



SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*Circles of Support in India and Europe:
Community Resource Networks for People with
Disabilities and Autism*



European Commission

*Bhubaneswar,
Orissa, India*

6 & 7 January 2006



EU-India Economic Cross
Cultural Programmes

Organised by:

Dortmund University of Applied Sciences

NYSASDRI

Utkal University

University of Bolton

Klaus Novy Institut

A project in Germany, India and Britain, 2004-2006, funded by the European Union within the EU-India Economic Cross Cultural Programme



NYSASDRI



Dortmund University of
Applied Sciences



Utkal University



Klaus Novy Institut



THE UNIVERSITY OF
Bolton
University of
Bolton

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE:

Both in India and in the European Union, vulnerable individuals are in danger of exclusion or excluded from community and neighbourhood. Official declarations call for equal opportunities, full participation and empowerment of people with different support needs.

Process of social change place communities under severe tension, there are disintegrative pressures on social cohesion. The most vulnerable members of society come under the threat of social exclusion. Although the specific characteristics of these tensions

vary considerably in the EU and India, there is nevertheless in both regions a search for ways to facilitate and promote the cohesive and inclusive qualities of communities. We need to address these aspirations. One way is through strengthening the informal support networks in local communities, empowering their members better to include their more vulnerable members. The idea of 'Circle of Support' is a promising approach in this context.

A 'Circle of Support' (COS) is a group of people who meet together regularly to help an individual (the 'focus person') accomplish his / her personal goals in life. The circle acts as a community around that person who, for one reason or another, is unable to achieve his / her aspirations independently. The members of the circle of support, who may include family, friends and other community members, are usually not paid for their involvement. They participate because they care enough about the focus person to give their time and energy to helping that person to overcome obstacles and enhance his or her options in life. A circle properly facilitated is empowering to all of the individuals involved (not just the focus person) and, unlike many human service systems, does not reinforce dependence. A circle can support a person in everyday matters, in working life, and in social life.

Within the evolving paradigms of empowerment and inclusion, there is increasing recognition of the role universities are to play in the disciplines of human sciences - in particular psychology, social studies and education - in training professionals to work in local communities with their vulnerable members. Human services are focusing more and more on tapping and developing the resources of local communities – a changed role from providers to facilitators. This paradigm shift creates new challenges and at the same time poses new dangers. University curricula need on the one hand to train professionals in community facilitation and empowerment skills, while at the same time sharpening their critical awareness of the ambivalence of these developments in human services.

This project, 'Circle of Support for People with Disabilities and Autism in India and EU' seeks to contribute to this. The project is being implemented in three countries; Germany, UK and India under the lead partnership of the Dortmund University of Social Sciences, Germany. The Bolton University, UK; Utkal University and NYSASDRI, India are the operational partner in the project. The Klaus Novy Institute, Germany is the Coordinating partner of this two year project, funded by European Commission within its EU-India Economic Cross Cultural Programme.

This conference entitled "Circles of support in India and Europe: community resource networks for people with disabilities and autism" is the culmination of two years' work by a partnership consisting of universities and NGOs in India, Germany and Britain, funded by the European Union within the EU-India Economic Cross Cultural Programme.

This project has developed training, curricular and research resources for human service professions in order to promote circles of support – COS – around people with disabilities and autism in local communities. Human services are coming more and more to focus on tapping and developing the



resources of local communities – a changed role from providers to facilitators. This creates new challenges and at the same time poses new dangers. University curricula need on the one hand to train professionals in community facilitation and empowerment skills, while at the same time sharpening their critical awareness of the ambivalence of these developments in human services. Our project seeks to contribute to this end. The project impacts at four levels:

- 1) promoting scientific knowledge
- 2) promoting professional knowledge and skills
- 3) promoting social network resources in the participating communities
- 4) setting up sustainable frameworks for the promotion of circles of support in the regions

The aim of the conference was to present the results of this project towards the end of its activities to an Indian audience. The contributors to the conference were the project partners, the advisory board members, and key experts. The conference was intended to meet the interests of participants from higher education, public agencies, non-governmental and community-based organisations.

At the conference, the results of the operations of project partners in Dortmund, Bolton and Orissa was presented and discussed in plenary sessions attended by human service professionals, social science academics, community activists, government officials, members of international organisations, parent groups, leaders of disability organisations and many others. Other participants from Orissa, other Indian states and from Europe were also presented issues and projects related to “Circles of Support”. There was a forum for leaders of disability organizations in Orissa. The latter part, of the conference was devoted to workshops preparing a conference declaration and for developing strategies for strengthening the networking between organisations in Orissa concerned with improving the situation of people with disabilities and autism in a regional context.





Second International Conference

Circles of Support in India and Europe: Community Resource Networks for People with Disabilities and Autism

Date: 06.01.2006 – 07.01.2006

Venue: Hotel Mayfair Lagoon, Bhubaneswar

A project in Germany, India, and Britain 2004 – 2006

funded by the European Union within the EU-India Economic Cross Cultural Programme

PROGRAMME

DAY 1		January 06, 2006		
Hours	INAUGURATION			
10.00-10.10	Welcome Song & Lighting of Lamp			
10.10-10.15	Welcome Address: Sarangadhar Samal, Director, NYSASDRI,			
10.15-10.20	Objective of Project by Prof. Evemarie Knust-Potter, Dortmund University of Social Sciences			
10.20-10.30	Address by Guest of Honour: Shri Bent Vandborg Sørensen, Director, Langageskolen Aarhus, Denmark			
10.30-10.40	Address by Chief Guest: Shri D. N. Padhi, I.A.S. (Retd.), Hon'ble State Chief Information Commissioner, Orissa			
10.40-10.50	Presidential Address: Prof. L.N. Mishra, Vice Chancellor, Utkal University			
10.50-11.00	Thanks giving : Prof. Narayan Pati, Utkal University			
11.00-11.15	TEA BREAK (PRESS INTERVIEWS IN TEA BREAK)			
11.15-13.00	Promoting Circles of Support (COS) in the Local Projects: Reports by the Project Partners Chair: Prof. Haribhau Kedar (Nagpur University) Philip Potter (Klaus Novy Institut, Germany) Prof. Evemarie Knust-Potter (Dortmund University of Applied Sciences, Germany) Dr. Bharati Mishra (NYSASDRI, India) Navin Kikabhai (University of Bolton, UK) Prof. Sudhakar Rath (Utkal University)			
13.00-1400	LUNCH BREAK			
PARALLEL DISCUSSION GROUPS ON ISSUES AND PROJECTS RELATED TO COS				
	Group One (Lotus)	Group Two (Marigold)	Group Three (Jasmine)	Group Four (Camellia)
2.00-15.30 hrs.	Facilitators: Prof. Evemarie Knust-Potter, Kasturi Mohapatra Presenters: B. Moses Herick (CBR Forum): <i>The Need for transfer of Behaviour Modification Skills through CBR Approach</i> P.K. Jena (CATCH): <i>Autism Therapy, Counselling and Help</i> Discussion	Facilitators: Sarang Samal, Philip Potter Presenters: Rajendra Prasad Pardhi (Orissa Association for the Blind): <i>Rights of the Disabled Persons and Resource Mobilisation</i> Bhagirathi Sahoo (Akshyam Sangathan): <i>Inclusive Society</i> Prof. B. Padhee, <i>Moving from isolation to inclusion</i> Discussion	Facilitators: Prof Sudhakar Rath, Joe Whittaker Presenters: Shisir Kumar Das (IIEC): <i>Development of Children with Autism through Vocational Education</i> Shyam Sundar Das (CLAP) <i>Disability & Law</i> Discussion	Facilitators: Navin Kikabhai, Dr. Bharati Mishra Presenters: Prof. Narayan Pati (Utkal University): <i>Identification & Assessment of Persons with Intellectual Disability</i> Dr. Satya Prasad Ghosh (CEE): <i>The Existential Education</i> Discussion
15.30 - 16.00 hrs	TEA BREAK			
16.00- 18.00 hrs	Open forum for leaders of disability organizations in Orissa Chairs and Moderators: Ashok Hans (Santa Memorial Rehabilitation Centre), Dr. P.K. Rath (Utkal University), Prof. Haribhau Kedar, Vice-Chancellor (Nagpur University)			
18.00 – 19.00 hrs	Cultural Programme (Optional) by Open Learning Systems			



