



Towards  
Building  
Communities  
of  
Resistance  
& Hope

# CNI-SBSS

## *Project Reporting*

April, 2011 - Sept, 2011

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## 1. General Information

1.1	Name of the Organization	CNI Synodical Board Of Social Services (CNI SBSS)
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1.9	Project Title	Speaking Out... 2008-2011
1.10	Project Number	20080322-EED, B-IND-0809-0016-ND – BFW, N7586A05 – CA
1.11	Project Period	Oct 2008 - Sept 2011
1.12	Reporting Period	April,2011 - Sept,2011
1.13	Date of the Report	Dec , 2011
1.14	Author of the Report	Dr. Shailendra Awale

## 2. Outcome and Impact

### 2.1 Which is the agreed upon objective of the project and its indicators?

#### Project Objective:

CNI SBSS with its partners will continue to work with marginalized communities, accompanying and supporting their struggle to change the policies and practices of institutions and individuals, by joining People's Organizations together to form a critical mass and impact political process.

**Indicator 1:** More than two hundred thousand (200,000) *Dalits*, *Adivasis* and women are accessing and controlling their rights and entitlements in the intervention area (22 Dioceses)

**Indicator 2:** POs and vigilance cells that address issues of food security, livelihood, land rights, tribal identity and social exclusion, have been formed and are increasing in membership.

**Indicator 3:** The POs and CBOs formed influences policies related to food security (BPL, PDS, MGNREGS, ICDS, and MDM), land rights and social exclusion in eighteen hundred (1800) villages.

### 2.2 In case your project has different components, what were the agreed upon objectives of the components and their indicators?

The Strategic Action Plan "Speaking Out..." was started with an objective of challenging structural issues of inequality and injustice done to the most vulnerable and marginalised communities of India. It has adopted a Rights Based intervention to address issues like Right to food, *Dalit* land rights, right to water, *Adivasi* identity and social exclusion. It aimed at *Adhikar Pe Hissedari* (Equity in accessing rights). CNI SBSS advocates equity in accessing rights that are achieved after a long and difficult process of struggle. Developing an **Alternative Political Force**<sup>1</sup> was one of the strategies of movement building of People's Organisation that CNI SBSS cherishes. The whole process of building an Alternative Political Force started from building communities into Community Based Organisations (CBO's) that were localised and involved in solving local problems. It further matured to address larger issues at block and district level by breaking the geographical boundaries through forming issue-based People's Organisations. Finally these People's

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**Alternative Political Force (APF):** An alternative political force acts as a response to the dominant development paradigm and ensures that the voices of the community are heard and their views reflected in government policy and programmes. It serves as an alternative to dominant political discourse and does not attempt to replace present systems but to refine them by calling for reforms in decision making processes.

Organisations reached a stage of influencing policy and developed the character of People's Movement<sup>2</sup>. Taking into consideration the context and ground realities, the following indicators had been decided under the agreed objectives during this reporting period.

**1. Objective for component 1: Strengthening People's Movement**

**Indicator 1:** POs and its members have participated in Policy formulation and implementation.

**Indicator 2:** POs, CBOs and SHGs have identified micro-level corruption in PDS and other social welfare programs and developed mechanisms to prevent it through the village administration & governance by using RTI.

**Indicator 3:** Participation of the local communities in *Panchayati Raj* Institution (Local Governance) system and Convergence between PRI system & Traditional system for fostering governance at the grass-root level.

**Indicator 4:** Second line leadership is developed and recognised across 8 People's Organisations in 22 DBSS.

**Indicator 5:** Community Based Centre for Learning & Advocacy (CBCLA) has emerged as an information hub and volunteers have championed the case of children rights, education rights, enforced the Child Labour Act.

**2. Objective for component 2: Enhancing Human Capabilities and Assets to have access to and control over Life and Livelihood**

**Indicator 1:** Promote a people-centric and holistic sustainable livelihood of vulnerable communities to ensure food security through the use of development resources like MGNREGA, ICDS, Govt Minority Scholarship, SASPFOW, IAY, and MDM.

**Indicator 2:** Applications are filed and there is an increase in access to both revenue and forest land.

**Indicator 3:** Tracking the **social exclusion** of marginalised communities from the economic, social, and political mainstream and enabling them to participate in sustainable livelihood activities.

**3. Objective for component 3: Ensuring Congregation in Solidarity with Poor.**

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2. People's Movement is when an organized mass demands their rights through a process of regular protest and are ready to sacrifice for common issues related to life and livelihood to bring transformation.

**4.Indicator 1:** Critical gap is reduced between Church leaders and communities. Church leaders become part and parcel of communities, and are involved in the planning, implementation & monitoring of development resources.

**Indicator 2:** Congregation leaders taking issue-based advocacy agenda forward along with other secular organisations for campaign and advocacy.

**5. Objective for component 4: Mainstreaming Gender Concern in Programmes and Policy**

**Indicator 1:** Atrocities and abuses against women have reduced due to the emergence of SHGs as women based organisations in the references areas.

**Indicator 2:** Gender Sensitive activities based on the understanding of men's and women's needs, interests and constraints is developed. The representation of women in local institutions like *Gram Sabhas*, Village Education Committees, PRI, ICDS, Mother's committees, Village Development Committees etc. increases.

**6. Objective for component 5: Ensuring Integrity of Creation**

**Indicator 1:** Organic farming methods are adopted, which directly contributes to reducing carbon emissions

**Indicator 2:** Disaster Reduction management strategy is integrated in planning process and communities are now aware of what needs to be done to minimise the damage in the event of a disaster.

**Indicator 3:** Local Capacity for Peace and Do No Harm Model reduces conflict in conflict prone areas.

**7. Objective for component 6: Learning Movement for Movement Building**

**Indicator 1:** Staff capacity is built and training occurs at DBSS and SBSS level

**Indicator 2:** Alliance building and strengthening network with larger ecumenical society.

**Indicator 3:** Systems review is done and new reporting format is developed.

**2.3 To what extent could the project objective be achieved? Please report by using the agreed upon indicators. Please, refer to indicators differentiated by sex or with gender dimension too. If you have several project components, please report along the objectives and the indicators of that component.**

### **1. Objective for component 1: Strengthening People's Movements**

CNI SBSS has been a crusader in supporting the campaign for defending democracy and anti-corruption. During this reporting period, the anti-corruption campaign led by Anna Hazare paved a new path for movement building and campaign.

This fight against corruption staged at *Jantar Mantar* cut across all party lines. The political class was completely caught on the back foot and this country witnessed one of the finest debates in both houses of the parliament over the issue raised by Anna Hazare and his team. It was a great moment for democracy itself. Many of our People's Organisations joined the rallies in support of the struggle, where all citizens cutting across class and caste from villages to cities joined in to express their anger against corruption and bad governance which sent shock waves across all political parties.

While doing this, CNI SBSS and its supported People's Organisations concentrated on addressing the structural issues of corruption, injustice and social exclusion. During this reporting period, POs and its members have participated in policy formulation and implementation at the district and state level. POs, CBOs and SHGs have identified micro-level corruption in PDS and other social welfare programs like MGNREGA, PDS, preparation of BPL list, and developed mechanisms to prevent it by using the village administration and governance and RTI (Right to Information Act). During the last reporting period, we reported that in Jharkhand, People's Organisations played a pro-active role in preparing and supporting candidates in the PRI (*Panchayati Raj Institution*) election. They have subsequently been elected and become people's representatives. There has been a conflict going on between traditional leaders of *Adivasi* governance system and PRI. During this reporting period, an attempt has been made to develop a synergy between the PRI system and traditional system for fostering governance at the grass-root level. In addition to this second line leadership was developed and recognised across 8 People's Organisations in 22 DBSS. CBCLA has also emerged as an information hub and championed the case of children rights, education rights, and the Child Labour Act<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> This act states that no one under the age of 14 can be employed in any form of labour

In places like Phulbani and Sambalpur of Orissa, CBOs have gone beyond their geographical boundaries and expanded to address issues like communication (which include road, rural electrification and postal communication). Secondly, they have dealt with the unemployment of local people through the proper implementation of MGNREGA. Third, they have addressed issues of drinking water and land irrigation .And tackled the government’s inattention to these areas. In Jharkhand, *Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Raksha Manch* voiced their dissent against policies and practices of the ruling class. Their struggle against Indian Oil was note worthy. *Adivasis* are slowly realizing that the ruling class are only interested in selling resources to the multi-national corporations (MNCs) and if they do not resist, their *Astitva (identity/purpose of being)* will be in danger. The DBSS’s effort in educating the *Adivasi* in this area is notable.

In addition to this, there has been an increase in membership in almost all the People’s Organisations across the DBSS’s. The status of the People’s Organizations by Sept, 2011 has been enumerated in Table No-1.

**Status of People’s Organizations in DBSS’ intervention areas as on Sept, 2011**

**Table No-1**

Name of PO	DBSS	Issues	Districts	Members by March	No of members added by Sept,11
<i>Mazdoor Adhikar Sangathan</i> (MAS)	Amritsar ( Punjab)	Minimum/equal wages and <i>Dalit</i> rights	Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Taran Taran, Kullu and Kangra	23520	+ 2995
<i>Manav Adhikar Raksha Samiti</i> (MARS)	Barrack pore ( West Bengal)	ICDS, MDM, TPDS and MGNREGA	24 Pgs(South)	1051	+ 378
<i>Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Raksha Manch</i> (AMARM)	Chotanagpur (Jharkhand)	Tribal Identity , Self rule	Gulag , Simdega, Khunti	123433	+ 6000
<i>Dalit Samajik Vikas Parishad</i> (DSVP)	Kolhapur (Maharashtra)	Land Rights and Livelihood	Sangli and Kolhapur	86120	+ 325
<i>Sangram Samity</i>	Kolkata	Water pollution	South and North 24	5710	+ 372

	(West Bengal)	and TPDS	Parganas.		
<i>Manav Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti (MASS)</i>	Marathwada (Maharashtra)	Land rights, Livelihood and Food Security, Gender concern, CME	Aurangabad and Jalna	4978	+ 222
<i>Manav Haq Sangharsh Samiti (MHSS)</i>	Nagpur (Maharashtra)	Land Rights and Livelihood With cross cutting themes – women empowerment, CME, Climate change, LCP	Bhandara and Chandrapur	2567	+ 110
<i>Purbanchal Adivasi Jagriti Sangram Samittee (PAJSS)</i>	North East India (Assam)	Women, Land, Livelihood, Local Governance	Sonitpur, Noagaon, Lakhimpur and Karbi Anglong	9239	+ 2117
<i>Durgama Anchal Vikas Sangathan (DAVS)</i>	Phulbani	Communication, un employment, crisis of drinking and irrigation water and government inattention.	Kandhamal	-	+ 500
<i>Dalit Sanskar Sangathan (DSS)</i>	Sambalpur	Social exclusion, untouchability, land rights and food security.	Balangir	553	31
Eight POs	10 DBSS and 8 states		Twenty two districts	256618	13050

Our People’s Organisations took initiatives to educate the stakeholders so that they can sustain their movements by holding regular meetings and decisions to generate local funds to sustain their struggles. The rallies held at Kamdara Block of Gumla district under the banner of AMARM

(*Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Raksha Manch*) on 8/6/11 with their agenda of conducting social audits in the reference areas shows the growth of the organization.<sup>4</sup> Efforts were made to create awareness on the importance of *Gram Sabhas* and effective functioning of the social security schemes.

**Indicator 1: POs and its members have participated in Policy formulation and implementation.**

In this reporting period, CNI SBSS has witnessed the emergence and growth of civil society in policy formulation and implementation at both local and state level. Our intervention in the reference area has created an atmosphere conducive for the participation of people in policy discussion at the Panchayat and Block level. Our partners have encouraged POs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to promote the right of people, encouraged reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making<sup>5</sup> processes. This has helped to improve local negotiation processes and effectively fed the policy cycle of ongoing government programs. In addition to this, POs were able to identify the factors that facilitated and hindered participation in the local negotiation. They also highlighted the key elements useful to the participatory policy making processes. In the whole process, being a part of the joint programme planning, advisory bodies and programme monitoring, we have recommended measures to improve participatory policy making and local negotiation processes based on the result.

In Kolhapur DBSS, there has been a significant improvement as far as representation of people in policy formulation and program implementation is concerned<sup>6</sup>. They have been represented in both village level and block level elections and ensured transparency and accountability in government flagship programs. In the month of May, some *Dalit* families were badly beaten up at village Yadrav. The DSVP immediately flung in to action - petitions and cases were filed with different government agencies. Rallies and morchas were taken to the District offices to condemn the attacks on *Dalit* families. At Jainsingpur a *Rasta Roko Andolan* (road jam) was organized, when the officials were acting slowly on the case. Nine people were arrested but the main culprit who enjoys the political backing was let off. By the end of May, petitions were submitted to police commissioner. (See Annexure for case study)

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3. See, Group Facilitator report on people's organisation for the period from April to September 2011.

4. Based on the report provided DBSS on people's organisation for the period from April to September 2011.

5. Based on the report provided DBSS Kolhapur on people's organisation for the period from April to September 2011.

In June an *Akrosh Andolan* (anger movement) was announced at the office of the Superintendent of Police as some DSVP activists were implicated in false police cases. The *Andolan* was cancelled due to pressure from police to negotiate. As a result some assurances were made but no action was taken. The DVSP then filed petitions to the SC/ ST Commission and directed the Inspector General to look into the matter. An enquiry was initiated which was held under an additional DYSP, which took one month to complete. 2 DSVP 1 Police Inspector and 2 local policemen and the DSVP activist were questioned. The representation of people in village committees under Kolhapur is in Table No-2

<b>Representation of People in Programme committee in Village level in Kolhapur DBSS</b>				
<b>Table No-2</b>				
No.	Name	Village/ Block	Involvement	Programme/ Committee
1.	Mr. Gulab Ganpat Mule	Dhorkin	President	<i>Tantaa-Mukti Abhiyaan</i> (Conflict-free village campaign)
2.	Shashikant Nade	Dhorkin	Member	<i>Shantata Samitee</i> ( peace committee)
3.	Aatmaram Bobade	Dhangaon	President	<i>Tantaa-Mukti Abhiyaan</i> (Conflict-free village campaign)
4.	Vinayak Mavas	Dhangaon	Member	<i>Shaley Samitee</i> ( Village education committee )
5	Janardhan Bobade	Isarwadi	Member	<i>Tantaa-Mukti Abhiyaan</i> (Conflict-free village campaign)
6	Takwade Bhaurao	Isarwadi	Member	<i>Shaley Samitee</i> ( Village education committee )
7	Ramesh Shinde	Bidkin	Member	<i>Shantata Samitee</i> ( peace committee)

*Source: Information submitted by DBSS till October, 2011*

The Representation of People in Programme committee in Block level in Kolhapur DBSS is in Table No-3.

<b>Representation of People in Programme committee in Block level in Kolhapur DBSS</b>				
<b>Table No-3</b>				
No.	Name	Block	Involvement	Prog. Committee
1	Rao Saheb Devrao Nade	Paithan Taluka	Member	Sanjay Gandhi Nerada Yojna Committee
2	Mr.Khadsal	Paithan Taluka	Member	PDS Committee
3	Kisan Rao Valve	Gangapur Taluka	Member	PDS Committee

*Source: Information submitted by DBSS till October, 2011*

With reference to DBSS Nagpur, it (NDDA) has a People’s Organisation called *Manavi Haqq Sangharsh Samiti* (MHSS). It hasn't been a part of any body/ committee at larger state level but at the local (village & block) levels, NDDA/ MHSS has been actively involved in planning, monitoring and advisory bodies/ committees of the state programmes like *Jal-Swarajya* (Water Supply & Sanitation), *Tantaa-Mukti Abhiyaan* (Conflict-free village campaign), etc.

MHSS has submitted a memorandum to the Regional Commissioner, Nagpur Vidarbha (who oversees six districts) demanding to reconsider/ nullify the criterion of submitting the residential proof of people over the age of 75 and also sped up the implementation process of the Forest Land Ownership. Though the govt. is still adamant over requiring residential proof for those over 75, the acquiring of Forest Land gathered speed; on an average 5- 6 families get their ownership documents in a month.

In pursuit of policy recommendation and development, DBSS Patna has enabled people to participate in the implementation of PESA (*Panchayat’s* Extension to the Scheduled Areas) and the 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment<sup>7</sup>, by joint program planning. Elected PRI members in *Panchayat Raj Sangharsh Samiti & Mukhia Sangharsh Samiti* are monitoring this flagship program. It has participated in the campaign for minimising violence against Christians<sup>8</sup>. Chotanagpur DBSS, with support of the *Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Manch* became a part of Food for Community Development (FFCD) with CASA and was a part of the advisory body of Jharkhand Indigenous People’s Forum (JIPF) & Jharkhand Human Rights Movement (JHRM). In addition to this, DBSS Chotanagpur and *Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Raksha Manch* have recommended some constructive recommendations in district and block level in various capacities. The specific policy recommendation made are being enumerated in the following- Table No-4,

Policy/scheme specific recommendation (District/Block) by DBSS Chotanagpur	
Table No-4	
Name of DBSS/PO	Policy/scheme specific recommendation (District/Block)
<i>Adivasi Ekta Manch</i> (CBO)	Fencing of community forest Petition given to block & district office under PESA Dharna at the site

<sup>7</sup> The Amendment provided a constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in India and left no discretion with the State governments in several important matters pertaining to these Institutions.

6. Based on the report provided DBSS Patna on people’s organisation for the period from April to September 2011.

	Fencing work withdrawn
<i>Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva</i> <i>Raksha Manch</i>	Displacement Recommendation given to Governor & Chief minister, Jharkhand
22 Parba	Panchayat election Recommendations to incorporate PESA – Governor, Chief Secretary, Panchayat commission director Recommendations were not considered
DBSS, AMARM, 22 Parba	Boundary delimitation in the schedule area (postcard campaign by DBSS & PO) to the prime minister Stay order has been passed
DBSS Chotanagpur	For implementation of PESA - postcard campaign by DBSS & PO to the Governor of Jharkhand PRI election was conducted without taking into account PESA
DBSS Chotanagpur	Kandhamal communal violence against Christians Postcard campaign by DBSS to the chief minister of Orissa & Prime minister Drew attention to the violence and created awareness amongst people

*Source: based on the information submitted by DBSS, Chotanagpur*

*Sangrami Samity* under Kolkata DBSS evolved as a learning People’s Organisation as it reviewed its structure, representation, and gender relations, and altered its objectives according to the changing global scenario<sup>9</sup>. For example, now they are working on the issue of climate change.

The strength and resilience of this group as it has evolved through processes is based on its strong ideological position which is centred on livelihood and life. It has worked towards building a society that preserves the environmental heritage of local life by enhancing the capacity of common people through mass mobilization processes and enhancing alternative livelihood methods. *Sangrami Samity* has mapped out the changes in traditional institutions that had resulted from state policies. It became evident that the space for organizing the community had been taken over by multiple institutions set up by various government programmes in the village, like SHGs, MGNREGA

6. Based on the report provided DBSS Kolkata on people’s organisation for the period from April to September 2011.

monitoring committee, village education committee etc. They are taking part in *Gram Sabha* meetings, in planning and managing the actions<sup>10</sup> to further their representation.

