

# Annual Report

## 2008 - 2009

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### **List of Abbreviations:**

ALRD	-Association for Land Reform and Development
APWLD	-Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
ASIA	-Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aquaculture
BELA	-Bangladesh Environments and Lawyers Association
BLAST	-Bangladesh Legal Aids Services Trust
CDS	-Center for Sustainable Development
CIDA	-Canadian International Development Agency
CRC	-Chancary Research Consultants
DCR	-Duplicate Carbon Receipt
DD	-Deputy Director
EED	-Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.v.
FPP	-Forest Peoples Programme
GD	-General Diary
HDRC	-Human Development Research Centre
ICCO	-Dutch Inter-church Organisation for Development Co-operation
IDS	-Institute of Development Studies
IFI	-International Financial Institution
LCS	-Labour Contract System
MPO	-Monthly Payment Order
NGO	-Non Government Organisation
PME	-Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
RTI	-Right to Information
TIA	-The Access Initiative
TIB	-Transparency International Bangladesh
TOT	-Training of Trainers
UNO	-Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	-Union Parishad
UPR	-Universal Periodic Review
VGD	-Vulnerable Group Development
VGf	-Vulnerable Group Feeding

### **Glossary**

Adivasi	- <i>Indigenous peoples</i>
Aman-Aush	- <i>paddy crops</i>
Anchal	- <i>Area structure</i>
Char	- <i>Land rising up on the river banks or in the middle of rivers</i>
Dakop Upazila Nagorik Committee-	- <i>A local movement against industrial shrimp cultivation</i>
Dhan-Mach-poribesh Rakhha committee Paikgacha-	- <i>A local movement against industrial shrimp cultivation</i>
Khasland	- <i>Government property-normally agricultural land and water bodies</i>
Korunamoyee Smriti Shanrakhan Committee-	- <i>A local movement against industrial shrimp cultivation</i>
Nirbahi	- <i>Executive (as in officer, or committee)</i>
Parishad	- <i>Committee or council</i>
SAMATA	- <i>A national NGO</i>
Shalish	- <i>Alternative Dispute Resolution</i>
Samity	- <i>People's association</i>
Thana	- <i>Police station</i>
Union Parishad	- <i>The lowest tier of local government</i>
Unnayan Onneshan	- <i>A research organisation</i>
Upazila Parishad	- <i>Third tier of local government</i>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1980, Nijera Kori, an activist NGO in Bangladesh, has been working for the disadvantaged, the exploited and the deprived poor communities in Bangladesh through conscientization, capacity development, advocacy and social mobilisation for their empowerment, equity and social justice. The activities that Nijera Kori undertakes are building awareness, helping develop autonomous organisations of the poor, establishing the norms of gender equality through programme implementation at all levels, and building a capacity of the poor to unite, raise public conscience and demand their lawful rights. There are in total 13,970 landless groups with 287,548 group members representing families consisting 935,400 women, men and children. Of the total number of member organised more than half are women, however on the side of the staff of Nijera Kori stood at 133 female and 249 male in March 2009, showing a trend towards gender equality than previous.

Social development inheres a certain dynamism which self propells its growth. This led to expansion of activities in 11 villages, besides programmed consolidation in terms of geographical coverage in 21 villages. Nijera Kori is now working in 17 districts, covering 40 upazila, 307 union and 1,375 villages.

After two years of emergency rule, the National Parliamentary Elections held in December 2008 and the upazila elections held in January 2009 have geared Bangladesh back to a democratic system.

In most of the cases, Nijera Kori achieved 75 percent targets as set out in the annual activity plan. These are in the areas of group formation, organisation of group meetings, committee formation and holding conventions. In the sector of conscientization and advocacy 90 percent of the target was achieved in holding cultural activities. Ground breaking work has been accomplished with the the *adivashis (indigenous people)* living in its working areas and already 9 groups new and old have been formed.

A noteworthy achievement is the social empowerment of women members who graduated into political leadership in local governments having been freely elected as members. Nijera Kori's consistent mobilisation activities, specially, in terms of increasing awareness about women's rights is paying off. In the activity year two landless female members got elected to the post of upazila Vice Chairman in upazila election against powerful political contestants.

The poor have shown great sense of economic discipline and reaped benefits from joint economic activities by the groups. There was a significant increase of joint economic activities managed by the groups in which they utilised their own savings and invested in economic pursuits. By the end of the year, a total of Tk 38,893,793 was invested out of the group savings and a total of TK 3,151,642 was earned as profit from joint economic activities by the groups. Besides providing economic and social profits joint economic activities create job opportunity. An estimated 17,894 empowerment opportunities were created over a period of 6 months. At present, at the end of the year the group members saving amount to TK.50,734 which is operated through 4,320 bank accounts.

Group mobility has been encouraging. During the year, 159 landless groups have graduated from primary level to secondary level, 257, from secondary level to third level 38. Through this capacity building process they are able to plan and manage their activities independently.

With increased awareness the group members can now defend their own rights. In cases where their basic rights are challenged by powerful vested interest groups, they are taking initiative to defend themselves and seek legal recourse. The activity year saw, in total 52 cases settled in the court, out of which, in 49 cases verdicts were in their favour and the remaining are under appeal in higher court. Gender sensitivity and health care were stringed together with awareness building programme from this year for group members and staff.

Nijera Kori planned and implemented a total of 146 need based training courses participated by 3,575 group members towards building awareness and leadership competence. Through proper need analysis, Nijera Kori also organised 29 training courses for staff development. These included MIS and reporting system which contributed to building staff capacity to address change and set and attain newer objectives on the basis of need.

A total of 2,565 Nijera Kori landless group members worked as adjudicating members in various village *salishes*. (*Alternative Dispute resolution*) Besides, a total of 909 Nijera Kori's members were elected in various government bodies (*local government such as union council, upazila council, school committee, market committee, etc.*) and are actively involved in promoting the cause and interests of the poor on the basis of fairness.

Nijera Kori's social mobilisation processes also include the preservation and promotion of the culture of the common people, based on the mottos of the traditional Bangladeshi society on secularism, tolerance, non-violence to resist all forms of religious bigotry and violence. Nijera Kori's cultural group, formed

with members from landless group organised cultural activities on these themes to preserve the values. They have performed 734 dramas, 486 people song, along with hosting/participating in various cultural functions in their locality. In the activity year 12 cultural long marches/festivals were organised. All of these had a great impact including the one in Dhaka which generated tremendous response.

The most encouraging results of Nijera Kori's activities came probably from its advocacy related activities. Throughout the year, Nijera Kori was particularly active on causes that it stands for; violence against women, rights to khas land of the poor and landless peoples, promotion and protection of human rights of the disadvantaged and the marginalised including the land rights of *adivasi* community and industrial shrimp cultivation related activities detrimental to the interest of the landless and environment. Movement against industrial shrimp cultivation spread extensively and approximately 23,959 acres of land was reverted back to agricultural activities protecting the life and livelihood of marginal farmers.

As over the past decades, Nijera Kori has relentlessly been working to raise awareness on the negative aspects of commercial shrimp cultivation, particularly its impact on the poor and so that the poor can raise their voice against industrial shrimp cultivation having taken up a leadership role in Bangladesh and actively advocating internationally with the relevant stakeholders who are in a position to influence Bangladesh policies, this success was extremely gratifying.

In view of its contribution, Nijera Kori was invited in the relevant policy formulation processes by the government implying recognition of poor in policy formation. Nijera Kori demanded explanation and position on the proposed shrimp policy and climate change action plan. Nijera Kori's continuous dialogue with elected parliament members, City Mayor, different ministries, and in seminars resulted in mobilising people's opinion against proposed shrimp policy through print and electronic media.

Nijera Kori's advocacy activities with regard to khas land were particularly successful. Through its activities, a total 1,787 acres of land and 3,446 acre of water bodies totalling 5,233 acres (*land registration, land and water bodies recovered from illegal occupier etc.*) of khas land and water bodies were recovered from the vested interest groups and were given to its group members. These are a very strong empirical evidence of achievement for ensuring the poor and the disadvantaged to access natural resources that contribute to improve their lives and living.

## **1. A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF NIJERA KORI**

### **1.1 Background:**

Nijera Kori, a well-known activist non government organisation (NGO) in Bangladesh, was created following the artificial famine of 1974 when many destitute rural women made their way to the cities in search of food and work. A group of urban women came in support of these migrating women to face the critical time with income from sale of processed food for which they helped them develop their limited local knowledge and capacity. The project gradually resulted in the nascence of “Nijera Kori”, which, in English, means, “We do it ourselves”.

However, the organisation remained inactive during the following years until in 1980 fresh life was breathed into it by a group of development activists who joined Nijera Kori. This group comprised people who were then working in leading NGOs and felt that raising consciousness of the poor holds the key to resolving the core problems of poverty ridden rural society. These activists helped draw a new line of objective and action for Nijera Kori moving away from its initial programme of rehabilitating a handful famine-affected urban destitute to undertaking initiatives to creating a society free from oppression and deprivation through the establishment of the fundamental rights of the people. The organisation worked at the rural level, concentrating on rural social mobilisation rejecting the increasingly popular service-based approach of NGOs, which they felt would simply create dependency among the target population. It began addressing the situation that causes poverty and destitution of rural people, rather than making superficial efforts to ameliorate the suffering. To achieve these objectives, Nijera Kori worked towards making people conscious of their rights by assisting them to build up their collective strength which led to conscious discourse and programmatic actions to establish rights. As the goal changed, the target group of Nijera Kori also expanded from its original concentration of destitute women. Now Nijera Kori defines its target group broadly as those women and men who earn their living mainly through manual labour with emphasis on rural rather than urban areas.

The organisation now has a total of 275,782 group members. Of them, more than half are women. The total number of programme staff in Nijera Kori is 378 out of which 140 are female and 238 male. The programme staff directly functions in the field. Besides, 112 support staff works along with the programme staff. The current programme is called 'Social Mobilisation, Voice and Democracy Programme' and is operational in 17 districts.

### **1.2 Mission of Nijera Kori:**

- Development activities of Nijera Kori are directed to the establishment of rights of the poor.
- Women are an important and integral part of all production processes. In order to break the patriarchal system, Nijera Kori works to change the biased male perception towards women and encourages women to recognise and assert their own position in society.

- Nijera Kori feels that an accountable, democratic environment is absolutely essential for development. Nijera Kori imbibes democratic conduct through participation and accountability in planning, implementation, evaluation and overall management not only with the groups organised but throughout the organisation itself.
- Nijera Kori believes in an environment friendly sustainable development process.

### **1.3 Objectives of Nijera Kori:**

- To unite people, both women and men who have long been the victims of exploitation, social marginalisation, oppression and poverty.
- To enable people thus united to understand and develop awareness about their rights, causes of their problems and their responsibilities.
- To empower people to take up challenges within their own spheres to create better and more meaningful lives for themselves and their immediate community.

### **1.4 Programme participants of Nijera Kori:**

- Those dependant on physical labour as their main source of livelihood: wage labourers, sharecroppers, small & marginal farmers etc.
- Other vulnerable communities: indigenous communities, fisher folks, weavers, blacksmiths, barbers, cobblers, potters, small traders etc.

### **1.5 Management process of Nijera Kori: (*organogram in annex - A*)**

The core value of Nijera Kori's management structure and decision-making system is guided by the philosophy of 'participatory democracy'. The overall governance of the organisation rests with the 'General Body,' which elects the 'Governing Body' for two years. The 'Governing Body' meets regularly every three months while the 'General Body' holds its General Meeting annually. The 'Governing Body' appoints the Coordinator who is responsible for coordinating the overall programmes and management of Nijera Kori.

