

## 1.1 Introduction

The objects and purposes of the Church of North India are to proclaim by word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ. All its activities, besides spiritual growth are expected to work towards bringing social justice and moral regeneration, irrespective of caste, creed or colour. Ongoing process of neo-liberal economic globalization posed a challenge to the Church to provide Alternative Globalization Addressing People and Environment. (AGAPE) In 2005, CNI SBSS, the development and justice wing of the Church launched its decade long journey ( Resistance & Hope 2005-15) with victims of globalization, dalits, tribal, poor and the marginalized in unorganized sector. Present post-sovereign condition of state resulting in the reduced space in policy making process has further added responsibility to redefine the process, ensuring the participation of poor. Further there is a need to meet requirements of the poor on an emergency basis. Structural inequality in our society based on caste requires special initiatives to address the social excluded masses.

Resistance and hope 2005-15 consists of three interlinked phases constructed around the building and consolidations of people's movement at different levels. This phase.....Speaking Out is the second phase of the decade long journey. This would provide an opportunity to democratize institutions in public and larger spheres for greater common good. Strengthening the participation of the poor in the political processes and enabling them to exercise their political authority is the key goal of CNI SBSS for the next three years. Based on achievement and learning of last phase LJR 2005-08, CNISBSS would like to reposition herself for strengthening people's movement in next three years.

SBSS at present is focusing on building communities at the grass root. Today we are working with 18 DBSS partners covering sixteen states. We engage with the struggles of more than 1512 villages comprising of 242 CBO consisting of farmers committee, *mahila mandal* , peoples committee, 1813 SHGs, 8 cooperative and 11 Peoples Organization at the national level. For political autonomy 959 candidates have contested in the *panchayat* elections out of which 112 women and 438 men were elected. These leaders have evolved from the PO and are advocating for their communities. Through these organizations we have responded to issues of human rights violations, imperialist and capitalist policies of the developed countries, issues of accountability of the state for the proper implementation of the food security and social security schemes, issues of land entitlements.