

“Where there is Justice”

Annual Report
2004-2005



Synodical Board of Social Services
Church of North India

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Message from Chairman

He said to his disciples,
“Let us cross over to the other side of the lake....”

— (Mark)

Dear Co-workers in His Vineyard,

It gives me pleasure to present the report of the year 2004-2005 of the CNI Synodical Board of Social Services. As chairman, it is my special privilege and honour to commend your efforts and support in fulfilling the mission agenda of the Church. The year under review has been very significant in the life of the CNI SBSS. SBSS renewed, refocused and reaffirmed its commitment to liberate from bondage and to build communities of resistance and hope.

Having journeyed with the people for 25 years, last year, SBSS too decided to cross over to the other side. The journey, though turbulent, has been a learning and meaningful experience. It has provided new insights and perspective and enlarged the canvas for a larger cause. The fear and storm of change were effectively converted into an opportunity to follow our Master. His presence and guidance were reassuring in managing change, and transforming approaches, processes and structure required to practise and promote the rights-based approach.

When the storm came, the Master was sleeping on a cushion but he responded to the cry of the people and calmed the storm. He rebuked his disciples, yet loved and cared for them, and took them to the other side of the lake. Are we ready to give up our cushion of comfort and safety to be in solidarity with the poor in their suffering, hope and aspirations? Do we have the ability to calm the storms and bring solace? We often treat the reference community as ‘they’ and involve self as ‘we’. How can we break this barrier? It demands change in our choices and decisions. SBSS needs resilience and reformation to be with the poor.

SBSS has identified people-centred advocacy as a key strategy to realize the economic, socio-political and cultural (ESC) rights – a step towards ensuring social justice and equity. To address issues of livelihood, food security, land, identity and social exclusion, SBSS has developed a new structure and process. We all need to be committed and united to this cause and mission. Get ready and be equipped,

SBSS has identified people-centred advocacy as a key strategy to realize the economic, socio-political and cultural (ESC) rights – a step towards ensuring social justice and equity.

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otherwise the Master would say, “Why are you such cowards ... Have you no faith even now?” The new three-year programme phase and 10-year perspective phase require extra strength and commitment to throw off the burden of globalization.

I take this opportunity to thank the SBSS board members, especially Mrs Arpita Lawrence, Secretary, and Mr Philip Jadhav, Treasurer, for their contribution. We also appreciate the support of the resource sharing agencies. All the chairpersons, the bishops and co-ordinators require special mention for their unstinting support. We are thankful to the Synod office bearers for their guidance and support. We do count on them. SBSS staff team deserves appreciation for their hard work and willingness to put in extra effort. We thank God for the leadership of Dr Shailendra Awale, Chief Co-ordinator. In very challenging times, he navigated us across the stream. May God bless you all!

Now we are on the other side of lake, let us respond compassionately.

Rt Rev Purely Lyngdoh
— Chairman

Message from Chief Co-ordinator

The purpose and object of the Church of North India is to proclaim by word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The medical, social and agricultural services that the Church is engaged in are to promote social justice, spiritual growth and moral regeneration. It is a privilege and honour to present the activities of the Synodical Board of Social Services, contributing to the mission and purpose of the Church and ensuring the rights of the poor to be restored in His Image. *Towards building communities of resistance and hope* (TBCRH) makes a very potent mix of politics and theology. To pursue this political theology, SBSS consciously opted for the rights-based approach for our empowerment initiatives. The change in approach demanded a series of changes in perspectives, process and structure of SBSS. Organizational development process, developing a 10-year perspective and programme plan, developing a three-year strategic action plan and suitable organizational structure as well as process were the key activities of the year. The purpose is to ensure the rights of the poor so that they would be able to claim political positions as well as assert and exercise their rights.

People's mandate

The message of the General Election 2004 was very clear and loud. The poor too have a choice and they would not be trapped by the 'shining' realities of the elite. The 'Aam Admi' wanted a government that cared for the poor, and did not force them to commit suicide, sell their belongings or migrate to cities to beg for a living. The message to all of us is to refocus and reaffirm our commitment and make it visible in our action, choices and decisions. No one can afford to deny the increasing demand to democratize the institutions both political and civil.

There is no need to develop new strategic gameplans, but we require big ideas that would transform the millions. Everyone questions the amount to be spent on Employment Guarantee Schemes, ensuring livelihood in at least 200 districts. Instead of raising a demand to universalize this scheme, apologetics have termed it a wastage and a bad idea. On the other hand, proponents of globalization are silent on the huge NPA (non-performing assets) that corporate India is thriving on public funds.

Being a people's organization, there is need for SBSS and DBSS to sustain and strengthen their struggle for the rights of the poor, their right to livelihood, land and identity and equity. How would these words be transformed in reality and are we prepared for it?

No need to develop new strategic gameplans, but we require big ideas that would transform the millions.

We do recognize that realization of ESC rights is a step towards ensuring justice and transformation, and not an end in itself.

Purpose

CNI-SBSS takes this opportunity to affirm that we are very much the development and justice wing of the Church. On behalf of the Church, SBSS with the dioceses and DBSS, is engaged with people's organizations. CNI is a church with the poor and for the poor. We are with dalits and tribals and strive towards restoring their rights and dignity in the image of God. The efforts are geared to reach the poorest of the poor and are not self-centred. The missionary zeal is expressed in our activities and work to enhance ecumenical values and principles. Here, God's people are reaching to all people of God.

SBSS is rooted in values (participation, trust, co-operation and accountability) to ensure people's participation at all levels. We have participated in process-oriented development interventions, seeking transformation with the rights-based approach. These values and affirmations were the guiding principles in redefining our commitment and course of action.

Process

During the course of the year SBSS has involved its partners and stakeholders to develop new programme intervention process. It identified issues of livelihood, land, identity and equity as key concerns to be addressed for community building initiatives. We are working towards involving congregations and its ordinary members to be in solidarity with the poor. Mission engagement should become the purpose and reason of every congregation. Towards this, they would be equipped and empowered. People-centred advocacy with lobbying and networking would be key strategies for realization of rights. Gender justice would be a cross-cutting theme. We do recognize that realization of ESC rights is a step towards ensuring justice and transformation, and not an end in itself.

While the DBSS and our partners would be empowered as a faith-based organization and arm of the diocese to build and strengthen people's organization and movement, SBSS would strive to be the resource agency for mission practices and praxis of the Church on identified themes and issues. SBSS zonal offices at Pune, Kolkata, Agra and Ranchi have been developed as CNI Resource Centres for Social Actions. To be an effective accompanier, staff capacity and responsible organizational structure are being developed and reorganized. There is a sense of increased responsibility and collective growth. For the next ten years, SBSS has developed a perspective and programme plan. Based on these perspectives, a new strategic action plan, 'Let Justice Roll' for 2005 –2008, has also been submitted. Partners too have recognized the change in organizational capacity and professional ability of SBSS. SBSS has contributed to the growth of various networks like FCFC to improve development impact and collective policy campaigns. This year has been significant as it has added and reinforced the values building the character of an organization.

Potentials

The process of renewal has been a learning experience. It has unleashed new avenues for SBSS to explore. New potential and possibilities are open for meaningful dialogue and debate on the process of development. SBSS would like to put its

energy and resources into building new leadership, which would explore and develop new models of mission engagement and social entrepreneurship. SBSS should develop its theological position and articulations more pragmatically and professionally. It needs to sensitize and equip the evolving leadership of the Church to explore new possibilities of mission praxis. Alliances and coalitions need to be built to share SBSS field learning and impact the policy formulation process. Beginning from developing constructive governance and dependable practices, SBSS can be a resource to the whole NGO movement. It can take the lead in bringing social action groups to rekindle the ecumenical spirit and movement. Building bridges with Christian development agencies is another area where SBSS can contribute effectively. SBSS needs to look beyond the present canvas. It has to be a 'learning movement' to be an 'effective movement builder'. The onus rests on the governance and staff team. To be adequately responsive, we do hope that our partners would continue to support us.

Praise

Being a Chief Co-ordinator of SBSS, associated with the process of change as a subject and object of the change, it has been a learning, moving and exciting time. We are grateful to the Almighty for guiding us through the process. His grace was sufficient in our inadequacy and insufficiency.

The leadership of the Church, Synod office bearers and various departments provided necessary guidance and support. We are grateful to all of them. SBSS would always remain indebted to the present board members for their contribution and commitment. It was a privilege to have you, friends. Special mention must be made of Bishop Lyngdoh, Mrs Arpita Lawrence and Mr Philip Jadhav. They were a source of strength.

The DBSS provided extra support to SBSS work. I thank all chairpersons, co-ordinators and staff for being with us. Our Resource Sharing Agencies – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst, e.v., (EED) Germany, Inter-Church Development Corporation (ICCO), Netherlands, Christian Aid (CA), London, and Bread for the World (BfW), Germany – were always there to count and fall back upon. Though firm and resolute, they responded to our needs with care and sympathy.

SBSS staff team took extra effort and contributed with a sense of duty, responsibility and humility – I am grateful to all of them. Hats off, comrades!!

In the community and its leaders, we found echoes of resistance and hope. They were our *raison-d'être*. We would always be grateful to you.

Shalom!
Dr. Shailendra Awale
Chief Co-ordinator

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Secretary's Report

SBSS has identified the issues of livelihood, land and social exclusion as well as tribal identity and would focus on these with the rights-based approach.

Presenting the Annual Report of the Synodical Board of Social Services is always a matter of great pleasure and pride. The past year has been an eventful one and as we look back we do so with a sense of achievement and pride and it has been my privilege to be a part of this success.

