



Towards
Building
Communities
of
Resistance
& Hope

CNI-SBSS

Project Reporting

October 2011 – March 2012

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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
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1.12	Reporting Period	Oct 2011 to March 2012
1.13	Date of the Report	30 th June, 2012
1.14	Author of the Report	Dr. Shailendra Awale

2. Outcome and Impact

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

Project Objective:

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.

Indicator 1: Programme (Planning, Impact monitoring, Database, and reporting) and Finance system (compliances, reporting and control) is strengthened by March 2012

Indicator 2: Strengthened structure, delivery mechanisms and organizational process of DBSS, CBOs and POs in the areas of learning, advocacy and networking.

Indicator 3: Capacity of socially excluded communities is strengthened to advocate and claim their rights with the support of the DBSS and POs.

The reporting period was an essentially an extension of phase initiated in April 2011 to review all thematic interventions and integrate learning in the larger organisational culture for improving systems. (PME, Financial Management, Reporting).

During this phase of strengthening systems and developing Impact Oriented Organisational Processes, there were reviews of existing systems PME, Reporting & Communications and Finance Management by KP Rajendran and Rozmin Ajani respectively. In addition there was assessment of programs by Sathysree Gosvami documenting impact of intervention of community program and recommending the required changes. Development of new tools and strengthening of delivery mechanisms were essentially took place with intense involvement of DBSS and PO ensuring its relevance and wider ownership. This contributed to enhanced capacity of reference community to claim their rights and entitlements.

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

- 1. Objective for component 1: Organisational capacity is strengthened with adequate systems for programme and finance governance in place by March 2012. (Learning movement Building movement)**

Indicator 1: Database system maintained with disaggregated data in 20 DBSS.

Indicator 2: Programme and finance progress report are submitted in time with proper analysis in due formats.

Indicator 3: Manual and policies on Program and Finance Governance are developed and standardised.

- 2. Objective for component 2: Internal governance system of the implementing partners (22 DBSS, and 8 POs) strengthened for advocacy by March, 2012.**

Indicator 1: Regular submission of reports, case studies from 22 DBSS and 8 POs to SBSS.

Indicator 2: Five DBSS are registered under the society registration act.

Indicator 3: Charter of demands and action plan developed for 8 POs.

Indicator 4: Six CBCLA monitoring cells for ICDS, MDM.

- 3. Objective 3: Socially excluded communities (*Dalits, Adivasis* and religious minorities) continued the struggle for their rights to land, livelihood and food security in 22 DBSS with the support of local POs in keeping with the newly evolved PME systems and structure.**

Indicator 1: Socially excluded communities have taken initiatives on community entrepreneurship.

Indicator 2: Cases of atrocities against minorities documented and highlighted in print media.

Indicator 3: 100 Household have access to land.

Indicator 4: Gender integrated plan available.

Indicator 5: Climate change integrated into 6 DBSS.

Indicator 6: CME integrated into 17 DBSS.

- 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 1: Organizational capacity is strengthened with adequate systems for programme and finance governance in place by March 2012. (Learning movement Building movement)

The main focus of this objective was to strengthen CNI SBSS with adequate systems for programme and finance governance. Emphasis was given on managing change in order to become an effective accompanier in development work. Organizational Capacity Assessment was undertaken to assess the organizational capacity, the PME & Reporting system was reviewed to identify gaps and develop an action plan to address them. Baseline and Finance manuals relating to programs have been developed during this period to strengthen the organisation. SBSS and its implementing partners are continuing to build, manage and maintain an effective database. SBSS also gave more emphasis to assessing results and capturing impacts.

Indicator 1: Database system maintained with disaggregated data in 20 DBSS.

The database management systems of CNI SBSS have been reviewed and upgraded taking into account the real situation of the reference areas. This information/data now form the foundation of all the projects and plans of SBSS. PME is now equipped to design and manage databases and effectively uses these systems for effective data management.

During the reporting period at SBSS, a draft baseline manual was prepared; this manual was circulated to all SBSS staff for comments and feedback. During the preparation for this manual the DBSS shared their inputs with the SBSS and the draft was developed with their suggestions incorporated. In December 2011, a presentation on the baseline manual was made to all the coordinators of the DBSS and SBSS programme staff at Delhi. All implementing partners were asked to collect and upgrade relevant information related to village profile, status of social security schemes (MGNREGA, ICDS, MDM), Land and Forest rights and database of atrocities against the marginalised. Out of the 20 DBSS, 16 DBSS (Phulbani, Eastern Himalaya, Barrackpore, Durgapur, Chotanagpur, Patna, Cuttack, Mumbai, Marathwada, Kolhapur, Agra, Amritsar, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Kolkata and Durgapur) are maintaining the data base system and are now collecting and upgrading

their village profiles using a standardized format. The Programme Associates of the respective DBSS were involved closely with the collection of data. The data is also validated and used for planning, reviewing and, at the block level, for advocacy.

The database system has been evolved with inputs from the external consultant K P Rajendran in partnership with the DBSS. The baseline data needs to be further strengthened by adopting Output Impact Monitoring System. A consultant identified by EED has been engaged for the same.

Indicator 2: Programme and finance systems are in place and report and returns are submitted in time with proper analysis in due formats.

Review of Systems of Finance and Programmes was a major process during this phase. After the Round Table Meeting held with ERSAs on 8th March, 2011 there was another meeting with the ERSAs partners on October 31st, 2011 at CNI Bhavan, New Delhi. In addition to the reviewing and improving systems (PME, Financial Management, and Reporting) there were, additional activities planned for the extended phase. Rapid Assessment by an external consultant recommended by ERSAs, SoP developed by Ms Rozmin Ajani for FCFC to be contextualised for CNI SBSS to strengthen its own finance systems and Central audit of all the DBSS to be done by the RAY & RAY.

Accordingly, Ms Rozmin Ajani has undertaken the review of the finance system as part of developing Standard Operating procedure for finance management. . . These assessments streamlined the planning, internal controls, accounting, financial reporting and audit arrangements relating to the project. It has addressed the key financial management issues likely to arise at each stage of the project cycle, both for new projects and for projects already under implementation.

Review of the Finance systems of CNI SBSS- During the reporting period, Finance systems of CNI SBSS were reviewed and designed to facilitate smooth project implementation. A good record-keeping system was developed. Financial accounting and reporting, internal control, project management and subsequent auditing were streamlined in the finance governance systems. When project financial management systems are being designed, the maintenance of records, and their computerization are also considered now. An internal audit process has been initiated through M/s

S. Sahoo and Co, an independent firm of Chartered Accountants. The internal auditor submits the report every six months to the Management.

Now transfer of funds made to 19 DBSS is treated as a grant and 3 DBSS are routed through SBSS books. All DBSS are accounting in Tally ERP 9 structured in budget line items but not in sub line items. Separate cost centres have been created at SBSS, RCSA and DBSS level. These are as per as the broad Programmatic budget line items of the existing budget. Further the accounting structures at all levels would be synergized to facilitate the merging of databases maintained at various levels. However, before such merging, sufficient checks and balances would need to be put in place in order to ensure that the entries passed at all levels are correct, and are sufficiently backed up by financial and programmatic backup and supporting. Tally generated vouchers with automatic numbering are now being used at the SBSS level. Backup of accounting data is taken all levels at weekly intervals. PAID stamps with their corresponding voucher numbers and date, are been affixed on vouchers at all levels, since April 2012. Though a fixed asset register is maintained it is still not reconciled with the registers / assets at all levels, and does not have complete details as suggested in the recommendations. Inventory records of stationery etc. are maintained at SBSS level. The Finance manual has been revised. The budget for the new phase, which has been submitted to the donors, was prepared separately for the SBSS and the various DBSS, the sum total of which tallies with the overall budget proposed. From April 2011, a common auditor has been appointed for the entire project audit. However, it was noted that a single audit report was submitted for the entire project. It was not clear whether from the next audit cycle, separate reports would be submitted or not.

A more formal financial monitoring mechanism is now in place, which involves periodic visits to the DBSS, and a more structured scope for financial management. A bimonthly remittance process based on receipt and analysis of the utilization reports received has been put in place. In addition to this, an internal audit process has been initiated through M/s S. Sahoo and Co, an independent firm of Chartered Accountants. In the CNI SBSS, Board meeting was held on 4th August 2011, it was resolved to invite Ms. Ashima Able, CA and Mr. Sanjay James CA, as invitee consultants for advice on the financial matters of the CNI SBSS. Now, they would be serving on the Finance Committee with the office bearers. Of the two invitee consultants identified as mentioned above, Mr. Sanjay James is proposed to be inducted as Finance Consultant, on a part time basis.

Review of the PME&R system- Mr K. P Rajendran in his review report of System's Review stated that a good amount of attention was being paid to evolve robust project management and reporting system at CNI SBSS level. The Project management systems begin with Needs Assessment/Environmental mapping and ends with capturing learning. CNI-SBSS have initiated a robust processes and it must continue its processes of strengthening systems.

Due to the review of PME, and planning process, a comprehensive mechanism for project planning evolved to pin-point objectives and results. The project planning approach was found to involve the communities and representatives of CBO/PO and DBSS lead the planning processes with CNI-SBSS limited to facilitation and a few other contributions.

Planning instruments like the baseline format, Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) and a format for reporting were developed. Now monitoring in CNI SBSS is based on the assessment of the implementation of activities and the progress made toward meeting outcomes (organizational, programmatic, or policy-related). Monitoring has been streamlined and carried out on a regular basis to determine whether work is proceeding according to plan, or if sudden or unexpected shifts have occurred that must be attended to in order to achieve intended goals. In addition to this, monitoring is also based on the Logical Framework of the project.

The system works with regular activity and input monitoring (once every month). Monitoring is done mainly at three levels:

- Monitoring by the CBO & PO. The plan and scheduled activities are regularly monitoring and reported.
- Monitoring by done by DBSS who are the intermediary link between communities and SBSS.
- Monitoring by CNI-SBSS is also done at least once in a quarter. The monitoring is followed by a review of the action plan and budget once in six months where existing gaps and changing requirements are accommodated.

The reporting system was well streamlined. The reporting on project activities is done by the DBSS on a fixed schedule:

Monthly: input-activities and output reporting, including the status of activities implemented.

Six monthly: input-activities and output reporting, including status of activities planned, implemented and money spent. Six monthly reporting is followed by review processes. The review is quite comprehensive and influences the scheduled plan and budget.

Annually: Reported on total action plan of the year, budget and status of achievements of the project in one year as well as key areas of revisions, etc.

In addition to these formats, compliance management rules were developed to make the PME more accountable. 20 DBSS submitted a logical framework analysis as well as a need assessment, based on which the monitoring of the programme is being done. Micro planning is also being done at CBO and PO level in all 20 DBSS and the 3 years plan is prepared based on micro planning and the need assessment. Monthly activity progress reporting is filled up in a standardized reporting format. SBSS has also started preparing Analytical reports which is an indicator based report prepared by the Programme Associate and based on the 6 monthly narrative report and monthly activity progress report.

Indicator 3: Manual and policies on Program and Finance Governance are developed and standardized

Standard Operative Systems -With effect from January 2012, the Forum for Collective Form of Cooperation (FCFC) has formally approved and adopted a common set of “Standard Operating Procedures” which provide a common framework for EED grant management, general financial management and governance parameters for the CFCs and their network partners.

Accordingly, Standard Operating Procedures for EED Grant Management have been developed and tailored to the requirement of CNI SBSS. In addition to this a Finance Manual has been developed by CNI SBSS.

Gender Policy, a Complaint mechanism Policy and Workplace Policy on HIV& AIDS have been developed to address the issues of the employees of the CNI SBSS and meet statutory requirements. These have been developed in consultation with the DBSS and adopted by the CNI SBSS Board.

Objective 2: Internal governance system of the implementing partners (22 DBSS, 8 POs) strengthened for advocacy by March 2012.

During the reporting period emphasis was given on strengthening the internal governance system of POs and DBSS. Reports were submitted on a regular basis, unregistered DBSS were registered, and PO's developed a plan of action with which to take the agenda forward. CBCLA's took on the role of monitoring cells to ensure proper implementation of social security schemes and benefits. These strengthened internal governance system has led to effective advocacy.

Indicator 1- Regular submission of reports and case studies from 22 DBSS and 8 PO's to SBSS.

