



CNI SBSS

2017-2018

Annual Progress Report



"Transforming Lives"

**Church of North India,
Synodical Board of Social
Services**

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Chief Coordinator cum Secretary



CONTENTS

- Projects.....Page 2
- Major Achievements during Reporting Period.....Page 4
- Mid-term Evaluation & New Proposal.....Page 11
- Organizational Systems for Monitoring Project Outcome and Impact.....Page 12
- Partner Visits.....Page 14
- Publications.....Page 14
- Future Plan.....Page 15
- Outcome & Impact.....Page 16
- Stories of Change.....Page 21

MANDATE

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free”

Luke 4: 18



Honorable Moderator, Dy. Moderator, General Secretary, Hony. Treasurer, Bishops, Respected EC members,

It is with immense happiness and delight; I bring you the report of CNI SBSS. The last one year has been a year of excitement and enthusiasm of a new beginning. We are grateful to God for guiding us each day and using us to serve the poor and the needy. In this report we will be sharing our activities and achievements that CNI SBSS has made in the past one year.

New Board of CNI SBSS:

A new board of CNI SBSS was constituted after the 16th Ordinary Synod of the Church of North India with the blessings of the Office bearers of CNI Synod.

Rt. Revd. M.U.Kasab	-	Chairperson
Rev. Mrs . Sushma Kumar	-	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Suresh C. Jacob	-	Treasurer
Mr. Soumya R Mohanty	-	Secretary

Projects

The core project- Rebuilding Walls & Rebuilding Lives, 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2019

The project works with the most vulnerable section of the society- the Dalits, Adivasis, Women and Children. CNI SBSS is presently working in six states through 14 DBSSs Diocesan Board of Social Services reaching the population of approx. half a million. The program focuses on- Facilitating quality education; Access to safe drinking water & sanitation; Mother & child health care and; Income generation & Asset Creation. Models of church mission engagement.

Local Capacities for Peace, 1st Jan 2018 to 31st Dec 2020: CNI SBSS is part of the network of LCP SA network since 2005, it has been initially working in Mainstreaming LCP in our program planning, monitoring and evaluation process of our programs and since last phase, (2014-2017) the LCP SA network has been working in conflict and addressing the root cause of conflict in our intervention area where we are also taking youth as an important stakeholder. While CNI SBSS programs and activities are aimed at bringing positive changes and social and economic upliftment in the lives of the people who are living in the periphery of the chain of development namely dalits, tribals, women and children by mobilizing the reference community by building their capacities and enabling them to demand for their rights, SBSS has not focused specifically on youth's role or involvement. LCP program has now started involving the youth and has taken them as an important stakeholder through which peace building process can be initiated in the community which can further contribute to the overall goal of CNI SBSS, where we can create a just and equitable society. Mobilizing the youth as peace ambassadors and development agents will be appropriate to build a counter culture of cooperation and cohesive communities



Let My People Go, Annual Approval: The project works in 4 DBSS (Amritsar, Barrackpore, Calcutta & Chotanagpur) focusing on the dalits, tribals, women and youth. The project focuses on providing livelihood skills to women, by linking them with Self Help Groups, aiming to improve their socio-economic standing the community. The project also focuses on youth to provide them with livelihood training on computer operation, mobile repairing, carpentry etc. The Project also focuses on Church Mission Engagement i.e. the involvement of local churches in development work in their respective field areas. This will help in maintaining long term sustainability of the intervention.

1. Entrepreneurship development : Training of youth on alternative livelihood options like carpentry/ electrician/ plumbing etc. in Chotanagpur
2. Alternative livelihood:
Through SHGs (Self Help Groups) in Amritsar: Date palm dry fruit cutting. Production of Pickles, Badi (Lentil nuggets), papad, in Barrackpore : Black pepper plantation and caring, Producer group strengthening. Through cooperative in Chotanagpur: Collection of minor forest products, storage and sale of lac, Mahua, tamarind and Bee keeping for honey collection etc.

Major Focus of Engagement

Facilitating quality education: CNI SBSS's interventions have been focused on creating awareness on the significance of education and entitlements under Right to Education in the community. Along with this, an innovative process was initiated to broaden the scope of education beyond literacy. Bal Sabhas (Children's committees) were formed, where the children come together at a regular interval and engage themselves in different leisure and self-development activities. Through these persistent efforts 4,962 boys and 4,574 girls are now attending school regularly with minimum 75% attendance.

Access to safe drinking water & sanitation: CNI SBSS had been working towards creating demand for sanitation by informing the users about health benefits and helping local institutions in successful implementation of Swachh Bharath Abhiyan. Discussions and interface were conducted with district level officials for developing plans to create open defecation free villages. As a result, 12,437 households have individual household toilets and are using them; 3825 new toilets were constructed and 970 old toilets were repaired and made functional.

