



The Fruits of Righteousness

Annual Report 2011 - 12

Concluding Speaking Out...



CNI SBSS,
16 Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi 110 001

member of the **act**alliance

Mandate

*"Spirit of the Lord is on me.
He has anointed me
To tell the good news to poor people.
He has sent me so that the blind will see again.
He wants me to free those who are beaten down;
and He has sent me to announce the year
when He will set His people free"*

- Luke 4:18

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What is CNI SBSS?

The *development and justice wing* of the Church of North India has adopted **movement building as key strategy** for ensuring political and social-economic rights of marginalized communities. It addresses issues of **Land, Livelihood, Food Security and Social Exclusion** with a **Rights Based Approach (RBA)**. We believe that developmental approaches only bring about pseudo economical change which is why we focus on **addressing the `politics' of Land, Livelihood and Social Exclusion**. We aspire for the **participation of the poor in the political processes**, enabling them to exercise their political authority by strengthening People's Movement.

Message From the Chief Co-ordinator and Secretary

Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability; But comes through continuous struggles

-Martin Luther King

Greetings!

This year at CNI SBSS has been one of transitions as there have been many changes that happened over the year. This will be the last annual report of the Speaking Out... Phase (2008 – 11) which is the second strategic action plan of Resistance and Hope.

The goal of Speaking Out... was to empower communities to voice the injustices done towards them and change existing scenarios of inequality through protest and campaigns. After focusing on accompanying various communities in their struggles for three years, much has been achieved. We have strengthened our grass-root organisations and enabled people to speak out and demand their due. A rapid assessment conducted by an external consultant has also come to the conclusion that we have achieved our objectives and that its impact is felt amongst the communities; which is a testament to our work during the past 3 years.

Another considerable achievement during the phase of Speaking Out... has been to increase the reach of CNI SBSS to a global scale through our work with ACT Alliance. For the past three years we have been present in the key constituents of the ACT board and provided valuable leadership and support to the Alliance. Speaking Out has seen SBSS interventions in both grass-root and global level policy advocacy, thus spreading our ideas and message across all levels.

Enclosed within this report are stories of change from the various Dioceses of the CNI, documenting the struggles and achievements of people who have experienced discrimination, corruption and violence.

During the reporting year delays in funds have caused difficulties in implementing programs at the DBSS level but the staff have responded with faith and perseverance and continued their work despite no funding. The last few months was part of an extension phase where the focus was on developing standardised systems and reporting procedures. This phase has given us a chance to reflect on the impact of Speaking Out... and to face the new challenges and opportunities that I am sure See...A Reign in Righteousness will bring.

As we move into the new phase – See... a Reign of Righteousness and Rule with Justice- many things will have changed. Financial restraints have resulted in a restructuring of SBSS and subsequent periods will be more focused at the Diocesan level. A new SBSS board elected at the Synod will also be lending their support and guidance to the new phase.

As we close Speaking Out... I wish to take this opportunity to thank the board members and office bearers for accompanying us on this journey of faith and supporting us through the past three years and into the final phase of our long journey that is 'Resistance and Hope.'

I would also like to thank our resource sharing partners, the Ecumenical Resource Sharing Association (ERSA), without whom we would not be able to translate our plans into action.

Lastly I would like to say that I am truly thankful for the patronage of the Church Leadership, the support of Board members old and new and the solidarity of the SBSS team.

In conclusion, I would like to leave you with this message that brings us hope to continue our struggles with the communities and persevere in the face of crisis:

*"But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint."*

- Isaiah 40:31

Dr. Shailendra Awale
Chief Co-ordinator & Secretary
CNI Synodical Board of Social Services

Chairman's Message

In the name of our lord Jesus Christ, I take this pleasure to present this annual report of CNI SBSS.

The report represents glimmer of hope to us all. This year's annual report depicts a story of change and transition.

When we think of how five loaves and two fishes were blessed and received by the Lord himself and then re-distributed among communities of all people including those excluded and rejected we realised how God has been faithful and kind to us.

During the reporting year, even though the fund flow was not regular the staff and community worked together and demonstrated courage and character in sustaining their work and responsibilities. The problems and various administrative issues encountered during the year were major and threatening. But our experience shows, we should give up the habit of maximizing our problems and submit to God's love and enjoy his deliverance.

Secondly, it has made us realise that, our resources, in whatever form they are or however insignificant and minimal they are, it is adequate for the Lord. His blessings can change the situation and circumstances. This year reminded us that we need to be faithful and present ourselves as a living sacrifice to the Lord. Last but not least, no problems can be solved due to our efforts alone. Only the Lord has the ability to transform and change, we are merely his instruments.

I commend the work and contribution of each and every staff of CNI SBSS. You have been faithful for the few, the Lord would appoint you. This journey was not a smooth ride but thanks to the leadership of the Synod, my colleagues from the board we were able to achieve significant progress.

I appreciate and value your support and company.

Rt. Reverend Kamble
Chairman,
CNI Synodical Board of Social Services

Our Focus

Livelihood and Food Security

In India about 70% of people are engaged in agriculture. However rampant industrialisation is making farmers landless and taking away their livelihood. This has ultimately caused an increase in starvation deaths, farmer suicides and migration in search of an alternative means of livelihood.

SBSS believes the solution to these problems lies in developing assets to create a society which is just, equal and independent. This can be achieved only when people dynamically link up their livelihood issues and control over their habitat and environment with *rights*.

SBSS uses social security schemes guaranteed by the Supreme Court to combat livelihood issues.



Sorting out the onions in a farm in Dhutre, Maharashtra.

Land Rights

Land forms a crucial part of people's livelihood. The loss of land has resulted in not only a loss of livelihood and security but also a loss of identity. Thousands of indigenous communities have been displaced because of the shift in government policy. And for Adivasi people especially, their land forms an integral part of their identity.

The struggle for Land Rights is one that works to recover lost identities and restore livelihood to those who had none. Our advocacy for land covers areas in the Dioceses of Kolhapur, Nagpur, Marathwada (Maharashtra) Phulbani, Sambalpur (Orissa) Eastern Himalayas (West Bengal) and Jharkhand.

Social Exclusion

India's century old caste system has resulted in people being oppressed and denied freedoms for hundreds of years. Amongst those who have problems with land and livelihood, Dalits and Adivasis are the worst off. Furthermore 85% of the CNI come from either Dalit or Adivasi backgrounds. Our resolve is to combat this culture of exclusion by focusing on those most deprived and enabling them to have an equal right to life.

Cross Cutting Themes

Gender

The perspective of Gender justice was built on the reasoning that seeing women simply as victims of violence denies them space as agents of social transformation. Women, across our areas have been instrumental in changing the landscape of our villages and towns. Our idea of gender equality is to strengthen the position of both men and women in society and involve them equally in the decision making process. We also work towards getting equal salaries for women, representing women in political processes, and the joint ownership of property.

CME

CME aims to prepare the local congregation to take forward the mission of the Church by effectively integrating itself into the struggle of the powerless to restore their human dignity. It also ensures the critical participation of congregation members in analyzing the socio-political context and helps to identify themselves with the plight of the Dalits and other marginalized communities. The work of CME aims to transform ordinary congregations into direct agents for change.

Policy Advocacy and Campaign

The essence of the vision and mission of CNI-SBSS is to empower people by fulfilling their economic, social, political, and cultural rights. To realize this, SBSS and partners believe that it is important to integrate advocating for policy changes with our interventions. At present, advocacy is mainly focused on community mobilization through *morchas* and *dharnas*. CNI SBSS intends to further spread the message and need for change through individuals and other like-minded institutions. We already have around twenty development related institutions with whom we collaborate and network with.

Campaigning for the rights of tea garden workers, Jantar Mantar, New Delhi



Intervention Strategy

Rights based approach

SBSS shifted to a rights-based approach in 1998. This approach links issues of food security, land, discrimination, etc. to a denial of rights rather than a pre-existing condition that needs 'help.' It empowers those affected as they are not seen as in need of charity or as victims but as groups that have been wronged or denied.

A rights-based approach involves the state or government as duty bearers and holds them accountable for the non-fulfilment of rights.

By looking at larger problems and structural issues within government or the social environment an RBA approach comes up with holistic solutions to problems rather than simply addressing immediate needs.

A rights based approach focuses on:

- ▣ Linking issues with rights
- ▣ Accountability
- ▣ Empowerment
- ▣ Participation
- ▣ Holistic solutions
- ▣ Focus on the 'politics' of land, livelihood etc.