During the reporting period emphasis was given on strengthening the internal governance system of POs and DBSS. CNI SBSS reviewed and developed an internal governance system that encompasses policies, processes, rules and by-laws to be followed in day to day work. These initiatives contributed to the capacity building of partners in the area of policy analysis and policy advocacy. An attempt was made to assist in removing advocacy barriers by (1) broadening and strengthening political and popular support, (2) improving planning and financing for advocacy programs, (3) informing policy decisions with accurate, up to date, relevant information, and (4) enhancing the internal capacity of POs and DBSS for advocacy. It also includes the reasons for which the organisation operates and the roles various stakeholders play in pursuing and achieving those goals. These processes contributed to the regular submission of the reports from the DBSS. Much emphasis was also given at the beginning of the extended phase on standardized formats of reporting at the DBSS level. The monthly formats which was prepared at the end of the last phase and piloted for the last six months are now functional at DBSS level. In all 22 DBSS there is regular submission of monthly programs and financial activity reports with case studies and database sheets.

At SBSS level 6monthly progress/narrative reports, analytical reports from the respective Program Associates accompaniment visit reports, and Group Facilitator reports are submitted on a timely

basis. The accompaniment agenda and the LFAs prepared at the beginning of the extended phase were referred to for monitoring of the programs and the analytical reports were prepared.

All DBSS and SBSS staff were given an orientation and training on report writing.

Indicator 2: Five unregistered DBSS are registered under the Society Registration Act.

During the Speaking Out...Phase (Oct 2008 to March 2011), SBSS initiated work with 22 DBSS. Out of these, 11 were registered under the Society Registration Act and 5 had FCRA. For the sustainability of the DBSS, SBSS suggested that the rest of the DBSS also be registered. During this reporting period, the target was to register 5 DBSS (Kolkata, Chattisgarh, Durgapur, Marathwada and Mumbai).

The process of registration has started in 3 DBSS, viz. Kolkata, Marathwada and Mumbai. These DBSS have developed a constitution and submitted it to the board for discussion. In Kolkata and Marathwada, the constitution was signed by all board members. In Kolkata, a Memorandum of Association is ready to be submitted to Societies Registration office. The Board is helping the DBSS with FCRA registration.

Indicator 3: Charter of demands and action plan developed for 8 POs.

People who belong to marginalized communities form the majority of the world's poorest communities and face tough challenges: the lack of access to quality education, basic health care and economic opportunity; denial of a voice in decisions that affect their lives; rising food prices; the effects of climate change; and caste conflict.

CNI SBSS has developed a result-driven strategy that focuses on the most critical issues affecting *Dalit* and *Adivasis*. The policies we recommend would help people from marginalized communities become self-sufficient and lead healthy, productive lives. Most POs have developed charter of demands and strategy to influence policy makers when they make laws and regulations, distribute resources, and make other decisions that affect peoples' lives. The main objectives of the action

plans are to create policies, reform policies, and ensure that they are implemented. SBSS has also developed a strategy for discussing problems directly with policy makers, delivering messages through the media, and strengthening the ability of local organizations to advocate on the behalf of the communities. These charters of demands and action plans provide a step by step guide for planning advocacy initiatives, as well as advice for successful implementation.

Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Raksha Manch (DBSS Chotanagpur) is an effective pressure group with a strong Adivasi presence based in Chotanagpur. Formed in 2005 it has become a platform for the *Adivasis* in this region to voice their dissent against policies and practices of the ruling class. During the reporting period they have formed a central committee for the proper implementation of the CNT and SPT Act. A *Padyatara* by seven organisations was organised by AMARM leaders in March 2012. A delegation was taken to the Governor's office demanding powers to the elected members of the Panchayat. At present the role of the elected Adivasi leaders of the Panchayat has been relegated to signing the cheques only. AMARM has 2800 men and 3200 women as members.

Adivasi Swashasan Manch (DBSS Patna) a pressure group that has made gradual progress and is moving from a CBO to PO, but at present it is still a CBO. After their successful intervention in the election in 2010, they had plans to form monitoring cells against corruption. 50 PRI leaders and *Gram Sabha* leaders have been motivated to implement measures against corruption in the existing system. They have also developed a strategic action plan to collect issue based data on MGNREGA, PDS and review right based advocacy measures on the identified issues.

During the reporting period, Maharashtra witnessed the elections of ten Municipal Corporation (including Brihanmumbai) 27 Zilla parishads and 309 Panchyat Samitis in the first week of February 2012. ***Dalit Samaj Vikas Parishad (DBSS Kolhapur)*** fielded three of its candidates into the electoral process. Due to lack of funds and other pressures only one candidate Mr Ravindra Tiwade from Dhanoli cluster with the alliance of RPI and Shiva Sena contested the election. He lost by 2000 votes and candidates from Shatkari Sangatna (Mr Kamble) won the election. It is sad that in spite of good work and the assurance of people, we could not transfer this into votes.

During the reporting period DSVP added 250 men and 75 women to their membership.

Durgamma Anchal Vikash Samiti is an emerging PO in Phulbani DBSS. During the reporting phase, they have used the RTI to find out the area, population and displacement criteria of the Kotaghar wildlife sanctuary project. 45 leaders of CBOs & POs of Kotaghar block (5 GP) held a debate on the rights of timber forest products and the subsequent problem of displacement. The DBSS has to mobilise the discontent of the people in order to form pressure groups to advocate for the rights of the sanctuary.

DBSS Phulbani has taken the initiative of documenting the vision and perspective plans of 18 labour groups, 23 farmers groups and 4 youth groups. This document has helped in developing a collective mandate for the *Durgama Anchala Vikas Samitee* (DAVS). DAVS has also finalised the roles and responsibilities of the office bearers.

Dalits, Adivasis & women of 3 *Gram Panchayats* in 11 villages were made aware of the functions of the Palli Sabha & Gram Sabha. 150 people in 12 villages are aware of PRI election procedures. CBO and PO leaders have been elected to 34 posts of 6 *Gram Panchayats*. 80 candidates filed nominations for 34 posts (Male-39, female-41) and 17 posts remain uncontested. 9 CBO and PO leaders were elected. DAVS has 250 men and 250 women as members.

Institution and leadership Building and Participation in Local Governance									
Total DBSS	Leaders targeted in this 6 month	Leaders and identified trained in this 6 month		Excluded community targeted to participates in Gram Sabha	Excluded community participation in Gram Sabha in this 6 month		Gram Sabha to be held till in this 6 month	Gram Sabha held in this 6 month	Vigilance cell Formed from excluded community in this 6 month
		M	F		M	F			
		17	848		458	353			

Manav Adhikar Raksha Samiti (DBSS Barrackpore)- The political situation of Bengal has changed after 36 years of Left Rule. The State is now ruled by a right wing party who have come to

power with the agenda of Mother, Land and People (*Ma Mati Manush*). Due to political changes, there have been a lot of challenges.

180 community members of 12 villages under *Bishnupur Bakeswar Nagarick Manch* actively participated in the Gram Sansad meeting and submitted their village plan on old age pension, road construction plans and making water available for drinking and irrigation, to the Government line department. Under the banner of MARS, CBO and PO members repaired a 4km village road in our field area by their own efforts.

At present, the PO faces problems with distribution of job cards, enlisting BPL members and distribution of drinking water among needy families due to political pressure. Political parties in power try to distribute Social Security Schemes (SSS) to their party members only and MARS is unable to combat this bias. The PO members have developed a good networking system at the Block level but they are still struggling to establish networking contacts with the Zilla Parishad (ZP) since all the members are from different villages. This creates a when deciding to meet. The PO members also lack confidence when facing the ZP officers. The growth of the People's Organization in terms of visibility, expansion and building movement, developing an ideological framework and operational strength remains a challenge.

In terms of documentation and product power, they have done good work in the past but they have problems when trying to build a power base. However, strong leadership within the DBSS and at grassroots is developing. Some level of activism and risk taking ability need to develop among the leaders and DBSS staff. MARS has 162 men and 217 women as members.

Manav Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti (DBSS Marathwada)- This People's Organization was formed by the initiatives of the DBSS of Marathwada. The struggles of Gairan lands is one of the main issues that the MASS deals with. For a Dalit to get a lease for the land he has occupied is extremely difficult. The MASS works with these landless people in order to get them their due. .

During this phase, irregular funding and staff leadership issues have slowed down their progress and staff motivation is low. Facilitation from the RCSA has also not been regular. The constant change of facilitators has also affected the process of mobilization. However in spite of all these

shortcomings they have succeeded in getting land *pattas* for twenty families at Sagarwadi. In the same village a Talathi called Vishnu Bandu Pattakar was suspended when the PO members filed a complaint against him for demanding bribes for 8 wells sanctioned by the government.

At Dhangaon, MASS members filed a RTI and saved a burial ground from encroachers. The land was a burial ground for the Christians and Matang Samaj community. A complaint was filed and immediately a team informed the Tahsil office and conducted a *Panchnama* (investigation). At Jalana the MASS members joined the Atti Kamgar Sangathan rally on the issue of corruption, raising prices and issuance of yellow ration card to the domestic servants. MASS has 2700 men and 2500 women as members.

Manaviya Haq Sangharsh Samiti (DBSS Nagpur) is a People's Organization in the Diocese of Nagpur. They have a well documented membership of 2677 people and during the reporting period, 63 new members joined. They have very committed leaders and staff to guide the movements. MHSS conducts its meeting twice in six months. Last meeting was held in Adial in January. Issues related to rejected cases regarding land, the building of a second line leadership, and date and processes for conducting social audit were discussed.

They have made a conscious effort to promote three women as their unit leaders. From the above we can witness how the PO has shifted its strategy to collectively address larger issues like the right to land and MGNREGA. Their rallies are no longer isolated efforts. Twenty seven organizations came together during their first *morcha* which suggests that they are becoming a part of larger movements without losing their identity. During the reporting period MHSS added 73 men and 37 women to their membership.

All the 13 PRI *Mukhiyas* of Taljhari Block have united and formed a *Mukhiya Sangh* for strengthening the Panchayat level monitoring cell. They have also initiated a process of collective review and advocacy for Govt. officers. They are campaigning against the commission system in MGNREGS. These initiatives have inspired the PRI members of Pathna Block also to raise their voice against the existing system. The bye-law paper of the monitoring cell was accepted and approved by 4 monitoring cells of Taljhari Block and now they have started a monthly review of the MGNREGA, PDS, ICDS, old age pension, *Indra Awas Yojna*, and other welfare programmes.

ASM members have realized the pros & cons of the PRI under 5th schedule area and they have given emphasis to strengthen the traditional system of self rule. They have decided to organize a Block level open discussion seminar for better coordination between the *Gram Sabha* and traditional system. ASM has 65 men and 94 women as members.

Mazdoor Adhikar Sangathan (SEDP)- During the reporting period, the membership declared in the report is around 27665. The last phase report showed a membership of 24715 that means that in the last six months around 2950 new member have been added to MAS.

The People's Organization of SEDP Amritsar is actively involved in the issues of Right to Livelihood, and Dalit rights. During reporting period, they participated in the assembly election which was held in January 2012. 8 candidates in 8 assembly constituencies were identified who were all part of the Indian National Congress. They developed a charter of demands which was broadcasted in the electronic media and newspapers. Their charter of demands included:

- Marginalised communities should be given their due share in governance.
- Social Security Schemes must be properly implemented.
- At least one member of each family of the reference community should be provided with work for 365 days in a year with wages @` 250/- per day.
- Every landless family should be allotted 5 *marlas* of land for a house and 2 *marlas* for garbage pits.
- Christians of S.C. (Scheduled Caste or Dalit) origin should be given the same facilities which are given to people of other religions.

Political leaders from constituencies like Khemkaran, Patti, Ajnala, Raja Sansi, Attari, Fatehgarh and Churian came to these rallies and assured the MAS that their demands would be fulfilled.

The MAS also conducted a background check of the candidates they were supporting. The candidates assured them that upon election they would take up their issues in the Punjab assembly. Before the elections some of them even made an open declaration in the newspapers to support the demands put forth by MAS. Campaigning in support of the candidates took place in 215 villages. MAS has 17315 men and 9200 women as members.

Swaraj Jan Sangathan of Assam is a strong PO of DBSS NEI. The People's Organisation *Swaraj Jan Sangathan* and *Purbanchal Nari Jagrati Sangathan* are pressure groups that are aggressively campaigning against corruption and also work towards strengthening delivery mechanisms of the government. During the reporting period they have made an effort to address of human trafficking. They have rescued five girls and three boys.

The PO leaders took up a case of murder and rape of an adivasi girl which occurred on the 2nd of January and an FIR was registered after their intervention. They have also taken time out to strengthen their systems to address issues. They were also a part of the movement in protest of the molestation of Laksmi Orang, and have demonstrated their strength by involving themselves with larger issues. SJS has 1223 men and 894 women as members.