The Sanitation & Hygiene awareness campaign '*Swachhata Se Sammriddhi*' saw active participation of community members, church leaders, the young and the old, who pledged together for the prosperity of the country through sanitation. 78,000 people pledged to practice and promote Sanitation & Hygiene practices. The participation of those who have pledged were not just limited to their own hygiene alone, but also into promoting cleanliness and hygiene practices in their communities.

Mother & child health care: CNI SBSS is committed to facilitate institutional delivery, good antenatal and post natal care; and nutrition to address neonatal deaths, as identified by National Rural Health Mission. We are working towards activating and strengthening government health system in rural areas, with sharp focus on prevention through education. Health camps and



awareness programs were conducted in project areas, these events were majorly used as an opportunity to share hygienic and healthy living conditions, create awareness on different health hazards and treatment available for the same.

Income generation & Asset Creation: CNI SBSS aims to create sustainable livelihood opportunities amongst the reference communities for poverty reduction through DBSSs. The interventions are aimed at entrepreneurship development, establishing linkage with banks, markets, governmental institutions, providing technical know-how and closely monitoring the progress. Some of the entrepreneurial activities initiated through the intervention were Apiculture (Bee Keeping), Pisciculture (Fish farming), Black Pepper farming, collective farming, collection of minor forest products etc.

Church Mission Engagement: CNI SBSS aim through its intervention that the congregations will develop and implement programs to do development work and empower the marginalized communities in their locality. CNI SBSS had conducted a series of workshops to capacitate the pastorates, lay leaders and Diocese staff in January and March 2017 on social development, Government schemes, local issues and work of CNI SBSS. Regular follow-ups and meetings have been conducted with pastors and lay leaders of the congregation to discuss issues and interventions of DBSS in the communities and ways to find out how the congregation can be involved in these processes directly or indirectly. The approach enables the local congregation to work with neighborhood community to uplift their socio-economic status.

Major Activities during the reporting period

1. "Swachhata Se Samriddhi" (Cleanliness brings Prosperity) - A National Level Sanitation and Hygiene Awareness Campaign was organized to educate the community on sanitation and hygiene practices, which enhances India's progress in education, health and standards of living. CNI-SBSS launched a hundred day's campaign on 15th October (Global Hand washing Day) to reach sixty nine thousand people by 26th January 2018 with the message of sanitation and hygiene. The campaign was implemented in 1000 villages, through 12 DBSSs in Punjab, Odisha, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Jharkhand. 19th November 2017 was observed as World Toilet Day. Drawing competitions, sessions with health workers and hand-washing demonstrations were conducted to create awareness on the hazards of defecating in open, importance of sanitation and hygiene practices. The community members including the church leaders and children have pledged to follow and promote cleanliness and hygiene practices in their communities. The campaign reached seventy eight thousand four hundred forty five (78445), indicating the participation of people.

Below are some glimpses from the campaign launch:



DBSS Amritsar, Punjab



DBSS Barrackpore, West Bengal



DBSS Chotanagpur, Jharkhand



DBSS Cuttack, Odisha



DBSS Calcutta, West Bengal



DBSS Marathwada, Maharashtra



DBSS Bombay, Maharashtra



DBSS Nagpur, Maharashtra



DBSS Nasik, Maharashtra



DBSS Phulbani, Odisha

2. Empowering SHGs- Rural women exploring entrepreneurship activities

DBSS, Kolkata has been working with the Self Help Groups to facilitate in the process of making them economically independent in order to bring improvement in their life. Some of the SHGs are now at a matured stage where they have now built good relationship with the banks. During the reporting period, 20 Self Help Groups have received a loan of Rs. 39, 00,000/- from Bangiyo Framing Bikash Bank, Chatta ,Ganipur and Shibrapur Branch for different income generation activities. The SHG members are involved in activities like tailoring, pisciculture, flower and vegetable selling, grocery and imitation shop, tea and snacks stall etc. About 25 families are

engaged in aforesaid Income Generation activities. Apart from those activities, 5 families are involved in poultry birds rearing activities, where they collect poultry birds (Chicks) from the State Poultry Farm.

3. Exploring Alternative Livelihood Opportunities for the community

a. Black Pepper Cultivation: At DBSS Barrackpore, 510 new black pepper saplings were planted in the reporting period. The old black peppertrees nurtured by the community grew by 2-3 ft in height and few trees among them are bearing fruits at present.



b. Vegetable Farming: In DBSS Chotanagpur, community farming is being done by 32 families in Torpa and Bano. They cultivated green peas and other vegetable crop in 2 acres of land. Training on organic farming was conducted for 20 farmers in Bano. After the farmers' meeting, a consensus was developed and the 16 farmers who were interested developed a plan and formed a committee for collective farming. In the reporting period, the 16 farmers did vegetable farming individually and earned an income of Rs. 8,000- 10,000.



c. Apiculture: At DBSS Chotanagpur, the villagers in Bano block, after getting trained in bee-keeping with intervention of horticulture department of Jharkhand, have received 230 bee boxes from the government under the scheme. CNI SBSS will now work to setup a demo site for Bee-Keeping, which will act as a live training site and provide technical knowledge and details of the processes of Bee- keeping for community sharing and learning.