DAY 2		January	
09.30 - 9.45 hrs	Welcome Address and Overview of First Day's Proceedings: Prof. Sanjoy K Nayak, Director of Development Studies, University of Birmingham, UK		
9.45 - 11.15 hrs	Chair: Joe Whittaker (University of Bolton) Bent Vandborg Sørensen (Langageskolen Aarhus): <i>Changes in the Spectrum of Services for People with Autism in Denmark</i> Ms. Kasturi Mohapatra (Open Learning Systems): <i>Autism in Orissa and existing support services</i>		
11.15 - 11.45 hrs	TEA BREAK		
11.45 - 13.15 hrs	Chair: Prof. Sudhakar Rath Co-Chair Prof. N.C. Pati Mandy Neville (Circles Network UK): <i>Circles of Support in Britain - Evaluation Frameworks based on the Social Model of Disability</i> Dr. Sruti Mohapatra (Swabhiman): <i>Disability Networks in Orissa and their impact</i>		
13.15 - 13.30 hrs	Sarangadhar Samal Introduction to the afternoon workshops		
13.30 - 14.30 hrs	LUNCH BREAK		
14.30 - 16.00 hrs	PARALLEL WORKSHOPS ON "THE BHUBANESWAR DECLARATION", "NETWORK FOUNDATION, ORISSA-WIDE NETWORK"		
	Group One (Lotus)	Group Two (Marigold)	Group Three (Jasmine)
	The "Bhubaneswar Declaration" – a resolution by conference participants	A greater network on Circles of Support for disability and autism in Orissa – formation of core action group	Strengthening transnational links between disability organizations in Orissa and Europe
	Chairs: Prof. P.K. Mishra, Dr. Sruti Mohapatra Rapporteur: Dr. P.K. Rath	Chair: Ms Kasturi Mohapatra Rapporteur: Dr Bharati Mishra	Chairs: Prof. U.N Dash, Prof. F.M. Sahoo Rapporteur: Prof. N.C. Pati
	Group Four (Camellia)		
	Human and financial resource needs, capacity, policy, infrastructure locally, regionally and internationally		
	Chair: Dr. S. Pattanaik Rapporteur: Dr. Satya Mishra		
	TEA SERVED IN WORKSHOP ROOMS		
16.00 - 17.30 hrs	VALEDICTORY SESSION Chair: Bent Vandborg Sørensen Report back to plenary session by each group (presentation and validation by the assembly) Chief Guest: Justice Sarat Chandra Mohapatra, Hon'ble Lokpal, Orissa Guest of Honour: Tom Olsen, State Representative, UNICEF, Orissa Guest of Honour: Shri Gagan Kumar Dhal I.A.S., Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Orissa Guest of Honour: Shri G.V. Venugopala Sarma I.A.S., Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of SC & ST Development, Government of Orissa Chief Speaker: Soumya Ranjan Pattanayak, Editor, The Sambad Closing Address: Philip Potter , Major General S. D. Mahanti		

2. REPORT ON CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

2.1 Inauguration

The Second International Conference on 'Circle of Support in India and Europe: Community Resource Networks for People with Disabilities and Autism' was held on 6th and 7th January 2006 at Mayfair Lagoon, Bhubaneswar, Orissa. In this two day conference the invited guests, lead partner Dortmund University of Applied Science, Germany; operational partners University of Bolton, UK; NYSASDRI, and Utkal University, Orissa, India and the Trans-national Coordination Partner Klaus Novy Institute, Cologne, Germany; professionals and experts, representatives of NGOs working for the cause of disabled in Orissa & media persons participated .



Symbolizing the event, The conference was started with the inaugural song and floral presentation by the mentally retarded children of Chetna Institute, Bhubaneswar. The Chief Guest Sri Dharendra Nath Padhi, Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner, Orissa inaugurated the conference by lighting the candles.

Mr. Sarangadhar Samal, Director of NYSASDRI in his welcome address thanked the guests, delegates and participants for their response to the conference and their concern for the cause of disability in Orissa. He welcomed all the guests, participants and media persons to this two-day conference and introduced the Chief Guest and other dignitaries on the dais. He also briefed about the vision, mission and objective of the programme and requested all to contribute to the success of the conference.

Then Prof. Evemarie Knust Potter, Dortmund University of Applied Sciences, Germany gave an overview on the objectives of this two-year trans-national project "Circle of support for People with Disability and Autism in India & EU". She mentioned this project as an adventure to promote scientific & professional knowledge and skills for a better understanding of the qualities of social networks in EU and India. Explaining the history of this project, Prof. Eve Marie pointed out that this workshop is a platform to share with the professionals and general audience on the enormous



experience acquired by the partners during the project execution. Stating about the social exclusion of people with disabilities and autism in Europe she stressed trans-national social exchanges to work effectively for the betterment of the vulnerable section.

The Chief Guest Shri Dharendra Nath Padhi, I.A.S. (Retd.), Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner, Orissa applauded the students of CHETANA for their marvellous song, which revealed no bar between the potentialities of children with disabilities if given an opportunity. Recalling his previous association in this field of disability in Oxford University as well as acting

as an interface for building Indo-European relations in previous administrative capacity he highlighted that Persons with Disabilities should not be dealt with Sympathy but with Empathy. Citing the example of the great Hellen Keller, he said there should be a strong commitment among the vulnerable persons and the society to avail and create opportunities. Speaking on the development of curricula, he said courses provided by any universities should not be only job oriented but also



disabilities to join the mainstream of society and family support.

The session was presided by Prof. L. N. Mishra Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University. In his presidential address, he said the origin of this project was set from Dortmund University in year 2004 with a cross-cultural exchange between the students of the two countries. On behalf of Utkal University, he congratulated Prof. Asha Hans and Prof. Sudhakar Rath for carrying out this ambitious project of trans-national learning. He cited that the objective of this endeavour is to evaluate the existence of networks and to alleviate the miseries of focused persons by the way of strengthening support circles. He anticipated the contribution of Utkal University through the development of curricula for the students of human science would certainly contribute towards the better standard of life styles of Persons with disabilities.



professional should have passion and a strong motivation for this cause. Civil society has to play a vital role to mainstream this vulnerable section.