However, the main operational decision-making body of the organisation is the Central Staff Convention, which is held every alternate year and attended by all staff of Nijera Kori. Here they constitute a three-tier council for two years for overall management and coordination by electing their representatives (*except the coordinator*) from among the staff. *These councils are 1) Anchal Parishad (Area Council), 2) Bibhagiya Parishad (Divisional Council) and 3) Nirbahi Parishad (Central Executive Council).* The overall activities of Nijera Kori are planned and monitored through weekly sub-centre meeting, monthly anchal parishad meeting, bi-monthly divisional parishad meeting, quarterly nirbahi parishad meeting, annual divisional staff convention and finally at central staff convention/council. On behalf of the above councils the Coordinator regularly consults the Governing Body.

For linking the grassroots, on the other hand, each area office has 3-4 sub-centres, which are made up of female and male field staff. They, through living collectively in a centre in the field, manage the activities of Nijera Kori along with the landless people. The landless groups themselves have their own structure for group activities.



Nijera Kori ensures that all staff and target group members have equal participation in the planning, monitoring and implementation of its activities. According to group structure, the groups, through annual group meetings, village, union, Upazilla and ancholic committee meetings, annual group conventions and groups' representative meetings, evaluate their previous activities, discuss problems and remedial measures and formulate their next plans of action. Nijera Kori staff members, by participating in those meetings, become part of the decisions taken in these meetings, which they later share in Nijera Kori's internal meetings/forums as per organisational structure. This process of synthesizing opinions from group level to central staff convention/council and its subsequent reflection in the formulation of a concrete plan shapes the participatory management system of Nijera Kori.

### 1.6 Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting system of Nijera Kori:

Nijera Kori has been practicing a comprehensive planning monitoring and evaluation (PME) and reporting system ensuring equal participation of staff and landless groups at all stages in the whole process (See Annex B). The landless groups evaluate their activities and formulate plans through regular meetings. In these meetings leaders, representatives of landless groups/committees from other working areas actively participate, along with the field staff of Nijera Kori. In fact, these meetings constitute the basis of the PME and management system. The information and recommendations generated from these meetings of the landless groups are discussed at various other levels (i.e. village, union, area and Upazilla committee meetings and conventions etc.) of the organisation. The opinions and proposals of the landless received through this process are then sent to the sub-centres of Nijera Kori through Nijera Kori field staff, which later are discussed and evaluated at various levels of the organisation. Guidelines for Nijera Kori activities are set, through this process, and Nijera Kori staff members formulate the plans for the organisation on the basis of that. The executive council, divisional council and area presidents directly participate in field level activities on a regular basis. In addition, the staff and the groups at times visit each others' working areas with a view to assess, evaluate, monitor and provide necessary counselling to their counterparts. The same process is followed when written reports are produced in each meeting based on which the annual report is made at the end of activity year.

### 1.7 Working areas and Nijera Kori: (details in annex – C (table) and D (map))

From the very inception, the Nijera Kori activists started working in the areas where the poor constitute the majority of the population and who mainly depend on manual labour to earn a living. Most of these working areas fall in close vicinity of the seacoasts and river basins. Besides, Nijera Kori also works in some specific areas where most of the inhabitants belong to the vulnerable communities such as weavers, blacksmiths, tobacco and sugarcane farmers etc. and in the areas where fundamentalism, human rights abuse and violation against women are rampant. Nijera Kori provides enough

Table -1: NK working area

Year	2008	2009
Village	1,364	1,375
Union	174	174
Upazilla	40	40
District	17	17
Division	4	4

logistical support to carry out its programmes at field level, coordinate all its activities including regular trainings. Overall activities in the working areas are managed and coordinated through 54 sub-centres, 16 areas, 4 divisional offices cum training centres located respectively in Tangail (*Gala*), Bogra (*Noongola*), Comilla (*Chandina*) and Khulna (*Maniktala*) (See table:1). The Head Office of Nijera Kori is located in Dhaka.

### **1.8 Why is Nijera Kori different?**

#### ***focus on social mobilisation:***

- Nijera Kori believes that poverty can be redeemed only by the inner strength and capacity of those in poverty because they alone have the knowledge of its dimension and experience to fight it.
- Nijera Kori's strategy is to provide capacity to the poor and marginalised groups in the society with largely intangible resources, which promote their self-confidence and build their organisational capacity so that they are able to claim their rights themselves directly, rather than through others acting on their behalf.
- Nijera Kori's priority is to promote collective empowerment, rather than the empowerment of the individual. However, we recognise the importance of changes at the level of the individual, beginning with the issue of individual consciousness.

#### ***democratic management structure:***

- Participatory democracy is the core value that shapes Nijera Kori's management structure and decision-making process. For example all the representatives at area, division and central level are elected by the staff for two years.
- Nijera Kori believes that democratic management is necessary to successfully establish the rights of the poor.
- Nijera Kori imbues democratic practices through participation and accountability in planning, implementation, and evaluation and overall management not only with the landless groups that Nijera Kori organises, but replicates and practises within the organisation itself.
- Our own structure and culture seeks, as far as possible, to replicate the principles of democracy, accountability, transparency and gender equity that are fostered through our attempts to organise the landless.

#### ***stand against development through micro credit:***

- What has set Nijera Kori apart from perhaps every other NGO in Bangladesh is that Nijera Kori eschews micro-credit services. At a time when Bangladesh has become famous for its innovations in the arena of micro-credit, Nijera Kori has a strong reservation against micro-credit and services delivery which it thinks is counterproductive therefore eschew continued with its principle of 'we-don't-lend-credit'.

***pro-people role of staff:***

- Nijera Kori expects a higher level of dedication, commitment and pro people skills from its staff that extend beyond what is generally required by the more professionalised NGOs in Bangladesh.
- In general, staff in large organisations expect and receive a higher remuneration, more comfortable working conditions and more benefits than Nijera Kori staff. However, Nijera Kori believes that this widens the social and economic distance between its staff and its constituency, thereby jeopardising the relationship on which their interactions are based.
- Nijera Kori staff are essentially social activists, who live among and interact closely with the poor whom they try to mobilise.
- The role of Nijera Kori staff is less of an information collector' (*as is the case in many development organisations*), and more like that of a 'facilitating agent, as a 'brother' or 'sister'. Their main purpose is to advise and support the collective effort of the poor by skill building that creates bonds of trust between them. This impacts favourably the organizations of the poor (*landless for instance*) by giving the groups within it a stronger sense of unity and a greater set of common goals and values.
- Nijera Kori is characterised by a high frequency of meetings, for both staff and landless groups. It is this frequency of face-to-face meetings, which the organisation regards as the most important way of promoting closer relationships, establishing trust and ensuring participatory decision-making and accountability.
- Nijera Kori is not a money collecting organisation; people's income is not shared or managed by it, instead the people manage their own income and savings

***work with the most excluded groups:***

- Nijera Kori aims to reach the most poor and marginalised groups in the society. These groups include those dependent on physical labour as their main source of livelihood.
- Nijera Kori works with specifically vulnerable communities, such as indigenous communities, fisher-folk, farmers, weavers etc.
- Development organisations in general have failed to reach the 'hardcore poor' - people whose poverty is so immense that they are often excluded as targets for micro-credit activities, since they are not considered credit-worthy. Nijera Kori aims to reach those people - without land or any other resources - whose basic human rights and needs are largely ignored by the society.

***development of autonomous landless organisation:***

- Nijera Kori emphasises on promoting autonomous nature and structure of the landless organisations so that the landless members gradually decrease their dependency on Nijera Kori and finally stand on their own feet.

- Nijera Kori follows a strategy through its inbuilt processes of encouraging participation and sharing both in physical and financial terms, among the group members in all its activities to inculcate a sense of belonging to the organisation vis-à-vis a feeling of ownership of work and responsibilities which ultimately lead them towards developing an independent autonomous organisation.

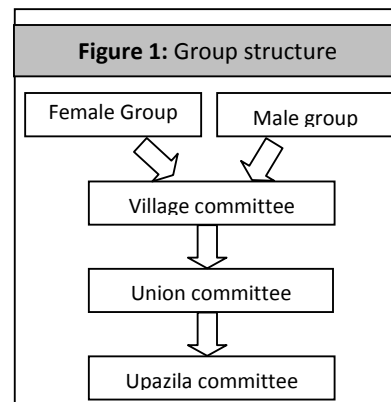
***Approach to gender equity:***

- Gender inequality remains central to Nijera Kori's understanding of poverty and social injustice. We recognise that patriarchy perpetuates the disadvantages of inequality, injustice and exclusion, which are intensified in relation to women and girls. In addition, they also suffer from gender discrimination and domestic violence within their household, restrictions on their physical movements and discrimination within labour markets, beyond the household in the larger society.
- However, Nijera Kori believes that female and male relations need not be inherently antagonistic and that men can become women's allies in the struggle against patriarchal oppression. Indeed, without active support and participation of the men from their families and from their class, women from landless households cannot succeed in their own struggle for dignity, respect and recognition.

## 2. LANDLESS ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

The landless groups are formed on a preliminary basis with a minimum of 16 to maximum 30 members. For reasons pragmatic and practical, groups are separately formed with female and male members. As a result of patriarchal values and the consequent social and religious beliefs, women in traditional Bangladeshi society are excluded from the main stream. It is for this reason that at the preliminary stage, women groups are formed exclusively. At an extended level when two thirds of the targeted population in the village become group members and two thirds of working areas become landless group activities union and upazilla, landless committees are formed (see figure-1 and annex- E).

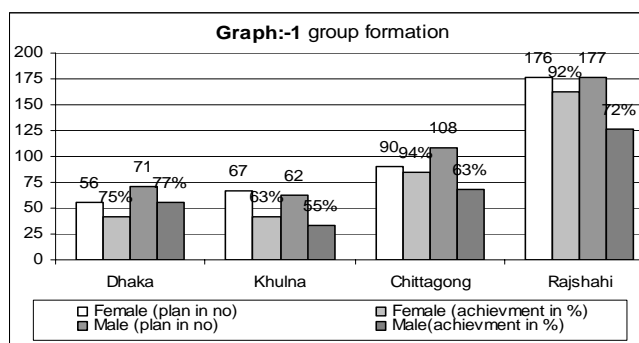
The landless groups form their own committee at a regional level if the situation demands. When a larger mass of members are required for initiating or stepping up a movement for the rights of the landless people, the two thirds requirement can be ignored. At each level, however, the committees are formed and their terms renewed through annual group meetings. The landless committee comprises of men and women, with a minimum of 25% mandatory elected women. It is through a process and a cultural environment of working in groups that the landless people develop their organisational capacity, become aware of their rights as well as responsibilities and gradually gain the capacity to claim their rights as citizens of the country.



### 2.1 Landless group formation and members (Details in annex-J: table 1 and 2)

#### Achievement analysis:

In this year, the achievement rate of new group formation is 76%, female group formation is 85% and male group formation is 68% against plan. Compared to last year, during this year the achievement rate is 16% less. But, the increase in membership of female groups over male groups was far more which definitely provided a positive side. A total of 9 adivasi groups were formed comprising male and female members (female-6, male-3). Landless organisation deserves positive marks for their effort to include the marginal adivasi population residing in the plains and absorb them within the count of the deprived groups in general (Graph-1: analysis of new groups in four divisions as per plan). In Chittagong, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions the formation of female group formation is more than planned compared to the achievement of Khulna division. In total, the rate of female group formation is 17% more than that of the male group.