4. Voicing for Forest and Land Rights:

DBSS Nagpur had initiated the process of capacitating the villagers on Forest Right Act-2006. Application for Forest land was filed by the villagers and after going through different hurdles, they finally received forest land on June'2016 namely Pimpal gaon (120.4 hectare) and Shea gaon (44.8 hectare) villages. However during this process, some conflict arose in People's organisation (Manaviya Hakka Sangharsha Sammity) leadership which brought the process of demarcation and land plan development came to a standstill. The CNI SBSS and DBSS staff came up with strategy to address the issue and now the conflict in Shea gaon has been addressed and the demarcation process for the Community land (44.8 hectare) has been initiated on 22nd March 2018 and the process of addressing the latent tension in Pimpal gaon is underway.





Apart from the above mentioned land, community land of 57.06 hectare was received by village Gaidongari, 252 hectare by village Jankapur and 179 hectare received by village Pauna.

Since 2005, DBSS Kolhapur facilitated the process of applying for land rights at the Tehsil office for the 125 Dalit households. After a series of follow-ups, 19 acres/399 plots of land was proposed to be given to 100 Dalit families of Nandre village. The land leveling was done and demarcation of edge area and 1500 sq. ft. individual plotting for each applicant has been completed with the help of the Town Planning Department.

5. Learning initiatives for community youth and children

In DBSS Kolhapur, CNI SBSS initiated identification of different art forms like songs, dance, and drama for promotion and to preserve it and to integrate it in the local schools. The local artists in the community will also be promoted.

A new initiative has been taken in Menda village by DBSS Nagpur for developing a village library with participation and involvement of village youth. The books will be collected from churches in the cities and sent to Menda village. The library will be a place for children, youth and adults to come together to spend constructive time of learning and application.

6. Working for School Development

DBSS Amritsar staff conducted a study of the local government schools on provisions of Right to Education (RTE). The study highlighted the lack of basic amenities and lack of teachers in the schools etc. The study was published in the local newspapers, as a result of which the Education Department of the state took some remedial measures to address the issues existing in the community.

DBSS Phulbani conducted meetings with the members of School Management Committee on their roles and responsibilities, which in turn helped in development of School Development Plan in 7 Primary Schools. This will help in streamlining the functioning of schools as per the provision of RTE.

A “Child Protect Committee” & “Matri Shiksha Committee” were formed in 6 Primary schools of 15 core villages in Barrackpore, WB.



7. Health of children, a priority for our DBSS(s)

DBSS Marathwada staff along with the government officials administered polio drops in the month of Jan and March (28th Jan 2018 and 11 March 2018). More than 368 Children at Bidkin, Dhorkin, Karkin, Pandharohol, Wazar, Walunj and Lanzie were provided with free Polio drops by the government. This vaccine protects children against Polio or Poliomyelitis, which is a highly infectious viral disease spread through the feces of infected people. The Polio virus enters through the mouth and ends up in the nervous system. It can rapidly lead to paralysis and even death. Many times due to the lack of knowledge the children in the villages are not administered these drops.

A special emphasis was also made on including the youth in the different activities of the DBSS.

8. Church in Mission:

CNI SBSS also aims that through its interventions; the congregation will develop and implement programs to continue developing and empowering the marginalized communities in its locality. A series of workshop were conducted on Church in Mission to capacitate the clergy, lay leaders and Diocese staff, regular follow-ups and meetings has been conducted with pastors and lay leaders of the congregation in their project areas. In these meetings, discussions were carried out on the issues and interventions of DBSS in the communities and ways to find out how the congregation can be involved in these processes directly or indirectly. CNI SBSS has been learning from the concept of 'UMOJA', which is a combination of Social Work and Christian witness of Love your Neighbor. This is a practical and simple approach shared by Tearfund, the approach enables the local congregation to work with neighborhood community to uplift their socio-economic status with the help of congregation resources. The involvement of congregation in the development process will bring lasting effect and sustainability to CNI SBSS's initiatives and intervention in the communities

This initiative is helping to create awareness and the methodology to access to various government schemes like MGNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, Mid-day meal Scheme, PDS, Old age pension, Widow Pension etc., This initiative has been started in Amritsar, Barrackpore, Chotanagpur, Mumbai and Marathwada DBSS.



23 participants of seven dioceses of CNI were trained, namely Amritsar, Barrackpore, Chotanagpur, Mumbai, Marathwada, Cuttack and Patna.

Mid Term Evaluation & New Proposal

The findings of the mid-term evaluation were a great learning for us. The evaluators recommended actions to add value to the present phase and also take these to the next project phase. The recommendations will take the actions towards the development goal in future. On the basis of the recommendations the next phase has been designed.

