



STRATEGY DOCUMENT

2020-2025



MADHY PRADESH SAMAJ SEVA SANSTHA

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PREFACE

For Centuries, Catholic Church has been in action with their philanthropic and social development initiatives across the Indian subcontinent. National and state wise entities formed under Catholic banner created ripples with their humanitarian works to reach out to the downtrodden communities in the country.

Madhya Pradesh Samaj Seva Sanstha is one such unique nonprofit organization representing social apostolate of Catholic Church in state of Madhya Pradesh. With its prominence and strongly felt presence in the region, the organization provides leadership support and handholding assistance to all the stakeholders working tirelessly in uplifting the socio-economic standards of people by emphasizing the right eco-friendly lifestyle.

Having evolved as the Forum of Social Work in the Madhya Pradesh region, the organization achieved several milestones in our journey towards creating a society where everyone enjoys equal rights and opportunities based on peace, love and harmony with one another, nature and the Divine. Till date the organization is involved in wide range of development activities covering Education, Health, Agriculture, Livelihood and Ecological concerns.

The strategic plan for the period 2020 to 2025 has been proposed in consultation with Thematic Experts and all the stakeholders of the organization. This strategic plan document elaborates the background of the state of Madhya Pradesh and the prevalent issues along with the regional strategy to address them. The region will try to put all its resources together to promote human dignity and ensure the stewardship of nature. We believe whatever you did for one of the least of these little ones, you did it to me...

Rev. Bp. Gerald Almeida
Chairman, MPSSS Bhopal
Bishop of Jabalpur

FORWARD

‘A Vision Without a Strategy Remains an Illusion’

Lee Bolman

It is heartening to note that the Strategy Plan of MPSSS has been inspired by the current Strategy Plan of Caritas India. The Strategy Plan of Caritas India is not just a wishful thinking but rather a renewed commitment with a redefined vision. It is an outcome of several rounds of intensive reflections and brainstorming that had happened at various levels which provided strong analytical footing to this forward-looking document. It is bridged between the lessons learnt in the past and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Strategy Plan of Caritas India is the “Strategy Plan of Social Apostolate of Catholic Churches in India”.

It lays emphasis on the four Key Strategic Pillars - Empowering Animation; Dialogue – with the poor, duty bearer, nature; Volunteering; and Being a Sharing Community. These four strategy pillars represent the development philosophy and the theory of change of Caritas India. Empowering Animation facilitates and encourages the community to take the front seat, while the Caritas India and her partners support them wherever and whenever required. The second pillar i.e., Dialogue emphasizes on the importance of communication and networking among and between the community, Govt. stakeholders and the nature. Volunteering pillar stresses on the mobilization and the engagement of the Caritas Samaritans with a vision to encourage those with skills and passion to give their time for social good. The fourth pillar encourages the community to be a Sharing Community as this is the only way forward to make the community and the role of the facilitating organization, a self-reliant and sustainable one.

The Strategy Plan developed by Caritas India was shared with all her partners, including the Regional Forum. It gives an immense pleasure to see that MPSSS has taken the document closer to its region by formulating the Regional Strategy Plan, keeping in mind the four Key Strategy Pillars. This document would help the forum to establish a shared understanding of the Strategy Pillars within the region and accompany the DSSS partners in ensuring its mainstreaming in their interventions.

Ever since Caritas India and her partners have understood and initiated the four pillars to be streamlined, dividends have started to come in. The recent interventions during COVID response are the best example of it, where one saw a heart-warming response by the volunteers and the community.

It is my pleasant duty to appreciate and thank each one, in a special way Fr. Kiran Olakkengil, who contributed to the designing and development of this Regional Strategy Plan. I hope and believe that this plan will give us a focused direction and the way forward. May I invite everyone to make this dream a reality.

Rev. Fr. Paul Moojely
Executive Director
Caritas India

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Regional Strategic Plan document is an outcome of continuous brain storming process which the regional partners and well-wishers of MPSSS did over a period of nineteen consecutive months. It was developed in depth consultation with many stakeholders like thematic experts, researchers, linguists along with working professionals and respective members of the Governing Board. At the very outset, I am immensely grateful to God almighty for the opportunities and inspirations received since my initial days of my journey of priesthood. The Church Leaders who trained me and placed their trust on me. I am also grateful to all those inspired me both in the academics and at the grassroot levels. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and thank appreciation and the reinforcements given by Rev. Bp. Gerald Almeida, Bishop of Jabalpur and Chairman MPSSS Bhopal, intermittently. He has written the Preface to this document. I am grateful to Fr Paul Moonjely for writing a forward message for this Regional Strategic Plan document. I would also like to thank Frs. Matthew Vattakuzhy VC and Augustine Marottikudy MST and their teams who formed the previous Regional Strategic Plan which was the first document of these kind in the Region. I would also like to thank many people like Partner Directors and Forum Directors who have helped me to learn and practice both the art and science of accompanying, partnership building and optimum use of resources throughout these years. Additionally, my special thanks to Drs. Sheeba Jose & Saju M.K., who spent time and energy to go through this document at different stages. I really admire their passion for society and precision for the work. I am also inspired by the Books of Frs. Prakash Louis and Jolly Puthenpura in drafting this document. I am grateful to Dr. Jolly and Ms Babita Pinto of Caritas India, who had given positives stokes to improvise this document. I am extremely thankful to the members of Governing Board and Partner Directors who reviewed this document even at the preview of current pandemic and FCRA amendments. An additional thanks to Dr. Shibani Basu Dubey and Fr. Rojan Chirayath who did the required language corrections and proofreading respectively. I also acknowledge the contributions of Social Work Department of Bhopal School of Social Sciences for the insights and thoughts. Last not least I thank the team members of MPSSS who put their heart and soul in churning out this document from scratches. A special word of appreciation to Mr Christophar Kiran Kumar who took lead during this process and coordinated with everyone. Everyone who has contributed in whatever way, I will ever remain grateful.