Landless group formation is a process of inclusion of the neglected community in awareness and mobilisation activities. In this process, landless members, take up issues and conduct their activities such as right claiming, movement directly with the banner of the organisation (*some of the detailed cases studies in annex*). But indirectly participation is much wider. Normally, in every landless family one male and one female become member of landless group. But other members of the same organised landless family, who are not directly members, also participate in the activities of the groups. (*such as listening to discussions, songs, viewing dramas, attending dissemination of information meetings, participating in movements etc.*) These people are included in the awareness raising and assimilation activities as a matter of course. Up to March 2009, of total 1,90,898 landless families about 9,35,400 males and females have become more aware and have consolidated the strength of landless group as an auxiliary band.<sup>1</sup>

In the programme areas another positive result achieved was the formation of well-knit, consolidated groups. 21 new villages and one Union have come under coverage of new group formation.<sup>2</sup> By this measure, the activities of landless groups have extended to those new areas where new groups have been formed. As the number increases a positive result is obtained in terms of new group formation beyond target as a additional effect.

**Reasons:**

Activity year starts in April. In the first quarter of the year new groups staff and group members both established liaison with the unorganised masses. After monsoon discussion and activity continued for forming new groups. As a result in the third quarter of the year the groups were beginning to be formed. But due to Sidr, two consecutive floods and lack of job opportunities the prices of essentials became very high. Hordes of poor people came to the cities for livelihood. On the other hand, towards the end of the year, when it is a good time for group formation, due to national and upazila elections the areas were politically volatile and busy. Hence, group formation was hindered as initial contact and preparation could not be made.

Besides, in Char Jabbar and Raigong activity areas due to false cases filed by Jotdar, the staff and group members were constantly harassed and arrested by the police, and they were mostly busy in self-defence and resistance against attack by terrorists in the court or protecting their homestead against torching by them. For the above mentioned reasons in the activity year fewer groups were formed than what was planned. In practical perspectives the landless group and staff consider this a temporary negative trend.

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<sup>1</sup> A family consists of 4.9 members, Statistics pocket book-2007.

<sup>2</sup> Area coverage - In one village when 75% people become members of group the village comes under coverage. In case of union or upazila, the same measure are maintained i.e 75% villages in a union covered will mean a union, and 75% unions under upazila will mean an Upazila are covered.

**Lessons learnt:**

Instead of numerical planning it is better to ensure village based qualitative planning. In this regard in every area the issues must be identified, possible risk should be taken into consideration, organisational strength-weakness must be identified before planning. Besides, quarterly review of planning and if necessary review of the old plan and drawing up a fresh one to suit the circumstance should be undertaken.

**2.2 Group meeting, representative and joint meeting (Detail in annex-J: table 3 and 4).****Achievement analysis:**

The main basis of conscientisation activity is group meeting. In group meeting the members determine the subject of discussion according to their experience and level of consciousness. The subject matter ranges from individual experience, problem to society and state and international issues. The members, through discussions and debate become aware of their rights and privileges, increase their knowledge, identify local problems and decide the strategy for solution. They then gradually get more and more involved and become active participants in demanding and realising their rights.

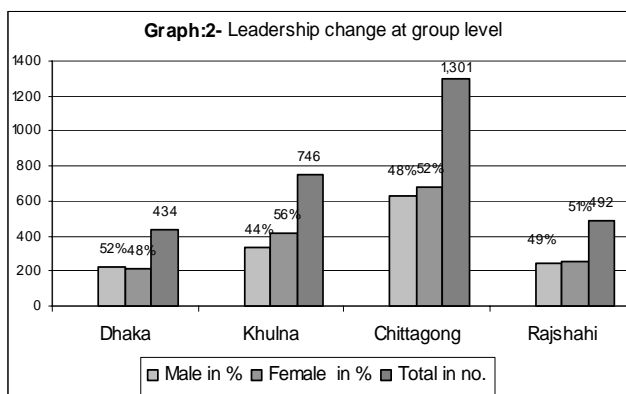
For gaining wider social consolidation and joint initiative the members organise representative meetings and joint meetings with various groups. The members consider every problem they face as a social issue and endeavor to solve it with joint initiative. They identify their own mistakes and short-comings. They make self-criticism and by engaging in discussion become accountable to each other. As a result, those who previously considered the problems as personal issues and accepted them now can evaluate these problems from social and political perspective, can identify the causes and can take joint initiative for solution.

Numerical enumeration shows, as per plan, the total number of group meetings organised is 81% (*female 81% and male 82%*). This is 5% more than last year. In the activity year, the landless group organised at their own initiative (*without the staff*) 55% group meetings. This is 2% more than last year. The positive gain is self-realisation, dedication in performing duties, giving leadership in achieving group independence from external pressure or circumstances and voluntary participation in realising the planned activities.

Further, in the project year, as per plan, the rate of representative meeting achieved is 146% and joint meeting is 163%. This is more than last year's achievement by 55% and 63% respectively 76% landless groups (*female 76% and male 75%*) organised individual group's annual meeting. This is 8% less than last year though qualitative achievement was greater. In the annual group meeting the members evaluated the responsibilities of the leaders, their role, commitment and qualities and elected democratically for next year in open franchise. As a result of this process, during the activity year, in place of old leadership, from among the members a total of new 2,973 leaders were elected (*female 1,425 and male 1,548*). There was a qualitative improvement in the group in practising democratic culture,

ensuring accountability, determining leadership ability, ensuring alternative leadership and taking decisions.

In *graph-2* four divisions' group annual meetings reveals the change of group leadership. The graph shows that except Dhaka division, in Khulna, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions, the rate of change in female leadership is more in total group leadership change. This trend shows that compared to male group the leadership in female group was more dynamic.



### Reasons:

In some activity areas initial village based planning and implementing is the main cause for increase in group meetings. Besides, due to the restrictions of emergency rule, group activities became irregular. For this reason, in every activity area, by holding representative meeting, regular evaluation of planning, determining course of action were done with caution, and by doing so, group leaders and members performed their duties meticulously. In the activity year, instead of forming new groups, emphasis was given to ensure continuation of the activities of the old groups. As a result, the number of group meetings, specially representative meetings was more. Some members were forced, at times, to come to the cities in search of livelihood and jobs. In this reality, a strategy was devised to keep the resident members involved and active by holding representative meetings with neighboring groups. Besides, in Char Jabbar, Tangail, Raiganj, Dhanbari, Bagatipara working areas more joint meetings were held to encourage joint initiative in organising movements. As a result, compared to last year, the number of joint meetings increased. Above all, normally at the end of the year group annual meeting is held. But in the activity year, due to national and upazila elections and post election political uncertainty the number of group annual meetings were less.

### Lessons learnt:

For change in awareness of members issue based village oriented planning is more fruitful than number based planning. By determining the responsibility of group and staff it is necessary to increase the coverage of village based planning. With quarterly planning and evaluation new measures showed be improvised to implement actions. Overcoming problems and obstacles should be tried and the activities ought to be conducted keeping in mind the main objectives so that there is a consistent qualitative change and not just quantitative change.

### 2.3 Group workshop (Detail in annex-J: table-4)

The landless groups hold day-long workshops at field level to discuss activities, determine organisational weakness and strength, sort out areas of activities, locate local issues, evaluate the risk factors and lastly decide the course of action. Sometimes, for special reasons, the workshop is held for two days.



**Achievement analysis:**

During this period 158 workshops were organised. The rate of achievement is 79%, of the plan which is less than 14% from last year. In the activity year besides holding workshops for evaluating the organisational strength and weakness, enumeration of activities, workshops were also held on specific topics. Such topics included issues like adopting village based planning method, village mapping, women's rights and their empowerment, leadership, democracy-accountability, social-service and participation, influence of globalisation in agricultural sector, joint economic activities and its necessity and management, fundamentalism and communalism etc. In organising workshops two points were high-lighted-to reduce the gap in the level of conscientisation among the members. 9 workshops were held with members who were comparatively weak. On the other hand 4 workshops were held with the youth and children of the group member. It shows that the groups and members adopted new plan of activities to over-come the identified weaknesses of activities reported in 2007. This tendency to learn from previous mistake and experience and the inclination for self assessment is definitely a positive trend in gaining proficiency and self sufficiency.

**Reasons:**

As a result of general price-hike for food items due to high inflation and lack of job opportunities mass exodus to the cities took place. Besides, political activities and arrests increased in the programme areas due to national and upazila elections. As the landless groups hold their annual meetings and group conventions in the last two months of the programme year i.e. February and March fewer workshops were organised than planned.

**Lesson learnt:**

Plan should be made by taking into account the possible adverse situations. The group and staff both think that there is more need for specific topic based workshops. The initiative to hold more workshops to enlighten the comparatively weaker members is very effective. The participants feel that in every area there is need for holding this type of work-shop.

**2.4 Formation of landless committee, meeting and convention: (annex-J: table 5 and 6)**

Organisational committees are formed at village, union and upazila levels. In a village when 75% population is organised, village committee is formed. Accordingly, at union and upazila level, 75% villages of the union and upazila should be within the organisational activities before committees are formed. It may be mentioned that, in case it is not possible to form a committee at union or upazila level, an anchalic (*Area*) committee can be formed at sub-centre to support and consolidate all activities, ensure accountability and conduct rights movement. When above mentioned conditions are fulfilled a village committee is formed with seven members, a union level committee with 13 members and an upazila committee with 21 members. An anchalic committee is formed with 11 members.

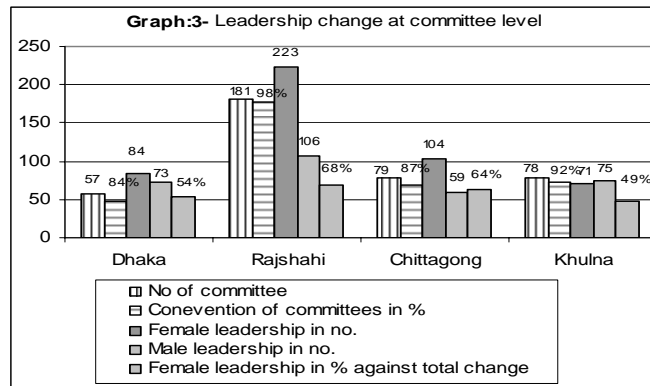
The organisation committee is elected democratically by open vote for one year, in annual group convention. But in case the committee can not be renewed on time in group convention due to unavoidable circumstances the previous committee can carry on the responsibility on adhoc basis.

### Achievement analysis:

Forming committee and consolidating leadership are important activities for qualitative aspect of the programme. But the process of forming committee depends totally on forming new groups. For this mutual dependence, whether the numerical achievement is more or less is analysed by evaluating the numerical achievement of a normal activity year. For instance, the rate of forming committee at village level is 58% and at union level is 25%. This is clearly falling far below the 100% target under the plan. This indicates a negative result. However, it may be mentioned that in the activity year new committee formation at upazila and anchalic level was not in the plan but for organisational requirements 3 anchalic (*Area*) committees were formed in Charjabbar, Modhupur and Raygonj anchals. This is a positive aspect in group realisation and creation of joint leadership. Besides, as per plan the rate of meetings held by the committees are 95% at village level, 90% at union level, 75% at upazila level and 95% at anchalic level. On evaluating the achievement of the committees in holding meetings it becomes obvious that they are aware of the responsibilities in conducting organisational leadership and they are also alert in taking responsibility and executing it which indicates important positive development. Above all, the rate of group convention organised by group is 90% at village level, 64% at union level, 100% at upazila level and 97% at anchalic level.