SBSS to be an effective and progressive organization underwent an intensive evaluation and review process to assess the impact of its work on community and congregations to bring new thrust to the legacy of its 25 years' ministry. To incorporate the feelings from the field and enhance its development impact SBSS, through an organizational development process, tried to redefine its roles, system, structure approaches with a long-term perspective rooted in our vision and values. It enabled our ongoing interventions to be issue-based and area-specific. SBSS has identified the issues of livelihood, land and social exclusion as well as tribal identity and would focus on these with the rights-based approach. All these issues are addressed from a gender perspective, redefining the power equation in society. Advocacy with lobbying and networking would be a core strategy. Involvement and empowerment of the congregation to be in solidarity with the poor is a key focus of the change process. The support of our partners and the DBSS has helped to take the process forward by developing required capacity and an internal self-regulatory mechanism for better monitoring.

I am thankful for the dynamic and constructive support of the Chairman, the Rt. Rev Purely Lyngdoh, who like the captain of the ship, steered us safely through the tempestuous water of strife and struggle, and for the encouragement and appreciation of our Treasurer, Mr. Philip Jadhav, and members of the SBSS Board.

We are very fortunate to have the dynamic leadership of Dr. Shailendra Awale as the Chief Co-ordinator and I sincerely appreciate his enthusiasm and dedication. I personally value the core team of SBSS employees, who have toiled hard to achieve the mission. I also wish to thank the diocesan co-ordinators and all the community organizers who have worked tirelessly to translate our dreams into reality.

I am grateful to the Moderator, the Most Rev. Z. James Terom, Deputy Moderator, the Rt Rev. Joel. V. Mall, the General Secretary, CNI Synod, Rev. Dr. Enos Das Pradhan, and the Treasurer, CNI Synod, Mr. K.R.P Khosala, and all the bishops and chairmen of the respective Diocesan Board of Social Services for their constant support and blessings.

We are also thankful to our partners in mission –Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst E. V. (EED), Bread for the World (BFW), Inter-Church Organization for Development and Cooperation (ICCO), and Christian Aid for their faith and confidence in our mission and abilities.

To fulfill the mission agenda and restore the dignity and His image among the marginalized, there should be no turning back for us in our journey in transforming people and accompanying them towards building communities of resistance and hope. I pray that God in His mercy will continue to guide each one of us to further the vision of our organization through committed services in the years to come.

Ms. Arpita Lawrence
Secretary

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Synod Level Programmes



On the eve of the 25 years' celebration, the Church of North Indian (CNI)/Synodical Board of Social Services (SBSS) entered a new phase of renewal and rededication where the trajectory of the intervention took a decisive turn. An evaluation process at the end of this eventful period brought in new insights to step into an inventive path as well as to correct the shortcomings. Intense search at the grassroots helped SBSS to identify three issues where development impact would be visible in the next phase. The issues are Livelihood and Food Security; Land Rights; Identity and Social Exclusion. This specification of areas and interventions replaced the earlier approach of training as the core activity of SBSS. The activities of this phase are marked by continuity, change and commitment towards the correction process.

Programmes and Initiatives **Developing Perspective and Programme Plan** **(2005-2015)**

One of the recommendations of the evaluation was to develop a Perspective and Programme Plan for the next ten years. Part of the ongoing Organizational Development (OD) process, the rationale behind this is to knot SBSS initiative with a holistic perspective rather than a set of activities. After a series of meetings, visits and consultations involving the Diocesan Board of Social Services (DBSS) and SBSS team, representatives of the board, diocese, congregations and external experts, a draft plan was developed. This was shared with partners and formally received by the Executive. The plan is being circulated, discussed and shared again with the dioceses and community to get their feedback. The final perspective plan is to be launched in October 2005. The proposal for the next phase will be based on the structural and policy changes detailed in the perspective plan.

Organizational Development Process

The organizational development process for the first time was initiated in the Consultation Co-ordination Cell (CCC) held in Dehradun in March 2004. As the OD process was progressing SBSS time and again debated on our roles and existence: Who are our reference communities? What are their concerns and

aspirations? What are they doing and what should we do? We even tried to change our perceptive of capacity building from a training approach to a strategy. Keeping these in mind a strategic decision was taken at the organizational level by creating the separate desk on the three cross-cutting themes of CME, LAN and Gender. To enhance the participation and collective leadership, team leadership at the zonal level was introduced.

Looking at micro-economic reforms and liberalization at the local level leading to casualization of labour, migration, unequal wage distribution, lack of access and control over natural resources, loss of identity of tribals and dalits and after an intense search process with the reference communities, three core sectors were identified as strategic thrust areas in order to impact sustainable change in the communities – right to livelihood, land rights, and identity and social exclusion – with the cross-cutting themes of Church mission engagement, lobbying, advocacy, networking and gender.

In September 2004, SBSS held its Annual Conclave, as Manthan 2004. It was an important milestone in the history of our organization, which created a platform where all the stakeholders were engaged in building a wider ownership to discuss and formulate the statement of deliberation, consensus and action plan.

The executive meeting of SBSS held on 24th of November in Kolkata was an important landmark. The meeting was different from the usual one, as it included team leaders in the discussion. The Chief Co-ordinator explained to the executive members how far the plan of the preparatory phase had been implemented and executed. He also assured that in the process of implementation, the participation of all stakeholders would be recognized. He emphasized that by endorsing the process and structural change and by sharing the perspective plan in regional consultations, congregational consultation and synod consultation, the Church would internalize the process and develop ownership. It was also decided in this meeting that zonal offices would evolve as issue-based resource centres with new roles and responsibilities. The zonal offices would be renamed as Resource Centers for:

- Unit 1 - CNI Centre for Social Action on Land Rights and Dalit Studies
- Unit 2 - CNI Centre for Social Action on Tribal Identity and Indigenous Rights
- Unit 3 - CNI Centre for Social Action on Livelihood and Food Security
- Unit 4 - CNI Centre for Social Action Research on Livelihood and Food Security

In January 2005, the staff team with DBSS co-ordinators collectively developed the process, instruments and methodology for the perspective and programme plan. In the entire months



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To endorse the acceptance and ownership of the perspective plan of CNI-SBSS at all levels, the draft perspective plan was presented to the SBSS Board and to the CNI-Synod at the Synod level consultation on 23-24 June 2005 for final approval.

of January and February, SBSS was engaged with the DBSS staff, DBSS board reference community and congregation to determine the impact and relevance of ongoing activities as well as to capture emerging perspectives.

At two regional consultations, held in Goa and Kolkata, findings from the dioceses were shared and discussed. In addition, clarity and common understanding of perspectives, approaches, processes and implications on structure were defined and clarified by the co-ordinators, bishops and SBSS staff. Finally, collecting all the reports from the dioceses along with the discussions based on the two regional consultations, the SBSS team gave shape to the draft perspective document.

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Capacity Building

During this phase the approach and methods of SBSS towards capacity building (CB) were revamped completely. Now CB is only a supporting strategy and a training activity for the SBSS team. We have developed partnership with SPAR and NCAS and PRAXIS.

Communities and diocesan teams now undertake the capacity building and training programmes. Earlier SBSS was the only source of information and knowledge. Various levels of training programmes, from central to zonal to DBSS to community, have been abolished as they were non-productive, and resource- and time-intensive. SBSS in the newly envisaged approach facilitates training by developing modules identifying the resources, but it will not be the only source of information. This approach, it is believed, will help SBSS to take issue-based interventions.

Rights-Based Approach

As advised by the evaluation, SBSS arranged a two-day training workshop on RBA for its core team at New Delhi in May 2004. Mr. Anil Choudhari of PEACE facilitated the workshop.

Introducing Organizational Development Process

Mrs. Uma Ramaswamy facilitated a two-day workshop on Introducing Organizational Development Process for SBSS core team.

Process Documentation

Ms Nigun, Documentation Assistant, underwent training for process documentations, organized by CARITAS, and Library Automation and Resource Sharing by NISCOM. Exposure visits and interactions with staff at VHAI and ISI further helped to develop her capacity.

Human Resource Development Programme

In December 2004, a three-week Human Resource Development Programme was organized at Pune. More than 40 staff members from DBSS and SBSS participated. P.K Jena, the Co-ordinator and key facilitator, was ably supported by visiting faculties in this training. The programme had a lot of interactive and self-learning methods, helping the participants to analyze their work situation and issues in the context of globalization and its impact on the identified themes and issues.



Facilitation and skill building

With the emerging perspective, the role of SBSS has drastically changed from an accompanier to where it will be a constructive co-traveller with DBSS in building communities of resistance and hope. To do this efficiently it is inevitable that the staff of SBSS should possess excellent facilitation skills to see that DBSS interventions are carried out effectively.

Amita Khalko, Merwin Mackwan, Deepak Singh and Shailendra Awale underwent a training programme on Human Process Lab in November 2004 at the Indian Society for Applied Behaviour Sciences.

Ms Monijinir Byapari and Lolati Toppo underwent a special Lab for Personality Effectiveness. These inputs have helped them improve their involvement with DBSS and SBSS.

Facilitation skill: Nilesh Gaikwad, Rashmi Madavi, Asha Tandy and Asish Rajhans underwent five-day special programme on facilitation skill with SPAR in December 2004.

Program management and organizational development

Besides Asha Tandy and Rashmi Madvi from SBSS, four DBSS co-ordinators and programme organizers from Eastern Zone/ NEZO were also sponsored for a three-day SPAR training on Programme Management and Organizational Development.

Tribal rights

Two representatives each from the five EZ DBSS, Asha Tandy and Sudeep Tigga, attended one-week training programme on tribal and SC rights organized by ISI in November 2004. Further, they trained COs from their DBSS. This particular training helped them in developing the programme agenda for the issue of identity and social exclusion.

Legal aid

Richard Behera and 12 COs from the NZ DBSS attended the one-week training programme organized by ISI in Delhi in March 2005.

PRA Praxis and SPAR

PRA training was arranged for SBSS and DBSS team from NEZ DBSS. These two events,

The Human Resource Development Programme had a lot of interactive and self-learning methods, helping the participants to analyze their work situation and issues in the context of globalization and its impact on the identified themes and issues.