Fr Kiran Olakkengil
Executive Director
MPSSS Bhopal

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CHAPTER

1 CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

1.1 ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND OF THE FORUM: -

The Catholic Church of Madhya Pradesh region has the social work activities, mainly undertaken at two levels i.e., the Forum Level and the Partner Level. The Forum level organization was registered under the name Madhya Pradesh Samaj Seva Sanstha – MPSSS in the year 1998 and is basically involved in the capacity building and coordination activities of the partner team whereas each partner under Madhya Pradesh region has an independent registered wing for the Social Work and is involved directly in the field level activities.

The process of constituting a forum for Social Work in Madhya Pradesh was first initiated in the year 1982-1983 by the Catholic Diocesan Directors of Social Works of Madhya Pradesh. Though the by-laws had been formulated for the registration of the society, but it could not be materialized due to technical glitches. This was followed by another attempt made by four partners of Madhya Pradesh for the formation of an association - Inter Diocesan Education for Action (IDEA) to promote people's development and social action. Gradually IDEA spread across to other dioceses. This led to the sowing of the seed for the formation of the Madhya Pradesh Forum.

In the year 1997 the Catholic Bishops of Madhya Pradesh came forward for the creation of a Forum of Social Work in the Region. In order to initiate the process of forming the forum, the Bishops appointed Fr. Francis T. as the first secretary to the Commission of Social Work under the Council of Bishops of Madhya Pradesh (CBMP). Fr. Francis T. succeeded in registering a society under the name of Madhya Pradesh Samaj Seva Sanstha - MPSSS on 25th September 1998 bearing the No. 6387/98 under the Madhya Pradesh Firms and Societies Registration Act of 1973. It started functioning from Seva Sadan, Bhopal and today it has gradually attained the status of a Coordinating Agency for all the developmental programmes in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Though initially it covered the target States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the jurisdiction of the Forum has been extended to the Whole of India through an amendment in the Memorandum of Association duly certified by the Registrar of the firms and Societies on 20.12.2002. MPSSS has also obtained the FCRA registration under the foreign Contribution Act, 1976 from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India on 15th March 2004.

Madhya Pradesh Samaj Seva Sanstha is facilitating and coordinating the developmental activities of Partner Social Service Societies of Madhya Pradesh. Today overseas donor support is fast dwindling & the need for positive intervention for the development of the poor and the marginalized sections of the society is acquiring greater importance. MPSSS, along with the partners are making all efforts to empower the community to make right choices and help them to decide for themselves towards their own development, for creation of an equitable society where there is justice, peace & love. This forum was split into two in the year 2008, Madhya Pradesh Forum and Chhattisgarh Forum. Present Direct Partners of MPSSS includes Social Service Societies of Bhopal, Indore, Jhabua, Khandwa, Ujjain, Sagar, Satna, Gwalior and Jabalpur dioceses.

1.2 GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF THE REGION: -

Madhya Pradesh literally means "Central Province" and is located in the geographic heart of India. The state straddles the Narmada River, which flows from east to west between the Vindhya and Satpura ranges; these ranges and the Narmada are the traditional boundaries between the north and south of India. Madhya Pradesh is the second largest Indian state by area and the fifth largest state by population with over 75 million residents. It borders the states of Uttar Pradesh to the northeast, Chhattisgarh to the southeast, Maharashtra to the south, Gujarat to the west, and Rajasthan to the northwest. Before 2000, when Chhattisgarh was a part of Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh was the largest state in India.¹

1.2.1 Social Scenario: -

The population of Madhya Pradesh consists of a number of ethnic groups and tribes, castes and communities, including the indigenous, tribal groups and relatively more recent migrants from other states. The scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes constitute a significant portion (approx. 37%) of the population of the State. The main tribal groups in Madhya Pradesh are Gond, Bhil, Baiga, Korku, Bhariya, Kol and Sahariya. Dhar, Jhabua and Mandla districts have more than 50 percent tribal population. In Khargone, Chhindwara, Seoni, Sidhi, Singrauli and Shahdol districts 30–50 percent population is tribal. According to the 2011 census, the population of the aboriginals in Madhya Pradesh was 15.34 million, constituting 21.1% of the total population. There

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh

were 46 recognized Scheduled Tribes and three of them have been identified as "Special Primitive Tribal Groups" in the State.²