According to *graph-3* the basis of an anchal based numerical committee formation, the rate of group convention have been evaluated percentage wise. In the graph, the rate of landless group convention, in four divisions are as follows- Dhaka 84%, Rajshahi 98%, Chittagong 87% and Khulna 92%.

Highest rate of achievement of landless group conventions in Rajshahi and lowest in Dhaka division. In graph-3: change of landless group committee leadership based on division has been evaluated. Instead of just organising number of conventions a definite change is flourishing by open election



of both male and female thus 789 (*female- 482 and male- 313*) developing better and alternative leadership. Besides, from the graph-3 another fact revealed is that compared to the total number of change of leadership in open election the rate of freely elected female is 49% (*Khulan division*) in the lower range and 68% (*Rajshahi division*) in the upper range. It may be mentioned that out of four divisions, in Rajshahi, Chittagong and Dhaka division, compared to male, the rate of elected female leadership is more. In Khulna division, the rate of change of female leadership in open posts is less than that of the male. But the margin is numerical. The harmony in free election of leadership of male-female demonstrates that in the society female leadership is accepted and women are being empowered and joint leadership is growing. These indicate positive development. The committees through group conventions adopted their plan of activities by taking into consideration the strength and weaknesses experienced in the previous year, by evaluating the issues and weighing the risk factors. Besides, in group conventions, the members evaluated the role of leaders, their responsibilities, accountability and

efficiency before electing new leaders for the committees. For this trend of electing new leadership changes occurred among old leadership. Instead of old leaders from among the general members a total of 789 were elected (*female- 482 and male- 313*). This change in leadership is a positive aspect in achieving democratic culture, accountability, responsibility, sharing and proficiency of landless group.

**Reason:** At any level the pre-condition for forming committee is area coverage that is, in any village, 75% population or in case of union-upazila 75% area should be within the activities of landless organisation. During the activity year, as new group formation fell short of plan, area coverage was not complete. That is why the rate of committee formation is also less. As committee formation was delayed the landless group, though it was not in the plan, formed anchalic committee out of necessity. Above all, the rate of village and union level convention is less than planned. Mainly plan for group convention is determined on the basis of ongoing and proposed new number of committees. But in activity year, due to not having expected number of new committees there are fewer number of conventions in villages and unions.

### **2.5 Group savings and banking** (*Detail in annex-J: table- 7, 8 and 16*)

Group saving is collected to conduct group's organisational activities and joint economic activities. While forming a group, on the basis of consensus of all the members and by considering the financial ability of the poorest member, the rate of contribution of individual members to group saving is decided. The groups operate the group saving by themselves at their own responsibility. On the basis of requirement by the group, Nijera Kori staff renders assistance in book keeping. No staff ever collects funds or operates the account.

**Achievement analysis:** The group saving collected from the members is used as joint saving and is spent for the group. The groups use the group saving for conducting group activities and to bring positive change in their life and livelihood. In the activity year the groups saved total 17,903,176 taka. To operate the saving correctly total 217 (*female 142 and male 75*) joint accounts were opened in the bank. To counter financial crisis, in the activity year total 13,315,393 taka were spent with group consensus for equal distribution among the members. This is 55% more than that of last year. In combating temporary financial crisis the use of group saving is definitely a positive step in their economic empowerment. Besides, 10,45,888 were spent for conducting group activities such as group yearly convention, workshop, training, movement and law-suits. This is 30% more than last year. Besides, from group saving 6,96,592 takas were spent for development and social welfare activities of the localities such as repair of road, culvert, cleaning and digging of canal, drain, treatment and dowry less marriage. This is 4% more than last year's. The financial empowerment of the extreme poor is a positive step in achieving self-sufficiency.

**Reasons:** Owing to the unnatural rise in the price of essential commodities and due to lack of job opportunities to combat economic crisis more money was distributed among the members from group savings. Group financial participation has increased as more group conventions workshops and cultural activities were held. Besides, due to enhancement of landless group's acceptability in society and due to their increased responsibility expenditure in development and social service sectors in localities have increased.

**Lessons to be learnt:** In combating economic crisis and natural disaster group saving develops a sense of economic solvency among the members. To increase management of group saving and for safe guarding the money it is necessary to encourage them to open bank account.

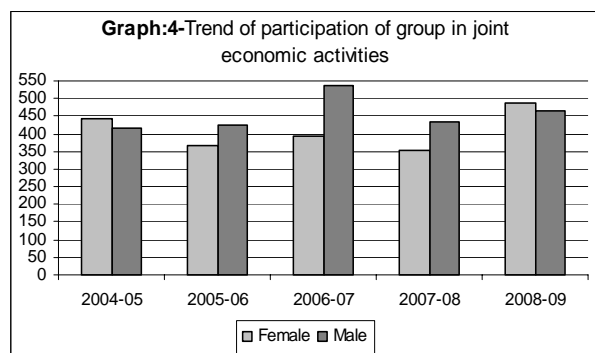
## 2.6 Joint economic activities. (Detail in annex-J: table-9)

Solidarity among the members is gradually forming due to joint economic activities. They are gaining proficiency in taking joint decision and in managing funds collectively. Besides, the members take responsibility at their own initiative and their economic position is improving due to joint economic activities as they are learning to create job opportunities for themselves.

### Achievement analysis:

With group savings the members, by conducting economic activities, are developing economic competence. They are managing and taking responsibility and in the process they are developing mutual co-operation and a joint mind-set is also flourishing. Besides, in the areas, the economic activities of the members are also setting examples of alternative production system. In the activity year total 932 (female 478, male 458) new joint economic activities were undertaken. This is 19% more than last year's. But the rate of increase of female group is 35%. This trend is a positive achievement of female participation in economic activities directly, their empowerment and increase of mobility.

On the other hand, from among the old groups involved in economic activities, total 356 (female 122 and male 234) groups have stopped their activities temporarily. In the activity year total 4,668 (female 2,191 and male 2,477) groups have earned 31,51,642 taka from joint economic activities. Besides, due to joint economic activities by the groups 17,894 (female 6,814, male 11,073) members were provided with jobs during greater part of the year. This proves that the group is giving emphasis in providing job opportunities to the needy among them.



Analysis of *graph -4* reveals that in 2004-05 the participation of women in economic activities is more. In 2005-06 the number of female group is less, the number of male group has increased and in 2006-07 both male and female groups have increased. In 2008-09 due to Sidr and two consecutive floods the activities of both male and female groups.

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### BOX-1: Lease and joint management of local market

Besides the two big village markets, almost every single day small markets sit in Kachuahata in Saghata union. Earlier local influential people used to take lease of those markets by giving little money. Both the seller and the buyer had to pay the tax, in case of a sale exceeding three thousand taka. There was no place for the small vendors to sit. Intermediaries always deprived the small vendors.

**Irregularity in Revenue Collection:** 22 landless organisations of Shaghata and Muktinagar union (Female – 9 and Male – 13) jointly decide to take the lease of the Kochuahat market. When governments invite the tender the landless organisations provide with proper documents and sufficient money while local influential provide with insufficient money and documents.

**New management:** Landless organisations elected a 7 member management committee to manage the market. A part of the market has been fixed for the small vendors. The tax for the small vendors has been settled to TK – 1 from TK – 4. Now only the buyer pays the tax for a purchase exceeding TK – 3000. The number of sellers and buyers has been significantly increased, especially the small vendors, because of the different measures taken by the new management committee. This indicates that the market is coming out from the control of the intermediaries and buyers and sellers are getting enough opportunities to fix the price.

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**Reason:**

A few groups were obliged to halt their economic activities temporarily as lease agreement of land and water-bodies expired. Besides, some groups were in the process of selling and buying cattle-heads.

**Lesson learnt:**

In conducting joint economic activities it is necessary to give more emphasis on developing a mind-set that values the worth of joint plan and actions. It is necessary to encourage undertaking of joint economic activities in khas land, water-bodies so that consolidated ownership can be strengthened.

**2.7 Group Consciousness: (detail annex-J: table-10)**

The building of consciousness is a gradual process. When majority members in a group (*more than 50%*) are deemed to have achieved some level of awareness, it is elevated to the next level. The groups are categorised at three levels; primary, secondary and tertiary. (*See annex f*).

**Achievement analysis:**

In the activity year a total of 257 (*female 13 and male 122*) groups moved from the primary to the secondary level. 36 (*female 17 and male 21*) moved from secondary level to the tertiary. In terms of plan, rate of achievement is 90% at the secondary and 51% at the tertiary level. Compared to last year the rate of improvement is 1% at the secondary level and at the third level, it is 41% short.

**Reason:**

In terms of quantity the achievement is less than expectation. The landless group and Nijera Kori's assessment is that the process of setting this achievement in numerical equation would constitute a change of qualitative achievement., the more important factor in this case being the question whether greater number of members have become aware together. In the activity year due to unnatural rise in the prices of essential foods, and due to lack of job opportunities the members resided outside the activity areas for greater part of the year. As a result, the members could not maintain continuity in attending the meetings. That is why, among the members, though it was possible to bring some primary awareness among the members yet it was not possible to bring about any deep and radical change in awareness process. Hence, though they could be promoted from primary to secondary level but they could not be promoted to the tertiary level. That is why the rate at the tertiary level is less than that of the secondary level.

**Lesson learnt:**

The conditions of equation are theoretical and depend on the issue under consideration. Changes at national and international scenarios are making, evaluation of new information and gaining experience a difficult and lengthy process. The groups and staff feel that the conditions for slotting should be a combination of both realistic life experience as well as theoretical knowledge.

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**BOX- 2 Repeatedly dislodged by nature: She has at last made a place for herself in society.**

**Background:** After 1990 upazila election was held again in January 2009. A new aspect in this election was that the vice chairmen post was reserved for women, but she would be elected by both male/female voters.

**Landless organisation and upazila election:** Previously landless organisations have been directly contesting in Union Parishad election. But in January 2009 they contested in the upazila election for the first time. Landless organisations participated in two ways. Firstly, in two Upazila Parishad elections two persons contested for the posts of vice-chairman. Secondly, they chose the candidate who had better prospect of winning in the election; they provided full organisational support to her. Wherever they had difficulty in accepting the eligibility of the candidate, they refrained from giving support. Landless leader Mohsina Begum from Dinajpur district Khansama upazila and Hafiza Begum from Kurigram district Rajibpur upazila contested in the election for the post of vice-chairman.

**Landless organisation granted nomination:** For this election, the relevant committee in the organisation, after considering the prospect of winning, took decision to contest in Khansama and Rajibpur upazila election. The proposal for nominating Hafiza and Mohsina as the candidates came from the groups. Later, in a representative meeting participated by all the landless groups in area the landless organisation finalised the names of the contestants.

**Hafiza Begum-whom nature has dislodged repeatedly:** Hafiza Begum- 42, hails from village Shabojbagh, Rajibpur upazila, kurigram. Among 5 brothers-sisters Hafiza Begum is third. Her father was a farmer. When she was 6 years old her father died. The family lived on a very meagre income. They had to shift their dwelling place five times because of river erosion. After being dislodged for the fourth time the family shifted to Chilmari upazila and took shelter in a relative's house. Again river erosion dislodged them. This time they shifted back to Rajibpur upazila. In the midst of all these adversities, though Hafiza Begum had to change schools but she did not give up her studies. When she was in class V she was married to Abdul Hamid. In her in-laws house she continued her studies diligently. But unfortunately again her family became victim of river erosion. This time they took shelter in the local helipad. For all these reasons her studies stopped when she was in class VII.

