

# Uncovering the Silent Resources for Sustainable Development

By



Cornelius Tudu  
SIL Bangladesh



Md. Saleh Uddin  
FH Association

# INTRODUCTION

SIL Bangladesh and FH (Food for the Hungry) Bangladesh are working in partnership with two indigenous communities in Bangladesh through a joint project, the “Rajshahi Ethnodev Family and Community Transformation” (REFCT). The target communities are **Kol** and **Koda**.

# OBJECTIVES

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- To build capacity in the communities for planning and sustaining their own development
- To encourage communities to value their cultural and linguistic uniqueness
- To support the communities in preserving and developing their own language and culture



# KOL & KODA IN BANGLADESH

The Kol and Koda populations in Bangladesh are very small.

Follow traditional Sonatan religion and Hinduism



Koda people

# KOL & KODA IN BANGLADESH

Significantly lower literacy and education levels

Very few of the children attend school.

Extreme fringes of the Bangladeshi society.



A Koda village



## SILENT RESOURCES

Interested in positive change

Committed to reducing poverty through savings

Aware about the importance of the education



Kol women in PRA Survey

# SILENT RESOURCES

UNITY

TRUST



**Industrious**

**Want to preserve  
their language and  
culture**

# SILENT RESOURCES

## Creativity





# TWO MAJOR PARTS OF THE PROGRAM

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- 1) Language and Culture Development
- 2) Family and Community Transformation

# LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEVELOPMENT

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## Supporting the communities with:

- ❖ the development of alphabets and writing systems
- ❖ the development of a curriculum for mother-tongue based multilingual education (MLE)
- ❖ the development of MLE materials (including stories, rhymes and songs)
- ❖ Culture documentation

# LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEVELOPMENT



First written books in KODA



# LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Curriculum and MLE  
materials development



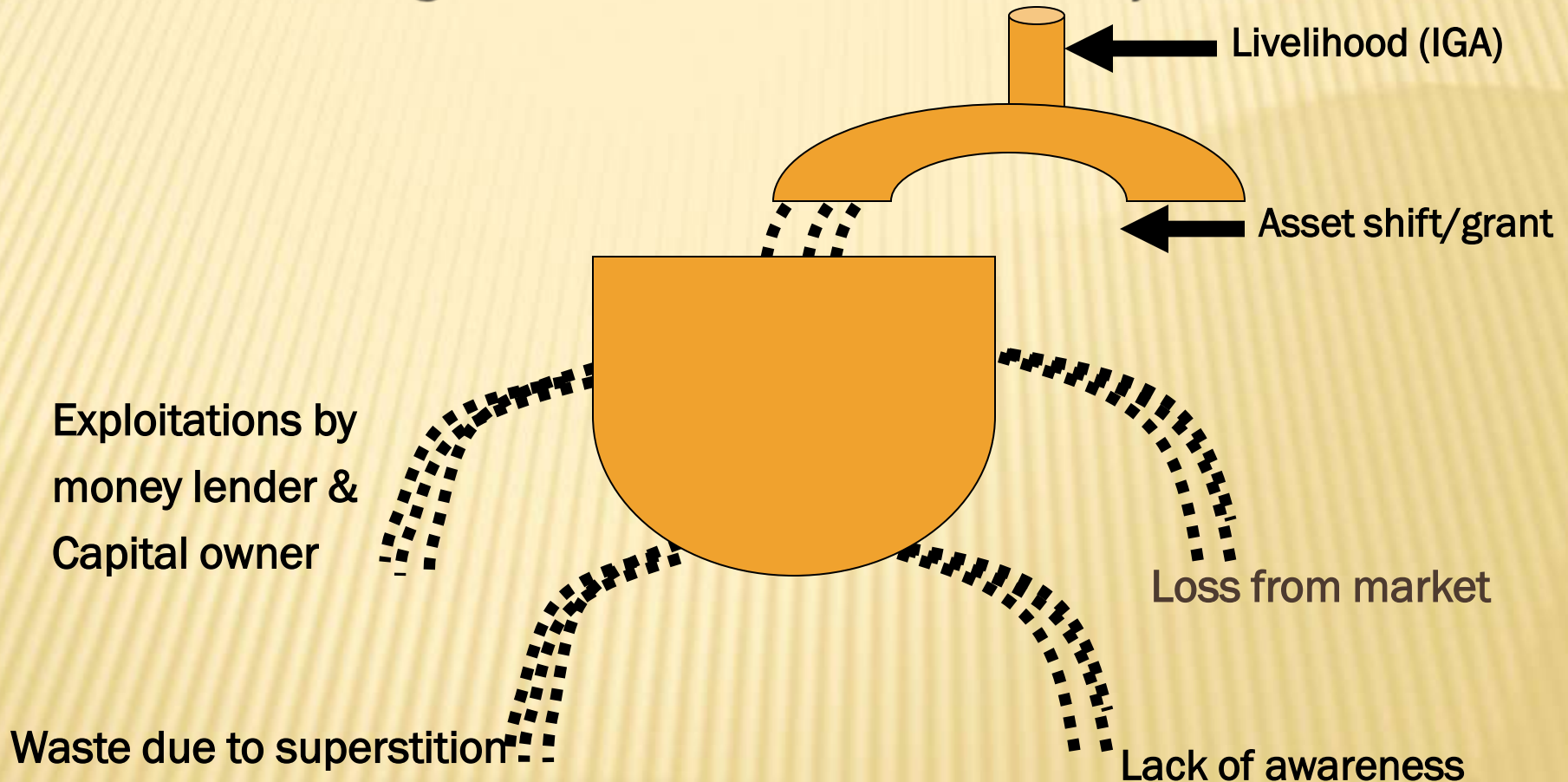
# LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEVELOPMENT





# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Handing out assets or IGA are not only solution





# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

## Engage and Organize Community

- Clear understanding of FH & SIL's goals and program activities created acceptance in the target communities.
- Growth in self-esteem among people as they understand their strengths and opportunities.
- Thinking about their community situation helps people to understand their role in development .

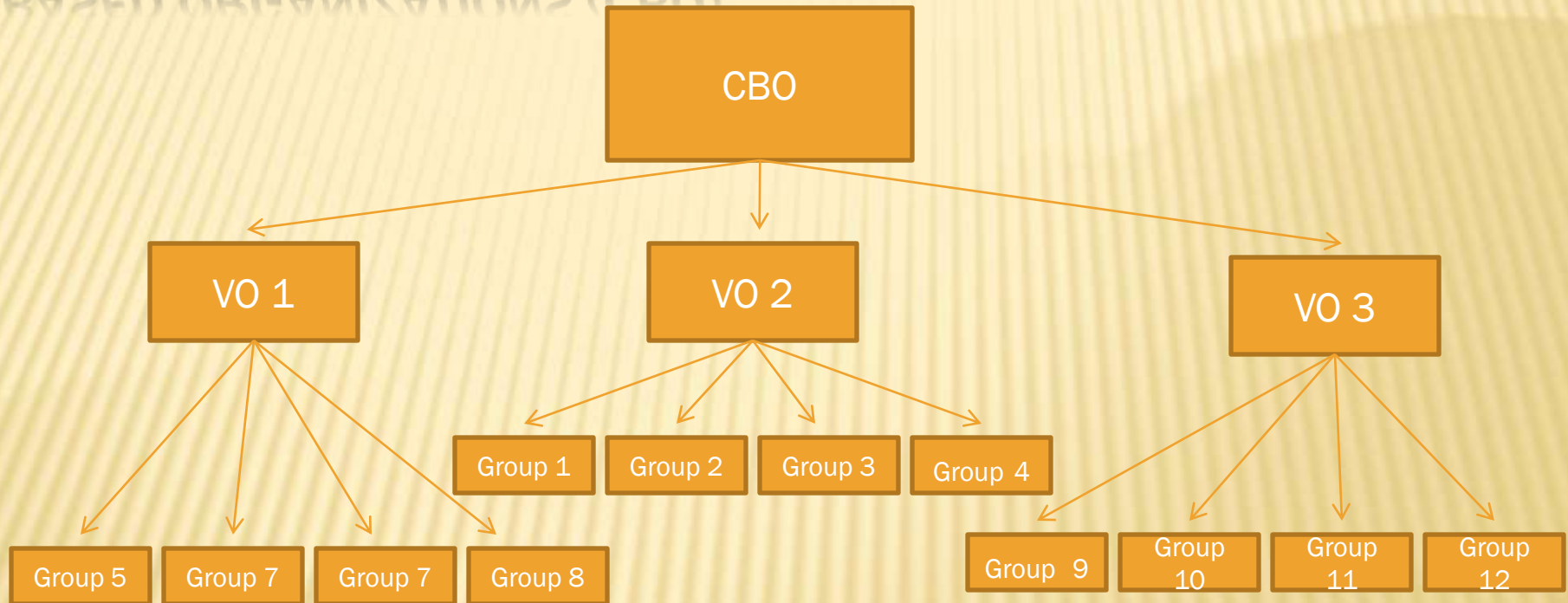


Koda people in PRA Survey



# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

## GROUP, VILLAGE ORGANIZATION (VO) AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBO)



# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

## CBO Executive Committee

- Form with VO representatives
- Monthly Meeting to monitor group performance

## General Committee (GC)

- ▶ Form with representative from each of all group
- ▶ CBO is accountable to GC in Quarterly Meeting