1.2.2 Economic Scenario: -

The economy of Madhya Pradesh is the tenth-largest state economy in India with ₹8.09 lakh crore (US\$110 billion) in gross domestic product and a per capita GDP of ₹90,000 (US\$1,300). Madhya Pradesh is ranked 34th among Indian states in human development index. Rich in mineral resources, MP has the largest reserves of diamond and copper in India. More than 30% of its area is under forest cover. Its tourism industry has seen considerable growth, with the state topping the National Tourism Awards in 2010–11. In recent years, the state's GDP growth has been above the national average.³

State's gross domestic product (nominal GDP) for 2013–14 was ₹ 4,509 billion (approximately US\$ 72,726,000,000). The per-capita figure was US\$ 871.45 in 2013–14, the sixth lowest in the country. Between 1999 and 2008, the annualized growth rate of the state was very low at 3.5%. Subsequently, the state's GDP growth rate has improved significantly, rising to 8% during 2010–11 and 12% during 2011–12. Madhya Pradesh is also famous for honey production in the district Morena. The state's tourism industry is growing, fueled by wildlife tourism and a number of places of historical and religious significance. Sanchi and Khajuraho are frequently visited by foreign tourists.⁴

1.2.3 Political Scenario: -

After the independence of India, Madhya Pradesh was created in 1950 from the former British Central Provinces and Berar and the Princely States of Makrai and Chhattisgarh, with Nagpur as the capital of the state. In 1956, the states of Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, and Bhopal were merged into Madhya Pradesh. Jabalpur was chosen to be the capital of the state but at the last moment, due to some political pressure, Bhopal was made the state capital. In November 2000, as part of the Madhya Pradesh Reorganization Act, the southeastern portion of the state split off to form the new state of Chhattisgarh. Madhya Pradesh has a 230-seat state legislative assembly. The state also sends 40 Members to the Parliament of India: 29 are elected to the Lok Sabha (Lower House) and 11 to the Rajya Sabha (Upper House). The dominant political parties in the state are the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress. Unlike in many of the neighboring states, the small or regional parties have not had much success in the state

²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh#Religion

³https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh

⁴Ibid.,

elections.⁵ As of now the current Chief Minister is Mr. Shivraj Singh Chowhan of Bharatiya Janata Party.

1.2.4 Environmental Status: -

According to the 2011 figures, the recorded forest area of the state is 94,689 km² (36,560 sq mi) constituting 30.72% of the geographical area of the state. It constitutes 12.30% of the forest area of India. The state has an agrarian economy. The major crops of Madhya Pradesh are wheat, soybean, gram, sugarcane, rice, maize, cotton, rapeseed, mustard and arhar. Minor Forest Produce (MFP), such as Tendu leaves used to roll beedi, sal seed, teak seed, and lak also contribute to state's rural economy.

The major types of soils found in the state are:

- Black soil, most predominantly in the Malwa region, Mahakoshal and in southern Bundelkhand
- Red and yellow soil, in the Baghelkhand region
- Alluvial soil, in Northern Madhya Pradesh
- Laterite soil, in highland areas
- Mixed soil, in parts of the Gwalior and Chambal divisions

Madhya Pradesh has a subtropical climate with a hot dry summer (April–June), followed by monsoon rains (July–September) and a cool and relatively dry winter. The average rainfall is about 1,194 mm (47.0 in). The southeastern districts have the heaviest rainfall, some places receive as much as 2,150 mm (84.6 in), while the western and northwestern districts receive 1,000 mm (39.4 in) or less.

The state has the largest reserves of diamond and copper in India. Other major mineral reserves include those of coal, coal bed methane, manganese and dolomite.⁶

1.2.5 Religious Scenario: -

According to the census of 2011, 90.89% of the residents of Madhya Pradesh followed Hinduism, while others are Muslims (6.57%), Jains (0.78%), Buddhists (0.29%), Christians (0.29%), and Sikhs (0.20%).⁷The percentage of Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains in Madhya Pradesh has come down marginally, while that of Muslims have increased, according to the latest census data.⁸In addition to this Adivasi artistes and

⁵[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20census%20of,%2C%20and%20Sikhs%20\(0.20%25\).](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20census%20of,%2C%20and%20Sikhs%20(0.20%25).)

⁶https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh

⁷[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20census%20of,%2C%20and%20Sikhs%20\(0.20%25\).](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20census%20of,%2C%20and%20Sikhs%20(0.20%25).)

⁸<https://www.hindustantimes.com/bhopal/percentage-of-hindus-sikhs-in-mp-declines-of-muslims-rises/story-Zxm66rsuByqHAaAxxg6blNO.html>

leaders of the community say that Adivasis are not Hindus. They also claim that their value-system, deities, rituals, beliefs and worship have nothing in common with Hinduism. With regard to this Madhya Pradesh Gondwana Sabha has even submitted a memorandum to the President of India demanding that a separate column ‘Tribal and Others’ should be added to the list of religions in the enumeration form for Census 2021.⁹

1.3 STRATEGIC ANALYSIS: -

Though the state of Madhya Pradesh is rich in its cultural heritage and environmental resources, there are still challenges and issues constantly disrupting the socio-economic progress of the state at present. The following are some of such issues that require immediate attention by the forum in the state.