Networking

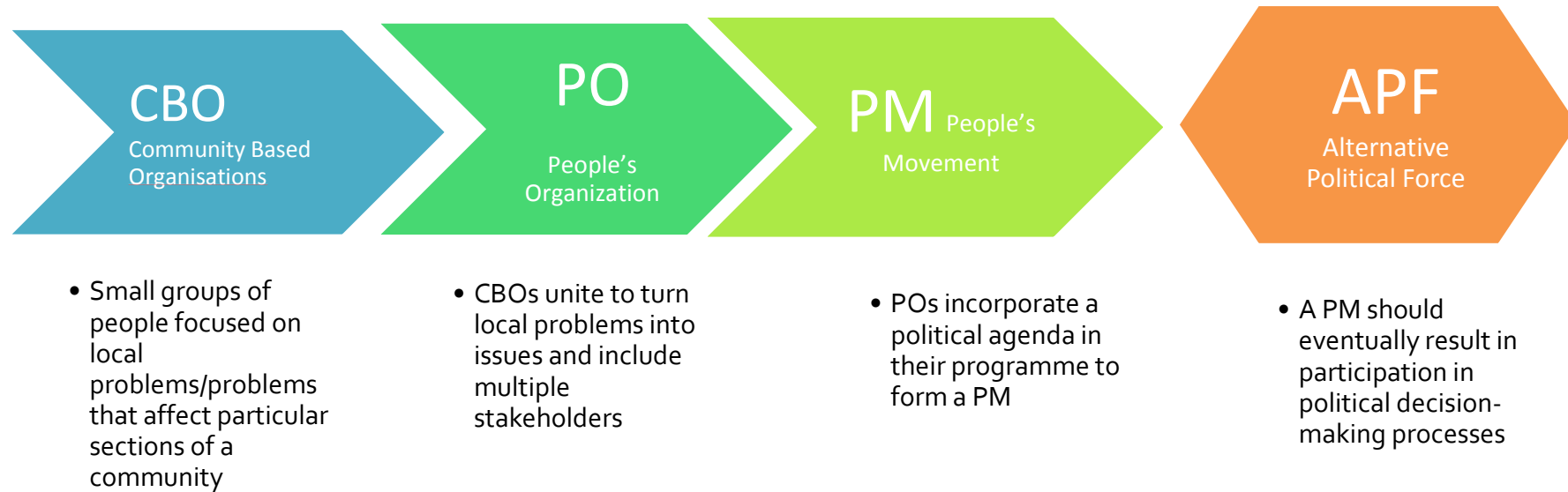
Networking is an important part of SBSS work, as it is only through campaign and advocacy that issues can be placed on a wider platform and can create awareness of the injustices that happen in our country.

CNI SBSS is part of the EAA (Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance) which is an international network of churches and church-related organizations committed to campaigning together for common concerns. It is an active member of the ACT Alliance a forum for church based organisations across the world. It also has relationships with several national alliances and networks like **Forum for Collective Forms of Cooperation (FCFC)**, **INECC** Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change, **INSAF** (Indian National Social Action Forum) and **Wada Na Todo Abhiyan**.

At the local level, CNI SBSS has built relations with many community based organisations, civil society organisations and networks like the *Adivasi Adhikar Evam Asmita Abhiyan* a forum of *Adivasi* CSOs. It has been campaigning to influence policies related to *Adivasi* issues.

(see Policy, Advocacy and Campaign)

Strategy



Peoples' Organizations as a term is used broadly to define various forms of people's collectives, **inclusive** in nature (Dalit/Adivasi, women and children) usually centred on a **specific issue** and/or interest. The motivation and need for organising such POs could be either internal (ethnic/caste formations) or externally stimulated (government/ NGO). It could be said that the most significant POs are those which **emerge and evolve from the grassroots** out of the **specific issues** and needs of communities. These organizations move **beyond geographical boundaries** striving to become a pressure group for social and political transformation and demanding accountability and transparency.

Should depict the overall consolidated journey of an organisation. Should not feel like DBSS and SBSS are separate entities. Talk about the overall perspectives and programs that happened during the year and add statistics to the end of case studies (similar to last year) so there is some concrete information of these things happening on a larger/wider scale.

Major Activities

During this year, some major changes occurred in SBSS. The focus was on creating and strengthening systems in order to improve efficiency and internal governance.

This period was one of turbulence as there were delays in funds that made work at the Diocese level difficult to carry out. The staff however responded well to the delay and many programs were carried out on schedule despite the lack of funds.

During the first phase of the year (April – September) there was a review of systems within CNI SBSS, which occurred on 3 levels: PME and Reporting, Finance Governance and Data Management. Planning Monitoring and Evaluation systems were appraised. A baseline manual was developed along with a web based monitoring system.

Four finance staff have completed a diploma in Finance Management and Accountability conducted by TISS and FMSF. A Finance Committee was also formed in order to ensure review the flow of funds and make suggestions as they see fit. An auditor to cross-check internal finance governance was also appointed.

We also undertook a Rapid Assessment and an Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) with external consultants to identify strengths and weaknesses and plan ways to move forward and overcome the challenges faced.

The Second phase (October – March) marked the closing of Speaking Out... and the development of a new Strategic Action Plan: "See...a reign of righteousness and rule with justice." The planning was undertaken in separate phases with the collaboration and inputs of the DBSS. In the new phase, major changes have occurred with the structure and format of the functioning and implementation of programs. *(See: Transitions pg 45)*

A new approach to planning was also developed based on a logical framework analysis. This is intended to streamline reporting procedures and make it easier to identify and document the impact of our interventions. The new strategic action plan submitted to our donors was written in this format.

A Process Oriented Development Intervention (PODI) was conducted to initiate newcomers into the functioning of SBSS and also strengthened the staff's knowledge of the work of SBSS.

A new financial framework was also developed. Central audits by external consultants were also initiated during this period in order to accompany the internal audit for increased accountability and transparency.

Arise and Build: For I Am With You Always

In October, the 14th Ordinary meeting of the Synod was held where a new board was elected for SBSS, with 12 new members and 4 returning members. The Synod meetings gave an opportunity to the Church as a whole to reflect, analyze, evaluate and plan the mission of the Church.

Major finance and systems related activities that were carried out during this period were:

- ▶ Rapid Assessment of Program
- ▶ Review of Organisational Systems
- ▶ Review of Finance Management and Governance
- ▶ Organisational Assessment
- ▶ Central Audit
- ▶ Internal Audit
- ▶ Statutory Audit
- ▶ Negotiation and Revisiting of Plan and Budget
- ▶ Adapting Outcome Impact Monitoring Indicators

Transitions: The beginning of a reign in righteousness

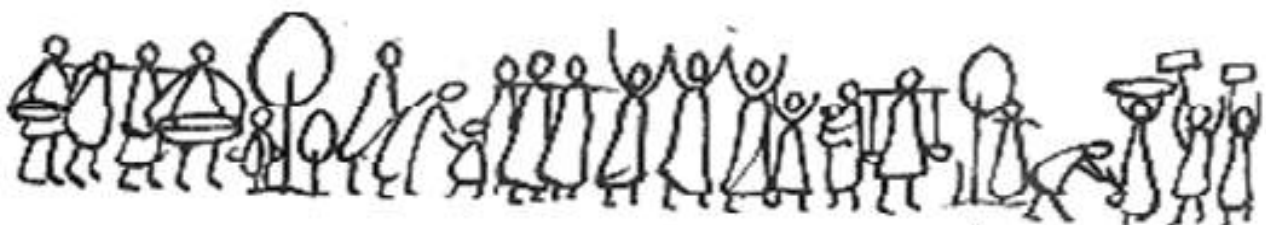
'See...a Reign in Righteousness and a Rule with Justice' The last phase of the ten years' Perspective Plan –Resistance and Hope (2005-2015) is the culmination of 'building communities of resistance and hope'. After successful completion of two phases, 'Let Justice Roll' and 'Speaking Out...' CNI SBSS moves into its consolidating and phasing out stage.

While CNI SBSS was sensitising and working with the Right holders during the first two phases, there is a conscious attempt to include and work with the duty bearers during the final phase. This is because we believe that successful implementation of a project is not possible without the support of duty bearers.

This is a challenging phase for CNI SBSS with the changing times and the changing demands from the funding partners. An organisation driven by a theological perspective is now adopting a market-based approach to deliver social goods.

The new FCRA is directly affecting our vision of an Alternative Political Force to ensure participation of the marginalised in the political decision making process.

The previous year was also the concluding period of the Strategic Action Plan, 'Speaking Out...' After the conclusion of the programme CNI SBSS underwent an extensive systems' review and organisational capacity assessment to effectively implement the new phase in line with the changed demands of the times.



Agra Rajasthan Lucknow

Amritsar Delhi Jabalpur

Chattisgarh Pune Mumbai

Kolhapur Nagpur Marathwada

Nasik Odisha

Phulbani DBSS Cuttack

Ranchi Sambalpur Chotanagpur

Patna NEI Kolkata
Durgapur Barrackpore

Eastern Himalayas

Stories of change...

Year of beginning: 1980
State: 2 States - Punjab and Himachal Pradesh
Districts: 5 Districts
11 Blocks
Gram Panchayat: 125
No. of Villages: 148
Area: Agra RCSA
Annual Utilization: ₹35, 00,767
Issues: Livelihood and Food Security, daily and equal wages of unorganised labourers, MGNREGA, PRI and other social security schemes
No. of Staff - 12

Surjit Kaur stands up to violent attackers

Surjit Kaur is a woman who has withstood all kinds of abuse but she continues to fight for the rights of herself and her community. Surjit is a *Mazbi* Sikh— a community that is part of the scheduled castes of India. The village of Waan Tara Singh, where she lives, is run by landowners who continually oppress and terrorize the *Dalits* of the community because of their caste and their landless status.

However, since the interventions of the SEDP in this area a profound change has taken place in the lives of these people. The *Mazbi* Sikhs had no proper sewage system which was a serious health hazard and caused many illnesses amongst people. The SEDP talked to the people and created awareness about hygienic living and the need for the proper disposal of waste.

On hearing this, the village formed a *Mazdoor Adhikar Sangathan* to advocate for their problems and create a proper system for garbage disposal. The MAS were able to get the sanction of the government in allotting 2 *marlas*¹ of land to each family in order to dig garbage pits.