The idea of organizing conferences has been replaced with holding a series of lectures related to development, as lectures are more interactive and participative, leading to discussions.

organized by SPAR and PRAXIS, were helpful in developing perspective development and programme process. Two specific workshops are in the pipeline enabling the DBSS to develop participatory proposal.

Gender

DBSS staff from EH diocese and concerned PA attended a workshop on Gender Concerns, organised by SPAR.

People-centred advocacy

Dr Shailendra Awale attended a week-long national level CB programme on People-centred Advocacy, held at Pune, by NCAS in February 2005.

Social accountability

Dr Shailendra Awale participated in a two-day workshop on Social Accountability, organized by FMSF in Delhi in November.

Organizational development facilitation

Mrs. Manjiri Nanda and Mr. Nikhil Kumar attended a week-long training programme on OD facilitation skill,

organized by the ASEED – IDMAT at Dehradun in March 2005.

Perspective building and core-areas

The idea of organizing conferences has been replaced with holding a series of lectures related to development, as lectures are more interactive and participative, leading to discussions. Mr. Kumaran, Research Officer, ActionAid India, gave a lecture on the role of Qualitative Techniques and Ethics in collecting data in the community in October 2004. The techniques were explained with life stories. Team leaders and associate co-ordinators attended the lecture and shared their experiences. Dr Ms. Beena Agarwal, Ms Shivani Bhardwaj and Dr Vivek Kumar were invited to deliver special lectures and conduct interactive sessions on Land Rights and Women, and Identity and Social Exclusion. Professor Beena Agarwal, Institute of Economic Growth, and Shivani Bhardwaj facilitated sessions on land rights from the gender perspective. Dr Vivek Kumar in his presentation on social exclusion placed the identity and social plight of dalits in Indian society and also presented an approach to deal with their concerns.

Partnership Enhancement

SBSS changed its annual get-together into a conclave (Manthan 2004), where the objectives were to (i) develop conceptual clarity and biblical understanding on the issues of right to livelihood, land rights, right to identity and social exclusion, (ii) prepare the strategic framework for the larger change in SBSS, (iii) reaffirm our faith and commitment towards building communities of resistance and hope, and (iv) provide a platform for all stakeholders and build wider ownership. The three-day conclave saw stakeholders participating actively to share their views towards achieving the objectives.

Half-yearly meetings with partners gave SBSS an opportunity to share concerns, agree on agenda and approve the budget. The North-East and Eastern zones met in May 2004 at

Puri; the North Zone in New Delhi; and the Central Zone in Nagothane, Alibag. Besides, SBSS had the privilege of welcoming and interacting with a number of resource sharing partners of CNI-SBSS. These included Dr Daleep Mukherjee, Director, Christian Aid; Kirsten Gade, EED; Dr Ssa Gianna Urizio, President of the World Association of Christian Communicators; Ms Erica Mark, EED, and Ms Monica Huber; and Mr Remppis Martin, Bread for the World, Asia-Pacific.

Networking

SBSS supports 24 partners, enabling their development efforts, and is an active member of the Forum for Collective Forms of Cooperation (FCFC). In April 2004, Dr Shailendra Awale attended the Self-Reliance workshop in Secunderabad and the FCFC meeting. During the reporting period, FCFC Northern Zone met twice. Mr P.K. Jena and Dr Shailendra Awale represented SBSS. In November 2004, a national meet of FCFC was organized in New Delhi, where EED (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst, E. V.) also participated. Meetings with Mr Jayant Kumarin, CASA, were held, and Leadership Development Programmes are being planned with their help.

SBSS is one of the four partners in India involved with the Peace Initiative in South Asia (PISA) by EED. SBSS participated in two regional workshops, and plans to incorporate PISA in SBSS programmes are underway.

Development Communications and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

At present the communications unit is called the development communications, where communications would be one of the core functions of the development initiatives of the DBSS. SBSS has taken steps to improve its internal communications and procedures. A contact management module with cost-effective web access to all programme staff and respective DBSS with organizational IDs and required technical support has been provided. This is the first step toward, building an effective and efficient PME process.



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Community Building

CNI SBSS is involved in various activities leading to people's development. The dalits, adivasis and women in general have historically been exploited and deprived of their rights due to various social, cultural, economic and political reasons. To empower these marginalized sections, the DBSS has focused on awareness building, networking, making people conscious of the issues affecting their lives, women's and human rights, as well as promotion of small groups and self-help groups for economic self-reliance and gender justice.

Through their involvement and efforts, the DBSS has succeeded in generating co-operation among people and their effective participation in Panchayats; strengthening people's organizations and the level of transparency; and harnessing resources and leading towards social action. The major focus has been on strengthening people's organizations and the community through capacity building, skill development and awareness on the forthcoming elections.

The RBA has helped to develop a strong and effective people's organization in all reference communities to increase the people's bargaining power and to break the culture of silence among the oppressed and weak. The aim is to organize and empower the weak to obtain justice and acquire human dignity and human rights, irrespective of their caste, creed, sex and religion, and to achieve overall development of the community. In this effort, the DBSS is working in close co-operation with local congregations, Panchayats, like-minded NGOs and persons, rural education institutions, various government departments and local banks.



The 24 dioceses are spread over a large geographical area, covering areas as diverse as Gujarat and North-East India, Amritsar and Nashik. Problems like poverty, deprivation, livelihood issues, displacement, gender injustice, and discrimination affect most of the reference communities. The communities are empowered to struggle on the following issues, which have relevance to their geo-specific context – right to livelihood; right to land; and identity and social exclusion.

Right to Livelihood and Food Security

The reference communities mostly consist of adivasis and dalits, who are marginalized farmers, landless labourers and socio-economically backward groups. The dalit communities suffer from extreme discrimination and social exclusion within the community. Exploitation and oppression by landlords compound their suffering and force them to migrate. The DBSS has identified the issue of livelihood to be addressed on a priority basis. Currently working with the rights-based approach, the DBSS has been able to organize people and make them aware that it is their right to take due share of the natural resources and government welfare programmes. People's organizations are motivated to identify problems, issues and their root causes. DBSS has been involved in empowering the marginalized through awareness programmes, reducing migration through human rights and skill development programmes, enhancing their collective bargaining power through cooperative movements, and promoting food security. Interventions such as SHGs reduce the farmers' dependence on moneylenders and help people to be economically self-dependent. Other interventions include savings, income-generating programmes and skill training.



DBSS has been involved in empowering the marginalized through awareness programmes, reducing migration through human rights and skill development programmes, enhancing their collective bargaining power through cooperative movements, and promoting food security.

In the diocese of Bhopal, the DBSS has focused on collecting data about migrant labourers and to link them with the forum of migrant labourers, which can provide legal support in times of urgency. In Jhabua, the Pravasi Sharmik Sahayata Karyakram, a registration process within the district, has induced a sense of fraternity amongst the community. This has propelled them to register their own society and a migrant labour federation to protect their rights. People have learned to generate livelihood from forest products such as bamboo.

In the diocese of Cuttack, 63 SHGs are functioning in the DBSS reference area. Efforts are being made to strengthen these groups by adopting income-generating programmes such as pickle-making, bori and papad making, and mat-making. SHGs of Merema, Dengambo, and Bhaliaguda areas engage in group activities such as kitchen gardening, ginger cultivation, pisciculture and leaf-plate making.

In Rajasthan, the diocese has trained farmers in alternate farming techniques (wormiculture and less water crops). Having built a common understanding on the concept of RBA, it gives information on various government schemes and motivates them to avail them in order to ensure their livelihood. The motivated villagers have benefited from the government pension schemes and famine work (Akal Rahat Karya). Data collection and survey by PRA and Gram Panchayat have also been carried out.

In Barrackpore, awareness programme on food security has led 75% of the reference people to use their vacant lands for pisciculture, piggery and duckery by their own savings. Awareness has also been generated on use of compost, sustainability of land, networking with government



The DBSS aims to empower the community, making them realize the importance of land to live a life of dignity and self-reliance. This is motivating people to fight for their lands.

sector and NGOs, canal repair and use of local seeds, through folk media. Similarly, in the diocese of Eastern Himalayas, training on agriculture, floriculture, doll-making, pickle-making, distribution of seeds, and food processing has led to better livelihoods.

Right to Land

Most of the reference communities are landless labourers and marginal farmers, who have been working on the land for generations without any right over it. The DBSS aims to empower the community, making them realize the importance of land to live a life of dignity and self-reliance. This is motivating people to fight for their lands.

In Jabalpur diocese, the DBSS staff concentrated on collecting data on the land, i.e., the number of people having patta; the number of people farming in forestland; land revenue; etc. The data collection has been completed in 10 clusters of the reference area. Through door-to-door visits by the community organizer, different land issues have also come to light. In the Eastern Himalayas, the diocese has helped prepare the necessary documents and applications supporting the reference people for land registration. They also had necessary discussion with the BLRO regarding land registration.

The diocese of Phulbani is inhabited mainly by the Kondh tribe, who depend on jhum cultivation for their livelihood. Though they cultivate the land and make it arable, they have no rights over it. Instead they are being evacuated from the place. This problem has been raised in the DBSS platform,

Towards Self-reliance

The adivasis of Khonamukh village instead of cultivating their land used to work in other people's houses and give their land in mortgage for brick factory. They did not have any relation with the Panchayat, block or any government department. Thus they failed to get any benefit from the government.

In the year 2001, the Village Development Committee and small self-help groups were formed in the village. The adivasis were taught to adopt the saving habit and utilize their money for the right purposes. The Village Development Committee started to guide the SHGs in the right direction. They first gave vermi-compost

training to one of the SHGs. The SHGs also slowly started to come out of their houses and develop relations with bank, block authorities and the agriculture department. During that period the District Agriculture Department had some agricultural schemes for the village people. They selected the Bonti and Basanti SHGs for litchi garden. However, it was later learnt that only 20 bigha would be allotted for that area and the rest would be given to some other area. The village people went to the District Agriculture Department and started to raise their voice against this injustice. As a result, they were successful in getting 37.5 bighas of land for the litchi garden in Khonamukh village.

and obtaining “land patta” is the first priority while addressing the issue of land rights. In Marathwada, the issue of Gairan (land meant for grazing of cattle) has become a battle for the survival and dignity of the dalits. The DBSS has taken up this issue to regularize the ownership of the pattas. The Gairan movement has become active and spread to the entire region.