The process of mid- term Evaluation for the project “Rebuilding Walls, Rebuilding Lives” was initiated in September 2017. The evaluator Ms. Rosemary Viswanath did the organizational part and Mr. Khilesh Chaturvedi did the program part. The process began with evaluators studying the project proposal, reports and case studies at DBSS level followed by preparatory meetings with SBSS team to discuss methodology and process. This was followed by field visit to four DBSS namely Kolhapur DBSS (26-28 October 2017), Kolkata DBSS (8-10 January 2017), Barrackpore DBSS (11-12 January 2018), Chotanagpur DBSS (15-16 January 2018). The DBSS visits were planned keeping in mind the diversity of different regions in which CNI SBSS functions and also to give the evaluators an opportunity to experience theme specific interventions of DBSS. They were able to interact with the DBSS board(s), staff and community in the villages. The final report was submitted on 15th Feb 2018 and was shared with Bftw and Change Alliance. Some of the important learnings from report are shared below:

At organisational front,

a. Dioceses require developing greater ‘ownership’ and building of interest, capacity and strength both in the teams and in governance more uniformly across dioceses. Questions of accountability



and supervision and how ownership can be enhanced need to be discussed more openly and/or more often.

b. Enhance the ownership by increasing the participation of Board members in effective governance and involvement of congregation.

c. There is a need to widen the fund base by tapping resources from individual contributions, CSR funding and government funding.

At the programmatic level,

a. More value can be added to current income generation processes by using entrepreneurship development and/or collectivization processes. Empower the PO/MAM/CBO/SHG by federating them and finding more funding avenues for them at local level.

b. For more RTE intervention, engagement with other players/activists in the sphere of advocacy is required. Activating the School Management Committees (SMCs), community members becoming a part of SMCs and monitoring, demanding improved quality of schools, demanding transparency in school budgets and expenses.

The process of developing the proposal for the next phase has been initiated and in order to spearhead this process, an eight-member committee is formed. Chief Coordinator, Head of Finance and Advisor along with rest of the SBSS team supported this committee in plan development process. All DBSS conducted a process in their intervention villages to develop intervention plan for the next three years with the community. A data collection/planning format was developed by the committee for presenting these plans by all DBSS. The plan was developed for existing number of core villages. Based on such village development plans, DBSS consolidated the data and prepared a DBSS level plan. The DBSS level plan was shared with the whole team and after feedback the plan was finalized. The country level consolidation of the Plan was done in May 2018.

Organizational Systems for monitoring project outcome and impact

Output monitoring and process monitoring is conducted regularly to ensure quality outputs. For output monitoring, various programmatic and financial reporting formats are used; like monthly plan & reports and half yearly reports. Indicator based reporting is done by DBSS to CNI SBSS on a six monthly basis. These reports are analyzed to measure the outcome and impact of the activities/ programs. The conclusions derived on the basis of this analysis are shared and discussed with appropriate suggestions/ comments to further strengthen the programs.

A quarterly review process is also undertaken by the CNI SBSS team in which the DBSS are asked to share project progress report and case studies based on the activities done in the three months. These reports are thoroughly read and discussed among the CNI SBSS team and a good assessment

of progress with review and recommendations for future project activities is shared back with the DBSS team.

The CNI SBSS staff conducts monitoring visits every quarter to DBSS project area. They interact with the members of the community, community based organizations, Self-help groups, DBSS staff etc. to understand the progress of the program, challenges faced and accompaniment. During these visits the data collected by the DBSS team against the indicators are validated, observations from the communities are discussed and appropriate corrective/necessary actions are planned.

Important Lessons Learnt during the reporting period

Believing that the youth can make a positive change in our community and has the potential to be leaders, CNI SBSS had initiated the process of working with youth as a stakeholder. 'Do No Harm' is an effective tool to bring harmony in our intervention area and we are at present in the process of mainstreaming the tool under the project 'Local Capacity for Peace'. The young men and women of the communities are being consciously involved in the project intervention through the peace

building program to make them aware of the social evil, issues and encourage them to partake in the process of resolving the issues in their communities. Youth from the communities were identified to form youth groups and were banked upon on different issues relevant to their communities. The participation of youth in the activities conducted by DBSS has relatively increased across all the project areas. CNI SBSS through its engagement with the youth learnt that one of the most important needs of the youth today is livelihood. As an effort to address the same, CNI SBSS has initiated a process to link the youth with livelihood activities and skill development programs.

CNI SBSS aims to improve the socio-economic status of women through capacity building programs, income generation activities, participation in decision making processes and collectivization of Self Help Groups. The representatives of SHGs come together in each village to form Mahila Adhikar Manch (Women Right's Forum). The MAM have now become community conflict redressal committee where the women and also the communities bring their issues of conflict and they are being addressed here without creating further conflict. While engaged in their individual to community work their minds have expanded with the broader perspective of the society. Therefore their engagements in WASH, Education have been increased considerably. This is one of the motivations of these groups.