The land allotted to their community was owned by a very politically powerful landlord. However, this did not stop the villagers and they raised their voices and saw to it that the land was vacated and given to them. This incident created a serious atmosphere of tension in the village. Both Surjit Kaur and her husband, Swarn Singh played a leading role in the agitation to get the land vacated for this purpose.

One day when she was passing through the fields of the same landlord, the landlord along with some men, caught her, tore off all her clothes and beat her very badly. This terrible incident still did not deter her and she went with her husband to complain to the police.

¹ Measurement unit

The police, however, refused to listen to anything she had to say and threatened her saying that the landlord was so powerful that he would have her arrested with a false case of theft or some other petty crime. Nobody from the land owning community had ever said anything against this man, because of his power.

Surjit then decided to take the help of the local unit of MAS in addressing this problem. Their village unit contacted MAS units of nearby villages and all gathered together on a particular day to lodge an FIR with the police station that had refused to do so.

The police were forced to acknowledge the matter and brought the land owner to the station, where he was made to apologise to Surjit in front of all the people present. This apology seriously threatened the power of the landlord and taught him that he cannot get away with treating them as he liked. The Mazbi community now knows that their problems and issues are as important and that they have the right to speak out against the oppression of others.

Barrackpore

Year of beginning: 1997
State: 1 State – West Bengal
Districts: 2 Districts (South 24 parganas & Nadia)
5 Blocks
Gram Panchayat: 17
No. of Villages: 102
Area: Barrackpore RCSA
Annual Utilization: ₹13,82,222
Issues: Food Security and Social Exclusion
No of Staff: 10

No Rationcard, No Scholarship?

When 60 students from Boria and Sardarpara village, located at Fulmalancha Gram Panchayat, received their minority scholarships little did they know that it was only the beginning of a long struggle before they could use it for their studies.

The money was given through cheques, which are mere pieces of paper for boys and girls with no bank accounts.

These students were really worried as they had no money to support their studies and could not start at the university unless they were able to cash their cheques. They approached the bank manager to open an account but were refused in the absence of ration cards, which none of them had. At this stage they approached the DBSS community enabler, Mr. Arabinda Naskar and the CBO leaders. A meeting was called and their case discussed amongst the members. They met with the village *Pradhan* (Head), Mr. Palan Chandra Naskar who said it would take more than 2 months to issue ration cards.

They then sent a deputation to the Gram Panchayat office. They also spoke to the Block Development Officer, Mr. Susomoy Biswas and food inspector, Mr. Devdas Naskar of Basanti. Because of these interventions they were able to pressure the government officials, eventually getting approval for their ration cards from the Block Development Officer. Their persistence brought results and 60 students received ration cards within a record 10 days. With ration cards in hand they opened accounts and deposited cheques totalling ₹ 84,475.

On hearing that these students received their ration cards another 108 community members applied for ration cards as well. Through the interventions of the DBSS, scholarship students were able to gain access to their scholarship, which in turn inspired others to apply for ration cards and empowered an entire community to fight against a complicated and unapproachable bureaucracy.

This PO is also working with providing free electricity to families below the poverty line and acquiring jobs through various MGNREGA projects. People are currently employed in maintenance of the river dam.

Chotanagpur

Year of beginning: 1989
State: 1 State – Jharkhand
Districts: 3 Districts
5 Blocks
Gram Panchayat: 37
No. of Villages: 181
Area: Ranchi RCSA
Annual Utilization: ₹31,84,628
Issues: Adivasi Rights
No of Staff: 11

Tribal Community Saved from 'Development'

Villages under the Diyakel panchayat have been saved from the drastic measure of selling their land due to the timely interventions of the Chotanagpur DBSS.

The area under the Khunti district headquarters consists of Churgi, Manhatu, Patrauyur and Silas Toli. These villages were having serious problems with rainfall and most of their crops were being destroyed due to a lack of proper irrigation. Their livelihood is entirely dependent on agriculture and because of their reliance on monsoon rains, most people are forced to migrate to other states when there is a failed crop.

The district of Khunti is dominated by the Munda tribe and, in accordance with the government act they are self-governed. Tribes in India have their own traditional ways of life that has gone on uninterrupted by the outside world for centuries. They are essentially an isolated and self-contained people and with this act have been recognised as such. People in India belonging to a tribe can either become a part of the Indian PRI (Panchayati Raj Institution) system or secede and continue their unique way of life. The problem arises, when, because of their tribal status, the larger government refuses to acknowledge their problems and provide them with necessary infrastructure despite it being a part of the law.

The villagers had requested the block office for an irrigation facility many times but to no avail. Their requests had gone unheard, and most had lost faith in the ability of the government to help them. In September, however, the villagers were told that officials from the Agriculture Science Centre (*Krishi Vigyan Kendra*) were going to visit the village of Churgi.

The people were very happy and thought that the government was finally taking steps to improve their situation. A *Gram Sabha* Meeting was arranged on 16th September 2011 in Churgi. The meeting was presided by Mukhiya Shri Suman Bhengra and Shri Raymond Kerketta who shared the benefits of *Krishi Vigyan*. The people were very excited and thought that they were going to receive some good irrigation facilities and that the centre would also provide them with support and guidance on how to effectively utilise their land.



However, they received a nasty shock when Shri. Raymond Kerketta told them that the Krishi Vigyan Kendra planned to acquire 50 acres of land in order to establish its institution. He told the villagers that in exchange for their land they would receive appropriate compensation as well as a job in the science centre. The CO, Shri. Shankar Ekka said that they had a week within which to provide their written consent.

At this juncture the people were shocked and confused and unable to decide what to do. So they consulted the DBSS staff and the CBCLA facilitator. They suggested holding a *Gram Sabha* meeting in order to get an idea of the views of all the people as well as the GS officials. The GS was organised on 19th September 2011 where it was unanimously decided they were not going to give their land for the establishment of the *Krishi Vigyan Kendra*.

For tribal people, the ownership of land is much more important than its monetary value. The land forms a sense of who they are and ties them to the place of their birth. Selling it would have given them money to live on for a few years but they never would have been able to buy it back and it would have resulted in a loss of status and belonging. The job with the *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* is nowhere near as valuable as their plot of land.

On 21st September 2011, the CO Shri. Ekka called the villagers to the Torpa block office but they refused to come, and so the project was abandoned. The villagers are still struggling but the DBSS has prevented them from a worse fate.

Durgapur

Year of beginning: 1997
State: 1 State – West Bengal
Districts: 1 District (Malda)
6 Blocks
Gram Panchayat: 11
No. of Villages: 142
Area: Barrackpore RCSA
Annual Utilization: ₹9,12,957
Issues: Social exclusion and constitutional status of Adivasis
No of Staff: CE – 4; Volunteers – 9

Durgapur: No Wages for illiterate widows!

The much hyped and praised MGNREGA as a hope for livelihood and dignity to the poor masses is facing a serious crisis. Bhabuk is a Gram Panchayat in Malda district of West Bengal. When the Panchayet announced a plan to construct a new road, 3km long, joining Dudhiabari to Soglepara to Kajrihata. This was an opportunity for surrounding villagers to get work in their hometowns. Sonoti Hembrom, a 30 year old widow and her neighbours Phulmati and Jasmin from nearby Chinibari also decided to join in the work. Sonoti who lives with her two adolescent daughters and earns her livelihood by maintaining a small pig farm hoped for some income that would ensure her a meal twice a day. If not she would be forced to sell *hadia*, a local alcoholic beverage in the weekly village market.

With much hope and expectation she joined the work with 13 other families. They got registered and got job cards to be eligible to work as a part of this scheme. Parbat Sarkar, the local contractor to whom this work was awarded was keen to have these illiterate women. He kept their passbooks and also supervised the master roll very keenly. After completion of the work, 13 days later, the contractor paid ₹1000 to 4 families, but he did not pay anything to the illiterate women labourers. The village got a road, the contractor his bill, but the poor women did not get their due as their records were manipulated.



When they did not receive their due for over a year the community decided to come together on this issue and formed a CBO called *Jano Kalyano Samity*. This community based organisation consisted of representatives from 14 neighbouring villages and its 30 members decided to act as a pressure group on this situation. They organised a public hearing, filed 5 cases against the MGNREGA and 3 RTIs in order to find out why these women were not paid.

Although they are still awaiting a reply from the government, this situation has shown, how, with the help of the DBSS, people are coming together and organising themselves in protest against the unjust practices of the contractors and middlemen. This injustice has given their communities a collective identity with which to combat the illegal and immoral practices of those in power.

SBSS is working towards equipping women like Sonoti to stand up and demand what is due to them. By training them on their rights and telling them how to navigate government systems, hopefully we can eradicate this gross injustice.



Eastern Himalayas

Year of beginning: 1997
State: 1 State – West Bengal
Districts: 1 District (Jalpaiguri)
9 Blocks
Gram Panchayat: 35
No. of Villages: 206
Area: Barrackpore RCSA
Annual Utilization: ₹1,27,220
Issues: Social exclusion and constitutional status of Adivasis
No of Staff: CE – 5, Volunteers – 10

Community Enabler mobilises people to fight for change

The DBSS of Eastern Himalayas had to discontinue working in the area due to a lot of internal politics and conflict. When it was decided to resume a new project in the area, baseline data was needed to assess problems in the area. All volunteers and community enablers underwent a capacity building session on the Rights Based Approach as followed by CNI SBSS so they could better understand the problems they came across. They were made to gather data by conducting a door-to-door survey of allotted areas.