In the diocese of North-East India, the reference community has become aware of the issues related to land and livelihood. This is motivating some of the reference people to release their mortgaged land. In Satgaon cluster, the reference people have won the case of land and have been able to get the permission of settlement though they are yet to be settled.

In Chhotanagpur, the reference area is one of the most exploited, and the indigenous people are systematically dispossessed. The vast mineral resources, establishment of industry and hydroelectric plants on a large scale and the phenomenal growth in urbanization have not helped the tribals; instead they have caused acute problems for these people. Another important instrument of exploitation of the natural resources (land, water, forest) is the so-called ‘legal’ method of acquiring the land for ‘public purpose’. The CNT Act passed in 1908 prohibited the alienation of tribal land to the non-tribal. This law was presumed as an impediment to the new industrial urban development. As a result the CNT Act was amended in 1947 for the purpose of urbanization, industrialization and for development projects. It was further amended to facilitate easy access to the natural resources by the MNCs. In this context, the DBSS of Chhotanagpur has ventured to take up the issues of livelihood, land rights and identity and social exclusion of

Fighting for their Daily Bread

In the Marathwada diocese, Boregaon in Aambad block, Jalna district, is a village where development has yet to reach. The area receives scanty rain and is mostly drought-affected. In 2004 the situation was worse as there was no rain, and no jobs. The Manav Adhikar Sangarsh Samiti and Rojgar Hami Kamgar Samanvay Samiti approached the Panchayat Samiti and asked them to start EGS work.

Though the EGS work was started but to execute the work (field dam) a lot of machinery like JCB and pressure hammer were brought. When the office bearers of MASS were informed about the situation, they along with members of the Rojgar Hami Kamgar Samanvay Samiti rushed to Boregaon, where they found that the JCB was digging the land. When the villagers asked the workers who were using the machinery to stop the work, they became aggressive. Therefore the villagers had to force them to stop the work.

In due course, the Panchayat officers also arrived and started threatening the villagers, but MASS members insisted that the EGS work was meant for poor people

to avail their livelihood. Secondly, machinery should not be used for EGS work. Some MASS activists lay in front of the JCB and declared that until and unless the machinery was removed, they would not move. The villagers also gave them full support. At last the district authorities had to give in and from the next day, work was given to the people of Boregaon.

In Durgapur diocese, majority of the reference people are tribals (Santhali). Being marginal farmers who depend on rainwater for irrigation, they are forced to migrate seasonally in search of livelihood. The lack of food security, adequate pay, and health facilities ensure that there is no marked change in their life. The DBSS has been involved in empowering the marginalized through awareness programmes, and to reduce migration through human rights and the skill development programmes. It has been building clarity and awareness on the issue of tribal identity with the community. In Gujarat, the DBSS is involved with the tribal communities who inhabit the southern part of the state. By raising a voice against injustice, it is working for the tribal rights.



The Diocesan Board of Social Services has been involved with dalits, tribals, labourers, women and other marginalized groups who are struggling for their rights and to assert their identity in the larger society.

the indigenous people. At the field level, motivators and village leaders have organized and oriented the people towards RBA. Dharnas and rallies were organized to highlight the prevailing issues of corruption and exploitation. Several programmes were organized at the central level to make the people aware about their rights, particularly the rights to Jal, Jungle and Jameen.

Identity & Social Exclusion – Tribal Rights & Dalit Rights

The Diocesan Board of Social Services has been involved with dalits, tribals, labourers, women and other marginalized groups who are struggling for their rights and to assert their identity in the larger society. The major challenge of DBSS is to motivate the Church to stand in solidarity with these marginalized classes and help them in their struggle. As a result of these efforts, people are becoming aware of their rights and are organizing themselves to use collective effort to win their rights.

The Diocese of Delhi is involved in its mission to organize the marginalized sections, i.e. dalits (cobblers, sweepers, potters, weavers), tribals (Gadaria, Jhimar, Gujjers), labourers, and small farmers in the unorganized sector to make them aware of the oppression and exploitation. It is quite shocking that 90% of the reference community is illiterate and due to ignorance they are deprived of their rights. Landless Kissan/Mazdoor Sangathans have been formed in seven villages; people have realized the importance of organization and they have started working collectively for their demands.



Resource Streams

The resource stream has three cross-cutting themes – gender justice, building people’s organization, and church mission engagement. Whatever initiative SBSS will take, these cross-cutting themes have to be part of its intervention.

Gender Justice

The DBSS has been involved with dalits, adivasis and other groups who are struggling for their rights and to assert their identity in the larger society. Among these, the women are further marginalized, as they suffer from illiteracy, social restrictions and economic dependence. Their unequal status in the social fabric ensures that they face violence at home and outside and receive unequal wages for their labour. They are also excluded from decision-making and political participation.

The DBSS is working towards the goal of gender justice in various ways. An important measure has been the formation of women’s self-help groups to make them independent, confident and self-reliant. Most of the dioceses run empowerment, education and skill training programmes for women. Women’s organizations have become more active and are addressing problems of drinking water, widow and old-age pensions, unorganized labourers, and children’s education.

The Amritsar diocese has formed a Women’s Grievance Cell consisting of 11 members in the Punjab region. Election to the cell was held, in which 45 women from different zones were elected as members. The cell has decided to start a movement to vote against the candidates who exploit voters by distributing liquor, drugs and money. The members also identified the problems of their villages and held a rally to demand their rights.



Paying for a Crime

The Women's Grievance Cell of Punjab took a serious initiative regarding a rape case in village Shahpur Jajjan. The parents and relatives of the rapist were brought before the village committee. They were not ready to accept that their son was involved in the case and was responsible for the pregnancy of the girl, but they agreed to pay Rs. one

lakh to the girl. They also arranged to get her married somewhere else. Much more could have been achieved but unfortunately, the village committee came under local pressure and accepted this meagre amount. However, the strength of the women's organization was proved and the unfortunate girl was rehabilitated.

In the Eastern Himalayas, the difference between the DBSS operational area and non-operational area vis-à-vis gender justice can be easily seen. The EHD-DBSS is working in villages, where women were not involved in major decision-making, within or outside the family. After the intervention of DBSS, women are coming forward more and more in the form of SHGs; they now visit the bank, offices and take part in major decision-making. In some places the male-female ratio is tilted in favour of the female.

In the Delhi diocese, women have formed Mahila Adhikar Sangathan and SHGs, and they are capacitated on RBA. They have been sensitized on the issue of dowry, alcoholism, foeticide, domestic violence, sexual abuse, education, health, housing, decision-making process, and tapping government programmes and schemes. Through educational programmes, they are empowered socially, politically, economically and culturally. Women are fighting to get equal wages for equal work. They are casting their votes independently. Women's SHGs are helping them to be economically independent. They are becoming aware and are fighting for basic amenities like drinking water and electricity.

In the diocese of Lucknow, women are taking initiative and keen interest in the Gram Panchayat activities, as they are now able to read and write on their own. They have been made aware about



their rights as well as government schemes. Now they are coming forward to avail the benefits from government schemes and have started raising their voice against exploitation. Similarly in the diocese of Rajasthan, the DBSS has empowered the women leaders, so that they join the mainstream in the village development process. Around 10 to 12 women leaders have emerged for balanced village development. With the emphasis on girls' education, the percentage of school going girls has increased up to 25%. A woman from Ashapura village was honored by the Hon. President Dr. Abdul K. Azad, for her efforts in the field of primary education.

Building People's Organization

SBSS has developed the cross-cutting theme of advocacy, lobbying and networking synergies with the rights-based approach. With this, SBSS envisages to be a Church of Resistance and Hope.

The traditional three-tier committees at the geo-regional level are changing fast in many DBSS. To ensure wider and effective participation in the committees, DBSS is fast turning towards people's organizations. With our new strategic shift and a decade-long perspective, the village is considered as the primary constituency of the development process, which has given the dioceses necessary space and scope to widen the movement and enhance the impact. People have realized the importance of organization and they have started moving collectively for their rights.

Our long association with the communities has resulted in the formation of vibrant people's organizations. To name a few, Dalit Samaj Vikas Parishad (Kolhapur), Awaz- E- Awan (Amritsar), Purbanchal Nari Jagriti Sangarsh Samiti (North-East India) and Budi Anchal Sangram Parishad (Sambalpur). Influencing the legislature and the bureaucracy for effective implementation of constitutional guarantees and rights has been their regular activities.

DBSS in the Diocese of Kolhapur has been busy with morchas and dharnas, making the authorities vigilant about the issues pertaining to people's daily life, and their movement at the field level has been strengthened, showing an impact at the state level.

A Collective Struggle

In tehsil Hatkangle, Shirol, of Kolhapur district and village Nandre of district Sangli, 2400 dalits united together to fight for their rights. They staged a massive rally, Aatma Dahan and Thiya Andholana to fight for their basic rights like food, shelter and land. The people belonging to the so-called upper caste did not like this. They delayed and made all efforts to stop the allotment of land.

The involvement of DBSS Kolhapur proved to be the turning point. They organized people into a united group by

getting them together and encouraging them through discussions and talk. The passion of the people for the land was so strong that they took kerosene for Aatma Dahan, and occupied the land. The people are optimistic that they will get what is rightfully theirs through people's organization and collective struggle.

As a result of the collective struggle DBSS was able to bring pressure on the government authorities and finally Dalits of Tardal were allotted around 800 plots.



The Diocesan Board of Social Services has been involved with dalits, tribals, labourers, women and other marginalized groups who are struggling for their rights and to assert their identity in the larger society.