Contesting in Local Self governance				
Total DBSS	Contested in PRI Election in this 6 month		Elected in PRI election in this 6 month	
	M	F	M	F
17	286	144	138	114

Indicator 4: Six Community Based Centres for Learning and Advocacy monitoring cells for ICDS and MDM.

No of CBCLA is Operational			
Name of DBSS	No. of CBCLA	Boys	Girls
Chotanagpur 11	11	181	234
Patna	5	74	63
Durgapur	2	195	219
Kolhapur	9	206	217
NEI	5	136	189
Total	32	792	922

In North East India, 5 CBCLA Facilitators (Solabari, Satgaon, Bengbari, Shillong and Jowai) have given children attending the centre basic knowledge about their rights as well as helped them in their schoolwork. The parents of the children attending the centres also participated in educating them on issues like the PDS system, MGNREGA and the workings of the Gram Sabha. These CBCLA Facilitators have directly influenced 185 children attending these centres by helping them to learn. In all CBCLA centres, the children are encouraged to play traditional village games like *Pitthoo*, *Guli danda*, *Kho-Kho*, *Kabbadi*, Cat & Mice, etc. These traditional games are on the verge of extinction. In DBSS Chotanagpur 11 CBCLA centres working with the parents have committees which are monitoring government schemes. PDS have been regularised and have ensured timely payment to labourers for road construction under MGNREGA. The CBCLA facilitators have encouraged and ensured equal participation of men and women in the Gram Sabha. Children have stopped migrating to other states for work and are enrolling into schools.

In Durgapur, there are 4 CBCLAs functional. During this period, a workshop for CBCLA teachers, children and parents was held in Mongolpur Village, in which 104 people participated. They had a discussion on the Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). The discussion revealed that the quantity of food provided in the centres was not adequate for the number of children. They decided to file an RTI regarding the budget allocated for ICDS and MDM programmes and also know the actual amount of food allotted to each child.

The construction of a CBCLA building is also in process. Parents have taken an initiative and decided to contribute `200/- per family for the building work. A monitoring committee of 8 people was also formed to oversee this.. They also submitted an application to BDO to construct a tube well outside the building so that the children should have access to clean drinking water.

The people in the village of Chakla which is not a part of our interventions were inspired with the accompaniment of the People's Forum for Social Action and asked the staff to open such a centre in their village as well. One more CBCLA centre was opened in Chakla under Bhaduria cluster called *St. Stephen Sishu Seba Niketan* (St. Stephen's Centre for Child Services). At present, the Centre has 102 children & 4 facilitators. This centre also has 2 computers. Parents contribute `30/-per month to the CBCLA centre and are happy with the functioning of the centre which is helping their children as well as building awareness among the adults as well.

The CBCLA centre in Patna DBSS functions as an information centre and maintains a databank of all their issues such as the traditional system, livelihood, MDM scheme, MGNREGA and Adivasi issues. So far 4 CBCLA centres have been formed with the networking and collaboration of ICDS centres in Taljhari. A process is also initiated in the CME pastorate of Barharwa to form CBCLA centre in 11 of the local congregations. All Sunday schools within this pastorate function as CBCLAs and follow the same syllabus, which is a traditional cultural system of education. Two Sunday schools have started following the CBCLA module.

The DBSS Marathawada has a total 9 of CBCLA centres. 4 are in Jalana and 5 are in Aurangabad with a total of 350 enrolled children. . 178 are girls and 172 boys. An awareness programme on the Right to Education Bill was conducted for all CBCLA staff in the month of November at village of Bidkin. At Gandinagar Ms Bhela Patole, (CBCLA facilitator) mobilised a sum of ` 200 for ten children from a programme run by the Local Jain community. She also approached the local Nagar Sevak and got free books and stationery for the CBCLA centre. At village of Dhakaphel, Mr Vilas Awad mobilised the parents to complain against a teacher of the local school who was regularly absconding from his duties.

The matter was taken up by the Principal and the Zilla Parishad officials after an official warning was issued. At present the entire teaching staff have been shaken up and are performing their duties. Mr Vilas Awad's active involvement with the local community has resulted in 42 members joining the MASS. At village Nilajgaon, Mr Jairam Gaikwad who is a CBCLA facilitator and a trainer in organic farming conducted an awareness programme for the parents of the CBCLA students; who all are farmers. Around 28 families have pledged to adopt organic techniques. Mrs Meenabai Ghorpade from Kannad runs a CBCLA centre has 34 children attending evening classes, 4 of her children whose parents had given up on them passed the SSC board exams.

Mrs Sunita Battisa runs a CBCLA centre at Bahusingpura at Aurangabad. 16 children dropped out of school and resorted to collecting garbage to earn money. After the efforts of the centre, six came back to school and have passed the recent primary school exam. Mrs Battisa has also formed 4 SHGs who are all members of the MASS. In the month of January the SHG women have submitted

a memorandum to the police and the Excise Department against the illegal country liquor shops operating in their area.

In DBSS Kolhapur there are nine CBCLA Centres and 224 children enrolled in the CBCLA programme. In October, Mrs Manisha Chopade, a CBCLA facilitator, organised the parents of Porala to pressurise the local school into distributing proper hygienic food to their children. School authorities are now alert and run the Mid Day Meal scheme as per government norms. She has also formed six SHGs and capacitates the existing *Mahila Agadi Manch*, who, in the month of November pressurized the local PDS shop to distribute the materials as per set guidelines. The PDS is now functioning properly. The status of CBCLA is presented in the following table;

When there was a shortage of teachers in the local school, a delegation was taken to Panchayat Samitee and two new teachers are appointed. At Malgaon, Mr Sunil Bhandare, the CBCLA facilitator submitted a proposal for starting a small scale business for women, under the *Aanna Babu Sathe Mahamandal Yojana*. One lakh rupees was sanctioned and distributed to the women. Mrs Bharthi Ghadge, a CBCLA teacher from Nez village mobilised `700 for six pregnant women under *Janani Suraksba Yojana*. At Kodoli, Mrs Surakha Ranbise identified 7 malnourished children in her village and informed the concerned authorities who immediately responded by sending aid to the affected children. She also formed three *Bachat Ghats* (SHGs) and one *Mahila Agadi Manch*. She took a leading role in forming a DSVP unit in her village as well.

At village Ragoli, communal violence had erupted in the month of October. The CBCLA facilitator Ms. Vishali Khade along with the parents of her students organised a small amount of food for those affected and took an active role in getting justice for the victims. She was also successful in mobilising a sum of ` one lakh for the women to initiate a small business under the *Anna Babu Satba* programme. She has started one SHG group in the reporting period.

Objective 3: Socially excluded communities (*Dalits, Adivasis* and religious minorities) continued their struggle for their rights to land, livelihood and food security in 22 DBSS with the support of local POs in keeping with the newly evolved PME systems and structure.

In order to strengthen the livelihood of socially excluded communities and to 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.

To achieve this, it has promoted Self Help Groups and built on many of the strengths of community-based development programmes. It has promoted a participatory approach and worked with local people to understand their strengths, determine their priorities and enabled people to take action. Our key strategies were to understand how wider policies, institutions and processes affect local livelihoods. Our framework was based on issues of vulnerability, local power and influence.

In the extended phase, CNI SBSS continued to work with *Dalits, Adivasis* and women. Under this objective emphasis was given to supporting their immediate needs and the sustainable use of acquired rights (land, water and other resources). It will also continue to work on issues like social security schemes, alternate livelihood, gender and climate change.

The newly evolved PME system along with the LFA and accompaniment agenda ensured regular and proper monitoring of programs at the community level. Concerns with issues of atrocities, land rights and livelihood of socially excluded communities have been effectively addressed. Gender, CME and Climate Change has been integrated in the functioning of all DBSS.

Indicator 1 Socially Excluded Communities have taken initiatives on Community Entrepreneurship.

Livelihood promotion was the most pressing priority for most of the DBSS working with vulnerable communities. CNI SBSS believes that there is no cheaper or better way of livelihood generation for the poorest people other than investing in skill training. Often, livelihood activities, as promoted and practiced today, focus on the non-vulnerable or less-vulnerable poor, who possess a minimum degree of entrepreneurial ability. The micro-credit approach often focuses on providing loans and merely collecting timely repayments. Loans by themselves would never ensure the creation of sustainable livelihoods. As far as rural development interventions are concerned, it is probably far easier to disburse loans than to organize people to start productive enterprises and far more difficult to ensure that these enterprises actually give positive returns that justify their existence.

Merely giving loans does not shield the poor from uncertainty; especially in a scenario where even insurance is such an under-tapped market. Even other livelihood operations find it easy to focus on those people who are already involved in some kind of livelihood activity already, implying that they have displayed an interest and ability to take risks and deal with the marketplace. Therefore CNI SBSS has identified and organized training on entrepreneurial skill development for *Dalits, Adivasis* and women. These trainings have enhanced their capacities by developing their perspective on community entrepreneurship. These were done through DBSS and POs.

Training on alternative livelihood- CNI SBSS tried to accelerate the economic growth of the reference communities and provide an immediate alternative source of income to them as they are continuously involved with the long standing struggle for rights and entitlements. It trained them on organic farming and livelihood generation. It was done in 22 DBSS. In addition to this, there was a training and orientation on micro-enterprises in 22 DBSS.

In the **North East India DBSS** 30 participants were capacitated on alternative livelihood options like cattle rearing, poultry farming and other agricultural methods like SRI paddy cultivation by experienced resource persons. For example participants were taken to Baithabhanga village in Balipara area for exposure to see and learn the SRI method of cultivation. 5 participants have started SRI method of rice cultivation. 2 of them have started poultry farms.

The **DBSS Phulbani** has witnessed an increase of 87 new members in their PO, which included an increase in the number of SHG's (+4) with an addition of 45 members into the SHG fold,

Labour Groups (+2), Farmers Groups (+3), Youth Groups (+2) resulting in a total of 11 new groups.

In **Nasik**, Five SHGs attended a programme on practical training, which taught them how to make washing powder, Phenyl and decorative neck chains for bullocks. 70 women have participated in the Vocational training programmes in Kolhapur. The SHGs in Kolhapur decided to start such activities as well. Women have decided to sell their products in the weekly market and not to the middlemen. 38 participants attended the Vocational Training Programme which was organised at Bhandgaon. Practical training was given on how to make washing powder, fennel and incense sticks, candles, and pickles.

34 Participants attended the Vocational Training Programme at Kharwadi. In addition to this, information training was given on farming, milk products, Dilm Dairy etc.

In **Durgapur DBSS** from the Jatradanga block of Malda village, 30 members (*Jannakolan Samity*) availed the livelihood facilities of Govt and 1 Mahila Adhikar Manch consisting of 50 members was also formed.

In **DBSS Chotanagpur**, a common consensus was built on buying and selling minor forest products. As a first step towards the formation of a cooperative society in Jharkhand awareness was generated through discussions about various relevant issues. . To integrate women and bring them into the mainstream, the DBSS worked to capacitate them to overcome resistance to the changing roles and responsibilities of adivasi women.. Mass meetings were organized and women were motivated to act as active members and strive for the socio-economic development of the cooperative. 30 villagers became members of the cooperative and an adhoc committee was formed. In addition to this, 515 villagers know about the selection process of BPL and its importance through trainings and orientation. 35 women took benefits from mother and child care scheme in *Aanganwadis* and 27 villagers were made aware about the importance of a cooperative.

In **Sambalpur DBSS**, 8 weavers got a shed from the government to set up their unit. They are registered enrolled as the Eric Payne Weavers SHG with the Govt. textile office in Patnagarh. In addition, amounts of 48000 were availed from UGB Deogaon as loans. The SHG group of Badbandh got `1 lakh to start pisciculture. Along with this another weaver cooperative was

registered in Sambalpur. These initiatives helped in strengthening the traditional handloom trade in Sambalpur which resulted in reducing the migration from the weaver's community.

In Nagpur DBSS, 100 men and 76 women participated in a cluster level programme. 299 men and 386 women received jobs for 50 days under the MGNREGA. As result of this, 3 villages got a road in Panda and a lake in Kholikaran. In addition to this one application was filed by the MHSS for late payments of wages under MGNREGA and followed up by filing an RTI after 10 days when they had still not received the money. Furthermore, in 13 villages, local MHSS members finalized a plan of how to use the MGNREGA scheme for the benefit of their villages.

