

Database

At the level of perspectives SBSS has shifted towards rights-based development and has begun to address programmatic interventions along with the thematic issues. The issues of land and dalit rights; adivasis and social exclusion; and livelihood and food security have gained strategic focus along with cross-cutting themes of Gender, Lobbying, Advocacy and Networking (LAN) and the Church Mission Engagement (CME). Significantly, issue-based interventions and the dynamics of people's organizations are also shifting and altering the operational reach of DBSSs. Efforts at networking in a few instances have also brought new stakeholders in partnership. The development context of the 24 DBSSs is not only diverse but continues to be dynamic. Against this backdrop, developing and consolidating database along the lines of new perspectives and strategies of SBSS-DBSSs gains significance.

Therefore, awareness and understanding of what is data (manifestations) and its relevance for intelligent decision-making processes have to deepen at all levels within SBSS-DBSS. This process will help SBSS not only to in issue framing for future planning, building initiatives but also help in advocating and develop campaigns for the community

Keeping this in mind following were the objective set for the project

Objectives

1. To develop and consolidate database on specific thematic (issue-based) interventions - land rights, tribal identity, livelihood and food security, Self-Help Groups(SHG)s, and federations, cooperatives, people's organizations and movements through guiding frameworks. This database would provide guiding frameworks for planning and monitoring and impact assessment.
2. To enable DBSSs Coordinators and Resource Centre(RC)s to maintain dynamic database. Facilitate awareness on the relevance and use of scientific data among various stakeholders. As instrument knowledge data can be effectively used for various purposes such as visualizing issues, building alliances and lobbying, benchmarking micro and macro trends, establishing linkages etc.
3. To use database for developing Management of Information Systems (MIS)

Round One

First steps

In order to evolve a meaningful and effective database, A four-member team visited the four CNI Centres for Social Action and five DBSSs (North East India, ChhotaNagpur, Cuttack, Amritsar and Marathwada) for discussions and consultations with different stakeholders viz. the community members, DBSS staff and staff of CNI Centres for Social Action. The field visits in the select DBSSs and subsequent dialogues with the staff of DBSSs gave us glimpses of ongoing shifts and emerging concerns of the reference communities. Debriefing sessions were held in all the select DBSSs for evolving the frameworks. Valuable inputs were received from the Coordinators and staff of respective DBSSs that the four-member Team visited. A striking outcome of Team's visits is the realisation that systematic collection of data would have various benefits to the stakeholders – be it identifying emerging the needs, issues of the reference communities, ongoing trends, planning, preparing proposals, monitoring, advocacy, studies etc. More importantly, the relevance of data is contextual and it is hoped that a dynamic database would allow for informed responses from different stakeholders.

The four-member team also had an opportunity of sharing the frameworks with the Chief Coordinator of SBSS and teams CNI Centres of Social Action of Agra and Pune.

Base on the several discussion with the SBSS team following points were resolved

- The following frameworks are drafts and have to be discussed for by each of the CNI Centres for Social Action.
- Wherever required, definitions of some terms (which are used in the frameworks) can be elaborated – if need be for common understanding.
- CNI Centres for Social Action should send their feedback and inputs to the concerned person/s in SBSS for finalization by 20th May. The final 'Database Frameworks' will then be sent to the Regional Resource Centres by the 1st of June for further dissemination to the DBSSs.
- While visiting the four CNI Centres for Social Action, it was possible for the four-member team to visit only one DBSS in each of the CNI Centres for Social Action. Therefore if additional frameworks are required as per the context of the DBSSs, the CNI Centres for Social Action should prepare them. This would be welcomed.
- Wherever possible, to capture the richness of impacts, write a brief case on specific themes.
- During consultations, it is highlighted that data and frameworks on CME, CBCLA and already exists. Therefore frameworks on these themes are not incorporated in the following sections.

- The following frameworks have to be filled by DBSSs. The CNI Centres for Social Action have to facilitate the process. While filling the tables you can expand the spaces to suit the content.