Mr. Bent Vandborg Sorensen, Director, Langageskolen Aarhus, Denmark wishing a great success of the programme said that we all should put our optimum effort to enable the persons with



In the verge of concluding the inaugural session, Prof. Narayan Pati ,Deptt. of Psychology, Utkal University had expressed his heartfelt thanks to NYSASDRI for organizing this conference. He also thanked all the partners for their fruitful contribution to the Indo-European knowledge exchange. Last but not the least; Prof. Pati mentioned a word gratitude to the guests, delegates and media persons for their participation and contribution towards the success of the project. The inauguration session was concluded with a tea to all.

2.2 Business Sessions

2.2.1 First Day

a) Plenary Session:

Topic of Discussion:

Promoting Circles of Support (COS) in the Local Projects: Reports by the Project Partners

Chair:

Prof. Haribhau Kedar (Nagpur University)

Contributors

Philip Potter, Klaus Novy Institut, Germany

Prof. Evemarie Knust-Potter, Dortmund University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Dr. Bharati Mishra, NYSASDRI, India

Navin Kikabhai / Joe Whittaker, University of Bolton, UK

Prof. Sudhakar Rath, Utkal University



After the formal inauguration session, the actual business of the conference commences. The first plenary session was conducted with Prof. Haribhau Kedar, Nagapur University in the chair. All the partners of the project presented report on their individual contribution to the project.



Mr. Philip Potter from Klaus Novy Institute, Germany, presented the first report with the narration of aim and objectives of the CoS, principal target group, setting of sustainable frame work, role of his institute as a coordinating partner etc. Demonstrating through visual mode, Mr. Potter briefed on the two year work packages of the project which basically thrusts on Analysis of informal Social network, CoS curriculum development, CoS implementation in practice. He also mentioned about the time frame of the two-year tenure project, which is being concluded with this International conference of various stakeholders

working in this field of disability.

Prof. Evemarie Knust-Potter, Dortmund University of Applied science presented her report on framework for COS Project, benefit / value of COS Project in Dortmund, Germany. By the way of presentation, Prof. Evemarie narrated the outcome of an experimental study undertaken by a team of her students which brought sea change in the psycho-social life of the Persons with Disabilities & Autism in Dortmund.

Dr. Bharati Mishra, NYSASDRI, presented, in brief, about the activities undertaken through this project during the tenure- which dealt on two small scale studies and its findings on the socio-economic status of PWDs in Gondia block of Dhenkanal district, Orissa. Apart from this, other contribution to this project was bringing out a Directory of Circle of Support for persons with disabilities in Orissa, preparation of guidebook on disability, promotion of the concept through media, small orientation of grass root health workers on disability management and social get together of PWDs.



Navin Kikabhai, University of Bolton, UK presented his report on the development of COS website page, diagrammatic presentation of relationship map which mostly involves Family, Friend and resource persons, Role of professionals etc. He shared his experience on the development of training module and introduction of syllabus in B.A course in Bolton University, U.K.



Prof. Sudhakar Rath, Dept. Of Psychology, Utkal University presented his report of two years work experience on the development of two course modules for the professionals and Para-professionals in the field of disability, rationale and objectives of the course, evaluation procedure for students, Lessons learnt from COS project. Adding to their initiatives under this project, Prof. Rath talked about the disABILITY unit of the Utkal University and creation of barrier free environment through ramps & special commodes for PWDs in various departments of the university.



After the individual presentation the partners clarified the queries raised by the participants on the presentations. The session ended with an invitation for lunch.

b) Parallel Group Session:

After the delicious lunch, the four parallel group discussion sessions were held in four different halls. Each group had distinct topic and presenter. The participants were free to choose the group, depending on their interest. The summary of discussions in each group is given below.

i) GROUP-ONE

Facilitators:

Prof. Evemarie Knust-Potter and Kasturi Mohapatra

Presenters:

B. Moses Herick, CBR Forum:

The Need for transfer of Behaviour Modification Skills through CBR Approach

P. K. Jena (CATCH):

Autism Therapy, Counselling and Help



The first group sat in the Lotus Hall of the Hotel MayFair Lagoon. B. Moses Herick from CBR Forum, Bangalore had presented his experience based paper entitled as 'The need for transfer of behaviour modification skills through CBR approach'. The presenter explained that the CBR approach is a cost-effective intervention to cater towards the need of people with disabilities in a developing country like India. Children with disabilities, especially mentally handicapped and autistic exhibit a varied degree of behaviour problems such as pinching, throwing temper tantrums, lack of attention span, eye contact etc. This sort of behavioural problems among such children may be alleviated through the active involvement of peer group, family members, neighbours etc.

During the discussion, P. Yasodhara, one of the participant asked whether the autism could be changed, genetically. There was the belief that autism is manifested through heredity. Mrs. Kasturi Mohapatra responded that as per the latest scientific research, autism is not hereditary. The presenter, Moses Herick explained that CBR targets to promote the fulfilment of social and individual needs of PWDs.

Individual rehabilitation plan should be done in view of the particular rehabilitation need of such persons, but CBR has also 'an important role as the wheel chair of an individual needs to be driven in the community road'.

P. K. Jena from CATCH, a parent group managing a school for autistic children said that the parent should assert himself or herself that they have gifted with a special child and they should be involved in taking care of their child in every aspect. He presented about the school promoted by parents of autistic children.

ii) GROUP-TWO

Facilitators:

Sarang Samal, Philip Potter

Presenters:

Rajendra Prasad Padhi, Orissa Association for the Blind (OAB):

Rights of the Disabled Persons and Resource Mobilisation

Bhagirathi Sahoo Akshyam Sangathan:

Inclusive Society

Prof. B. Padhi, Sambalpur University:

Moving from Isolation to Inclusion



The discussion of second group was held at Marigold Hall of the Hotel. Paper presentation and discussion was facilitated Mr. Sarangdhar Samal, and Mr. Phillip Potter.

Mr. Rajendra Prasad Padhi, from OAB presented paper on "The Rights of Disabled Persons and Resource Mobilization". Mrs.Sasmita Devi read out the paper on behalf of Mr. Padhi (who is visually impaired) and he explained the topic to the group participants. He described about the rights of PWDs through three constitutional provisions such as PWD Act, 1993, RCI Act, 1995 and National Trust Act, 1999, which have been evolved through the directive principles of the state policy. In the discussion she emphasized the need of change in prevalent social attitude of people towards the disabled.

Subsequently, Mr.Bhagirathi Sahoo presented on 'Inclusive Society' where all are equal irrespective of caste, age, ability, disability etc. He had also stated that the conditions that can bring improvement in lives of disabled. He suggested for developing sensitization and social awareness to drive out the misconception about disability and other issues.