While collecting information in the district of Jalpaiguri, Ms. Pinki Karmakar noticed that most of the problems the villagers were talking about stemmed from the malfunctioning of the 26 ICDS centres² under the Mathura *Gram Panchayat*. Their main problems were: the irregularity of the staff, the syllabus not being followed by the Anganwadi teachers and the low quality of the grains distributed through the centres (the grain was being exchanged with a lower quality at a higher level). All these things had been going on for more than a decade and the people had been unable to change anything.

From her session on the approach and perspectives of SBSS Ms. Karmakar was able to link isolated problems to the larger issue of malfunctioning ICDS centres. This insight prompted her to sensitize a dynamic youth group about the consequences of a low level of education and the lack of nutritious food; she also urged them to deal with these issues as a group and lobby for their rights.

With support from the DBSS at Eastern Himalayas, the youth group approached the CDPO³ with a written complaint and asked to see the Officer in charge. However, the office refused to give them a time to meet the officer and even refused to provide a contact number. This did not deter the group, and they resolved to continue in their pursuit for justice. They re-

² ICDS Integrated Child Development System Scheme is for early childhood development for children between 0-6 years of age.

³ Child Development Project Officers

visited the CDPO for four consecutive days before they received an appointment with the CDPO on the 27th of May, 2011.

On meeting the CDPO, they demanded information about the responsibilities of the ICDS workers, the way in which grain and eggs are distributed from the centre and monitoring and appointment procedures carried out by the ICDS. They received written answers to each of their queries but on going through them they realised there was a huge disparity between the answers and what was actually going on in the field, which was immediately pointed out to the CDPO. The CDPO then advised the group to take the written rules to the Centre and make the workers realize their duties and also warn them against their malfunctioning.



The group then went to the Centres to meet the ICDS workers and spread awareness among the workers about proper working mechanisms. However on a follow – up visit, there was no change to the Centres and when questioned about their lack of procedure they closed down the Centre.

The centre was shut for two days, but this did not affect the morale of the group. A discussion about the future of the functioning of the ICDS centres was held by the CDPO and included both the youth group and ICDS workers. Here they discussed many issues including one where a worker was appointed without undergoing any exam and allowed her mother and sister to replace her after getting married and leaving. The CDPO dismissed the worker and took written assurances from all ICDS staff to work responsibly. The centre was then reopened with the consent of the youth group and is functioning well.

This small group of young people were able to change the functioning of one ICDS centre, Ms. Karmakar was able to recognise an issue from all the problems she came across and conveyed this to a small group of people. They mobilised others and questioned authority and saw to it that some action was taken. There are 576 ICDS Centres functioning in our reference area and it is with interventions like these that they function responsibly and serve the people they are meant for.

Kolhapur

Year of beginning: 1994
State: 1 State – Maharashtra
Districts: 2 Districts (Kolhapur and Sangli)
8 Blocks
Gram Panchayat: 62
No. of Villages: 62
Area: Pune RCSA
Annual Utilization: ₹14,23,299
Issues: Right to land, livelihood, Food security and Social Exclusion
No of Staff: 8 (9 CBCLA Facilitators)

DSVP activists get help for poor widow

Dalit Samaj Vikas Parishad (DSVP) working with the *Dalit* communities in 2 districts of western Maharashtra. With a membership of over 80 thousand DSVP is addressing issues on livelihood, food security and social exclusion. DBSS has been accompanying the communities in the 2 districts of Kolhapur and Sangli for the past 18 years.

CNI SBSS together with DBSS Kolhapur has been addressing the humanitarian needs of the communities along with the work on Movement building. In September, there were heavy rains in the region and life and property in Kerli and Sontali was badly affected. The Government's response not being sufficient CNI SBSS intervened. During one of their visits on September 16th for a situational analysis, they encountered Rukmini Pawar; a member of the women's wing of the DSVP.



Rukmini's story is unique. One of the 72 members of the women's front of the DSVP; she was living a lonely life in the village for the past 20 years but still fighting for the rights of others. No one can tell you better the plight of being old and deserted and belonging to the *Dalit* community. Aged sixty plus, Rukmini had only a small house for shelter, which caught fire in a freak accident while she was cooking.

In the absence of proof of her poverty like the Ration card, Voter's identity card or electricity bill she received no help from either the *Gram Panchayat* or the Government, despite relief being sanctioned for the region. Incessant rains had worsened her situation.

Witnessing Rukmini's plight, the DBSS Coordinator together with the Enablers and SBSS staff considered it important to first address her immediate need for a house. They called for

a meeting with DSVP members and the villagers, providing Rukmini with a platform to present her case. In the absence of funds from the Government to address such needs, the DSVP members with the DBSS pitched in and funded the repair of Rukmini's house.

DSVP activists have started the process to procure her Ration card and Voter's identity card so that she can avail the entitlements due to her like the old age pension etc. DBSS, Kolhapur has helped Rukmini with the basic household, clothing and medical assistance to start her life anew.



Kolkata

Year of beginning: 1993
State: 1 State – West Bengal
Districts: 2 Districts (24 Pargana South and 24 Parhana North Hugli) 4 Blocks
Gram Panchayat: 7
No. of Villages: 60
Area: Barrackpore RCSA
Annual Utilization: ₹9,83,167
Issues: Food Security and Livelihood
No of Staff: 6

People demand proper food for their children through MDM

Six villages⁴ under the Bamunghata Panchayat were facing serious problems with the quality of rice their children received under the Mid Day Meal scheme as the PDS shop was being grossly mismanaged. These villages also consisted mostly of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Muslim minorities.

Ms. Bonoshree and Ms. Sankari, Community Enablers of DBSS Kolkata shared this issue with the leaders of the People' Organization, '*Sangram Samity*' who arranged a district level meeting at the village of Hatgachha on 21st June 2011 to discuss the matter. The PO leaders decided to collect samples of the rice in various schools and submit this to the Panchayat. While discussing the issue of the rice, the *Sangram Samity* also realised that a large number of people did not have ration cards and so the additional task of identifying the families that do not have ration cards was also taken up.

The rice samples were then taken to the Beonta II Panchayat with a deputation by the *Sangram Samity* (headed by Banosree Malakar) in August. The Panchayat saw to it that the rice quality was improved in most centres. This occurrence then empowered the people to work towards getting their ration cards. The Sangram Samity held a signature campaign and 225 people signed the memorandum. It was submitted to the Food and Supply Officer at Bhangar II Block on the 26th of July, 2011 by members of the PO. They also talked to the Officer, Mr. Pranab Mondal and voiced their difficulties in getting jobs, bank accounts and admission into schools without a ration card.

As most of these people were Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Muslim minorities their local Panchayat did not allow them to apply for their ration cards unless they supported their political party.

Their social status made those in power feel confident about their ability to harass these people as they were poor and weak – both socially as well as politically. However, the previous work of *Sangram Samity* had empowered the people of the area because they had seen that their protest had had an effect on the quality of rice they received. This made them

⁴ Konchpukur, Hatgachha, Dhalipara, Bagdoba, Gorumara and Jot bhim

go through with their applications for ration cards despite the threats of powerful people. The PO leaders submitted the applications of all the people who applied for a ration card with an assurance from the Block Officer that they would receive them within a week. *Sangram Samity* then met the Food Officer, Mr. Pranab Mondal, and received 119 new ration cards and recovered 35 lost ones as promised. The people were extremely happy with this development and kept saying, "What the Panchayat could not do for years; the *Sangram Samity* has done within a week!"

With this ration card they are now legitimately recognised as residents of Hangar II Block and based on their monthly income they are able to avail benefits that the government provides. The interventions of the Kolkata DBSS has empowered 6 villages to demand the rights they were previously denied. Similarly, during this reporting period we have ensured that 360 public distribution shops are functional across our reference area.



Marathwada

Year of beginning: 2012
State: 1 State – Maharashtra
Districts: 2 Districts (Aurangabad and Jalana)
6 Blocks
Gram Panchayat: 57
No. of Villages: 76 (11 congregations)
Area: Pune RCSA
Annual Utilization: ₹11, 26,834
Issues: Social exclusion, Land, Livelihood and Food security, Gender, CME.
No of Staff: 8 (6 CME facilitators; 10 CBCLA Volunteers)

Forest department and villagers clash over land entitlements

The DBSS Marathwada has been fighting for *Dalit* land rights for ten years and is still struggling to get land that people have lived on for generations registered under their names.

In 2001 the DBSS started their struggle by collecting data, creating awareness in the midst of frustrated and desperate *gairan* holders, organizing various corner meetings, *Rasta Roko Andolans*, (road block marches), *morchas* and *dharnas*⁵ etc. for getting the pattas⁶. Getting land registered would have solved their livelihood issues as well as given them a sense of security, self respect and dignity that only ownership of land can give.

During this decade, the DBSS has submitted 1498 applications at the respective Tehsils and collectorates in which there were 52 applications of Nilazgaon Village. One example of the difficulties they are having is this story of the village of Neelazgaon which is 27 K.M. away from the DBSS office and 7 K.M. from the Cluster Bidkin. Here there are 52 *gairan* holder families. 'Gairan' land is the land that is the common property of the village and is shared amongst all the families in the village. For the past 30 years the people of Neelazgaon were using this land for the purpose of cultivation.