Step 2.

Soon after the first round of visit, the framework that were evolved by the 4 member team was circulated to all the resource center with a covering letter

Given below is the letter email dated 5.10. 2006

As annexure 1.

Dear Accompaniers,

Hearty Greetings to you all in the wondrous name of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

It is heartening to get in touch with you again especially after the sharing we had during our visits for structuring the Database & Management of Information System. As we had decided then during our meetings, we are sending you the draft of the database framework for your valued inputs. Feel free to modify it as per requirements of the respective DBSS.

As CNI Resource Centres for Social Action, your feedback, comments, suggestions and alterations as per the diocesan needs are welcome. Please send it on or before 20th May 2006 so that the final Database Frameworks could be sent by 1st June 2006 to the Resource Centres for the further dissemination to DBSSs. The team-leaders need to facilitate the whole process for their respective dioceses developing a methodology and are expected to inform the HQ about the same as how they are going to execute this process?

Thanking you once again for the welcome that was extended from your side with apt support and co-operation. The entire expedition proved to be an enriching one as the field-visits and the interaction with your team gave us new insights to compile the information.

Keenly awaiting for your response,

Sincerely in His name,

Monijinjir and Vikram.
(Core Team Members, SBSS)

Initiating a Change Process.....

After 25 years of journeying with the people, CNI-SBSS went through an external evaluation process to enhance its organizational capacity for effective working with the marginalized society.

The Organizational Development (OD) process initiated soon after CNI-SBSS's evaluation; encompassed new systems, appropriate structures and supporting policies with new organizational energy.

The OD process ended in October 2005 and brought a new thrust, energy and ideas in newly evolved structure, policy and programme initiating a process of enabling and equipping the resource centers with appropriate capacity. Subsequently our external facilitator Uma Ramaswamy took a formal appraisal of the OD process reviewing its impact and outcome. This appraisal further pursued the resource center not only to build up and strengthen its capacity for an effective engagement but also to take a pioneering step towards being a resource for the universal Church at large with an aim to percolate the structures and policies at the DBSS and community level. The change process was shared with the accompaniers in the Round Table Meeting followed by two other meetings at Kolkata and in Terri, New Delhi in which SBSS core staff and external experts dialogued and discussed.

This process of transformation is crucially important for the Resource Centres to take over the required role, adequately supported by the system and the structures to function in a very proficient manner.

During this process the SBSS team has responsibility to evolve appropriate mechanism and competence within themselves. Simultaneously at diocesan level, this process shall bring up new roles and responsibilities with new methodology of functioning. This process would further lead to autonomy of the dioceses where the diocese will not be technically dependant on SBSS but would help the SBSS to evolve a new accompaniment model.

The framing of Data-Base is a resultant factor of this process of transformation which is looked upon as strengthening element to carry on the mission with more zest and zeal of course with your support and co-operation

Step 3:

The team members at the RC have discussed the framework at the RC level for further improvements

Feedback came back from the following centers and team members

RC- AGRA

RC- PUNE

Mervin Mackwan
Manjari Nanda

But apart from RC Kolkata none of the RC had send the detail process as when they are starting the data base initiative at the DBSS level

Looking into it a second reminder was also given to the SBSS team members at the RC

Reminder given to the SBSS team leaders

Attached find email dated 5.22.2006
As annexure 2

To
The RCSA Team,
AGRA/ KOLKATA/ PUNE/ RANCHI
(This mail will be individually sent on the official id of each RCSA as well to the team leaders, programme staff, etc)

Dear Accompaniers,
Greetings!

As decided during our meetings and discussions held in last few weeks, we had sent you the draft of the database framework for your valued inputs. You were requested to modify it as per the requirements of the respective DBSS with your feedback, comments, suggestions and alterations as per the diocesan needs as a CNI Resource Centres for Social Action.