Under SEDP Amritsar, *Mazdoor Adhikar Sangathan* (MAS) has created an enabling space for bargaining with the policy makers. During the reporting period, the focus was more on ensuring the proper functioning of *Gram Sabhas*. After their initial success in the last reporting period, MAS has been aggressively perusing this campaign to take its initiatives to other villages. They have effectively used their skills and strategies by filing petitions signature campaigns with the BDPO, Dy. Commissioner and Panchayat Development Commissioner for functioning of *Gram Sabhas*. Efforts were also made to build awareness among its member on the importance of *Gram Sabhas*. Only time will tell how this campaign is going to move ahead as the political lobby against these kind of initiatives in the context of Punjab is very strong and most often the upper class have responded to issues like these through violence<sup>11</sup>.

***Indicator 2: POs, CBOs and SHGs have identified micro-level corruption in PDS and other social welfare programs and developed mechanism to prevent it through the village administration & governance by using RTI.***

CNI SBSS has witnessed a series of achievements at the village, block and district level where the SHGs, CBOS and POs are in the process of addressing local problems and issues. They are actively using tools like rallies to mobilize people and submitting deputation at the block and district level. RTI was used to gain access to information and subsequently the same information was analysed and shared with members as well. Steps were taken to raise question at the Panchayat level. The DBSS has also used the media for advocacy by submitting press notes in different local newspapers to highlight the issues and corruption of the government machinery.

In the last reporting period, 32 rallies were conducted to address issues related to PDS and social welfare schemes like old age pension, MGNREGA, IAY ICDS, BPL across our intervention areas and 404 deputations were given on the issue of Land settlement, Land development, primary education, water, electricity, *Dalit* atrocities, atrocities against women in our intervention areas. Due to the intervention of the POS in Amritsar, it was matter of great achievement that the

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6. Based on the Learning Appraisal Report and report provided DBSS Patna on people's organisation for the period from April to September 2011.

6. Based on the report provided SEDP, Amritsar on people's organisation for the period from April to September 2011.

people had succeeded in getting their daily wages raised from ₹. 150/- to ₹. 200/- . They also ensured an increment for working in paddy plantation fields from ₹. 1000/- to ₹. 1500/-. This was possible only after a long struggle with the help of *Mazdoor Adhikar Sangathan*.

In this reporting period, 119 RTI applications have been filed by all the DBSS on issues of land rights, BPL card list, minority schemes, IAY list, widow pension, old age pension and unpaid payment in MGNREGA. RTI has become a very strong tool to question the authorities both at the block level as well as at the Panchayat level. More than 45 press notes have been given to the local print media to highlight the issues of atrocities, exclusion and corruption in different departments of the government. The members of the PO, CBOs and SHGs participate in *Gram Sansad* Meetings, share their views in the village planning and become active members of different monitoring groups.

In Delhi DBSS, 125 reference communities of 25 villages in both blocks of Yamuna Nagar District have understood how to identify and analyze the data of local & physical resources for planning in MGNREGA. 34 forum members were capacitated on advocacy for MGNREGA planning and 10 Forum & CBOs members met the Panchayat and submitted an application to restart the work under MGNREGA in the village of Sabudinpur.

**Indicator 3: *Participation of local communities in the PRI system and the convergence between PRI system & Traditional system to foster governance at the grass-root level.***

Participating and influencing policies at the local level is very important for our communities in order to assert their need for change, as well as, for developing village plans and community assets. It was observed that, while participating in the *Gram Sabha*, reference communities have started raising questions regarding their development. An attempt has been made through *Gram Sabhas* to strengthen the PRI and make it transparent, accountable, participatory and truly democratic. The focus has been “to strengthen local self-governance aimed at (1) the capacity building of civil society – citizen leaders, community based organizations, small voluntary organizations, *Gram Sabhas* etc. to develop an effective voice for making decisions- about access to and use of development resources; (2) capacity building, sensitization and policy advocacy within the governance institutions – three tiers of PRIs, district administration, line departments etc. to respond to the voice of the new leadership from civil society; and (3) enabling linkages (interfacing) between the voice of civil

society and response of governance institutions to demonstrate innovative exemplars of transparent and accountable use of development resources in favour of the marginalized and excluded<sup>12</sup>”.

After the PRI election in Jharkhand, an attempt was made to ensure proper and effective functioning of *Gram Sabhas* and to recognize the *Gram Sabha* as a vibrant and dynamic entity of villages. People's Organisations like *Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Raksha Manch* have organised workshops and seminars at Panchayat and village level in a well-scheduled manner on the legal and conceptual framework of *Gram Sabhas*. From the report submitted by RCSA Ranchi, it was found that the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and the implementation of development schemes were given utmost priority in workshops. Workshops also emphasized the empowering of members of *Gram Sabhas* so that they are able to utilize power to determine priorities for various programmes in the village and approve their budgets.

CNI SBSS through its partners has been campaigning to ensure that the management of natural resources including land, water and forest by any authority whatsoever, should be approved with the concurrence of the *Gram Sabha*. It was observed that representatives of *Gram Sabhas* have been vociferously protesting against the bureaucracy's unwillingness to implement other welfare programmes for the poor including Public Distribution Schemes, provision of cards to those who were Below the Poverty Line, Old Age Pensions, construction of infrastructure facilities like communications, roads, providing drinking water to the villages and implementing primary health facilities and other schemes all of which, are provided for in the Union and State Government budgets.

With the intervention of our partner supported POs, women in some villages have started participating in these *Gram Sabhas* and making their presence and participation felt. These *Gram Sabhas* have been activated on the subject of maintaining and sustainable use of water resources and water resource management committees have been formed in the villages where this work is being undertaken. A total of 2000 *Gram Sabhas/Gaon Sabhas* has become active in across all the DBSS as a result of this process.

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10. Based on the report provided RCSA, Ranchi on People's Organisation for the period from April to September 2011.

SL No	DBSS	Gram Sabha Participation		Gram Sabha Held	People Contested in PRI		People Elected to PRI	
		Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female
1.	Agra	34	7	06-07-11(Baroli) 09-07-11 (N. Ahir)	-	-	-	-
2.	Amritsar	70%	30%	5 (4 in H.P & Punjab. 1)	17	11	5	7
3.	Lucknow	31	33	April, May, June	-	-	-	-
4.	Rajasthan	195	155	2	-	-	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	11	1	-	-	-	-
6.	Barrackpore	101	132	26	-	-	-	-
7.	EHD	17%	21%	70%	-	-	-	-
8.	NEI	47	22	2	-	-	-	-
9.	Chotanagpur	1046	720	800	148	106	87	72
10.	Patna	474	183	Monthly	38	52	-	-
11.	Marathawada	172	85	15 Aug. & 1st May	-	-	-	-
12.	Nagpur	380	258	15 Aug. 26 Jan	-	-	-	-
13.	Kolhapur	500	500	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Nasik	775	154	15th Aug. 26 Jan.	-	-	-	-
15.	Sambalpur	-	-	-	162	48	-	-
16.	Phulbani	2050	650	August' 15, 2011	-	-	-	-

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<sup>13</sup> :- Elections usually occur every 5 years and was not held during this reporting period.

We have also witnessed that in Jharkhand there was some conflict between the PRI leaders and traditional leaders but after awareness and sensitization activities, there has been a synergy between newly elected PRI leaders and traditional leaders. Traditional leaders have now accepted the PRI system of functioning and work in tandem to hold members of the Panchayat accountable to their society. It was also reported that there was full participation of MHSS Leaders in *Gram Sabhas* on 15<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Plans for community assets creation under MGNREGA were completed in most villages. On 16 August, 350 people from MHSS marched to Tahsildar office in support of Anna Hazare movement against corruption.

***Indicator 4: Second line leadership developed and is recognised across 8 People's Organisation in 22 DBSS.***

Developing quality leadership among marginalised communities is an important intervention strategy of CNI SBSS. CNI SBSS believes that good leadership requires attitudes and behaviours which characterise and relate to humanity. Effective leadership does not necessarily require great technical or intellectual capacity. These attributes might help, but they are not of primary importance to work with people. During this reporting period, CNI SBSS organised a series of workshops for second line leaders to develop the perspective, concepts and skills needed to successfully lead a knowledge-centred People Organization which would then be able to successfully put forward the demands of the people. These trainings focused on role clarity, problem solving, learning how to conduct meetings, counselling for conflict resolution, knowledge about laws and government programmes and how to make use of these, understanding societal structures, learning skills of literacy, press note and petition writing, and basic financial management.

These trainings have resulted in developing applicable skills and knowledge. It gave them emotional strength and communication skills. In addition to this, new leaders were identified and integrated into the organisation after trainings and orientations. A direct result of this was getting 5640 job cards and 2371 jobs. The campaigns on right to wages and right to fair price has resulted in getting a wage increase from ₹150 to ₹200 and paddy plantation from ₹1000 to ₹1500. The number of leaders identified and their membership is enumerated in Table No-6;

New Leaders Identified and Membership took from April ,2011 –Sept,2011-11-24					
Table No-6					
Sl No	DBSS	Leaders identified		PO Membership	
		Male	Female	male	female
1.	Agra	72	28	1089	274
2.	Amritsar	151 (12 H.P & 139 Punjab)	54 (8 H.P & 46 Punjab)	17315	9200
3.	Delhi	9	6	-	-
4.	Lucknow	51	36	160	90
5.	Rajasthan	82	83	-	-
6.	Chhattisgarh	6	23	-	-
7.	Barrackpore	12	26	162	217
8.	Durgapur	35	18	-	-
9.	EHD	48	32	-	-
10.	Kolkata	21	47	133	5025
11.	NEI	37	22	1223	894
12.	Chotanagpur	71	55	2800	3200
13.	PATNA	38	52	65	94
14.	Marathawada	19	9	2700	2500
15.	Nagpur	17	9	73 in this period	37 in this period
16.	Kolhapur	250	75	250 in this period	75 in this period
17.	Nasik	13	10	-	-
18.	Sambalpur	162	48	-	-
19.	Phulbani	103	26	250	250

Most of the People’s Organisations across the DBSS have performed as per their capacity and expanded their area of operation in terms of geographical boundaries, membership and addressing the issues of people. In *Mazdoor Adhikar Sangathan* under SEDP Amritsar, it is very interesting to note the rapid increase in the membership, an indicator of its growth. In the period April to September 2010, the membership of MAS was 16908 from October 2010 to March 2011, its members was 24510. Around 7602 people joined the organization. From April to September 2011, the membership of MAS is 24715 showing an increase of 205 people. The strategy of expanding the base of PO beyond geographical boundaries is an important factor in building people’s organizations. During the reporting period they have established 12 new units against 50 planned, shows they are growing in the right direction.

In Chotanagpur 7 Parha<sup>14</sup> have been strengthened and are functioning effectively. In addition to this 8 new *Panchayats* have been involved in strengthening *Parha*. It was observed that AMARM has expanded its operation to new areas and 4 petition/memorandums were submitted to the government on people issues. 30 village leaders have been developed to run village administration and governance. In addition to this the network interacted with- Raje Parha, 22 Parha, CASA, Koel Karo Jan Sangathan, JIPF, JHRM. During the reporting period, their struggle against the Indian Oil company was also note worthy.

*Adivasi* are slowly realizing that the ruling class are only interested in selling their resources to MNCs (Multi-National Corporations) and if they do not resist this, their *Astitva* (identity/purpose of being) is in danger. So the DBSS's effort in educating them in this area is crucial.

In Patna DBSS, 80 leaders were identified, selected & developed to initiate a *Janta Durbar* in the monitoring cell. In addition to this a monitoring & review system was established in 13 Panchayats to streamline welfare programs & government schemes. The monitoring cell members were equipped and oriented with a political agenda. During the reporting period, the *Adivasi Swashasan Manch* has managed to increase their membership from 60 to 150. But its mass base has to increase if it has to create pressure on the local governance. Their decision to spread the operational area to 13 Panchayats of the Taljhari Blocks shows that they are building on their strengths and fits into our evolved theories that a CBO as it progresses it moves beyond geographical boundaries and attains a mass base.

In Sambalpur DBSS, 72 village level *Dalit Adhikar Sangathan* units were capacitated on local issues and 162 *Dalit* leaders were identified to contest in the PRI election in 2012. In Kolhapur 80 DSVP activists participated in meetings and membership increased to 325. In North East DBSS, *Swaraj Jan Sangathan* have made effort to network with other NGOs/CSOs like PAJHAR, PAD, NBS, and AASAA, and took up larger issues that affect their reference communities. In Nagpur, MHSS leaders with the DBSS Staffs took stock of the activities and with this review, planned a further course of action. This helped in the rapport building and also enhanced the visibility of the PO-MHSS in the areas, encouraging the community members to join the MHSS. In addition to this MHSS leaders' exposure visit to *Lekha Mendha Marda* benefitted 30 leaders as they were able to experience the struggle of the villagers from the area and learn from them, as these communities too have an issue over the Forest Land. This exposure had helped the MHSS to evolve new strategies and a future course of action to take the land struggle ahead. Under Nagpur DBSS in *Manve Ya Haq*

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<sup>14</sup> An area under the traditional system of governance, a Parha is a cluster of villages

*Sangharsh Samiti* (MHSS) 110 members have been added to MHSS's membership. In the village of Pannassi, power supply was given to 30 families for agriculture after repeated visitation to relevant offices. On 16 August, 350 people from MHSS marched to Tahsildar office in support of Anna Hazare movement against corruption.

In Marathwada *Manav Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti* (MASS), People's Movement was strengthened by focusing on organizational growth and building the spirit of people in order to resist exploitation. In Barrackpore, *Manav Adhikar Raksha Samiti* faced challenges in terms of visibility, expansion building movement, developing ideological framework and operational strength. In Kolkata 14 PO unit of *Sangrami Samity* were formed and 57 leaders identified (F- 40, M-17). In addition to this, membership of *Sangrami Samity* has increased to 358 by expanding to 8 new villages (Goromara, Nawabad, Dhalipara). In Durgapur DBSS, *Jana Sasthya Raksha* Committee submitted a memorandum to BHMO & BDO on health services. In addition to this there was an increase in the membership of forums, 26 in Purulia 18 in Malda and 28 in Dinajpur.

In Chhattisgarh DBSS, 1 Christian youth group, 1 non Christian youth group in Chota Barela (10 Girls) and a BPL Youth Group in Bardoli (9 boys & 1 girl) were formed. A social Audit was conducted in Barela Panchayat, where 25 persons including 4 persons from *Gayatri, Jagriti & Mahamaya* SHG groups attended. In Phulbani, 2 villages (65 *Adivasi & Dalit* families) have been included in *Durgama Anchal Vikas Sangathan* (DAVS) formed at Orra GP, Kotoghar Block of Kandhamal district. 211 *Adivasi & Dalits* of 6 villages of 3 Gram Panchayat were identified and made aware of upcoming PRI election. In addition to this, a 15 member committee was formed to deal with the issue of displacement for a wildlife sanctuary project at Kotoghar.

***Indicator 5: CBCLAs emerge as an information hub and champions the case of children rights, education rights and enforces the Child Labour Act with its volunteers***

The Community Study Centre for Learning and Advocacy acts as a change agent that enables children to realize their potential and develop a just human society. It acts through non-formal informative education and interactive processes, which go beyond the four walls of a classroom. CBCLA has been used as a platform to build and enrich the perspective and ideology of children, ultimately contributing to the future of movement building. It also develops child advocates for social concerns.

In our reference area of North East India, 10 CBCLA Facilitators of Solabari, Satgaon, Bengbari, Shillong, Jowai have directly influenced 325 children attending the CBCLA centres by helping them to study and share knowledge about their rights on getting nourishing food. In all CBCLA centres,

the children are encouraged to play traditional village games like *Pitthoo*, *Guli danda*, *Kho-Kho*, *Kabddi*, *Cat & Mice*, etc. These traditional games are on the verge of extinction. The following table shows the number of CBCLA operational in our reference areas.

<b>No of CBCLA is Operational</b>			
<b>Table No-7</b>			
<b>Name of DBSS</b>	<b>No. of CBCLA</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
Chotanagpur	11	181	234
Patna	5	74	63
Durgapur	2	195	219
Kolhapur	9	206	217
NEI	5	136	189

*Source: Extracted from the updated Management Information System of CNI SBSS*

Parents were also encouraged to participate in the monitoring committees of village primary schools by cross-checking and directly intervening to find out information about the distribution of the Mid Day Meals and any discrimination or atrocities that have occurred, especially to children from *Dalit* and *Adivasi* backgrounds. In Jharkhand and Maharashtra, more than 15 CBCLA centres are being used as information hubs. Information was disseminated through poster, hand outs, painting on issues related to child rights, forest rights, MGNREGA, MDM and ICDS and JSY. Reference community members were encouraged to conduct meetings in these centres. The achievements of Chotanagpur DBSS are enumerated in Box No -1

#### ***Major Achievements of Chotanagpur DBSS under CBCLA***

- 1. 7 CBCLA has been transformed into information hub*
- 2. 5 VEC is monitoring the ICDS and govt. school functioning*
- 3. 20 leaders both women & men are developed to monitor the government schemes and also to tap resources*
- 4. 12 PDS shop has been regularized*
- 5. Land rights ensured to Lungi Mundain under Buruirgi panchayat*
- 6. Advocacy initiated for the timely payment under MNREGA was successful for 126 laborers .*

*Source: extracted from the Analytical report for the period April, 2011 to Sept, 2011 submitted by Chotanagpur DBSS.*

In Diocese of Patna, 4 CBCLA hubs were formed with the networking and collaboration of ICDS centres. There are two in Taljhari, one in Bhatbhanga and another one in Sagarbhanga. A process of

forming monitoring cells and CBCLA hubs was initiated in 11 congregations of Pathana (Barharwa) pastorate under the CME, module. There will be 11 monitoring cells and 11 CBCLA hubs distributed throughout the 11 congregations.

## **2. Objective for component 2: Enhancing Human Capabilities and Assets to have access to and control over Life and Livelihood.**

CNI SBSS has been working with the people, who are marginalised, excluded from the economic, social, and political mainstream and unable to participate in sustainable livelihood activities. In order to strengthen their livelihoods and make them self-reliant, CNI SBSS along with its partners worked to ensure food security, decrease economic vulnerability, enhance incomes, and increase access to basic entitlements. In order to achieve this it has promoted Self Help Groups and built on many of the strengths of community-based development programs. It has promoted a participatory approach and worked with local people to understand their strengths and determine their priorities and enabled people to take action. Our key strategies were to understand how wider policies, institutions and processes affect local livelihoods. And our framework was based on issues of vulnerability, local power and influence.

**Indicator 1: *Promote a people-centric and holistic sustainable livelihood of vulnerable communities to ensure food security through the use of development resources like MGNREGA, ICDS, Govt Minority Scholarship, SASPFOW, IAY, and MDM.***

The constitution of India guarantees all people a right to livelihood, but the government has failed to translate this into a tangible reality. Neo liberal policies adopted by the government has opened up the market for the rich but it has had an adverse effect on those left to face the brutality of market forces. The poor need the government agencies to act on their behalf and protect their interests as well. One serious problem is, disconnect between the jobs given by MGNREGA and the capabilities of the people. In many cases, the plan submitted to the village Panchayat by the community is not followed through, because of which, farmers are employed in masonry and women are made to clean water tanks.

In spite of these dispiriting structural issues in the implementation of the schemes of MGNREGA, we have managed to get job cards for 85718 households. But getting jobs were a major issue, the 100 days being extremely hard. We have observed that in our intervention areas only 43823 have got jobs for less than 50 days and 2916 people have got jobs between 50 to 100 days. However the process of getting a job is in itself becoming very empowering encourages the participation of the community in the *Gram Sansad* meetings. Members of the People's Organization submitted plans to

the village Panchayat to ensure jobs. Among the 22 DBSS, we have submitted a village plan in 14 DBSS for the MGNREGA job.

