

Meeting with the members of Evaluation Team
September 26, 2007 at CNI SBSS, New Delhi HQ

Evaluation Team members : John Cunnington & Dr Jimmy Dabhi, *Special Invitee* : Jill Carr Harris
SBSS Team : Dr Shailendra Awale, Santosh, Monijinir, John, Elizabeth and Vikram.

The members of Evaluation Team met SBSS team today after September 14, 2007 at 9am in CNI SBSS' office. Dr Shailendra Awale, Chief Coordinator & Secretary welcomed the members present for this meeting. With a brief introduction, the members went through last meeting's proceedings.

Checking with Mr John Cunnington's schedule and Dr Jimmy Dabhi's availability, the group agreed on the date of the next meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 in the afternoon as partners from EED and Christian Aid could also be a part of it. Venue would be ChristianAid Office or FMSF, Noida or the CNI SBSS HQ.

Discussing the possibilities of potential members in the evaluation team, Dr Awale informed that Ms Mary John has expressed her inability to join this team while Ms Jill Carr Harris shall notify in meantime. A mail shall be sent to Dr Rukhmini inviting her to be a part of this team for the evaluation process. Ms Evangeline Rajkumar from UTC, Bangalore and Sister Shalini from VidyaJyoti's names were considered as CNI SBSS is looking for the experts with finance, gender and theological background.

By November 14, 2007 Terms of Reference (ToR) shall be handed over to the team, presuming other members would also have been joined the team by then. During this period they would get time to review these literatures – ToR, System Appraisal and Learning Appraisal, developing personal clarity and then determining the whole process with SBSS's core team in the collective meeting to be held in January 2008. The evaluation process is scheduled to begin by third week of January 2008. The travel schedule and draft preparations for the thirty working days between Jan – March 2008 shall be organized. Executive Summary or Draft note is expected to finish by the March end so that it could be presented in the Round Table Meeting to be held in April 2008.

Referring to the previous meeting's discussion, Dr Awale shared that this process should not be seen as an evaluation of the good and bad programmes but should be taken more as internalization of learning and finding areas for improvement.

John showed his interest in knowing more about the results in fields after having a look at the objectives. He also stressed that it would give conceptual clarity.

Jimmy said that he has gone through CNI SBSS' objectives stated in the Strategic Action Plan. He wondered if the team can design any instrument to assess the perspective changes we have introduced. This could be done by the visits and interactions. Second thing will be to see the theological and ideological underpinning of entire changes SBSS have brought with the top to bottom perspective, future perspectives underlining the principles and values. These things should be put in such a way that we could measure... If there are changes seen in the field then we must also see what the facilitating and hindering factors are?

Replying to Jill's question - whether team is going to look out for organisational changes, Dr Awale explained the Perspective and Strategic Action Plan rolled in Sept2005 and said that

now in this evaluation, SBSS looks forward to see how certain foundations like Movement Building through various schemes and processes from theological and ideological perspectives, interventions has come out? This visualization would tell us are we on the right track?

Jill affirmed that seeing the extent of Movement Building in the grass-root level and its concurrence at hierarchy – if there's consensus or partnership to that movement is critically important to direct further on proper path.

Dr Awale added that as change process is continuous there was consolidation of changes and enhanced learning during the entire phase though broader framework remained same as per SAP. Many of the program components evolved with clarity in the period of time which was not in 2005 when it was launched. For example – need of campaign mode; an event leading to series of events then into particular activity. Recently launched *Param* was not visualized then but it is essentially the part of this documentation. We at SBSS always try to define Why? That comes very strongly defining what and how to do... We developed Participatory Approach, theological understanding of issues through framework on Rights Based Approach (RBA) that we will share with you.

Dr Awale further said that he personally feels it as a great amount of challenge to develop shared understanding of mission read as justice and development among church leadership, its hierarchy, structure, institutions and congregations and laity at large. If we could evolve such process... we would have tremendous capacity to change and alter public discourse and public policy and governing institutions. The proposed process should give such pointer and to plan next journey.

John drew a circle placing people in the centre. He said this way he don't see hierarchy but only the communities for whom DBSS is working and in this whole framework and rather than checking for the weakness, with team he would look for some understanding that would help in evaluating the changes for the betterment of poor people having more influence and control over the resources. This could be done by reality check of various objectives and with some structured monitoring that would enable the team to jot down the path of the progress as well as limitations, threats and opportunities for change. To build enough competence we should be also aware of increasing vulnerabilities which can be recognized and responded in a pragmatic way.

Jill continued further saying that we should focus completely from development point of view not second guessing larger agenda, we need greater clarity as what is good rights based, what is based on practice and experience, as how issues like livelihood and food security etc up to some extent has helped people to build leadership, to build better economic condition to build geo-political rights. All these things need to be looked from the external point of view. She explained that from her point of view as gender and environment specialist, she would look for people's understanding about rights; to what extent is their women leadership, how vocal they are, identify milestones in the constituency, identify vulnerabilities and gaps, take these discussions to congregations to the diocese and synod so that they could participate and find collectively the measures to fill these gaps.

Dr Awale thanked the group for sharing the ideas. He said he does value people to be at centre position but at the same time there is need to take the messages out of the field and building perspectives understanding their role in changing context. Meeting bishops is also

important as SBSS is seen as an agency with the larger agenda and churches to reaffirm our mission priority, options and choices. He shared that he believes this whole process shall be perspective building process for church leadership in larger goal of changing social context. For core team and programme staff, it will be a part of capacity building to get new skills and techniques, in understanding changing perspectives, the impact of our activities, the output of what we are doing, knowing vulnerabilities and getting ready for RBA.

John suggested that to develop absolute consensus on goal and purpose, on what SBSS is doing among leadership and various stakeholders, if there is an agreement so the team can make suggestions on which approaches can be made.

Dr Awale replied positively explaining the process of approval of the policy document, passed by the Synod, the executive board and the bishops. Yet few perceive SBSS as a donor-driven agency or few extreme feels that SBSS doesn't address the issues of the Church. Disaster Management is one of the areas. As CASA is expected to fulfill its role, how SBSS can carve its role and make meaningful contribution in this area. It is also true there is pressure from the constituency to be involved more proactively and arrange funds for immediate relief operations. It goes very much with nature of perceived image and functions of the Church.

Jimmy said as a group, the evaluation team would like to assess the kind of intervention church is doing. Is it responding to the needs of the society? Theological underpinning in the way we understand and the way we respond, is it relevant in today's world & at the same time as a group do we have a responsibility towards our brothers and sisters in the community and if we understand how do we do that?

Jill stressed on giving priority to the larger group as that is the bigger challenge. She also pointed out the division in the communities and work on how we could go beyond it.

Dr Awale invited the SBSS team to share their views and expectations out of this process. The team said that they would like to see from this evaluation, how we develop tools to measure in terms of objectives laid down, in time what are the challenges, opportunities in the field, the changes and adaptations as how it helped in building leadership in communities at larger level, how these objectives have really helped SBSS and the people to achieve, how far SBSS is enabled to take these challenges and utilize the opportunities to respond. This will be also an effort to see why merging or *operationalisation* of perspectives or programmes into activities is not occurring? This will also help to record and document the impact, social changes, facilitating and hindering factors to work on, to extend understanding about the technologies offered and gather support from the communities and to ensure the optimum and effective utilization of the resources. He then summed up the sharing and stated that this process will positively define the emerging perspective.

It was also decided that the information should be shared with the CNI RCSAs however it would be too early to involve them in the discussions at this stage.

*Next Meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2007.
Venue : To be decided.*
