

5. SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROCESS AND ITS IMPACT

Development sector has witnessed many changes in its approaches. Since its inception, CNI SBSS has always been in solidarity with the poor and marginalized though there have been certain shifts in the approaches, first from development to empowerment and in recent times adoption of rights based too which resulted into the changes in the function, nature and role of development organizations including the SBSS.

Sustainability of any project and its impact are important indicators which reflects the successful implementation of the projects according to plan. For SBSS, development is a long-term process to be governed and managed by people where we participate in their struggle to restore their dignity. We believe entirely on the resources available within the community. We also believe that our solidarity with the community would catalyze and hasten this process. 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. This struggle aims to bring transformation and change. It questions the present socio-politico status quo. Many times, community and we as an institution were forced to face unforeseen situations. Facing brutal police force or court cases are some of the issues to be noted.

SBSS has adopted a Rights Based Approach to its community empowerment/development initiatives. The core strategy is to develop people's organizations on issue and common concerns and mobilize communities for advocacy. Assistance would be provided for capacity building for community action.

Involvement of local congregations and enabling the PO to be a movement are the key thrusts. In ten years, it is expected that these POs would be in a position to take the development process forward with the support of the local congregations. DBSS would coordinate the work of these congregations. Regional resource centres of SBSS would provide technical assistance. As an outcome, the people's organization would emerge as people's movement in the form of federations, cooperatives and collective forums. Further, focus would be given on consolidation of programmes while last phase would hub on phasing out, by the time, people's movement would have emerged as an alternative political force with an ability to manage and sustain their social capital.

For SBSS, total transformation is a goal of its struggles. Mere economic activities, bureaucratic and incremental in nature are not the things we are looking for. Enabling people to acquire political positions and exert political authority for pro-poor changes is on the agenda. Our involvement is of an accompanier and facilitator.

To be relevant to the changing context, SBSS should give primary emphasis on developing human resource having vision, perspectives and values. Appropriate programme development is the key to be an effective and result oriented organization. Identifying individuals at community level and organisational level requires specific, designed approach. SBSS, from the beginning have developed community-based organisations. They have been planning, organising and managing activities at their levels. In due course of time, SBSS and DBSS involvement should remain at information sharing and fellowship level. Where DBSS have recently introduced and successfully managed RBA. SBSS's approach of developing leadership of SHG, PRI and PO would certainly help to widen ownership among community.

Essentially, we are working for irrelevance of the SBSS. We do believe the Church need to be empowered to take the journey forward where there is no need of SBSS. It is visualized, in ten years SBSS would limit its function as a resource hub. Its community involvement should restrict with action research for innovation and new community development modules. SBSS would be an umbrella fellowship for all social action groups and individuals where the spirit of the movements needs to be kept alive. Resource centres would provide required technical support to communities and dioceses.

There is need to articulate the purpose and method for every ten years. We should not perpetuate and maintain structures and should not be fearful to pass the baton, if required. Change in profile and responsibility and expected outcome with present compulsion need to be shared and discussed with all stakeholders. Communities and dioceses need to be involved to realize the changes. They would be encouraged to identify new support and network at local level. The process of congregational involvement shall begin with new phase. SBSS team members and regional resources need to be developed and staffed with individuals with passion and required skill. Building capacity of the people and mobilize / organize their own resources will always be our priority so that they can continue their movements by themselves In long run the roles of SBBS will decrease and ultimately people will take charge of their own movements/events. In this way the process and its impact will sustain within the community even after changed roles of SBSS in the community.