Most communities in our reference areas belong to the Below Poverty Line category. Currently, we have 72168 households belonging to the BPL category. One of the major problems of BPL card holders is the continual denial of rations. All our DBSS are working towards the smooth functioning of the ration shops and at present we have 357 PDS shops which are functioning smoothly. The status of the government flagship programs are given below:

**Status of the Government Flagship programme  
Table No-8**

DBSS	MID DAY MEAL					MGNREGA			
	BPL HH	PDS operational	MDM school	MDM Children	MDM run by SHG	ICD centre	Job card	job for > than 50 day	Job for 50 to 100 day
Agra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	348	-
Amritsar	2423	-	-	-	-	-	5640	2371	-
Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-
Lucknow	-	-	-	-	-	-	642	258	1
Rajasthan	2635	8	25		3	17	3233	2720	513
Chhattisgarh	125	5	8	260	8		43	43	-
Barrackpore	140	45	-	-	9	-	133	-	-
Durgapur	2210	7	23	5590	18	16	4344	1626	-
EHD	28385	35	52	4230	52	76	12450	7213	
Kolkata	9713	25	57	8960	37	145	9423	-	-
NEI	7845	17	49	10680	0	22	24292	18104	0
Chotanagpur	2082	106	309	35945	15	0	416	1885	866
PATNA	5232	28	69	5220	-	70	4333	3200	1133
Marathawada	1869	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nagpur	4419	3	80	500	16	80	8030	1750	-
Kolhapur	127	20	45	3500	5	-	685	-	-
Nasik	568	21	20	250	2	4	-	-	-
Sambalpur	3240	22	138	5283	16	123	12018	4266	335
Phulbani	1155	6	21	1340	2	23	36	24	68
Total	72168	360	896	81758	183	576	85718	43823	2916

*Source: Extracted from updated data base management system of PME of SBSS from the period April, 2011-Sept, 2011*

The communities in 15 DBSS are monitoring the smooth functioning of PDS. The dealers are distributing food quality of food as per the allotment. The neighbouring villages in Barrackpore which were not under the direct interventions of the DBSS were also encouraged by this process

and have started questioning to the dealers about the allotment and quality of food grain. In DBSS Nagpur through PO MHSS, monitoring committees in about 80 villages were formed to curb corruption in the distribution of grain. Bhandara and Sindewahi have already been established as models where the ration-shops are regularised and monitored by the MHSS leaders. This model was recreated in ten other villages ensuring the right to food.

The world's biggest school lunch programme, Mid Day Meal, guarantees a hot cooked lunch to every student in a government primary school in India. But the reality is quite different; the MDM served in government schools in villages serves bad quality food and added to this there is a high level of discrimination of the *Dalit* students by teachers as well as fellow students. Presently 896 MDM centres in 15 DBSS are running properly. PO members monitor the centres, especially the quality of food. In 12 DBSS, SHG women belonging to vulnerable communities are cooking for the MDM.

In this reporting period, 30 Parents of the children of 2 MDM centres in Kolkata protested against the bad quality of rice provided to their children during mid-day meal at Wari village. In Phulbani, the SMC (School Management Committee), PTA (Parents Teacher Association), MTA (Mother Teacher Association) of 5 schools in Daringbadi block interacted with the government to ensure the effective functioning of the primary education system. To ensure proper nutrition to Mother and Child, we are also working in 9 DBSS for the proper implementation of Integrated Child Development schemes. In these 9 DBSS, we have 576 ICDS centres which are running properly under the monitoring of DBSS. The major achievement of Kolkata DBSS has been highlighted in

Box

No-

2

#### Major Achievement of Kolkata DBSS on livelihood

- *People submitted Memorandum for MNREGA -40*
- *Bank A/C opened-35(M-20,F15)*
- *Job card received -35(Shanpukur and South Rameswarpur)(M-20, F15)*
- *38 Received job for 20 days(M-18, F-20)*
- *Campaign agenda of Sangram Samity developed on the issue of ICDS and Midday meal as they identified*
- *People submitted Memorandum BDO for ration card*
- *77 new ration cards and 11 lost ration cards received*
- *25 applied for MNREGA job card at Kulberia*
- *20 applied for job at Sankharipota*
- *Bank A/C opened-for Farmer's club(M-12)*
- *30 Parents of 2 ICDS centre children protested against bad quality rice provided to their children during mid-day meal at Wari village*

Source- Extracted from analytical report – April, 2011-Sept, 2011 of DBSS, Kolkata.

Ensuring housing under the *Indira Awas Yojna* was also an initiative taken by the DBSS. In this reporting period, in the Khemkaran area of Amritsar District about 289 people got houses under *Indira Awas Yojna*. Apart from that in SEDP Amritsar, 26 families in the village of Motla (Ajnala area) got grants for repairing their houses under Rajiv Gandhi house repair Yojana, 6 families (Kachha Makaan Wale- those living in temporary shelters) got grants under *Indira Awas Yojna*. Furthermore, 29 members applied for widow/old age pension and 30 families in village Bhala Pind applied for new houses under *Indira Awas Yojna*.

In Phulbani, 42 *Adivasi* & *Dalits* from 2 villages (M-32, W-10) interacted with Project administrator (PA) of Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) to discuss rejuvenating traditional water sources like streams & diversion canals. They demanded for the construction of a check dam & diversion canal at Kajuri (Sujamaju). As a result of the Project Administrator (PA) of ITDA visited Sujamaju & identified the water stream for the project. In addition to this, training on organic and ecological farming was organised during this reporting period. Details are in Box No-3

#### Training on organic & ecological farming

- ❖ 53 (women-9, men-44) gained knowledge on vermin compost.
- ❖ 23 techniques for preparing compost were shared and 2 techniques were practically done by the participants (25 ft round compost and 1-2-10-20 compost).
- ❖ 53 farmers practiced to prepared compost in their own land.
- ❖ 10 farmers group Daringbadi and Sujamaju area were encouraged to bring unity within group.
- ❖ Concept of formation of Farmers cooperative was shared.
- ❖ 53 farmers knew the govt. schemes and provision for this agriculture year.
- ❖ Agriculture overseer, Daringbadi block has visited and encouraged farmers to use compost

*Source: Extracted from analytical report – April, 2011-Sept, 2011 of DBSS, Phulbani*

In Barrackpore, emphasis was also laid on product power, where, through economic empowerment model, we aimed at achieving social and political empowerment. During this reporting period, about 172 families of 8 villages at Basanti cluster & 50 families of Nursikderchak area started Income Generating Programmes with their own savings such as: kitchen garden, rice processing fish farming, and pig farming. Each family is now earning a monthly income of ₹. 2000- 4000. Two CBO members of Rammakhalchak village received a loan for ₹. 1 lakhs from Nepalgunge Bangio Gramin Bikash Bank for starting an income generating initiative through pisci-culture. Furthermore, 17 farmers of Mohamaya West & East, Purkaiterchak & Bamnerchak were trained in making herbal pesticide by MMKS from Vivekananda Regional Rural Development Organization, which they are now using on their land.

Livelihoods enhancement moved beyond the traditional top - down approach of enhancing skills and knowledge through training and provision of technical advice. The focus of CNI SBSS has been on all aspects of National Rural Mission and sustainable livelihoods from the planning stage to ground action. The guiding principle for capacity building of stakeholders for livelihood was to ensure that key stakeholders (primary and secondary) and issues are targeted to meet the system of livelihood, encourage partnership between stakeholders, and involve local expertise and indigenous knowledge. This was possible by adopting a people-centric development model from the perspective of livelihood and creating an enabling environment that encouraged participating in and contributing to the promotion of livelihood processes.

**Indicator 2: *Application filed and increased access to land, both revenue and forest land.***

India is in a phase of unbridled industrial growth. Capitalists have increasingly invested in the production of steel, aluminium and ferroalloys. Private Lands required for setting up their industries are taken from the poor, farmers and other landholders without any consideration of the consequences to the ecology of the land. Farmers and other landholders are unwilling to relinquish their means of income and livelihood which has led to a proliferation of pitched battles across India against all kinds of land acquisition. This has given rise to a land-broker state in which industrial development corporations and urban development authorities compete with each other to forcibly transfer private land from the poor to private companies. The increase of land acquisition has seriously affected the lives of those who were forcibly driven away as they no longer have property and the benefits which the government promised them have not materialised. Many do not even receive the full amount of compensation that is due to them.

The Land Acquisition Act of 1894 is extremely ineffectual as it is tilted in favour of the industrialists. The purpose of this act was to enable the government to acquire private land for public purposes. The word "public purpose", as defined in the act, refers to the acquisition of land for educational institutions or housing and health schemes slum clearance, as well as rural planning projects. However it has been interpreted in such a way as to procure land to benefit business and industrial houses.

During the reporting period, CNI SBSS was engaged in the struggle for Land Rights in its reference area by filing petitions for the Land plots and registering the record of land (ROR). CNI SBSS has been part of the anti-POSCO movement in Orissa through the strategic involvement with activists and civil society organisations. When the activists of the POSCO *Pratirodh Sangram Samiti* (PPSS) intensified their protest against the displacement drive, we joined their movement in order to

express our solidarity accompanied by Programme Facilitator Sukanta Behra. In Sambalpur the DBSS, filed applications under FRA to register the land to their rightful owners.

CNI SBSS also analysed the Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation & Resettlement Bill, 2011 and shared comments and suggestions with the central government. In the comments, CNI SBSS shared its concerns and opposed any form of land acquisition and forced displacement for special economic zones (SEZs), mines, dams, power plants, highways, housing colonies and several of “development” schemes across the country. We restated our stance that this bill would further deprive *Adivasi*, *Dalits* and farming communities from their rights over the land and natural resources. By spirit and action, CNI is opposing this bill.

In Nagpur our interventions are in the forest area, where most of the villages are under the Forest Rights Act<sup>15</sup>. The MHSS leaders organized a preparatory meet of the *Van Hakk Samiti (forest rights committee)* for a Land Rights rally. The preparation meeting resulted in re-appealing of 69 rejected cases to the Forest Department at the district level. The visit to *Lekha Mendha Marda* village gave the MHSS insights into resubmitting these applications with the necessary optional documents. The Rally was conducted by 500 *Adivasis* in front of the District Collector SDO’s office and it resulted in 17 families receiving the land-ownership documents which were sectioned under forest land. This has given a new hope to MHSS to take ahead the struggle. CNI SBSS also monitored and worked for proper and effective implementation of the FRA. The status of FRA in DBSS is given below:

<b>Land Patta And FRA</b>				
<b>Table No-9</b>				
<b>DBSS</b>	Land Patta/FRA Filed	Land Patta/FRA Received Male	Land Patta /FRA Received Female	Land Patta/FRA Received Jointly
<b>Lucknow</b>	1	1		
<b>Chotanagpur</b>	590	257	44	
<b>Nagpur</b>	31	13 (joint)		13
<b>Kolhapur</b>	3	-	-	-
<b>Sambalpur</b>	1036	594	233	
<b>Phulbani</b>	27	65		

*Source: Extracted from updated data base management system of PME of SBSS*

*the period April, 2011-Sept, 2011*

The struggle of Chotanagpur DBSS to resist the Indian Oil Company establishing their pipeline was note worthy. A complaint has been submitted by AMRAM at the Kamdara block office as well as at

<sup>15</sup> This act recognizes the rights of forest dwellers and makes conservation more accountable. It is aimed at combating the draconian nature of previous forest conservation acts that displaced and killed millions under the name of “conservation.”

the Indian Oil divisional office in Ranchi. The DBSS effort in educating the *Adivasi* in this area is notable. In this reporting period, 257 petitions have been filed for land *patta* out of which 43 people have received the land *patta* under one name and 1 household has received joint land *patta*.

**Indicator 3: *Tracking social exclusion of marginalised, excluded from the economic, social, and political mainstream and enabled them to participate in sustainable livelihood activities.***

Social exclusion as a concept has three distinguishable features. Firstly, it affects culturally defined social categories, with associated perceptions, values and norms that shape social interaction. Secondly, it is embedded in social relations, as it is through social networks that groups are wholly or partially excluded from participation in society. Thirdly, social exclusion affects people's rights and entitlements, denying them the opportunities they need to have and maintain a universally acceptable standard of living and to fulfil their potential. Those who are excluded are not affected by a lack of resources just like the rest of the poor, but face particular discrimination in the access to these resources. Our communities face all these types of discrimination and are culturally and politically marginalized. During this reporting period attempts were made to combat all forms of social exclusion.

In Jharkhand, there were several atrocities towards *Adivasis* by branding them as anti-state and Maoist. As part of the Jharkhand Human Rights Movement (JHRM), the Chotanagpur DBSS and Jharkhand Initiative Desk were able to bring the National Human Rights Commission team to affected villages in the Saranda forest. Sudeep Tigga and Dayal Kujur joined the NHRC team for the fact finding study. As a result of their research the police had to acknowledge the arrests were their mistake and suspended guilty officers. The Ministry of Rural Development then announced a special development package for the entire 56 villages in the Saranda forest. Chotanagpur DBSS and the RCSA members also participated in a full day 'dharna' on September 21, 2011 along with members of other forums in *Albert Ekeka Chowk* to protest the Police atrocities of *Adivasis* in the Saranda forest.

In India about 27 atrocities are recorded each day against *Dalits*. Even today the brutal assault of the high caste people on *Dalit* communities continues. In this reporting period, we were informed about such an assault in Kolhapur in the village of Yadrav Tal. The incident was taken up by the DBSS and quickly responded to by the DSVP in terms of filing cases. Petitions were submitted and a *Rasta Roko Andolan* (road block) was organised when the officials were acting slowly on the case. Nine people were arrested but the main culprit who enjoys political backing was let off. By the end of

May petitions were submitted to police commissioner and the National Scheduled Caste Commission. The following table shows the case of human rights violations.

Human Rights violation Table No-10					
Sl	DBSS	Atrocities filed		Case solved	
		<i>Dalits</i>	<i>Adivasi</i>	<i>Dalit</i>	<i>Adivasi</i>
	<b>Amritsar</b>	26	0	23	0
	<b>EHD</b>		1		1
	<b>NEI</b>	0	5	0	3
	<b>Kolhapur</b>	6		1	
	<b>Sambalpur</b>	3	1	1	1
		35	7	25	5

*Source: Extracted from the updated data base management System of PME  
the Period April, 2011-Sept, 2011.*

In June an *Akrosh Andolan* (anger movement) was announced at the office of the Superintendent of Police as some DSVP activists were implicated in false police cases. The *Andolan* was cancelled due to pressure from police to negotiate. As a result some assurances were made but no action was taken. DSVP then filed petitions to the SC & ST Commission and directed the Inspector General to look into the matter. An enquiry was initiated that took one month to complete. Two Deputy Superintendent of Police, a Police Inspector and two local policemen along with DSVP activists were questioned. The report has been sent to the Inspector General and further action is awaited.

In most cases the police failed to act, thus the DSVP immediately contacted the National Schedule Caste Commission to initiate an enquiry. The Inspector General of Police was asked to lead the investigation. 3 DSVP activists, 1 Police inspector and 4 constables had to face an enquiry for failure to act in time. A fact-finding report was also sent to NSCC for further action.

*Adivasi Adhikar Evam Asmita Abhiyan* a forum of *Adivasi* CSO has been campaigning to influence policies related to *Adivasi* issues. One of the purposes of the forum was also to develop the perspective and vision of young *Adivasis*. In this reporting period, an initiative was taken by the member of this forum to facilitate a training-workshop for the leaders of “All *Adivasi* Student’s Association of Assam” in Tezpur, Assam from 13-17 of April, 2011. The workshop highlighted the status of *Adivasi* in Assam and a way forward to address the social exclusion faced by them.

In the intervention area of Sambalpur DBSS, the youth from the Bandhapalli village of Mukundpur Gram *Panchayat* participated in Shiva festival call *Bolbum* in August 2011. As ritual, water is offered to show gratitude to the Hindu god Shiva. The youth from *Dalit* backgrounds wanted to enter the

temple but it was opposed by the priest as well as by the youth from high caste and the arguments got violent. The matter of discrimination was brought to the Village level *Dalit Adhikar Sangathan* and after detailed discussion and verification the committee decided to lodge a FIR against the Priest for his violent action and for not allowing the youth to do the last ritual of the festival. The FIR was lodged on 16/8/2011 at Tusura police station by the *Dalit Adhikar Manch* (PO). The priest tried to influence the upper caste of that Panchayat and nearby Panchayat but could not get enough support.

The struggle of the *Dalit* Movement believes in non-violence so the Officer In-Charge of Tusura police station advised the community to discuss the matter directly with the priest. Then in the presence of Leader of the DAM, OIC, Village level DAS Temple priest, and community enabler, the matter was discussed and resolved with an agreement signed by the priest to refrain from any action which would create conflict or violence within the community and disturb the peaceful environment of the village.

### **3. Objective for component 3: Ensuring Congregation in Solidarity with Poor.**

The Church of North India Synodical Board of Social Services aims at building an inclusive human community in order to bring about change in society and the church. To achieve this, CNI SBSS has adopted a framework which has four components. During the reporting period, we have identified the congregation, potential leaders and the issues that affect the life of community and congregation. The potential leaders and congregation members were then equipped with theological understanding and analytical skills to understand the social political context.

They were trained to organize and manage different campaigns, to create awareness and advocate for the cause of human rights. With technical and financial support, identified congregations have organised programs such as awareness camps on issues like climate change, gender etc. These programs were supported by the church leaders, community and people of different faiths also came together to listen to the struggles of people to build a just and sustainable society.

**Indicator 1: *Critical gap is reduced between Church leaders and communities. Church leaders have become a part and parcel of the communities, and are involved in the planning, implementation & monitoring of development resources.***

During the reporting period, CNI SBSS made an effort to bridge the gap between church leaders and their communities. Agra DBSS has identified 4 rural congregations to implement the 'Change Agent' model but the work has yet to start. The Rajasthan DBSS has started its intervention in the

Banswar area and completed the process of identification of congregation and potential leaders and equipped them with the skill of social analysis through Participatory Rural Appraisal. SEDP Amritsar has identified 4 congregations but not followed up the process by equipping volunteers. But, it has worked on the model of 'Solidarity with Poor' and organized a peace rally and campaign for Christian *Dalits*.

Delhi has identified 4 congregations and appointed one CME facilitator, collected data from *Santo ki Majra* and are in the process of planning activities under CME to use the data collected. Lucknow has identified congregations under 'Building Neighbourhood Community' model but no activities were planned or implemented due to lack of staff and regular facilitation from SBSS. Chhattisgarh started its work in CME model and invested a lot of time on the perspective building process. In this process they have identified 4 rural and 2 semi urban congregations and started activities by forming SHG groups and youth groups.

Nasik diocese has identified 10 congregations in the model of 'Building Neighbourhood Community' and have yet to identify issues or volunteers. The NDDA Nagpur has appointed a CME coordinator to facilitate the process at the Diocese level. He has organized some orientation programs for congregation leaders and WFCS members in the model of Building Neighbourhood Community. Marathwada DBSS has identified five congregations under 'Change Agent' model. Kolhapur DBSS has also identified 5 congregations under 'Change Agent' model.

