



Towards
Building
Communities
of
Resistance
& Hope

CNI-SBSS

Project Reporting

Oct 2010 - March 2011

<i>Contents:</i>	<i>Pages</i>
1. General Information	3
2. Outcome And Impact	4 – 24
3. Activity Summary	24 – 30
4. Change In The Organisation	30
5. Change in development context & problem analysis	31
6. Conclusion For The Future Work	32
7. Annexure -1 Case Studies	33 – 40
8. Abbreviations	41

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
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1.13	Date of the Report	June 23 rd , 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 the People's Organizations together to form a critical mass and impact political process.

Indicator 1: More than twenty lakhs *Dalits, and Adivasis* and women) communities 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 have influenced 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...” have 6 objectives or project components. Given below are the project components with specific indicators.

1. Objective for component 1: Strengthening People's Organization.

Indicator 1: More than two thousand (2000) leaders equipped with tools of advocacy.

Indicator 2: Percentage increase in the participation of *Dalits* and *Adivasi* communities in *Gram Sabha* (Local Governance System)

Indicator 3: More than hundred (100) vigilance cells formed for monitoring and ensuring proper implementation of government schemes.

2. Objective for component 2: Enhancing the Human Capabilities and Assets

Indicator 1: More than six thousand families receive BPL cards and approximately three hundred PDS become functional in the reference areas

Indicator 2: More than 900 schools have access to MDM and 900 ICDS centres functional.

Indicator 3: Approximately forty thousand (40000) job cards received in 54 districts and about two thousand (2000) households have fifty to hundred (50-100) days of work.

Indicator 4: More than fifteen hundred (1500) applications are filed for land entitlements and more than three hundred (300) *Pattas* (land entitlements) received under FRA and other acts.

Indicator 5: Increase in number of cases filed under SC/ST Atrocities Act.

3. Objective for component 3: Church in Mission Engagement

Indicator 1: Congregation leaders identified equipped and engaged in mission engagement.

4. Objective for component 4: Gender Mainstreaming

Indicator 1: Increased participation of women in local institutions (Gram Sabhas, CBO, SHGs and POs)

Indicator 2: SHG women take ownership of PDS and MDM.

Indicator 3: Increase in number of cases filed and resolved, with relation to atrocities against women

5. Objective for component 5: Integrity of Creation

Indicator 1: Local Capacity for Peace (LCP) and Do No Harm (DNH) Approach integrated into project cycle management.

Indicator 2: Reference communities are aware of the disaster and its relation to climate change.

Indicator 3: Organic farming techniques adopted in the DBSSs.

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

Indicator 1: Programme and financial governance formalized with disaggregate MIS system

Indicator 2: Networking strengthens with larger Ecumenical Civil Society.

Indicator 3: Trained and Specialised Staff

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.

Objective for component 1: Strengthening People's Movements

CNI SBSS aims at transforming Community Based Organizations (CBOs) into People's Organizations by increasing their membership, expanding geographical boundaries, building leadership and enhancing abilities of converting problems into issues. During this reporting period, CNI SBSS has endeavoured to capacitate the leaders of CBOs and POs from marginalised communities (*Dalits* and *Adivasis*) through its partner Organizations (DBSS). The membership of most of the People's Organizations has increased due to their continuous and intensive engagement with communities in the form of meetings, village level discussions, door-to-door canvassing and solving village level issues. The participation of CBO leaders in workshops and trainings at the DBSS level has encouraged the communities to form CBOs and join the People's Organizations.

The geographical boundaries of the CBOs have expanded due to their involvement in larger issues such as land rights, water problems and social exclusion. In states like Maharashtra (DBSS Kolhapur, Marathawada and Nagpur), Punjab (SEDP Amritsar), Jharkhand (DBSS Chotanagpur), Assam (DBSS North East India) and West Bengal (DBSS Barrackpore and Kolkata) CBOs have come forward and joined the People's Organizations. The statues of the People's Organizations have been enumerated in table no-1.

Status of People's Organizations in DBSS' intervention areas as on March 2011				
Table No-1				
Name of PO	DBSS	Issues	Districts	Registered Members
Mazdoor Adhikar Sangathan (MAS)	Amritsar (Punjab)	Minimum/equal wages and <i>Dalit</i> rights	Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Taran Taran, Kullu and Kangra	23520
Manav Adhikar Raksha Samiti (MARS)	Barrackpore (West Bengal)	ICDS, MDM, TPDS and NREGA	24 Pgs(South)	1051
Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Raksha Manch(AMARM)	Chhotanagpur (Jharkhand)	Tribal Identity , Self rule	Gumla , Simdega, Khunti	123433
<i>Dalit</i> Samajik Vikas Parishad (DSVP)	Kolhapur (Maharashtra)	Land Rights and Livelihood	Sangli and Kolhapur	86120
Sangram Samity	Kolkata (West Bengal)	Water pollution and TPDS	South and North 24 Pgs.	5710
Manav Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti (MASS)	Marathwada (Maharashtra)	Land rights, Livelihood and Food Security, Gender concern, CME	Aurangabad and Jalna	4978
Manav Haq Sangharsh Samiti (MHSS)	Nagpur (Maharashtra)	Land Rights and Livelihood With cross cutting themes – women empowerment, CME, Climate change, LCP	Bhandara and Chandrapur	2567

Purbanchal Adivasi Jagriti Sangram Samittee (PAJSS)	North East India (Assam)	Women, Land, Livelihood, Local Governance	Sonitpur, Noagaon, Lakhimpur and Karbi Anglong	9239
Eight POs	Eight DBSS and six states		Twenty districts	256618

Almost all the People’s Organizations have been able to create an atmosphere for change in their reference areas. These People’s Organizations have taken into account the communities, their contexts, problems and issues for pursuing *Abhiyan (campaign)*, *Andolan (movement)* and *Adhikar me Hissedari (equality in accessing right)*. Their advocacy and lobbying endeavours with the local and regional government has influenced officials to act responsibly keeping in mind the interest and aspirations of the *Dalits*, *Adivasis* and minorities. It has resulted in developing local level policies like taking the ownership of MDM (Mid Day Meals) by SHGs and monitoring of MGNREGS and PDS by Gram (Village) Committees. These local level policy initiatives have ensured proper and effective functioning of social security schemes like MGNREGS, MDM, PDS and FRA.

Indicator 1: More than two thousand (2000) leaders equipped with tools of advocacy

During this reporting period, CNI SBSS has been able to identify 2094 leaders from among the *Dalits*, *Adivasis* and minorities. It has been developing and promoting leadership of women from the *Dalit* and *Adivasi* communities. It was reported that 338 leaders have been elected to the *Panchayati Raj* Institution out of which 164 are women.

Communities have been equipped with advocacy tools and now they are using methods like organising *Dharnas*, seeking information through RTI, filing FIRs against atrocities, submitting deputations and press notes to the concerned authorities, on various issues. Advocacy initiatives of the CNI SBSS have resulted in building up an environment in the reference area for better functioning of democracy and good governance. This has been illustrated in Table No.2.

No of Rallies held	Types of issues addressed	Deputation filed	No. of RTI filed	Press note release	Issues highlighted through Deputation/ RTI/Press Release
39	Human Rights	218	195	83	Land entitlements,

violation, Tribal identity and Traditional self governance system, Government flagship program like MGNREGS,PDS, ICDS, MDM.				Atrocities against women, Fair and equal wages, Deprivation of voting rights, Agriculture Loan, MGNREGS,PDS,MDM, IAY Crop insurance, Displacement, BPL, Drinking water and electricity
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Source: information submitted by DBSS till 31st March, 2011.

People’s Organizations have developed networks across the various sections of *Dalits, Adivasis*, minorities, the unorganised sector, Church and Congregation leaders, as well as SHGs and POs members.