Even though people have been living and working on the land for decades, recently the central government divided about 300 acres between the Forest Department and the Revenue Department. Officially therefore, this land cannot be cultivated and all attempts at registering their land for the past 30 years have failed, even though the DBSS has tried more than 4 times to get it registered.

Because most of these people are from socially excluded communities such as Banjara and Bhilla, government officials have ignored their requests. In 2006, there was a clash between forest rangers and *gairan* holders. The forest authorities uprooted grown crops and planted seedlings of Babul. In retaliation the *gairan* community uprooted the seedlings and

⁵ Marches and rallies

⁶ Registered document

replanted cotton seeds. Seeing this, the Forest Department filed a case against the villagers in Bidkin Police Station.

A *Van Hakka Samitee (Forest Rights Committee)* was formed and one of our MASS activists Mr. Jairam Gaikwad a member of the Peace Committee of Bidkin was also a part of this committee. He pursued the matter through this body and managed to resolve the 'No Objection' and also got the Gram Sabha to support the *gairan* holders. This was a significant break in their struggle and the community finally felt some sense of hope.

They fought the case energetically till 2008, but eventually became disillusioned with the government and stopped attending proceedings. This prompted the court to issue a non-bailable warrant against 52 *gairan* holder families for cultivating forest land in August, this year.

Jairam Gaikwad rushed to the DBSS for help. Community Enabler, Ramesh Shinde phoned the DBSS Office and explained the seriousness of the situation. The RCSA Pune was contacted as well and the team leader advised them to hire a lawyer. Kailash Burphe, was hired and got 25 people released on bail at the time of trial for the amount of ₹ 600/- each. There are still 27 families seeking bail.

One good impact of the case has been that they were able to present evidence that they are tilling the land from 1985. However, the villagers have now been frightened by the way the police treated them and by the costs of fighting a case. They do not have the money and the other villagers have turned their backs on them because of their low social status. They have no one to help them and are steadily losing the fight for their own land.

The DBSS and MASS have only been able to provide support in the form of legal expertise but could not continue to pay the fees of the lawyers as there were no funds with the DBSS. The DBSS and Jairam Gaikwad were constantly in touch with the villagers and offered them advice and support, whenever needed.

CNI SBSS has been dealing with issues of land rights throughout our reference areas. During this reporting period we have filed 1685 applications for plots of land and were able to register 1207 plots. 1207 families are now recognized by the government to own their land and this provides them with more than a source of livelihood, it gives them a sense of security and status within the community and allows them to live with a sense of dignity.

Nagpur

Year of beginning: 2009

Stat: 1 State – Maharashtra

Districts: 2 Districts (Bhandara & Sindewahi-Chandrapur) 5 Blocks

Gram Panchayat: 44

No. of Villages: 84

Area: Pune RCSA

Funded by: NDDA (From April 2010)

Annual Utilization: ₹14, 08,893

Issues: Livelihood & Food Security, Dalit Rights, Church Mission Engagement (CME), Gender, Climate Change

No of Staff: 10

Excerpts from the lives of our community women

“We are strong and determined”

My name is Lata Gajbhiye and I am from village Mendha. We have total population of 436



out of which 200 are women. We are strong and determined and all this credit goes to MHSS. The MHSS has offered us training in many areas of life – it instilled courage and confidence in all of us. “Now, we know!”

From time to time, we attended meetings, workshops, trainings organised by MHSS on various topics that were beneficial to us. We came to know about our rights, legal entitlements and many other things. We were able to see ourselves empowered to stop the unjust things around and fight against the corrupt practices. I would like to share one incident when we were denied of our wages even after toiling hard in the forest for the collection of the *tendu patta*

(Coromandel Ebony leaves used for Indian local cigarettes). Nearly 15 women who had toiled in forest were not given the payment as it was blocked by the forest officers under some pretext or the other. It was for about ₹800 - 1000 per person. They had to run to the forest officers for about several times. Even our panchayat head could not exert their power on those forest administrators then. Then we decided to do it ourselves and came together and wrote an application and submitted to the forest officers. We went in a larger group and warned the officers to release the payment in fifteen days. And eventually it did happen. The forest officers were able to gauge the strength of the women and yielded to our pressure and released the payment immediately. The women not only from my village but neighbouring villages too have realised the power of unity and from this success we are also dealing with the issues of MNREGA and PDS.

“As a member of the MHSS wide avenues were opened to me...”

I am Gita Sontakke from Maangli village...a decade ago; I was married off in this village. At that time my educational qualification was higher than my husband. He worked as a labourer then and this made me sad as I had larger dreams.

Initially I stayed enclosed in my own cocoon weeping on my fate.

But one day, one of my neighbours took me to the SHG meeting that the NDDA was monitoring in our village. I liked the concept and became a member.

Gradually I also became a member of the PO – MHSS and thus wide avenues opened to me. I gathered more information on my rights and my entitlements, the role of the Gram Sabha & its functions/ responsibilities towards us, and other government schemes and programmes.



From the Social Welfare Department and with the help of the MHSS, I was granted a loan and bought two cows. One I purchased for ` 9000 and I sold it next year for `18000 thus gaining double profit. I bought more cattle and also got a sewing-machine with pico-fall facility. I am conducting sewing classes for women and thus moving them towards entrepreneurship. I feel that they should also do well in their lives as I am doing. I am and shall be eternally grateful towards MHSS for transforming my life and giving us all hope.

Once while we were discussing things in our SHG meeting, I came to know that our children are not fed adequately in the ICDS (Mid-Day meal). So I took up this challenge with my SHG and have started cooking food for the ICDS. Knowing well that the ICDS programme offers only ₹3.92/- per child for their one time snack and a meal, which is much less than the adequate food intake for a child for his/ her health. In order to cater for the health of each child, we have taken up this responsibility for the sake of the well-being of our children. I care for them...they are the future of our society; the pillars need to be strong so we are ready to face this task! Our SHG is contributing and adding to our own local resources, I feel all the SHGs should also address the malnourishment issue in the country and I am sure we can succeed to some extent!

Year of beginning: 2009
State: 1 State – Maharashtra
Districts: 1 District Ahmednagar 5 Blocks
Gram Panchayat: 41
No. of Villages: 51
Area: Pune RCSA
Annual Utilization: ₹8,52,104
Issues: Livelihood & Food Security, Dalit Rights, Gender, Climate Change
No of Staff: 7

Entitlements to all: How an empowered community ensured they received their due

Bharat, Kondiram and Ramji are friends not only among themselves but their families get along well with each other also. Living in Bhanas-Hiware village in Newasa Taluka, Bharat Makasare, Kondiram Gore and Ramji Gore work hard with their effort to provide their families with a decent life.

As marginalised farmers in a drought-prone area, their agricultural produce is often irregular and meagre and hardly suffices for the needs of the family. Like everyone else in the village, these families also work as agricultural labourers in other fields and sometimes even have to go outside to work in the taluka or district place to make ends meet.

Owning a house is every family's dream and the Makasare-Gore families weren't an exception. They felt their dream would certainly come true when they heard about the *Indira Awaas Yojana* (IAW) from one of our NDSHD (Nasik DBSS)'s community enablers – Rev. JB Chakranarayan.

The DBSS has been working with the marginalised and poor communities for decades in the district of Ahmednagar and since the recommencement of NDSHD project in 2009, the DBSS staff regularly visit these villages, intervening among the socially & economically backward communities – both Christians & non-Christians, organising these people into CBOs like Youth Groups, Women's Groups, Farmer's Groups, SHGs, etc. The DBSS carries out their interventions on the issues of Land & livelihood, Food Security and Social Exclusion.

In one of such visits when the village community had gathered for a meeting, the DBSS staff shared with them information about the government's different Social Security Schemes including IAW. *Indira Awaas Yojana* is a Government of India social welfare programme created to provide housing for the rural poor in India; operating since 1985, it provides subsidies and cash-assistance to people in villages constructing their houses themselves. A separate set of schemes operate between rural poor and urban poor.

It is one of the major flagship programs of the Rural Development Ministry to increase construction of houses for families below the poverty line. Under the scheme, financial assistance worth ₹45,000/- is provided for construction of houses. The houses are allotted in the name of the woman or jointly between husband and wife. The construction of the houses

is the sole responsibility of the beneficiary and the engagement of contractors is strictly prohibited. A sanitary latrine and smokeless stoves are required to be constructed along with each IAY house for which additional financial assistance is provided from Total Sanitation Campaign and Rajiv Gandhi *Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana* respectively.

On hearing about this scheme the Makasare and Gore families applied to the local Panchayat in the month of November 2011 and were approved for further processing. They eagerly awaited hearing from the district about their houses being sanctioned and were shocked when the Sarpanch asked them to pay the amount of ₹5000 per family.

Five thousand is large amount for these families and moreover they were disturbed to know that they were asked to pay to get what they are rightfully entitled to. They discussed this matter in their CBO and also shared it with the visiting DBSS team.

Then they visited the Block Development Officer (BDO) at Newasa and told him about the unprofessional conduct of the Sarpanch. BDO was appalled to hear about and appreciated these families for not giving into the Sarpanch and bringing this matter to his notice.

He promised he would look into the matter and then briefed them about the progress in their case. He also intimated the Sarpanch to move ahead in the construction of the houses immediately.



"NDSHD has empowered us and enabled us to protest the injustice, we are equal and no one has any right to discriminate us on any basis. If our entitlements are snatched away, we shall not tolerate it but fight back collectively!" – Bharat Makasare & Kondiram Gore

In due course, the Makasares and Gores finally got to know about the sanctions and will soon be receiving the first instalment of the payment. All three families are excited to move into their new houses once they are built. Other families too have joined in sharing the joy of these families and have learnt about the power of a united effort.

