



**Circles of support in India and Europe:  
community resource networks for  
people with disabilities and autism**

**Second conference**

**Date:  
6 – 7 January 2006**

**Venue:  
Hotel Mayfair Lagoon, Bhubaneswar**

**A project in Germany, India, and  
Britain 2004 – 2006  
funded by the European Union within  
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Programme**

**Lead partner:**  
Dortmund University of Applied Sciences,  
Dortmund, Germany  
**Operational partners:**  
Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India  
NYSASDRI, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India  
University of Bolton, UK  
**Transnational co-ordination partner:**  
Klaus Novy Institut, Cologne, Germany



**Fachhochschule  
Dortmund**  
University of Applied Sciences



## **Circles of support for community inclusion**

Both in India and in the European Union, processes of social change place communities under severe tension, and vulnerable members of society come under the threat of exclusion. There is in both regions a search for ways to facilitate and promote inclusive communities. One way is through strengthening the informal support networks in local communities. The idea of COS - circles of support - is an approach we have promoted in this Indo-European project.

## **What is a circle of support?**

A circle of support is a group of people who meet together regularly to help a vulnerable individual accomplish his or her personal goals in life, which cannot be achieved independently. The members of the circle of support may include a facilitator, family, friends and other community members. A circle properly facilitated is empowering to all of the individuals involved and does not reinforce dependence. A circle can support a person in everyday matters, in working life, and in social life.

## **Training professionals and lay experts**

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. This project seeks to contribute to this end. For more information, visit [www.cos-transnational.net](http://www.cos-transnational.net)

## **The second conference**

The aim of the conference is present the results of this project towards the end of its activities to an Indian audience. The contributors to the conference are the project partners, the advisory board members, and key experts. The conference seeks to meet the interests of participants from higher education, public agencies, non-governmental and community-based organisations. Participation is by invitation. The language of the conference is English. Participants cover their own travel and accommodation costs. The definitive programme will be sent to registered participants when finalised.

## **Registration**

Rs 1,000/- per participant. This covers the conference kit, and tea and lunch for two days. The registration fee is paid through Demand Draft / Bankers Cheque in favour of NYSASDRI and payable at Bhubaneswar.

Please apply to :

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## **Invited speakers and workshop leaders**

Lennarth Andersson (Former Director of Social Services, Malmöhus Regional Council, Sweden)  
Prof Asha Hans (Utkal University, Bhubaneswar)  
Prof Haribhau Kedar (Former Vice-Chancellor, Nagpur University)  
Navin Kikabhai (University of Bolton, UK)  
Prof Evemarie Knust-Potter (Dortmund University of Applied Sciences, Germany)  
Kerstin Lindberg (Delegation of the European Commission, New Delhi)  
Dr. Bharati Mishra (NYSASDRI, Bhubaneswar)  
Kasturi Mohapatra (Open Learning Systems, Bhubaneswar)  
Mandy Neville (Chief Executive, Circles Network, Rugby, UK)  
Prof Narayan Chandra Pati (Utkal University, Bhubaneswar)  
Philip Potter (Klaus Novy Institut, Cologne, Germany)  
Dr P. K. Rath (Utkal University, Bhubaneswar)  
Prof Sudhakar Rath (Utkal University, Bhubaneswar)  
Sarang Samal (NYSASDRI, Bhubaneswar)  
Jagdish Manubhai Shah (Indian Society for Community Education, Ahmedabad)  
Bent Sørensen (Director, Langageskolen, Aarhus, Denmark)  
Sabita Swain (NYSASDRI, Bhubaneswar)  
Joe Whittacker (University of Bolton, UK)  
Prof Jürgen Zimmer (Free University Berlin; Germany)



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