Social Security Schemes											
	PDS		Mother and Child programme					MGNREGA			
DBSS	Target in 6 month	Target Achieved in 6 month	Expected MDM school to be functional	Target achieved in 6 month	MDM Children	MDM run by SHG	ICDS	Job card receive in 6 month	Expected MGNREGA card to be received	job for> than 50 day	Job for 50 to 100 day
16	99	130	300	407	125026	98	780	64114	25394	9396	1889

DBSS Mumbai has also undertaken activities for securing livelihood for marginalized communities. 30 *Adivasis* were trained on the art of Warli painting. The Agriculture Officer was invited to explain the importance of organic farming at Neelajgaon. In addition, 52 gairan holders were given an assurance in writing that they would receive a piece of land in future. Furthermore, 52 gairan holders family including, local farmers, were trained on organic farming.

DBSS	Organic farming practices				
	Vermi-compost	seed bank	grain bank	crop diversification	kitchen garden
8	21	77	60	72	447

Indicator 2: Case of atrocities documented and highlighted in print media (10 cases of atrocities are pursued, 5 letters were given to HRC, 5 deputations submitted to local government on the issues of Social Exclusion and 5 press releases were published).

As *Dalit* and *Adivasis* are the main concern of the programme, activities were conducted that focused on the social exclusion of *Dalits*, *Adivasis* and women. Cases of atrocities against these vulnerable communities were highlighted through press conferences and the media, both electronic and print. These cases were documented for further action. Due to our intervention, the responsible government line departments have become proactive and have taken initiative to stop atrocities against *Dalits*.

Development Communications has been regularly publishing articles in Church and Church related magazines and brochures. We have also published editorials and articles in the North India Church Review. During the reporting period, our fellow Gladson Dungdung has published articles in daily newspapers, weeklies and web portals on the issues of human rights violations in Jharkhand under the operation Green Hunt and corporate Crime and in Assam on constitutional status of Adivasis.

An article on Adivasis Identity was published by Tehelka.com. A Fact sheet on police atrocities on Adivasis of Saranda Forest was prepared and released. A report on Human Rights violations was published by Dainik Jagran and a report on Social Audits was also published by the Hindustan Times.

Enrichment through **field visit**: Rachel visited field areas across Maharashtra and Jharkhand and captured the context within which SBSS operates while adding to the database of communications by taking pictures and talking to the communities and enablers about the work that is going on. Her experiences were recorded in a report.

A conference titled “Christian Witness in Public Policy: Models in Advocacy.” was organised in CNI SBSS. During the conference fellows from SBSS talked about their work in various areas of advocacy, from female foeticide to Dalit and Adivasi atrocities.

In view of the alarming rise in violence and ongoing discrimination, and atrocities against Dalits in Odisha, CNI SBSS is planning to develop an appropriate mechanism to challenge those systems and

structures that promote, justify and perpetuate discrimination, especially caste-based discrimination and atrocities against Dalits. Compiled case studies on Dalit atrocities will be compiled and published in the form of a book for education the wider stakeholders. A community monitoring mechanism called the Atrocity Monitoring Cell (AMC) in Orissa has been formed by SBSS fellow Ashok Mallick which has created pressure on the government. The AMC is working in tandem with a village education committee formed under *Sarva Sikshya Abhiyan* for ensuring the proper functioning of primary schools in the project area.

Human Rights Violation				
DBSS	Atrocities filed on Dalits	Atrocities filed on Adivasis	Cases solved on Dalits	Cases solved on Adivasis
6	7	20	5	16

Indicator: 3: Socially excluded communities stake their claims on land and demand for Record of Rights (RoR) - (100 House hold have access to land, 5 Campaigns on land rights organised).

During this period, CNI SBSS continued its activities for ensuring land rights and entitlements to *Dalits, Adivasis* and women. It has organized awareness campaigns on revenue and forest land. Several meetings were organized for '*Jan Satyagraha*' 2012 in partnership with *Ekta Parishad*.

Organizing Campaigns on Land to landless- Awareness on revenue and forest land was created by organizing village level meetings and group meetings. In addition to this campaign on RoR through peace marches, *Padayatra* and group meetings were undertaken.

As In reference to Forest Rights, MHSS leaders have used RTI as a tool to avail information on the number of cases approved/ rejected by the government under Forest Act in the District. They have shifted their focus from individual rights to community rights. Through RTI they have also availed community-land documents of six villages. This has given them a good leverage to launch the next movement on restoring community rights.

Two major *Morchas* (marches) were also held on 19th Dec where 27 organizations came together and went to *Vidhaan Saba* (State Assembly) on the issue of forest rights. Their main demand was to

abolish the criteria of owning the land for 75 years, which is mentioned in the FRA and to establish eligibility for the right to land later than this date. The second demand was that, the rights of the community as per the *Nisar Patra*, (a document of the government where rights of the community is mentioned) be restored. They met the tribal minister Mr Baban Rao Pachputta who assured to look into the matter.

On March 26th another *Morcha* was led in front of the District Collector's office in Bhandara where five local organizations participated. The issue raised was again about reconsidering rejected cases pertaining to right to land under the Forest Rights Act. During the reporting period, the MHSS was actively involved in the issue of right to land which has resulted in 26 families from villages in Kasalwada, Khodurle and Thakaphal receiving 52 acres of land. 59 cases for land rights which were rejected due to a lack of documents were resubmitted.

As per our planned objectives, In the village of *Sagarwadi*, DBSS Marathwada, 20 families received pattas measuring 56.32 acres each. This was possible due to the efforts of *Manav Adhikar Sangharash Samiti*. It has to be mentioned that the struggle for right to land at village Sagarwadi has been going on for a long time and the decision was not expected. In fact the DBSS was hoping that petitions filed for cases in Aurangabad would be considered. Which is why the DBSS had planned morchas and dharnas in Aurangabad for the ongoing activities of the LFA. 945 applications have been filed to date, out of which in 545 cases, the first stage of Panchnama (investigation of cases filed) has been completed.

The learning's from this is that there is no definite methodology to predict how the government is going to respond to cases filed for consideration. Secondly as land is such a contentious issue, the politicians use this as an opportunity to capitalize on their vote bank. Lastly it has to be understood that it is the hidden agenda of many individuals in the government to withhold the land despite existing policies and programmes. In Dhangaon, MASS members filed a RTI and saved a burial ground from encroachers. The land was a burial ground for the Christians and Matang Samaj community. A complaint was filed and immediately a team from the Tahasil office conducted a Panchmana.

During the reporting period, Jharkhand was in a socio – political crisis. The Honorable High Court Judge at Ranchi had ordered a stay in one of the PILs filed by an ex-MP, Mr. Salkhan Murmu. On the 25th of January 2012, the High Court had ordered to immediately stop any further registration of land belonging to the Adivasis and backward classes. Till date the registration of land has not begun. According to the CNT Act, Adivasi land can only be sold to Adivasis of the same block. The CNT Act came as a major setback for land grabbers, real estate builders and companies that had signed MOUs with the Jharkhand government as they could not buy land for their own profit. In Ranchi a huge gathering of representatives and leaders from different states participated in the Padayatra to protest against land acquisition by Bharat Petroleum. A memorandum was submitted to the Governor for the protection of the CNT Act. Proper advocacy and action plans were developed. Due to their interventions the land acquisition process has been stopped.

Kandhamal is located in the heart of the state of Orissa. Its geographical area is spread over 7649 square kilometres. Almost 66% is covered with dense forest. More than 50% of the population is Adivasi. . Sources of livelihood of Adivasis & Dalits in the district come from the land, forest and manual labour. They mainly cultivate paddy, hill harida, turmeric, ginger etc. It is a matter of concern that, even though they have been cultivating the forest land from the time of their forefathers they do not have the rights of record (Patta) in their name. The government of Orissa approved Forest Right Act-2006 to provide rights of land to *Adivasi & Dalit*.

DBSS Phulbani is working in 18 inaccessible villages and 6 Gram Panchayats of Daringbadi & Kotaghar block in the district of Kandhamal. They have been organizing Adivasis, Dalits and marginalized communities and capacitating them to work on the issues of food security, land rights etc that directly affects their lives.

By 6 staff volunteers of DBSS Phulbani organized a Padayatra, village and Panchayat level meeting at 18 villages of Daringbadi & Kotaghar. They have collected analyzed the primary data's of land.

Right to Land					
DBSS	Land Patta/FRA to received in six month	Achieved in 6 month	Male	Female	Joint
7	1889	425	349	10	66

Indicator 4: Gender integrated into plan available.

During the reporting period, CNI SBSS made a conscious effort to integrate the women empowerment program in its activities. On recommendation of Ms. Sathyasree Goswami, we shifted our focus to the inwardly resourced women. It worked to orient women to be assertive and make them aware of their potential and strength. It also worked towards making society recognize their contribution in social transformation. All most all DBSS celebrated International Women’s Day and organized workshops on gender sensitivity Campaigns on women rights were organized through *Mahila Adhikar Manch*. DBSS like Cuttack, Barrackpore, and Sambalpur etc organized campaign on women rights and development through Mahila Adhikar Manch. They raised concern on the ongoing atrocities against women across 22 DBSS.

Dr. Sabu George, one of our fellows, is working on the issue of female foeticide. He is working with the government to bring about amendments in the Law to combat this problem. His research shows that the problem is no religion specific or geo-specific but invades all areas of society.

Orientation and meeting for Gender policy and integration of Gender in PME- Integrating gender into its programmes and activities was one of the important agendas of CNI SBSS. During this phase, CNI SBSS reviewed its gender policy and redeveloped a policy on gender and development for both DBSS and SBSS. Therefore, it oriented its staffs for taking utmost efforts for integrating women into the organisations. In addition to this, deputations were submitted to state women rights commissioners and national human rights commission seeking justice for the 19 year old Dalit girl from Pipili who was raped last November.

Socio Economic Rights of Women								
DBSS	women led SHG	members hip	Indicators set: Expected MAM in 6 month	Mahila Adikar manch formed	membership	Indicators set: expected atrocities/cases to be filed	Women atrocities Cases filed	Cases solved
18	844	10145	450	54	2432	16	25	22

Indicator 5: Climate change as a cross cutting theme integrated into 6 DBSS.

Within the SBSS framework climate change constitutes a diverse spectrum of issues and problems, which exist at the local level and are linked to the local ecosystem. What constitutes these ecosystem, is very specific to the geographic and topography of the respective area. This encompasses the *jal, jungle aur jamin* (water, land and forest) resources. During this reporting period there was an exposure to 'Green Village Model' The visit to Bilaspur, in Chhattisgarh, was a cross learning exposure for the FCFC North partner organizations. This was from 6th to 10th November 2011. The primary objective of the visit was for the participants to understand the workings of the green 'model' village initiative undertaken by AFPRO. The effects of climate change and its impact on the situation of water and land resources was shared with all the DBSS staff for addressing issues relating to water pollution.

Ms. Geetika Singh attended a workshop on Water & Democracy in Hyderabad in March 2012. The training sessions covered various issues and aspects of water. The environmental, social and cultural aspects which include, sessions: on hydrological cycle, drinking water situation and crisis, exploitation ground of ground water, water pollution, waste water situation in urban areas, industrial water pollution, dying rivers and pollution of surface water sources (like lakes, traditional well, ponds, etc.), water allocation, community participation in water management, inequality and discrimination towards water sources, legislation and policies the national water policy. CNISBSS has a right to water campaign in Maharashtra, against the unequal access to water sources. This is something we could strengthen, primarily by awareness at the community level. We need to work the vision in such a way as to incorporate water issues, and not just restrict climate change to organic farming as well as working with water issues from the livelihood perspective.

Since cyclone Aila hit the Sunderbans, communities there are prepared for similar disaster. They are constructing houses on higher land and storing dry food items. Tube-wells are dug on higher land away from the sea for drinking water. 115 people got job through MGNREGA for maintain river band as a result they saved their village & land from salt water. DBSS Barrackpore received ` 6000/- from National Environment Awareness Campaign for Climate change programme. 123 participants updated their knowledge on disaster mitigation

Indicator 6: CME integrated into 17 DBSS

CNI SBSS aims at involving local church and congregations in its development work through capacity building of the leaders both men and women by using the church as a platform for political participation for a just and comprehensive society. 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.

The DBSS continued their journey with the community in equipping them with different skills and abilities to analyse their context identify their strength and assert their rights. In the recent Panchayat election of State of Odisha, the congregation took interest in motivating, preparing their people to contest in the election and also won as ward member and Sarapanch and contested for the post of chairman.