Prof. B. Padhi pointed out that improvement should be facilitated from the grass root level; that means from the rural areas rather than only from urban areas. So, he emphasized on the training that should be given to the teachers, family members, rehabilitation workers, so that disable can effectively be uplifted. Then facilitators summarised the discussion.

iii) GROUP-THREE

Facilitators:

Prof Sudhakar Rath, Joe Whittaker

Presenters:

Shisir Kumar Das, IIEC:

Development of Children with Autism through Vocational Education

Shyam Sundar Das, CLAP:

Disability & Law



The group discussion of the third group was held at Jasmine Hall. Prof. Sudhakar Rath and Prof. Joe Whittker facilitated the group proceedings. At first, Mr. Shyam Sundar, Das, CLAP did a presentation on "Disability & Law". Explaining about the three laws formulated for safeguarding the rights of PWDs,

Mr. Das briefed on the change of scenario in our sub-continent soon after its declaration. He further added that attempts have been made for equal opportunities and full participation of PWDs in terms of early intervention, rehabilitation and Integration of PWDs in social arena. However, the desired results are yet to be achieved.

Mr. Shisir Kumar Das, IIEC presented a paper on “Development of Children with Autism through Vocational Education”. He shared his experience on such intervention by his institute, which has revealed changes among the children with autism. According to him, due to less I. Q., the mentally retarded children need more support from their family; hence normal people have to be sensitive on it. Moreover, he focused on the role of the psychotherapists for Autistic Children.

iv) GROUP-FOUR

Facilitators:

Navin Kikabhai, Dr. Bharati Mishra

Presenters:

Prof. Narayan Pati, Utkal University:

Identification & Assessment of Persons with Intellectual Disability

Dr. Satya Prasad Ghosh, CEE:

The Existential Education

The fourth Group discussion was held at Camellia Hall.

Prof. Narayan Pati and Dr. Satyabrata Ghosh were the presenters in the session. Prof. Narayan Pati at the outset presented on ‘Identification and Assessment of Person with Intellectual Disabilities’. He described various psychological assessment tools such as Senguin form board, WAIS, Ravens coloured progressive matrices test, pictorial clues etc for determining the Intelligence Quotient of children. He spoke on the utility and limitations of each test. By and large, narrating the range of IQ for labeling a child with mild, moderate, severe and profound degrees of retardation he said a lot of devotion and commitment is required from the care workers to establish an improvement of such children.

Dr. Satya Prasad Ghosh presented on “Existential Education” in which he stated the main features of the system and how far the person with disability and autism may be benefited out of it. He outlined the attachment circle around father-son, mother-son, brother-sister etc as a web for giving emotional support to a person. Hence this kind of attachment circles to be widened to a better perspective. Thereafter, participants had asked questions on the prenatal diagnostic technique of mental retardation, cross-cultural variation of I.Q. tests etc and the queries were responded by Prof. Pati & Mr. Navin. At last, Dr. Bharati Mishra had concluded the group discussion.

c) Open Forum:

Chairs and Facilitators

Ashok Hans, Santa Memorial Rehabilitation Centre,

Dr. P. K. Rath, Utkal University, Prof. Haribhau Kedar,

Vice-Chancellor, Nagpur University

Soon after group discussions, the Open Forum of the conference for the leaders of disability organizations in Orissa was held with Mr. Ashok Hans, (Santa Memorial Research Centre, Bhubaneswar) in the chair. Dr. P. K. Rath was the moderator in this session. The participants submitted their question in papers and the experts present in conference answered their queries one by one. The questions were related to various aspects of disability, ranging from the medical aspect to legal aspect.





Few of questions were raised by the participants on the after effect of CoS in their working discipline of disability. Prof. Rath and Mr. Sarangdhar Samal responded that tomorrow's discussion among the participants will say about our future course of action on disability network formulation. Some participants raised the voice that National Trust Act has a disparity on its implementation to some NGOs in terms of grant-in-aid allocation. Mrs. Kasturi Mohapatra answered that there is a fair practice by national trust committee on the selection of organizations year wise. Mr. Navin introduced the rights and opportunities assigned to PWDs in Europe. In way of question answer a great deals of discussion and critical analysis went on.

End of the Day

The first day of the conference came to end with a colourful cultural programme, performed by the students of Open Learning System, which opened mindsets of audience about the capability of special children.

2.2.2 Second Day

The second day of Second International Conference of COS project was held on 7th January 2006 at Mayfair Lagoon, Bhubaneswar, Orissa. In this conference, almost all participants were present; through there was a state wide strike in Orissa. Due to this strike some of the participants missed the second day. The day started with a Welcome Address by Prof. Sanjoy K Nayak, University of Birmingham, UK. He, briefly recapped the proceedings of the first day. He presented his comments over the presentation delivered by the speakers of first day. On his deliberation, he has also shared the cross cultural variation of Circle of Support system in Europe and India.



a) Plenary Session- One

Chair:

Joe Whittaker

Presenter:

Bent Vandborg Sørensen, Langageskolen Aarhus, Denmark:

Changes in the Spectrum of Services for People with Autism in Denmark

Ms. Kasturi Mohapatra, Open Learning Systems, Orissa, India:

Autism in Orissa and Existing Support Services



The first plenary session of the day was presided over by Prof. Joe Whittaker from University of Bolton. Mr. Bent Vandborg Sørensen, Director, Langeskolen Aarhus, Denmark delivered his presentation with the a caption "*If the only tool you use is a hammer, then every problem look like a nail*". Then onwards he deliberated on changes in the spectrum of services for people with autism in Denmark. He discoursed about the laws, policies, institutions and civil societies working for the cause

of PWDs in Denmark. Then, he showed a documentary film on the activities of Longeskolen Aarhus for autism children. The film contained the aids and appliances used to assist the autistic children. Additionally, this film contained the problems as usually faced by autistic children. The problems are like lack of attention and concentration, understanding, conceptualization and perception. He the film also illustrated the unique methodologies adopted by Longeskolen Aarhus for education of autistic children.

In his presentation he covered Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- § Incidence of ASDs in Denmark.
- § The theme of “ Inclusion”
- § Focus on individual prerequisite
- § Focused on Social learning
- § Access to learning

He concluded his speech with repeating the quotation of Abraham Maslow “*If the only tool you use is a hammer, then every problem look like a nail*”.

After presentation by Mr. Sørensen and discussion, subsequent presenter Mrs. Kasturi Mohaptra, Director, Open Learning System, Bhubanewar deliberated upon ‘Autism in Orissa and Existing Support Services’. At the outset she had drawn the concern of house on the equal rights of all people of the country irrespective of any bar as per the constitution. According to the constitutional safe guards persons with disabilities also must be ensured to exercise their rights. On this adventure she specified the formulation of three acts such as

- § Persons With Disability Act (PWD Act), 1993
- § Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992
- § National Trust Act (1999)

Which are by and large safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities for their equal opportunities and full participation, formation of trust and entrustment of guardianship and maintenance of standard norm for the training and professional courses in the field of disability.

She also mentioned about the Biwako Millennium Framework on this adventure in which India was also a contributor.

Referring to the NSSO survey (2002) data she mentioned prevalence of disability in India ranges from 1.8% to 2.15 % of the total population. The resource person also highlighted the activities being promoted by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the betterment of socio-economic life style of PWDs.

Coming upon to the topic of Autism, Mrs. Mohapatra, gave an overview of the incidence of Autistic children, their assessment, and activities undertaken specifically on guardianship, formation of local level committees, advocacy etc by different groups of Orissa working in the field of Autism.

