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**Abstract:**

This presentation will be at three levels; examining the community radio (CR) discourse in relation to the dominant ICT for development (ICTD) discourse; the recent developments in India regarding CR policy, and its follow up; and some specific issues/ learning that arise from our own CR project in Mysore, Karnataka. Obviously, a connection will be made between the three. At the level of discourse, the presentation will examine how the CR discourse, with a fairly long history, is faring in relation to an overwhelming dominant ICTD discourse, and what are the points of congruity and of divergence between the two. It will also examine the likely impact of the dominant ICTD discourse on the CR movement.

The presentation will then briefly discuss the recent CR policy changes, especially in regard to how these changes are perceived by different actors situated in different contexts, and how the interplay between them is shaping the CR landscape in India. We will touch upon issues of state interference, market proclivities, as well as NGO self-aggrandizement in the emerging CR landscape, along with the nature of 'social capital' available in most communities today for setting up CRs.

The above analysis will be connected to, and provide the background for situating learnings from IT for Change's Kelu Sakhi (Listen, Friend) community radio initiative, which seeks to provide a radio platform for empowerment processes of 'collectives' of disadvantaged, mostly non-literate, women in the villages of Mysore. With reference to the unique needs and situation of disadvantaged women, we will try to examine what constitutes the essential meaning of a CR, and what are the contextual factors that enable women to appropriate the radio platform and use it purposefully.