**Hafiza Begum and landless organizations:** Landless organisation started its activities in Rajibpur area in 1980. Hafiza Begum, on her own initiative formed a female group in 1982. Her husband Abdul Hamid is a day labourer. He was inspired by Hafiza Begum and he also formed a male group. Organising movements for the deprived became a part of her life. Through training she became skilled and gradually she established herself as a leader in the society by actively participating in movements to establish rights. At one point she was elected as a member of landless union committee. As a member of union committee her commitment in conducting the activities of landless organisation and providing leadership in movements gradually made her very acceptable to the people. In 2002 she was elected as the president of union committee after contesting with male contestants. As a president in the committee, by proving her capability, transparency and accountability she has been giving leadership till today.

**Challenging local leadership:** Hafiza Begum's capability proved a challenge to the local power-structure of the society. Due to her extra ordinary capability from 1998 twice she was selected for women member's reserved seat in Union Parishad by the government. Hafiza Begum proved her leadership quality in society by fulfilling her duties as a member very ably. In 2003 Union Parishad election, Hafiza Begum for the first time contested in the open seat against male contestant in Kurigram zila's Union Parishad election. In 2005 she organised extensive movement against irregularities in land survey. In the area, the rich and the poor, the organised and the unorganised,-- every body participated in the movement lead by Hafiza Begum. Success of this movement added more laurels to her cap and her leadership became unquestioned.

**Contesting in Upazila election:** Hafiza Begum contested in 2009 Upazila election for the post of the vice-chair as the candidate of landless organisation. In total three candidates contested in for this post in Rajibpur Upazila. The opponents of Hafiza Begum were economically and socially more powerful. As a result, in election campaign marked differences were visible. The main thrust in Hafiza Begum's campaign was door to door visit and discussion, enacting dramas in village, markets and spontaneous processions. There were no offices for election. In every village a landless member's house became the centre for coordinating election activity and campaigning. Money from the group saving of landless organisation was the only election fund for Hafiza Begum's election expenditure. On the other hand the campaign strategy of Hafiza Begum's two other opponents were entirely different. The streets and bazars were adorned with posters with their photographs. Innumerable mikes were blaring from all sides. In every union they had election office. In support of the contestants people were hurrying from place to place in motor-bikes. According to opinion of the local people lacs taka 2 to 5 were spent by them. But this did not perturb Hafiza Begum. She knew "election is not contested by money; election is contested by popularity and eligibility."

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**Opponents particulars**

**Candidate-1:** Renuka Begum. Previously Renuka's father was twice elected as union parishad chairman and in 1990 he served as elected chairman in Upazila Parishad. Besides, Renuka Begum's sister's husband Golam Hossain was parliament member. For a long time she was associated with political culture in the family. She also had plenty of money.

**Candidate-2:** Amena Begum. Comes from local political and powerful family. This family and other related persons are known as the opponents of landless organisation.

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**Result of election:** Landless candidate Hafiza Begum received more votes than her opponents in 28 out of 29 voting booths. Kurigram district's landless candidate Hafiza Begum won by getting the highest number of votes. It may be mentioned, similarly another landless candidate Mohsina Begum also got elected from Khansama Upazila.

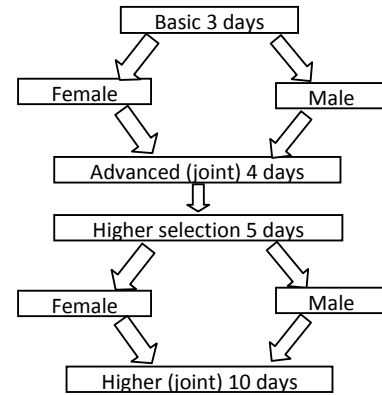
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### 3. TRAINING AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OF NIJERA KORI

#### Consciousness raising and leadership development training for group:

The core landless group trainings are organised with 20-25 members and are divided in four categories: basic, advanced, higher selection and higher. At basic level, female and male members are provided trainings separately. At the advanced level, trainings are organised with both female and male members together, but at higher advanced level female and male members are separated. At the final level, they both are again grouped together (*see Figure - 2*). Nijera Kori follows this particular approach to impart relevant skills to both the female and male members. The objective is to create an environment where both female and male members get an open environment of sharing and mutual learning. This is particularly important for the female members who need such an environment and who might otherwise feel shy about expressing their feelings in the presence of male members. At a later stage, they are mixed together so that they can build mutual trust and understanding which are key elements for their successful empowerment. Alongside the main trainings, separate trainings at basic and advanced level are organised for members who are involved in cultural activities with each session having 20 members.

Figure 2: Training structure



Furthermore, based on specific needs of certain working areas, other trainings on relevant subjects are also provided. Some of such training courses are; 'leadership development', 'collective production and management', 'right to information', 'globalisation and sustainable development', 'citizen rights and constitutional guarantees,' 'Adivasi and Land Rights', 'Land and Women Rights, "gender" "reproductive health care" etc. Members who have already received basic level training are eligible for these trainings.

#### 3.1 Group training (*detail annex-J: table-11*)

##### Achievement analysis:

The trained members play pivotal role in making the discussions in group meeting analytical and deep. The trained members apply the strategic proficiency achieved in training to ensure the active participation of all members. The experience of impact assessment, it's demand and requirement have generated two new trainings in the activity year on "gender" and "reproductive health care". This is a new positive development in achieving gender equality and expediting women empowerment. The analysis of numerical achievement reveals 100% success in organising training. The rate of participation of female is 101% and male 97%. There being more than one member already trained in a group, the discussions were more vibrant, analytical and deep.

Besides, the difference in awareness level between the ordinary members and trained members narrowed and accountability increased. In forming new groups

the active role of trained members was noticeable. In organising issue based movement also the initiative taken by trained members became dynamic and the process of joint leadership marched ahead. The members were seen utilising the benefit derived from training in gender, land and constitutional rights and were applying this knowledge during “shalish”. As a result, the landless group were ensuring justice in shalish against persecution and in consolidating the practice of dispute resolution following legal system. All these are definitely a positive step in acquiring proficiency and ability. Besides, for the enhancement of proficiency and ability of cultural members 8 basic, 2 progressive and 1 higher training was organised.

Description of Training	P		A	
	N	P	N	P
Basic	60	1,500	60	1,491
Advanced	14	350	14	348
Higher Selection	8	200	8	183
Higher	1	26	1	26
<b>CULTURAL TRAINING</b>				
Basic	8	160	8	158
Advanced	2	40	2	41
Higher	1	30	1	30
<b>OTHER TRAININGS</b>				
Leadership Development	8	200	8	198
Collective Production & Management	4	100	4	96
Right and Access to Information	8	200	8	193
Land Laws and Management Systems	4	100	4	97
Land and Women Rights	4	100	4	96
Adivasi and Land Rights	2	50	2	53
Citizen Rights & Constitutional Guarantees	8	200	8	198
Globalisation & Sustainable Development	8	200	8	198
Gender	3	81	3	81
Reproductive Health Care	2	59	2	59
Follow up Workshop for Higher Trainees	1	29	1	29
P=Plan, A= Achievement, N= Number, P= participant				

### BOX-3 Halima is a transformed female activist

Halima Begum (23), village-Nolchhia, Upazila-Raigang, Zila-Sirajgang. At the age of 14 Halima was married to already married affluent Yakube Ali (38) with three children. In 2005 Halima became pregnant. Her husband forced her to abort the child by the mid-wife in the village. The abortion was conducted in a rustic manner and it caused permanent damage to Halima and made her unable to conceive in future.

Halima became interested to become a member of landless organisation. Though she was comparatively well-off still the landless members considered her problems and made her a member in 2007. Halima’s husband Yakub Ali told her, “I have three children, I do not need any more children. You are mine. That’s all.” In this situation Halima decided to divorce her husband. In 2008 Halima attended basic training at the behest of the members. In 2009, because of her own interest she again joined the progressive training. During progressive training, when re-discussion of experience was held after primary training Halima said, after the training during evaluation, “in every area we have to strengthen our power by increasing the number of landless groups. This is the only way to get liberated. I have learnt this through discussion of movements in the training. We are in majority in the society. Yet the society is manipulated by chairman, matabbar, and the Huzur. Previously I thought they were learned. I respected them. But now I have learnt that they are touts of exploiting class. It is wrong to judge people by their looks. From the training I have learnt to judge people with reasons.”

In 2009 Halima became landless leader. She became elected as member in landless union committee. Besides movements relating to women Halima now leads movements relating to Khas land and water bodies, corruption, wage etc. So much so that Jotdar Tota Mia filed a case against Halima alleging involvement in the movement relating to Sonaidanga Khas water body. She is attending shalish, she has married by her own choice Moniruzzaman from Bashuria village. After marriage Moniruzzaman has become member of landless organisation. Both Halima and Moniruzzaman are together attending group meeting, procession, gatherings, shalish etc.



**Reasons:**

In Nijera Kori's 2007 impact study research the need for developing male-female partnership, taking joint decision, full gender unbiased participation and empowerment of women were identified for conducting programme activities. On the basis of this "gender" and "reproductive health care" trainings were given on regular basis in the activity year.

**Lesson learnt:**

As per decision of last year, from the reported activity year every five members from among all 1 member has to participate in training. As a result, in a group there is no dearth of leadership as more than one member is getting trained to the initiate mutual discussion and in the absence of one member the responsibility of other members are increasing. This is very effective for bringing at par the awareness among the members in a group. The field-level follow-up activities must be made more dynamic.

**3.2 Training follow-up activities (Details in annex-J: table-12)**

Follow-up training is an integral part of continuous training. Normally follow-up training is divided in two parts. Firstly, analysis of experience gained by trained member in group meetings and analytical and subject based discussions. Secondly, re-discussion session at field level with trained members.

**Achievement analysis:**

In the activity year as per plan the rate of re-discussion session at field-level is 120%. The rate of participation is 127%.

**Reasons:**

As a consequence of Sidr and two consecutive floods follow-up activities last year were insufficient. Activities of the trained but other-wise weak in awareness, one special training on re-discussion was organised in every anchal, which raised the profile of achievement. beyond planned targets.

**Lessons learnt:**

The analysis of responsibility, role, awareness, participation in activities and leadership of trained members reveal that separate re-discussion with few groups is more effective. In follow-up this strategy should be included,

**3.3 Training and activities for qualitative enhancement of staff:**

From its beginning, Nijera Kori has been making particular efforts on the capacity development of its staff. Self-development is the motto followed in this regard. Various efforts are made; firstly, arranging of special "schooling" sessions in the weekly sub-centre, monthly regional, bi-monthly divisional council and quarterly executive council meetings, secondly, continuous collection and collation of new information and tools and sharing of these materials with the staff at sub-centre level, and thirdly, organising of various subject-wise cultural training and workshops, fourthly, enabling the staff to participate as observers in all training sessions in order to gain further experience. Furthermore, initiatives are discussed and adopted for the staff development as per the decisions of the annual staff convention of Nijera Kori.