After the first plenary session there was a break for tea.

b) Plenary Session- Two

Chair:

Prof. Sudhakar Rath

Co-Chair:

Prof. Narayan Pati

Presenter

Mandy Neville (Circles Network UK):

Circles of Support in Britain - Evaluation Frameworks based on the Social Model of Disability

The Second plenary session of the conference was chaired by Prof. Sudhakar Rath and co-chaired by



Prof. Narayan Pati. Ms. Mandy Neville, Director, Circles Network, U.K presented her paper on “Circle of Support in Britain- Evaluation frameworks based on the social model of disability”. She outlined the subject in the following manner.

The mission of her organization “Circles Network” was explained. The organisation is twelve years old and has 85 paid staffs and 600 volunteers. The organization caters service to 500 PWDs and 3000 parents. In pursuit of Human Resource Development the organization trains 10,000 professionals and practitioners per year. According to Ms. Mandy, newest venture of her organization is the formulation of IPSI framework for persons with autism, which connotes I- Interdependence, P- Productivity, S- Self-determination and I- Inclusion. Through this, a model evaluation framework will be presented in a toolbox. With slide shows, she narrated the various models of networks such as medical model, social model, relationship map, community map etc that circulates a person with disabilities. She also demonstrated how the attention span of a child with disabilities can be improved through story telling and choice of barrier game.

Thereafter she presented a DVD Film about Circle of Support, which featured the experience of young disabled people. The film was about a few case studies of Circles Network’s intervention on persons with severe/profound degree of disabilities. Case studies of Emma, Matt and many others had given impression on their feelings, abilities to independence, and the psychosocial support rendered by the network.

Prof. Rath and Prof. Pati supplemented that in Indian scenario social inclusion of PWDs is very much prevalent as the sub-continent has enormous human resource but infra-structural support is still inadequate in contrary to Europe.

The plenary session concluded and all the participants were invited for the Lunch.

c) Parallel Workshop in Small Group

Like the first day, four parallel workshops were held at four different rooms, after the lunch break. The Each group was given one topic with some background information for extensive deliberation. Primarily all the topics were related to various aspects of post project / conference action on Circle of Support in Orissa. The summary of each group workshops is given below.

i) GROUP-ONE

Topic:

The “Bhubaneswar Declaration” – a Resolution by Conference Participants

Chairs:

Prof. P.K. Mishra, Dr. Sruti Mohapatra

Rapporteur:

Dr. P.K. Rath



The first group workshop was held at Lotus Hall of Hotel Mayfair. The topic of discussion for this group was “The Bhubaneswar Declaration a Resolution by Conference participants”. The participants unanimously suggested the following points for the Bhubaneswar Declaration:

1. To sensitize the recognized/registered NGOs by National Trust to make the local level committees function appropriately.
2. Sensitization of D.S.W.Os, D.P.C & concerned medical officers for making available the schemes and medical facilities for PWDs.
3. Block resource centre- Block resource group must be made functional and to look in to the possibility of adding NGOs to the committees.
4. Self employment opportunities to be increased through simplification of loan system existing with the financial institution i:e NHFDC.
5. DRI by the Banks to be ensured- corporate social reliability.

6. Ensuring access and creation of a barrier free environment in to all the buildings and avenues of facilities and services.
7. Emphasis on pre-natal sensitization of PRI Members and local initiative.
8. Denial of facilities on the ground of any specific disability even by the govt. to be opposed.
9. Inclusion of understanding about disability through out the education system right from primary level up to medical college.
10. Appointment of the well versed, concerned person having the expertise to function as disability commissioner.
11. Resource centres coming under SSA must keep all the information about the disabilities and the facilities available.
12. Development of a taskforce to function as a pressure group to oversee the implementation of various aspects.
13. Appointment of technical person in to directorates of higher education, such as secondary education, SCERT, and DIET.
14. Development of Circle of Support as recognition of right to life with dignity of persons with disabilities.

ii) **GROUP-TWO**

Topic:

A greater network on Circles of Support for disability and autism in Orissa – formation of core action group

Chair:

Ms Kasturi Mohapatra

Rapporteur:

Dr Bharati Mishra

The second group workshop took place in Marigold Hall of hotel. The task/assignment of group was to discuss on and find out a strategy about “A Greater network on Circles of Support for Disability and Autism in Orissa – Formation of Core Action Group”.



Important outcomes of the Discussion were:

1. All group members had a common consensus to have a State level Network on this specific field of disability.
2. This particular network has to incorporate individuals with disabilities, parents and organizations working in the field of disability. Minimum 50% of the members of this network should be PWDs / Parents and rest 50 % members may constitute of member organizations, social activists and concerned civil societies.
3. At the phase of inception, network may be formed from district, then to promote at state level. Gradually this state level network may be activated to spread to regional and national level.
4. Discussion on previously formed a state level network namely Orissa State Disability Network (OSDN) which was led by a state level organization SWABHIMAN. Which is not very much functional at present.
5. OSDN may be revoked and its area of action may be extended to other disabilities too. In this context a discussion may be held with the convener very soon.
6. Democracy should be facilitated among the members of network. Hence election of executive bodies should be mandatory.
7. PWDs or their parents should necessarily be involved in the meeting where details of the network formulation will be finalized.

8. Objectives of the State level network may envisage:-

- To ensure the implementation of all govt. schemes for PWDs.
- To promote a platform for advocacy and lobby.
- To disseminate knowledge / information on the govt. programmes for PWDs among members
- To bring rights based attitudinal changes among stakeholders.

9. Future Plan:

One day meeting may be held to have a detail discussion on the strategy of formation, structure and implementation of activities of state level network.

iii) GROUP-THREE

Topic:

Strengthening transnational links between disability organizations in Orissa and Europe

Chairs:

Prof. U.N Dash, Prof. F.M. Sahoo

Rapporteur:

Prof. N.C. Pati

This group workshop discussion held in Jasmine Hall and the agenda of Discussion was 'Strengthening Trans-National Links between disability organisations in Orissa and Europe'

Important outcome of this workshop were:

1. Formation of Orissa Disability Forum
2. NYSASDRI may be requested to convene the first meeting of all organizations working for the disabled in Orissa.
3. Exchange programme of professionals, parents, field level workers and representatives of organizations may be taken up with Europe.
4. Technical experts from European countries to be placed in Orissa.



iv) GROUP- FOUR

Topic:

Human and financial resource needs, capacity, policy, infrastructure locally, regionally and internationally

Chair:

Dr. S. Pattanaik

Rapporteur:

Dr. Satya Mishra

The group discussion of fourth group was held in Camellia Hall and the agenda of Discussion was "Human and financial resource needs, capacity, policy, infrastructure locally, regionally and internationally"

Important outcome of the Discussion were:

1. A NGO based professional must be involved in undertaking study on various sources available for disabled. It should be district wise.
2. Need based survey must be undertaken by voluntary groups.
3. A book on the history of services available for disabled may be brought out.
4. Both govt. and non-govt. sectors must be involved on capacity building for persons with disabilities.
5. Capacity building must include transferring of skill.
6. It is suggested that university can play a significant role on it.