- 1) Exploitation of the Dalits and the Tribals
- 2) Malnutrition and Anemia
- 3) Violation of Woman and Child Rights
- 4) Ecological Abuses
- 5) Financial Constrains and sustainability

The above-mentioned concerns have been extracted from the analysis of Socio-Economic setting of the state of Madhya Pradesh. Despite the endeavors of the policy makers and their continued attempts to protect the rights of inhabitants of the state, the tribal communities, women and children are the most exploited group of the people in the region. Adding to this, the state suffers from severe malnutrition and climate change issues. Therefore, MP forum aims to strategically address these grave concerns in the upcoming 5 years through below mentioned goals in a systematic and structured planning.

⁹<https://www.freepressjournal.in/bhopal/madhya-pradesh-we-are-not-hindus-assert-advansi-artistes-and-leaders>

CHAPTER 2 ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Madhya Pradesh Samaj Seva Sanstha (MPSSS) is the social face of the Catholic Church for facilitation, coordination, development, strengthening administrative and programmatic systems of institutions and people engaged in social work with non-profit motive in the region. It was constituted by the Bishops of Madhya Pradesh on September 25th, 1998 and was registered under the Madhya Pradesh Societies *Registrikaran Adhiniyam* 1973 with the registration no. 6387/98.

2.1 CORE VALUES

- System strengthening and organizational development support to all partners and non-profit organizations to meet all compliance criteria.
- Initiate and assist partners at all levels of Project Cycle Management (PCM) for thematic development
- Collate and interpret lessons learned, share among partners and network with members to widen the visibility of the church in action.

2.2 LEGAL STATUS

Name of the Chairman: Rt. Rev. Bp. Gerald Almeida

Name of Chief Functionary: Fr. Kiran Olakkengil

Address: Madhya Pradesh Samaj Seva Sanstha (MPSSS),

Vikas Bhavan, Danapani Road, Near Kanha Towers,

E/6, Arera Colony Pvt. Sector, Bhopal- 462016 MP

Home Ministry Reg. No.: 063160118

12A & 80G Registration: Yes

2.3 VISION

A society where everyone enjoys equal rights and opportunities based on peace, love and harmony with one another, nature and the Divine.

2.4 MISSION

Restoring human dignity and empowering people, especially, the marginalized for sustainable and equitable development through facilitation.

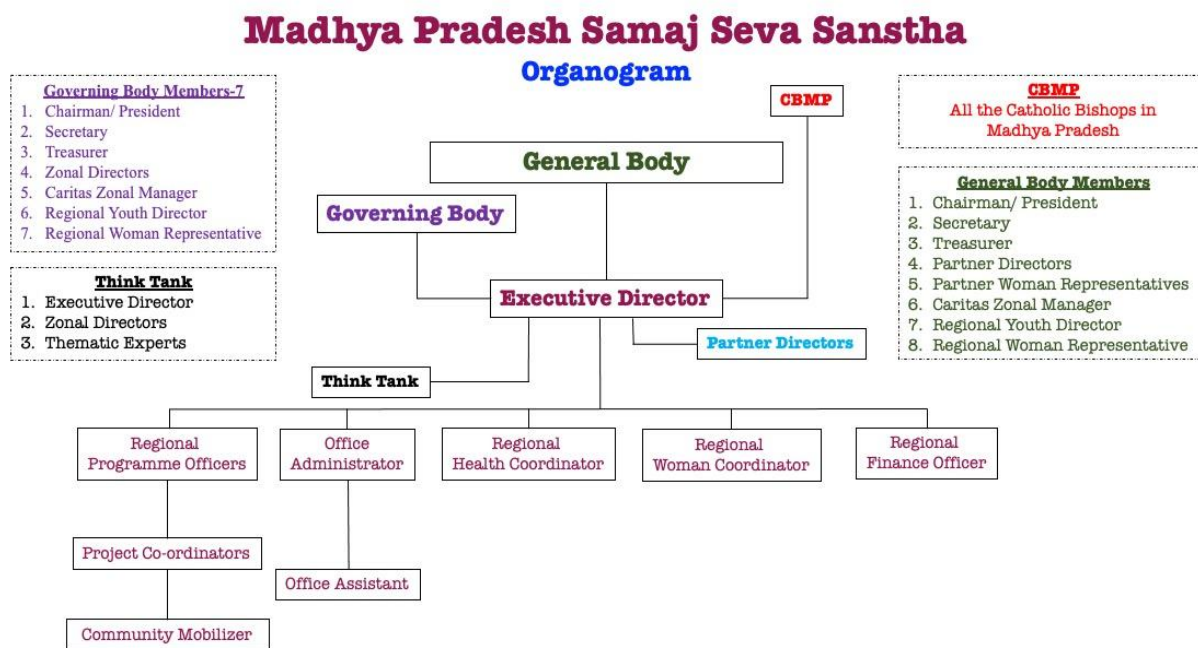
2.5 OBJECTIVES

1. Organizing people through Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for good governance
2. Making quality education available to common people by improving educational system
3. Making health system/facilities functional, especially for the poor, and creating health awareness among people
4. Promoting peace and harmony among different communities and educating people on secular democracy
5. Restoring the environment, particularly through Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM), for the improved livelihood of the people
6. Reducing the gap between the rich and the poor by building the capacities of the poor