We were supposed to receive it from you on or before 20th May 2006 so that the final Database Frameworks could be sent back to you again by 1st June 2006 for the further dissemination. But still we have not received your copy with modifications. We are already in process of developing it so kindly send it to us at the earliest.

Waiting for your prompt reply,

Sincerely,

Monijinjir and Vikram.
(Core Team Members, SBSS)

Dear Accompaniers
at Barrackpore RCSA,

Greetings!

As decided during our meetings and discussions held in last few weeks, we had sent you the draft of the database framework for your valued inputs. You were requested to modify it as per the requirements of the respective DBSS with your feedback, comments, suggestions and alterations as per the diocesan needs as a CNI Resource Centres for Social Action.

We were supposed to receive it from you on or before 20th May 2006 so that the final Database Frameworks could be sent back to you again by 1st June 2006 for the further dissemination. Till now we have received suggestions from two centres, those centers who have not send to us are requested to do so at an earliest.

Please send us the detail Itinerary of the process that you will be undertaking at the respective DBSS, especially who will be responsible and how we will do it...

Waiting for your prompt reply,

Sincerely,

Vikram and Moni.

Step 4:

The final Database framework was send to all the RC within 1st of June to collect information

PROCESS DOCUMENTATION ON DATA BASE

Round 2

RC-Kolkata

This RC comprise of 5 DBSS, Kolkata, NEI, Durgapur, Barrackpore and EHD. The database team had already completed developing framework at the NEI DBSS. So our task was to complete the process in the remaining 4 DBSS

Meeting at the RC

Once the final document with the given framework was received from the head office, at the RC level following things were shared

- a. Why this database was require ie the basic back ground of the Data base
- b. The letter from the head office referring to “ the initiating of a change process”. which reflected that the database project was considered a continuum of the organizational development process . This process will develop appropriate mechanism and competence within the RC. Simultaneously at diocesan level, this process shall bring up new roles and responsibilities with new methodology of functioning. This process would further lead to autonomy of the dioceses where the diocese will not be technically dependant on SBSS but would help the SBSS to evolve a new accompaniment model.
- c. Each format of the frame work was shared and discuss
- d. The time frame planning of how to take this process forward at the DBSS level was discussed in detail
- e. As per the discus the RC team agreed to follow an accompaniment model. The RC clusters themselves into smaller groups and decided to visit the rest of 4 DBSS.

Visit to the DBSS

The visit comprised at least 3 members from the RC. It was a 2 and a half day visit . with the following content

1. Orientation on the first day
2. Field visit on the second half
3. Debriefing and sharing of the data base framework

Orientation

The RC team members, first had a orientation programme with the DBSS staff team. The orientation was done in a participatory way with a facilitating mode, trying to draw ideas from the staff rather than sharing our ideas .

- The DBSS staff were ask why have they come for the orientation
- What type of data or information they have till now
- Whether this data or information is sufficient or relevant or helpful for intelligent decision making or for any campaigns
- What type of information or data they will require for intelligent decision making of the community and for advocacy

It was a learning process for both SBSS and DBSS team , we understood our drawbacks in planning a programme and also understood the type of information we would require to rectify the process

Field visit

To see what type of information and data they have at the community level in the context of the issue they are addressing, a selected team including the coordinator and some staff visited the field

In most of the field visit we interacted with the community people, saw their documentations and also tried to analyzed some of the situations there eg the economics of the SHGs, their land holding patters etc

Debriefing and sharing of the framework

Once again we met the team of DBSS and shared with them our observations from the field. Ie how much information they have in context of the issue they are addressing and what is required to rectify it.

Thus to bring a change to this process for betterment the database framework are introduce to the DBSS

At the RC level again

After discussing on each framework and explaining to them they are giving a week time to give their feed back on the framework

Then they are requested to prepare a proper design as to complete this frame work at the community and the DBSS level

Some of the frameworks are advised to complete at the DBSS Head office with the full staff team

The rest with the community

The SBSS RC team has suggested to be a part of the whole process during the compilation and trend analysis