

Proceedings of the Faculty and Student Meeting organized by the Department of Psychology and Political Science, Utkal University on the Circles of Support Project, 21 February 2005

Introduction to Circles of Support in India and Europe: programme

Chairperson: Prof. F.M. Sahoo

11.00 - Welcome: Prof. Narayan Pati

11.05 - Dortmund University: Prof. Evemarie Knust-Potter

11.20 - Klaus Novy Institute: Prof. Philip Potter

11.35 - Bolton University: Prof. Joe Whittaker & Navin Kikabhai

11.50 - NYSASDRI: S..Samal

12.05 - Utkal University: Dr. P.K. Rath

12.30 - Presidential Remarks: Prof. F. M. Sahoo

12.45 - Closing Address: Prof. Asha Hans

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The meeting was chaired by Prof. Fakir Mohan Sahoo, the Head of the Department of Psychology, Utkal University. Prof. Narayan Pati welcomed the guests from Germany and UK and also students and faculties from different departments of the university to the meeting. In his welcome address he told that the Utkal University is implementing the Circles of Support project funded by the EU in collaboration with Dortmund University of Applied Sciences as the lead partner. Other partners are: NYSASDRI, University of Bolton, and Klaus Novy Institute, Cologne. The objective of the project is to explore and develop circles of support for the disabled and autistic persons. One of the activities of the Utkal University is to develop and introduce courses in the field of disability in the relevant departments of the university. Another activity of the project is a field component under which the circle of support existing for the disabled persons will be explored and inputs will be given by the students and teachers of university to enhance the circle of support.

Prof. Evemarie Knust-Potter of Dortmund University spoke in detail regarding the circles of support projects being successfully implemented in Germany, UK, and India. She expressed her happiness about signing of the contract between Dortmund University and Utkal University for implementation of the circles of support project.

Philip Potter of Klaus Novy Institute spoke about the role played by his Institute as the transnational partner. He also expressed his happiness for signing of the contract between Dortmund University and Utkal University for implementation of the circles of support project.

Prof. Joe Whittaker of Bolton University, UK, presented a brief report on the activities of Bolton University under the circle of support project in UK. He stated that the circle of

support network is highly beneficial to the disabled population in UK. Circle of support networks existing for each disabled person should be explored and strengthened. A good circle of support helps to develop the quality of life of a disabled person. Navin Kikabhai also presented some examples of circles of support network in UK.

Mr. Sarang Samal of NYSASDRI presented a brief report on the activities of his organization under the circle of support project. He stated that his organization is the NGO partner of the COS Project and they have explored the existing circle of support for the disabled persons in the project area of NYSASDRI. He listed the difficulties faced by the disabled persons in the project area.

Dr. Pratap Rath spoke about the beginning of the COS Project under Utkal University and expressed his commitment to work for the successful implementation of the project under Utkal University.

Prof. F. M. Sahoo in his presidential address thanked the Prof Evemarie Knust-Potter and Philip Potter for inclusion of Utkal University in the circles of support project. He expressed his willingness to contribute not only as Head of the Department but also provide necessary academic input for successful completion of the COS project and to continue further the collaboration between the Dortmund University and Utkal University.

Prof. Asha Hans proposed vote of thanks to the guests and the participants of the meeting. She stated that as the principal investigator of the project she would do her best to implement the project successfully. She further sought the cooperation from the colleagues of the university in this regard. She thanked Prof. Evemarie Knust-Potter, Prof. Philip Potter, Prof. Joe Whittaker, Dr. Navin Kikabhai, Mr. Sarang Samal, Head of the Departments of Political Science and Psychology, and teachers and students of the University for success of the meeting.