In the line of the project, we consider youth as an important stakeholder and work force for the holistic development rather than in sectoral ways which confine them to short term productivity. Different strategies to mobilize youth and integrating them in project thematic are being applied, ensuring their equal participation in community development. The strategy is to move along the lines of self-development (in areas like Communication, Teamwork, Resilience, Self Application, Life skills, Leadership) leading to community/village development. Their area of interest and talent is



harnessed to make their development better and effective, irrespective of religion, caste and gender. For this purpose, we are collaborating with different agencies and government departments to provide skill development and capacity building trainings for the youth so that their knowledge base is increased, they are self-confident, independent and in future are gainfully employed and can contribute effectively in the development of their communities.

Partner Visits to CNI SBSS

Ms. Semeda Steves, Change Alliance visited the project areas of DBSS Kolkata from 19th & 21st June 2018. The visit focused on dalit land right issues, livelihood initiative of the community through Self Help group. Ms. Semeda expressed her satisfaction on the work done by DBSS Kolhapur.

Visit of Mr. Frank Ecke, Program Officer, BftW: Mr. Frank participated in the planning meeting of SBSS & DBSS team members along with Ms. Semeda and Ms. Sapna & Ms. Seethal of FMSF and discuss about the progress of CNI SBSS work. The visit will be during Oct. 2018. Separate meeting was held on the findings of Evaluation report and new proposal submission time lines.

Other visitors from different churches and foreign delegates visited CNI SBSS office and interacted with the team.

Publications

Three year report of CNI SBSS: The three year report was published and presented in 16th Ordinary Synod of CNI SBSS and appreciated by the members of Synod. The report captured the overall community engagement and success stories from the field.

NICR: CNI SBSS has been continuously publishing its success stories/news/events on this platform. It has been a great platform to share our journey. In the past one year, we have published eight case stories and four news & events through NICR.

Website: We update our project information, case stories, news & events and financial details as per FCRA's requirements on the CNI SBSS website regularly.

Posters: CNI SBSS produced 20 posters on different themes and displayed in the Synod. These posters were distributed to all the Dioceses.



Future Plans

- Reaching unreached, expanding the intervention to new geography
- To explore new options and channels for resource mobilization for self-reliant
- Empower the youths and women
- To continue maintaining the highest level of transparency and accountability in the organization

I am thankful to God Almighty, Moderator, Dy Moderator, General Secretary, Treasurer CNI Synod, Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and treasurer and Board members of CNI SBSS for their support, guidance and encouragement.

Outcome and Impact

Project components objectives	Indicators	Achievement of objectives	Planned activities	Activities implemented
Health and education status among Dalit(SC) and tribal (ST) families will improve in 100 revenue villages	At the end of project, 75 percent primary school children from dalit and tribal families in 100 targeted revenue villages attending schools with a minimum 75 percent attendance in an academic year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82.5% children are attending school regularly with minimum 75% attendance in 100 targeted revenue village 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of different activity for learning in Children club/ Bal Sabha in different DBSS • Capacity building of Issue based Committee on Right to Education Act (RTE) • Activation of school management committee and village education committees • School Development Plan to be developed in schools • Village level meetings and mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of School Management committees on their roles and responsibility • Different sessions introduced in children's club • Capacity building of communities on RTE Act • School Development Plan developed in 7 Primary school
	At the end of project, 75 percent houses of target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 78.5% of the target communities in 100 revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing of water sources through Government system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level workshop for DBSS and SBSS staffs on Sanitation • Campaign 'Swachhata Se Sammriddhi' on Sanitation & Hygiene conducted across 5 states



	communities in 100 revenue villages will have access to safe drinking water and use toilet facilities.	village have access to safe drinking water . • 5160 households have access to safe drinking water within 500 mtrs, • 54 new water sources were created and 56 old water sources were revived; • 71.1% households got access to toilet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of drinking water sources through Government resources • Filing of applications for individual toilets under Swachha Bharat Mission and construction of toilets • Activation of village water and sanitation committees (regular meetings and action taken on water and sanitation issues of the village) • Village level meetings and mobilization on WASH Campaign on Sanitation 	<p>through which 78445 people were reached.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing of application for IHL and follow up on the process by the committee members • Interface with district level officials for developing plans to create Open Defecation Free (ODF) village
Income among dalit and tribal population will improve in 100 intervention villages by	At the end of project, at least 500 target households will raise revenue of at least INR 10,000 per year	• 1416 households have been able to raise revenue from acquired land from previous project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing of applications for allotment of land and legal ownership (patta) of land • Filing of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping process on FRA has begun • Demarcations of new acquired land under process



employment and self-employment	from their land; of these at least 400 from newly acquired land	<p>period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At DBSS of Nagpur, communities have applied for revenue and forest land, individual and community land & home shed and agriculture land and entitlement is under process • 1095 households were engaged in agriculture on their land and their annual income has approximately increased by INR 10,000. <p>Out the of the total, 5 households were engaged in agriculture on their newly acquired land.</p>	<p>applications for construction and repair of houses under Government schemes and construction/repair of houses through Government resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village level meetings <p>Demarcation of newly acquired community land</p>	
	At the end of project, 1,300	• 245 male headed families	• Village level meetings	• Central Board for Workers & Education, Kolkata and Barrackpore Diocesan Board of Social