To express their solidarity the congregations of Phulbani and Cuttack diocese and Sambalpur diocese celebrated the Human Rights Day and International Women Day on the theme save the earth and rights of girl child.

The exposure visit on Climate Change participants from the Sambalpur and Chotanagpur DBSS to Bilaspur, one of the project areas of AFPRO in November, 2011 on Climate change enabled them to understand the theological perspective of the concept of stewardship of the whole creation and its link with the issue of climate Change. They took the challenge to orient local congregations to protect their land, water and forests. Trees were planted in the church compound and nearby wasteland. One of the action plans submitted by the DBSS Chotanagpur was the renovation and deepening of the well and the storage of waste water.

In collaboration with National Council of Church India (NCCI) the worship material was shared with the congregations to celebrate Disability Sunday on 4th December 2011 of Diocese of Cuttack Phulbani and Sambalpur.

A Workshop organized by Franciscan International on UPR in Raipur gave guidelines for how the

church and faith-based organizations along with other civil society organizations could work together against Human rights violations in our country. 27 congregations are continuing their engagement in the building neighbourhood community models across the DBSS. They are engaged in the issue of minority rights and filing RTIs to know the status of PDS and other social security schemes for their congregation.

As an outcome of the training & discussion on RTI and the review of the government delivery system among the congregation members, 165 participants from Borgaon Pastorate, Nahrkatia Pastorate & Balijuri pastorate have planned to file RTI on different issues related to their area.

In Phulbani 150 congregational leaders organised a rally to demand the fundamental rights and reservation rights to Dalit Christians. In Barrackpore, 28 Congregation leaders carried good news (i.e. widow pension, MGNREGA, PDS, Minority schemes) amongst the congregation & Community. 215 SHGs who are part of the congregational members regularly network with the Govt. (G.P.BDO) and sell their products through fairs and festivals.

In Rajasthan 8 church members of BPL families were motivated to gain benefit under Social and Food Security Schemes. In Barrackpore DBSS, 150 students got minority scholarship of ` 1, 69,900/- by the help of BKP-DBSS collaboration with Mr. Sanjit Shani, Board member of BKP-DBSS. Women from 10 congregations of Gangrai Church applied for job cards in their Andhamanick G.P. They got job cards, opened bank accounts got 9 days work (through MGNREGA) for each person. Rev. Dr. Joshua Young from America & Mr. Philip Peacock from Bishop's College, Kolkata visited St. Luke's Church at Nursikderchak under Raghampur Pastorate in October 2011. They were very happy to see our CME activities.

In Patna the congregation members formed 11 monitoring cells comprising of PRI leaders, Gram Sabha leaders and pastorate /congregation leaders. They also established 11 CBCLA information hubs for Sunday school children

In Kolkata the CME core committee divided the congregations into 4 zones and each zone has selected a special issue to address through CME. The plan on identified issues for the 3 zones (Central, South and Riverside Zone) are already developed. The North zone congregations have yet

to develop their plans. In Kamdara, the congregation in the field has addressed issues of alcoholism and managed to control the production and consumption of local liquor in 2 villages. In 14 congregations the Sunday school has been regularized and Sunday school day was celebrated to bring awareness on issue of child rights. 600 children from 14 congregations under 5 parishes participated and took part in quizzes and competitions.

In Cuttack, the CME committee of Pentecota and Puri congregation have taken local issues as an entry point and organised a sanitation campaign to provide basic toilet facilities to the fishing community in the Pentecota area. The database on the socio political and economic context of the identified congregation both at Puri and Baipada was compiled. Regular monitoring meetings are being held every two months to see the progress of the work by the volunteers and CBOs. A strategy paper for WFCS members on 'congregation as change agent' and 'neighbourhood community' has been initiated for the congregation at Baripada and Puri. The DBSS Cuttack has decided to take this process to the rest of the 7 congregations in the Puri pastorate to develop a perspective on relevant mission engagement of the church both in rural and city churches.

Chhattisgarh DBSS is working on CME model and micro planning for the next phase has been completed by six identified congregations. This DBSS is working in the Maoist affected area so the concept of Do No Harm was welcomed and appreciated by the congregation. Baseline data has been collected in 3 new villages of Porsapani and 4 villages of Jeragaon rural congregation. The perspective building workshop for pastors and pastorate committee members of this rural congregation have resulted in involving community based organisations (including SHGs) in their congregation. 11 lay leaders, 12 youths and 5 volunteer were equipped with the skill of communication and documentation and have actively got involved in data collection, compilation trend analysis and micro planning.

The future challenge for the church is to take a stand on the issue of atrocities against Dalits and the rights of Dalit Christians. The congregation at Chhattisgarh and Phulbani are most affected by the Maoist activities and the process of reconciliation and peace building seem to be a distant dream for them. The church leaders need to be oriented and a strategy should be worked out to make our position clear in support of people suffering.

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

Building movements of marginalised communities is a key strategy of CNI SBSS to influence public policy and its implementation in favour of the poor. CNI SBSS has developed its own criteria for classifying and grading the POs based on their capacity to convert problems into issues, and ability to manage campaigns and increasing their geo-political space with multi stakeholder partnership with a strong RBA.

During the reporting period, emphasis was given on strengthening the internal governance systems of finance and programmes of CNI SBSS. Therefore, both SBSS and its partners have reviewed and developed pro-active systems which are now in place to ensure accountability and transparency within the organisation.

During this reporting period, the following observations were made:

1. Our fellow Gladson Dungdung proactively highlighted issues of human rights violations in Jharkhand through publishing articles in daily newspapers, weeklies and web portals.
Furthermore, he participated in the regional consultation of the NHRC held in Kolkata on September, 13, 2011, where he made a presentation on police atrocities on Adivasis in the Saranda forest which the NHRC has investigated. A report on human rights violations in Jharkhand for the period 2001-2011 was prepared and printed. It has revealed 7,563 reported rapes, 3,398 dowry atrocities, 576 custody deaths and over 100 hunger deaths in Jharkhand in 10 years after constitution of the new Jharkhand state on November 15, 2000. The report also cited 174 rapes on tribal women and 194 cases of atrocities against tribals. During the compilation of the report it was felt that human rights violations had been rampant and could be prevented with an active state government. It has also reported 100 hunger deaths, 40 of which are from primitive tribal groups. Most deaths reported were from Palamau, Chatra, Ranchi, Koderma, Hazaribagh, Godda, Dumka and Giridih.

The report has also accumulated figures from the National Crime Records Bureau and annual reports of the National Human Rights Commission, besides field verification. The report also highlighted the plight of Dalits where 60 murders, 106 rapes on Dalit women and 1,437 cases of Dalit atrocities and 19 cases of untouchability were mentioned. There were 249 cases of atrocities against children including six cases of sale and purchase of children for prostitution. In order to prepare this report field visits were made for data collection.

2. **In Odisha**, the present system of governance has made the Dalit population vulnerable because the political party BJD (Biju Janta Dal) in power are aligned with the dominant classes and actively oppose policies in favour of the marginalised. . During the reporting period, the Policy and Research initiative of CNI SBSS held protests and campaigns in Odisha to highlight the suffering of the Dalits who were targeted by the BJD.

During a PRI election, candidates belonging to Dalit communities were not allowed to be a part of the election campaign. People were beaten and humiliated by elected representatives of the ruling party, some were also implicated in false cases and women were molested. The police refused to accept complaints from the victims as they are support those in power.

The Dalit rights activist Mr Ashok Mallick along with Mr Sukanta Behra from CNI SBSS met various government line departments and shared the grievances of the victims in the month of February, 2012. During the Panchayati Raj Election, a memorandum was submitted to the Chief Election commissioner, the superintendent of police and district magistrate demanding special protection to candidates from Dalit communities who were contesting the election. As a result this, the Chief Election commissioner issued special instructions for their protection.

3. 24 **Ambedkar Study Circles** have been formed in two blocks, Aul and Niali, of Kendrapara district. Each Ambedkar study circle has 10 youths, both boys and girls. The groups were oriented on the Prevention of ST/SC Atrocities Act and how to file complaints using it. A total of **120 youths have been trained** on fact finding and complaint formulation. These study circles have also been conducting monthly meetings where they discuss topics like Ambedkar's philosophy, social justice and Dalit leaders. In many villages an **Atrocity Monitoring Cells** have been formed to identify ongoing atrocities against Dalit populations. Our fellow Ashok Mallick has taken the initiative in Orissa and formed a significant number of AMC's which have empowered the Dalits to report crimes and

created pressure on the government to act on these crimes. At the block level, two **Fact Finding Teams** have been formed comprising of social activists, lawyers and some prominent personalities from the locality.

4. Resource centre for Social Action on Land Rights and Dalit Studies was actively involved in the issue of land Rights across CNI Dioceses and more so focused in Maharashtra due to active initiatives of the Dioceses in the above mentioned issue. Efforts in the field were mainly focused on the issue of livelihood and land Rights. The period between September to March 2012 was called extended phase. During the reporting period much of their efforts were in strengthening the existing systems, developing and implementing LFA of the DBSS, supporting the candidates of our POs who were contesting in the Zilha Parishad elections.
5. During the reporting period Ms Sathyashree Goswami was appointed as an External Evaluator on recommendation by our funding partners to conduct Rapid Assessment of the programme.
6. Our participation in the FCFC forum has resulted in developing new perspectives on the issue of land rights. The struggle of achieving individual ownership has grown into the demand of land for the entire community in the Nagpur DBSS. A document on **People's Perception about Climate Change and Impact on Rural Maharashtra** has been prepared by all FCFC partners. Out of 3700+ questionnaires received by the data consolidation team 60% of the data was sent from our DBSS field areas. Copies of this document have been sent to all Dioceses and will be of use for planning how to deal with Climate change.
7. In North East India, an awareness building programme on women's rights, atrocities against women, domestic violence and trafficking was held at the field level in Dubi & Satgaon. Cases of Adivasi girls' trafficking were highlighted, being a main concern faced by the Adivasis due to poor economic condition.
8. In Durgapur DBSS the people of Chinnibari village came together and formed a CBO named *Jano Kalyano Samity* which included 14 village representatives and 30 other members. They act as a pressure group and monitoring cell and initiate advocacy initiatives with the help of the DBSS. Soon after the formation of this group a *Jan Sunwai* (Public Hearing) was organized and 5 cases of discrepancies in the MGNREGA scheme were documented and 3 RTI filed to take the issue further. In SEDP the focus was on building their PO, MAS.

Leaders in Punjab conducted a campaign on political awareness for the assembly election held on January 2012. During the election MAS also supported 8 candidates of 8 assembly constituencies. The power of the MAS has also increased as a Dalit person participated in election process independently for the first time without the pressure or fear of the land owning community. They gave their support to the contesting candidates. 22 village units of Khemkaran and Ajnala area have submitted applications to their respective Sarapanch with copy to the BDPO for proper functioning of *Gram Sabha*.

9. A major issue during this period was the delay in funds, but at DBSS level all people-centred activities continued and the staff sustained the momentum of the project even without their salary.
10. **Capacity assessment** of CNI SBSS was done with the involvement of both primary and secondary stakeholders. Identified gaps were addressed by developing community driven programmes, which took into account specific needs and expectations.
11. **Community level micro planning** took place in all the DBSS. Special emphasis was given to emerging Peoples' Organizations, pressure-groups and women's groups. Focus group discussions were held in village, cluster and area committees. During the discussions with the communities, the DBSS shared the broad perspectives of the organisation (working with a rights based approach, Campaign Mode, thematic focus) as well as recommendations from the reviews and assessments.
12. At SBSS level, the development of the 3 years plan was based on focus group discussions, assessments and reviewing reports like Learning Appraisal and Rapid Assessment, and collating information from the expression of interests of each DBSS and the community micro planning data. Soon after the 3 year plan **the logical framework** was developed which is a tool used to help strengthen project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Along with this a project wise logical framework was also developed for the DBSS.

The 6 monthly plans with cash flow and programme design were developed in the month of March and September and based on the 3 year plan. This plan is prepared only at the DBSS level to ensure flexibility and incorporate new ideas and issues.

13. During the reporting period, SBSS was trying to adapt to a robust system which provided scope for continuous learning and improvement. We addressed issues of performance and

Quality and Accountability (Q&A), worked on strengthening systems in communications and reporting, PME, data management and finance governance.

14. Donors wanted to ensure that their funds have been utilized appropriately and to demonstrate the impact to their own constituencies (i.e. governing bodies, contributor's governments, etc.) and prove that they are supporting effective work.