Indicator 2: Percentage increase in the participation of Dalit and Adivasi communities in Gram Sabha

Gram Sabhas, which are the locus of democracy, have been functioning in the reference area. The power of *Gram Sabhas* is being effectively used by People’s Organizations (DSVP, MAS, MARS, AMARM, *Sangram Samiti*, MHSS and PNJSS) by exercising it in advocacy planning process. First advocacy issues are discussed, with active participation from the Dalit and Adivasi communities, and after approval from the *Gram Sabha*, the POs develop a strategic action¹ plan. All planning procedures developed for CBOs and POs are directed towards building an alternate political force. During the reporting period 249 Adivasis were elected in our reference area.

Leaders identified and equipped		<i>Gram Sabha</i> held in village	Participations in <i>Gram Sabha</i>	
Male	975	1065	Male	6182
Female	1119		Female	4153

Source: information submitted by DBSS till 31st March, 11.

Indicator 3: More than hundred vigilance cells formed for monitoring and ensuring proper implementation of government schemes.

CNI SBSS has 105 vigilance cells in our reference area. Along with its 22 implementing partners SBSS has also developed more than eight thousand Community Based Organizations (CBOs), functioning mostly as vigilance groups. By forming monitoring committees at *Panchayat* level, CNI SBSS has established, promoted and implemented a people-driven complaints procedure for effective and proper functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS). For example in Tilvani, a village in the state of Maharashtra, the members of the *Panchayat* monitoring committees receive messages on their mobile phones informing them of the sanctioning of rations. Table No. 4 depicts the exact number of CBOs and vigilance cells.

Community Based Organization	Membership	Vigilance cell
8487	18416	105

Objectives for component 2: Enhancing human capabilities and assets to have control over life and livelihood.

Dalit and *Adivasi* communities are among the poorest and the most deprived sections of Indian society. Despite government regulation in the form of reservations and subsidies, these communities are unable to enter the political, economic and social mainstream due to the discrimination and exclusion they suffer. They are deprived of crucial assets like land, capital etc. and access to basic social infrastructure due to the politics of non-implementation of these policies. Thus the status of the *Dalits* and *Adivasis* has not registered any notable changes.

The detrimental impact of globalisation is visible throughout rural areas where farming land has been forcefully requisitioned in the name of industrialisation with the State acting as facilitator. Most agricultural labourers from *Dalit* and *Adivasi* communities are unorganised and landless. They have no control over natural resources, and face serious crises with relation to food security and debt which makes them socially and politically dependent on the land owning community. CNI SBSS has been working to enhance their capabilities and assets in order to grant them control over life and livelihood.

Indicator 1: More than forty three thousand families receive BPL cards and approximately three hundred PDS become functional in the reference areas

SBSS has been working on food security based on three parameters: availability, accessibility and affordability. Availability and accessibility relate to the production and distribution problem and

affordability is determined by one’s capacity to buy food. In order to surmount these problems, the Government of India introduced the Public Distribution System (PDS). **CNI SBSS** has addressed issues like discrepancies in listing poor and needy families in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) list. 208 cases of non deserving households from the BPL list have been scrutinized and 43551 deserving families have been included in BPL list. PDS has been owned by SHGs in few places like Phulbani, Kolkata, and Barrackpore. Distribution of food grain under PDS has been regularized in 320 centres. Table no 5 shows the details of the PDS scheme.

Table No-5				
PDS functional	BPL household	Old-age pension	Widow pension	Handicapped pension
320	43551	11214	4648	895

Source: information submitted by DBSS till 31st March, 11.

Indicator 2: More than 900 schools have access to MDM and 900 ICDS centres functional.

Women SHGs have taken the responsibility of providing the Mid-day-meal to schools. Women are now engaged in income generating activities while carrying out their household duties. SHGs act as powerful pressure groups that solve social issues by providing the mid-day-meal, regularizing teachers in primary schools and ensuring their proper management. There have been initiatives to start income generating programs in the project area as well as to encourage active participation in Political process. Since the whole process is in a very nascent state a proper system of production, marketing and equitable distribution of profit is being evolved. Local alternative arrangements have to been made, in areas where traditional jobs keep people in chronic poverty, in order to increase income. The status of social security schemes are enumerated in table No. 6.

Table No-6				
MDM			ICDS	JSY
MDM School	Children access to MDM	SHG women cooking MDM	931	4553
936	70603	89		

Indicator 3: Approximately forty thousand (40000) job cards received in 54 districts and about two thousand households have fifty to hundred (50-100) days of work.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was a landmark in Indian history regarding social security legislation after independence. It guarantees a 100 days of

employment (manual labour) for all households in rural areas if demanded. As a development initiative, CNI SBSS has been monitoring the ongoing MGNREGS work in its reference areas. Its People’s Organizations and partners have been conducting village and *Panchayat* level workshops and awareness programmes on MGNREGS. It has facilitated the process of applying for job cards and also monitored access to jobs. The CBOs and POs have been monitoring the number of days’ work, number of households that possess job cards, facilities available in the work place, assets built in the villages and actual beneficiaries of the assets. Anomalies found have been addressed through filing the RTI applications with the concerned authorities. Table No. 7 provides details of the jobs received under the scheme.

Table 7		
Job card received (households)	Job received for 50 days	Job received between 50 to 100days
40460	18212	2390

Source: information submitted by DBSS till 31st March, 11.

Indicator 4: More than fifteen hundred (1500) applications filed for land entitlements and more than three hundred (300) Pattas (land entitlements) received under FRA and land rights acts.

In India, *Dalits* have been landless and the *Adivasi* lands have been confiscated by the dominant castes. This landlessness has led to extreme poverty, deprivation, loss of dignity and an overall identity crisis. CNI SBSS has concluded that land is the only asset that can ensure dignity, identity and recognition, and campaigns for the land rights of *Dalits*, *Adivasis* and other landless people. During this reporting period **six rallies were conducted in Maharashtra**. Two “*boom thok andolan*” (shouting to wake up the government) were held on 5th January and 9th March respectively to protest against the permission given by the government to increase the height of the *Almatti Dam*.

Another *morcha* (rally) called the ‘*Ardha Nagna Andolan*’ (semi naked campaign) was held in Kolhapur on 22nd Jan (where people removed their shirts as a symbolic gesture that faulty government policies are taking away the dignity of the *Dalits*) to bring down rising prices and stop the widening of the road from Sangli to Kolhapur. The *Kagaz Phad Andolan* (tearing of documents) was held on 21st February in front of the *zilla adbhikari* (District Magistrate) in protest of the non implementation of the government regulation passed on the Right to Land.

In Jharkhand, a mega rally was organised in the capital city, Ranchi to demand the implementation of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (CNT Act), which was attended by 2000 people who came from various districts. On this occasion, a memorandum was submitted to the honourable Governor. Some prominent demands are enumerated below.

1. *Implement the CNT and SPT Act strictly and in totality*
2. *Return the land to the Adivasis and Moolvasis (original dwellers) that has been transferred illegally*
3. *Stop misusing/attacking CNT/SPT Act in the name of development*
4. *The violators of CNT/SPT Act should be punished and brought to justice*
5. *Upscale the hearings of the pending cases related to violation of CNT/SPT Acts*

Source: Extracted from memorandum submitted to the honourable Governor on 28th Feb, 11

This rally gave an opportunity to the CNI SBSS activists and fellows to promote the cause of *Adivasis*. This mega rally was covered by most of the regional and local media (both electronic and print). Table No. 8 provides information on FRA and the number of men and women who received right of records.

Table No. 8			
Applied for Land Patta/ FRA	Land Patta/ FRA received		
	Male	Female	Joint
1528	48	11	245

Source: information submitted by DBSS till 31st March, 11.

Indicator 5: Increased number of cases filed under SC/ST Atrocities Act.

The landlessness of the *Dalits* results in acute problems with food security and debt, making them socially and politically dependent on the land owners and moneylenders. The major problem *Dalits* face today is that they do not have access to political power and are dependent on the dominant castes for fodder, fuel and toilet facilities. They are discriminated against by government officials, *Panchayat* leaders and high castes and upper classes. Many of them face discrimination while seeking information from the state departments. The condition of *Dalit* women is more precarious than others as they are abused and harassed physically and mentally in their workplace.