Durgapur DBSS is working on the model of Solidarity with Poor. They have conducted workshops for church leaders on MGNREGA, LCP and Minority rights. They have also submitted 15 applications under the Government of India minority scholarship for the promotion of minority education. Two congregations working on the model of Building Neighbourhood Community are helping the communities to avail Government schemes. Barrackpore DBSS identified 15 congregations out of which 8 are 'Change Agent', 3 Neighbourhood and 4 Solidarity with Poor. The congregation leaders were oriented and are engaged in uplifting the poor and fighting for their justice. The congregation organized the community to fight for their rights on equal wages, PDS and other government Scheme. Under CME the DBSS has also developed a cultural unit which moves around from village to village conducting street plays on issues of Environment and climate change, corruption in PDS and health awareness. 4 congregation units have also solved local problems like dowry and water pollution.

DBSS Kolkata has identified 8 congregations, but due to lack of ownership of the Diocesan Authority the process was delayed. The Kolkata Diocese is engaged in many social development and

welfare projects. Programmes were organized on different issues like human trafficking, women's empowerment, gender sensitization and food security during the period. The status of CME in different DBSS is enumerated in the following Table No-11.

Status of CME Model in Different DBSS  
Table No-11

DBSS	Name Of The Identified Congregation	Number Of Selected Congregation Population	Identified Issues/Problem	Prioritisation Of Issues/Problem	Number Of Selected Volunteer	Selected CME Model For Intervention
<b>Agra</b>	Mani Ka Nagla CNI Church Congregation, Tehoo CNI Church Congregation, Jalesar CNI Church Congregation, Semra CNI Church Congregation.	998	Livelihood Issue	MGNREGA & SSS	-	Change Agent
<b>Amritsar</b>	Shahpur Jajjan, Shahoora, Khemkaran, Palampur and Ani	1236 (964 in Punjab & 272 in H.P)	Unawareness on govt. scheme, Children education, Unemployed	Training programmes for youth, Awareness Prog. on SSS, Meetings with local people	25	Solidarity with Poor
<b>Lucknow</b>	Neni congregation, Meurabad congregation	78	Livelihood Issues	BPL		
<b>Rajasthan</b>	Udhar Bhawan Church Jeewa Khunta		Drinking water, Lack of transparency in MGNREGA and intimaie minimum wages			
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	CNI Church Bhathari ,Nawalpur, Kyonta Dabri, Barduly, Takhatpur, St. Augustine Church,Bilaspur .	6	BPL, SSS, water ,road, unemployment, PDS, wages, human right, MDM	BPL	3	3 Models

<b>Barrackpore</b>	9	4781	PDS, Minority schemes, OBC certificate & Global warming	Minority schemes & OBC certificate	23	3 Change agent. Love Thy Neighbour & Solidarity with poor
<b>Kolkata</b>	Chinsurah CNI church, Emmanuel church- Kestopur, Holy Trinity church, St Peter's church, St James Church - Barhanagar	5513	Senior people's problem, Child labour, Unemployment, Human Trafficking, Health,	Child labour, Unemployment, Human trafficking	Not identified	Selection Not done
<b>NEI</b>	4	663	Irregularities in SSS Specially PDS, IAY, ICDS & MGNREGA, Constitutional <i>Gram Sabha</i>	PDS, IAY, ICDS & MGNREGA	11	Solidarity with poor Building Neighbourhood community Congregation as a change Agent
<b>Chotanagpur</b>	Karimati, Turigarha, Ninai, Tamba	875	PDS, land, MGNREGA, Irregularities in govt. schemes, Forest act, BPL	PDS, BPL, Irregularities in govt. schemes, MNREGA	40	Congregation as a change agent
<b>PATNA</b>	Rural-2, Taljhari & Barharit Urban -2 Barharwa (Dhrampur & Dumka)	Taljhari Total Family - 341, Population- 700, Communicant members- 450 Total family – 60, Population -250, Communicant member- 165 <b>Barharwa (Dharampur) – Total Family- 198,</b>	MANREGA, PDS, GENDER ISSUES	Religious- communal issues/ problem MGNREGA, PDS, Gender Issues	Taljhari-7 Barhait-2 Dumka-3 Barharwa-4	Congregation as a change agent.
<b>Marathawada</b>	5	1100	Land, Livelihood	6		
<b>Kolhapur</b>	2	4200	Land, Livelihood	25	Solidarity	

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<b>Sambalpur</b>	<u>Rural</u>		Social Security Measure,	Social Security Measure,	10	Change agent
	Nuanpada	-Mursing -365	Food Security,	Food Security,		
	Mursingh	-Nuapada-76	Land Rights			
	<u>Urban</u>	-Railway colony -54	Untouchability			
	Dungripada-BGR	-Dunguripada-168				
	Rly. Colony - BGR					
<b>Cuttuck</b>	Raikiajharan, Baripada, Pentakota, Puri Church	999	Right to energy, Right to Food, Sanitation, Minority Rights	Minority / Right to Energy	4	Congregation as Change Agent
<b>Phulbani</b>	33	9548	Lack of communication (road, postal, electricity), primary education, health, unemployment, govt. inattention, water crisis (drinking & irrigation), migration, displacement, trafficking	Lack of communication (road, postal, electricity), primary education, health, unemployment, govt. inattention, water crisis (drinking & irrigation), migration, displacement, trafficking	4	Congregation as an Change Agent

*Source- extracted from the updated database management of PME of SBSS for the period from April, 2011 to Sept, 2011.*

North East India DBSS is one of the pioneering DBSS to take the process of Church Mission Engagement to the congregation level. During this reporting period, they have identified 2 congregations as **Change Agent** one congregation as **Building Neighbourhood Community** model and one in **Solidarity with the Poor** as per the criteria set. In addition to this 25 presbyters took initiative to build awareness among the congregation members on the issues of PDS, MGNREGA & *Gram Sabhas*. The Presbyters felt that they should encourage the congregation members to visit Panchayat office and raise their voice if there are anomalies in accessing their schemes. Consensus was built to influence the community to ensure proper functioning of *Gram Sabhas*.

Two pastorates (Dighalia & Naharkatia) formed one group each comprising of five members to monitor the initiatives of the people on different issues. 35 participants assured to return to their pastorate and form an issue based group, which would be capacitated on the issues of SSS, PRI & GS by the Community Enablers (CE) or Issue facilitator from CNI SBSS. 300 participants have planned to plant more trees in their field, homes or gardens or in public places. A core committee was formed to take this process further in the identified congregations. In the month of June 2011 the group met and the decided to work in six churches. At present, six congregations and 36 leaders have been identified. Emmanuel Church & *Jibon Jyoti Upasanalaya* members have formed five SHG's to empower the women economically.

DBSS Chotanagpur has identified 4 congregations but there is no concrete program undertaken by the congregations. Patna DBSS identified 4 pastorates with 28 congregations; they also identified the volunteers for CME. Sambalpur DBSS organised workshop on Minority Rights for few selected leaders in 2011 which has enabled them to understand the importance of RTI and how to file for RTI. DBSS Cuttack has identified 4 congregations to initiate development projects through congregation. It is in the initial stage. DBSS Phulbani is progressing in the 'Change Agent' model and working with the community through congregation members. In the church they are the congregation and outside the church they are the members of different Community Based Organizations fighting for the issue of land, job cards in MGNREGS, equal wages, and right price for their agriculture produce etc.

***Indicator 2: Congregation leaders taking issue-based advocacy agenda forward along with other secular organisations for campaign and advocacy.***

For Synodical Women Fellowship for Christian Service, a workshop design was developed with the theme “Who is my Neighbour” from a gender perspective. It aims at sensitising the larger network of Christian women to be responsive Christians for the cause of poor and lonely people. In addition to this, a concept note and workshop design was prepared and executed by Rev. Manoj Manjari Nanda, the CME Associate Coordinator in the Diocese of Phulbani in June 9-11 2011.

SEDP Amritsar has worked on the model of ‘Solidarity with poor’ and organized a peace rally and campaign for Christians of *Dalit* origin. A rally was organized by National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) in collaboration with other churches in India. In addition to this, a delegation of 200 members of the SEDP, Diocese of Amritsar went to Delhi to participate in the rally against corruption. Furthermore, a chain hunger strike was organized by all the churches and Christian institutions jointly at Ram Lila ground Delhi and march from Ramlila ground to Parliament House on 28<sup>th</sup> July 11. In addition, a memorandum was handed over to Mr. Pratap Singh Bajwa, Member of Parliament (M.P.) at New Delhi.

In DBSS Marathwada, there is a church and congregation leader actively participating in each field area to identify issue and fight for their rights along with the CBOs and PO formed in their programme intervention area. In DBSS Barrackpore, the congregation leaders mobilised State Assisted Schemes of Provident Fund for Unorganized Workers (SASPFUW) for 214 unorganised workers. 158 students received Rs. 1, 69,900/- under State Govt. Stipend for Meritorious Minority Students for Pre-Metric & Post-Metric Scholarship. In addition to this, a total of 130 Carpenter, Rickshaw puller, Manson and workers got trained under Social Security Scheme for the unorganised workers.

#### **4. Objective for component 4: Mainstreaming Gender Concern in Programmes and Policy**

CNI SBSS’ mainstreaming gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. For that it has developed a well-defined strategy for integration of gender framework and analysis into plan, program and activities of DBSS to resolve and ultimately eliminate gender inequalities. This has addressed the concern of changing subordinate position of women in the community by giving them more opportunities to attain both their practical (economic) and strategic needs (socio-political and cultural). The underlying principle of gender integration that DBSS has strove for in the entire program planning cycle is that, introducing gender concerns makes planning more people-oriented (involving both women and men). The ultimate goal was to achieve gender equality.

**Indicator 1: *Atrocities and abuse against women have been reduced due to emergence of SHGs as women based organisation in the references areas.***

During this reporting period, CNI SBSS has taken initiatives to understand the power equations in the community as well as that of the staff. The emergence of Self Help Groups (SHGs) as women headed organisations has resulted in reducing the atrocities and abuses against women. In addition to that, Women groups are protesting against Dowry, Alcoholism, and Gambling & Maintenance. It was also found from the documents that the capacities of women have been enhanced to combat Human Trafficking and Poverty through central & field level activities. This helped to sensitize the CBOs and POs members on gender inequality & to promote women leadership.

During this reporting period, challenges in institutionalizing gender mainstreaming approaches within organizations were discussed. Attempts were made in setting up the infrastructure to support gender mainstreaming. It was felt that there is a need for strategic action to combat deeply-embedded organizational values and institutional structures that discriminate against women in subtle and insidious ways. The importance of developing accountability mechanisms, including sanctions for behaviours, which perpetuate discrimination against women, was highlighted in various team meetings of RCSA and DBSS.

The main causes of atrocities against women are primarily due to the long standing power imbalance between men and women in India. Women are expected to submit to the will of their husbands and in-laws. Any defiance or provocation against the husband or his family results in violence against the woman as her disobedience is seen as an insult to the husband and his family. Thus, many atrocities are committed against them on issues as trivial as arguing with her partner, refusing to have sex with her husband or leaving home without taking permission. They are the punching bag for any and every problem from not bearing a male child to being barren (even if it is the husband who is impotent). Women are even sold as commodities and wedded to 4 men of the same family. The social system, especially in the rural areas is biased against women. All the household chores are primarily viewed as a 'woman's job' and they are deprived of basic nourishment and are not fed properly. Despite all this, not many cases are registered as the women do not register any complaints. But it is different with women belonging to the SHGs who not only raise their voices but take up the cause on behalf of the other women from their villages.

No of Atrocities Committed Against Women Table No-12			
SL. No	DBSS	Women Atrocities Cases filed	Cases solved
1.	Amritsar	5	5
2.	Durgapur	3	None
3.	EHD	1	On going
4.	Kolkata	16	12
5.	NEI	2	1
6.	Chotanagpur	2	2
7.	Patna	4	3
8.	Nagpur	1	1
9.	Kolhapur	6	0
10.	Sambalpur	2	On going

*Source- extracted from the updated database management of PME of SBSS  
period from April, 2011 to Sept, 2011.*

During the reporting period, in Phulbani DBSS, 720 men & women mutually agreed to share the roles & responsibilities in domestic chores. In Chhattisgarh DBSS, 4 Rural and urban congregations women were empowered as ‘change agents’ to work in the neighbourhood community. 8 Women’s group were made aware on Gender Perspective with biblical understanding on rights and atrocities. In SEDP Amritsar data on women atrocities was upgraded and shared with the women groups.

In Sambalpur DBSS, *Mahila Adhikar Manch* at Panchayat level was formed and oriented to work on women empowerment which resulted in a decrease in domestic violence. In addition to this, 50 women were prepared to take part in the upcoming Panchayat election in 2012.

**Indicator 2: Gender Sensitive activities based on understanding of men’s and women’s needs, interests and constraints, and women representation in local institutions like Gram Sabhas, Village Education Committees, PRI, ICDS Mother’s Committee, Village Development Committee etc.**

CNI SBSS is increasingly giving emphasis on participation of women at different levels of decision making in family as well as society. Women’s participation in political processes was given importance for strengthening society for their struggle against marginalization, trivialization and oppression. Although the rights of women are guaranteed under our constitution, Indian women continue to remain oppressed and struggle over everything from survival to resources. While

women have made considerable progress in some areas such as education and employment, they continue to be subjected to the influence of the existing patriarchal attitudes in Indian society. The dilemma for Indian women today is that despite the liberal provisions of the Constitution and various laws, serious inequalities remain. In fact, right from the days of the freedom struggle, Indian women have been encouraged to actively take part in politics. But due to the vitiated political milieu, resulting from increasing politicisation and criminalization of politics, the level of political participation of women has been adversely affected despite the fact that there has been a marked increase in the level of literacy and political awareness among women.

During this reporting period, CNI SBSS's efforts have resulted in increased women participation in *Gram Sabha*, *Gram Sansad* and other local institutions. Women emerged as a strong group. CNI SBSS has provided technical support to its partners to address the political dimensions of promoting and sustaining gender mainstreaming.

At the grass-root level, most of the women in rural areas used to feel inferior to male members of family/Panchayats. In order to change this attitude, CNI SBSS has organized village and Panchayat level meetings to make women an integral part of the family as well as the Panchayats. These meetings augmented the confidence level. Along with this, it was also seen that the women belonging to the marginalised communities (*Dalit & Adivasi*) were not comfortable in mixing with the women from the general category. Women from the general category were oriented for attitudinal change through behavioural workshops to enable an environment conducive for the marginalised. The status of women participation is enumerated in the Table No-13,

Status of Women Participation				
Table No-13				
DBSS	women led SHG	Membership Added	Mahila Adhikar Manch	Membership
Agra	37	334	34	455
Amritsar	46	505	3 Block level	355
Lucknow	Nil	Nil	1	74
Rajasthan	17	170	125	-
Chhattisgarh	16	180	-	-
Barrackpore	15	67	Nil	Nil
Durgapur	37	398	Na	N.A.
EHD	173	2076	13	133
Kolkata	30	366	2	35

NEI	125	1445	1	5791
Chotanagpur	4	62	1	12
Patna	43	426	1	450
Mumbai	2	20	0	0
Marathawada	6	80	0	0
Nagpur	6	72	80	in process
Kolhapur	11	125	0	0
Nasik	55	759	0	0
Sambalpur	15	709	1	102
Cuttuck	18	418	-	-
Phulbani	28	418	-	-

*Source- extracted from the updated database management of PME of SBSS for the period from April, 2011 to Sept. 2011.*

During the reporting period, the participation of women has increased in different committees, like Village Education Committee (VEC), Mother's Committee. *Gram Unnayan Samiti* (GUS) and Central Committee meeting under Kolkata DBSS. In addition to this, it has ensured at least 40 male at every central level meeting and 2 women federation were formed. In Chotanagpur DBSS, 10 SHGs were linked with the bank & government.

The achievements of Chotanagpur DBSS on women empowerment are shown in the box.

### Achievements of Chotanagpur DBSS on Women Empowerment

- *10 SHGs were linked with the bank & government*
- *10 SHG started up small business*
- *20 new SHGs were formed*
- *10 women leaders were developed*
- *3 petition were filed for atrocities against women*
- *Support were extended from men folk*
- *Bylaws of federation developed*

There are several instances of women taking initiative and addressing issues of injustice, and ensuring proper implementation of Social Security Schemes, both as an individual or together with *Mahila Adhikar Sangathan* in SEDP Amritsar. Manjit Kaur, President of SHG, Ajnala area of village

Rurewal organized women to free their community hall from the custody of the Zamindar and used it as a study centre for children. Pyaari of village Dhuriyan (Ajnala area) took the issue directly to the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and submitted the form for her granddaughter when the Sarpanch refused to sign on the form to avail benefit from the *Kanya Jagriti Jyoti* Scheme. This scheme is admissible to girl children born in BPL families. The parents should have adopted two child norms. As per the scheme, ₹ 5000/- is deposited at the time of birth of girl child with the Life Insurance Company of India and it gives a Scholarship worth ₹.1200/- per annum from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> year and ₹ 2400/- per annum from 12<sup>th</sup> year to 18<sup>th</sup> year. Or lump sum amount at the age of 18 or on 21 years as decided by the family. Gopal Kaur a member of MAS from Mehndipur (Khemkaran area) confronted the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for proper implementation of *Indira Awas Yojna* with a list of beneficiaries. She ensured the entitlements went to the deserving beneficiaries despite threats and strong opposition from the ruling Government.

MAS has also addressed the Police's apathy toward women, when they ignored and did not file cases against the perpetrators of Gurpreet Kaur of village Bohlian, who was tortured for dowry and succumbed to the anguish by committing suicide. In village Mehmad, MAS took the case of Rani to the Sarpanch. She was abused and denied food-grain by the PDS dealer. The women ensured justice for her.

## 5. Objective for Components 5: Integrity of Creation

Injustice in the world is one of the sources of environmental devastation and ecological crisis. This scarcity of resources results in conflict in a world created by God who has entrusted us with the responsibility of safeguarding His creation. While fulfilling the stewardship, we must be aware that God has assigned us, to nurture His invaluable gift to mankind. This gift of creation is not just a haven for us but it also plays a significant role in sustaining our lives. We, as the Church and the community, need to be oriented towards the cause and impact of climate change, so that we become instruments to propagate and participate in safeguarding our world. CNI SBSS is directly involved with the communities addressing the issues of livelihood and food security. Thus, ensuring the Integrity of Creation becomes our main concern.

**Indicator 1:** *Disaster risk reduction strategies is integrated in planning process and communities are now aware of what needs to be done to minimise the damage in the event of a disaster.*

There are visible changes that we can see within the ecosystem which are extremely destructive due to the exploitation of earth, in the name of modernization, industrialization, economic development and urbanization. In a developing country like India, the worst victim of the climate change are the poor and marginalized whose life has been already affected by the impact of globalization, privatization and liberalization.

Disaster management programme of CNI SBSS involves rescue and emergency relief, assessment of damage and loss, and restoration and rehabilitation. In our field area we are trying to eliminate or diminish the hazards likely to be caused by a disaster, or trying to make a community less vulnerable to disaster by developing community-driven early warning systems. Our community driven disaster and risk management programme, intends to build the resilience to natural disaster by mainstreaming risk reduction into community development. It also involves, raising awareness of the benefits of adopting risk-sensitive development, which should mitigate the effects of natural disaster when they strike. In addition to this, we have worked to ensure vulnerable communities are able to cope during a natural disaster and recover quickly once it has passed, by developing their capacities through community-based training and workshops.