Under the banner of the Manav Hakk Sangarsh Samiti , Nagpur DBSS called 50,000 farmers from 40 villages in Bandhara district for a Jan Andolan. Their protest was against the wrong enlistment of the BPL card, Antodaya card and EGS.

This year Maharashtra was severely affected by the drought. The reference communities, mostly landless or marginal farmers, who were the worst victims, organized themselves through different people's organizations and demonstrated through dharnas and morchas to get compensation from the government for the damages.

The members of the village Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad have been our primary focus. People's involvement in the Gram Sabha and Panchayat has also changed the complexion of the local governance in the reference areas. In the diocese of Amritsar, the people's organization under the name Awaz-E-Awam bonded as a strong force to make the people aware about their political rights during the Panchayat and state elections.

Women's organizations like the Purbanchal Nari Jagriti Sangarsh Samiti have become more effective in working with the rights-based approach. They are now quite capable of identifying their problems like unequal distribution of wage, widow pension, atrocities against women. Representatives of the women's organizations have also contested in the Panchayat election and have become a voice for their own community.

People have started gaining confidence and are continuously strengthening their organization to raise their voice. In Orissa the Budi Anchal Sangram Parishad in Sambalpur diocese is voicing their demand in different forums against the issue of displacement due to a big dam project in river Suktal. They are advocating their issues by submitting memorandum and report to the national and state human rights commission and have also reported to the state women's rights commission against police atrocities. They are demanding a detailed study from these commissions on the incident.

DBSS in all 22 dioceses has taken a facilitating role with the communities regularly visiting government officials and establishing a relationship of trust and confidence. Networking and advocacy with the government agencies has enabled the DBSS to involve government and NGOs in achieving the goals. Initiatives have also been taken by SBSS to develop partnership with the Forum for Collective Form of Co-operative (FCFC) and ecumenical organizations like NCCI and CASA.

Congregation in Solidarity with the Poor

In the mission priority of CNI for the 21st century, the Synod has given the mandate to SBSS to work on its behalf to help the marginalised communities for access to service, education,

A Community of Resistance and Hope

Samuktala Gram Panchayat is in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal and is dominated by the tribal community. Under the Rastriya Samabay Vikash Yojana (RSVY) land is allotted for tree plantations for one decade in each Gram Panchayat. The villagers are given seedlings free of cost from the forest department. The villagers are employed and earn their daily wages for plantation and maintenance. At the end of the project, the net profit would be utilized for the development of the Panchayat. The project is supposed to be implemented through the Panchayat Samiti.

Deep Colony, a village under the Samuktala Gram Panchayat, has large tracts of vacant land which were previously owned by the tribals, and have been vested by the Government under the land ceiling act. These lands have neither been allotted to anybody nor have the actual owners been allowed to cultivate the land. After studying the situation, the community organizer (CO) of the cluster called a general meeting of the villagers, where it was proposed that if fruit trees were planted in the vacant lands, then besides having possession of the land, the tribals would have multiple benefits from the trees, like fruits, firewood, prevention of soil erosion, etc. The main hurdle was lack of finance to buy seeds.

The CO, along with two women, Srimati Bina Devnath and Srimati Smriti Devnath, went to the Forest Department office. At the special division of the Forest Department which deals with Social Forests, an officer informed them that according to a survey, there was no land available in the Samuktala Gram Panchayat for the said project. Therefore the project had been transferred to Majherdabri Gram Panchayat, and only five days were left for the project to be implemented in Majherdabri. However, if the people of Samuktala could resist, the project could be saved from being hijacked.

The villagers again called a general meeting of the whole cluster, where the Gram Panchayat Pradhan informed the people that there were over 100 acres of vacant land available within the Gram Panchayat, far more than the project required and expressed anger at how the BLRO and BDO could write a report about

the non-availability of land within his Panchayat without his consent. This, he said, was complete politicizing, to deliver benefits and projects only to the Gram Panchayat ruled by the Communists and not consider the real needs of the people. He asked the people to resist and assured them full support in their struggle.

Some 50 women, along with the CO, met the Block Development Officer and raised their complaint. The BDO called upon the Panchayat Pradhan to settle the dispute and persuade the people not to demand the RSVY project. She said that she would look for some other projects for the Gram Panchayat as the RSVY project had already been transferred to Majherdabri Gram Panchayat and was in the final stage of implementation. However, the women of Samuktala Gram Panchayat stood firmly against any compromise and said that would visit the District Magistrate if required in large numbers over the issue. Since the resistance was strong, the BDO asked the CO to visit the Panchayat Samiti President and explain the whole situation, and request him to implement the said Project in Samuktala Gram Panchayat.

After a series of meetings with the Panchayat Samiti President, the project was re-located to be implemented in Samuktala Gram Panchayat. Now the women are waiting for the final approval from the District Magistrate's office and the funds to reach so that the project could be implemented. The women have already selected two people to monitor the work from their own Gram Panchayat.



etc. SBSS has also undertaken the task of sensitising the church leaders and congregations to accept social transformation and social action in place of charity and welfare as an integral part of the church mission.

With the new perspective, SBSS has chosen the transformation approach by introducing the theme of 'Towards Building Communities of Resistance and Hope'. This process of paradigm shift in the church mission is not very easy, as the mindset of the church leaders and congregations has not changed from their traditional approach and understanding of the mission. God challenges us to respond to the profound changes that are taking place in the global village in the post-modern era. We are not being called only to do small patchwork in order to streamline our present outdated models for mission and service but for creating, with all spiritual resources at our disposal and for discovering new paradigms relevant in this age of globalization. The Church's development concern is centred on the creative and redemptive purpose of God, where people can live in peace and righteousness with each other and with all creation. This was a year when the Church Mission Engagement with the new perspective was in place and practice. SBSS has supported the initiatives of the diocese to sensitize its pastors and leaders. The new perspective calls for involvement of the congregations in the struggle of the poor. SBSS in this regard is working towards transforming the CNI congregation (including ordinary members) so that they identify themselves with the poor and their concerns. It proposes to make mission engagement a part of the life and work of the congregation and its members.

The Church Mission Engagement is the energizing force to integrate the mission agenda of the Church and the rights-based approach to be in solidarity with the poor. CME should empower its constituency to identify with the poor and respond appropriately for sustainable change.

Leadership at various levels is a pre-requisite to carry forward the mission agenda of the church. Towards this CNI SBSS developed and organized a leadership development programme for the fourth year BD students of the Bishop's College, Kolkata. The programme, Learning Consultation and Briefing Process (LCB) for mission engagement, aimed to explore new paradigms and perspective. Ten students were sent to the DBSS North East and Eastern

A Lady with a Mission

Mrs Cinderella Rajendra of Ashapur village (Diocese of Rajasthan) is a woman with a mission...a dream of a developed village, where the light of education shines bright. In spite of opposition at home and in the village, she actively participated in village development activities. Motivated and empowered by the DBSS, she decided to join the Satat Siksha Kendra at Ashapura village to educate poor and neglected children. After some time, an evaluation by government officials declared that Ashapura village in Ajmer district was hundred per cent literate. Mrs Cinderella Rajendra played a key role in this transformation.

On 8th September 2004, the Honorable President of

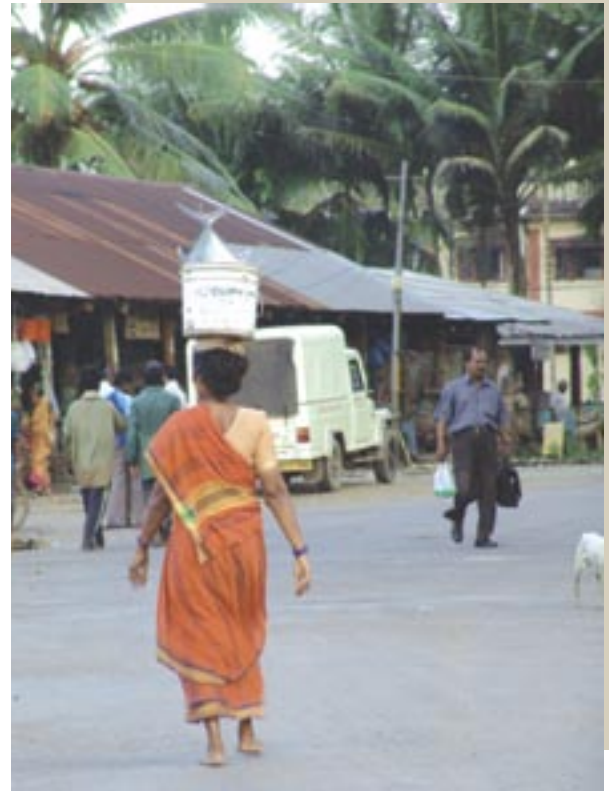
India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, honoured and awarded her a special prize for her efforts. The Bishop of Rajasthan, Rt. Rev. Collin C. Theodore, awarded her a special prize on 29th November 2004 during the Masihi Ekta Utsav, which is celebrated every year to show the unity and strength of Christians.

A self-dependent woman, Mrs Rajendra is a motivation for others. Now she is working for women's self employment in the form of SHGs in Ashapura and surrounding villages. She is trying to bring the small SHGs on a common platform and collectively solve the social, political and economic problem of the villages.

Himalayas. While the programme helped the students in contextual perspective of theological understanding, for SBSS it was a process to strengthen the foundations and build leadership for the future.

In the past year there were several awareness and sensitization programmes in the dioceses of Durgapur, Marathwada, Bhopal, Lucknow, Kolhapur and Rajasthan for the pastors, lay leaders and the youth. A conscious effort was made to make them understand the theological perspective of development so that social concerns get integrated in the mission of the Church.

In the diocese of Eastern Himalayas and Amritsar, community organizers (COs) are now in regular contact with the concerned pastorate in charge. The pastorate committee invites them to its meeting as invitees. The COs are now given the chance to share the mission and vision of the DBSS and SBSS. Members of the congregations from the north and east participated in the campaign for fair trade, and the global week of action. Workshops and seminars were organised for the members of the dioceses and congregations to discuss and explain the effects of globalization and unjust trade practices of developed countries. It has opened new doors for developing mission paradigm and advocacy campaigns.