	<p>Dalit and tribal households of 100 targeted revenue villages will have increased income by at least 50 percent; of these a minimum fifty percent beneficiaries will be women.</p>	<p>and 432 female headed households were engaged in alternative livelihood and out of which 81 male and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 179 female headed families annual income has approximately increased by 50%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and support communities to get benefits from MGNREGA and NRLM • Capacitate SHGs to take up different alternative livelihood activities for income generation • Provide skill development training to youth 	<p>Services jointly organised two programs which called “Awareness Program on Unorganised Labour”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment and benefits received through Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- entral Board for Workers & Education, Kolkata and Barrackpore Diocesan Board of Social Services jointly organised two programs which called “Awareness Program on Unorganised Labour”. • Employment and benefits received through Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin and MGNREGS • Training on agriculture and horticulture was provided to 40 farmers in 4 villages • Skill development training for youth under Govt. Scheme of Orissa Rural Development and Marketing Society. • Tailoring classes started in two DBSS . and MGNREGS • Training on agriculture and horticulture was provided to 40 farmers in 4 villages • Skill development training for youth under Govt. Scheme of Orissa Rural Development and Marketing Society. • Tailoring classes started in two DBSS.
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❖ News from SBSS ❖

❖ In Touch ❖

'Swachhata Se Samriddhi' A Sanitation & Hygiene Awareness Campaign to Develop a Prospering India

CNI SBSS has launched a hundred day campaign 'Swachhata Se Samriddhi' in five states on 15th October 2017 observing the Global Hand Washing Day. Inadequate sanitation is a major cause of disease world-wide and improving sanitation is known to have a significant impact on health both in households and across communities. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to convey the criticality of sanitation and hygiene in the life of human beings when he said "Sanitation is more important than political freedom". According to UNICEF, hand-washing with soap alone can considerably reduce the incidence of diarrhoea, which is the

second leading cause of death amongst children under five years old. CN SBSS has been working with the communities through Diocesan Board of Social Services on creating awareness and facilitating access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Sanitation and hygiene is not merely about the presence or absence of infrastructure but it is also about the mind-set and willingness to change, thus the campaign aims to bring behavioral change in the communities through creating awareness on sanitation & hygiene practices. The campaign was launched through 12 DBSSs in Punjab, Odisha, Maharashtra, West Bengal and

Jharkhand among church leaders and community members. It is aimed to reach sixty nine thousand people through different programs such as signing the pledge, public meetings, slogan writings and activities with youth & children involving local churches by 26th January 2018. Till date 4158 people have pledged to follow good hygiene and sanitation practices. CNI SBSS has launched a blog to record and publish all the activities of the campaign across all DBSSs.

To know more about our campaign, follow our blog at www.swachhataesamriddhi.wordpress.com or visit our website www.cnisbss.org

Below are some glimpses of the campaign launch:



DBSS Chotanagpur, Jharkhand



DBSS Durgapur, West Bengal

Stories of Change....



‘Fishing’ for Entrepreneurial Dreams

Tagori Mondol hails from a small village in Barrackpore, West Bengal and is a member of ‘Perona’ SHG. She lives with her husband, Sumit Mondol and a 10 year old son. As a family, for a very long time, they were burdened with a prolonged financial crisis. Her husband is a daily wage worker so there was always an inconsistency in getting hired daily to earn a day’s income. With whatever meager income Sumit earned, they were not able to afford proper food and clothing. The question of her son going to school regularly seemed farfetched. With no land of their own, they were also unable to opt for agriculture to earn livelihood through it.

In this time of need, her relatives and neighbors also brushed her away and did not come forward to help her in any manner. If she wanted to borrow anything from them, they seemed aloof and disinterested. This made her even more distressed and she could not figure out what to do.

light soon entered through the cracks when she was able to talk to Nayami Pramanik, one of the Community Enablers working with DBSS Barrackpore in her village. Nayami became a huge support to encourage and guide Tagori to come up with a sustainable livelihood option. Nayami advised her to take a small loan from their SHG group account and start her small fishing business.

She soon decided to take the risk and took a loan of Rs.20,000/- and began to work. Tagori hired a pond of 10 katha on rent from Tapash Mondal of Chakbishu village at Rs.7000 and with the leftover money; she bought few fishlet, fish nets and fish food.

After few months of fish farming and patient wait, soon the story changed and now after every 6 months, she collects the fish from the pond and sells it in Nepalgunge and Pailan haat, the nearby local market places. With the profit earned, she repaid back the loan taken to her SHG group account and later bought a cycle and a television for her family.

Eventually, with 2 years of consistent business and support from SHG members and DBSS, she had an income of Rs. 60,000/- and her net profit was Rs. 40,000/-. From nothing to something, it will always be a memorable journey for her.

Commenting on her progress over the years she says- “Witnessing a steady income for over two years, I am now more confident and have decided to hire more ponds surrounding my village and continue to grow my business and provide good future to my children.”