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

- The six months' Extension Phase emphasised mostly on system improvement and intervention, this has affected the process oriented development ethos of CNI SBSS. Furthermore it has adversely affected ongoing programmes as the immediate needs of communities could not be addressed on priority. At the same time this phase promoted a mechanical and clinical approach which undermined the organic management and human process approach.
- During this phase most of the energy was given on systems' review and development which has resulted in poor participation with community in development work. The sudden emergence of the new techniques and new management approaches negatively affected the true spirit of accompaniment. In addition to this the programme accompaniment plan was also affected due to irregular funding.
- At the organisational level, the critical appraisal of some of our staff de-motivated them which resulted in lack of trust and credibility among the staff. The extended phase led to unexpected patterns and trends by bringing insecurity among the staff. The demand for specialised technical interventions de-motivated many perspective driven staff. There is insecurity which has affected the ownership of the programme.
- **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 SBSS which is working on campaign mode.
- Church is questioning the basis of partnership due to the non-visibility of Church Mission Engagement in certain DBSS

- Due to our intervention many *Adivasis* 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 contributed to achieving the development goals.

The overall development goal of the extended phases was 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.

- 1. Issues of Human Rights Violation Addressed-** During the reporting period, 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.
- 2.** This capacity assessment came in at the opportune time for CNI- SBSS as it is currently focused on strengthening its previous work with the community into capacitating them to be a resilient community who has the know-how to understand and respond to the changing social and economic situations. The capacity assessment has brought out a set of capacity gap which are crucial to be addressed while CNI-SBSS addresses its strategic vision.
- 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 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. Proper implementation of Social Security Schemes for 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. Communities are now able to access those schemes that were created for their benefit such as the MGNREGA, FRA and the 9 social security schemes. They have the confidence to question the authorities when their benefits are not received and lay claim to their rights.

5. 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.

6. Critical Mass in the political decision making process.

With participation in the local governance systems like the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats the marginalised communities 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 the oppressed.

7. Strong CBOs and POs.

The strength of the Community Based Organizations and People's Organizations has allowed people to effectively build empowered communities.

8. 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. They have created much needed alternative sources of income through their entrepreneurial measures and become powerful members of both economic and political groups.

9. Networking with other Civil Society Organizations

In partnering with Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, National Solidarity Forum, FCFC, the CSI and Marthoma Church, the Delhi Study Group, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and Act Alliance, CNI SBSS worked to reach out beyond its immediate reference areas and engage in a dialogue with organisations with a similar perspective.

10. The Systems' review has streamlined the functioning of the organisation and helped in adopting and developing new strategies for better PME and Reporting.

Negative

1. The CNI-SBSS is working without adequate functional resource base. Also, it does not raise resources locally to support its core functional unit. The Board does not seem to be convinced of the *need for fund-raising and creating a corpus which would enable CNI-SBSS to be more effective* in organizational functioning as well as bridge-financing of programmes in case of delays in fund receipts from donors due to various administrative issues.
2. The project plan and budget frequently change due to the changes in fund commitments and actual release of funds from time to time by the donors.
3. **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. In places like Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, right wing political parties (BJD and Samajwadi Party) have ousted leaders that were sympathetic to the Dalit cause. With Mayawati gone there have been increased attacks on Dalits and these areas are facing the backlash of people who want to avenge their previous powerlessness.
4. **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.

5. **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
6. **Shrinking space for CSOs.** The government is curbing the power of 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.

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

CNI SBSS has reviewed Monthly Progress Reports of 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. Input from PODI workshop report and Capacity Assessment report of CNI SBSS were also taken. 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.

Component	Planned Activity	Implemented Activity	DBSS who conducted the plan activity	Observations
Objective 1: Organisational Capacity is strengthened with adequate systems for programme and finance governance in place by March 2012.	Review and analysis of organisational system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaking organisational capacity assessment through system review workshops, appraisals, situational analysis and policy review. 	Nasik, Agra, Amritsar, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Durgapur, Mumbai, Phulbani, CNP, Patna	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and planning of community initiatives 	Amritsar, Chattisgarh,	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapid Programme assessment 	Barrackpore Chotanagpur Delhi Nagpur	
	Standardisation of programme and finance system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Database management 	Agra, Amritsar, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Durgapur, Kolkata, Mumbai, Patna, Durgapur	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing programme governance and facilitation 	Mumbai	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation on 	Kolhapur, Mumbai	

		developed system for program and finance team		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Review and SoP 	Delhi (Headquarters) and Resource Centres with DBSS participation	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme accompaniment and enabling 		
	Three years program planning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting and <i>kaaryashala</i> to revisit the perspective plan. 		Will be done in Chattisgarh in May 2012.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Micro planning: baseline survey, PRA, FGD, DBSS and SBSS level meeting for compilation of three years proposal 	Agra, Delhi, Durgapur, Eastern Himalaya, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, NEI, Patna, BKP, Sambalpur	Not conducted in Marathwada - delay in funds.
	Programme support and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination and review (board meeting, accompanier meeting, appreciative inquiry) 	Nagpur, Nasik, Agra, Kolkata, Kolhapur, Lucknow, Marathwada, Phulbani, CNP, Patna, BKP	Will be done in Chattisgarh in July 2012 after Episcopal elections. In Durgapur, 3 staff meetings were held out of 6 due to financial constraints. Only 4 out of 6 staff meetings were held in Kolhapur.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PME & 	Delhi	

		reporting System reviewed and strengthened	(Headquarters)	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner support and facilitation through programme management, partnership relationship and financial stewardship. 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producing publications and upgrading website. 	Delhi (HQ)	
2. Internal governance system of the implementing partners strengthened for advocacy.	Strengthened structure, database, and reporting and communication system of the implementing partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened DBSS, CBO, PO. 	Nagpur, Agra, Amritsar, Delhi, Durgapur, Eastern Himalaya, Lucknow, Kolhapur, Phulbani, CNP, Patna, Durgapur, BKP, Sambalpur	<p>Nagpur: there was a series of planned activities concerning this. Only the first one was done.</p> <p>In Kolhapur, data has been collected for 35/62 villages only. Marathwada-only one activity was conducted due to delay in funds. Rajasthan-only GS was formed and few leaders were elected.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustaining the 	Kolhapur,	

		PO		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy initiative for influencing policy 	Amritsar	
	Strengthened community based centre for learning and advocacy	Community based advocacy	NEI, CNP, Patna	
3. Socially excluded communities (dalits, adivasis and religious minorities) continued their struggle for their rights to land, livelihood and food security with the support of local Pos in keeping with the newly evolved PME systems and structure.	Securing livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on alternative livelihood Training and orientation on micro enterprise Food SSS 	Nagpur (only one activity). Nasik, Agra, Amritsar, Chattisgarh (SSS and BPL also). Delhi, Durgapur, Eastern Himalaya, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Phulbani, NEI, CNP, Rajasthan, Sambalpur	Marathwada - Only one activity was conducted due to delay of funds
	Dalit and Adivasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organising campaign on right to dignity 	Amritsar, Chattisgarh, Mumbai, Phulbani, NEI, Rajasthan	
	Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organising campaigns on land to landless Campaign for land rights 	Nasik	
	Policy advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fellowship program for 5 fellows. 	Mumbai	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking and alliance building • Ecumenical partnership advocacy meeting (ACT A, EEA, COP) • Campaign on MAM 		
	Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation and meeting for gender policy and integration of gender in PME 	Nagpur, Nasik , Agra , Amritsar, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Cuttack, Phulbani, NEI, CNP, Rajasthan, BKP, Sambalpur	
	CME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of congregation mission in community intervention 	Amritsar, Chattisgarh, Kolkata, Kolhapur, Cuttack, Mumbai, Phulbani, NEI, Patna, Rajasthan, BKP	In CNP, it was non-budgeted.
	Integrity of creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karyashaala and campaign on climate change • Disaster management 	Marathwada, NEI, BKP	

4. Changes 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

The new board of CNI SBSS was elected during this reporting period. It has four members continuing from the previous board and 12 newly appointed members. Including the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and other representatives the new board comprises of 4 women and 12 men.

The Finance Committee became operational. The estimated budget for the next proposal was shared with the committee members and the recommendation of the committee was incorporated into the budget for the next phase.

A statutory central audit system has been institutionalised in all DBSS. An agreement with the auditor has been signed to undertake the statutory audit within the organisation.

4.2. Related to planning system: Yes

The new approach of planning based on a logical framework of analysis was implemented during the reporting period. To address the emerging need of Aid effectiveness CNI SBSS reviewed its Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation and Reporting system. An attempt has been made to address the gaps identified during the last phase of Speaking Out... by developing an indicator based reporting system which is instrumental in tracking the outcome of the project.

The System's review of CNI SBSS has helped in developing a monitoring tool and also working to make existing Systems more effective.

The learning from the Planning process adopted during the extended phase helped in developing the proposal for the next phase. An **External Rapid Assessment of the Programme and Systems of SBSS** was undertaken which helped us to measure and assess our work as well as chalk out a way forward. The recommendations of all the reviews are incorporated into the next project proposal. **Compilation of the Plan and Submission of 3-year Plan to ERSA-** At SBSS level developing the 3 years plan continued with 3 important meetings namely a preliminary planning meeting, larger team meetings and writing the project proposal with a logical framework

4.3. Related to Staff Composition: Yes

There is change in staff composition.. Two Programme staff left CNI SBSS during the extended period. One new staff was appointed for documentation and monitoring.

4.4. Related to other issues:

CNI SBSS has undertaken an Organisational Review for deepening its perspective and consolidating the objectives. This was followed by undertaking an extensive Organisational Capacity Assessment which identified the gaps, inadequacies and limitations which was further addressed through undertaking a Process Oriented Development Intervention (PODI) training for its staff and partners. These initiatives and processes have contributed toward strengthening the system within CNI SBSS.

The findings and recommendations of the programmatic review (Rapid Appraisal) were revisited together with the Communities, DBSS and SBSS staff who internalised the learning, identified gaps and helped in developing a road map for the next phase.

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?

The political environment of India continues to be dominated by caste politics, corruption, corporate dominance, ethnicity and a deep-rooted patronage system. The period between September to March 2012 was an important time in the political life of this country as 5 states of India; Goa, Punjab, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand went to poll. The poll results reflected the decline in the popularity of United Progressive Alliance except in Manipur. The win of independent candidates shows that voters, with all their caste, class, religious affiliations and prejudices intact, are increasingly making rational choices or, as some call it "strategic voting" on wide variety of considerations.

In the previous report we mentioned the Anna Hazare movement in India against corruption; it would be pertinent to ask if this prominent urban movement played a role in the outcome of Assembly elections. A dominant section of intelligentsia and the political class believe that the corruption issue, which had acquired massive public space, was a non-issue in Assembly elections and had no role in the electoral outcome. This view needs to be challenged. While it may not be the most dominant factor as indicated from the victory of SP (known for running mafia raj and supporting corrupt and criminal elements) and Akalis (in Punjab, viewed very corrupt by the public); corruption was a key factor in Uttarakhand and Goa. As has been reported extensively, the Congress government in Goa lost to BJP's Monohar Parrikar, known as 'Mr. Clean' largely because the incumbent government was caught deep in a series of mining and allotment scams. As for Uttarakhand, the Nishank led BJP government that was viewed 'extremely corrupt' and written off, was able to stop the Congress from achieving a simple majority through BC Khanduri. It was he who, parachuted by the BJP in the last minute to head the government, considerably regained the BJP's lost ground through his Jan Lokpal Act and host of other anti-corruption measures. Even though corruption may not be a sole issue for candidates to win or lose an election but it does play a major part. Especially since the *Aam Admi* (common man) is slowly but defiantly becoming aware about the leaders they elect. Our President Pratibha Patil has also voiced serious concerns over the criminalization of politics and influence of money in elections. She said, "elections are not about buying votes, it is about selecting candidates committed to working for the aspirations of the people

and hence are eligible to be representative of the people." Patil favoured necessary legislative measures to make electoral processes more robust and free of malpractices.

For a country to be free from corruption serious political reforms are needed and movements like 'India against Corruption' and a strong Lok Pal Bill are the only answer to force the ruling class to bring these reforms.

The ongoing Maoist (Naxalite) insurgency – continued to remain the biggest threat to security in states like Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Assam etc. In an unprecedented move, Maoist rebels, who have virtually held sway in Odisha in recent years, kidnapped two foreign nationals and a State legislator in March. Two Italian citizens, Basusco Paolo and Claudio Colangelo, were kidnapped from Kandhamal district on March 14, and Jhina Hikaka, a legislator of the ruling Biju Janata Dal was abducted from Koraput district on March 24.