Tapping the Government Schemes

In Kumargram cluster in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal, the peasants had worked in the field of the zamindars for generations. At the upsurge of the Communist government in West Bengal, the Land Ceiling Act was enforced. Land was distributed to the peasants, with each having the ownership over 8-10 bighas. However, many poor peasants received non-fertile land. They mainly cultivated paddy, wheat and jute, but due to lack of basic agriculture infrastructure, they could not get good yields. The State Government promoted high-yielding hybrid seeds and use of chemical fertilizers, which turned the land unproductive. The peasants also could not afford the recurring expenditure on cultivation through the new technology.

The DBSS began on intervention in the area with the concept of sustainable development, and motivated the people to rethink. This was done by analyzing their

socio-political-economical life through several seminars and workshops on alternate and sustainable agriculture, rights-based programmes, especially concentrating on women. The peasants were encouraged to reorganize under the concept of TBCRH (Towards Building Communities of Resistance and Hope), and tap government resources for their benefit. The change gradually started to show, as people formed SHGs. Women have been trained in mushroom cultivation through networking and are in touch for the piggery programme. In agriculture, people have given up chemical fertilizers and started experimenting with local products such as vermin compost for restoring the fertility of the land. The people are now hopeful of improved agriculture, supported by the government irrigation schemes. Farmers have already started cropping commercial crops and have earned extra income.

Special Initiatives

Apart from its regular programmes, the CNI undertook a number of special initiatives, some of them in response to disasters and emergency situations, such as flood relief and tsunami relief. Others, such as the Global Week of Action, reflect the CNI's concern for the poor and downtrodden, who are the biggest victims of international trade injustice.

Against Unfair Trade: Global Week of Action

The Synodical Board of Social Services of the Church of North India, at its Dioceses mobilized communities and its congregations to sensitize and demonstrate resistance against international trade injustice.

April 10-16, 2005 was observed as the Global Week of Action. During this week, communities in the diocese of Durgapur debated on the negative and positive impact of globalization. They unanimously concluded that it had created more inequalities and destroyed the culture and values of society. Trade-related posters and painting competitions were conducted. Around 100 people, mostly women, came out to rally and raise their voice against the unfair trade system.

In the Diocese of Amritsar, a seminar was held on international trade and globalization. At the end, the participants resolved to oppose free trade and appealed to the policy-

makers to frame trade policy in the interest of the poor. The meeting also decided to hold dharnas and demonstrations to resist free trade. In the dioceses of Kolkata, a consultation was held, where the participants came out with a strong statement against trade injustice. Lucknow diocese conducted an orientation on free trade and held a rally at the end. Communities were sensitized on the impact of the free trade. Around 700 people came out for the rally.

Workshops and discussions were organized in the dioceses of Delhi and Agra, and posters and materials related to free trade were circulated. In the diocese of Bhopal, 25,000 postcards addressed to the President of India were distributed.



The global week of action was a network formed worldwide to campaign against the trade injustices imposed on poor countries, at various international, national and regional levels. With the aim of finding an alternative, the global week was the biggest global mobilization to show resistance to the agendas of the WTO, IMF, G8 and the regional and bilateral trade agreements. The campaign for trade justice reflects “let justice roll on like a river”- Amos 5:24, the vision of another world, where equality and justice reign.

Drought Relief in the Diocese of Nashik, Ahmednagar

The Drought Relief Programme in the Diocese of Nashik was started from 31st May 2004. At present, work has been undertaken in the following villages:

- At Tisgaon, the nababunding work and well cleaning work has been completed.
- Well cleaning (desilting) work at Wadala.
- Digging of bore well at Gorapur.
- Laying of water pipe line (3 km) at Mukindpur.

In other villages such as Walki, Saundala, Bhans–Hiware, Kulcona and Tandulwadi there are proposals for well cleaning, reboring, construction of water tank and repairing of handpumps. The community organizers are regularly visiting their assigned villages along with monitoring of these projects. They are holding meetings with the people and ensuring their participation in these projects.



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Tsunami: Relief work in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been a safe haven for its inhabitants. The dwindling ethnic groups like the Jarawas, Ongis, Sentilese, and Shompens have forced the Government of India to take a very proactive role in ensuring that they are able to live in keeping with their customs. Given this situation, these islands are not easily accessible in the best of times, and after a natural disaster like the tsunami in December 2004, the situation was even worse.

A six-member Disaster Relief Team with staff from CNI (Rajeev Prasad, John Suresh Kumar, Sunil Mahajan, Reena Bose, Sudipta Singh and K N Das) left for Port Blair on December 31, 2004 after having failed to make contact with the Bishop’s office at Carnic.

At Kolkata, they boarded the first flight to Port Blair. Rev Estra Alben, Pastor, Christ Church of Port Blair, and Mr. Jayaraj, the Port Manager, who is also the treasurer of the Diocese of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, received them. They went straight to Bishop’s House, where they saw the diocesan camp cramped with people evacuated from Carnic villages. Mr. Lucas, the Deputy Director of Adult Education, introduced them to the local people and officials and facilitated the meeting with the LG and other officials.



Rehabilitation is not going to be easy, as rebuilding villages and desalinizing the wells and the land is going to be a big challenge.

Though the Lieutenant Governor, Prof. Ram Kapse, had assured that the government was doing its best to reach stranded people on different islands, his administration had ordered to stop all evacuation from December 29th morning.

Visit to camps

The team visited two big camps, one at Nirmal Sen Memorial Higher Secondary School and the other at the Government Higher Secondary School. Cooked food (all four meals) was being provided by the local NGOs. Almost everyone had some heart-rending account to narrate.

Some of the team members met the Relief Commissioner and the Chief Secretary, Mr.P C Joshi, to persuade him to do the needful to reach the people in Carnic. Finally, the Chief Secretary allowed the team to carry some food, medicines and other relief materials to Carnic.

On January 2, a three-member team followed the first Bishop of Carnic, John Richardson, and reached Must Jetty in Carnic on January 3, at 3.30 pm. It took 22 hours to reach Must jetty, which was badly damaged, and part of it had been swept away, making it difficult even for a small ship to dock. The team had to climb down a rope ladder and jump into a light boat to reach the jetty.

Items of basic necessity were offloaded after three hours on a small boat and materials like, rice, dal, vegetables were offloaded only the next day. Though there were 22 volunteers, it was impossible to take all the materials even to the nearest village (Mus) as there were no vehicles to carry the materials.

Apart from Mus, our team visited Kinmai, Small, Lapathy, Big Lapathy, Tapoiming, Malaka, and Kakana. The situation in all these villages was grim. Most of the villages had been washed away completely, with coconut trees and other plantation uprooted.

Rehabilitation is not going to be easy, as rebuilding villages and desalinizing the wells and the land is going to be a big challenge.

A Treasurer's Report

With the completion of the current preparatory phase (June 2004-September 2005), the Synodical Board of Social Services of the Church of North India would have undergone organizational change process to commence the new three-year programme starting October 2005. The 16-month period involved organizational restructuring and capacity building of SBSS and partner DBSS to work with the people on issues of justice, peace and development, adopting the rights-based approach.

The new perspective plan and programme thrust of SBSS is designed to give practical expressions to the mission engagement of the CNI and enable active participation of Church members in each congregation. The proposed initiatives would encourage dynamic Christian response to situations of exclusion, destitution and powerlessness. Each congregation, inclusive of children, youth, women, men and elders, would have opportunities to directly relate the Christian spirituality with the struggles of the people to access means of livelihood, food, healthcare, education, transport, communication, and to combat casteism, communalism, fundamentalism, debt-trap, gender discrimination, etc., on the basis of collective community action.

The outlined perspective plan, therefore, is a major challenge to the CNI, SBSS and partner DBSS to practise and witness the Christian faith in its ecumenical and inclusive dimension by ensuring the well-being of all of God's creation.

The preparation and planning process has also underlined transparency and accountability in the utilization of resources as the vital areas of project management. The partnership involving the CNI Synod, SBSS, DBSS and resource-sharing partners emphasizes respective responsibilities and obligations to be true to the core elements of the Memorandum of Understanding and its compliance as per the periodic narrative and financial reports, analysis of results, participatory evaluation, financial audit, reimbursement of planned expenditure, etc.

It has been my privilege to be associated with SBSS at this important juncture and I would like to congratulate the Chairman, the Secretary, members of the Board, the Chief Co-ordinator and dedicated members of the programme and administrative staff team at the central and zonal offices for undertaking such a creative and fulfilling exercise of re-positioning. I would also like to record the special contribution of the Finance Manager and Finance Monitoring Associates in efficiently managing and recording the utilization of funds. Most importantly, I would like to acknowledge the support, encouragement and confidence of the resource-sharing partners in the capacity of SBSS to manage organizational change to adopt the rights based approach to respond to people's issues. Without their contribution, SBSS could not have undergone such a major paradigm shift. A special thanks to EED, Bread for the World, ICCO, Christian Aid and FMSF. I also thank everyone at SBSS for extending their cooperation, support and understanding, in making things easy and comfortable in fulfilling my role and responsibilities.

PHILIP JADHAV
TREASURER

Auditors' Statement

RAY & RAY

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

205, Ansal Bhawan, 2nd Floor
16, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi: 110 001
Telephone : (011) 23705415, (011) 23705416
Fax no. : (011) 23705428
e-mail : rayandraydelhi@vsnl.com

AUDITORS' REPORT

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

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of Church of North India – Synodical Board of Social Services as at March 31, 2005 and also the Income and Expenditure Account of Foreign and Local account for the year ended on that date annexed thereto. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of Church of North India – Synodical Board of Social Services. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

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

We report that

1. We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
2. In our opinion proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Board so far as appears from our examination of those books and proper returns adequate for the purposes of our audit have been received from the Dioceses / projects/ programmes.
3. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of account.
4. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts dealt with by this report are prepared in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, to the extent applicable.
5. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts read with Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts give the information in a manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:
 - (a) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Board as at March 31, 2005; and
 - (b) in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account of Foreign Contribution, of the excess of expenditure over income and in the case of Income & Expenditure account of Local Contribution, of the excess of income over expenditure for the year ended on that date.