North East India

Year of beginning: 1997 (IPAP – 2009)

State: 1 State – Assam

Districts: 5 Districts (Sonitpur, Nogaon, Karbi Anglong, North Lakhimpur, Jorhat) 7 Blocks

Gram Panchayat: 2 (IPAP 16)

No. of Villages: 245

Area: Barrackpore RCSA

Annual Utilization: ₹11, 99,230

Issues: Social exclusion and constitutional status of Adivasis

No of Staff: 10

Tea Garden Workers Speak Out... and claim their Rights

The economic value of the tea estates in India runs into millions, but those who do the actual work remain heavily exploited and are denied even the most basic of amenities. Men and women are made to work long hours for less than ₹100 a day and are provided with nothing else to support themselves; they remain at the mercy of the tea estate managers.

Recently Ms. Moneshwari Bawri, a permanent worker at the Singri Tea Estate, was dismissed for constructing a house in the land allotted to her. All permanent labourers are entitled to a quarter in the tea estate but she and her husband Joyram Bawri did not get any accommodation and were forced to share a single small quarter with nine other family members who were also employed in the same Tea garden.

They started building a house on a land in village of Bogoribari that had been provided by the Tea Garden. When the management heard of this they dismissed Moneshwari on the 5th of February, 2012 without any prior notice. The general manager also lodged an FIR (First Information Report) against Joyram Bawri on the 18th of February at Singri police station.

CBO members of Bogoribari & Singri heard of the incident and decided to fight the cause of Moneshwari. Together with SWARAJ and AASAA the CBO members went to the police station on February 24th and started an enquiry about the case. They then proceeded to the Circle office to enquire about land documents and found that the land had been allotted on the name of Joyram Bawri husband of Moneshwari and that he had been regularly paying the land revenue.

Taking all the necessary documents they confronted the General Manager the very next day. The case against Joyram was withdrawn and the management agreed to provide sufficient labour quarters to the Bawris and Moneshwari was allowed to resume her work from the next day and given 3 days pending salary. The land case would also be settled after the measurement of land by the Board. This intervention has showed the power of lobbying groups against unfair and inhuman systems of unemployment.

Patna

Year of beginning: 1989
State: 1 State – Jharkhand
Districts: 1 District
3 Blocks
Gram Panchayat: 9
No. of Villages: Revenue – 68; Hamlets – 144
Area: Ranchi RCSA
Annual Utilization: ₹8,90,189
Issues: Adivasi Rights
No of Staff: 7

Siker Murmu, a supplier of rations, has been arrested due to selling more than 400 litres of kerosene oil on the black market.



The village of Hisiganj is dominated by Adivasis and rarely receives kerosene on a regular basis. People only get about 2-3 litres each time and only 2-3 times in a year instead of every month. Under the Public Distribution

Scheme those people who are classed as below the poverty line are entitled to receive a certain amount of foodstuffs at a highly subsidised rate. This is distributed every month through the PDS shops, but due to a high level of corruption most people do not receive the amount they are guaranteed and what they do get is of inferior quality.

The rest of the stock is sold in the black market at treble the price, either to the people themselves or to those in other parts of the country. The villagers are then forced to buy back goods and, in this particular case, the kerosene oil cost them ₹40- 45 per litre. In remote areas without electricity kerosene serves as both cooking fuel as well as a source of light. This compounds the problem as children cannot study at night with such scarcity and adults are prevented from carrying out any work because of the darkness. The fact that a large number of people in the village come from socially excluded backgrounds further compounds the issue. Dealers and suppliers take advantage of their status and exploit them even more as they believe that Dalits and Adivasis are more powerless than other castes.

However, in Hisiganj, all of this has changed. The intervention of the DBSS and their drive to raise awareness amongst its people has resulted in action.

The villagers happened to see a van driver removing kerosene oil containers from the PDS shop in the middle of the night. Instead of helplessly watching they went up to him and started questioning what was happening. They demanded to know where the oil was being taken and why. The van driver was afraid and told them that the oil belonged to the supplier, Siker Murmu and that he was told to take it to the market.

The people then dragged the van driver to the Mukhia, who questioned him as well. With the evidence of the van driver they decided to take this complaint forward and informed the village Pradhan Mukhia and ward members. The concerned Mukhia took the matter seriously and informed the local police station as well as the Block Development Officer, concerned officer of the block and Subdivision and stressed the need for immediate action.

The Manjhi (the village head) called a meeting, questioned the dealer about his involvement with black market trade and eventually got a confession from him. He was then handed over to the police and sent to the Subdivision jail. This incident not only regularised their rations and ensured that the village got what was their due, but also served as a deterrent for those who may have wanted to continue the selling of goods on the black market. At present, the distribution is regular and timely and the people are receiving the correct amount. The availability of kerosene at an affordable price has not only saved them money but also greatly increased their productivity.

Phulbani

Year of beginning:
State: 1 State – Odisha
Districts: 1 District (Kandhamal)
2 Blocks: Daringbadi & Kotagarh
Gram Panchayat: 6
No. of Villages: 37
Area: Odisha RCSA
Annual Utilization: ₹11,25,022
Issues: Food Security
No of Staff: 6

20 Adivasi families get their due wages 5 months after completing their work under the MGNREGS.



Dalits and Adivasis avail their rights to livelihood through People's Organisation.

270 Dalit and Adivasi families from 7 villages in Kandhamal district of Orissa with the help of DBSS organized themselves under 'Durgama Anchala Vikas Sangathan' a People's Organisation. They have been addressing issues relating to

livelihood and food security along with social exclusion. To address their livelihood they secured jobs for 20 Adivasi families from 2 villages out of the 7 for land development under MGNREGS in February, 2011. Wages amounting to ₹190,000 were due to them but were not paid even after 15 days of completion of the work.

Three months of waiting and several requests falling on deaf ears forced the 20 Adivasi families to take appropriate steps to get what was due to them even if it meant holding the duty bearers accountable. They took their concern to 'Durgama Anchala Vikas Sangathan' who immediately intervened and prepared a memorandum with a signature campaign addressed to the Block Development Officer who is also the Programme Officer for the implementation of the MGNREGS.

In 6 days, the Adivasi labourers together with the DBSS coordinator took the concern with the memorandum to the BDO. He alleged the use of machines by the labours for the MGNREGS work as the cause of non payment. At no point of time in the last 3 months were the Adivasi labours informed about these allegations or the cause of denial or delay in their payment. Their requests to the Gram Rojgar Sahayak and Sarpanch were ignored till the DBSS and People's Organisation intervened.

The BDO agreed to look into the matter by a third party intervention. 'Jagruti' a local NGO was requested by the Programme Officer to verify the claims of the labourers but only after the labours gave in writing that it was not possible to use machines in the land developed. On behest of 'Jagruti' the Junior Engineer got into action and the investigation was completed in 45 days. The result was found in favour of the Adivasi labourers and finally they received their due after 5 months of toil.

DBSS Phulbani has been working in 33 villages of Kandhamal district for the past 4 years. They have been addressing issues on Food Security and Land Rights. With a population of around 10,000 people, the community mainly comprises of *Dalit* and *Adivasi* communities who are struggling for their basic rights amidst communal tension in the region. During the reporting period 250 job card holders applied for jobs through MGNREGS and 80 households received employment from 50-100 days. With employment and food security the work also resulted in construction of village assets and village infrastructural development. There is better connectivity for 3 villages with the new 4 km road.

CNI SBSS together with its implementing partners has helped in ensuring livelihood through MGNREGA for more than 46 thousand families during the reporting period across all DBSS. Today the communities who were once migrating or struggling for livelihood are availing jobs in their own village under the MGNREGS. They are not just asserting their rights to jobs and wages but also exercising their authority in availing other rights due to them.



Sambalpur

Year of beginning: 1982

State: 1 State – Odisha

Districts: 1 District (Balangir)

1 Block: Deogaon

Gram Panchayat: 23

No. of Villages: 127

Area: Odisha RCSA

Annual Utilization: ₹12, 06,539

Issues: Livelihood and Food Security, Dalit Atrocities

No of Staff: 8

Dalit colony with 40 families gutted over a piece of cloth

On 22nd January, 2012, 40 Dalit houses were burned down in Balangir, Odisha after an altercation between a Dalit boy and a cloth merchant.

This incident happened when a school going Dalit boy (Ganesh Suna) of 9th class went to a garment shop owned by Jayadev Meher to buy a shirt. His two sons Daya Meher and Bharat Meher were present in the shop at that time. When Ganesh Suna was just about to leave the shop the shopkeeper Bharat Meher started accusing him of stealing a shirt from his shop. Despite Ganesh denying such charges the shopkeeper now joined by his brother Daya Meher started hurling caste abuses. Soon other members of the Meher community barged into the shop. The shopkeeper, his brother and other upper caste people then ganged up and mercilessly beat up Ganesh Suna and threatened to kill him if he dares to open his lips. Then, Ganesh came back to his Basti (colony) and told his family about the incident. When one of his relatives went to the shop to inquire about the incident he was also equally abused and beaten mercilessly. Enraged by the beatings and caste abuses of a Dalit boy and an elderly person, four Dalit boys went to the shop to enquire peacefully into the matter.