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

The present development process has failed to end the deprivation faced by the marginalized communities in most states in India. In fact it has contributed to the social reproduction of marginalization. The Human Development Report 2011 states that the marginalized people have emerged as victims of these processes of development and questioned the path of inclusive growth of India. They are deprived of socio-economic opportunities for their sustenance and are victims of **social, cultural and political exclusion**. While the invisibility of the marginalized people have led to very **little or no participation in the development process**, the stiff resistance from the upper caste and classes thwart the efforts of those who try to speak out. These forms of marginalisation are channelled through pre-existing power structures.

The conditions of **poor manual workers in the unorganized sectors** have remained unchanged over the centuries even after various government initiatives have been formulated and implemented for their upward mobility. Marginalized people in India are struggling against the present methods of development which based on practices of oppression, injustice, exploitation, destruction, displacement and discrimination. They are struggling to preserve and protect their livelihood resources, and to shape an alternative socio-political and economic vision of sustainable, humane development with an equal right to livelihoods.

The recent changes in the FCRA is directly targeting the political empowerment of excluded communities and is a tool that can be used against the CSOs thereby further shrinking the space within which civil society operates.

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

States like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Uttarakhand, observe that the climate of North India is changing fast and is having an adverse impact on our food and economic security. The climate and environmental crises are disproportionately affecting farmers, especially *Dalits and Adivasis*, leaving them more vulnerable. It is observed that the livelihood of families can be sustained only through low external input and non-chemical farming, for which it is important that natural resources like land, forests, water bodies and pastures are conserved. The DBSS like Sambalpur and Phulbani under RCSA Odisha have adapted to changing climate conditions through sustainable agriculture, which integrates local natural resources and local wisdom.

The resource centre at Barrackpore encompasses five DBSS, i.e. Barrackpore, Kolkata, Eastern Himalayas, Durgapur and North East India. The entire agricultural sector of Bengal which is a pioneer in jute and tea has shifted to traditional crops of rice and wheat which has very poor production. The impact of climate change on food availability in the fragile mangrove ecosystems of the Sunderbans in Bengal, a UNESCO world heritage site, is very visible. In the last two decades, this region has witnessed extreme events like flood, high storms, cyclones and drought.

Proper agricultural and irrigational facilities were not provided to people, leading to problems with livelihood and food insecurity. The government's new trend of setting up capital intensive industries in place of labour intensive industries have reduced the employment potential in the industrial sector. This is leading to a trend of high migration rates from Bengal to different parts of the country. The crisis in livelihood can be linked with the change in climatic conditions and liberalization policies of the union government where strict commercial norms have been imposed. Due to this, small scale industries and cottage industries were unable to function as the bank refused to finance these sectors with soft loans. Whole sectors were destroyed systematically by global champions of trade.

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

Yes. The recent changes in the political, social and economic environment and the shift in the development paradigm have compelled us to adopt a business model of development. The stringent regulation and introduction of the centralised audit system is affecting the timely flow of funds. Now the organisation is going through a restructuring process and new institutional mechanisms are coming up to capture the outcome and impact of project oriented interventions.

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

Yes. During the last reporting period emphasis was given to enhance capacities of CNI SBSS and its implementing partners to manage ongoing activities efficiently. Therefore most activities carried out, like the organisational review, course correction, organisational capacity assessment and process oriented development intervention have contributed positively. Process oriented development intervention has helped the partners to understand the current development model, and change required in the strategy and perspectives.

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. The internal system of programme management and governance were strengthened by institutionalising systems like central audit system, strengthening the database, reporting and communication within CNI SBSS. In addition to this programme planning became participatory and the finance and programme governance system has been standardised with a disaggregated database system. Accompaniment supports and compliance management has been streamlined which has resulted in bringing efficiency and effectiveness in CNI SBSS.

5.7. Is the underlying problem analysis of the project still valid? Yes. The underlying problem analysis of the project which was exclusively related to the improving system with regards to programme and PME especially in impact monitoring have been addressed through undertaking a PME system review and midterm financial systems review. Therefore the problem analysis is no more relevant.

6. Conclusions 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 objective?

Yes.

There is need for developing and maintaining a baseline database to establish initial conditions of the project area that would help measure the envisaged outcomes and show change. In addition to that we realised there is need for establishing a village wise data bank through MIS. An output based monitoring system to monitor the impact and capture the outcome of our intervention would help in better monitoring of programmes.

We have also realised that together with Right holders, CNI SBSS should work with the duty bearers and develop a strategy to work together. There is a need to develop economically viable entrepreneurship skills of the communities. This could generate employment opportunities for the local people. In addition to this it would help to use the acquired land to fulfil the immediate needs of the communities.

CNI SBSS also felt that gender and CME (cross cutting themes) should be integrated into the project cycle of management.

6.2 If necessary, please update the project planning:

The gaps identified in the implementation of Speaking Out have been addressed and the recommendations of the Resource Sharing agencies have been incorporated in the planning. .

The new plan has adopted a Logical Framework Analysis approach for better monitoring of the project implementation. The number of Objectives has been reduced to three with three indicators each to better assess the impact of the programme.

6.3 In case of need for consultancy: In what area?

There is a requirement of consultancy in developing an impact monitoring system. With proper tools it would help us to effectively monitor input, output, outcome and impact. In addition to this we need consultancy for strategising our existing resources and to diversify our funding base for ensuring the sustainability of the organisation.

6.4 What are the lessons learned? Please, refer to gender equality issues also.

- CNI SSS needs to develop a strategy to stimulate analysis on the causes of entitlement failure and allows for a more precise description of roles, obligations and responsibilities of the different actors in the development process.
- From a faith-based perspective, our longstanding commitment to development with justice would seem to strongly support a rights-based approach. However, certain essential issues need a stronger and more structured commitment. In particular, CNI SBSS must provide space for internal analysis and self-empowering learning processes (that are fundamental for local ownership) and for the ability to devise and implement effective rights-based strategies at the local and national levels. It could bring a strategy to be implemented at grass-root level to ignite a feeling of ownership among the communities.
- We have realised that Rights-based strategies hold great potential as a powerful tool for empowerment aimed at political, social and economic transformation. However, unless we adapt our current policies and practices to its principles and challenge unequal power relationships that underlie poverty, we will fall short of addressing the issues of institutionalized poverty and social exclusion confronting our world.
- CNI SBSS should focus on structural and root causes. At the root of poverty and rights violations lie complex social, cultural, political, and economic structures that exclude certain groups of women, men and children. Development efforts must not only meet their immediate needs but must also analyse and address the rules, institutions, power relations and mechanisms that exclude and discriminate against certain groups in society.
- Focus should be given to principles of equality and non-discrimination with particular attention to the groups most affected by rights violations and breaches, including indigenous people, women and minority groups.
- Our development strategies must address the interests and needs of the most marginalised and vulnerable men and women in societies. We need to strengthen their access to rights, in particular their claims for an equal voice in the distribution of resources, to real access and

control of these resources, and to non-discrimination within institutions, legislation, policy, and administrative practice.

- CNI SBSS should develop a stakeholder involvement plan and identify and train community representatives in participatory impact monitoring.
- We should develop a strategy for training in non-hierarchical task based performance and create a reserve of funds to bridge fund deficits.
- Organise national events to demonstrate collective strengths and showcase key achievements and organising six monthly reviews and planning. Focus should be more on annual plan.
- Developing a media engagement strategy and evolving a response mechanism to biased media coverage.
- Initiate tracking sample study to capture baseline as well as progress at the ground level and build staff capacity
- Output based monitoring is not done. Monitoring system is not integrated with output tracking
- There is need for phase-out planning
- There is need to evolve clearly defined information collection system for qualitative and quantitative data.

7. Annexure: Case Studies

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1. Barrackpore: No Rationcard, No Scholarship?

When 60 students from Boria and Sardarpara village located at Fulmalancha Gram Panchayat received their minority scholarship little did they know that it was only the beginning of a long struggle before they can use it for their studies. The amount they received by cheque were useless piece of paper for boys and girls who did not have bank accounts.

These students were really worried as they had no money to support their studies and could not start at the university unless they were able to encash their cheques. They approached the bank manager to open an account who refused to open any account in the absence of a ration card. None of the students even had a ration card. At this stage they approached the DBSS community enabler, Mr. Arabinda Naskar and the CBO leaders. A meeting was called and their case discussed amongst the members. They met with the village *Pradhan* (Head), Mr. Palan Chandra Naskar who refused to issue the ration card before 2 months.

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

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

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

2. Durgapur: Empowered against duty bearers

In the village of Bintara, Malda, the pension of Dhani Soren, was stopped due to the negligence of the government staff. Ms. Soren is dependent on her meagre pension of ` 400 in order to survive. However, last year, her pension was suddenly stopped without any intimation from the government. She repeatedly went to the post office to see if she had received any money but was dismissed by the post master who said he could not do anything about her problem.

No one at the post office would tell her what the problem was or what she could do about it. In a final attempt at resolving her problem she approached DBSS staff, Mr. Dhiren Das. On checking her pass book, he found that she had two different account numbers written in it. He then helped her to write an application for the correction of the incorrect account. The application was received and the mistake corrected by the post master and there is hope that in a few months her pension will be resumed.

These poor and helpless people constantly get overlooked by officials as they are regarded as illiterate, weak, and hesitant to speak. They are treated very badly by government officials. It is this discrimination that the DBSS is combating. Ms. Dhani Soren, now has the confidence to approach the DBSS for help and has been encouraged by her previous encounter to question the post master and other government officials.

The DBSS in Durgapur is working towards empowering communities to question and demand what is their due.

3. Durgapur: No Wages for illiterate widows!

The much hyped and praised MGNREGA as a hope for livelihood and dignity to the poor masses is facing a serious crisis. Bhabuk is a gram panchayet in Malda district of West Bengal. When the Panchayet announced a plan to construct a new road, a 3 km long stretch joining Dudhiabari to Soglepara to Kajrihata, villagers found source of livelihood in their own place. Sonoti Hembrom, a 30 year old widow and her neighbours Phulmati and Jasmin from the nearby Chinibari village were no exception. Sonoti who lives with her two adolescent daughters and earns her livelihood by maintaining a small pig farm hoped for some income that would ensure her a meal twice a day. Or she would be forced to earn by selling *hadia*, a local alcoholic beverage in weekly village market.

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

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

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

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

4. Durgapur: Fighting Illegal Land Grabbers

Daso Soren a 56 year old Adivasi farmer had nothing but a piece of land with a small pond to sustain him and his family of six adults and children. Being an ancestral land, it held emotional value to Daso. When Dironath Goswami, a Bangladeshi migrant moved to the village and saw the pond he didn't think twice before illegally acquiring it from Daso. He knew that Daso would not have the papers and what resistance could a poor tribal pose to him, a rich merchant in the village.

Dironath Goswami forged the documents and forcibly acquired the pond. He sought Police to protect the pond from its rightful owner, Daso. There was altercation and the matter reached the police station where Daso filed a complaint against Dironath. However it was found that the records of the land were missing from the settlement office and Daso's name had been removed from the list of landowners.

Feeling helpless Daso met the Community Enabler Rev. Santosh Mardi from the DBSS who introduced him to People's Forum for Social action (PFFSA). PFFSA is a CBO working in the region for the Rights of the marginalised. With their help Daso filed a RTI under Section-6 on 30th January 2012 at the settlement office to ascertain the ownership of the pond. A copy of the RTI was submitted to Deputy Secretary, Land reform Department, Government of West Bengal and another copy to the District Land & Land Reform Officer (DLLRO). On February 23rd, 2012 the Deputy Secretary Land Reform Department responded, stating that the land belongs to Daso Soren and Dironath Goswami was asked to vacate the land immediately.

5. EHD: Villagers addressing irregularity in implementation of MGNREGA

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme has seen to benefit thousands desperately in need for a source of livelihood.

However it has also invited countless cases of abuse of funds by contractors and middlemen who take advantage of those entitled for the scheme – the poorest of the poor, who are usually uneducated and unaware of their rights.

In the Buxa forest region, some locals received work for 12 – 17 days under the MGNREGA.

When it was time to enter the days of work into the roster, the supervisor (another middleman) entered between 20 – 22 days.

The workers were confused at this but did nothing as they were not sure what the supervisor was doing. On receiving their payment they realised that they were paid for 12 – 17 days (i.e. the correct number of days that they had worked) and therefore decided to look into the matter.