### Achievement analysis:

Training to effectively follow-up activities is an integral and on-going part of training. In the activity year new strategy and steps were taken for improving the quality of the members. The staff and members feel that this has made the process of improving the quality of the members more dynamic. In evolving the new strategy and steps firstly, from impact study analysis, training on “gender” and “reproductive health care” were organised regularly. Secondly, the sub-centre and divisions organised the continuity of schooling for the whole year. Thirdly, two work-shops were organised with the participation of both the members and the staff for evaluating the progress of the activities, for planning and forming policy and conditions for deciding about the level of the landless organisations.

Besides, according to *table-3* analysis of numerical achievement the following training were held-2 primary trainings with newly recruited members, 1 progressive training and 2 higher trainings, five gender trainings and 2 reproductive health-care trainings were organised. In the first training members of executive body, divisional portfolio members, report and central cultural cell representatives participated. After the conclusion of continuous field-level training 1 gender work-shop was organised at the centre

with the participation of all group members for “gender”. With the assistance of ALRD, 3 trainings on “land management”, “land and women’s rights” and “adivasi and land management” were held. Besides, with the assistance of Ain-O-Shalish Kendra 4 trainings were organised on “citizen’s rights and constitutional guarantee”. It may be mentioned that in the activity year every member got the opportunity to attend one of these workshops or trainings to improve his/her qualitative proficiency. Above all, to develop joint initiative at field-level a higher training was organised with the participation of staff and members of landless cultural group. 11 members and 10 staff attended the training.

Descriptions	Achievement			
	N	M	F	T
<b>Training</b>				
Basic Level	2	53	23	76
Intermediate Level	1	20	12	32
Higher Level	2	31	15	46
Land Law and Management	1	20	5	25
Land and Women’s Rights	1	23	7	30
Adivasi and Land Rights	1	20	9	29
Citizen Rights & Constitutional Guarantees	4	59	39	98
<b>Gender</b>	5	86	55	141
Reproductive Health care	2	4	57	61
Cultural Basic	1	14	7	21
Cultural Higher	1	13	8	21
<b>Workshop</b>				
Follow up Workshop for Higher Trainees	1	18	12	30
<b>Gender</b>	2	35	32	67
Reporting System	1	22	6	28
Tot on gender	1	13	16	29
ToT on Reproductive Health care	1	17	12	29
ToT on overall training	1	13	14	27
Cultural Folk Song (Pot)	1	5	5	10
<i>N= Number, M= Male, F=Female, T= Total</i>				

In the activity year with the assistance of research professor Naila Kabir from IDS Sussex University two work-shops on “gender” and “reporting” were held. In these workshops executive members and other elected representatives and staff

participated. Above all, for increasing the proficiency of the training group, three separate TOT were organised for members from 4 divisional training group and central training group on how to conduct training in gender, reproductive health and participation. In the activity year, in improving the quality of the staff, the point of focus is qualitative improvement of both the staff and the catalyser team who had initiated the change. In this matter, in the activity year, the endeavour of the elected central team, divisional team and reporting division deserve special attention. Besides, by emphasising organisational policy, responsibility for taking strategical role, pursuing area of action etc. a work-shop was organised at centre to encourage joint under standing by group members and staff, and to make co-ordination, initiative and accountability more effective. Four qualitative changes are noticeable due to these initiatives. Firstly, acceptability of women leadership within group and organisation and increase of mutual co-ordination and accountability between male-female. Secondly, joint participation of group members and staff in forming policy, in execution and in evaluation. The culture of accountability, shouldering responsibility and co-ordination are flourishing and getting stronger. In every sphere like central divisional team, report, account and administrative division the trend for qualitative empowerment is flourishing. Besides, both landless group and staff have become more accurate in collecting information; have acquired knowledge as to what extent the information should be gathered, in selecting and weighing the accuracy of the information and in evaluating.

**Reasons:**

In the activity year, together with the process of qualitative improvement of staff, the process of improving the proficiency of elected representatives' team from different levels, cell and division was given importance. That is why more subject-based work-shops were held. Two special work-shops were held to improve the process of policy execution, monitoring, joint initiative of landless group and staff in evaluation, co-ordination and accountability. According to research report on impact studies training on "gender" and "reproduction health care" have started making more demands on the members. Staff limitations in organising the special work-shops were identified. So for the development of the staff and improving their proficiency assistance was sought from established organisations such as "Nari Nirmiti" and "IDS Sussex University UK".

**Lessons learnt:**

For qualitative improvement of staff, it is necessary to plan change by improving skill and undertake self-improvement through the process of training which focuses on overcoming short-comings for continuing in schools and weakness in analysing issues under study. This process is applicable to all other branches such as training and organising cell, parishad at different levels, report and account cells. The staff and members feel that in the activity areas there is need to follow the strategy of organising joint workshop by group and staff for improvement in delivery.

**3.4 Cultural groups and activities: (detail in annex-J: table-13)**

Nijera Kori considers cultural activities an integral part of social mobilisation. The objectives of all cultural activities of Nijera Kori are to fight against injustice, exploitation and repressions of the society in order to allow the poor and the disadvantaged people to be self-reliant and become aware of their dignity. With these aims, cultural groups are formed with 13-20 members, from amongst those

who are interested in cultural activities. The members, at an initial stage, sit for 2-3 hours every day among themselves and play a very important role in the mobilisation of public opinion by performing issue-based drama, song and other cultural activities.

**Achievement analysis:**

In the reported activity year, the cultural group conducted various issue based programmes. As a result, support for movement organised by landless group increased among the unorganised masses. Besides, in cultural activities four positive improvements were noticeable, firstly, inclusion of a number of new popular trend which made photo reporting and strategy of creating public opinion firmly consolidated; secondly, in cultural activities, the inclusion of adolescents and children and conducting activities for them; thirdly, addition of female staff in Nijera Kori's central cultural group. Fourthly, conducting day long celebration by combining few activities together instead of organising activities in a scattered manner. Numerical analysis of evaluation of cultural activities reveal, as per plan, rate of achievement - workshops 79%, meeting by cultural group 92%, discussion for organising new cultural group 87%, staging of people's drama 97%, people's song soiree 98% and presenting 2 pot songs (*folk cultural method*).

Besides, landless cultural group celebrated national and international days such as 21 February-international mother tongue day, 8 March-international women's day, 26 March-Liberation day, 1 May-international labour day, 9 December-Rokeya day, 14 December-Shahid Intellectual day and 16 December-Victory day. Besides these national and international days, the landless group celebrated few days marking the tradition of their movements and struggle such as 14 April-Shahid landless Kachmoti day, 3 December-Shahid Jainal day and 7 November-Shahid Korunamoyee day. Of all these celebration Shahid Korunamoyee and Rokeya day were celebrated with huge gathering and cultural activity. National level personalities expressed solidarity with the celebration of landless groups and attended the function.

In the activity year the landless cultural groups staged 66 new dramas on local issues. In conducting people's song 118 new landless female members (*who are not members of cultural group*) participated. Besides, in various activity areas, in 22 movements, the cultural groups organised continuous cultural activities for creating public opinion. These show strong mental development of the members for cultural activity and its sophisticated use for forcing ahead their demands through movement participated by others in the society.

**Reasons:**

In the activity year, four new cultural groups started their primary activities. These groups have not been shown in the tabulation as they were in the process of achieving qualification to form groups. Besides, the members of the cultural groups work and reside outside their home villages. Hence, only those members who are residing within the locality, could only attend workshops. This explains the lower achievement in terms of the plan this year. In the activity year pot songs were organised on trial basis in Rajshahi and Dhaka division.

### 3.5 Cultural long march/drama (Detail in annex-J: table-13).

With support from the landless organisations, the cultural groups organise a 3-7 day cultural festival each year. On this occasion, the troupes make door to door visits in the village and also perform in the hat/bazaar of their localities.

#### **Achievement analysis:**

In the activity area total 11 longmarches/dramas festival were organised. As per plan the rate of achievement is 110%. Besides, as per plan, at national level two days dramas were organised. In four divisions' 4 celebrations posters were exhibited and children/adolescents were included in the cultural activities. The celebrations started with rallies participated by male/female. The main activities were discussion, people's song, people's drama etc. These celebrations were attended by the ordinary residents of the locality, students, people's representatives, local club, cultural group, freedom fighters, women's movements' members, reporters, teachers, local government and non-government officials. Each event would be decided by the audience who would propose the names of the plays or songs after one show. In every celebration the important issues in focus were democracy, accountability, transparency, trial of war criminals and women's right.

#### **Reasons:**

Coordinated cultural activities by combining dramas and musical events to support long march and other modes of movement for rights greatly enhances effectiveness and public support. In the activity area, on special demand and in view of preparation by the group, a larger number of cultural long marches were held in Chittagong division.

#### **Lessons learnt:**

For conducting cultural activities it is necessary to select play grounds of schools. In the drama celebration other activities like discussion and songs should be included. Local initiative and participation should be integrated and given a boost.

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#### **BOX-4 In the guise of celebration cultural movement and agitation.**

##### **Village-Kachuahat, Shaghata, Upazila and Zila-Bandha.**

*The landless organisation arranged cultural celebration on 21-22 December 2008 in Kachuahat Higher School play ground. The celebration started with national song and a rally attended by 3-4 thousands landless male/female, children/ adolescents. From morning till late evening stream of people kept coming and going. Some listened to discussion, another group became captivated by people's songs, and some were watching pat song and some viewed the posters. The posters depicted liberation war of 71, demand for trial of war criminals, women persecution, agriculture, social differences, exploitation, land laws and rights etc. Besides landless cultural group the local children also participated in songs and dramas. They worked as volunteers and they also explained the message in the posters. Rickshaw puller Abdul Majid locked his rickshaw in the school verandah before dusk and watched the function. After the cultural show, in the discussion he states, "There is similarity in discussion, songs, drama and the posters. Every event speaks about the life of the poor. Tomorrow, I will come in the evening with my son. Children must know about these matters," Shamin (18), studies in class ten. He said, "What I heard in discussion is not the same that we find in the school text books. In T.V we see good seeds yield more crops. It does not state that hybrid seeds cause damage. The farmers must listen to these views more." On evaluating the two day celebration Head master of Kachuahat Higher School Anwarul Islam said, "Normally this sort of function is not organised in the locality. People get confused by T.V. Jatra and circus. True information should be disseminated among the people.*

*Besides for increasing knowledge of children and adolescents in every school ground this sort of function should be organised. The poster on liberation is very meaningful. They should be exhibited in every village so that people know about liberation war and the war criminals. The members of landless organisation who participated in this function are not professional performers. But they talk about reality depicting our real life.*

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## 4. MAJOR EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

### 4.1 Legal-aid activities (Detail in annex-J: table- 14 and 19)

As the movement of the landless organisations for establishing basic rights is getting stronger, the voices and struggles of the disadvantaged people are gaining more and more recognition from the state as well as the society. The increasing success has threatened the local vested groups who systematically try to harass the landless groups by conspiring against them, filing false lawsuits and using the police to persecute the landless groups. In such a context, legal recourse is one of the most potent means for the landless people to defend their rights and for which legal aid is extremely necessary for those affected people. When the number of cases is larger the cost is too high for the landless groups to support, it is at that moment that they turn to Nijera Kori for financial assistance. Nijera Kori after discussing and considering the situation sanction the required amount of money if the case potentially bear importance in the movement to establish the rights of the landless groups.