Stories like Tagori have become quite common in many rural villages of West Bengal where apart from men, women are also coming forward to take charge and earn a living for their families. A livelihood option like

fishing not only provides a regular income but also gives the community women the opportunity to think along the lines of becoming entrepreneurs in future.

Fishing in Bengal is not only a source of income but also a provider of necessary nutrients to our body. Moreover, fishing influences local and national economy, creates scopes of engagement for the rural women and marginal farmers, alleviates poverty through employment generation, helps the development of ancillary industries and infrastructure, conserves the aquatic ecosystem and biodiversity etc. Overall it helps in the total development of a region.

Stories of Change....



RIGHTS FOR ALL

DBSS Kolhapur facilitating to restore the Lives of Dalit Communities by Advocating for Land Rights

In a country like India where land resources are already scarce, unequally distributed and conflicted over, the marginalized communities like Dalits have new level of disputes to fight over each day. These things have sadly become a part of their existence. This is a story of Dalits in a village, mobilized to struggle for land rights for the last ten years. Finally, they broke all odds to be the champions.

Nandre is a small village, 15 kms from Sangli district in Kolhapur. The village comprises 75% of upper caste community who are into agriculture and other small businesses. These communities have total control on the village land and Panchayat and highly discriminate on the grounds of caste (Untouchability) due to which the Dalits have been facing oppression and exploitation for more than a decade. Practice of 'Çhakri' or bonded labour



is actively practiced in which the Dalits work hard with very less money under the upper caste communities.

Two kms away from the Nandre, is a small slum where Dalit families with a population of twenty five thousand were residing. The Dalit families largely belong to Matang, Mahar, Chamar, Dhangar and Ligayat caste. Some Muslim Dalit families are also living among them. Few migrants from Karnataka have also taken shelter in the slums. The slum is surrounded by forest land and is highly infested with snakes. Snakes entering the small make shift houses of the Dalit families is a regular thing. Fear of getting bitten by snakes is constant.

But for the Dalit community at Nandare village, Kolhapur, the meager income was not sufficient, but they held onto the minimal that was available to them. The historical marginalizations of these communities have made them fully or partially accept that they deserve to be excluded because they are Dalits. Despite this, they have been working hard as laborers on a sparse income with absence of basic facilities.

Through the intervention of DBSS Kolhapur, when the Dalit communities started receiving basic amenities such as water connectivity, electricity, voter ID card etc., the other upper caste communities felt threatened and intimidated. They wanted the land for industrial development and sent legal notice to evacuate the Dalit communities out of the land they had been residing for over 50 yrs.

Voicing for Land Rights and Standing Against all Odds

In 2005, DBSS facilitated the process of applying for land rights at the Tehsil office for the 125 Dalit households. When the upper caste communities learned about this development, they used all their power and influence to stop the process so that the Dalit communities are never empowered. CNI SBSS along with DBSS and People's Organization (Dalit Samajj Vikash Parisad) conducted workshops and awareness programs to mobilize communities towards their common cause. They were encouraged to live with dignity. With support from DSVP, the Dalit families went to the District Collectors office and did a 'Holi Andolan' in which they burnt the evacuation notice in the Holi fire. Other Advocacy programs were conducted with government officials, administrative bodies and police on the actions and negative influence of upper caste communities that were blocking the Dalit communities from receiving their rights.

After a series of follow-ups, the first application was rejected but they (Dalits) did not feel defeated. After re-filing the application with necessary documents in the year 2009; inquiry was done by the Revenue Department. Gram Sabha approved to regularize the encroached land and gave the NoC. Following that, 19 acres/399 plots of land was proposed to be given to 100 Dalit families of Nandre village. Land demarcation & mapping fees first installment of Rs. 90,000/- was deposited in the year 2015 and the second of Rs. 60,000/- in October 2017, at Land Record and Town Planning Department.

Dreaming a land of their own

During the process, more than 98 families have taken refuge on the grazing land (Gairan) owned by Govt. since the Dalit families have no shelter of their own. As per Town Planning Office directive on 3rd November 2017, the hutment in the land was razed and the land was made plain. The land leveling was done and demarcation of edge area and 1500 sqft individual plotting for each applicants have been completed with the help of the Town Planning Department in the period between Nov-Dec 2017 .

The battle continues...

On 9th December 2017, total measuring of the land was taken up and demarcation work was almost completed. No sooner the news of completion of demarcation of land went through the village like wild fire, all the big wigs of Jain community, political as well as people without party affiliation leaders took strong objection for handing over plots to Dalit community members. They went a step further to the print and electronic media and met with the Collector and submitted their stern objection for handing over plots to the Dalits. This created a massive furor and confusions which then led to an enquiry being taken place which resulted in the DBSS and DSVP activists apprising the media, the Tehasildar and Sub Divisional Office of the factual position and thereby holding a press conference with the media to raise their voice against these atrocities on the Dalit community.