During the reporting period, in September, Sangli in Kolhapur experienced incessant rains. The dams situated in this district overflowed with water reaching the villages creating a flood situation. A relief of `5000/- was declared by the Government that never reached the beneficiaries. CNI SBSS together with the Bishop of the diocese conducted a survey and together with CASA distributed relief kits among the flood affected.

During the Odisha flood, RCSA Odisha developed preliminary appeal on behalf of the Odisha flood affected for emergency relief and help. Even during the Sikkim earthquake, CNI SBSS implementing partners DBSS were involved in rescue and relief operation as most of the affected areas were very close to our operation area. Our staff deployed in the field had rushed to the affected site and participated in rescue and relief operation actively along with the government machineries. At the management level, we formed an emergency response team to coordinate with field level staff and external relief organizations and media. Our main concern was to ensure equity in relief work and participate in community building and work towards a restoration of a normal way of life in a sustainable manner, while ensuring the dignity of the affected. Now we seek long-term partnerships from resource sharing agencies to provide support for community building and resettlement, monitoring the resettlement and rebuilding work. Presently, CNI SBSS is working to make government accountable by ensuring justifiable compensation to the affected. CNI SBSS is

working toward restoring their confidence and resilience to cope with the after effects of this calamity.

CNI SBSS has also participated in a consultation on ‘*The Low Carbon Energy Path- Empowering the Leapfrog of the marginalised*’ held at YMCA, New Delhi from 4th May, 2011 to 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2011. In the meeting, CNI SBSS suggested to strive for radical change, and work to influence appropriate processes of democratic development planning, choice of technology and justice in the distribution of development benefits. CNI SBSS advocated that CSOs should promote the use of alternative technology in water, energy, housing, farming and other sectors, towards building self-reliant lifestyles and communities. In addition to this, Civil Society Organizations should care for the environment to protect our livelihoods, climate and future generations

At the consultation, CNI SBSS shared its concerns regarding the growing disparity between the ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots’; displacement of communities and destruction of natural resources induced by market oriented development and the abuse of people's mandate by legislations such as the SEZ Act, Land Acquisition Act, Nuclear Regulatory Bill. Also, suggested research, specific to climate change and the existing work of CSOs for the lobbying and advocacy purposes. A need for knowledge and information on Climate Change available to all was proposed.

***Indicator 3: Local Capacity for Peace/ DO NO HARM model reducing conflict in conflict prone areas.***

LCP in the ongoing project of Speaking Out has journeyed from individual centric to organizational centric. The trained LCP Trainers have been facilitating twelve DBSS by orienting project staff and grass-root level community leaders. It has reduced the conflict between different groups in accessing and controlling the livelihood resources at the Village and block level.

With emphasis in building People’s capacity to analyze their own context, Do No Harm (DNH) framework has been used as an analytical tool to understand the context of conflict and find out options for alternative intervention in project area. It has resulted in designing conflict sensitive participatory program activities in the Kandhamal district with right based approach. At the organizational level, CNI SBSS has developed a pool of individuals who are trained in LCP tool. In addition to this, a central core group comprising seven members including Chief Coordinator was formed which has been periodically monitoring the LCP mainstreaming process.

CNI SBSS has strived towards changing system by integrating DNH into PME process. Emergence of restrictive policies and action is shrinking the political space for CSOs and civil society activists who oppose the dominant development model are being intimidated and repressed by the state. In

this context, CNI SBSS feels that DNH should be mainstreamed and its framework used before planning, to understand the context of conflict in relation to work. Toward the same, CNI SBSS has integrated DNH in three levels, by changing the mind (training and orientation), changing action (with the reference communities and changing system (reworking PME system). During the implementation of the project activities, DNH was used as a monitoring tool for redesigning our intervention to reduce conflict and strengthen the peace building process.

## **6. Objective for component 6 : Learning Movement for Movement Building**

CNI SBSS has been working with 22 partner organizations (DBSS) to see a positive transformation in society. CNI SBSS has endeavoured to provide support and technical inputs to the projects through its accompaniment visits and monitoring. It has shared suggestion and feedback for improvement during this reporting period. As we are going through extended phase, we reviewed our reporting formats, strategies and Development and communication.

### **Indicator 1: *Staff capacity building and Training at DBSS and SBSS level***

Monthly review and planning meetings were conducted with the involvement of project staff. These meetings were used to assess the progress of the project and plan the future course of action with the DBSS. RCSA staff and the subject specialists attended these monthly meetings and the visited the reference area. They also facilitated training, workshops and community level events.

JID together with Jharkhand Indigenous People's Forum (JIPF) organised a one- day Seminar in Ranchi on May, 24, 2011 on the issue of 'Displacement in the Industrial Corridor'. An event was organised on the International Indigenous Day (August 9<sup>th</sup>) which saw a participation of more than 1000 people. Gladson Dungdung spoke on 'Human Rights and Jharkhand' for the event that was focussed on 10 years of Jharkhand. . Gladson Dungdung, who was is a member of the Planning Commission Committee of India attended the meeting of Planning Commission on July 15, 201, on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, on September 19, 2011 and on October 19, 2011. He contributed in inclusion of *Adivasis* and *Dalits* in the Socio-religions communities and the National Rural Health Mission for monitoring its impact on the *Adivasi* and *Dalit* communities.

During the reporting period, a joint assessment of LCP was conducted from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2011. During the process of the evaluation, CNI SBSS felt that LCP should be looked at as an approach and not as a programme. It was suggested that the reading material on LCP should be shared for wider understanding and knowledge. RCSA Odisha organized a workshop on minority rights from

20<sup>th</sup> May to 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2011. The workshop was attended by representatives from around 10 CSOs. The participants of the workshop learnt about the educational rights of minority children.

Amen K. Xavier has gone to UK to do his Masters in Human Rights from University of Sussex through Ford Foundation. Four of our finance staff, Lovey Massey, Archana Kindo, Sunil Mahajan and Santanu Biswas have completed one year course of Diploma in Finance Management and Accountability conducted by TISS /FMSF during this reporting period. Elizabeth Martin, Programme Associate attended an International Training on Non Violence at KURVE Wustrow Centre Training and Networking on Non Violent Action. In addition to this, Mr. Sunil Mahajan, Archana Kindo and Suramya Kujur attended a training workshop in Bangladesh on Composite Heritage, from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011. Composite Heritage is a cultural tool which has been built to address sectarian conflict and bring about harmony and peace.

**Indicator 2: *Alliance building and strengthening network with larger ecumenical society***

CNI- SBSS has enhanced its partnership through strategic networking with ACT Alliance, FCFC, CNI-CSI, and Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) at national and international level and shared knowledge and information with NCCI, SPAR, XISS, XIDAS and ISI.

During this phase, Bibhudutta Sahu from CNI SBSS attended the Capacity Development Assessment working group meeting in Geneva on May 2011. Joy Tudu attended a consultation workshop on the *'Future of Anthropology's Archival Knowledge: Internal Reassessment (FAAKIR)* in Leipzig, Germany from May 10-12, 2011. This was part of a collaborative project *'Between the Activists and the Archives* to begin in 2012 with the aim and proposal of building up of a *'cultural heritage centre'* in Jharkhand. In addition to this, CNI SBSS also participated in the Rights & Development Group, Act Alliance and CIVICUS Assembly. The group meeting that was held in Montreal from September 8-10; followed by the CIVICUS World Assembly till September 16, 2011. CNI SBSS represented Act Alliance in organising one of the side events at this assembly on "Shrinking Political Space of Civil Society Action" jointly with Transparency International and CIVICUS.

CNI SBSS also participated in FCFC effectively and represented itself at regional forums. The North-East India zone of FCFC organised a three-day orientation workshop on Good Governance and PDS from May 17<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> at Tejpur, Assam. Rev. Pradeep Kawah, of DBSS, North East India represented CNI-SBSS at the workshop. In addition to this a consultation programme was organized on Peace Building among the *Adivasis* from June 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> in Tejpur Assam. The objective of the consultation was to discuss the plight and the severe exploitation of the tea garden

community. The consultation, surfaced a list of problems faced by the tea garden workers, like poor living conditions, ill health, wages, education, water and sanitation.

CNI SBSS through its RCSA in Odisha actively participated in program planning, strategic meetings and implementation of FCFC programmes of the East zone. CNI SBSS was involved in the Peace Building process in Kandhamal, Forest Rights, and CDM study and continued its support to POSCO *Pratirodh Sangharsh Samiti* to strengthen the existing partnership. In addition to this, Sukanta Behera attended the Coastal Study National Meet from 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in PWDS, Chennai organised by the South Zone of FCFC. CNI SBSS was also represented in a meeting organized by West zone from July 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> in Khandala, Maharashtra on Climate change study. . The member organizations present were Peaceful Society, CASA, AFPRO SWARAJ and CNI SBSS. CNI SBSS was represented by Mr. Sunil Mahajan and members of the DBSS Marathwada, Nasik and Kolhapur.

Gladson Dungdung is regularly engaged in spreading awareness and facilitating workshops on Human Rights issues among duty bearers, right holders, teachers and students. He uses every platform available to draw attention to the issues pertaining to *Adivasis*. During the reporting period, he conducted two awareness building programmes at Don Bosco School. One for teachers, ‘The Status of Human Rights in Jharkhand’ (May 10-11) and the other for youth ‘*Adivasis* and Violence’ (Aug 14<sup>th</sup>). In addition to this, he facilitated a session on Displacement at a workshop organized by Forum of Religious for Justice and Peace in Ranchi on June 14, 2011. Furthermore, CNI SBSS also participated in the regional consultation of the NHRC held in Kolkata on September, 13, 2011, where we shared a presentation on police atrocities on *Adivasis* of Saranda forest to lobby with the NHRC to intervene and investigate the issue. Consequently, the NHRC accepted and sent a team to investigate. We have also participated in the national consultation on the issue of forest rights held in Ranchi on September, 15, 2011 where we made a presentation on the Forest Rights.

### **Indicator 3: *Undertaking systems review and standardizing planning and reporting format***

In order to ensure effectiveness and quality in programmes and finance governance, SBSS tried to promote systems to ensure not only proper functioning of the programmes but also to promote transparency and accountability at all levels.

The phase of ‘strengthening systems and developing impact oriented organisational process’ began in April 2011 after the Round Table Meeting with ERSA partners. The first Step – Review of systems and appraisal began in April. The process of finalising the narrative report (progress report for (Sept. 2010- March 2011) gave us an opportunity to review the SBSS systems related reporting

and communications. A diagnosis of was made and appropriate course corrections were planned. Similarly in areas of PME integrating with Data management is also undertaken. In Finance Governance, linking with program audit is started. All these changes are interlinked and solutions were developed in integrated manner. A Rapid Assessment of the program is planned with an external Consultant. The Terms of Reference are developed and shared with ERSA partners.

On April 2011, “Speaking Out” Phase completed two and a half years, for the coming six months (April to Sept 2011) cash flow and programme plan; a general guideline highlighting the key thrust of the programme objective was circulated to all RCSA. A screening mechanism was developed to screen the programme design. For the extended phase, each DBSS prepared a position paper which helped in preparing the programme and activity plan for the extended phase. All the 20 DBSS shared their extended phase plan with cash flow. The plan was participatory in nature and focus was on strengthening the internal governance of PO and DBSS.

A web based standardised monitoring system has been developed and institutionalised. It has been put into practice since April, 2011. It is being implemented and all Finance staff has been trained on the same.

**Developed a standardized format for reporting:** Based on the EED format, a standardized format for reporting has been developed with guidelines and shared with all the DBSS and RCSA team. Special emphasis has been given on impact based reporting. The accompaniment of the programme staff has also been geared towards monitoring implementation as per the logical frame work analysis and impact based reporting with measurable indicators. Our financial staff attended a workshop on new FCRA bill during the reporting period. The new provision and rules of the FCRA were circulated to all DBSS. In addition to this, cost reimbursement model was changed as grant reimbursement model and software tally was upgraded in all DBSS.

**Compilation of the Six-month Progress report:** The last six month progress report was compiled as per the EED format and sent to the ERSA by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Developed the proposal for the Extended Phase with special emphasis on strengthening the systems of SBSS and DBSS.

Based on the recommendations from the ERSA, the ‘Speaking Out’ project was extended for 6 months. A proposal has been developed to strengthen Systems of Program and Finance of SBSS and DBSS as well as the internal governance. The Proposal was prepared by the PME team and submitted to ERSA on 4<sup>th</sup> of July. After the approval of the proposal by ERSA, the proposal was contextualized for each DBSS. A Guideline for logical framework was prepared, each DBSS was

asked to develop a logical framework with measurable outcome indicators and output indicators. All DBSS have finalized the LFA and submitted to SBSS for approval and comment by 30<sup>th</sup> of Sept. The logical framework with cash flow was sent back to all DBSS and accompaniment was being done as per the set indicators.

**2.4. What other observations did you make? Please mention any thing that may be enlightening for the progress of the project. Provide case stories if any in annexure. (ANNEXURE CASE STUDY)**

CNI SBSS has been working for socio-economic development of the excluded communities with special focus on *Dalit* and *Adivasis*. It has worked on life and livelihood issues of these groups by building awareness through its partners. The capacity building programmes have enabled them to raise their voices and avail their rights and entitlements. Apart from activities like ensuring food security, promoting eco-farming, etc. for sustainable livelihood, the organization is working toward increased participation of the *Adivasi* men and women in political processes.

Capacity building of the excluded communities, particularly of the *Dalits* and *Adivasi* was a major part of the activities to be facilitated by CNI SBSS. The programmes were in line with the perspective and beliefs of the organisation. The programme team drew the indicators of the effectiveness of the program and documented the total process properly.

During this reporting period, the following observations were made:

1. Due to our intervention on the gross violation of human rights of the *Adivasis* of Saranda Forest, the media published series of news reports, articles and editorials. There were several television debates on Saranda. The question was raised in the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly and series of protests were done by other organizations as well. As a result, the Speaker of the Assembly issued orders to the Chief Minister for investigation. The Chief Minister also sought report from the Home Secretary and CID to establish the case. The National Human Rights Commission intervened and sent an investigation team to the village. The *Adivasis* were provided food grains free of cost for three months. For the first time, the Ministry of Rural Development (Govt. of India) announced a grant of 150 crore for the development of the region. The survey work has been done.
2. Due to our intervention, it was the first time, when the officer-in-charge of Sonua police station who was part of the operation gave statement in front of the judicial magistrate accepting that the Mangal Honhanga of Baliba village (Saranda Forest) was killed in cold blood by the CRPF

assistant commandant. Consequently, the Jharkhand police stopped torturing the villagers. The camps of security forces were shifted from Tholkobad, Tirilposhi and Baliba villages.

3. During this reporting period, the members of Legislative Assembly coming from different political parties and different areas supported the fight and joined AMARM in the protest. The issue was also raised in the Legislative assembly.
4. The rampant exploitation, torture and brutality in the name of ragging in Sainik School (Army School), Jhumri Tilaiya of Koderama district of Jharkhand were exposed by Galdson Dungdung. The National Human Rights Commission and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights intervened on the matter and asked the Chief Secretary of Jharkhand to submit a report on the ragging. The Jharkhand High Court also intervened on the case as *sue motto* on the basis of media reports. The court ordered the Home Secretary to submit a report.
5. Leaders of Indigenous communities are being recognized by the government of India, Gladson Dungdung has been appointed as a member of the Assessment and Monitoring Authority, an autonomous body under the Planning Commission of India. He has become a voice of the *Adivasis* in the Panel and raised serious issues, well accepted by the Commission.
6. In North East of India, local leadership emerged as a strong powerful force to influence government for effective implementation of social security schemes like MGNREGA, PDS, and ICDS etc. This was possible due to adoption of well-designed inclusive strategy, where *Adivasis* and *Adivasi* led organizations were given importance. In addition to this, a clear perspective on tea-garden workers' rights enabled our leaders to develop a clear campaign to recognize tea – garden workers as a Scheduled Tribe.
7. In West Bengal, we have observed that the emergence of People Organizations in the form of Self Help Groups (SHGs), Community Based Organization (CBO) have addressed the issues systematically.
8. In Orissa, both of our partners, Phulbani and Cuttack are emerging under Church Mission Engagement (CME) and addressing issues of communication, water crisis and land rights. Congregation leaders could align with other denominations for proclamation of peace and communal harmony in Kandhamal. As to anti-POSCO movement, we have developed a forum along with other FCFC partners to address the issues strategically.
9. We have observed that in the past few months, the issue of corruption is being discussed in many forums and concern is being expressed by Corporates and political parties to address this at various levels.

10. Under Kolhapur DBSS, Cooperatives have been formed to integrate *Dalit* women and bring them into the mainstream society in terms of structural and sustainable development. In Sambalpur DBSS income generation activities have been undertaken.
11. In the grass-root level, a partnership has been developed with other secular civil society organizations and government while addressing issues like flood, land rights, tribal identity, social exclusion and displacement.

**2.5. In case that you observed any (direct) negative outcome. Please describe.**

CNI SBSS has been working in campaign mode, to address the issues of livelihood, land rights, food security, and social exclusion and tribal identity. The *Dalits* and *Adivasis* continue to be victims of repression and exploitation.

1. The local dynamics and challenges in the region of DBSS Kolkata, has forced us to shift the focus from addressing the immediate issue of pollution caused by Fade machines to other issues of Climate Change. Any attempt to address pollution by the people is met with resistance.
2. In Durgapur DBSS, staff were appointed from outside, which resulted in non- acceptance of our work by the communities and failed building leaders from the reference areas. Our work for ensuring land for *Adivasis* under FRA has sidelined the land rights of *Dalit* communities in some areas.
3. The working of People organizations was affected by the political activity in West Bengal. Moreover; the heavy downpours resulted in loss of houses and livelihood of many reference communities. Irregular funding has also slowed the work. In spite of all challenges, they have mobilized their communities to protest against the malpractices.
4. People's Organisation though evolved finds it difficult to move forward due to the nature of the issues addressed by them, and the composition of the members. E.g. despite MHSS being a vibrant PO, is finding it difficult to go to the district level and influence state level policies.
5. During the reporting period, the Maharashtra government regularized land of the *gairan* holders in many villages. But unfortunately, the list of regularization did not include the villages where MASS, the People's Organisation was involved. This sparked anger in the communities causing agitation in the region.
6. Due to our intervention many *Adivasi* got elected to PRI in Jharkhand and are actively contributing to local governance and society. However, this is undermining the role of traditional *Adivasi* leaders in the areas and PRI election under PESA in scheduled areas has taken a backseat.

**2.6. Could any impact (positive and negative) be observed in the wider context of the project that might be related to project interventions? Do those observed facts contribute to achieving the development goals.**

CNI SBSS works towards bringing social justice and moral regeneration, irrespective of caste, creed or colour. India has undergone significant changes due to neoliberal economy, globalisation and privatisation. India's economy is also market-centric. The reforms have accelerated India's growth rate but failed to translate it into development for the marginalised.

The economic scenario of India is such that a larger percentage of GNP is concentrated in fewer hands and a very small percentage goes to the poor. Needless to say that the economic model adopted by India does not take into account the damage done by capital-intensive technology, centralised planning, and systematic exploitation of environment.

One of the key goals of CNI SBSS is to make people aware of their rights, to facilitate the political participation of those for whom it was previously not possible. There have been some positive and a few negative spill-overs of our intervention.

### **1. Issues of Human Rights Violation Addressed**

During the reporting phase, CNI SBSS through its partner organizations have responded to issues of human rights violations, imperialist and capitalist policies of the developed countries, issues of accountability of the state for the proper implementation of the food security and social security schemes, issues of land entitlements. Debates concerning relevance and importance of human rights have recently gained prominence in India, and human rights are being considered and recognised like never before.