The Dalits thought that the matter was over and returned to their basti. Later about 500 higher caste Hindus of the local Meher Community (Caste Hindu) attacked the Dalit Basti with weapons.

The Dalits in the village alleged that if a Dalit builds a house, dresses well or send their children to school; they are perceived with suspicion and contempt. This particular Dalit community is mostly landless. They are not allowed to hold property or build concrete houses.

The Mehers chased the Dalits to the nearby forest where they had to hide to save their lives. Then, they looted all their belongings and thereafter set their houses on fire. They destroyed their houses and their sources of livelihood. The material possessions they had earned after



decades of hard labour were gutted down in few minutes. Caste atrocities are common in the region but an incident of this magnitude had not happened in for a long time. The actual conditions of the forms of discrimination and degree of discrimination experienced by former untouchables are very high in the village. Physical contact by the "inferior caste" is regarded as polluting.

While the crowd was approaching, the people from the Ganda community repeatedly called the police but to no avail. The police reached the spot only after the rampage due to pressure from the local dominant castes and also refused to file an FIR. This uncovers the complacent role of various agencies of the administration to safeguard the Dalits under distress. The fire brigade says that they were prevented by the Upper castes to douse the fire. But people present in the spot provide an opposite version of the same.

The loss suffered by the Ganda community is enormous and mostly irreparable. In the aftermath of the conflict the people have nowhere to go due to apathy of the administration and animosity of village high caste people.

On 25th January, 2012, there was a big agitation at Koshal Kalamandal field and with crowds marching through Bhagirathi Chowk to the rest of the town. The main roads were blocked, which cause a lot of commotion as they link to Sambalpur, Titlagarh and Kantabanji.

Nearly 2000 people (including youth and women) assembled here and were chanting slogans. People also spoke against the inaction of Police and Government authorities and a charter of demands was then submitted to the Chief Minister through the District Magistrate and Collector of Balangir which was received by the Sub-collector on behalf of the Collector.

There was another procession from the Collectorate to Kalamandal field where the meeting continued for another 2 hours.

Now a peace committee has been constituted by the District Collector with the presence of different NGOs, leaders, and people of different castes around the District as well as local people. From Lathor, 5 members from Scheduled Caste and 5 members from Meher community were asked to participate.

The people of scheduled caste have demanded that if 10 lakhs are not given to affected families and the culprits are not booked under the Law by the 27th of January, a District level agitation will take place in which more than 10 thousand people will assemble in protest. Thus although these atrocities do occur, the Dalit community is strong enough to fight back against this inhumanity.

RAY & RAY

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AUDITORS' REPORT

Church of North India
Synodical Board of Social Services
16, Pandit Pant Marg
New Delhi: 110001

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of The Church of North India - Synodical Board of Social Services as at March 31, 2012 and also the Income and Expenditure Account of both Foreign and Local Contributions for the year ended on that date annexed thereto. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of Church of North India - Synodical Board of Social Services. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides reasonable basis for our opinion.

We report that

1. We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
2. In our opinion proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Board so far as it appears from our examination of those books and proper returns adequate for the purposes of our audit have been received from the Dioceses / projects / programmes.
3. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of account.
4. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts dealt with by this report are prepared in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, to the extent applicable.
5. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts read with Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts give the information in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India.
 - (a) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Board as at March 31, 2012; and
 - (b) In the case of the Income and Expenditure Accounts of the Foreign Contribution & Local Contribution, of the excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

Place: New Delhi
Date : 30.07.2012

For RAY & RAY
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration no. 301072 E



(SAMIR MANOCHA)
Partner
Membership no. 91479

BANGALORE • KOLKATA • MUMBAI • CHENNAI • TIRUNELVELI

CNI - Synodical Board of Social Services, 16 Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi - 110001

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31st March 2012

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	₹		₹
Capital Reserve (Annexure "C")		Fixed Assets	
		Project Assets (Annexure "A")	1,770,303.51
General Reserve		Vehicle Fund Assets	
Transferred from Income & Expenditure Account (Local)	1,055,932.49	Vehicle	279,785.23
		Add: Purchase of Vehicle	1,414,353.00
Gratuity Fund		Less: Depreciatin (15%)	(254,120.73)
Opening Balance	577,190.20		1,440,017.50
Add: Refund of advance from Local Account (net)	788,449.00		
Add: Additions during the year	272,918.00	Current Assets, Loans & Advances	
	1,638,557.20	Amount recievable from CASA	75,229.00
		Advances (Annexure "B")	1,390,547.30
Vehicle Fund		Cash & Bank Balances:	
Opening Balance	447,265.63	CNI - SBSS FC A/c No.22487	3,770,583.29
Add: Additions during the year (Note 2 (c))	1,398,044.00	CNI - SBSS Local A/c No.27138	1,055,933.49
Less: Deduction on account of depreciation of vehicle	254,120.73	CNI - SBSS Vehicle Fund A/c No.29853	151,171.40
	1,591,188.90	SBSS Employees Gratuity A/c No.29747	1,638,557.20
		AXIS Bank A/c No.079010100156387	188,468.00
Unutilized Balance of Foreign Contribution		Cash in hand	1,691.00
Transferred from Income & Expenditure Account			
(Foregin Contribution)	(209,467.13)		
Add: Interest and Local Income of Phase IV	21,425.50		
	(188,041.63)		
Grant received in advance (Note 3)	3,275,123.37		
	2,339,437.85		
Current Liabilities & Provisions (Annexure "D")			
	2,339,437.85		
	11,482,501.69		
			11,482,501.69

Significant Accounting Policies & Notes to Accounts - Annexure-I
Annexure A to D & I forms an integral part of the Balance Sheet
In terms of our separate report of even date


DR. SHAIENDRA AWALE
Chief Coordinator & Secretary


RT REV P L KAMBLE
Chairman


ANURADHA AMOS
Treasurer

for RAY & RAY
Chartered Accountants

SAMIR MANOCHA
Partner
Membership No. 91479

PLACE : NEW DELHI
DATE: 30/07/2012



CNI - Synodical Board of Social Services, 16 Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi - 110 001
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 31.03.2012

Expenditure	Amount (Rs.)	Income	Amount (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)
PROJECT No.20080322: SPEAKING OUT (2008 - 11) (Refer annexure - E)	30,906,226.95	Grants received for Project : SPEAKING OUT 2008-2011		
		EED, Germany	32,047,577.00	
		BFW, Germany	11,824,414.00	
Grant to Dioceses (Refer annexure - F)	16,466,521.00	Christian Aid, UK	3,286,878.58	47,158,869.58
Grant to Diocese of North East India for IPAP	2,277,350.00	Grant from Christain Aid (Fellowship)		232,113.08
Lidder Valley Community Program (Refer Annexure -G)	1,849,556.00	Grant received for other projects		
		Grant From Caritus PACS		1,645,593.00
		Grant From Anchor Foundation Scotland		389,774.00
		Grant From CASA		915,600.00
FCFC Programme	301,148.00	Grant From Christain Aid IPAP		2,725,523.46
LCP Programme	(891,503.00)	Grant From EED Ledder vally		1,201,750.00
IPAP Programme	382,422.00	Grant From Act Alliance		386,650.00
PACS Programme	1,488,143.00	Grant From SPAR for FCFC		705,193.00
Act Alliance	388,382.00	CNI Synod		266,708.00
		Other Receipts:		
		Interest on SB Account	92,116.00	
		Interest earned by Dioceses	6,127.00	
		Interest (LVCP)	26,056.00	
		Interest (PACS)	5,810.00	130,109.00
		Sale Proceeds of Assets		6,000.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure c/d	2,595,637.17			
	55,763,883.12			55,763,883.12
Balance B/f from last year	2,805,104.30	Excess of Income over Expenditure b/d		2,595,637.17
	2,805,104.30	Balance transferred to Balance Sheet		209,467.13
				2,805,104.30

Significant Accounting Policies & Notes to Accounts - Annexure-I
Annexure E to G & I forms an integral part of the Income and Expenditure Account
In terms of our separate report of even date


DR. SHAIENDRA AWALE
Chief Coordinator & Secretary


RT REV P L KAMBLE
Chairman


ANURADHA AMOS
Treasurer

for **RAY & RAY**
Chartered Accountants

SAMIR MANOCHA
Partner
Membership No. 91479

Place: New Delhi
DATE: 30/07/2012



CNI - Synodical Board of Social Services, 16 Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi - 110 001
Income & Expenditure Account (Local) for the year ending 31.03.2012

Expenditure	Amount (Rs.)	Income	Amount (Rs.)
1.2.4 BREAKING THE CULTURE OF SILENCE	25,425.00	Donation	267,434.01
Subscription to ACT Alliance	99,550.00	Interest on SB Account	123,425.00
Bank Charges	8,293.00	Interest on investment	15,257.82
Excess of Income over Expenditure c/d	272,848.83		
	406,116.83		406,116.83
Balance transferred to Balance Sheet	1,055,932.49	Excess of Income over Expenditure c/d	272,848.83
	1,055,932.49	Balance b/f from last year	783,083.66
			1,055,932.49

Significant Accounting Policies & Notes to Accounts - Annexure-I
Annexure I forms an integral part of the Income and Expenditure Account
In terms of our separate report of even date


DR. SHAILENDRA AWALE
Chief Coordinator & Secretary

PLACE : NEW DELHI
DATE: 30/07/2012


RT REV P L KAMBLE
Chairman


ANURADHA AMOS
Treasurer

for RAY & RAY
Chartered Accountants

SAMIR MANOCHA
Partner
Membership No. 91479



CNI - Synodical Board of Social Services, 16 Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi - 110 001