In this context, CNI SBSS has been working to eliminate the ongoing harassment against *Dalits* and *Adivasis*. Its work in Maharashtra, Punjab and Orissa has mobilised *Dalit* communities under the banner of various People’s Organizations. These People’s Organizations have voiced their concerns against harassment, abuse and discrimination, and demanded the restoration of their rights. In Kolhapur, Maharashtra the atrocities against *Dalits* have reduced drastically due to the presence of strong People’s Organizations like *Dalit Samajik Vikas Parishad*. In Punjab, the century-old practice of bonded labour has been banned under law because of the continuous and consistent campaign against the same by SEDP. In Orissa, *Mazdoor Adhikar Sanghathan (MAS)*, has mobilised the most deprived section of *Dalits* in Western Orissa and is continuously trying to empower them to fight for a just and equitable society. It has been conducting workshops/orientations to develop the ideological perspective of *Dalits* with regard to their rights and entitlements. Many cases of atrocities against *Dalits* have been filed and addressed. Table no 9 gives the details of these cases.

Table No-9			
Case of Atrocities Filled		Case of atrocities solved	
<i>Dalit</i>	<i>Adivasi</i>	<i>Dalit</i>	<i>Adivasi</i>
52	16	42	12

Sources: Information compiled from the data base of DBSS

Objective for components 3: Church Mission Engagement

CNI SBSS aims at involving church congregations in its development work and using the church as a platform for political activism. CME has been focusing on strengthening its different models namely: change agent, neighbourhood society and solidarity with the poor. It has also been attempting to empower the congregation and its leaders through trainings, workshops, and group discussions. It has organised perspective building training for the pastors and lay leaders. Some of the DBSS have also adopted the complete CME model. For example, DBSS Phulbani and Jabalpur’s intervention works under the CME model. It has formed lay leader groups and is continuously working with them to develop their understanding and knowledge on developing a proactive society.

Indicator 1: Congregation leaders identified, equipped and engaged in mission engagement.

In DBSS Kolkata, Presbyter and Congregation members in five congregations are enthusiastically engaged in CME activities by organizing, facilitating and participating in different activities. DBSS organized sensitization programmes for the congregation leaders in St Peter’s Church. A survey was

conducted and data generated on livelihood and food security with congregation members and community of Kestopur Emmanuel Church and *Kalagachhia Jeevan Jyoti Upasanalaya* congregational area and *Nabazari* congregation area.

In October 2010, CNI SBSS placed four BD III year students from Bishop’s College for two months in the DBSS Phulbani in order to ‘encounter ecumenism’ and build partnerships with theological institutions. As part of the process they were oriented in the CNI RCSA Odisha office and placed in Daringbadi.

In addition to this an orientation workshop for the pastors of Diocese of Kolkata has been organised from 21st to 22nd, Feb, 2011. In the workshop, clarity on the Mission, understanding of CNI SBSS and CME concept and models, and its key features were explained. In addition, they were also inducted into CREEM. Another workshop was organized for the Poor Rural Congregation pastors and leaders of Diocese of Sambalpur.

During this reporting period, the Diocese of Sambalpur and Phulbani conducted a Campaign on “Raising Hand for the Girl Child” on 10-10-10 along with the Micah Challenge Campaign as an expression of solidarity with victims of unjust systems and structures. This process was facilitated by the Orissa team as they translated documents and participated in the event in Phulbani and Sambalpur. Table no 10 gives details of issues identified and achieved under CME.

Table No:10			
No. of Congregations identified	No. of congregation members involved	Issues identified	Accomplishments of Congregation
112	27196	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dalit Christians not recognised as OBC (Other Backward Caste) • Faulty implementation of MGNREGS, PDS and <i>Indira Awas Yojna</i> • Lack of political 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining OBC certificate for Christians. • Reservation rights for the <i>Dalit</i> Christians. • 68 Cases filed against Human Rights Violations • Access of Social Security schemes. • Addressing and combating alcoholism, and the degradation

		empowerment • Alcoholism, illiteracy	of the environment
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Objective for components 4: Mainstreaming Gender

Mainstreaming Gender in programmes and policy is one of the important mandates of CNI SBSS. To this effect, it has integrated gender concerns across issues of livelihood and food security. Participation of women in project activity constitutes an important component of gender policy. Therefore, efforts have been made to ensure participation of women in the *Gram Sabhas* and People Organizations.

Indicator 1: Increased participation of women in local institutions (Gram Sabhas, CBOs, SHGs and POs)

CNI SBSS’ efforts have resulted in increased participation of women in POs, SHGs and *Gram Sansad and Sabha* where they are actively involved in decision making processes. Women have also formed and are successfully operation Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs). Some women have also been specifically trained with the capacity to combat specific social issues such as poverty, bonded and child labour. Through central and field level activities the CBOs and POs have also been sensitized to gender inequality and are encouraged promote women leadership.

Indicator 2: SHG women take ownership of PDS and MDM.

CNI SBSS has 970 Self Help Groups managed by women, with a membership of 11592 in 1827 villages. These Self Help Groups do not confine themselves to financial transactions but function as important components of village development as they play a vital role in social, economic and political development of society. As a result of which their dependency on land lords and money lenders has decreased and exploitation minimized.

In states like Punjab, Orissa, Maharashtra and West Bengal, SHG leaders are represented in various forums and committees. Self help groups are involved in the implementation and monitoring processes of Government schemes i.e., BPL/Health Survey, Cooking of Mid Day Meal, and supervision of 100 days work. In addition, Women SHGs are protesting against bonded and child labour and alcoholism. In Assam, PNJSS-an Adivasi People’s Organisation, has been fighting for the rights and entitlement of women especially for housing facilities under IAY (Indira Awas Yojna).

Indicator 3: Increased number of cases filed relating to atrocities against women

SEDP in Punjab has developed a *Mahila Shikayat Niwaran Sabha* which is an active organ of *Mahila Adhikar Sangathan*. It is responsible for all complaints related to domestic and social violence against women. *Mahila Shikayat Niwaran Sabha* has solved cases of domestic violence and saved the lives of many families. It has dealt with three cases of sexual violence in the villages of Shahpur Jajjan, Mashrala, Kotburchand and Bhura Kona successfully by registering them with the police. 115 cases of Atrocities against women have been filed. The domestic violence against women has reduced due to the advent of women SHGs in our reference area.

In Kolhapur DBSS of Maharashtra state, most of the cases of atrocities and domestic violence were brought to DSVP. SHGs controlled by women are not restricted to financial empowerment only, but have empowered the women socially, economically and politically as well.

Table No-11				
Women led SHGs	Membership	Mahila Adhikar Manch	Cases filed relating to atrocities against women	Cases solved
970	11592	72	122	63

Source: information submitted by DBSS till 31st March, 11.

Objective for components 5: Integrity of Creation

CNI SBSS has been concerned about the environment and the exploitation of natural resources by capitalists. The present model of development has displaced *Adivasis* from their ancestral land by eroding their lifestyle, culture and identity. Their dispossession has ultimately led to rampant industrialisation of forest land despite regulation and protection policies deriding these practises.

Indicator 1 & 2: Local Capacity for Peace (L.C.P) and Do No Harm Approach integrated into project cycle management. Reference community are aware of the disaster and its relation to climate change.

CNI SBSS has been working to protect the integrity of creation in relation to disasters both natural and man-made. The extensive over-use of fertilizer and pesticides has destroyed the quality of the soil by eroding fertile top soil. Natural disasters such as floods and droughts also have a serious impact on climate change. CNI SBSS has been working to create awareness about sustainable development and inform communities about the adverse effects of rampant industrialisation.

Orissa has become a hotbed of communal violence. While the government has repeatedly claimed that the Kandhmal riots were communal in nature due to the gross inequalities between the Christian *Dalits* and non-Christian *Adivasis*, it couldn't be further from the truth. It was a belligerent state sponsored hate campaign to incite the two communities against each other under the guise of 'religion'.