## VO Executive Committee

- Form with Group representative
- Monthly Meeting to solve group's problems

## Group Executive Committee

- 6 leaders from group members
- Weekly meeting to take decision for investment
- Monitor group activities

## General Assembly

- ▶ Comprising all members of all groups
- ▶ Annual General Meeting to approve program activities, annual budget-plan & form CBO EC
- ▶ Take major decisions





# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

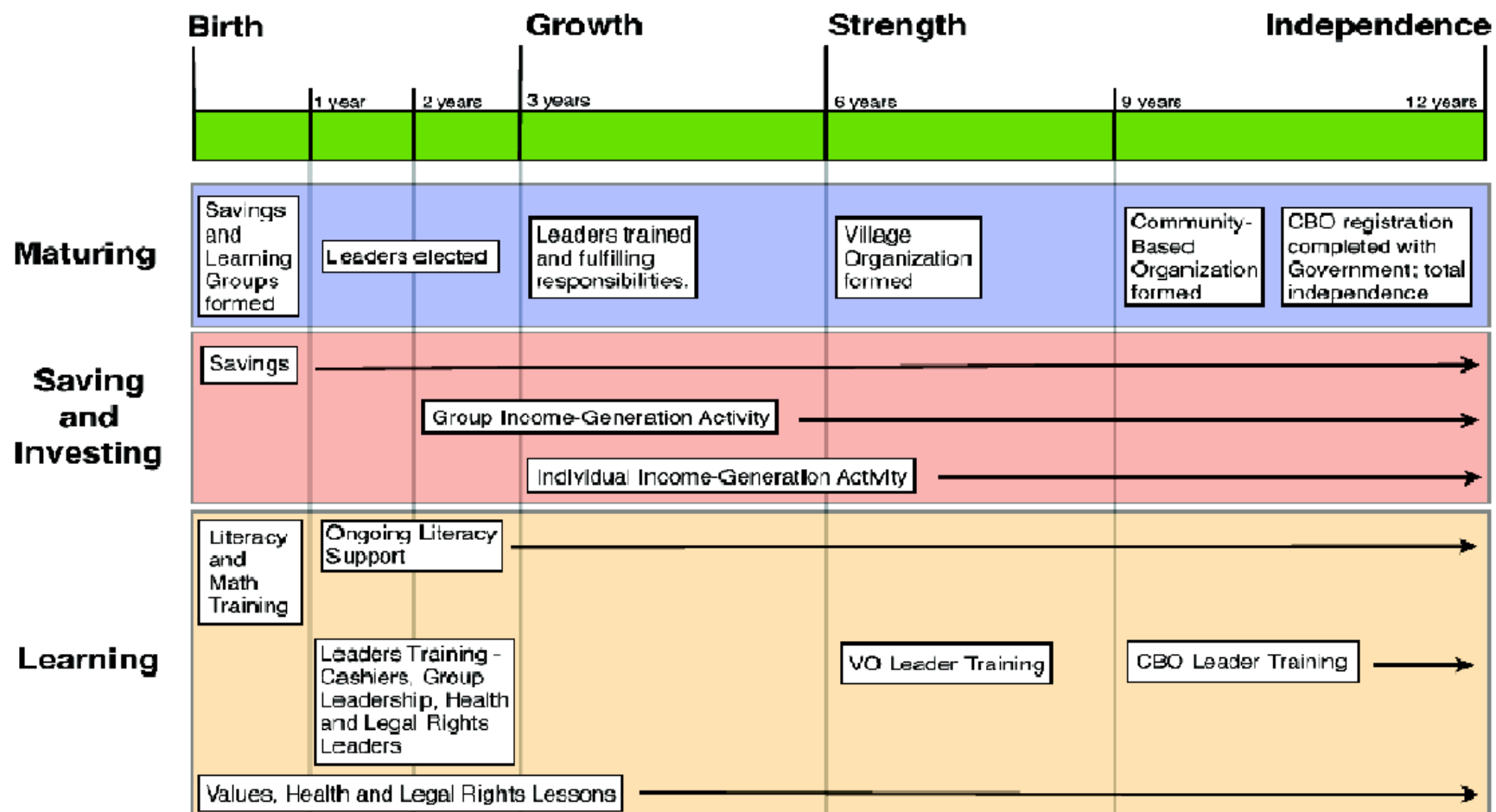
## SAVINGS AND LEARNING GROUP ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Literacy & Basic Math Training
- ❖ Savings-Investment & awareness sessions on basic health and law in weekly Group Meetings
- ❖ Leaders' Training on leadership and keeping accounts
- ❖ Use Benevolent Fund



# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

## Timeline of Change



# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

## ROLE OF CBO

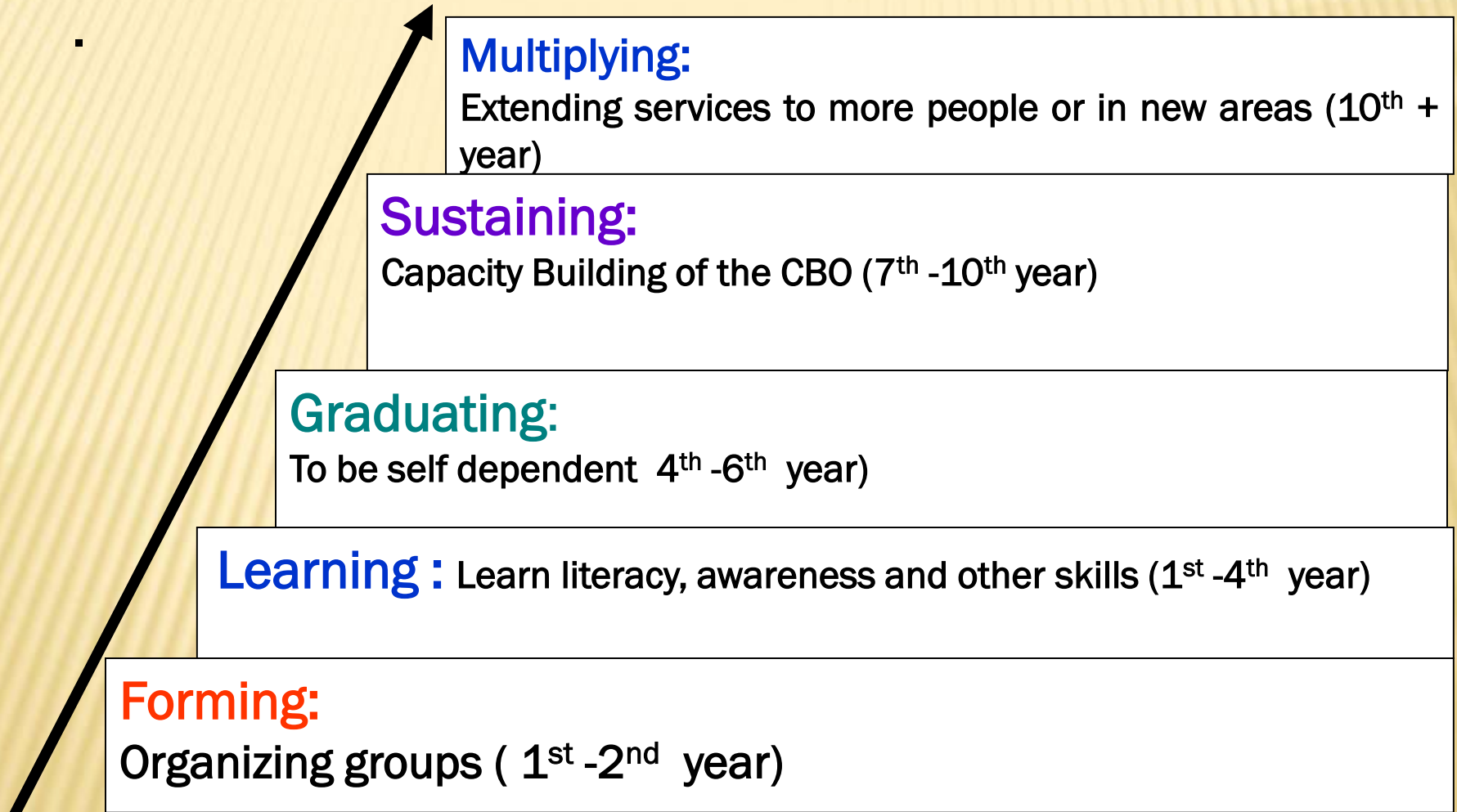
- ❖ Plan and implement activities for community development
- ❖ Advocacy for establishing peoples rights
- ❖ Organize welfare activities
- ❖ Build social awareness
- ❖ Organize large scale collective investment
- ❖ Network with GO/NGO for community development





# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

## Steps to Sustain Community Based Organization



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## **a) Ownership in development process:**

- People's participation
- Identify their strengths
- Developing writing system in their languages

## **b) Institutionalized development process:**

- Sustainable CBO to oversee the development process.
- Establish an education system in their language

## **c) Self-help group for self-reliance:**

- Saving -investments to escape from the poverty cycle,
- Skills development to diversify professions
- Learning & working together increases confidence & cohesion

## **d) Empowerment for their rights:**

- Vision for a better future
- Aware for rights and build self esteem
- Unity for an effective network
- Advocacy for establishing their rights.

# CONCLUSION

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The community people will be able to envisioned for better future and sustained by uncovering the silent resources.





THANKS