### **2. Violation against women decreased due to emergence of women led SHG's**

In India, women are often treated as second class citizens and are exploited economically, politically, and socially. Due to expansion in area of education and awareness, women have been mobilised into Self Help Groups in our reference areas. Some of the SHGs have also started income generation activities which have given them a fair income to support their families. They have raised their voice against domestic violence and collectively addressed this issue by putting pressure upon the appropriate government authorities.

### **3. Use of RTI to make the government more transparent and accountable.**

During the reporting period, Right to Information Act has been used as an instrument by SBSS and it supported People's Organisations to track the budget utilisation under different government schemes. RTI was used for reducing corruption in local government through use of community

action in MGNREGA, ICDS, NRHM and FRA. The objective was to achieve transparent and corruption-free implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA). In addition to that, RTI was used for (a) increasing awareness and understanding of MGNREGA (b) developing community institutions and procedures for monitoring implementation of MGNREGA; (c) promoting participation of marginalized communities and women in MGNREGA; and (d) curbing irregularities and corruption in MGNREGA through the use of the Right to Information Act.

The use of RTI brought about much needed effectiveness in the local administration by reducing corruption and red-tapism and in ensuring greater transparency in the implementation of MGNREGA in our reference areas.

#### **4. People Centred Advocacy brought the culture of activism and resistance**

Our interventions organized people from the village level to state level for creating pressure on the government. At the Panchayat level, mobilization and advocacy Committees were formed with the active facilitation of our 'community enabler' from the concerned areas. These Panchayat level mobilization and advocacy Committees coordinate with the block and district level committee. At the state level they helped create pressure on the government through continuous dialogues and discussion for effective implementation of government flagship programmes.

#### **5. Capacity Building of Partners**

Capacity building processes formed a major part of the work facilitated by CNI SBSS. It built the capacities of its partners on the organization perspective towards people politics and organization building, problem solving, lobbying and advocacy, and alliance building.

#### **6. Multi-stakeholder participation**

CNI SBSS used stakeholder analysis as a way to identify and understand the needs and interests of people affected by the project. The analysis went through four steps to identify the stakeholders, understand their interests, influence and relationships, and devise a strategy on how to incorporate the stakeholder in the project's design. Stakeholder analysis was to identify people, groups, and institutions that would influence the initiative (either positively or negatively). In addition to this, it developed strategies to get the most effective support possible for the initiative and reduce any obstacles to successful implementation of programs. In the whole process, stakeholders have participated from all levels of society.

#### **7. Advocacy, Lobbying and Networking with other secular minded civil society organisation**

We have built up relations with the government at the micro-level but that was not sufficient to pressurize the government at the state level. Therefore, People Organizations played more proactive role to build up government partnership in terms of various committees and departments related to the development policies of the state. This was done simultaneously along with building the People's Movement. It includes public campaigning and awareness building, strategies and tactics of advocacy. CNI SBSS created an enabling environment, which creates the ability to have dialogue, negotiation, protest, confrontation. CNI SBSS worked towards sensitizing administrative and legislative machinery to promote policies and practices favouring disadvantaged groups in general and women in particular.

#### **8. Rights-based advocacy initiated by the People, the People's Organizations are supported by CNI SBSS.**

CNI SBSS has worked in the field of Right to Information, access and control over natural resources, women's legal rights, and the Right to live with dignity and local self-governance. In order to achieve this, CNI SBSS collaborated with other likeminded NGOs, People's Organizations, networks, academic institutions and Citizen's groups.

#### **9. Promoting processes of women's empowerment and integrating them into the development process.**

Participation of women in the project activity constitutes an important component of the project. So the project attempted to ensure 50% women participation in the *Gram Sabhas* and in People's Organisation.

#### **Negatives**

1. The civil society has changed significantly in recent years due to the emergence of dominant development paradigm and become more market centric.
2. The natural resources have been exploited to suit the need of the capitalists and imperialist power. As a result, people have lost control over the natural resources. People's access to natural resources is subject to restriction and regulated under law.
3. One of the negatives is that NGO's are deviating from their ideology and giving in to the dictates of the donors and funders like Corporates, with their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) that legitimizes their capital driven work. . The movements will lose their direction if they are influenced by NGOs who have compromised their ideological positions.
4. **Culture of Impunity**- A culture of impunity is prevalent in Indian society, which is a challenge for us. People have accepted certain things without questioning the veracity of it. There are some local level challenges, like generalization of growth and hiding poverty, Patron-Client

relationship in local administration. Growing fundamentalism and religious extremism are the challenges to secular and faith based organizations and intervention areas.

5. **Decrepit state institutions, laws and policies-** The recent policy measures on the regulation of civil society organization puts restrictions on the operation of civil society organizations. For instance, the national policy on voluntary sector, which came in to effect in 2007, though apparently progressive in the sense that it emphasized on transparency and accountability in the sector, undermined the diversity of the sector by implementing uniform regulations and a single regulatory body.
6. **Market Driven Democracy-** India is the largest democracy in the world. But it is unfortunate that, now our democracy has become market driven due to the nexus between state, corporations and bureaucracy. Now we are hardly witnessing any pro-poor and inclusive policies and our policy makers and legislatures are getting elected to parliament with the support of corporate money and also acting on their behalf after the election.
7. **The passed Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation & Resettlement bill** would further deprive *Adivasi*, *Dalits* and farming communities of their rights over the land and natural resources. The Land Acquisition and R& R will only facilitate the State's new role as the land broker-in-chief.
8. **Rationalising dispossession-**This Resettlement and Rehabilitation Bill would help the Land Acquisition Bill in "rationalising" dispossession by ensuring a more secure and predictable corporate access to land as the demand for land has increased in this era of market driven liberalisation and privatisation.
9. **Emergence of Business Model of Development-** The discourse of development has undergone a paradigm shift in recent times. Now resource sharing agencies are promoting outcome based development model which demand immediate result of the intervention. And this has been a challenge for civil society organisations working on campaign mode.
10. **Campaign against Corruption in India led by Anna team has shifted the attention of public from other social issues like social exclusion and marginalisation of *Dalits* and *Adivasis*** - Corruption is embedded in all the spectrum of society starting from corporate to government, but the Anna campaign shifted the attention from corporate corruption or the failing market and is largely looking at government level corruption. This has narrowed down the definition of corruption. and the ongoing attacks on *Adivasis* and *Dalit* go unreported by mainstream media.

## 2.7. Which methods did you use for assessing outcome and impact?

CNI SBSS has reviewed Monthly Progress Reports of 18 DBSS, Six-Monthly Narrative Report, Accompaniment Reports and Monitoring Reports. In addition to this, report of workshop, training, group facilitators, program associate and programme facilitators were taken into account for assessing outcome and impacts of the project. Furthermore, reports of all fellows and RCSA were also analysed for extracting this outcome.

Situational analysis report of Dinajpur and Assam has further added value to this six-month progress report. The progress was also assessed on the basis of meetings with beneficiaries and members of POs, field visits to project areas and personal interviews with the beneficiaries. The report of the monthly review and planning meeting was taken as the tool for assessing the progress of this phase.

The updated Database Management Information System of CNI SBSS and DBSS were also referred for analysis and assessment of the outcome and impact of the project.

### 3. Activity Summary

Give a summary of the major activities carried out during this reporting period in comparison of those planned. Please follow the logic of the different component. If applicable report on specific activity of men and women respectively.

Components	Planned Activity	Implemented Activity	DBSS who conducted the plan activity	observations
<b>Component one: Leadership development, influencing policies and being part of the political decision making process</b>				
<b>Objective 1: Strengthening PO</b>	Leadership development and Training	Identifying <i>Adivasi &amp; Dalit</i> leaders for capacitating them to take part in upcoming PRI election ( <b>village unit meeting Panchayat unit meeting</b> ),Leadership Training was given to the selected members of the CBO and PO for advocating issues , Workshop of the leaders on 22 Para Traditional system	Phulbani , Agra, Kolkata , Chotanagpur , Amritsar	In Nagpur the programme was not conducted
	Review meeting of the PO	Meeting held in the PO to review issues and the new units	Agra, Kolhapur , Kolkata, Durgapur, Sambalpur , Amritsar, Barrackpore	
	Training on Panchayat Raj and <i>Gram Sabha</i> , RTI, Good governance	Prepare the PRI leaders for the coming PRI election,	Agra, Cuttack , Barrackpore , Sambalpur Nagpur , Mumbai	Delhi and Marathwada could not conduct
	Strengthening the <i>Gram Sabha</i> and Existing Origination	Facilitating palli sabha/ <i>Gram Sabha</i> meeting to ensure active participation of women & <i>Dalit</i> in PS & GS Mock <i>Gram Sabha</i> and pressurize the <i>Gram Sabha</i> , follow up of the plan submitted in the <i>Gram Sabha</i>	Phulbani , Delhi, Barrackpore, Chotanagpur , Sambalpur, Rajasthan, Amritsar	
	Networking and formation of Alliance and monitoring/vigilance cell	Community driven monitoring force to monitor ongoing dev. Prog ,Formation of Panchayat level monitoring committee , Exposure visit	Mumbai , Patna, Chotanagpur , Nagpur, Phulbani	
	Community study centre for learning and advocacy	CBCLA meeting of the facilitator and committee members , formation of Informing HUB in CBCLA, Celebration of Independence day	Kolhapur , Patna, Chotanagpur, NEI and Durgapur	
<b>Component 2 : Focus on Issues of Food, Livelihood, Social Exclusion and water</b>				
Objective 2: Control over life and livelihood	Campaign on right to food especially on getting entitlement of schemes related to food like PDS, MDM, ICDS, Old age pension and Maternity benefit	Consultation On SSS Social Audit on PDS, Submission of wall writing and deputation, developing information, education communication ( IEC) materials like handbills,	Agra Patna , NEI Barrackpore, Cuttack, Mumbai, Phulbani, Sambalpur, Amritsar	

		posters, wall writing		
	Campaign on MGNREGA	Consolation, awareness meeting , Pressurizing Gram Panchayat and Networking with like -minded NGO on MGNREGA, advocacy through using print media	Agra, Delhi, Mumbai , Kolkata, Barrackpore, Chhattisgarh, Phulbani, Sambalpur, Patna, NEI, Amritsar, Rajasthan	
	Securing Livelihood	Training on Aqua culture Training and formation of Cooperation( weavers cooperative, napkin making)	Barrackpore Chotanagpur , Kolhapur, Sambalpur	
	Campaign on right to Land	Legal aid training on Land rights and FRA, Discussion and meeting on Forest land and revenue land	Chotanagpur, Nagpur , Kolhapur and Sambalpur	
	Addressing social exclusion	Filing cases , Promote <i>Adivasi</i> Culture , workshop on PRI and PESA, workshop on <i>Dalit</i> rights, Rally on <i>Dalit</i> Christian rights	Kolhapur , Mumbai, Chotanagpur, Sambalpur, Amritsar	
	Campaign on water	Face to face programme. on irrigation Prog on water pollution, Rejuvenating the traditional water sources like stream & diversion canal	Barrackpore, Kolkata, Phulbani	
<b>Component 3: Congregation in Mission Engagement</b>				
Objective 3: Church Mission Engagement	Change Agent	National/International day celebration, Awareness and sensitization of congregation of Social security schemes, minority rights	NEI, Chhattisgarh, Phulbani, Kolkata, Barrackpore, Sambalpur, Cuttuck	
	Neighbourhood Community	Consultation meeting with other denominations church based leaders, Pastor & lay leaders training on sermon preparation, Youth festival for youth leadership, Cultural team building	NEI , Amritsar, Barrackpore, Chhattisgarh, Kolkata, Barrackpore	
	Breaking the boundary	Perspective building workshop on CME to new congregation, Consultation meeting with other denominations church based leaders, Equipping WFCF on women and Gender issues	Phulbani, NEI, Chhattisgarh	
<b>Component 4: focus on gender sensitization and economic empowerment of women</b>				
Objective 4: Gender Mainstreaming	Gender sensitization for Men and women	Gender sensitization training and workshop for both men and women, Collection of gender segregated data, Campaign on Rights of the women especially domestic violence and atrocities	Sambalpur , Nagpur , Amritsar	
	Economic empowerment for women	SHG meetings Workshop on women federation, Skill training on	Chotanagpur, Barrackpore, Kolkata , Rajasthan, Amritsar	

		micro enterprise for women		
<b>Component 5: focus on disaster mitigation and local capacity for peace</b>				
Objective 5: Integrity of creation	Disaster Mitigation	Awareness on disaster mitigation in Sunderbans, Flood relief in Kolhapur	Barrackpore and Kolhapur	
	Local Capacity for Peace	Peace initiatives, Joint Assessment of LCP, Project proposal development for LCP	Nagpur and SBSS level initiatives	
<b>Component 6: Review meeting, planning meeting, accompaniment and appraisals</b>				
Objective 6 Leaning Movement Building Movement	Organizational Meetings Staff and Board	Staff meeting, Board meeting and Review	Delhi, Kolhapur, Marathwada, Patna, NEI, Durgapur, Barrackpore, Kolkata, Agra, Amritsar, Chotanagpur, Phulbani, Sambalpur, Cuttack	
	Meeting for Proposal development	Planning meeting at the community and DBSS level  LFA training	Delhi, Kolhapur , NEI , Durgapur, Barrackpore, Kolkata, Agra, Amritsar, Chotanagpur, Phulbani, Sambalpur, Cuttack	
	Staff appreciative enquiry	Staff appraisal	Delhi, Kolhapur	

#### 4. Change in the Organisation

**Did any important event or change during the reporting period take place within the organization?**

##### 4.1. Related to Management Structure:

The board of CNI SBSS was dissolved in the end of this reporting period with the completion of its terms. The office bearers have been changed including the chairman and vice-chairman. The new board would be formed in October through an election. In order to make our financial governance system more transparent and accountable, we have also formed a Finance Committee within CNI SBSS. It constitutes the chairman of CNI SBSS board, treasurer, two professional chartered accountant and chief coordinator. This committee has been entrusted the responsibility of reviewing the fund flow and utilisation of fund and recommend suggestion to the CNI SBSS. In addition to this an internal Auditor has been appointed in CNI SBSS as recommendation of EED to internal control and governance in place. He has been entrusted to do cross-checking and inter-governance accounting governance. A web based standardised

monitoring system has been developed and institutionalised. It has been put into practice since April, 2011. It is being implemented and all Finance staff has been trained on the same.

#### **4.2. Related to planning system:**

During this reporting period, CNI SBSS has reviewed its reporting format and introduced new format for reporting and planning. In addition to this cross cutting issues like climate change, disaster reduction management strategy has been integrated in our reporting format. The planning for next phase has been started by using logical framework analysis. For that, PME cell has developed a concept paper on the planning process. It involves appraisal and assessment of program which was done internally during this reporting period. Plan has been developed to do an external rapid assessment of the program in consultation with ERSA. And the recommendation of the appraisal would be again integrated into the planning process.

We are placing emphasis on micro planning and base line survey include household survey, village survey ,MGNREGA, Health ,nutrition and forest rights. Baseline has been started from the perspective of social exclusion with special emphasis on gender; caste base data. The baseline would be an important tool for developing indicators for the logical framework. In the community micro plan emphasis would be given to emerging peoples' organization/ pressure-groups and women's groups through different meetings and focus group discussion held in village, cluster and area committees. After compilation of all the data and information, it would be contextualised at the community and DBSS level.

During this reporting period, Outcome based monitoring was given importance and LFA has been introduced for monitoring in all DBSS. In addition to this a reporting mechanism had been developed in CNI SBSS to ensure quality and timely reporting.

#### **4.3. Related to Staff Composition:**

During the reporting period, there have been no major changes in staff composition in organisation. However, Priyanka Chowdhury has been appointed as a Programme Associate and she in charge of Barrackpore, Eastern Himalaya and North East India. And Ruby Hembrom has left as programme associate. In addition to this Rachel Rao has been appointed as Programme Associate for Development Communication.

#### **4.4. Related to other issues:**

CNI SBSS has started Organisational Capacity Assessment to strengthen its process and system during this reporting period and the process is going on. CNI SBSS had decided to conduct

Process Oriented Development Intervention (PODI) training for its staff and partners and it could not be conducted due to delay in fund flow from ERSA.

## 5. Change in Development Context and Problem Analysis

### 5.1 Are there important changes in the direct political environment since the inception of the project?

During this reporting period our political system became complicated by tensions over religion, ethnicity and a deep-rooted patronage system. The multi-party political cultures and ideologies across the country reflected the extreme diversity within India's socio-economic environment. Coalitions led by either the Indian National Congress (Congress) or the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has traditionally dominated federal level politics. The UPA further strengthened its position with several wins in state elections in states like Assam and West Bengal during this reporting period. The opposition coalition led by the BJP finished a distant second. In general, the ruling coalition is comprised of regionally based parties.

The UPA was expected to implement important and much anticipated reform programs given its strong position, yet significant reforms have been elusive due to the complex nature of Indian coalition politics as well as diverging views within the UPA.

Corruption scandals have drained government resources and nearly paralyzed the legislative process in recent months. India has been buffeted by scandals erupting one after the other through 2011; the 2G Telecom licenses sales, Commonwealth Games, the 'Cash for Votes' and the most recently the Karnataka mining affair. Activist Anna Hazare's hunger strike in August and popular demand for change put these concerns on the world stage. With the government's image tarnished, BJP led opposition groups see an opportunity to challenge the government during six state elections that is likely to be held between January and July 2012.

Controlling the rising costs of essential food items has also been a challenge for government. The UPA came to power on a pro-poor platform and therefore has to balance liberalization efforts with the immediate needs of segments of the population most vulnerable to price shocks. Corruption in India was widespread, especially in the public sector; contributing factors include deep-rooted patronage systems, bureaucracy, and weak governance. India's Supreme Court has lately been taking an active stance in fighting corruption. The judiciary, especially at the higher levels, is considered competent and fair. Recent judicial sector reforms are said to have increased efficiency and reduced the huge backlog of cases.

Regulatory uncertainty, both at the federal level and between federal and state level continues to pose challenges. South Korean company POSCO struggled for five years to start a steel mining project in Orissa. The eventual approval of the project in February 2011, albeit with strict environmental condition proved a way forward for large high profile projects which would displace people and pollute the environment.

Several terrorist attacks in recent years in major cities highlight the threat posed by domestic and foreign Islamist militant groups. Multiple blasts across Mumbai in July 2011 and the explosions at the Delhi courts in September 2011 have brought the spectre of terror back as a reminder of the 2008 Mumbai attacks in which over 180 people died. Tensions with Pakistan have threatened regional stability since 1947. Several years of peace talks on the disputed Jammu - Kashmir territories have resulted in little progress. The Mumbai attacks led to deterioration in Indo-Pakistani relations due to Indian government allegations that Pakistani government agencies were involved in the attacks.

The ongoing Maoist (Naxalite) insurgency - named the single biggest threat to internal security by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh – is growing increasingly violent. The Naxalites operate across large swaths of rural states and have targeted security forces, government infrastructure and extractive companies. The government forced to take on more responsibility in tackling the Naxalites, an issue that has hitherto been considered an internal matter for individual states to deal with. Hindu/Muslim based communal political violence issues remains, in certain parts of India.