CNI SBSS has expressed its concern on the ongoing human rights violations and the attacks on Christian minorities in Orissa. In order to bring peace and harmony in the state, it has formed a Peace committee at state level comprising NGOs, CSOs and NGOs. The committee has ensured representation from different faith based Organizations. This committee has been meeting regularly once in three months to discuss and suggest remedial measures for proclamation of peace and protection of human rights. These initiatives have brought together the local civil society organizations and various denominations to charter a new road map for peace building in Kandhmal. In addition to this, LCP/DNH approach has been used and integrated in the project cycle management.

Training was organised on LCP from January 6-10th in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. Participants from SBSS and DBSS learnt about the concept of LCP and how to integrate it in PME. Table no-12 gives a detail of LCP training programmes.

Table Nos-12			
No. of Staff oriented on LCP		No. of community people oriented on LCP	
Male	Female	Male	Female
50	33	161	129

Source: information submitted by DBSS till 31st March, 11.

Indicator 3: Adaptation to organic farming techniques in DBSS

To combat the threat of food insecurity and prevent soil degradation, CNI SBSS has introduced organic farming techniques in places like Chotanagpur, Durgapur, Marathawada, North East India

and Phulbani. Table no. 13 gives a detail of the organic farming, seed bank, grain bank and kitchen gardening.

Table No-13				
Organic Farming practices				
Vermi-compost	seed bank	grain bank	crop diversification	kitchen garden
80	1	3	24	510

Source: information submitted by DBSS till 31st March, 11.

Objective for components 6: Learning Movement Building Movement

One of the mandates of CNI SBSS with its accompanying 22 partner organizations (DBSS), aims to ensure proper implementation of project activities with desired results. CNI SBSS is committed to discharging its duty as an accompanier and facilitator for effective implementation of programs in the state. SBSS staff have been endeavouring to provide support and technical input for the project execution through its accompaniment visits and monitoring. CNI SBSS provides suggestion and feedback for improvement. CNI SBSS has accompanied and capacitated DBSS in the formulation of strategies, policies, structures, and systems which strengthened organizational process and delivery mechanism.

CNI SBSS has been enhancing its core values and strengthening its character as an accountable, perspective based, vision-driven and impact oriented learning organisation. It is always trying to integrate the lessons learnt to larger organizational culture, thereby promoting good governance of programme and finance. During this reporting phase, CNI SBSS has tried to improve its reporting system, focusing more on impact assessment and developing an MIS with disaggregated data.

Indicator 1: Programme and financial governance formalized with disaggregate MIS system

With the beginning of this reporting phase, emphasis was given on result based outcome and output indicators. We revisited the programme design and framed qualitative and quantitative indicators. SBSS has formed a PME working group which have met twice in November and in March to discuss the problems faced in reporting, compilation of data, capturing impact. PME group developed the progress report, and reporting formats as well as compiled a data base format. The PME working group aims to capacitate the DBSS staff in the next six months on logical framework, and on impact based planning and reporting.

The **financial evaluation** started at the beginning of the reporting phase on 2nd of October 2010. A plan of action has been developed to integrate the recommendations of the finance evaluation. An internal auditor has also been appointed to help CNI SBSS to implement the plan developed out of finance evaluation. This aims to strengthen the grant management system of CNI SBSS.

To revisit the 10 years perspective plan (Resistance and Hope) and to assess the achievements and learning of CNI SBSS, a Learning Appraisal was conducted in 16 DBSS. For 4 DBSS (Kolkata, Amritsar, Sambalpur and Kolhapur) CNI SBSS went through a detailed study to document the lasting impact of the projects on the lives of the community. A compiled report of all the DBSS is already prepared and the recommendations of the report will be integrated in DBSS and SBSS plan.

Indicator 2: Networking Strengthens with larger Ecumenical Civil Society.

Being a National Level Civil Society Organization, it is important for SBSS to strengthen its networking with National, regional and international organizations for lobbying and advocacy.

As part of the Forum for Collective Form of Cooperation, CNI SBSS has been regularly participating in all the regional (West and North-East) and National Meets (Oct 19-22) of the Forum. CNI SBSS being the convener of North Zone has all the meetings conducted at the CNI SBSS office. SBSS is participating actively for the collection of data related to land, climate change for the FCFC West Zone.

CNI SBSS' presence in ACT Alliance, Monijinjur Byapari as Member of the Governing Board and Executive Committee; Joy Tudu as the Co-Convener of the Rights & Development Group; Bibhudutta Sahu as the Co-Convener of the Capacity Development Steering Initiative and Dr. Shailendra Awale as the Convener of the Membership and Nomination Committee and also a member of the Development Effectiveness Working Group.

Joy Tudu, as a part of Rights and Development group, presented an Indian case study in Geneva on "Changing Political Spaces for Civil Society Action" at the 16th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva organized by ACT Alliance. Ritu Tiru from Development Communications was invited to represent Asia partners at the ACT Alliance Communicators' Meeting in Geneva in September.

Indicator 3: Trained and Specialised Staff

CNI SBSS has been trying to integrate Local Capacity for Peace (LCP) in their programmes; it is systematically developing the LCP team to take this process forward. During this reporting period, 2 of our staff were trained in LCP at Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in November 2010.

To strengthen the finance system, SBSS is giving training to all the finance staff and by March, 2011, 3 finance staff has received degree on Diploma in Finance Management and Accountability (DFMA), conducted by FMSF with the partnership of TISS, Mumbai and four more staff members have enrolled in July.

On 1st Feb, 2 staff of SBSS attended the BftW workshop in FMSF Noida on **Impact Monitoring** and gave a presentation on the status of impact monitoring of SBSS pilot project.

Groups of SBSS and DBSS staff underwent training programmes for LCP, Gender and Application Systems from 6th-15th January in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. The main objective was to develop conceptual clarity of integrating LCP and Gender in PME. SBSS staff undertook training for the Andheri Trust in Koraput Odisha, training was imparted on Planning and Impact monitoring for CSO head of the East region of Andheri Trust.

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 embraced a Right Based Approach as a process of enabling and empowering marginalized communities for enjoying their economic, social and cultural rights (ESC) and political rights. These rights based approaches have enabled communities not only to be aware of their rights but to develop the necessary confidence to demand that their rights be upheld. In order to improve food/livelihoods security for the target beneficiaries, different intervention and activities have been adopted. CNI SBSS endeavours to enrich and enhance its development initiatives by bringing elements of development such as gender, participation, and empowerment into a coherent framework.

During the reporting period, the following enlightening observations have been made;

1. The term Political Empowerment was a dream for the *Dalits*. Consistent effort has been put in by DBSS of Kolhapur, Marathawada Nagpur to make them politically active during the project period which has resulted in large numbers of *Dalits*, including women, making inroads into the political arena. Empowerment of *Dalits* through *Panchayat Raj* system has been pursued as an important intervention under the project. Rigorous training programmes, door to door visits, mass meetings and interpersonal communication are the tools and techniques which have been used by DBSS Kolhapur, Marathawada Nagpur. The chief objective is to make more and more marginalised people aware of the functioning of the political system which will ultimately lead to social transformation in the society.

2. In Nov 2010, Jharkhand had its first PRI election after 31 years where 249 of *Adivasi* leaders were elected in our reference area with our intervention.
3. In DBSS like Kolhapur, Marathwada and Amritsar the critical mass have demonstrated their power and knowledge to influence political process. For e.g. in Kolhapur communities marched towards an assembly in Mumbai which resulted in exemption from repaying loan to *Dalit* farmers.
4. Organic farming activities are increasing in reference areas like Assam, West Bengal, Orissa and Jharkhand.
5. DBSS Kolhapur has established, promoted and implemented people-driven complaints procedures for effective and proper functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) by forming monitoring committees in the Village and *Panchayat* level. The members of the *Panchayat* level monitoring committees are receiving messages on their mobile phones about the sanctioning of ration.
6. The CME intervention in DBSS of Kolkata has reached a level where people of other faiths are asserting that the church should work not only for Christians but for all communities.
7. The participation of women in various institutions like *Gram Sabha*, beneficiaries' committees, PRI, POs, CBOs and SHGs has increased dramatically.

