

**German Perception of the Indian Workplace
A Study in Intercultural Communication**

Nitin Gupte

Dept. Foreign Languages

gupte@unipune.ernet.in

The interdisciplinary study based on thirty intensive interviews (of about 2 hours each) with persons originating from German-speaking countries (Austria, Germany and Switzerland) and working in Pune area, assesses how the interview partners view their Indian workplace especially in reference to the infrastructure, work-ethic, and the communication with their Indian colleagues

Common experiences considered typical for the Indian work situation have been isolated. These stereotypes, most of them being negative (i.e. inability to say "no" or to take clear-cut decisions) are contrasted with the common European work ethic. An attempt is made to analyze the Indian work-ethic and logic on the background esp. of the social and family structure. The analysis is to help formulating strategies for mediation in conflict situations.