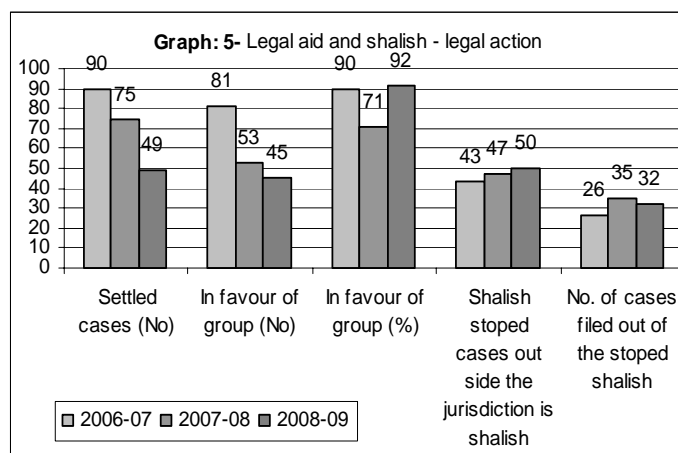
#### Achievement analysis:

In the activity year numerical analysis shows in total 104 new cases were fought. This is 1% more than last year. Compared to last year, in Rajshahi division the numbers of new legal cases increased. It counted less in Dhaka, Chittagong divisions and Khulna division is similar with last year. Settlement was reached in total 49 cases, which is 35% less than last year. Of the settled cases, the verdict was given in favour of landless group in 45 cases. In the other 4 cases the landless group filed appeal.

Characteristics of cases	Number of cases	settlement		
		T	I	A
<b>Criminal</b>	62	31	28	3
Group as plaintiff	27	15	14	1
group as accused	35	16	14	2
<b>Civil</b>	23	12	12	--
Group as plaintiff	14	8	8	--
group as accused	9	4	4	--
<b>Women persecution</b>	19	6	5	1
Group as plaintiff	18	4	4	--
group as accused	1	2	1	1
<i>T= Total , I = in favour, A= Against favour</i>				

Table no. 4 shows trend in civil suits. (usually, law-suits dealing with ownership of khas land-water bodies and the right to ownership) and in suits for persecution of women. Groups as plaintiffs number more than groups accused by 31%. Except in 1 case, in all other women persecution cases the groups filed the cases as plaintiffs. In criminal cases percentage of groups as plaintiff is 23% less opposition groups. This trend is a solid evidence of positive awareness of the landless groups of their rights and their ability to engage in legal fight to realise those. The analyses of settled cases reveal that in civil and women persecution cases justice and rights of the members have been ensured. In civil cases 100% verdict was given in favour of landless group reinforcing the fact that the cases are filed by the powerful coterie simply for harassing the less powerful group members.

This is analysed in *graph - 5*. First thing to observe is that, gradually the trend



for total settlement of cases has a downward turn. The verdict of settled cases percentage-wise was moving downward in 2007-08 but in 2008-09 a rise is noticeable in the trend.

Secondly, an upward trend of taking cases to legal flora is noticeable as there is mounting evidence of gagging shalish procedure by the powerful offenders.

In 2008-09, however, this trend in taking legal aid is taking a downward turn.

**Reasons:**

In the activity year comparatively in Rajshahi division's Raigong area a rights based movement oriented volatile atmosphere prevailed due to national and upazilla elections. A strong movement developed on Sonaidanga khas water body. As a result 16 new cases were filed in this area alone. In two cases Nijera Kori staff's siblings were accused and anchal president was arrested and jailed. That is why the number of new cases in Rajshahi division is high. There are more civil cases filed by the groups because of physical assault on members, torching, murder, rape, abduction and assault on members within court premise.

<b>BOX-5 Characteristics of the cases</b>
<i>The cases have been categorised in three broad categories- such as criminal, civil and women persecution cases.</i>
<b>Criminal cases</b>
Abduction-21, Terrorism-24, physical violence-37, counterfeit documents-7, theft/dacoity-20, extortion-19, threat of murder/ intimidation/ harrassment-14, deceit-10, looting of paddy-39, violence relating to occupation of khas land-86.
<b>Women persecution cases</b>
Physical persecution-35, abortion due to persecution-2, demand for fathering the child-6, rape-12, child rape-12, rape and murder-4, murder of women-17, women trafficking-3, dowry-25, divorce-20, demand for maintance-26, polygommy-10, child marriage-2.
<b>Civil cases</b>
Khas land-108, Boya's claim-4, DCR-4, khas water body-21, shrimp gher-16, own land-56.

**Lesson learnt:**

As numbers of cases on trial have increased the government has taken initiative to increase the number of court so that the cases can be settled promptly. It is necessary to arrange strong follow up of the cases to ensure early fair settlement so that pressure of pursuing prolonged litigation on the group is reduced. In movement based areas it is necessary to have open discussions with the members about the risk factors so that the groups can prepare themselves for consequences.

## 4.2 Educational activities:

Children from poor families are getting involved in physical labour due to shortage of government schools in remote villages and lack of any initiative to establish any school. As a result, a number of children are being deprived of their right to education. Landless organisation on moral principles has been demanding right to a uniform secular education system. On the other hand, groups are involved in conducting educational activities through establishing school for creating educational opportunities for the deprived children.

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### **Box-6: Actual position of the Educational Institution**

Out of 30 schools (set up by the landless organisation, 18 have been registered, 6 schools have received from DD's Office (*Deputy Director*) temporary sanction, 3 schools have received government sanction for teaching, of the 4 junior schools, registration of 2 schools is complete, but it has not been included in the M.P.O. (*Monthly Payment Order*) registration process is ongoing for another school.

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## Achievement analysis:

The landless organisation conducts educational activities with required fund collected by themselves. They manage the activities themselves. They are operating total 30 primary schools, 4 lower secondary and one night school. The numbers of students in secondary and lower secondary is 23,735 (*girls 12,800 and boys 10,935*) excluding night school. In the activity year it increased by

2,393 students (*girls 1,251 and boys 1,144*) which is 22% higher than previous year. But in the activity year total 538 students (*girls 253 and boys 285*) dropped out from school. It may be mentioned that in the activity year the total number of students with stipend is 218 (*girls 90 and boys 128*) which is 32% less than last year. These students rejected madrasa education and joined regular school.

Table-5 Education activities

Description	Number of schools and students			
	Number	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary	30	9,492	11,234	20,234
Lower secondary	4	1,443	1,566	3,009
Night school	1	55	38	93
Total No. of students with stipend		4,207	7,227	11,434

Besides, in primary schools among the fresher the number of girl student is more than boy students. In the lower secondary school the fresher are almost in equal number of boys and girls. (*Only 1 boy student is more*) Unbridled access of girls to formal education, the importance of women's education and equal opportunity for men and women in education sector are positive achievements. In the char areas of Noakhali where the government is thinly present, the members are starting 2 primary schools. Above all, in the activity year total 812 students (*girls 513 and boys 299*) were enrolled for stipend. It may be mentioned that in the activity year the members spent taka 1,47,533 from group savings for education which is more than past year. From this taka 11,300 was spent to repair school buildings. The rest was given to assist poor students who could not afford admission fees, school fees, registration fees and buy necessary accessories such as books, paper, pencils etc.

## Reasons

Since last two years government stopped registration of schools by regulation. As a result the registration process of the school could not be completed. A large number of children dropped out from schools due to abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities and rise in the cost of food items.



### 4.3 Livestock vaccination activities

#### Achievement analysis

Due to inefficiency of government officials engaged in livestock sector the ordinary people in remote char areas are deprived of any benefit provided by the government. In this situation in two activity areas, remote and away from upazila

sadar, namely Paikgacha and Charjabbar, the group members have started vaccination and treatment of their livestock at their own initiative. Besides, to encourage the group members to rear

livestock in indigenous method a training course was began in Nongola training centre as an experiment. In this training the Nijera Kori staff assists only in maintaining liaison with upazila sadar, for collecting the medicine and vaccination and in administering them. Compared to last year more livestock have been vaccinated. In the activity nearly 8,348 families have benefited from this activity.

Description	Achievement
Vaccination	22,642
Treatment	4,959

### 4.4 People's community watch committees and its activities

In the activity year the staff and members jointly participated in a work-shop to analyse the activities of the experience of the watch-dog committee that was conducted on experimental basis, to determine the scope and structure of their activities. The policy of the watch-dog committee and method of operation was finalised in the workshop. According to this policy a watch-dog committee will be formed with the co-ordination of 6 sub-committees at a union level. A Union committee will co-ordinate and conduct the activities of the watch-dog sub-committees. The sub-committees are the following (1) Health, (2) Education, (3) Access to natural resources (*Land, water*) (4) Local development, (5) Fundamentalism, (6) Women.

#### Achievement analysis

In the activity year, on experimental basis, the watch-dog sub-committees regularly collected information, disseminated the information to landless group, and thus played an important role to ensure the responsibility and accountability of people's representatives, government and non-government organisations. The watch-dog committees also physically monitored their activities. Analyses of numerical achievement based on sub-centers are:

**Health sector:** 178 people were admitted in government hospitals who were unable to get admitted despite their numerous attempts. 7 new vaccination centers in remote and scattered areas were opened, and 16 vaccination centers were better managed. Moreover, the list of medicines were displayed on the wall, and updated for public knowledge and attendance of doctors was ensured.

**Educational sector:** The members filled the grounds of two schools by offering free labour voluntarily. They succeeded in getting sanction of stipend for one school through discussion with the Upazila education officer who visited the place in person. About 119 students who were dropped from the list for stipend were included. The group re-admitted 78 students who had previously stopped going to school. Board fees were given for filling up S.S.C. examination papers to 11 poor students. In 6 primary schools books were distributed, admission fees were given and some irregularities were stopped.

**Access to natural resources:** 648 share-croppers were enlisted for getting agricultural subsidy, 12 non-operational tube-wells were repaired and in the costal area 2 deep tube-wells and 4 normal tube-wells were fixed. In two water-logged areas arrangement was made for drainage.

**Local development:** Public toilets were built in 3 bazars. Above all in 100 days work programme 587 persons who were wrongfully dropped from the list were again enlisted and the activities of the management staff were monitored.

**Fundamentalism:** 13 girls' students were again admitted in school. 95 pregnant mothers were vaccinated regularly. Though there was family restraint among them about having the delivery in hospital even then 15 pregnant mothers were admitted in hospital 3 pregnant mothers were enlisted for safe pregnancy grant. Besides, various irregularities and corruptions were revealed before the public. These are positive aspects of getting access to government services and establishing rights.

#### **4.5 Follow-up activities- Information Centre:**

To strengthen advocacy activities, in Khulna an information centre is operating to collect data and disseminate them. As a result, gradually more information are being collected and are being publicised on industrial shrimp farming, violation of human rights, commercial tobacco cultivation, illegal occupation of khas land and water bodies and illegal use.

#### **5. Networking and action for advocacy:**

Nijera Kori is an activist organisation working from the grass root level. It is mainly pursuing developmental activities by organising self-sufficient, independent organisations of the bottom poor for awareness of rights and realisation of the same for their socio-economic welfare. Nijera Kori aims at enhancing combined ability of the masses so that they can establish their rights by organising continuous movements at local level to realise their demands. Such actions help create public opinion which lends strength to local-level joint initiatives and at national and international level creates pressure on the policy makers. Thus mobilisation of public opinion and bonding with the suffering poor in a social pact remains an important activity. Nijera Kori On the basis of demand of the landless group, on the issues raised by the landless group, Nijera Kori adopts and conducts advocacy activities at local, national and international level with the participation of landless organisations.