7. Apart from national / state level survey, exclusive survey on disability identification must be done by voluntary groups.
8. Regarding identification of disable person, it is suggested that two stage formulas must be followed.
 - A. Preliminary assessment by a ground level worker / Para professional
 - B. Medical assessment by a specialist
9. A separate technical directory, (as existing in other state) must be prepared to avoid confusion on converging.
10. On Financial Aspect:
 - It is suggested that community level resources must be generated.
 - Importance must be given to proper utilization of state fund for disability head.
 - Central assistance and funding must be properly channelised and utilized
 - Corporate houses must be asked to contribute their part for the care of disabled
 - One more suggestion for NGOs to raise fund and provide stipend for skill development of PWDs.
11. Infrastructure:
 - Suggestion was given to strengthen the existing infrastructural facilities
 - Importance must be attached to sensitizing ground level workers.
 - PRI member must be sensitized in this aspect
 - Taluka / Block level disability management programme must be launched. Sharing between Govt- NGOs- Political Leaders can be effective in this regard.
 - State level forum / pressure group should be created to put pressure on Govt. for creating opportunities to the cause of disability.
 - Civil societal group should come up to intervene in implementation of Govt. programme.

Above all the members shared the opinion for creation of a political will to pursue the cause.

2.3 Valediction

After the parallel group workshops, the valedictory session of the conference was conducted. Due to state wide strike (due to political reason), none of the invited guests could be present in this session.

The session was chaired by Ms. Mandy Neville. The rapporteurs of each group made presentations on the outcome of their respective group workshops. Participants then debated on the recommendations / findings brought out of group discussions.

At last Phillip Potter, the trans-national coordinating partner, expressing his great satisfaction about the outcome of the two-day conference, called for bringing to the recommendations into action for improving the rights and status of disabled persons in both India and EU. He expressed thanks to all the partners, participants, rapporteurs and the management of MayFair for their cooperation in conducting this 'successful' workshop. Maj. Gen S. D. Mahanti, Chief Advisor of NYSASDRI, expressing gratitude to all those involved with this International Conference appraised about the ground action of two great ladies- Prof. Evemarie and Mrs. Sabita Swain, whose initiatives brought forth this cross cultural programme in three countries. Anticipated outcome of this short tenure project is going to be carried further for the greater interest of the vulnerable section of society. Ms. Mandy Neville expressed her thanks to all delegates, partners and organizers and declared the end of the conference.

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REGISTRATION SHEET

Sl. No.	Name and Disignation of the Participants	Name of Organisation and Address	Phone and Address
1.	S. K. Bhatna	SHED, PO Box- 18, Rayagada-765001	06856-222031 (O) 06856-223084 (R), 09437023919, Email:shed1@rediffmail.com
2.	Pranab Kumar Sahu, Secretary	Youth Development Project, At-Khaparapada, Po-Srirampur Road, Via-Singla, Dt-Balasore- 756023	06781-256140 (O) email:ydp53@rediffmail.com pranabydp@yahoo.com
3.	Dr. Satya Prasad Ghosh, Secretary-cum-Exe. Director	Council for Existential Education, Jaganath Bazar, Talcher, Angul	06760-249021 (O) email:existential_education@ yahoo.com
4.	Khirod Ch. Panigrahi, Secretary	Indian Management & Technical Society Madhukunj, 3rd Floor, 116, Station Square, Bhubaneswar- 751 001	0674-2534128 (O) email:imtsbbsr@yahoo.co.in; imtsbbsr_kcp@rediffmail.com
5.	Er. Hari Sankar Rout	Social Welfare Agency & Training Institute (SWATI) At-Maleriamaha, Po- Paburia, Dt- Kandhamal, Orissa	06847-264104 (O), 06847- 260386 (R), 09437186128 (M), email: swati_pab@yahoo.co.in, swati_plb@sify.com
6.	Bhagaban Parida, Gen Secy	Centre for Rehabilitation Services & Research (CRSR) At- Patharadi, Po- Charampa, Dt- Bhadrak, Orissa www.crsr.org	06784-231387 (O), 06784- 2309985 (R), 9437060238 (M), email:crsr@crsr.org
7.	Pradeep Kumar Sahoo, Secretary	Maitree Yuva Sasnsad Nayagarh, Orissa	06753-253892 (O), email:maitree1@rediffmail.co m
8.	B. Moses Herick, Prog. Officer	CBR Forum for PWD Apartment No 001, Ground Floor, 'Lourdes Ville', #39, North Road, St. Thomas Town Post, Cooke Town, Bangalore- 560 084	080-25497388 (O), cbrforum@blr.vsnl.net.in
Sl. No.	Name and Disignation of the Participants	Name of Organisation and Address	Phone and Address
9.	Shyam Sundar D., Prog. Officer	CBR Forum for PWD Apartment No 001, Ground Floor, 'Lourdes Ville', #39, North Road, St. Thomas Town Post, Cooke Town, Bangalore- 560 084	
10.	Nichols Guia Rebelo, Prog. Manager		
11.	Gadadhar Pradhan, Secretary	Bikramananda Institute for Rural Development At- Radhakrishna Nagar, Balighat, Puri- 752002, Orissa	06752-250292 (O), 094970 37292 (O) email:bird_orghelp@rediffmail .com
12.	Santosh Kumar Das, Prog. Officer	Radhakrishna Yuva Parisad Belari, Bankeswar, Aul, Kendrapara	06729-270707 (O), 9437276358 (M)
13.	Sushil Kumar Parida, Secretary	Action for Better Living and Environment PB-1, Kendrapara- 754211	06727 230520, 09937178740, email: ctk_able@sancharnet.in
14.	Basanta Kumar Samal, Resource Teacher	Jagat Bandhu Biswa Bharati Sikshya Niketan (JBBSN) At/Po- Salepali, Via-Jarasingha, Dt- Balangir, Orissa	06652-241364, 94372-23877 email: bksamal76@yahoo.co.in
15.	Pramod Kumar Meher, Coordinator		