## **5.2 Are there important changes in the direct social environment since the inception of the project?**

Change has affected all aspects of our lives, social, cultural, political and economic. Never before in the history of mankind has change been so rapid, intense and wide-spread. In the last five years alone, the Indian market has been flooded with consumer goods and new services resulting in wider choice for consumers. The participation of civil society in the international process has increased in the field of peace building minimising the effects of climate change, trade negotiation, policy making and lobby and advocacy. And their participation has been determined by a number of factors, including both external factors such as the attitudes of the warring parties and the degree of “political space” afforded to civic groups, and internal factors such as the resources and skills available for groups to draw on. The particular combination of opportunity and constraint in each context enabled civil society to assume a variety of possible roles. They have played a crucial role by facilitating the dialogues.

They can build trust and understanding between the grassroots membership of divided communities; they can assist in identifying and resolving local-level conflicts, which can benefit the communities affected as well as build confidence between the conflicting parties; they can create a safe, unofficial space for middle-ranking members of the conflicting parties to engage in problem-solving exercises in advance of negotiations. In some cases, modest activities by civic actors can even lead to their acceptance by the leadership to mediate formal negotiations. In India, the government of India accepted the suggestion of Anna Hazare and his team to legislate a stringent act to curb corruption in India

**5.3. Are there important changes in the direct natural environment since the inception of the project?**

In a developing country like India, the worst victim of the climate change are the poor and marginalized whose life has been already affected by the impact of Globalization, Privatization and liberalization. Communal conflicts are on the rise. Climate change and natural disasters like droughts, floods (Orissa) and earthquake (EHD) are affecting the rural agricultural communities specially the marginalised *Dalit* and *Adivasis*.

**5.4. Do those changes have implications for the relevance of the project?**

Yes. The recent changes in the political, social and economic environment are now forcing us to move towards project mode. The advent of business model of development is becoming more demanding in term of impact and outcome. And we are facing difficulties to show immediate result as our intervention are intended to bring change in system, structure and power relation in society.

**5.5. Do those changes have implications for the project development goal?**

Yes. The changes that were possible during the reporting period have positively contributed to project's development goal of breaking the culture of silence, falsehood, fear and isolation and bring about a culture of activism, hope and resistance.

**5.6. Do those changes have implications for the project objectives?**

Yes. During this reporting period most of the interventions were done in line with the project objectives and achieved results further contributed to the project objectives.

**5.7. Is the underlying problem analysis of the project still valid?** Yes. The underlying problem analysis of the project still valid as marginalised communities is still subject to repression, exploitation and humiliation. In addition to this, resources are not fairly distributed among all the section of our society.

## **6. Conclusion for the Future Work**

### **6.1 Based on your experience do you see a need for changing the planned activities in order to achieve your project activities?**

CNI SBSS has to intensify its efforts to help the community to move to the next step after addressing their basic needs viz. the sustainable use of rights obtained in food, livelihood and land.

At the organisational level, there is a need to improve and strengthen systems with regard to program and PME especially in impact monitoring. PME also needs to strengthen itself in order to adequately develop and maintain a proper disaggregated data-base on social categorisation. For reporting, systems need to be further strengthened with compliance and statutory requirements fulfilled, adequate analytical information about the outcome/impact of activities and interventions should also be provided. There is need to integrate the learning of the Advocacy Impact Monitoring project and build specialized skills among some of the staff both at SBSS and DBSS.

### **6.2. If necessary please update the program planning**

The extended phase proposal which intends to enhance the organisational capacities of CNI SBSS and its implementing partners (DBSS), to manage the ongoing project efficiently and to critically position it for the coming years has been submitted to ERSA during this reporting period.

### **6.3. In case of need of consultancy. In what area?**

We require consultancy in the program assessment and reviewing our system and making it more efficient and accountable.

### **6.4. What are the lessons learnt? Please refer to gender equality issues also.**

We have learned that the whole discourse of gender has to be analysed from power equation and sharing point of view. In addition to that we have also learned that we have to be flexible in our approach and accept the challenges of new development trends as per the changing environment. Cross-cutting issues like gender, climate change, LCP should not be looked in isolation. In addition to this, disaster reduction management strategy should be integrated in our programme intervention as most of the areas are frequently affected by disaster. There is a need of translating perspectives and ideologies into action. Need for specific planning for CBOs, POs and Movements according to their reference area and different stages of evolution.

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19. Glossary of Terms

**Issue:** *Mid Day Meal and Ration Cards*

1

**DBSS:** *Kolkata*

Six villages<sup>16</sup> 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 Enabler of DBSS Kolkata shared this issue with the leaders of People' Organization, '*Sangram Samity*' who arranged a district level meeting at the village of Hatgachha on 21<sup>st</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 the 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 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 one 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

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<sup>16</sup> Konchpukur, Hatgachha, Dhalipara, Bagdoba, Gorumara and Jot bhim

previously denied. Similarly, during this reporting period we have ensured that 360 public distribution shops are functional across our reference area.

**Issue:** *ICDS Centre re-opened*

2

**DBSS:** *Eastern Himalayas*

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 centres<sup>17</sup> 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 a 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 CDPO<sup>18</sup> 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-visited the CDPO for four consecutive days before they received an appointment with the CDPO on the 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

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<sup>17</sup> ICDS Integrated Child Development System Scheme is for early childhood development for children between 0-6 years of age.

<sup>18</sup> Child Development Project Officers

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 moral 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 trustworthily and 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.

**Issue:** *Electricity to remote villages*

3

**DBSS:** *Barrackpore & Nagpur*

The village of Amjhara in Fulmalancho *Gram Panchayat* set an example for all other communities in their fight for electricity and demand for proper materials in its setting up.

Amjhara desperately needed electricity not only to improve their quality of life but also because it would help water their parched agricultural land. With the help of the Barrackpore DBSS they submitted a deputation to the BDO (Block Development Officer) which was approved and the work was started. This in itself was a great achievement for the village.

However, when construction work started, the villagers noticed that the contractor was using cheap materials and had also significantly reduced the area that was supposed to receive electricity. Their earlier demands for electricity had strengthened their ability to question people and they spoke to the contractor but their request was ignored. They then submitted a written complaint to the BDO, and forced him to take action against the corrupt contractor. The contractor completed the job properly and without delay and the villagers of Amjhara finally received electricity.

In Nagpur, the village of Pannasi, Bhandara District, had been given electricity but it had been stopped for months. This paralysed the village as the lack of electricity also left them with no water to irrigate the land and seriously threatened the health of their livestock. In their fear and worry, they contacted the MHSS, a PO of the Nagpur DBSS, to help them address this issue. A meeting was held with MHSS members where after much discussion, a strategy on how to deal with this problem was formulated.

The villagers gathered together outside the office of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2011 and submitted a letter to officer in charge. Led by MHSS Programme Facilitator, Mr. Deepak Margade they resolved not to leave until their problem was addressed and some concrete decision was taken. The officer then assured them that their electricity would be resumed by the evening.

They left the office and much to their surprise, they did receive electricity in the evening. However, after ten days it stopped again. This really angered the villagers and they were determined to be more forceful about their demands, however the Deepak Margade believed that a better way to deal with the situation as to discuss the situation in a peaceful manner. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of October they gathered at the Regional Office of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board and met with MSEB officers and the chief engineer, Mr. Meshram. The officers heard the villagers out and promised to address this problem permanently.

The chief engineer provided them with new wires, electricity poles and pipes and with the help of the regional office the village of Pannasi was once again lit, and this time permanently. The intervention of the MHSS is what channelized the anger of the villagers to combat the sustained lack of governance on the part of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. In this reporting period they have combated various community problems and are building a strong leadership amongst the grass root communities. With the emergence of PO's such as these villages now have a place to go when in need and are assured of good advice and help in getting amenities they desperately need.

**Issue:** *Implementation of MGNREGA Scheme*

4

**DBSS:** *North East India*

The famous MGNREGA<sup>19</sup> or “100 days work” scheme was introduced by the government in 1997. This scheme guaranteed people residing in villages paid work for a period up to 100 days. The work was aimed at developing the area within which the people lived and therefore seminal, in that people who were forced to migrate to look for work were able to stay in their own village and contribute to its development. The infrastructure of the area was improved and it provided employment to those who desperately needed it. MGNREGA also saw to it that if the work was not allotted within a period of 15 days the workers who applied for a job were entitled to unemployment benefits.

Balijur, a village in the district of Noagaon, has been suffering from unemployment for many years. The men of the village usually travel to remote areas in the hills to look for daily wage jobs while the women are forced to stay back and wait. It is in this context that the *Nari Jagriti Sangram* of Balijuri in collaboration with the Legal Cell on Human Rights, Guwahati decided to arrange an awareness program on MGNREGA and RTI in 69 villages on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The idea of a program such as MGNREGA completely shocked the villagers as, in theory; it would put an end to their relentless struggle in search of odd jobs in remote areas of the district.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, the DBSS volunteers applied for jobs cards for 60 people in Molabasti and a few who did not know the use of a job card applied for demand for work for 10 days from 25<sup>th</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011. Currently they are waiting for their job cards and the session that was held further empowered them to apply for an RTI to find out the reason for their delay. Although they have not yet received their cards, the awareness that the DBSS has built within these villages has prompted Molabasti to take some action and empowered them to demand their due from the government. This is merely the first step in a struggle that we hope they will continue.

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<sup>19</sup> Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

**Issue:** *Old Age Pension*

5

**DBSS:** *Phulbani*

Village: Goherigam, Block: Kotaghar, District: Kandhamal.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April the DBSS was carrying out a survey in the village of Goherigam, to collect information about the old, handicapped and widowed people residing in the village. One woman, Mrs. Pirudimai Mallick was unable to enlist her name in the National Old Age Pension scheme, despite several attempts. She was 60 years old and had only one son, Trilochan Mallick, who was married and living separately. During a discussion with Pirudimai and her son she said she had tried several times to get her name registered but it could not be done. The DBSS volunteer who was interviewing them, Subash Chand Paraset, then shared the details of how to apply for this scheme and what Pirudimai is entitled to, the form, documents required and an application addressed to the block development officer in Kotaghar.

Her son then decided to take the issue forward. He collected all necessary documents and wrote an application letter to the BDO in Kotaghar as well and submitted it on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. While accepting the application the Block Development Officer also suggested that they conduct a department enquiry to find out the cause for the delay. Both Mr. Mallick and Subash Chand contacted the department several times about the application. At last Mrs. Pirudimai got an invitation to receive her pension card from Kotaghar.

On 19<sup>th</sup> June' 2011 Ms. Pirudimai & Mr. Trilochan met the Block Development Officer. He paid Rs. 200/- (Rupees Two hundred) to Pirudimai as old age pension for the month of June 2011 & told her she could now receive ₹. 200/- monthly from *Gram Panchayat* office in Srirampure. Receiving an old age pension, however small the amount is Mrs. Mallick's only source of a promised regular income; something she can depend upon. With this, she is able to live with some dignity and not have to depend on the charity of her son.

Goheriga is a remote village with steadily depleting natural resources that is unable to sustain the need of its residents. It is in this context that *Adivasis & Dalits* are struggling to survive and receive the benefits of govt. schemes and provisions they are entitled to. DBSS Phulbani has taken up this challenge by influencing the lives of people such as Pirudimai Mallick. We have been working with 5 congregations and villages in Srirampure GP for the last 3 years to ensure Government schemes & provisions to *Adivasi & Dalits*, in order to contest their marginalisation.

**Issue:** Corruption within the Public Distribution System

6

**DBSS:** Patna

Block: Taljhari District: Sahebganj

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 the *Adivasis* 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/- to ₹.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.

**Issue:** *Corruption during a Road Building Contract*

7

**DBSS:** *Patna*

A road was constructed without asking for tenders in the *Gram Sabha*. Under the PRI system, the contract must be given through the *Gram Sabha* after interested parties in the village have submitted their budget and only then will the *Gram Sabha* appoint a contractor. The contractor is also given a commission which is why there exists a lot of corruption during the appointment of these persons.

In the Pokhoria panchayat area a road was being constructed without any prior knowledge of the villagers. As soon as they saw what was being done, they consulted the DBSS and together, brought this issue to the Deputy Mukhia<sup>20</sup>. He then took this to the Panchayat Sewak and the Mukhia and asked them why the selection was done on its own house instead of the involvement of the *Gram Sabha* and why no one was called. The Panchayat Sewak replied that, a notice was sent out and no one arrived, so they appointed a contractor themselves.

The Deputy Mukhia then wrote to the Block Pramukh<sup>21</sup>, Mrs. Sonoti Hansda about this incident, demanding justice. After verifying the facts Mrs. Hansda directed the Mukhiya of Pokhoria Panchayat to carry out the process transparently and he was forced to do so. The previous contractor and his middlemen were fired, the selection process was done fairly and the chosen contractor received his commission.

By forcing the Mukhia to follow the correct procedure it has set an example for how future contracts and decisions in the Panchayat will be made. The villagers of Pokoharia also know that, those in positions of power can be questioned and are ultimately answerable to the people themselves.

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<sup>20</sup> Village Head

<sup>21</sup> Head

**Issue:** *Land Rights for Adivasis*

8

**DBSS:** *Chotanagpur*

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 where it was unanimously decided they were not going to give their land for the establishment of the *Krisbi 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 *Krisbi Vigyan Kendra* is nowhere near as valuable as their plot of land.

On 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Issue:** *Self Help Groups take control of PDS*

9

**DBSS:** *Chotanagpur*

Sarita Panchayat; Block: Kamdara; State: Jharkhand

The village of Pimpi consists of 163 families with a total population of 978. Most of these people are from various tribes such as Munda, Oraon, Teli, Bania and Lohra. There are 67 *Antodaya* card and 79 BPL card holders while 20 families have been enlisted in the new BPL list. All these families have been using the ration shop in Pimpi which is run by Mr. Radho Sahu.

Earlier in 2010, he was caught for irregularities in ration distribution. With the help of the DBSS the villagers got organised, protested and initiated a process to make a license for Roshni (a Self Help Group) to run the PDS shop instead. However, they were unsuccessful and Mr. Sahu continued to run the only ration shop in the area. On 15<sup>th</sup> May 11, Matthias Surin went to the PDS shop and asked Mr. Sahu for his rations. Mr. Sahu replied that ration for the month of May had not yet come. Since he had said the same thing the previous month, Mr. Surin then requested the dealer to give him his ration for the month of April. Hearing this Mr. Sahu got very angry and shouted at him saying, "Can't you understand there is no ration? Whatever you want to do, go and do! I'm not going to give you any rations (sic)." Some women also witnessed this incident.

The earlier interventions of the DBSS prompted Matthias Surin to complain against this treatment and he reported it to the *Gram Sabha* on 20<sup>th</sup> May. After sharing his story, a discussion was held and everyone agreed to make a formal complaint. This was duly given to the MO (Marketing officer) of Kamdara Block. The officer verified it with the villagers and cross examined the dealer and found him at fault. He then advised them to receive their rations from Buruhatu a PDS shop run by Shiv Shakti SHG which is 5 km from Pimpi.

They have also restarted the process to apply for a license for Roshini to take control of their own PDS shop. The *Gram Sabha* has also taken initiative and ordered Mr. Radho Sahu to shut down his shop. At present the villagers of Pimpi are getting their rations regularly and at the prescribed price but the long distance is a real problem. Once Roshini receives its license, this problem too, will be solved.

Information on government provisions, preparing the complaint letter and how to apply for a license has been supported by the DBSS staff, GS and active SHG members. It is through them that Pimpi was able to voice their concerns to a larger body and get what was due to them.

**Issue:** *Proper functioning of Mid Day Meal System*

10

**DBSS:** *Chotanagpur*

A child was burnt in R.C. Middle School in Pabura, due to the negligence of staff.

According to the central government Mid Day Meal scheme, all students are entitled to receive one meal in school provided by the government. This not only provides children with much needed nutrition but also provides jobs for women to cook in schools. Ms. Martha Lugun and Sabiriya Kandulna were responsible for cooking the mid day meal and on 9<sup>th</sup> September, Manoj Ahir got burnt as he was helping them cook.

His father, Ratha Ahir, on learning of the incident got very angry and threatened to put the principal (Ms. Veronica Bage) behind bars for her negligence. The principal called the cook and questioned her. She accepted her fault and apologised. Ms. Bage warned the cook that henceforth no student should be engaged for any help while cooking.

This matter was then brought to the *Gram Sabha*, and its president, Shri Matthias Lugun, came to the school and told them to send the student to a hospital. Manoj was taken to Konbir Hospital in Basia and felt much better after receiving treatment. However, the villagers and family members were very disappointed with this incident as nothing had been done to improve school administration. They decided to contact the DBSS about this matter.

Looking into the situation, CBCLA facilitator Mr. Piyush Bariak and GS president Mr. Matthias Lugun decided to call for an emergency *Gram Sabha* meeting. On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011 a resolution was made, stating that all the medical expenses should be borne by the school. The principal reluctantly agreed and the villagers also contributed. In the light of this incident all schools in the Bano Block of Jharkhand where mid day meals are served are taking extra precaution and have given strict instructions that no student should help in cooking the meal.

The villagers and DBSS highlighted this negligence, as a result of which, schools are now functioning properly.

**Issue:** *Struggle for Land*

11

**DBSS:** *Marathwada*

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 *dbarnas*<sup>22</sup> etc for getting the pattas<sup>23</sup>. Getting land registered would have solved their livelihood issues as well as give 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 collect rates in which there were 52 application 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 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-bail able 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 to the DBSS Office and explained the seriousness of the situation. The RCSA Pune was contacted as well

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<sup>22</sup> Marches and rallies

<sup>23</sup> Registered document

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 cannot 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.

**Issue:** *The Registration of first ever Women's Cooperative in the region*

12

**DBSS:** *Kolhapur*

The *Dalit Samaj Vikas Parishad* (DSVP), a People's Organisation works specifically for the marginalised sections of communities. In order to further their cause and generate much needed funds they started the Women's Cooperative Industrial Institution known as *Savitiribai Phule Magasvargiya Audhyogic Sabakari Sanstha* at Nimshirgaon, Tal. Shirol.

The DSVP's work with mobilising women eventually led to the women members taking initiative and establishing a co-operative for readymade garments. The petition for this project was drafted and submitted to the Deputy Registrar at Shirol office along with all necessary documents and was estimated to be worth ₹. 2 crores<sup>24</sup>. Financial constraints were also successfully overcome through contributions from *Mabila Adibkar Manch* (an SHG of Kolhapur DBSS) and DBSS.

When there were problems with the registration, the DVSP combated this by organising a mass campaign in protest of the delay. The office of the Dy. Registrar finally registered the institution on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2011 under the Cooperative Society Act.

The *Savitiribai Phule Magasvargiya Audhyogic Sabakari Sanstha* is the first ever cooperative institution under the working jurisdiction of DBSS and is a milestone in that it marks the beginning of a new period, where communities are moving towards establishing their own institutions and sustaining themselves.

This occurrence also significantly helps the DSVPs political movement as it is an added political base from which marginalised communities can come together to work and fight for their rights. The DVSP has mastered the skill of turning a problem into an issue and ensures all the actors are actively involved in the process thus keeping the organization alive and relevant to its mission and ideology.

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<sup>24</sup> ₹.200,000

**Issue:** *Social Exclusion*

13

**DBSS:** *Kolhapur*

Yadrave, a village in the Kolhapur District of Maharashtra, India came alive on the eve of Shivjayanti, a Hindu festival, on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 with the shouts and screams of *Dalit* women, men and children. The noise of the festivities, marked by burning crackers, was used as an opportunity by the Naiks, the local elites, to enter the village and attack the homes of the *Dalit* community.

