

Neo-colonial Exploitation and Political Oppression

- “African people are still oppressed by their government that is why African governments are against human rights education” (Maathai, p.204).

- “The more successful such education is, the greater the risk that government action will be challenged and that the public will make serious demands for compensation and the punishment of human rights abusers” (Cardenas, 2005, p.368).

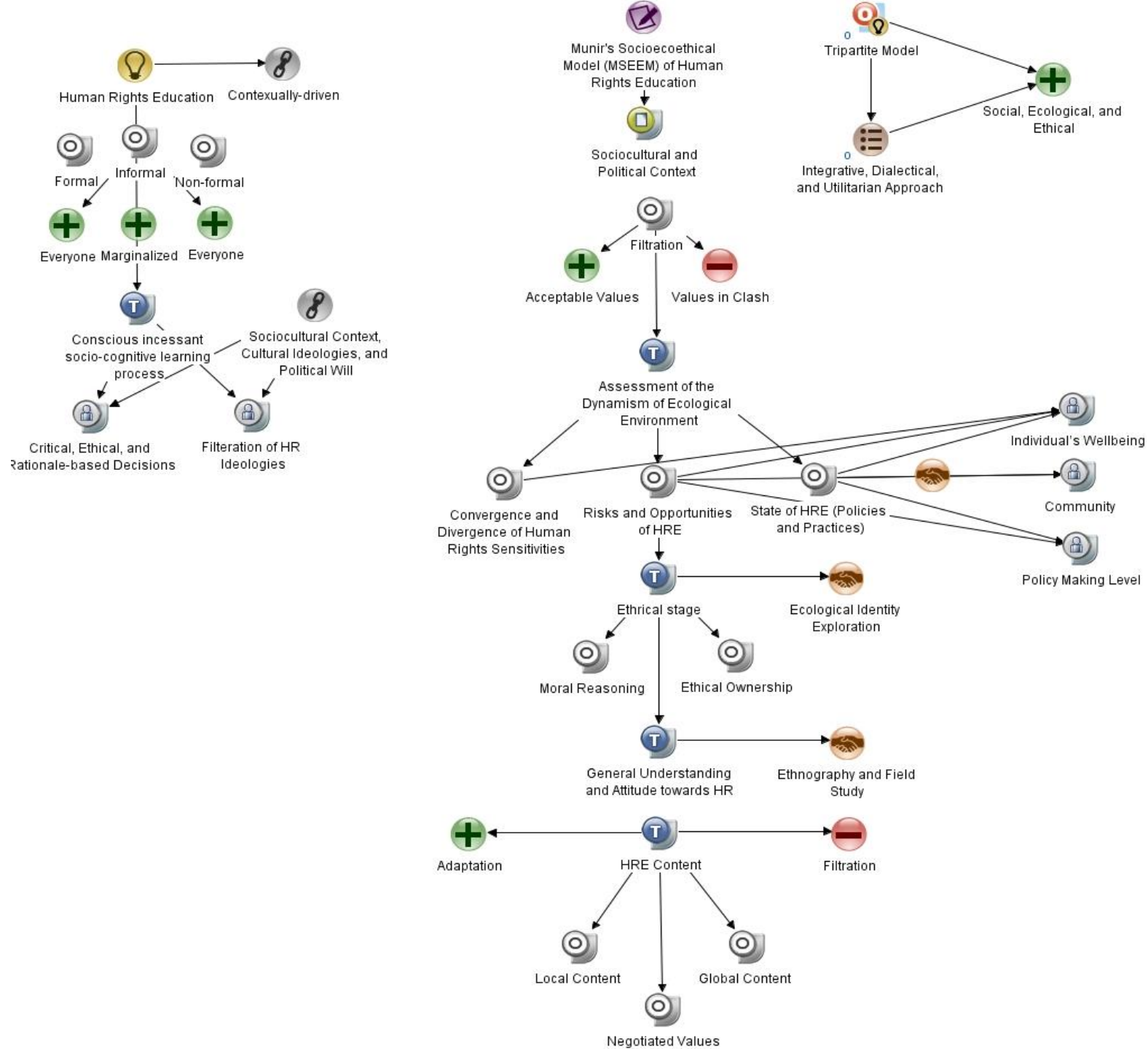
Challenges to Introduce HRE in African Continent

- Inhumane Cultural and Traditional Practices
- Low Literacy and Extreme Poverty
- Role of NGOs
- Lack of Adequate Knowledge and Awareness

- “While it caught up on the ratification of human rights treaties, it failed in teaching the weak, the marginalized, and society at large, but also the powerful judiciary. An African human rights culture and a general knowledge of the rights of all people are still not fully developed, therefore” (Horn, 2009, pp.60-61).

- Persistent social inequalities, lack of comprehensive HRE policy, and HRE ideological clashes between Africa and the west.

Fragile HR and HRE


Human Rights Education
Contexually-driven
Formal
Informal
Non-formal
Everyone
Marginalized
Everyone
Conscious incessant socio-cognitive learning process
Sociocultural Context, Cultural Ideologies, and Political Will
Critical, Ethical, and Rationale-based Decisions
Filteration of HR Ideologies
Munir's Socioecoethical Model (MSEEM) of Human Rights Education
Sociocultural and Political Context
Tripartite Model
Social, Ecological, and Ethical
Integrative, Dialectical, and Utilitarian Approach
Filtration
Acceptable Values
Values in Clash
Assessment of the Dynamism of Ecological Environment
Convergence and Divergence of Human Rights Sensitivities
Risks and Opportunities of HRE
State of HRE (Policies and Practices)
Individual's Wellbeing
Community
Policy Making Level
Ethrical stage
Ecological Identity Exploration
Moral Reasoning
Ethical Ownership
General Understanding and Attitude towards HR
Ethnography and Field Study
Adaptation
HRE Content
Filtration
Local Content
Global Content
Negotiated Values

Suggestions

- Sensitization of policy makers
- Entrenched HRE at all levels in the academia regardless of disciplines.
- From local to global
- Consider sociocultural and political constraints while designing curricula
- Teaching sensitive topics through appropriate methodologies
- Socioecoethical model

Networking

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