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REGISTRATION SHEET

16.	Binod Bihari Das, Programme Coordinator	Centre for Community Development (CCD), Pathapatnam Road, Near Check Post, Paralehemundi-761 200	06815-222516, 06815-224094, email: ccdevraju@rediffmail.com, www.ccdindia.org
17.	Pravas Kumar Nayak, President	Pragati Jubak Sangha At - Dolamandap, PO-Sukleswar, Chandbali, Bhadrak - 756133	06786-283261, 9437298126 (M), Email : nayakp.l@epatna.com
18.	Rama Kanta Acharjya, Project Director	VISION Mohabirpada, Bhowanipatna, Kalahandi, Orissa, 766001	06670-234481, (M) 9437224248, Email : visionkalahandi@yahoo.com
19.	Udaya Nath Behera, Director	VARRAT At - Boulakani, PO - Baradang, Dist - Kendrapada, Orissa – 754224	0671-2376431, 06727-280584, 993195849 (M) Email : varratudaya@rediffmail.com
20.	Basanta Kumar Mishra, Secretary	Sri Nrusingh Dev Anchalika Yuba Parisada (SNDAYP), At- Golasahi, Po- Khadipada, Puri, Orissa	06752-251881, 9437101249 (m) email: sndayp@yahoo.co.uk
21.	Jagannath Kumar Pani, Secy-cum-Director	Centre for Awakening of Rural Environment (CARE) Manikyapur, Bamakoyi, Ganjam, Orissa	(0680) 2487026 (O), email: carempur@yahoo.co.in
22.	Bhagirathi Sahoo, CBR Coordinator	Akshyam Sangathan Bedapur, Bhairipur, Puri, Orissa	9437134375 (M)
23.	M. N. Behera, Principal (MR School)	Red Cross School for the Disabled Saintala, Bolangir, Orissa	06655-256422
24.	M. N. Sahu, HM (Deaf School)		
25.	B. K. R. Satpathy, HM (Blind School)		
26.	Madhuchhanda Mishra,	CATCH D-302, Vaishnav Vihar, Bomikhal, Bhubaneswar, Orissa	0674-3953070 (O), 9437338522
27.	Suchismita mohanty,		
28.	Uma Mohapatra,		
29.	P. K. Jena		
30.	Tandra Nayak		
31.	Reeta Jena		
32.	Suresh Ch. Sahu, Chief Functionary	Citizens Association for Rural Development (CARD), Corporation Road, Berhampur, 760001	0680-2201069 (O), 9437217584 (M)
33.	Kelu Charan Dash, Coordinator	Institute for Self Employment and Rural Development Pandapokhari, Panaspada, Brahmagiri, Puri, Orissa	06752-241180 (O), email: iserd@rediffmail.com
34.	Haris Ch. Samantaray, Secretary	Kantakabi Sakshyarata Samiti At- Bankasahi, Po- Bhadrak, Dt- Bhadrak, Orissa	06784-250815
35.	Sitakanta Dash, President	Society for Promotion of Rural Technology and Education (SOPORTE) At- Bonth Chhak, Bhadrak	06784-240993, 09437060220
36.	Prafulla Ku. Rout, General Secretary	Welfare Centre for the Visually Handicapped Blind School Campus, Qr. No. 2RB-4, Kharavel Nagar, Bhubaneswar	0674-2407937, 9937346909(M)

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37.	Sanjay Ku. Subudhi, Secretary	Saheed Yuba Sangha At - Tritipara, PO - Bolgarh, Dist - Khurda, Orissa	06755-232647, 232409, 9437205730 (M)
38.	Amarendra Ku. Dasparita, Secretary	Nikhila Utkal Social Welfare Association (NUSWA) At/PO - Bolgarh, Dist - Khurda, Orissa	06755-232604, 9437421411(M)
39.	Gajendra Nath Pradhan, Coordinator	Orissa Association for the Blind Malgodown Road, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar	0674-2503132, 2580144, 9437305048 (M)
40.	Manoranjan Brahma, Secretary	RIWARD, N-6/99, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar	0674-2558646, 9861071193(M)
41.	Besna Mery Victor, Programme Officer	Water Aid, Regional Office B-1/77, Lingaraj Vihar, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar	0674-2382262, 2382270, 9861125172 (M)
42.	Rajendra Prasad Padhi, Found Member	The Orissa Association for the Blind Malgodown Road, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar	0674-2503132
43.	Bihari Naik, General Secretary		
44.	Shisir Kumar Das, Director	Indian Institute of Education & Care (IIED) 29, Dharmavihar, PO - Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar	0674-2503132 (O), 9437130725 (M)
45.	Muralidhar Das, Special Educator	Orissa Association for the Blind C/o- Parsuram Jena, Bramarabara Colony, Ranihat, Malisahi, Boxi Bazar, Cuttack	06782-263623 (O), 06782- 264056 (R), 09437064056 (M), cidr_org1983@rediffmail.com
46.	Padmaya Debata	Centre for Integrated Development & Research (CIDR), Sahadevkhunta, Balasore, Orissa- 756 001	
47.	Prof. Dr. K. Kanungo, ,	450, Jail Road, Jharpasda Bhubaneswar – 751006	
48.	Prof. Sarada Prasad Mohanty	450, Jail Road, Jharpasda Bhubaneswar – 751006	
49.	Sujata Mohanty		
50.	K. Ananda, General Secretary	Ganjam District Orthopaedically Handicapped Welfare Association Netaji Subhas Marg, College Chak, Chatrapur, Orissa,	06811-260146, 9861063851(M)
51.	Rabi Narayan Parhi	Flat -2, Block – 4D, Jivanbima Nagar, Maitrivihar, C.S.pur, Bhubaneswar	
52.	Brahma Nanda Rout	IRDMS, Bhubaneswar Plot No. 473, Kalinga Market, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar	irdms@rediffmail.com / irdms2001@yahoo.co.in, 0674-3095177, 9337116728
53.	Premananda Mohapatra	ORRISSA 40/570, Laxmi Vihar, Bhubaneswar	0674-2582503, 9437124393 (M), coordination@orriisa.org www.orriisa.org
54.	Ranjita Das	LIPICA Alok Nagar, Sanmbapua, Berhmpur	Email : lipica@sancharnet.in , 94370-60001(C) 0680-2404306(O), 2211946(R)

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55.	Dr. Susama Mohanty	Reader in Political Science, B.J.B. Autonomous College. Qrs. No.: VI-C-5/2, Unit – 1, Bhubaneswar	0674-2532314, 9437031799 susamamohanty_2005@yahoo.com
56.	Dr. P. K. Pradhan Chief Executive	Capital Co-operative Housing Ltd. 151, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar	0674-2535896, 2532314, 9437031318 pkpradhan_2005@yahoo.com
57.	Mr. Mohammed Sarfaraz	ANTODAYA, Bahadurbagichapara, Bhawanipatna- 766 001, Kalahandi	06670-232038, 234012 email:antodays@sancharnet.in
58.	Raju Sharma Secretary	DAPTA, Near Old Cinema Hall, PO – Bhawanipatna – 766001, Kalahandi	06670-234147, email: dapta@yahoo.com,dapta@rediffmail.com
59.	Prakash Ch. Sahu, Secretary	Bhanja Institute for Rural Development Bhanja Mandap, Upendra Nagar, Kullada – 761131, Ganjam	06861 250899, 9861140597, email: birdkld@yahoo.co.in
60.	Bansidhar Benupani	TYAAG Nuapada	94374 16394
61.	Niranjan Nayak	District Coordinator, IED, Bhadrak	
62.	Arun Ku. Das	District Coordinator, IED, Sambalpur	94374-02284 (M) , 95664-2520175
63.	Ashok Ku. Mohapatra	District Coordinator, IED, Puri	
64.	Chitaranjan Panda	District Coordinator, IED, Cuttack	
65.	Hemanta Ku. Bhoi	District Coordinator, IED, Jajpur	
66.	Jolandhar Mandala	District Coordinator, IED, Mayurbhanj	
67.	Kartikeswar Pradhan	District Coordinator, IED, Bargarh	
68.	Pradeep Ku. Sahoo	District Coordinator, IED, Ganjam	
69.	Prasanta Ku. Biswal	District Coordinator, IED, Jagatsinghpur	
70.	Bijaya Ku. Sahoo	District Coordinator, IED, Deogarh	
71.	Dr. Chitaranjan Das	Asst. Director, IED, (SSA) Bhubaneswar	
72.	Dr. B. N. Padhi	HOD, PG Deptt. Psychology, GM College, Sambalpur	
73.	Shri Sashi Ranjan Das,	Love Luck Lewes IDCOL House, IG Park, Bhubaneswar	
74.	Shri Debabrat Jena,	Advocate 39, Budha Nagar, Bhubaneswar	
75.	Srinivas Sahoo	Dask System Solutions (P) Ltd. 269 (1 st Floor), Madhusudan Nagar, Unit – 4, BBSR	
76.	Maj. Gen. S. D. Mahanti,	43A, Forest Park, Bhubaneswar	
77.	Bhagirathi Swain,	Branch Manager, SBI, Joranda Branch, Joranda	
78.	Dr. A. R. R. Pillai The Member Convenor,	CAPART (EZ) Plot No. N1-A/7, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar – 15	
79.	Dr. P. Yosadhara,	A-10, Phase-1, Trishna Enclave, KIIT Post, C.S.pur, Bhubaneswar	