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

While working with Right Based Approach, CNI has experienced the following negative outcomes.

1. Since last year's Loksabha polls, the political killings across West Bengal have triggered a fear psychosis across the state ahead of next year's assembly elections in 24 Pargana (South). The political parties are supporting and aiding their groups in the villages, resulting in killing and counter killings. *Sangram Samity* has been operating in a hostile atmosphere and is trying to consolidate its position.
2. The Right Based Approach has been receiving minimal support from the Churches in the intervention areas.
3. CNI SBSS has been able to mobilise *Dalits* and *Adivasis* into a critical mass which has the potential to influence the politics. It is unfortunate that during election time, this critical mass have been used as a vote bank.
4. *Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Raksha Manch* in Jharkhand is directly confronting the state on the issue of land and self-rule. In the whole process of campaigning and lobbying for land and self-rule, many *Adivasis* have been criminalised and booked for alleged crimes.

5. As a faith based organisation working with a pluralistic society, CNI SBSS has always been looked at with apprehension and suspicion by other communities.

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 contributed to achieving the development goals.

Positive

- 1. Proper implementation of Social Security Schemes to the Dalit and Adivasi communities.**

Prior interventions by CNI SBSS have empowered the marginalised and made them realise their power to affect change. They are holding duty bearers accountable for their misdeeds, because of which officials have come to fear the power of these previously ignorant people and cannot continue their corrupt practices.

- 2. Communities claim their rights**

Communities are now effectively using Government policies like FRA, MGNREGA and the nine social security schemes to satisfy their immediate needs. Using these instruments has given them the confidence to claim their rights.

- 3. Critical Mass in the political decision making process.**

With participation in the local governance system like the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayat the marginalised have effectively formed a critical mass and have become a part of the decision making process. In Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Punjab, Orissa etc. their presence has seriously upset existing political structures in favour of those oppressed.

- 4. Strong CBOs and POs.**

The strength of the Community Based Organizations and People's Organizations has allowed them to effectively implement the strategic framework to build empowered communities which has resulted in their ability to convert problems into issues.

- 5. SHG's changing roles.**

SHGs have moved beyond their primary function and are now addressing larger issues by evolving into CBOs or being a part of POs.

- 6. Networking with other Civil Society Organizations**

In partnering with, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, National Solidarity Forum, FCFC, the CNI, CSI and Marthoma Church, Delhi Study Group, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and Act Alliance, CNI SBSS worked towards creating an ‘enabling space’ for larger civil society.

Negatives

1. Increased attacks on marginalised communities.

The empowerment of the Dalits and Adivasis has led to increased attacks on these communities because of the insecurity of the dominating classes. Their newfound power has become a threat to the longstanding monopoly of the powerful classes.

2. Criminalisation of development processes.

Development workers and activists are increasingly charged with criminal offences to restrict their work. This is part of a larger issue where any form of protest or fight for indigenous rights are being termed criminal in order to serve the vested interests of those in power. There have been incidents where CNI SBSS staff have been illegally detained in order to restrict them from carrying out their duties.

3. Hi-jack of civil society by right-wing fundamentalists.

The right wing fundamentalists are subtly encroaching on civil society at large and adversely affecting the functioning of faith-based or minority organisations.

4. Shrinking space for CSOs.

The government is curbing the power civil society organisations by creating legislation that is extremely convoluted and restrictive. In order to be sanctioned, CSOs also have to get approval for their funding, register themselves, etc. which is becoming a serious obstacle in their work.

5. Aggression of right wing against minorities.

Right wing fundamentalists are threatened by the growing strength of the Dalits and other minority groups and attempt to destroy their political influence by inciting religious sentiments. For e.g. the situation in Kandhamal, Orissa

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

CNI SBSS has undertaken an internal-learning-appraisal process for assessing outcome and impacts of the project, along with the following:

- **Review and analysis of:**

Monthly Progress Reports of 18 DBSS

6-monthly Narrative Report

Accompaniment Reports

Monitoring Reports

- **Learning Appraisal in 16 DBSS**

Appraisal was undertaken to assess the progress of project and share constructive feedback with all concerned. The team was also assigned to look into the program interventions along with financial governance of the DBSS. The progress was assessed on the basis of

- Discussions with Board members, board and staff members.
- Meetings with beneficiaries and members of POs.
- Field visits to project areas
- Personal interviews with the beneficiaries.
- Study of available documents- proposal and reports etc.

- **Review of the Database Management Information System of CNI SBSS and DBSS**

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.

Component	Planned Activity	Implemented Activities	DBSS
Component One : Focus on Strengthening the Institutions (CBOS and POs) Leadership, Gram Sabha and Networks			
Objective 1: Strengthening POs.	Formation of new CBOs and Strengthening the Old CBOs and POs	Capacity building of the CBOs. Training for the Proper functioning of the PO. CBO review meeting and PO review Meeting <i>Parha Mela</i> , formation of RTI Cell	Chotanagpur, Barrackpore, Kolkata, Sambalpur, Kolhapur, Marathwada, Nagpur Rajasthan , Lucknow , Amritsar,

			Durgapur
	Leadership Development	Identification and Capacity building of Leaders Formation of Forum of CBO leaders and elected <i>Panches</i> and <i>Sarpanches</i> .	Sambalpur , Nagpur, Delhi Rajasthan , Nasik ,Cuttack
	Strengthening the <i>Gram Sabha</i>	Conducting Mock <i>Gram Sabha</i> . Ensuring <i>Gram Sabha</i> by elected <i>Panch</i> and <i>Sarpanch</i> .	Barrackpore, Kolkata , Sambalpur, Delhi , Lucknow
	Networking	Networking with government machineries at the <i>Panchayat</i> and block level. Forming NGO forum. Newsletters for PO. Network meeting with Advocacy cell.	Chotanagpur, Kolkata, Barrackpore , Delhi, Amritsar
	CBCLA	CBCLA Committee meeting Perspective Vision Building on contemporary issues for CBCLA Students, Facilitators, Guardians and VEC Celebration of Children's	Chotanagpur, Kolhapur, Durgapur

		day	
Component two: Focus on Issues on Food, Livelihood, Social Exclusion and Water			
Objective 2: Ensuring life and livelihood	Right to Food	Primary and secondary data collection on Social Security Schemes, Submission of Application for the Old, Widow and handicapped pension. Handout and leaflet distribution on SSS, Submission of RTI on SSS, Rally on PDS, Lobbying on the issue of BPL, PDS and other SSS <i>(Jan Yatra)</i>	Lucknow Rajasthan, Kolhapur, Amritsar, Barrackpore
	Right to livelihood	Data collection on MGNREGS. Campaign on MGNREGS. Village awareness on MGNREGS. Filing RTI on MGNREGS, <i>Mela</i> on MGNREGS. State level Rally in Punjab on MGNREGS.	Phulbani Nasik, Rajasthan Lucknow, Nagpur, Chotanagpur, Amritsar
		Training on Brick making. Workshop on cooperatives. Local seed awareness seminar.	Marathwada, Chotanagpur , Barrackpore

		Training on pisci culture.	
	Right to Land	Data collection on Land Awareness workshop on <i>jungle jamin prapti (Forest and Land Rights)</i> Petition filing for land. Village level Meeting on Land Rights. Capacity Building of <i>Dalit</i> Leaders on revenue Law, <i>Basundhara Yojana</i> and Forest Act / Law. Rally on Land Rights	Phulbani , Nagpur , Sambalpur, Kolhapur
	Identity of <i>Dalits</i> and <i>Adivasis</i>	Perspective development for <i>Dalits</i> . Protest rally at Wagha Border, Punjab for the rights of the minority community. Study on discrimination of <i>Dalits</i> in availing MDM and in other government facilities. Workshop on Minority rights. <i>Adivasi Mela</i> .	Kolhapur, Amritsar, Sambalpur, Cuttack, Durgapur
	Water rights	Rally on water, Soil water testing and Public hearing for water pollution.	Kolhapur, Kolkata