They realised that while they had been paid correctly the supervisor was pocketing the difference between days. They promptly filed an RTI against the supervisor, protesting the fact that he was misappropriating funds meant for them and not giving them enough work, so that he could enter more days into the roster. This fraud was directly affecting their livelihood.

As this incident occurred very recently, the volunteers and villagers are awaiting a reply. The fact that such things continue to go on however is appalling. The villagers have learnt that they cannot be taken advantage of and are asserting their right to work for a guaranteed 100 days by protesting this injustice.

6. Kolhapur: Combating violence against the Dalit community

The village of Rangoli is known for communal violence erupting at the slightest provocation.

This village, which is situated in Hathkalangli Block, is dominated by the Jain community who look down on the Dalit people and refuse to give them any sort of opportunity. Because of their attitude the Dalits are very poor and there is much communal tension between the two communities.

Many incidents have occurred in the past, when the community joined to celebrate the birthday of Mr. Anna Bhau Sathe, a renowned Dalit author, and also when a blue flag was removed from Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's statue there was much violence and the entire village was closed for days with many being arrested.

The Matang community forms a part of the lower caste Dalits. There are about 250 families that belong to this community and few own a meagre piece of land.

A small road of about 15 feet runs through farmland which belongs to both the Matang people as well as the Jains. It is the only road that is used by both communities but recently Mr. Mahadev Rama Hunurje a Jain who owns a piece of land connected to this road, forbid the Matangs to use it.

This is causing serious problems for the farming families as no vehicles are allowed on the road and even the harvesters are not allowed to remove their grain from their farms. Whereas the Jains own most of the land in the village, the Matangs own very little and this road is their only way to transport their goods.

Mr. Hunurje has also gone as far as to file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in four courts which were thankfully rejected. The court saw that the road was registered under the 7/12 extract¹ for the use of everyone and the judge's decision was that it should continue to be so.

However the Jains continued to harass the Matangs and refused to let them use the road.

When the time for the sugarcane harvest came Mr. Hunurje and the others prevented people from cutting their crop and transporting it on the road. The villagers sought police assistance but received no response, which meant that they had to carry their crop on their heads for 4 kilometres before it could be transported by road.

¹ The 7/12 extract is an extract from the land register maintained by the revenue department of the government of Maharashtra, a state in India. The extract gives information of the survey number of the land, the name of the owner of the land and its cultivator, the area of the land, the type of cultivation - whether irrigated or rain fed, the crops planted in the last cultivating season. It also records loans extended to the land owner given by government agencies, including the purpose - such as loans or subsidies for buying seeds, pesticides or fertilisers, for which the loan was given, the loans could be given to the owner or the cultivator. It is one of the documents that provide evidence of the ownership of the land it represents. In rural areas the ownership of a particular plot of land can be established on the basis of the 7/12 extract. It is also known as "Record of Rights."

DSVP (Dalit Samaj Vikas Parishad) a PO submitted a charter of demands to the Tahasildar which then reached the Circle Officer. Based on the directive of the Tahasildar, the Circle Officer summoned both aggrieved parties. However he refused to act and simply postponed the verdict as he was bribed by Mr. Hunurige.

A final hearing was set for 11th March 2012. On 9th March, Mr Hunurige and his supporters started digging up the road so that no one could use it. Upon hearing this Mr. Anil Awale and others came to the rescue of the Matangs and managed to stop the further digging of the road.

At this juncture a fight broke out and both the parties went to the Police station but were asked to return the next day to settle their dispute.

On the 10th of March, Mr. Ravindra Tiwade, District president, DSVP, Mr. Sunil Kamble & Mr. Sachin Sathe, Mr. Elia Mane and Mr. Yoseph Awale, Cordinator, DBSS and other community members rushed to the Police Station and demanded that Mr. Hanurige be booked for inciting communal violence and urged the police to register a case against him under the Atrocities Act. They also said that in protest of the incident and due to the lax attitude of the police department a protest rally would be organised on 11th March 2012.

Mr. Pawar, the Police Inspector of Shivaji Nagar Police Station, Ichlakarasnji was shocked. He tried his level best to persuade the Matang and DSVP community members not to do so. The DSVP insisted on their demands being met or they would not leave the Police Station.

Mr. Pawar called both the parties and the president of the Dispute Free Village Committee. Mr. Hunugre was reprimanded and the Government advocate told Mr. Hanurige the consequences of his repeated flouting of the Court ruling. The Matangs also demanded an apology for his activities.

Mr.Hunurige, apologized and gave in writing that he would allow everyone to access the road and also repair it where it was broken. The road was duly repaired and is now being used by both the communities for their day to day activities.

Under the influence of the Dalit Samaj Vikas Parishad a road which was in dispute for more than 17 years has finally been opened for all public including the Dalits.

7. Marathwada: Bhill community stand up to protect the rights to education of their children

Last year there was a case against Tarabai Hatkar, a woman who was beaten up because of her large cotton crop which her neighbour Ramchandra Wagh, a higher caste man, was jealous of.

When Ramchandra Wagh was made to apologise and compensate Tarabai for his actions the Hatkar family received the full support of the rest of the village. However his actions against the Dalit community did not stop there.

There is a primary school in the village of Sahastramuly called Kendriya Prathmik. Mr Phade is the headmaster.

Ramchandra started spreading gossip about the school and the headmaster and even filed a false complaint to the education department.

He and his friends wanted to transfer Mr. Phade because he encouraged the poorer students and would spend much time teaching them even outside the hours of school.

An enquiry commission arrived to investigate and this is when Tarabai stepped up. She defended the headmaster saying, “Mr. Phade runs the school very well. He shares government schemes with the students, he has implemented many schemes like MDM [mid-day meal] and the children are studying well.”

She also warned the enquiry commission and said, “If they submit under the pressure of Ramchandra and transfer Mr. Phade then the entire Bhill samaj will go indefinite hunger strike and sit-in at Paithan Tahasil.”

Tarabai and her community stood up for justice yet again when faced with the oppression of the higher caste people who actively work to keep those of a lower caste uneducated and powerless. The education department supervisor could not do anything in the face of the protesters and agreed to keep Mr. Phade where he was.

This incident taught the Bhill community that they have the power to fight against people like Ramchandra and this has made them resilient and ready to join together to fight against discrimination that they have been suffering under for so many years.

8. NEI: Tea Garden Workers Speak Out... and claim their Rights

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

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

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

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

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

This intervention has showed the power of lobbying groups against unfair and inhuman systems of unemployment.

9. Nagpur: Empowered Women, the Strength of Society: Field-experiences from the MHSS meeting held in October 2011 at Adyaal, Bhandara

Satyashree Goswami, the External Facilitator for the Rapid Appraisal Process interacted with members of the *Manavi Haq Sangharsh Samiti* (MHSS), the vibrant People's Organisation (PO) in Bhandara & Sindewahi-Chandrapur District.

Many spoke of their experiences with the PO and how it changed their lives for the better. Some of the women's stories were also particularly impressive.

Below are some of the stories heard, narrated by the women themselves:

“Now We Know”

My name is Lata Gajbhiye and I am from village Mendha. We have total population of 436 out of which 200 are women. We are strong and determined and all this credit goes to MHSS. The MHSS has offered us training in many areas of life – it instilled courage and confidence in all of us. “Now, we know!”



From time to time, we attended meetings, workshops, trainings organised by MHSS on various topics that were beneficial to us. We came to know about our rights, legal entitlements and many other things. We were able to see ourselves empowered to stop the unjust things around and fight against the corrupt practices. I would like to share one incident when we were denied of our wages even after toiling hard in the forest for the collection of the *tendu patta* (Coromandel Ebony leaves used for Indian local cigarettes). Nearly 15 women who had toiled in forest were not given the payment as it was blocked by the forest officers under some pretext or the other. It was for about `800 - ` 1000 per person. They had to run to the forest officers for about several times. Even our panchayat head could not exert their power on those forest administrators then. Then we decided to do it ourselves and came together and wrote an application and submitted to the forest officers. We went in a larger group and warned the officers to release the payment in fifteen days. And eventually it did happen. The forest officers were able to gauge the strength of the women and yielded to our pressure and released the payment immediately. The women not only from my village but neighbouring villages too have realised the power of unity and from this success we are also dealing with the issues of MNREGA and PDS.



I care...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is one of the major flagship programs of the Rural Development Ministry to increase construction of houses for families below the poverty line. Under the scheme, financial assistance worth ` 45,000/- is provided for construction of houses. The houses are allotted in the name of the woman or jointly between husband and wife. The construction of the houses is the sole responsibility of the beneficiary and the engagement of contractors is strictly prohibited. A sanitary latrine and smokeless stoves are required to be constructed along with each IAY house for which additional financial assistance is provided from Total Sanitation Campaign and Rajiv Gandhi *Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana* respectively.

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

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

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

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



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

– Bharat Makasare & Kondiram Gore

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

11. Patna: Gram Panchayat exercises its legal authority against Illegal Contractor

In the village of Godaidhab, under the Bhatbhanga Panchayat of Taljhari Block, construction on the drainage system was started without the knowledge or approval of the Gram Sabha. A contractor had taken matters into his own hands and started the construction work, without receiving a proper contract from the government. By starting the work he hoped that the money would automatically come to him, without protest from any of the locals. When the Gram Sabha learnt of this work being started they protested but ultimately could do nothing to stop the man because of his political connections.

They called for an emergency meeting and decided to put this matter in the hands of the monitoring cell. The cell in turn filed an RTI against the illegal work. A petition was also submitted to the Block Development Officer (BDO) who intervened and stopped the illegal work and instructed the Gram Sabha and Monitoring Cell to see that the construction continues through proper procedure.

According to the Indian system of government, the Gram Sabha is the central body through which all contracts and proposals must be submitted. When their rightful power was taken away from them, the members of the Gram Sabha did not helplessly stand by, like the contractor had hoped, instead they complained and discontinued the work being carried out. It is important that the Gram Sabha approve any contracts, because this ensures a fair procedure where all potential contractors can submit their budgets.

12. Phulbani: Electricity for Rural Areas in Kandhamal

In the 21st century we imagine that the future is here, it is now. Yet in thousands of villages across India, they do not even have access to that most basic invention in the modern age: electricity.

Kadipanga & Kahampodi are two remote villages of Partamaha Gram Panchayat, in Kandhamal. There are 28 and 45 families living in each village respectively, most of them either Dalits or tribals, all of them living below the poverty line. Their livelihood is dependent on forest farming and unskilled labour.

As they are under one ward they usually discuss their problems together. On the 14th of November there was a meeting following the celebration of Children's Day.

At the meeting ten congregational leaders representing two villages decided to meet the sub-collector of Balliguda. Accordingly, on 16th Nov' 2011 they went to Balliguda & submitted their application to him as well as to the Assistant Engineer, South Co. Electrical division Balliguda and the Project Manager, Grid Co. Balliguda demanding immediate action for bringing electricity to their homes under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyut Jyoti Yojana².

Their demand was met and work started on the last day of November under the supervision of Mr. Ashis Biswal, a junior electrical engineer. The villagers also lent their labour to the project by moving electrical equipment, digging soil, cutting bushes etc for which they were paid.

73 families received electricity just before Christmas after a long and hard struggle for bringing electricity into their homes.

² This is a scheme introduced to help bring electricity to rural areas in India. In 5 years the scheme intends to bring electricity into the homes of 7.8 million households living below the poverty line.

13. Sambalpur: Dalit colony with 40 families gutted over a piece of cloth

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

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

The Dalits thought that the matter was over and returned to their basti. Later about 500 higher caste Hindus of local Meher Community (Caste Hindu) attacked the Dalit Basti with dreadful weapons, chased to nearby forest and flared off all the houses at night. The Dalits in the village alleged that if a Dalit builds a house, dresses well or send their children to school, they are seen with suspicion and contempt. This particular Dalit community is mostly landless. They are not allowed to hold property, build a concrete houses. The Mehers chased the Dalit to the nearby forest where they had to hide to save their lives. Then, they looted all their belongings and thereafter set their houses on fire led mostly by the dominant and rich community (Meher and Merchants) of the village. They destroyed their houses and their sources of livelihood. The material possessions they had earned after decades of hard labour were gutted down in few minutes. Caste atrocities are common in the region but incident of this magnitude did not happen in the region in the near past. The actual conditions of the forms of discrimination and degree of discrimination experienced by former untouchables are rather very high in the village. Their physical contact is regarded virtually polluting by the clean “interior caste”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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