Place: New Delhi
Date : 22.7.2005

For RAY & RAY
Chartered Accountants


(SAMIR MANOCHA)
Partner

Membership no. 91479

CNI - Synodical Board of Social Services, 16 Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi - 110 001
Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2005

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
LIABILITIES			
Capital Reserve			
Opening Balance	1,536,751.83		1,536,751.83
Add: Additions during the year	3,437,816.00		3,437,816.00
	4,974,567.83		4,974,567.83
Less: Sale proceeds	(241,815.00)		(241,815.00)
Add: Profit on sale of Fixed Assets	24,019.06		24,019.06
Less: Depreciation for the year	<u>(1,654,616.85)</u>	3,102,155.04	<u>(1,654,616.85)</u> 3,102,155.04
General Reserve			
Transferred from Income & Expenditure Account (Local)		605,420.48	
Gratuity Fund			
Opening Balance	951,354.20		322,955.00
Add: Additions during the year	274,905.00		350,000.00
	1,226,259.20		700,000.00
Less: Payment during the year	393,300.00	832,959.20	750,000.00
Vehicle Fund			
Opening Balance	476,609.40		456,497.96
Add: Sale Proceeds of Vehicles	214,615.00		
Add: Interest	78,607.00	769,831.40	
Unutilized Balance of Foreign Contribution			
Transferred from Income & Expenditure Account			3,081,231.20
Project No.20010247 G NF 20040355	3,587,443.89		19,899.49
Add: Interest and Local Income of Phase IV	21,425.50		69,831.40
Special Grant from Protestant Lutheran Church			
Balance as per Last Year		3608869.39	82,959.20
		87,434.01	2,063.00
		<u>9,006,669.52</u>	<u>69,077.23</u>

As per our report of even date

For RAY & RAY
Chartered Accountants

(SAMIR MANOCHA)

Partner

Memb. No. 91479

PHILIP JADHAV
Treasurer

DR. SHALENDRA AWALE
Chief Coordinator

SANTHOSH GEORGE
Finance Manager

New Delhi

Dated: 22.07.2005

CNI - Synodical Board of Social Services, 16 Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi - 110 001
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 31.03.2005.

EXPENDITURE		Amount (Rs.)	INCOME	Amount (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)
Diocesan Development Programme					
1	People's Organisation & Empowerment	9,060,443.10	Project No.20010247 G. NF 20040356: Towards Building		
2	Socio-Economic Empowerment	-	Communities of Resistance & Hope		
3	Organisational Management	8,140,596.92	Grants received from:		
4	Congregational Action & Participation	572,559.70	EED, Germany	33,832,507.26	
5	Programme Administration	3,639,946.69	Christian Aid, UK	6,280,000.00	
Synodical Support Programme					
1	Capacity Building	1,123,188.00	Grants received from CNI Synod, New Delhi:		
2	Organisational Meeting	2,487,193.50	Contribution for the year 2005 - 05	582,650.00	
3	Programme Facilitation Services	5,804,813.00	For Drought Relief Programme	1,410,297.20	
4	Workshops & Consultations	733,095.05	For Rural Life Programme, Raipur	671,270.80	
5	National/ Regional Issues & Advocacy	641,633.00	For the programme of WUAC, Diphapur	1,113,435.00	3,777,653.00
6	Documentation & Publication	484,414.00			
7	Staff Development	39,794.00			
8	Evaluation	1,605,394.26			
Programme Administration					
1	Salary to Executive Staff	3,116,561.00	Other Receipts		
2	Travel Expenses	64,871.00	Interest on S.B. Account	156,951.00	
3	Administration & Maintenance Expenses:		Sale proceeds of Fixed Assets	27,270.00	
	Office Maintenance	944,133.75	Refund from Silver Jubilee A/c	2,809.00	
	Postage	51,808.00			
	Printing & Stationery	249,147.45			
	Telephone/ Fax	520,719.70			
	Vehicle Maintenance	484,639.04			
	Administration on P.F	50,231.00			
	Electricity	20,997.00			
	Audit Fees	71,630.00			
4	Furniture & Fixture/ Vehicle/ Equipments	3,437,816.00			
Organizational Development					
1	Management of Change, Staff Development	87,060.00			
2	Accompaniment Services	225,772.00			



RLP Settlement	1,632,708.00	
Grant to WUAC, Diplepur	1,113,435.00	
Drought Relief Programme	520,606.00	
	<u>46,955,076.16</u>	<u>2,877,885.90</u>
Excess of Expenditure over Income C/d	2,877,885.90	46,955,076.16
Balance transferred to Balance Sheet	3,587,443.89	6,465,329.79
	<u>6,465,329.79</u>	<u>6,465,329.79</u>

Excess of Expenditure over Income
Balance b/f from last year

New Delhi
Dated: 22.07.2005

Santhosh George
SANTHOSH GEORGE
Finance Manager

Dr. Shankendra Awale
DR. SHANKENDRA AWALE
Chief Coordinator

As per our report of even date
For RAY & RAY
Chartered Accountants
Samir Manocha
(SAMIR MANOCHA)
Partner
Membership No. 91479