Component three: focus is on Congregation in Mission engagement

<p>Objective No 3: Church in Mission engagement</p>	<p>Identifying issues and leaders</p>	<p>Perspective building for the clergy on CME. Orientation of Board members on CME. Orientation and refresher for Identified leaders.</p>	<p>Kolkata , Phulbani , Durgapur, Barrackpore</p>
	<p>Equipping and supporting</p>	<p>Awareness of the congregation on issues through street plays, dance and song in public places, Capacity building of Youth and WFCS on CME. Meeting against <i>Dalit</i> Atrocities. Workshop on minority rights. Exposure Visit to Marathwada from Nagpur W/s on gender sensitization. Capacity Building on Tools and Process of applying and availing benefits of SSS and MGNREGS.</p>	<p>Barrackpore Amritsar , Chotanagpur , Nasik Sambalpur Nagpur Phulbani Rajasthan and Lucknow</p>
<p>Component four: Focus on Mainstreaming Gender in Programme and Policy</p>			
<p>Objective No 4 : Gender Mainstreaming</p>	<p>Promote women’s leadership and rights of women.</p>	<p>Documenting cases on atrocities against women Celebration of International women’s day in 6 DBSS</p>	<p>Barrackpore, Sambalpur , Lucknow, Durgapur</p>

		<p>Links with women commission and human rights commission.</p> <p>Capacity building on Legal rights</p> <p>Promotion of women through <i>Parba Sabha</i> (traditional tribal local governance system)</p> <p><i>Karayashala (workshop)</i> on atrocities against women.</p> <p>Effective involvement of women in <i>Gram Sabha Panchayati Raj</i> training for women</p>	<p>Kolkata</p> <p>Amritsar</p> <p>Chotanagpur</p> <p>Marathwada</p> <p>Nagpur</p> <p>Nasik</p>
	Training for economic empowerment	<p>SHG training.</p> <p>Entrepreneurship training for women.</p>	<p>Barrackpore</p> <p>Amritsar</p>
Component five; focus on Climate change and conflict resolution			
Objective No 5: Integrity of Creation	Disaster Mitigation	Rally on strengthening the river bank in <i>Sundarban</i> Area.	Barrackpore
Component six: Focus on Partnership relation , programme and finance governance			
Objective no 6: Learning Movement	Meeting for the DBSS board and SBSS board	Board meeting Interface of the SBSS Board with Staff	All DBSS (except Lucknow)
	Meeting of the DBSS staff	Staff Meeting	All DBSS

	Exposure and training	Staff exposure in Rajasthan DBSS on RTI In house Gender Training	Selected DBSS staff
	Review and Appraisal	Learning Appraisal	In 14 DBSS
		Planning meeting	All DBSS
		Staff Appraisal	Kolkata Rajasthan
	Audit	6 monthly Audit	All DBSS

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: Yes

PME Working Group was formed that reviewed the PME process, Reporting and Communications. A Gender Working Group is also re-established for finalisation of the Gender Policy. Policy and Campaign are bifurcated and Policy is combined with the Research of the Development Communications and Research Desk to form the Policy and Research Desk. JID has been integrated with the Diocesan intervention.

4.2. Related to planning system: Yes

There is an increased emphasis on Micro planning for which CNI SBSS had a people centred participatory six months planning process with all the DBSS together. It was also an opportunity for appraisal and cross learning across the dioceses. Activity plan with cash flow and program design was prepared.

4.3. Related to Staff Composition: Yes

One programme staff left and another was recruited to take care of the policy and research work of CNI SBSS.

4.4. Related to other issues: No

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?

Yes. Though there has been no significant change in the national political environment, at the grass root level Dalits and Adivasis are becoming a part of the decision making process by participating and being elected in the PRI. The presence of the left wing extremists in the tribal areas is affecting the life and livelihood of the indigenous who are caught in the cross fire between the armed forces and the extremists.

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

Yes. There exists an increased tolerance toward the Dalits and Adivasis, who are breaking their culture of silence and moving toward living a life of dignity. But there has also been an increase in the number of attacks on religious minorities by the Right wing fundamentalists

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

Yes. The monsoon pattern is changing and affecting the reference communities and the need for humanitarian aid is increasing because of flash floods and erratic monsoons. There is an increasing interest in forests and mineral rich tribal lands for industrial purposes.

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

No

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

No

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

No

5.7.Is the underlying analysis of the project still valid?

Yes.

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

No

6.2.If necessary please update the program planning

NA

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

We would require accompaniment services for the Systems Review.

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

- Requirement for Management Information System with disaggregated data
- Need for impact indicators to monitor progress
- Need for congruent reporting techniques to be adopted at the DBSS, RCSA and SBSS level.
- Gender integration in programme and policy (participation of women)
- 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.

ANNEXURE -1 Case Studies

Karande, the winner against all odds

Residents of Maadi village in Maharashtra feel more in control of their Rights after 345 women and men were able to obtain jobs under MREGS(Employment Guarantee Scheme by the Maharashtra State) despite corruption and resistance from certain *Gram Sabha* officials. They have renewed confidence to assert and obtain their other rights. This was possible only due to the persistent effort and determination of Shridhar Karande the *rojgar sevak* appointed by the *Gram Sabha*.

He was elected to the *Gram Sabha* in June, 2010 along with Parvatabai Mhaske and Sachin Khobragade of the *Manavi Haqqe Sangharsh Samiti*²(MHSS). Their position as opposition enabled them to be vigilant of the proceedings of the *Gram Sabha* especially in favour of the village with a population of 1204.

Shridhar Karande as *rozgaar-sevak* oversees the work assured under Employment Guarantee Scheme by the Maharashtra State (MREGS). In January 2011, he took an initiative with MHSS and motivated the Maadgi residents to apply for the work under MREGS. Over 144 families filled in the form.no.4 demanding the job. However Mr Paarve, a local *Gram Sevak* wasn't happy to sanction this work. He had vested interest to swindle the funds that were



meant for village development. He was also not interested in granting the honorarium of Rs 2250 (for every one lakh rupees) due to Shridhar Karande as the *rozgaar-sevak*. Paarve with some members from the *Panchayat* schemed to sideline Karande and avoid implementation of the MGNREGS programme. To discourage people from availing the work, they planned a road construction work 3-4 kms. away from their village Maadgi, at Tekepaar.

Despite all odds and resistance Shridhar Karande persuaded and convinced the villagers to join this work. The corrupt *gram sevaks* were caught unaware when over 345 individuals reported to the site and started working. Infuriated, they informed Karande that he was suspended as the *rozgaar-sevak*.

Karande approached MHSS leaders who studied the case and filed a case under Right to Information (RTI) Act seeking MREGS work details at Maadgi/ Tekepaar. The response confirmed

² MHSS is a People's Organization in the Diocese of Nagpur, for membership and issues refer to Table No. 1.

that Karande was still enlisted as *rozgaar-sevak*. Only the *Gram Sabha* had the authority to appoint or terminate him.

The *Gram Sevak* and others felt cornered as they had denied work to Karande. This would entitle him for a non-employment allowance till he gets another work under MREGS. Karande would also receive his percentage as a *rozgaar-sevak* for being involved in the process right from filling up the job-demanding forms to ensuring their jobs.

345 residents of Maadgi village worked for 15 days at Tekepaar constructing the road. Per day they received wages between Rs 135 to Rs 150. Acknowledging the efforts taken by one of their brethren, they have warned the *Gram Sevak* and other to compensate Karande or face dire consequences. DBSS and MHSS team has approached the Block Development Officer (BDO) requesting him to take immediate action. BDO assured to do the needful at the earliest.

“Rather than my percentage/ monetary benefit, the success of this united struggle against corruption would make me more content” expressed Karande. He is proud of his association with the MHSS and encourages others to join in as a critical mass that is capable of bringing in a positive change in a society where peace, justice and equality dwells.