2.6 ROLE OF MP SOCIAL WORKERS FORUM

- a) Facilitating human resource development through appropriate trainings, seminars workshops, symposiums etc.
- b) Providing supports to DSSS and Non-Profit Organizations in Organization Development (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Documentation and Reporting)
- c) Providing support to DSSS and Non-Profit Organizations in Resource Mobilization.
- d) Supporting DSSS and Non-Profit Organizations in fulfilling their legal compliance
- e) Information dissemination among the DSSS and Non-Profit Organizations regarding development issues
- f) Facilitating Networking with Government and other agencies
- g) Undertake experimental and research projects in view of Sharing, Learning and Developing innovative strategies and approaches

2.7 ORGANOGRAM OF THE FORUM



2.8 REGIONAL PRIORITIES & FOCUS AREAS

- a) Organizational Development
- b) Inclusive Development of Underprivileged Community
- c) Policy Development and Implementation
- d) Partner Accompaniment and Capacity Building
- e) Climate Adaptive Actions
- f) Health and Well-being
- g) Project Cycle Management (PCM)
- h) Resource Mobilization and Development
- i) Networking and Linkages
- j) Promotion of Rights and Entitlement
- k) Promote Good Governance

2.9 REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The Strategic Plan document is developed in a consultative and collaborative manner with the partners and other stakeholders which is extensively based on various need assessments conducted by the forum from time to time at regular intervals. Continuous reflections on the observations made and subsequent concrete actions made it possible to produce this document.

It involved various steps and methods in order to draft an effective Strategic document as mentioned below:

- Review of the existing Regional Strategic Plan
- MPSSS Team Orientation on Strategic Plan Development
- Interactions and individual discussions with the Partner Social Work Directors
- Individual discussions with the Thematic Experts
- Regional Strategic Plan Orientation workshop and DISHA
- SWOT and PESTER Analysis of the Forum and Region
- Drafting the Strategic document by Regional Program Officer
- Expert Study on Strategic Document Draft
- Compiling the Strategic Document with suggestions and Amendments
- Individual dissemination of draft Strategic Plan with Partner Directors and Board Members
- Compiling the Strategic Document with suggestions and Amendments if any
- Presenting the second draft at GBM &AGBM
- Compiling the Document with suggestions, omissions and Presenting it at DISHA
- Promulgation of RSP at Governing Body Meeting
- Printing and Dissemination of the Document

CHAPTER

3 STRATEGIC GOALS AND THEMES

1. Promotion of ‘Dignity of Life’ among the most underprivileged communities in the region
2. Emancipating all the stakeholders for the stewardship of nature
3. Initiating Sustainable Resource Management for creation of optimum impact

THEMATIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION: -

3.1 DIGNITY OF LIFE: -

We, at MPSSS, have faith in sound well-being and respectable livings as fundamental rights of everyone on this planet. According to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) embraced by United Nations, objective number 3 and 8 accentuate the significance of healthy living and decent work conditions. All in all, the pride of life lies in sound wellbeing and with accessibility of supportable livelihood alternatives for the people. Thusly, to accomplish these objectives, the following would be the focal points of planning and implementation of the organization in the years to come:

THEME 1. STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY TO PROMOTE HEALTHY LIVING

ABSTRACT: -

Madhya Pradesh is by and large an agrarian society and at MPSSS, we strongly believe that the communities should have freedom to practice their traditional ways of farming to the best of their knowledge. Dependency on any factor should be narrowed to the core. Alongside, the community must also become self-reliant in terms of production of food and further should have control over its resources and pattern of consumption. Therefore, enhancing status of food security and sovereignty is envisaged to be accomplished by the means given below:

- To enhance the capacities of the targeted communities to have control over the production and consumption of the produces

- To disseminate knowledge about traditional agriculture practices in the vulnerable sections of communities through a range of program-based awareness activities of the organization
- To spread the knowledge of health and nutrition related issues in the targeted community through different actions
- To promote inclusiveness as mandate
- To improve the nutrition status in the region by promoting food security among various vulnerable sections of society and particularly among the sections of the community chosen for such intervention

ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION: -

- Establish farmer’s clubs in all the possible districts which will have complete control over production and marketing of the produces
- Three-tier promotion (state, district and cluster level) of small farm holders consortiums
- Identifying and helping the underprivileged families with availing government welfare schemes for better living and survival
- Organize training sessions on integrated traditional farming practices for sustaining livelihoods of the farmers
- Creating model villages so far as nutrition is concerned, by promoting the consumption of tricolor food in the community
- Identify and promote the organic produces from the rural and create online/offline market for the same
- Conduct sessions for the farmers and their families on ‘health and nutrition’ in the region
- Initiate awareness campaigns on ‘Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases’ in the entire region
- Promote differently able friendly infrastructure, opportunities and policies

THEME 2. PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND ENHANCE LIFE SKILLS

ABSTRACT: -

Poverty and unemployment are the issues lingering in the state and along with academics and conventional education system, building of skills would help individuals to overcome

the vicious circle of poverty and lead a life of dignity. Therefore, MPSSS aims to empower the communities by providing life skill trainings through the following strategic initiatives:

- To Build capacities of individuals and enhance them with training on life skills for an improved lifestyle
- To provide skill development trainings and livelihood opportunities for the people
- To educate the communities on their rights and on availing appropriate government welfare schemes designed for the empowerment of the backward communities
- To ensure safe working environment for migrants and unorganized laborer
- To Protect and promote the rights of women to ensure equal wages and decent livelihood opportunities
- To uphold the rights of children by promoting compulsory elementary education
- To reduce the incidence of child labor and other vices against children in the state
- To become the voice of children who are facing difficulties

ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATIONS: -

- Conducting career guidance and personality development sessions for youths living in the rural areas of the region
- Connecting youths and school dropouts with the skill training centers in the state
- Training SHG leaders for advance income generation opportunities
- Equipping the SHG members with proper financial literacy and behavior to promote them as cooperatives and banks
- Organizing quarterly meetings with the Governmental and Non-governmental organizations on creating livelihood opportunities for the rural people
- Conducting sessions and meetings with the communities about their rights, entitlements and government welfare schemes
- Promoting and establishing district, Zonal and state level child parliaments in the region
- Create exclusive sustainable livelihood opportunity for widows in the region

3.2 STEWARDSHIP OF NATURE

MPSSS believes in life being a Divine gift and every living person is therefore expected to become stalwart of the organized actions to conserve nature by being sensitive to ecological concerns that humanity confronts today. The change in human lifestyle caused

by overarching technological inventions and over dependence on the same have brought hazardous impact upon nature and made survival an everyday struggle for humans. The state of Madhya Pradesh with its rich forest belt and natural resources has also been bearing the brunt of global warming in the recent years. The acute change in the climatic conditions is conspicuous and even disrupted agriculture and related activities in the region. So MPSSS is committed to promote eco-friendly and sustainable lifestyles by informing and sensitizing communities at large through the following concepts and the corresponding activities.

THEME 3. CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ABSTRACT: -

Madhya Pradesh is abundantly endowed with natural resources like coal mines, forests wildlife and water bodies. These natural resources are a gift of nature and must be utilized in a sensible and sustainable manner. Communities need to be concentric on ecological concerns and the conservation of these resources through the following strategies:

- To engage with the policy makers on issues of conserving natural resources
- To sensitize the community on protection and rational utilization of natural resources
- To revive the traditional knowledge and practices among the indigenous people
- To promote the use of renewable and clean energy in the region
- To promote recycling and reuse culture among urban and rural population
- To promote green structures and green way of life

ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATIONS: -

- Promoting tree plantation to reduce soil erosion and land fertility
- Organizing regular network meetings with the Governmental and Non-governmental organizations on conservation of natural resources and alternative renewable energy utilization
- Promoting Green Buildings, Campuses and Spaces for ecofriendly lifestyle
- Promoting the use of alternative renewable energy resources and the use of clean energy for day to day living among the people of the region
- Promoting campaigns to encourage Children as agents of change in climate action and eco-spirituality

THEME 4. PROMOTING CLIMATE ADAPTIVE AGRICULTURE

ABSTRACT: -

Climate adaptive agriculture is nothing but developing agriculture methods and practices mainly to the changing climatic conditions. Indeed, it also speaks about developing food systems to feed the growing population yet ensuring the basic natural nutrients of the crops therein. Therefore, this method is the need of the hour today as the climatic conditions are rapidly changing due to global warming and other hazards. The following are the strategies to promote climate adaptive agriculture:

- To inform and educate the communities on the ill effects of climate change and motivate them to adopt eco-friendly lifestyle in all possible ways
- To coordinate and collaborate with the Governmental and Non-governmental organizations to promote climate adaptive agriculture in the state
- To strive to innovate and promote the most suitable cutting-edge methods of climate adaptive agriculture and promote them across the region
- To preserve the indigenous culture and distinct agricultural practices
- To promote integrated farming modules for Climate Resilience Agriculture

ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATIONS: -

- Conducting multiple awareness cum training sessions in the rural schools in the regions on issues related to ‘climate changes and global warming’
- Creating awareness on environmental issues among children belonging to the age group of 14 – 18 as the target group
- Organizing regular meetings with the governmental and non-governmental organizations on climate change and adaptive agriculture
- Promoting and establishing kitchen gardens in rural and urban areas of the region for self-sustainability

THEME 5. ADOPTING WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

ABSTRACT: -

Water is one of the precious gifts of nature and an important natural resource for the survival of human beings. Hence the water management is one of the vital concerns as this resource is depleting at present in a menacing velocity. The scientists have already confirmed that the world would soon run out of fresh water in the near future

which would eventually endanger life on earth. Therefore, the UN convention rightly focused on sustainable management of water through its 6th Sustainable Development Goal. So, we at MPSSS consider this as an important concern and strive for the effective management of water in the region through following strategies:

- To promote water conservation measures
- To collaborate with the government and other agencies working on water management practices for increased outcomes
- To promote water recycling methods and techniques to further rejuvenate the eco-systems across the region
- To promote water budgeting and minimalize the use of fresh water in the region

ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATIONS: -

- Promoting rainwater harvesting in all connected institutions, sister concerns and Centers
- Creating awareness among school children on water scarcity and the need to Spare water
- Introducing the concept of 'soak pit' system at every households
- Promoting water budgeting in rural areas
- Enhancing water holding capacity of land by promoting Natural farming

3.3 SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The world is uniquely treasured with diverse resources and one has to be aware of using them in an appropriate and judicious manner so as to hand over a richer planet to the posterity. Be it natural, human and even monetary resources - all of them must be used with prudence and discretion to build a better society. Therefore, MPSSS strives to leverage on the available resources at all levels to sustain and improvise program activities in the region. The strategic themes to achieve the above objective include:

THEME 6. SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

ABSTRACT: -

Sustainable Finance Management (SFM) is essential for sustainable growth. Finance management includes planning, organizing, directing and controlling the financial activities in every aspect of the functioning of the organization. Procurement and

utilization of funds and commodities play a vital role in sustainable development. It must be carefully executed in both micro and macro bodies. More resource efficient and sustainable economic generation activities must be promoted so that the quality of life is enhanced, biodiversity is preserved, and ecosystems are restored. SFM will also improve transparency in the organization. Community based organizations also must be educated to manage their finance in a most appropriate manner for sustainability and strategic growth. Therefore, organization aims to achieve the same by:

- To introduce new age models of resource mobilizations among partners and other micro-organs of the organizations
- To create financial advisory body with experts for sustainable finance management
- To include finance management measures for precision and meticulous implementations
- To promote cooperative society structures for advanced banking skills

ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATIONS: -

- Conducting regular capacity enhancement sessions for program managers and finance team for wider impact of documentation
- Introducing crowd funding and online campaigns to increase outreach and accountability of the program activities
- Promoting advanced financial structures and monitoring systems at all levels
- Conducting periodic online/offline trainings on Financial Literacy and beyond
- Promoting technology for high-end transparency and authenticity

THEME 7. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR REFINING

ABSTRACT: -

People and organization must strive to increase their abilities relentlessly in order to achieve their objectives effectively. This includes honing the skills of individuals or enhancing the performance of the organization. MPSSS aims to enhance the capacities of their partners time to time through following effective measures:

- To conduct periodic SWOT analysis process for the partners across the regions to evaluate their performance and scope of improvement
- To initiate platforms for mutual Sharing and learnings of Partners

- To initiate regular thematic knowledge enhancement for all
- To promote research and innovations for advanced comprehension
- To promote workshops and seminars for aptitude development

ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATIONS: -

- Organizing periodical reviews and assessment sessions for the partners to evaluate the progress of development activities
- Conducting online/offline capacity building and training sessions for the team members in the region on different vital concepts
- Promoting sessions on innovative and emerging trends and concepts
- Engaging a cadre of second line leadership for smooth transitions

THEME 8. PROMOTE VOLUNTEERISM

ABSTRACT: -

Volunteerism has been one of the salient features and a major pillar for any development activity. Being the regional forum, the organization thrives to encourage volunteerism in all spheres of its activities. At MPSSS, we believe that every person is precious and uniquely entrusted with inborn talents and capacities. Therefore, as an organization we intent to hone skills that help them become responsible individuals so that they contribute their potential towards the welfare and well-being of the community as a whole. The following activities would be given priority for the above strategy:

- To identify the volunteers in the region and enhance their capacities through workshops and trainings
- To register the volunteers and establish Volunteer clubs among the Partners
- To render proper acknowledgement to the voluntary services offered through certificates of recognition and gestures of gratitude
- To initiate Volunteer management system in the region

ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATIONS: -

- Promote thematic and issue-based volunteer engagement systems
- Identify volunteers in the entire region and engage them with programmatic activities in the state
- Introduce volunteer clubs in the region and provide them with capacity building sessions based on their thematic areas of interest

- To promote online and offline internship programs for experiential learning

THEME 9. NETWORKING WITH ORGANIZATION OF SIMILAR INTENT

ABSTRACT: -

‘United we stand; divided we fall’ is an age old saying that emphasizes the importance of unity and coalition. Especially for concrete growth, regular progress and sustainable development, mutual help and sharing are the most effective principles of success in the recent times. Networking helps us to reduce the gaps. Therefore, MPSSS as an organization strives to establish mutual relationship with the other entities working for the similar intent:

- To map the like-minded organization towards better collaboration and coordination
- To Initiate regular interface Meetings with the organizations
- To foster healthy environment between the likeminded organizations, institutions and establishments to work together for a better world

ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATIONS

- Identify the like-minded organizations in the region and organize periodic meetings for collective actions
- Introduce capacity building and knowledge sharing sessions for the likeminded organizations in the region
- To identify likeminded institutions for wider reach and impact

CHAPTER

4 STRATEGIC GROUPS FOR INTERVENTION

4.1 TRIBAL COMMUNITIES: -

Nearly 21% of the Population in Madhya Pradesh are constituted by the Scheduled Tribes¹⁰. They are one of the most disadvantaged communities in Madhya Pradesh and need focused actions. Dwelling in the unreached forest area and land with valuable natural resources, they are worst sufferers of the ill effects of the modern development. Their culture, language and traditional systems of governance are eroding. The revival of tribal eco-system is a major concern for MPSSS. Therefore, we intend to work closely with the Government and other agencies for leveraging appropriate support needed to empower the tribal Community based institutions. Establishing self-dependency and promoting self-respect among tribal people will be the highest challenge before MPSSS and its Partners.