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80.	Sirish Chandra Das,	Retd Special Educator SCERT, Bhubaneswar	
81.	Bibhuti Bhusan Das,	Manager, Dhenkanal Gramya Bank, Dhenkanal Residential Address At – Karigar Sahi, (Dhenkanal Town), PO / Dist - Dhenkanal	
82.	Ashok Hans, Director	Santa Memorial Rehabilitation Centre Bhubaneswar	
83.	Jadumani Biswal, Manager	State Bank of India, Sadangi, Dhenkanal	
84.	Dillip Kumar Singh, Branch Manager,	Dhenkanal Gramya Bank, Kabera, Dhenkanal	
85.	Dr. Bijaya Pati	CHETANA	
86.	Dr. Basant Ku. Das	CHETANA	
87.	Kasturi Mohapatra		
88.	Sasmita	Open Learning Systems, Bhubaneswar	
89.	Sangram Samal	Open Learning Systems	
90.	Manatosh	Bhubaneswar	
91.	Dr. Sruti Mohapatra	SWAVIMAN	
92.	Mr. Peter Nderitu	SWAVIMAN	
93.	Dola G. Samal	POWERD	
94.	Dr. Samir Diabagh	Bhubaneswar	
95.	R. K. Sharma, Asst Director,	VRC, SIRD Campus, Bhubaneswar	
96.	Ms. Anuradha Mohanty	People's Cultural Centre (PECUC), H.No. VII- H /26, Sailashree Vihar, Bhubaneswar-21	
97.	Dr. Ashok Kumar Mangaraj	Extension and Management Link 436, Nayapalli, Nuasahi, Bhubaneswar -12 Phone :	2407310, 3098020(Res) M : 9337103930
98.	Puspangini Mohanty	Sambandh 2926/5198, Lewes Road, Old Town, Bhubaneswar	
99.	Shyam Sundar Das	CLAP	0671-2363980 (O),
100.	Ramesh Kumar Mandal	367, Markat Nagar, Sector-6, CDA, Cuttack, Orissa	9238501781(M) Email:ctk_committe@sanchar net.in
101.	Sanyasi Behera	OAB, Bhubaneswar	
102.	Dr. B. N. Padhi	HOD, PG Deptt. Psychology, GM College, Sambalpur	
103.	Ms. Swarnalata Panda, Coordinator,	MPBOU, TYGA, PO – Chapada, Mahanga, Cuttack	
104.	Pravati Mishra, Asst Director,	AYJNIHH TCTD, SIRD Campus, Bhubaneswar	
105.	Mr. M Singh, Lecturer, TCTVH	SIRD Campus, Bhubaneswar	
106.	Mr. Binod Bihari Sahoo, Former Secretary,	OAB, Bhubaneswar	

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107	Shri Basudev Panda Executive Director	Orissa Voluntary Health Association, (OVHA) Lokaswasthya Bhawan Plot-165, Laxmisagar, Bhubaneswar	
108	Mr. Tapas Mohanty, Asst Teacher,	B.B. School for the Blind, Bhubaneswar	
109	Prof. Udaya Nath Das	Utkal University	
110	Mrs. Basanti Lata Rath	Utkal University	
111	Golak Ch. Das	Utkal University	
112	Prof. Narayan Ch. Pati	Utkal University	
113	Dr. Pratap Ku. Rath	Utkal University	
114	Prof. Sudhakar Rath	Utkal University	
115	Promod Ku. Ray	Utkal University	
116	Mrs. Malabika Samal	Utkal University	
117	Prof. Provash Ku. Mishra	Utkal University	
118	Prof. Fakir Mohan Sahoo	Utkal University	
119	Prof. Sudhansu Pattnaik	Utkal University	
120	Dr. Satya Mishra	Utkal University	
121	Navin Kakabhai	University of Bolton	navinkikabhai@hotmail.com
122	Joe Whittaker	Deane Road, Bolton, BL3 5AB, UK	J.Whittaker@bolton.ac.uk
123	Philip Potter	Klaus Novy Institute Poppelsdorfer Allee 26, D - 53115 Bonn, Germany,	Email - philip@evaluations.de
124	Prof. Evemarie Knust-Potter	Dortmund University of Applied Science Ostenbergstr. 110, D-44227, Dortmund, Germany	knust-potter@fh-dortmund.de
125	Mandy Neville	Chief Executive Officer Circles Network Potford's Dam Farm Coventry Road, Cawston, Rugby CV23 9JP	Mandyneville.circles@btconnect.com
126	Bent Sorensen	Langageskolen , Denmark	Vandborg@aaa.dk / bent@langagerskolen.aaa.dk
127	Prof. Haribhau Kedar	Nagpur University, Nagpur	hkedar@rediffmail.com
128	Prof. L. N. Mishra, VC	Utkal University	
129	Shri D. N. Padhi,	Chief Information Commissioner	
130	Justice Sarat Ch. Mohapatra	Lokpal	
131	Soumya Pattnaik	Sambad	
132	Shri G. V. Venugopala Sarma, IAS,	Commissioner-cum-Secy Department of SC&ST Development Department, Government of Orissa	
133	Shri Gagan Kumar Dhal , IAS,	Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Orissa	
134	Aruna Rout	SEED	Malkanagiri
135	Ranjan Pradhan	SEED	Malkanagiri

Second International Conference

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136	Ajay Samal	CoS Consultant, NYSASDRI	Bhubaneswar
137	Prof. Sanjoy K. Nayak	NYSASDRI	Bhubaneswar
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158	Prof. Dr. Nagendra Nath Das,	NYSASDRI	Angul
159	Janaki Behera	NYSASDRI	Jajpur

Media Persons

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Name of Organisation	Contact number
1.	Sanjay Subudhi	The Pragatibadi	9937008982
2.	Manoranjan Mishra	The Dharitri	9337704508
3.	Choudhari Rajnarayan	DainiK Jagaran	9337126441, 0674-2530481
4.	Biswaranjan Rout	Anupam Bharat	9337116019
5.	Biranchi Narayan Mohanty	Praditin	0674-2587532
6.	Sanjon Das	Times of India	9437186767
7.	Minati Singh	The Pioneer	9437135353
8.	Deepak Ku. Mohapatra	Pragativadi	9937008980
9.	Bijay Kumar Parida	The Indian Express	9437284691 0674-2565023
10.	Kanduri Ch. Das	Sambad Patra	9437164644
11.	A. Kundu	The Samaja	0674-2313301
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18.	S. N. Singh	ETV	9337108320
19.	Qoomar Hitesh	Midday	9861049855 qoomar@hotmail.com
20.	R. C. Behera	Media House	9338204712