MASS ensures justice for Tarabai

In the month of April 2010, Tarabai, an *Adivasi* woman from village Sahastramuli, was beaten up and threatened in broad day light at the market place. She was carrying her produce of Cotton, a cash crop, to the market when a family from the dominating caste apprehended her. They accused her of stealing the cotton which she grew on her *Gairan* land.

The 25 families of *Adivasis* and two families of Matang community have owned the *Gairan* land since 1990 in village Sahastramuli which is surrounded by hills. The water accumulated in the valley during rains makes the soil very fertile. The land is ideal for cultivation of cotton which brought prosperity to these communities. Their prosperity made the Banjara-Pardesi, the dominating class jealous of them and they started harassing these poor *Adivasis*. The village is under influence of Hindu fundamental Political Parties like *Shiv Sena* and BJP whose support is extended to the dominating caste. Their alliance has control over the *Gram Panchayat* also making survival difficult for the *Dalits* and the *Adivasis*.

On the fateful day Tarabai was apprehended by a member of the same Banjara Pardesi group. She escaped and rushed to Jairam Gaikwad an activist from *Manav Adhikar Sangharsh Samity* (MASS). Jairam Gaikwad intervened and settled the matter with the help of the village head, *Sarpanch*. Three months later the same group attacked Tarabai and her husband Nivrutti. She approached MASS leader again. This time the matter was taken to the Bidkin Police Station and a case was filed. The Inspector assured the victims that they would be given justice. The attackers were arrested and they apologized to Tarabai and her husband and promised to pay them a compensation of Rs.13000/- . They also promised they will never repeat the shameful act again.

There are thousands of such caste based atrocities occurring in India on a daily basis but justice is denied because of ignorance and unawareness. Despite several laws to protect the rights of *Dalits* and *Adivasis*, the Government fails to give full protection to the marginal communities. Tarabai's perpetrators were brought to books only due of the initiatives taken by the DBSS in building awareness among the people especially the members of MASS. This intervention has created a sense of security among the *Adivasis* and the *Dalits* in the village. They are no more victims of the dominating caste.

DBSS NASIK's efforts enable *Dalits* live life with dignity

Shendi and Pokhardi, located at a distance of about 10 kms from Ahmednagar, are two small villages separated by a river – Sina. Both these villages have separate *Gram Panchayats* and have population of 3-4 thousand each comprising of *Maratha* as dominating caste and the *Dalits*. Since a couple of years, Nasik DBSS has been working with the poor and needy communities residing in these villages. During the Hindu month of *Shravan* a festival called *Gourai* unites the people from both the villages as they engage in games and festivities. This festival is eagerly awaited by the villagers as it connects both the communities.

While working with the communities, DBSS team saw the pathetic condition of the *Dalit* colonies in these villages. One such colony situated near the banks of Sina River had streams of gutter flowing through it. The waste water of the entire village was simply channelized through the *Dalit* colony without proper drainage into the river. The houses seemed to be situated amidst a network of open sewers. These channels were everywhere- in front of doors and behind houses. People were forced to overlook the filth and foul smell emanating from it as they crossed the village. Children too played around in the same sewage water. It affected the health of the people living there and the

environment too. The river had become a dumping ground. When it rained heavily, the water-level in the river often flooded the *Dalit* colonies, especially in Shendi, with garbage and filth.

DBSS made the communities from Shendi and Pokhardi aware of this situation. The dominating classes were neither affected nor concerned by the issue and thus the DBSS staff built awareness among the *Dalit* communities themselves. They explained to them that no matter what caste or class they belong to, they had a right to a decent and hygienic living. In this process of community organization, members of SHGs and Youth Groups took the responsibility of pursuing this issue in their respective villages.

In Shendi village, the youth and women took the initiative by cleaning the area and re-routing the gutters. It took them about a week to complete the task. Initially they faced opposition from the dominating classes but not only did they convince them but also persuaded them to shift the garbage far from the colony.

To prevent the river water from flooding into Shendi, the *Dalits* of Shendi repeatedly asked their *Panchayat* to build a wall for protection but it was all in vain. So the villagers hired an excavator truck and dug the river deeper to enable the flow of excess water during rains.

There are 4 SHGs and 2 Youth Groups involved in the process and they are inviting others from their communities to join in this venture. DBSS Nasik is now working over uniting these communities to wage a struggle against irregularities in the system and injustice addressing irregularities in PDS, MGNREGS and SSS.

Ghuron, an *Adivasi*, reclaims his land

Adivasis being deprived of their land either forcefully, illegally or through deceit means is a common story but having the courage to stand up and seek help to demand it back is worth taking notice of.

59 year old Ghuron Tiru belongs to the Munda tribe and has a family of 9 to feed. He owned 6 *Bighas* (1 *Bigha* = 14,400 sq. ft.) of land at Koilabhatta village nearby Malijan Tea garden. Agriculture was his mainstay. His primitive methods of farming didn't yield much. The produce from agriculture was not sufficient to support his family and he was forced to work in the tea gardens. The wages from the tea gardens were not sufficient to buy food and he struggled to keep his family from starving. After he retired from services, he had no savings to sustain his family. His only asset was the 6 *Bighas* of land and he decided to sell off part of his land to stabilize his family's economic condition.

Ghuron sold 4 *bighas* of land to Prem Lal Singh, an affluent businessman resident of Kolilabhata from Bihar for a measly Rs. 17,000. He was left with 2 bighas of land and being unable to cultivate that land fruitfully he decided to reach an agreement with Prem Lal Singh to cultivate the land for him on contract. By the unwritten agreement Ghuron was to receive 5 *moon* (about 400 kgs) paddy yearly per Bigha of land. The agreement with Ghuron was adhered to for 2 years and then Prem Lal Singh discontinued giving paddy to Ghuron. Repeated pleas of Ghuron fell on Prem Lal's deaf ears and he refused to pay heed. Prem was very influential and was feared by the villagers. He also usurped the 2 Bighas belonging to Ghuron and obtained documents for the same.

Ghuron's struggle began in 2008 when he approached MAGUP and PAJSS who found that Ghuron's land was also registered on Prem's name. MAGUP intervened and took up Ghuron's case. Since Prem had all the legal documents in place, they failed to find any solution initially, but continued to pursue the case through finding witnesses.

With 3 eye-witness evidence they called a public meeting where it was testified that Ghuron had only sold 4 Bighas to Prem Singh. The truth enraged the public and they demanded Prem Lal Singh to be brought to task. It was decided that Prem Lal Singh should return 1 bigha land to Ghuron Tiru and must build one house with three rooms measuring 12ft x12ft. The house must be tin roofed with high quality of tin. Ghuron should be paid cash compensation of Rs. 3000/-. Prem Lal Singh must own up to the fact of forcefully transferring land and he should not disturb Ghuron Tiru anymore. He was given 6 months to do this otherwise he would face legal implications.

The six months period ended on the 24th of February, 2011 and MAGUP took stock of the progress. Prem Lal Singh has paid the Rs, 3000/- compensation, build the 3 roomed house and returned 1 *Bigha* of land. Only the transfer of the land deed has to come through.

Other people with similar grievances against the powerful have gained confidence that justice cannot be denied forever. They can approach organizations like MAGUP and PAJSS. MAGUP was able to involve all villagers in deciding the verdict against Prem Lal Singh and they have successfully initiated an out of court settlement. People like Prem Lal Singh would think twice before attempting to cheat any other gullible *Adivasi*.

People's strength brings change

On 30th August, 2010 on the occasion of world food security day, a rally on PDS was organized at Beonta II *Panchayat* under the leadership of Sangram Samity members of Thakdari and Hatgacha cluster area. About 350 villagers joined the rally and submitted deputation to the *Panchayat* highlighting mismanagement and misappropriation in PDS. After 5 months of the submission of the deputation, there was no response from the *Panchayat* or local administration. The Sangram Samity members then decided to arrange an interface meet with the ration dealers. Local people also joined this movement. They collected information regarding the mismanagement and misconduct of the dealers. Panchayat Pradhan of Beonta II also helped the Sangram Samity members to organize this meet.