Receipts & Payments Account for the year ending 31.03.2012 (Foreign Contribution)

RECEIPTS	Amount (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)	PAYMENTS	Amount (Rs.)
Opening Balances:			PROJECT No.20080322: SPEAKING OUT (2008 - 11)	32,846,081.10
Cash	28.00		(Refer annexure-H)	
CNI - SBSS FC A/c No. 22487	182,986.30		Grant to Dioceses	16,466,521.00
Axis Bank A/c No. 079010100156387	183,084.00		Grant to Diocese of North East India for IPAP	2,277,350.00
Advances & Imprest	1,082,252.90	1,448,351.20	PACS Project	1,414,205.00
Grants received for Project : SPEAKING OUT 2008-2011			Lidder Valley Community Program	1,834,267.00
EED, Germany	32,047,577.00		LCP Programme	(860,358.00)
BFW, Germany	11,824,414.00		CASA - LCP Workshop	75,229.00
Christian Aid, UK	6,562,001.95	50,433,992.95	IPAP Programme	352,354.00
			FCFC	342,037.00
Grant from Christain Aid (Fellowship)		232,113.08	ACT Alliance	388,382.00
Grant received for other projects			Closing Balance:	
Grant From Caritas PACS		1,645,593.00	Cash in hand	1,691.00
Grant From Anchor Foundation Scotland		389,774.00	Cash at Bank (CNI SBSS F C A/c No.22487)	3,770,583.29
Grant From CASA		915,600.00	Cash at Axis Bank	188,468.00
Grant From Christain Aid IPAP		2,725,523.46	Advances & Imprest	1,390,547.30
Grant From EED for Lidder Valley Programme		1,201,750.00		5,351,289.59
Grant From Act Alliance		386,650.00		
Grant From SPAR for FCFC		705,193.00		
CNI Synod		266,708.00		
Other Receipts:				
Interest on SB Account	92,116.00			
Interest earned by Dioceses	6,127.00			
Interest (LVCP)	26,056.00			
Interest (PACS)	5,810.00	130,109.00		
Sale Proceeds of Assets		6,000.00		
		60,487,357.69		60,487,357.69


DR. SHAIENDRA AWALE
 Chief Coordinator & Secretary


RT REV P L KAMBLE
 Chairman


ANURADHA AMOS
 Treasurer

Significant Accounting Policies & Notes to Accounts - Annexure-I
 Annexure H & I forms an integral part of the Receipt & Payment Account
 In terms of our separate report of even date

for **RAY & RAY**
 Chartered Accountants




SAMIR MANOCHA
 Partner
 Membership No. 91479

Place: New Delhi
 DATE: 30/07/2012

Staff List

Names of the Employees

Designation

Chief Functionary:

Dr. Shailendra Awale	Chief Coordinator & Secretary
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Program Team

Manoj Manjari Nanda	Associate Co-ordinator (CME)
Monijinir Byapari	Programme Accompanier (PME & Policy & Campaign)
Mervin Makhwan	Group Facilitator (Land Rights & People's Organisation)
Joy Raj Eric Tudu	Group Facilitator (JID)
Sudeep Sanchit Tigga	Group Facilitator (Tribal Identity)
Bibhudutta Sahu	Group Facilitator (Orissa Advocacy)
Sukanta Behera	Programme Facilitator (Policy Advocacy and Research)
Nikhil S. Kumar	Programme Facilitator (Livelihood)
Elizabeth Martin	Programme Facilitator
Vikram Jadhav	Programme Facilitator
Ritu Tiru Agarwal	Programme Facilitator (Development Communications)
Prashant Bhonsale	Programme Associate
Shweta Guria	Programme Associate
Indu Toppo	Programme Associate
Rachel Rao	Programme Associate (Development Communications)
Priyanka Chowdhary	Programme Associate
Sonali Mundle	Programme Associate

Finance Team:

Santosh George	Co-ordinator Finance and Administration
Sunil Mahajan	Finance Facilitator
Archana Kindo	Finance Associate
Lovey Massey	Finance Associate
Banamali Mohanty	Accountant

Administrative/Support Staff

Deepsikha Khan	Resource Manager, Headquarters, Delhi
Valsa Thomas	Office Assistant, Headquarters, Delhi
Shantanu Biswas	Office Secretary, Resource Centres Barrackpore
Ram Nath	Driver cum Office Attendant, Headquarters, Delhi
Anil Kumar	Driver cum Office Assistant, Headquarters, Delhi
Mansidh Toppo	Office Attendant, Resource Centres Ranchi
Satish Yepure	Office Attendant, Resource Centres Pune
Christo Sebok Das	Office Attendant, Resource Centres Barrackpore
Sukumar Kumbhakar,	Driver, Resource Centres Barrackpore

Board Members

The Rt Rev P L Kamble
Chairman, SBSS

Rt Rev Dr. Samson Das
Vice- Chairman

Mrs. Anuradha Amos
Treasurer

Dr Shailendra Awale
Chief Functionary & Secretary, CNI-SBSS

Rev Samuel Mhaske

Mr. Alwan Masih

Mrs. Annie Abhay Bhore

Mr. Prem Masih

Mr Justin Boniface

Dr Samuel S Kishan

Mr Sudipta Singh

Mr. Asish Rajhans

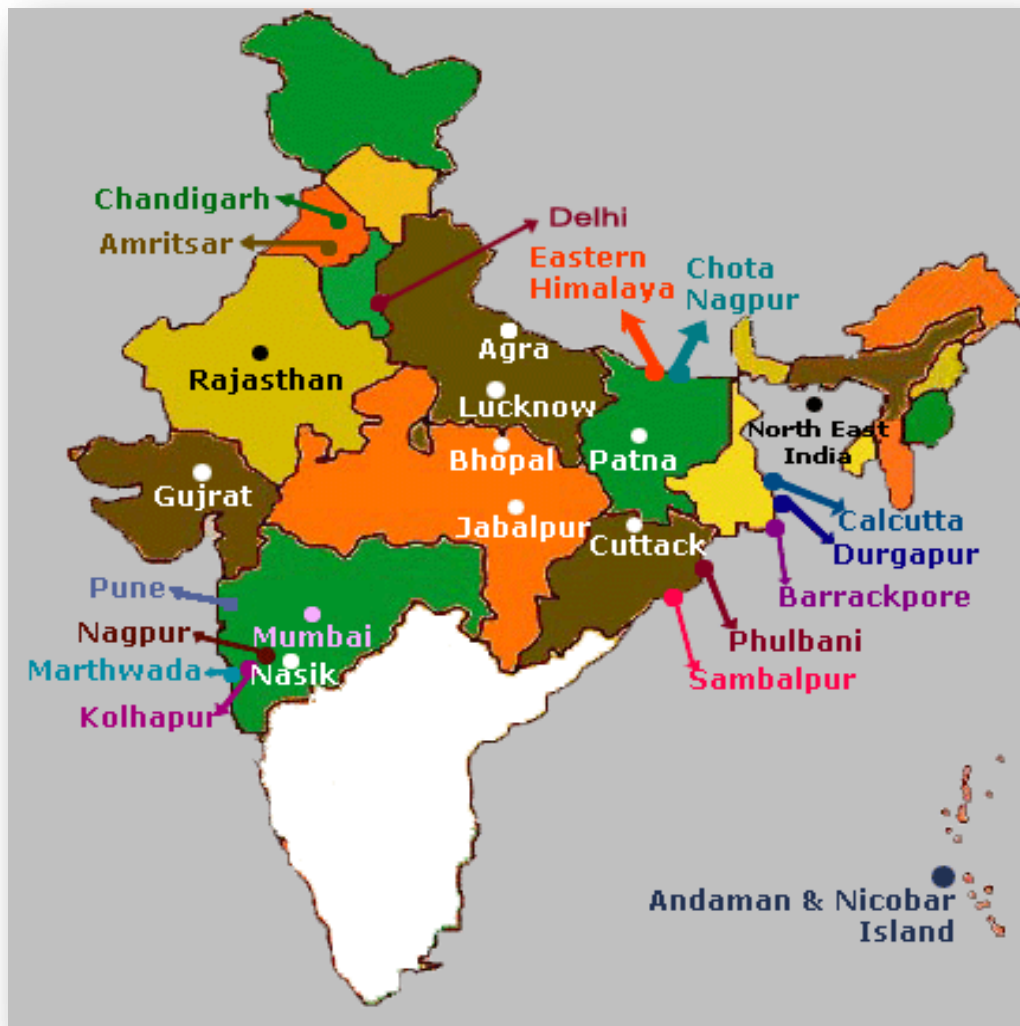
Mrs. Poornima Lall

Mr. Vilas Shende

Mrs. Nilmani Aind

Dr. Sandhya Ravi Prabhakar

Locations



5 RCSAs...22 DBSS...16 States...One Mission

SBBS is a resource sharing and capacity building agency addressing issues in 13 North Indian states (Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal, and North east India (Assam, Meghalaya), Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana.

Working with more than 8698 Community Based Organisations, 8 People Organisations and 11516 Self Help Groups we are engaging with a population of 7941 65 (342138 Dalits and 158946 Adivasis, 70530 Muslims and 1646 physically challenged) in 1827 villages of 87 blocks of 39 districts through the 22 DBSS.