

7. ROLES OF SBSS, CNI-RCSA AND DBSS

Development sector has witnessed many changes in its approaches. The Church of North India has been always at forefront since its formation to be identified with poor and marginalized. The development to empowerment and recent adoption of rights-based approach has changed the function, nature and role of development organizations including the SBSS.

Renewed thrust and perspective call for new roles and responsibility places onus on SBSS to develop and enhance its organizational capacity, process, systems and human resources adequately. We believe that our solidarity with the community would catalyze and hasten the process of building communities of resistance and hope. In return, community will contribute to our personal growth and spiritual well-being.

As an accompanier, SBSS supports partner organizations (DBSS and PO), building their capacity (providing assistance) for issue specific initiatives to undertake required analysis and develop appropriate action to mobilize community and lead advocacy campaigns for their rights. In the coming days too, SBSS ensures all required support and guidance to DBSS and the communities in all situations striving to ensure a life with dignity and secure livelihood by acquiring equal partnership over their rights through campaigns, movement building, forming issue-based people's organisations from the existing community-based organisations and further transforming them into people's movements and then as an alternative political force.

SBSS believes that the solutions to the societal problems should emerge from the victims themselves. SBSS engages dynamically with DBSS to move forward through mutual learning and change process, even in adverse working environment. To be relevant to the changing context, SBSS constantly upgrades and enhances the capacity and skills. Besides, technical know-how, through its non-formal approach, SBSS places primary emphasis on vision and values to challenge traditional thinking and rigid mindsets. This process identifies the needs and potential of the staff, sharing knowledge, skills and techniques to actualize their own growth.

Resources are critical to the growth and sustenance of people's movement. While restating that we take care not to be overtly resource dependent or driven but shall take every effort to be an efficient resource mobiliser and identify resource-sharing partners who will be with us in our journey. The onus on SBSS is to be transparent and accountable to our partners.

The teams at different RCSAs are actively involved in the process of bringing favourable changes in the lives of marginalized. RCSAs in harmony with SBSS shoulders responsibilities as facilitator and capaciator, and play significant role in developing contextual theology, mission praxis and practice while accompanying the DBSS, providing necessary technical assistance to develop people's organizations on issues and common concerns and mobilize communities for advocacy bringing synergies between the various stakeholders.

DBSS coordinates the work of the congregations through Church Mission Engagement (CME) along with the rest of the reference communities as involvement of local congregations and enabling the PO to be a movement are the key thrusts. Enabling people to acquire political positions and exert political authority for pro-poor changes on agenda, DBSS develops the capacity (skills and assets) of the people so that realizing their rights; they can negotiate with the policy makers and emerge as an alternative political force. DBSS are the main implementing actors sensitizing communities socially, politically, economically and culturally to organize themselves to claim their rights over livelihood means while protecting their identity.