4.2 DALIT COMMUNITIES: -

Nearly 15% of our population is constituted by Scheduled castes or Dalits, who are physically alienated from the so-called civilized society¹¹. Majority of the slum population is comprising of migrant communities, mostly Dalits. Their jobs include removing carcasses of dead animals, working with leather, performing midwifery duties, cleaning the manholes and toilets, etc. Being majorly a landless and asset-less community, their survival depends on cheap casual labor, and agricultural labor dependents on others and unorganized sector labor. MPSSS and its partners are committed to impart knowledge and livelihood options along with self-respect and self-dependency.

4.3 INFORMAL SECTOR WORKERS: -

Nearly 47% of people are working in the informal sectors and are extremely vulnerable because of unsafe work and living conditions¹². Urban areas are giving an opportunity to rural poor for making a living in the urban areas. Rural people are pursuing internal

¹⁰ [https://censusindia.gov.in/Tables Published/ST/dh ST Madhya Pradesh.pdf](https://censusindia.gov.in/Tables%20Published/ST/dh%20ST%20Madhya%20Pradesh.pdf)

¹¹ [https://censusindia.gov.in/Tables Published/SC/dh SC Madhya Pradesh.pdf](https://censusindia.gov.in/Tables%20Published/SC/dh%20SC%20Madhya%20Pradesh.pdf)

¹² [http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/reports and publication/statistical publication/social statistics.pdf](http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/reports%20and%20publication/statistical%20publication/social%20statistics.pdf)

migration as a way of survival strategy among others to create livelihoods in the urban informal sectors. The situation is linked to rural conflict and displacement leading to the miseries of migrants. The socially backward and economically weaker sections of people, particularly the oppressed people, minorities and poor are the inhabitants of the slums and slums are the manifestations of poverty and human struggle for shelter and security. MPSSS and its partners are committed to restore dignity and decent wages to the domestic workers and other unorganized sector workers.

4.4 SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS: -

Small and marginal farmers constitute around 85% of the total land holding and hold around 44% of the land under cultivation. Due to highly fragmented, scattered and heterogeneous landholding, rising cost of cultivation and limited access of small and marginal farmers to public resources and markets, the small holding-based agriculture has gradually become unviable. The limited production quantities, lack of farmers' access to public resources, quality inputs, credit facility, modern technologies, etc. and frequent crop failures, lack of assured market, income safety and poorly developed supply chain, has resulted in high dependency of farmers on the exploitative intermediaries and local money lenders.

4.5 PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES: -

There are nearly 15.5 lakh People living with Disabilities in the state of Madhya Pradesh¹³. These people must be considered as priority group even among the marginalized communities. MPSSS and its partners are committing ourselves to mainstream their concerns in all our development programs. Special programs for these communities will also be developed and deployed. Strategy will emphasize more on community-based support rather than institutional support. Inclusiveness is the intrinsic character of all our endeavors.

¹³<https://m.hindustantimes.com/bhopal/bhopal-has-highest-number-of-disabled-people-indore-second/story-2mHupPHjJAdz0Yqy8LtCYL.html>

CONCLUSION

The principles of Catholic Social Teachings were the core motivational force of this document. This has been instrumental in forming the three strategic goals like Dignity of life, Stewardship of Nature and Sustainable Resource Management. Being the regional Forum, Madhya Pradesh Samaj Seva Sanstha thrives to enhance the socio-economic situation of the state through all the above Strategic Goals, Themes and Actions. As rightly said ‘a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step,’ MPSSS with the support of partners stepped ahead and formulated this five-year strategic plan (April 2020- March 2025) with a vision to achieve the same in a systematic and effective manner. The cooperation of different people towards reaching this juncture was enormous. From now on, Capacity building programmes for team members and partner organizations along with communities will be organized to ensure the meticulous implementation of this strategic plan. Periodic critical reviews and appraisals will help to reposition the forum and its priorities. We firmly believe in this Biblical verse: *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, **you did it to me.**”* Matthew 25:40

Appendices

AGBM - Annual General Body Meeting

Approx. – Approximately

BJP - Bharatiya Janata Party

CBMP - Council of Bishops of Madhya Pradesh

CBOs - Community Based Organizations

CST - Catholic Social Teachings

DISHA - Directors Initiative for Self Help and Action

DSSS - Diocesan Social Service Society

FCRA - Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010

Fr. - Father (Christian Religious Priest of Catholic Denomination)

GBM - Governing Body Meeting

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

GOVT – Government

IDEA - Inter Diocesan Education for Action

INRM - Integrated Natural Resource Management

MFP - Minor Forest Produce

MP – Madhya Pradesh

PCM - Project Cycle Management

Rt. Rev. Bp - Right Reverend Bishop (Title of the Bishop of Catholic Church)

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

SFM - Sustainable Finance Management

SHG - Self Help Group

SWOT - Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats

UN - United Nations Organization

US\$ - United States Dollars