After constant support and encouragement, DBSS and DSVP have succeeded in mobilizing the Dalit community people. Now, very soon the 100 Dalit families of Nandare village won't have to live under thatched roofs anymore. They will now have a land to call their own and pakka houses to live in and lead dignified and secured lives.

DBSS Interventions over time

- **DBSS Kolhapur** facilitated the process of application for homestead land for 538 households in Kolhapur district and 792 households in Sangli district in Maharashtra.
- **DBSS Nagpur** put in efforts along with its People's Organizations, 113 households of Gaidongori village received 57.06 hectare land under Forest Rights Act. 13 households in two villages in Bhandara District, Maharashtra have applied for Individual land rights with the support of DBSS Nagpur.
- **DBSS Chotanagpur** facilitated the process of application for Community forest rights for 831 households for 475 hectare land in Simdega district, Jharkhand.



Caste based marginalization is one of the most serious human rights issues in the world today. It entails social and economic exclusion, segregation in housing, denial and restrictions of access to public and private services and employment, and enforcement of certain types of jobs on Dalits resulting in a system of modern day slavery. Development is always broadly conceived in terms of mass participation. Marginalization deprives a large majority of people across the globe from participating in the development. As the objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy a productive, healthy, and creative life, it is important to address the issue of marginalization. However, in recent years due to affirmative action, legal protection, rigorous work of civil society organizations and human rights activists, the intensity of caste based marginalization is reducing.

CNI SBSS had been engaging with the government institutions/ bodies through DBSS on the issues of land allocations, forest rights (community rights & Individual rights) and atrocity cases with community members under the constitutional provisions and Govt. policies. People's organizations have been leading these tedious processes along with the DBSS.

Stories of Change....



Harnessing Young Minds for a Better Tomorrow

The rural youth is probably the most hardworking section of the entire population of India. They are healthy, they have the stamina and they have the tenacity it takes to make it big in life. The only problem though is the lack of opportunities and awareness in the rural areas. The rural youth can do wonders given the right push and the right opportunities. It is also true that in today's world, a person cannot depend solely on primary occupations like agriculture, fishing etc. One needs to step out of their comfort zone to see where the world is going and find out how they will be able to become a part of this constantly growing economy. A nudge in the right direction with empathy and care is what our youth needs today from the elders and role models around them.

A similar initiative was taken up by our Phulbani DBSS at Raikia block. Our DBSS team while working with the community youth soon realized that one of the most obvious reasons behind their lack of development is lack of knowledge. The rural youth usually has to move to a bigger city in order to fulfill their dreams and earn livelihood or just simply give up on them because of the lack of money and other resources.

The Community Enabler from DBSS found unemployment as the major problem faced by the youth in the community. He has been counselling them over time and has been guiding them on exploring different employment avenues. It was understood that unavailability of sustainable job opportunity is the main reason for increased youth migration. Often after returning home in the village from cities, they come back suffering from fatal diseases like HIV/AIDS. This poses a threat to their whole family and the community, and for them it is both painful and regretful. Many are suffering from psychological pressures and depression. Fulfilling their family's needs becomes hard for them, so they have no choice but to migrate and work.

DBSS Phulbani came up with a solution and decided to discuss it with the govt officers of GPO, BPO and OLM to guide and provide employment opportunities to the community youth. The purpose was to provide a platform for the Govt. officers to meet the potential youth and to counsel regarding different Govt. schemes available for them under which the youth can get skill training and thereafter get employed at a respectable place.

Youth Participation at 'Nijukti Mela' held on 23rd Feb 2018 at Raikia

DBSS Phulbani organised a 'Nijukti Mela' at Raikia block where the community youth was invited to discuss their issues on unemployment. Nearly 60 youth participated among which 14 successfully filled out job application forms for the skill development program under Govt. scheme of ORMAS.



Impact created:



The selected 14 youth are undergoing skill development training and subsequently more youth are being aware of various Govt. schemes. Many are coming forward and applying into skill programs. The community is now also aware about it and is encouraging and supporting this initiative.

The community and the local leaders are appreciative of the DBSS team for their efforts to help the youths and counsel and advocate for them to develop their talents and skills. It was also commendable to see parents supporting their young boys in the family and also Govt. officers who equally encouraged and willingly came forward to support and guide the community youth.

Youth today, is a major resource for not only development of financial prosperity but for social changes as well. Despite holding such importance, millennial often face hurdles on a daily basis, with their energy still not being channelized in the right direction.

The need to empower youth for a better tomorrow is connected both, to the financial elevation as well as increment of the standard of living. Awareness is a key factor for this empowerment, with guidance towards developing a wholesome outlook of life. Youth empowerment in any development is imperative not only for national development of an entire country but also for personal development of an individual. Youth empowerment is pursued by promoting youth rights, youth activism and in community decision making. Empowerment is necessarily a process of inculcating values to equip the learner lead a life that is satisfying to the individual while being in accordance with the cherished values and ideals of the society. At present it is the most effective mean that society possesses for confronting the challenges of the future.



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