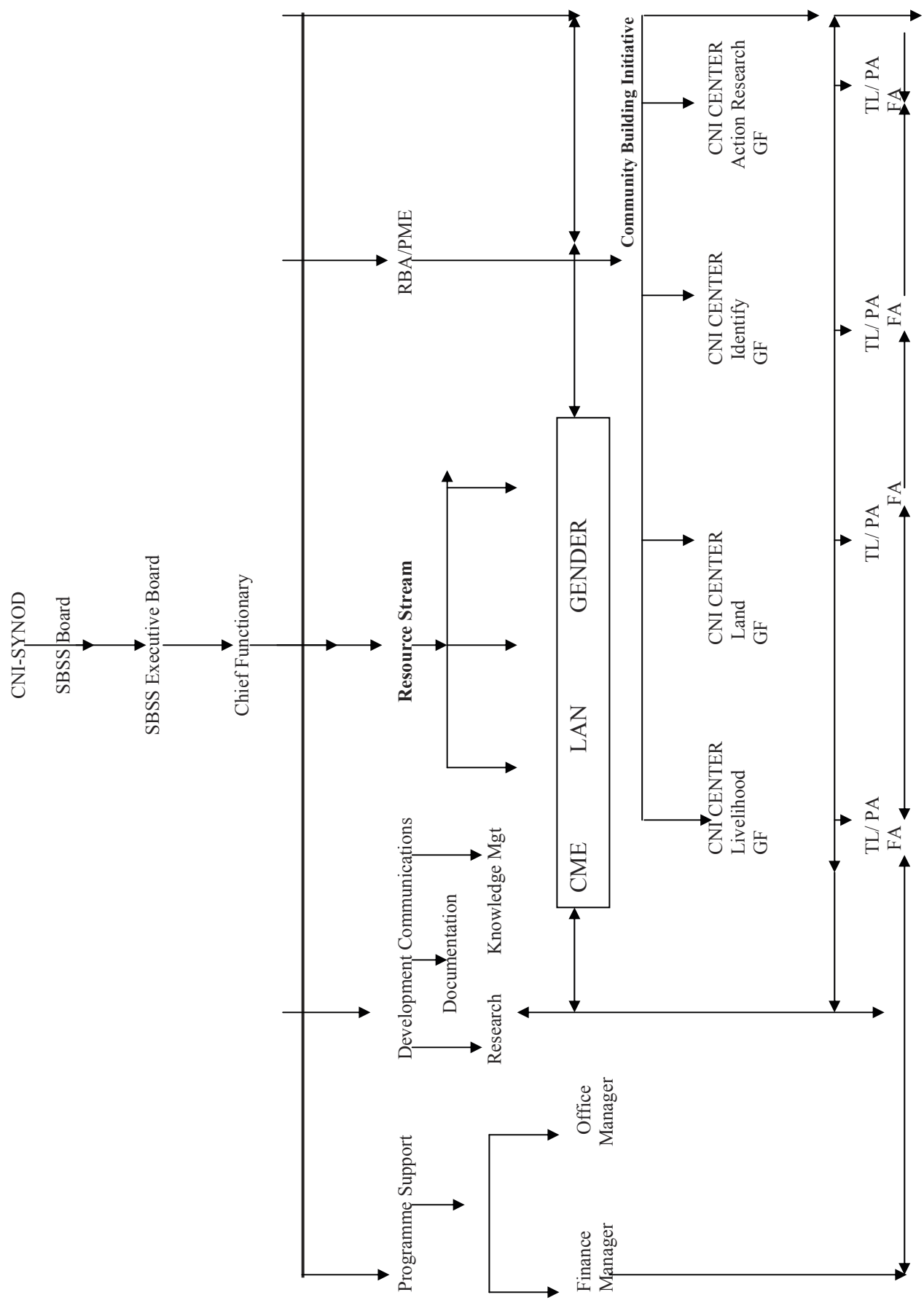


CNI SBSS: Reach & Concerns

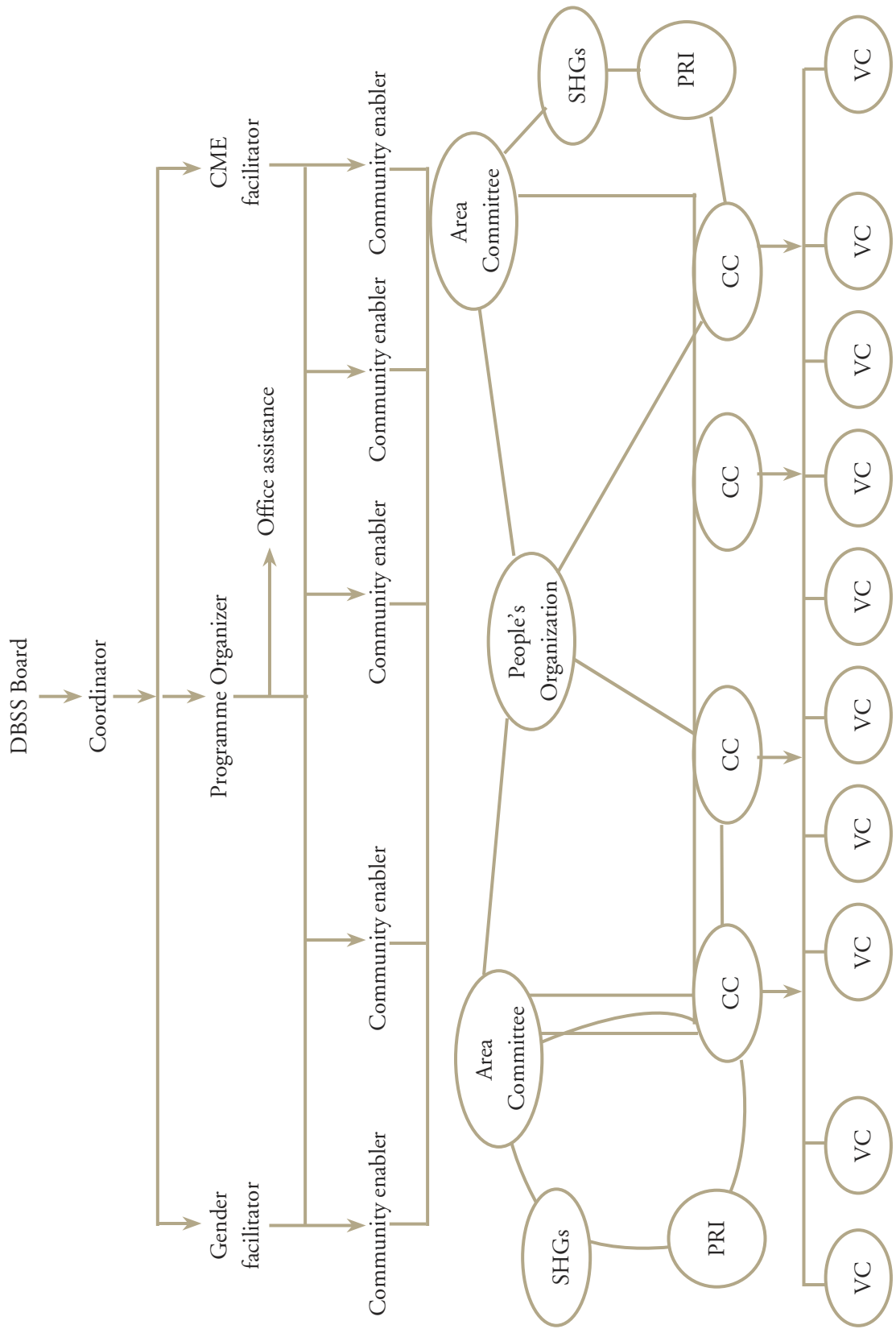


- Head office, Delhi
- Diocese Board of Social Service
- Resource Centres:
 - CNI-Center for Land Rights and Dalit Studies, Pune
 - CNI-Center for Tribal Identity and Indigenous Rights, Ranchi
 - CNI Center for Livelihood and Food Security, Agra
 - CNI-Center for Action Research on Livelihood and Food Security, Kolkata

Evolving Organisational Structure



At DBSS and at Community



1. List of Board Members (as on 31.03.05)

Chairman

Rt Rev Purely Lyngdoh

Secretary

Mrs Arpita Lawrence

Treasurer

Mr Philip Jadhav

Chief Co-ordinator

Dr Shailendra Awale

Members

Rt Rev PSP Raju

Rt Rev B F Garit

Rev. Paran Jyoti

Rev. Patrick Motilal

Mrs Bandana Das

Mrs Nilima Nayak

Mr D K Lal

Mr N L Singh

Mr Ajay Singh

Mrs Bharti Charan



2. DBSS Co-ordinators

Austin Luther

Co-ordinator, DBSS

Diocese of Agra

St Paul's Church Compound

4/116, Church Road,

Civil lines

Agra – 282 002 (U.P.)

Lun Vaiphei

Co-ordinator, DBSS

Diocese of Calcutta

Bishop's House

51, Chowringhee Road

Kolkata - 700 071

Daniel B Das

Co-ordinator, SEDP

Diocese of Amritsar

26 R B Prakash Chand Road

(Opposite Police Grounds)

Amritsar - 143 001 (Pb)

P K Biswas

Co-ordinator, DBSS

Diocese of Durgapur

St. Michael's Church

Aldrin Path, Bidhan Nagar

Durgapur- 713 212

(W.B.)

Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Gujarat
Field Office, Dedia Pada
Opp. Police Station
At: Po: Dediapada
Dist. Narmada (Gujarat)

Ajay Sardar
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Barrackpore
Bishop's House
86, Middle Road
Barrackpore -743 101

Salil C Paul
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Lucknow
6, Sarojini Naidu Marg
Allahabad – 211 001
(U.P.)

Sanjeev Alwin Salathiel
Co-ordinator, VDP
Diocese of Bhopal
Bus Stand, Pili Kothi
Jobat - 457 990
Dist. Jhabua (M.P.)

Bharti Charan
Co-ordinator, NDDB
Diocese of Nagpur
Cathedral House,
Sadar
Nagpur - 440 001

Clemence James
Co-ordinator, JDBSS
Diocese of Jabalpur
2722, Napier Town
Jabalpur - 482 001

James P
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Chotanagpur
HPDC Building
Church Road, Bahu Bazar
Ranchi - 834 001, Jharkhand

D N Moharana
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Cuttack
St. Stephen's Church Compound
Town Hall Road
Berhampur – 760 001
Ganjam (Orissa)

Ajay Singh
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Patna
Taljhari Mission House
Taljhari - 816 129
Dist. Sahibganj
(Bihar)

Sandeep Ronald
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Rajasthan
2/X, CNI Social Centre
Opposite Bus stand, Jaipur Road
Ajmer - 305 001,
(Rajasthan)

Pradip Kawah
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of North East India
Endle Mission Compound
P O Box 37
Tezpur – 784 001,
Assam

Samuel Masih
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Delhi
CNI Church House
Mustafabad - 133103
Dist. Yamuna Nagar,
Haryana

Amod Chandra Harpal
Project Incharge, ASHA
Diocese of Sambalpur
Mission Compound
Bolangir – 767 001
Dist. Bolangir
(Orissa)



Subhra Prakash Tudu
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Eastern Himalaya
Mission House
1 B K Gongba Road, Post Box 4
Darjeeling – 734 101 (W.B)

Amos Ch. Naik
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Phulbani
Mission Compound
P O Udaigiri
Phulbani – 762 001
(Orissa)

Timothy Jalam
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Kolhapur
E P School Compound
Kolhapur – 416 003 (M.S)

M U Kasab
Co-ordinator, DBSS
Diocese of Marathwada
Bungalow No. 28
Mission Compound, Cantt,
Aurangabad - 431 002
(MS)

3. Resource Sharing Agencies

Christian Aid
SJ House, D-25D
South Extn. Part II
New DELHI – 110 049

Bread For The World
P O BOX 10 11 42
D-70010 Stuttgart
Germany

Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.v.
(EED)
Ulrich-von-Hassell-Str. 76.
D-53123 Bonn
Germany

I C C O
P O BOX 151
3700 AD ZEIST
The Netherlands

4. Staff Team (As on March 31, 2005)

Name of the Employee	Designation
CHIEF FUNCTIONARY	
Shailendra Awale	Chief Co-ordinator
RESOURCE STREAM	
Manoj M Nanda	Associate Co-ordinator, CME
Rajeev Prasad	Associate Co-ordinator, LAN
Amita Khalkho	Associate Co-ordinator, Gender Justice
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS	
R John Suresh Kumar	Programme Associate
Ninglun	Documentation Assistant
COMMUNITY BUILDING INITIATIVES	
Deepak Singh	Group Facilitator, Livelihood
Mervin C Makhwan	Group Facilitator, Land Rights

Lolati Toppo
Monijinjir Byapari

Group Facilitator, Tribal Identity
Group Facilitator, RBA & Planning,
Monitoring & Evaluation

PROGRAM FACILITATOR

Nikhil S Kumar
Richard Behara
Bibhudatta Sahu
Rashmi Madavi
Ashananda Tandy
Sudeep Sanchit Tigga
Asish K Rajhans
Nilesh Gaikwad
Bidyut R Kumar
Sunil Mahajan
Amos Deep

Programme Associate
Programme Associate
Programme Associate
Programme Associate
Programme Associate
Programme Associate
Programme Associate
Programme Associate
Finance Associate
Finance Associate
Finance Associate

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Santosh George
Deepsikha Khan

Finance Manager
Office Manager

ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORTIVE STAFF

Headquarter : Delhi
Elizabeth Martin
Valsa Thomas
Shyam Lal
Ram nath
Anil Kumar

Stenographer
Office Assistant
Driver/Office Attendant
Driver/Office Attendant
Office Attendant/Driver

SUPPORT STAFF, AGRA

Biju Mathew
Vijay Masih
Timothy S Lal

Office Secretary
Office Attendant
Driver

SUPPORT STAFF, PUNE

Satish Yepure
Bholanath Rao

Office Attendant
Driver

SUPPORT STAFF, KOLKATA

Banamali Mohanty
Christo Sebok Das
Sukumar Khumbakar

Office Secretary
Office Attendant
Driver

SUPPORT STAFF, RANCHI

Anjali Tirkey
Mansidh Toppo
Markas Barla

Office Secretary
Office Attendant
Driver