The resisting *Dalits* were stabbed with swords and beaten up with hammers and stones. Women, men and children were mercilessly assaulted; even pregnant women were not spared. The community panicked after several family members sustained serious injuries. Many were rushed to the Civil Hospital and two were admitted in a critical condition.

Yadrave consists of people from different faiths who have been living together for years. During its Princely Rule the affairs of the village were looked after by the Naik Nimbalkar family. Although Princely States officially ceased to exist since Independence the Naiks continued their autocratic rule over the villagers, as stalwarts of ruling political parties, amongst which the *Dalits* were the most oppressed.

The *Dalits* however challenged the oppressors by their unity and refused to submit to them. The increasing strength of the *Dalits* became a threat to the Naiks causing tension between the two communities. They retaliated by causing a rift between the *Dalits* and their leader, Sanjay Bhosale, who was later attacked along with his family. The intruders also stole ₹.60,000 (which Sanjay was saving to build his own house) and destroyed the entire place. The incident went unnoticed because of his estrangement from the villagers and was never reported. Before attacking the house of Mr. Sanjay Bhosale, these goons had also attacked a *Dalit* family at Khotwadi and stoned policemen who tried to intervene.

Things took an ugly turn when the Naiks lost the local elections to the *Dalits*; the Shivjayanti attack was their retaliation to this humiliation. This incident was also sanctioned by the police themselves as four policemen appointed for protection allegedly instigated the mob. The Inspector in charge, Mr. Ladge, as henchman for the Naik family simply turned a blind eye to the episode. On 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011, at around 11:00 am, DSVP activists met the injured at the Civil Hospital and held a protest march to the Zonal Office at Ichalkaranji where they submitted a memorandum of dissent.

They demanded immediate assistance to the victims, insisted that the perpetrators should be booked under regulations pertaining to the 'Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act' and invited the CID to reinvestigate the incident. The DSVP continued their agitation till the Divisional Police Officer, Dilip Kadam was summoned and immediate action was taken- nine people were arrested for the incident, cell phones confiscated (with police investigating call records) and the *Dalit* community was provided with police protection. However the person who instigated the attack was let off because of his connections with the political leaders.

The *Dalit* community of Yadrav were very upset when they learnt this and so appealed to the National Scheduled Caste Commission who followed up the case. They issued a Notice under the SC/ST Atrocities Act to the Inspector General of Police, Kolhapur Circle and forced him to take necessary action. In response to the notice issued by SC/ST Commission a thorough inquiry into the matter is in progress at the offices of the Additional Superintendent of Police, Kolhapur Circle. Since the incident the DSVP branch of Yadrav, the *Dalit* Mahasangh and the community have built up a strong resistance to prevent further attacks. DBSS Kolhapur has accompanied the DSVP in their various struggles to ensure Justice is not denied.

Such atrocities are rampant across our reference areas, during this reporting period there have been 42 cases of atrocities against *Dalits* and *Adivasis* out of which 29 cases were registered. There is a great difficulty in getting these cases registered because of the opposition from dominant communities, but SBSS is working towards combating the impunity that these people enjoy.

**Issue:** *Humanitarian aid to the flood affected*

14

**Diocese:** *Kolhapur*

The district of Sangli in Kolhapur was in serious trouble due to the incessant rain they had been experiencing during the month of September. The volume of rain was so great that the dams situated in this district overflowed and have subsequently flooded the banks of rivers around the areas of Koyana, Radhanagiri and Chandoli as well as seriously damaged the villages themselves. More than 4000 people have been evacuated from the area because the floods have completely destroyed their homes.

In areas where people are still living, the rains have completely paralysed the community as they are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. To compound this problem, most of the villagers who live in Sangli are from *Dalit* and other marginalised sections of society. Shri Patangrao Kadam, the Rehabilitation Minister of the Govt. of Maharashtra had declared ₹.5000/- as relief for flood affected families. However, because of their socially backward status many of these families received nothing.



On seeing this, Rt. Rev. Tiwade, the Bishop of Kolhapur, who is actively involved with the work of SBSS, contacted CASA to organise some relief for those in need. A flood situation report and other relevant documents were also sent along with the application for funds. CASA, Mumbai sent Mr. Anil Holkar, a Monitoring Officer to conduct a fact finding study on the effects of the flood and to compile a list of affected families. This was done with the help of the DBSS & DSVP (*Dalit Samaj Vikas Parishad*, a PO) and together they surveyed two Districts.



After survey report was complete the Zonal Officer of CASA sanctioned 500 relief kits. SBSS strongly believes that unless the immediate needs of the people are addressed they will not be able to fight for their rights. Also to refuse help to those who need it most based on ideology would be against the spirit of our mandate.

Though SBSS does not primarily engage in humanitarian work, we used our network in order to get those who stay marginalised even during natural disasters, to bring them some much needed immediate relief.

**Issue:** *Fair Wages for the Adivasis workers*

15

**DBSS:** *Phulbani*

20 *Adivasi* families get their due wages 5 months after completing their work under 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. Addressing the livelihood concern they secured jobs for 20 *Adivasi* families from 2 villages out of the 7 for land development under MGNREGS in February, 2011. The wages amounting to `190,000 /-was due to the 20 families and that was 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 4years. They have been addressing issues on Food Security and Land Rights. With a population of around 10000 people, the community mainly comprises of the *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 50-100days. 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.

**Issue:** PO ensures Old Age benefits

16

**DBSS:** Kolhapur

*Dalit Samaj Vikas Parishad* (DSVP) working with the *Dalit* communities in 2 districts of western Maharashtra. With 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 the life and property in Kerli and Sontali was badly affected. Government's response not being sufficient CNI SBSS intervened. During one of their visit on September 16<sup>th</sup> for situational analysis, they encountered Rukmini Pawar a member of the women's wing of DSVP.

Rukmini's story is unique, one of the 72 members of the women front of 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 too 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 been sanctioned for the region. Incessant rains had worsened her situation.

Witnessing Rukmini's plight, DBSS Coordinator together with the Enabler and SBSS staff considered it important to first address her immediate need for her house. They called for a meeting with DSVP members and the villagers, providing Rukmini a platform to present her case. In the absence of funds from the Government to address such needs, the DSVP members pitched



together with DBSS and funded 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.

**Issue:** *Displaced Dalits avail their rights to decent living*

17

**DBSS:** *Nasik*

Ashok Yohan Dalvi and Dattu Shantwan Sathe got their smiles back on their face when the Sarpanch of their village assured them they will finally be able to build their houses with the help of *Indira Awas Yojna* (IAY). IAY is Indian Government's flagship programme that aims at providing shelter to the people below the poverty line.

Both Ashok and Dattu are poor *Dalits* from village Kalegaon, in district Ahmednagar of the state Maharashtra. They are 2 of the 20 *Dalit* families who moved to this village after being displaced by a construction of dam in their region. Kalegaon, with a population of 1500 has most of its residents as migrant *Dalits* who work as daily wage labourers in stone quarries or farmland. They sustain their families with wages varying from ₹.70 – ₹.100 per day.

Though the village has a functional *Gram Panchayat* and *Gram Sabha* it was never inclined to address the issues of the poor *Dalits*. Not just that they didn't allow them build permanent homes and forced them to live in temporary shelters. Any attempt to build a house was met with resistance from the *Gram Sabha* and Police.

DBSS Nasik began its intervention in the region in February, 2011. Initially in seven months they helped the displaced *Dalits* and the villagers to get their BPL cards and Job cards under MGNREGA. This gave them a sense of empowerment to avail other rights and find a way out of living in temporary shelters. During one of the meetings with SBSS & DBSS staff the community was capacitated on the ways to apply for *Indira Awas Yojna*.

After the meeting 20 families including Ashok and Dattu's applied for houses under *Indira Awas Yojna*. All the documents being in place and with the informed and determined applicants the Sarpanch could do nothing but comply and accept their application. The *Gram Sevak*, who is in-charge of the implementation of IAY, assured that all 20 families affected will get permanent houses.

Though IAY is aimed to provide housing to the poorest of poor ignorance and apathy toward the *Dalit* communities has always deprived them from availing this scheme. A programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, IAY provides financial assistance to the deserving families to construct or repair their houses. An amount of ₹.45,000 for house construction in plain and ₹.48,500 on difficult terrain is given to the beneficiary. ₹.15,000 are allotted for repair and upgradation of the houses. All the houses constructed under IAY have sanitary toilet. The allotment of the houses is on the name of the female member or jointly in the name of the husband and wife.

CNI SBSS together with DBSS works toward availing this scheme to ensure a life with dignity for the marginalised.

**Issue:** *Women Empowerment*

18

**Diocese:** *Amritsar (SEDP)*

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*<sup>25</sup> 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.

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.

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<sup>25</sup> Measurement unit

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## *Glossary of Selected Terms*

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**Andolan:** Literally translated as ‘Movement,’ it is when an organized mass demand their rights through a process of regular protest and make sacrifices for common issues related to life and livelihood in order to bring about transformation.

**Abhiyan (Campaign):** A long- term program consisting of a series of interlinking events organised in self propelling manner towards a desired end. The focus is on the process of these events rather than the events themselves and is guided by the ethos and values of future change.

**Adhikar Pe Hissedari:** A process whereby people stake claims for their rights and attain a share of the entitlements due to them. This process of demand ensures that all people have an equal access to their basic social, economic and political rights. Literally ‘share of rights.’

**Alternative Political Force (APF):** An alternative political force acts as a response to the dominant development paradigm and ensures that the voices of the community are heard and their views reflected in government policy and programmes. It serves as an alternative to dominant political discourse and does not attempt to replace present systems but to refine them by calling for reforms in decision making processes.

**ACT Alliance:** is a global alliance of churches and related organizations focusing on long-term development and humanitarian assistance. The alliance has a membership of more than 100 organizations, working with about 30,000 members of staff and volunteers, in 140 countries.

**BDO:** Block Development Officer is in charge of the block. BDO monitors the implementation of all the programs related to planning and development of the blocks. To make the co-ordination in the development work and for implementation of various schemes at various blocks, there is an officer i.e. Chief Development Officer (CDO)

**BPL:** Below Poverty Line is an economic benchmark and poverty threshold used by the government of India to indicate economic disadvantage and to identify individuals and households in need of government assistance and aid. It is determined using various parameters which vary from state to state and within states. The present criteria are based on a survey conducted in 2002.

**CBO:** Community Based Organisation is a problem solving group with single stakeholder, having limited boundaries, membership and function which act as pressure group at local level and sometimes involving economic entrepreneurship.

**CBCLA:** Community Based Centre for learning and Advocacy acts as a change agent to enable children to realize their potentials and develop a just human society. It carries out through non-formal informative education and interaction process which go beyond the four walls. CBCLA is

used as a platform to built and enrich the perspective, ideology of the children for contributing in future movement building. It would also enable to develop child advocate for social concerns.

**Dharna:** Demonstrations carried out in protest of a particular event or issue, with the view to continue protest until some action has been taken to resolve the issue. It occurs by gathering at a particular site and voicing concerns by shouting slogans, waving banners etc.

**FCFC:** Forum for Collective Forms of Cooperation (FCFC) is a non- institutional and non-hierarchical collective of diverse members based forum has taken the onus on the additional areas of Cooperation and facilitation, Capacity Building, Policy and Advocacy, and Study and Research.

**Gairan land:** Grazing lands, or gairan lands, provide fodder for cattle owned by farmers in the village. In pre-colonial times, these lands were owned by kings. Later, in the colonial period, they were brought under the control of the government that now has the power to legally confer ownership of these lands. Land is crucial to agrarian communities, both as a means of livelihood and empowerment. But Dalits, who through social custom have for centuries been relegated to the periphery of society, have been denied land and forced to work as bonded labourers for landlords. Though they too are agriculturalists and have an affinity for the land, any attempt on their part to own land has been fiercely resisted

**Gram Panchayat:** Gram Panchayats are local self-governments at the village or small town level in India. As of 2002 there were about 265,000 Gram Panchayats in India. The Gram Panchayat is the foundation of the Panchayat System. A Gram Panchayat can be set up in villages with minimum population of 300. Sometimes two or more villages are clubbed together to form group-Gram Panchayat when the population of the individual villages is less than 300.

**Gram Sabha:** Gram Sabha is a meeting of all adults who live in the area covered by a Panchayat. This could be only one village or a few villages. Anyone who is 18 years old or more and who has the right to vote is a member of the Gram Sabha

In the history of Panchayati Raj in India, on 24 April 1993, the Constitutional (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj institutions. This Act was extended to Panchayats in the tribal areas of eight States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan from 24 December 1996. Now panchayati raj system exists in all the states except Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram. Also all the UTs except Delhi

It was adopted by state governments during the 1950s and 60s as laws were passed to establish *Panchayats* in various states. It also found backing in the Indian Constitution, with the 73rd amendment in 1992 to accommodate the idea. The Amendment Act of 1992 contains provision for devolution of powers and responsibilities to the *Panchayats* to both for preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and for implementation in relation to twenty-nine subjects listed in the eleventh schedule of the constitution.[2]

**ICDS:** Integrated Child Development Scheme CDS is the largest community based outreach programme for holistic early child development. It is a crucial link between disadvantaged communities both the primary health care and education systems. ICDS scheme is a pioneer scheme taking care of the welfare of the Mother and Child.

**IPAP:** International Partnership Agreement Program supported by DFIF and implemented by Christian Aid through CNI SBSS.

**Karyashala:** “*Karyashala*” or workshop as it means, is a process where capacity building goes beyond the classroom input sessions. It is a process driven training programme through which both the facilitator and the participant get into praxis. Participants interact with the communities in between their classroom sessions and link their learning with field realities and reflect it again in subsequent sessions. A strong field exposure is the core process for any *Karyashala*.

**LCP:** Local Capacity for Peace is approach integrated in the project cycle of management of programs to avoid conflict in the project reference areas.

**Land Patta:** All land in the state is classified into various categories and maintained in the survey & land records. The government and private owned lands are classified accordingly. The private /public owned land is classified as: i. agricultural patta land (wet lands) ii. agricultural patta land (dry lands) and iii. residential patta lands etc. A patta land means it is property which stands in the name of an individual

**Mahila Adhikar Manch:** It is a platform of the women, SHGs and women headed organisations advocates for the rights, entitlement and of the women.

**MDM:** The Mid-day Meal Scheme is the popular name for school meal programme in India which started in the 1960s. It involves provision of lunch free of cost to school-children on all working days. The key objectives of the programme are: protecting children from classroom hunger, increasing school enrolment and attendance, improved socialization among children belonging to all castes, addressing malnutrition, and social empowerment through provision of employment to women.

**MGNREGA:** As per the government of India, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

**Morcha:** A peaceful protest rally or campaign

**Mukhia:** Head of the village (in Hindi)

**PDS:** Public Distribution System, or PDS, means distribution of essential commodities (wheat, rice, sugar & kerosene) to a large number of people through a network of FPS on a recurring basis.

PDS evolved as a major instrument of the Government's economic policy for ensuring availability of food grains to the public at affordable prices as well as for enhancing the food security for the poor. It is an important constituent of the strategy for poverty eradication and is intended to serve as a safety net for the poor whose number is more than 330 million and are nutritionally at risk. PDS with a network of about 4.99 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPS) is perhaps the largest distribution network of its type in the world. PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments.

**PRI system:** Panchayati Raj Institution is a system of governance in which *Gram Panchayats* are the basic units of administration. It has 3 levels: village, block and district. The term '*Panchayat Raj*' is relatively new, having originated during the British administration. 'Raj' literally means governance or government. Mahatma Gandhi advocated *Panchayati Raj*, a decentralized form of Government where each village is responsible for its own affairs, as the foundation of India's political system. This term for such a vision was "*Gram Swaraj*" (Village Self-governance).

**PO:** People's Organisation is "an issue based organization of people including multiple stakeholders, beyond geographical boundaries with democratic ways to share his/ her feelings challenges the system to bring transformation through constitutional means.

**PME:** Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation desk of CNI SBSS responsible for overall planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the programs.

**Rights of Record:** A proof of land ownership (Patta) provided to land owner who received land under Forest Right Act.

**RTI:** The Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI) is an Act of the Parliament of India to provide for

**Self Help Group:** Village level Women group formed (comprising 10- 15 women) for the purpose of availing socio-economic benefits through social entrepreneurship.

**Sewak:** Helper, volunteer or worker (in Hindi)

**Tehsils:** A Tehsil or Tahsil/Tahasil, also known as Taluk (or Taluq/Taluka) and Mandal, is an administrative division. Generally, a tehsil consists of a city or town that serves as its headquarters, possibly additional towns, and a number of villages. As an entity of local, it exercises certain fiscal and administrative power over the villages and municipalities within its jurisdiction. It is the ultimate executive agency for land records and related administrative matters. Its chief official is called the tehsildar or less officially the talukdar or taluka muktiarkar.

The *Panchayats* receive funds from three sources – (i) local body grants, as recommended by the Central Finance Commission, (ii) funds for implementation of centrally-sponsored schemes, and (iii) funds released by the state governments on the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions.[2]

*Abbreviations*


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<b>APF:</b>	Alternative Political Force
<b>BPL:</b>	Below Poverty Line
<b>CBCLA:</b>	Community Based Centres for Learning and Advocacy
<b>CBO:</b>	Community Based Organisations
<b>CME:</b>	Church Mission Engagement
<b>CNI:</b>	Church of North India
<b>CRM:</b>	Cost Reimbursement Model
<b>CSO:</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DBSS:</b>	Diocesan Board of Social Services
<b>EHD:</b>	Eastern Himalaya Diocese
<b>FCFC:</b>	Forum for Collective Forms of Cooperation
<b>FCRA:</b>	Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
<b>FIR:</b>	First Information Report
<b>GB:</b>	Governing Board
<b>GDP:</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>HRD:</b>	Human Resource Development
<b>ICDS:</b>	Integrated Child Development Services
<b>INSAF:</b>	Indian National Social Action Forum
<b>JID:</b>	Jharkhand Initiative Desk
<b>JPRA:</b>	Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act
<b>LAN:</b>	Lobbying, Advocacy and Networking
<b>LCF:</b>	Low Carbon Farming
<b>MAM:</b>	Mahila Adhikar Manch
<b>MASS:</b>	Manav Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti
<b>MDM:</b>	Mid-Day Meal
<b>MGNREGA:</b>	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
<b>MIS:</b>	Management Information System
<b>MLA:</b>	Member of Legislative Assembly
<b>MNCs:</b>	Multi-National Corporations
<b>MP:</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>NEI:</b>	North East India
<b>NGO:</b>	Non-Government Organisation
<b>OBC:</b>	Other Backward Classes
<b>PDS:</b>	Public Distribution System
<b>PESA:</b>	The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act
<b>PM:</b>	People's Movement
<b>PME:</b>	Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>PO:</b>	People's Organisation
<b>PRA:</b>	Participatory Rural Appraisal
<b>PRIs:</b>	Panchayati Raj Institutions
<b>RBA:</b>	Rights Based Approach
<b>RCSA:</b>	Resource Centre for Social Action
<b>RTI:</b>	Right to Information
<b>SAP:</b>	Strategic Action Plan
<b>SBSS:</b>	Synodical Board of Social Services
<b>SEZ:</b>	Special Economic Zone
<b>SHG:</b>	Self Help Group
<b>SSS:</b>	Social Security Schemes
<b>TISS:</b>	Tata Institute of Social Sciences