Another meeting was organized at Kanthalberia in Beonta II Panchayet Bhaban on 25th February, 2011. The *Panchayat* Pradhan ‘Personal Secretary Md. Julfikar Molla, DBSS staff Banosree Malaker, Coordinator Rina Sircar, Issue Facilitator Dilip Singh facilitated the whole process. Letters Distributed to all the ration and kerosene dealers, Panchayat members and Panchayat Samity Members and officers of Block Bhangar II.

On the scheduled day (25/04/2011) 101 Sangram Samity members and SHG member (65 F and 36 M) from 7 nearby villages namely Dharmatala, Panchuria, Kulberia, Kanthalberia, Hatishala, Paikan, and Wari attended the meet. In the meeting, they interacted with the dealers and raised voice against the misbehaviour and misconduct of the dealers. It was also shared in the meeting that the rations shops are not opened regularly but for only one and half days and that kerosene is being black-marketed.

They demanded that the shop should be opened for 5 days as per Supreme Court’s order. They also asked for receipt of purchasing goods. But the ration dealers replied that as they have no extra staff and the customers are many it is not possible for them to issue receipts and weigh goods at the same time. But they assured that the customer should be dealt with very sensitively. Ms Sharmila Baidya, one of the *Sangram Samity* leaders of Kulberia village under Thakdari cluster explained that ration dealers are not informing the customers when the goods are to be distributed and thus many fail to collect ration or kerosene. Ashima Mondal complained that in other areas dealers are opening shops four days. She also demanded that if any one fails to collect the ration on that day the next day her ration should be given. This meeting resulted in hanging of the list of the stock of food grains and price list outside the ration shops for transparency.

Mass Movement by *Adivasis* and *Dalits* resulted in Road Construction under MGNREGS

In Malda district, Diocesan Board of Social Service of Durgapur is working in 14 villages under Jatradanga *Panchayat* in Old Malda block with *Dalit* and *Adivasi* communities for the development of the villages.

The main source of livelihood of these *Adivasis* and *Dalit* communities come from agriculture and daily labour work. Agriculture work in this area is done once a year as there are no irrigation facilities, roads and electricity facilities. There are some ponds in the area which cannot hold rain water and the *Panchayat* is not taking any initiative to do work or give 100 days' work. They are unaware of many Government schemes. Many poor families earn their livelihood by doing daily labour works. *Adivasi* and *Dalits* communities were given awareness about Government schemes by DBSS Durgapur. To avail these schemes many Self Help Group, Village Development Committee, *Mahila Samittee* and Kochpara Area Development Association for Modernization groups were formed.

These groups were capacitated on NREGS from time to time. The newly formed groups are organized under the leadership of Mr. Paika Baskey, Mr. Babulal Mardi, Mr. Naik Hansda, Mrs. Menoka Murmu and Mrs. Sandhya Murmu, the CBO leaders. A group of 150 villagers submitted a mass petition to *Panchayat* Pradhan, Block Divisional Officer and District Magistrate in Malda demanding new roads, pond, irrigation facility and electricity. After a few days, 03 officers from district MNREGS office visited Kochpara area for site inspection. on 25th January, 2011 work started of Kuchha (gravel) road construction which was discontinued after two and a half kilometres.

Mr. Paika Baskey and Mrs. Thakran Murmu again submitted a mass signature petition to Block Divisional Officer demanding for restart of road construction and pond digging. On receiving the mass petition, the Block Development Officer enquired of the Block NREGS officers why the petitions for road construction were repeatedly coming from the same place and the work there had stopped. He instructed them to resume the work immediately. He also met the local *Panchayat* Pradhan and asked him to arrange labour for the job. Hence, 250 job card holders got jobs for 50 days. The construction of the gravel road has enhanced the connectivity between the village and the town. It has benefited everyone in the village, especially the farmers, students and patients in need of immediate treatment.

Water crisis for *Dalit* ends with Church intervention

Church gets involved with DBSS to solve the water crisis of the Dalits in Kolhapur

The *Dalit* community of Majle, Taluka Hatkangale in Kolhapur District finally gets respite from the daily struggle for water. This village is situated in a hilly region with the *Dalit* houses concentrated on the hills, making water scarce. On an average, 1 man and a woman per family are constantly engaged in fetching the water from far off through great physical labour.

Recognising the need to resolve the issue, a committee was formed by DSVP and agitation was launched to press their demand for water to the Government authorities. The population of the village comprises of 59% *Dalits*. In a bid to appease the *Dalit* community the Government authorities promised to provide the much needed water connection by laying pipelines under the *Dalit* Improvement Scheme. The government laid the pipelines but the water could only reach the valley which is populated by the dominating caste and could not be carried over to the hill.

Seeing the plight of the *Dalits* on the hills, the Church took the initiative. The Bishop of Kolhapur together with the DBSS approached CBN International requesting them to drill bore wells in the *Dalit* village. CBN is a faith based humanitarian organization that drills bore wells in water scarce areas of India. They accepted the request and sanctioned the drilling of bore-wells in the region. The people of Majale were extremely happy to know the prospects of drilling the water in their village. But they were equally pessimistic about the feasibility of water here in their village.

The work was successfully completed and the prayers of the villagers and the Church were answered. The people of the village were overwhelmed with joy and gratitude. „With our women, we fetched water through great hardships all our lives but now our troubles are a thing of the past“, uttered the villagers with pride and joy. They have also gathered money to erect a platform for the bore wells. The Gram *Panchayat* at Majale would be fitting an electric motor and a water storage tank to maintain continuous water. The Gram *Panchayat* of Majale village expressed their gratitude to the CBN, Hyderabad, DBSS, Kolhapur and DSVP for their efforts.

The DSVP's work inspired the Women's Front to become operational in the village who were granted Rs. 12,000/- by the Women's Economic Development Corporation. The development schemes that have been implemented led to strengthening of organizational unity in this village. The DSVP is committed to carry out all other pending public utility issues with an added strength in the days ahead for the betterment of the villagers by and large.

Abbreviations

ACT A:	Action by Churches Together Alliance
AMARM:	Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Raksha Manch
BPL:	Below Poverty Line
CBOs:	Community Based Organizations
CBCLA:	Community Based Centres for Learning and Advocacy.
CNI-SBSS:	Church of North India- Synodical Board of Social Service
CNT Act:	Chotanagpur Tenancy Act
CME:	Church Mission Engagement
CREEM:	Congregational Renewal for Effective Engagement in Mission
CSO:	Civil Society Organisations
DBSS:	Diocesan Board of Social Service
DNH:	Do No Harm
DSVP:	Dalit Samajik Vikas Parishad
FCFC:	Forum of Collective forms of Cooperation
FIR:	First Information Report
FMSF:	Financial Management Service Foundation
FRA:	Forest Rights Act
GR:	Government Resolution
IAY:	Indira Awas Yojana
ICDS:	Integrated Child Development Centre
LCP:	Local Capacities for Peace
MAGUP:	Mansiri Anchalik Gaon Unnayan Parishad
MAS:	Mazdoor Adhikar Sangathan
MASS:	Manav Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti
MARS:	Manav Adhikar Raksha Samiti
MDM:	Mid Day Meal
MGNREGS:	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural; Employment Guarantee Act
MHSS:	Manav Haque Sangharsh Samiti
MIS:	Management Information Systems
OBC:	Other backward Caste
PAJSS:	Purbanchal Adivasi Jagriti Sangram Samittee
PESA:	The Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas
PDS:	Public Distribution System
PME:	Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
PO's:	People's Organizations
RoR:	Rights of Record
PRI:	Panchayati Raj Institutions
RTI:	Right to Information
SEDP:	Socio Economic Development Programme
SC:	Scheduled Caste
SHG:	Self Help Groups
SPT Act:	Santal Pargana Tenancy Act
SSS:	Social Security Schemes
ST:	Scheduled Tribe
TISS:	Tata Institute of Social Sciences
TPDS:	Targeted Public Distribution System
VEC:	Village Education Committee
WFCS:	Women Fellowship for Christian Services