##### **5.1 Local level:**

- In the activity year landless organisations conducted 1,052 movements on local issues. The issues were women persecution- 423, resisting fundamental activities-27, establishing rights on local assets- 124 and local irregularities and corruption- 478. It may be mentioned that in total in 996 movements and agitations the landless organisations were successful in realising their goals. On the issue-based movements/agitations organised by landless organisations, local reporters, lawyers, teacher's association, political and cultural activists, elected representatives, women's organisation, development organisations, local press club, local rickshaw, bus/truck drivers/labours association and students participated actively. (*Detail in annex-J: Table-17*)

- In the activity year the landless groups participated in 6,487 opinion sharing meetings with upazila and district level government officials on local problems/issues. Of these opinions sharing meetings 1,821 meetings were held at the initiative of government officials. On the other hand 4,666 meetings were held at the initiative of landless group. These opinion sharing meetings are positive aspects of landless group's participation in, resolving local problems, gathering information, demanding and ensuring accountability. *(Detail in annex-J: Table-18)*
- In the activity year landless groups participated in 1,449 shalish. Out of these 655 shalish were organised at their initiative. On the other hand 704 shalish were organised at the joint initiative of elected representatives, powerful persons and landless organisations. In these shalishes total 3,391 (*female 877 and male 2,514*) landless leaders participated. In 123 shalishes the landless members participated as adjudicators with UP chairmen, 209 shalishes with UP members, in 43 shalishes with local teachers, in 233 shalishes with local powerful persons/matbars and in 96 shalishes with political personalities Above all, in all these shalishes total 20,226 landless members (*female 6,887 and male 13,379*) were present as observers. 32 shalishes were stopped as the issues were deemed inappropriate for consideration. Out of these in 50 incidents the victims filed cases with the assistance of relevant landless organisation. The participation of landless groups in shalish is a positive development indicating an upward movement of the landless in social system to establish justice breaking the barrier of wealth, custom and tradition. *(Detail in annex-J: Table-19)*
- At local level landless groups held 7 news conferences. In all these conferences main demands were settlement of khas land, water bodies, land rights of adivasi, women's persecution, false cases, arrest and terrorist assault, administrative and financial irregularities and corruption. The demands of the landless groups were published in local and national news papers and the level of public support was raised.

## **5.2 Activities at district and national level:**

### **Organise and participation in fact finding team**

- In the activity year Nijera Kori formed 2 fact finding teams on issues relating to physical assault within the court premises on Nijera Kori staff and landless members, false legal cases and arrest, dislodgement of landless from khas land. Some other like minded organisations such as BLAST (*Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust*), ALRD (*Association for Land Reform and Development*), BELA (*Bangladesh Environmental lawyers association*), Ain-O-Shalish Kendra, TIB (*Transparency International, Bangladesh*) also participated in the team. The fact finding team toured Nijera Kori's two activity areas namely Noakhali and Raigonj (*Sirajgonj*) on 24 and 27 April, 2008. The team gathered information from discussion with the local people, professional groups and the administration. On the basis of this information the representatives of these two groups jointly organised a press conference on 30 April, 2008 and high lighted the demands of the landless group.

- When in Rajpur union in Lalmonirhat upazilla in Sadar zilla, the minority communities dwelling on khas land were dislodged forcibly; Nijera Kori participated with the fact finding team formed by Ain-O-Shalish Kendra to investigate the incident.
- In the southern districts commercial shrimp cultivation is causing havoc to life and livelihood of the local people, violating human rights and damaging the environment. Despite this reality the government pursued formulating the policy for shrimp cultivation 2008. In this situation Nijera Kori invited the reporters demanding that the views of the local people, their experience and demand ought to be taken into consideration before formulating the policy. With the consent of the reporters Nijera Kori formed an investigation team with the staff of national level newspapers and electronic media news reporters. After the conclusion of tour of this team some news papers and electronic media flashed the demand of the local people highlighting “local farmers want to go back to farming“. This created strong pressure on the policy makers.

#### **Workshop and Seminar:**

- On 12 January 2009 a seminar was organised in Zia Hall in Khulna on “Commercial Shrimp Cultivation versus food self-reliance.” The seminar was organised at the joint initiative of three local activist platforms such as Korunamoyee Smriti Shanrakhan Committee, Dakop Upazila Nagorik Committe and Dhan-Mach-poribesh Rakhha committee Paikgacha and three national organisations namely BELA, ALRD and Nijera Kori. About 12 hundred males/females from Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts participated in the seminar. In the seminar the main paper was presented by Dr. Swapan Adnan, lecturer from National University and the mayor of Khulna City Corporation was the chief guest. After presentation of the paper, panel discussion and open discussion the elected city corporation mayor spoke on commercial shrimp cultivation and people’s right. In the seminar on the basis of analysis of local people’s experience and that of the movements it was possible to resolve through consensus that all the activities of the areas ought to be co-coordinated and united movement ought to be organised against bringing land under any threats to natural eco-system and livelihood practices of the all land holders specially the marginal and the landless.
- A follow-up workshop was organised in March, 2009 on the experience of post seminar movements and resistance. In the “mass movement against salt water and environmental friendly agriculture” workshop a coordinated strategy was discussed and developed.
- In the activity year 192 news reports were published in different local-national news papers on the demands and movements of landless relating to various issues. Among them 31 were for establishment of rights on khas land, 11 for dislodgement of illegal grabbers, 50 for resisting industrial shrimp cultivation, 2 for resisting looting of crops cultivated by the landless, 23 for establishing land rights of the adivasi, 16 against violation of human rights and 46 reports were published on fatwa, hilla marriage, rape, murder of women, dowry etc. Total 80 reports were published on the basis of

protests-movements information provided by the landless. Besides, in the activity areas of Nijera Kori reporters published 31 reports on their own initiative on various issues. Total 12 newspapers namely Daily Sangbad, Daily Prothom-alo, Banglabazar Patrika, Janokhantho, Daily Somokal, Jugnator, Manabzamin, The daily Star, New Age, The daily Independent published these news reports, These news reports have high lighted demands of the landless at national level and helped very positively in disseminating information and in creating public opinion.

- In the activity year Nijera Kori has participated in total 178 workshops, seminars, dialogues organised by other organisations. Among them at international level Nijera Kori participated in total 13 important (issues concerning land, water body, land and women, gender, right to information, environment, environmental laws, water and democracy, climate change, adivasi and land rights, abandoned property, industrial shrimp cultivation, agriculture etc.) workshops-dialogues-seminars. In all these workshops-dialogues-seminars Nijera Kori and landless members high lighted their demands.

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**BOX-7 Wider impact of movement:  
Movement against industrial shrimp cultivation is an example.**

*Since 1981 Nijera Kori started its activities in the remote coastal areas of Khulna. Among the organised landless people industrial shrimp cultivation posed as the main issue of discontent. In small activity areas movement against shrimp cultivation started in minor scale. In 1990 Wazed Ali, a non-local attempted to forcibly occupy 22 no. polder in Paikgacha Upazila's Deluty union for shrimp cultivation. The landless organisation launched a forceful movement against illegal shrimp cultivation. During protest procession, at one point, on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1990, Wazed Ali's hired band shot landless leader Korunamoyee Sardar. This did not throttle the movement of landless group. Instead, the movement gained momentum and became successful. Because of the resistance put up by the landless group only 22 no. polder is free from shrimp cultivation area. The people in the area are inspired as more than one crop is grown in the area, Besides, rearing of poultry and cattle also are sources of encouragement. Through the movement the unorganised, persecuted landless people in the area became acquainted with the landless organisation. The landless organisation regularly visits the neighbouring areas and exchange experiences. Besides, they always participate in locally organised movements. Since 1991 on every 7 November the landless organisation celebrates Korunamoyee Sardar shahid dibash with memorial gatherings and rallies. This day is regarded as the symbol of anti-shrimp cultivation movement among the people in the area. Every year the persecuted landless people from other upazila- district participate in the function. They take oath to stand unitedly in the movement against industrial shrimp cultivation. Korunamoyee Smriti Sanrankhan Committee is now a social unity or platform.*

*In 1998 movement against shrimp cultivation started in Dakop upazila's Batbunia Khal. In this movement the members of landless organisation not only participated directly, but also provided leadership. This is how combined movement gradually became stronger and wider. As a result, in last 2-3 years movement against industrial shrimp cultivation has been gaining wide momentum as social movement.*

**Result:** *In 2008-09 thousands of farmers have gone back to agriculture by stopping commercial shrimp cultivation through movements-resistance in Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira district's Dumuria, Botiaghata, Paikgacha, Dakope, Rampal, Fakirhat, Sadar, Shyamnagar, Kalikanj, Dephata, Ashashuni etc. area. As per information published on 13 April, 2009 Dakop-1,260, Paikgacha-4,395 and Botiaghata upazila-4,45 hectare total 9,900 hectares (23,959 acres) land have been released from illegal occupation of shrimp cultivators by the owners and they have gone back to agriculture.*

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### **5.3 Activities at national and international level:**

Participated in the activities of against industrial shrimp cultivation ASIA, (*Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aqua-culture*).

- From 5-7 May, 2008 Nijera Kori Participated in the "ASIA" co-ordination committee meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand. In the meeting working policy for "ASIA" was decided.
- NGO convention namely "Wetland (RAMSAR)" was held in Korea from 24 to 27 October 2008. "ASIA" (*Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aqua-culture*) participated in the convention. Parallely a colloquium was also held among partner organisations. In the dialogue "ASIA's" view, evaluation and policy regarding industrial shrimp cultivation was presented. Besides, posters, leaflet, documentary film against industrial shrimp cultivation was exhibited in the convention as a publicity drive against the cultivation. In this activity Nijera Kori participated very actively.

- From 17-18 November 2008, “ASIA” participated in the dialogue named “Shrimp certification” held in Bangkok. In the dialogue “ASIA” presented its policy-wise attitude towards industrial shrimp cultivation by presenting Lampung-Indonesia declaration. It may be mentioned that Lampung-Indonesia declaration was signed by the representatives of other countries of the world. At present this declaration has been accepted by the policy makers of the world.
- In the activity year, with the assistance of Unnayan Onneshan two IFI Watch bulletin were published on “Agricultural loan and foreign commercial bank” and “Agricultural subsidy : Government’s pledge versus international objection”. The published bulletins were distributed in the activity areas among the members and well-wishers. The published bulletins were used as materials in group meetings, workshops, training and staff schooling.
- Nijera Kori took initiative to translate and publish APWLD’s “Food Sovereignty Kit”. In the activity year the publication of “Food Sovereignty Kit” has been completed and it’s being used in training/workshop.
- On 10 September 2008, in the “U.K.-Bangladesh Climate Change Conference” Nijera Kori’s coordinator attended as government representative. A “declaration” was signed on the basis of opinion of 7 organisations from Bangladesh and U.K in an agreement signed by U.K and Bangladesh regarding “Climate Change”. The organisations who signed are Caritas-Bangladesh, Christian Aid-U.K, Drishtipat-U.K, Nijera Kori-Bangladesh, Practical Action-U.K, Tearfund-U.K, Centre for global change-Bangladesh. The main demand is that in view of climate change this assistance should be considered as right and compensation.
- Nijera Kori provided grass root people and policy makers of developed countries opportunity to interact as its regular activity. This year a German parliamentary team visited Nijera Kori activity area in Khulna. They exchanged views with male-female groups in Paikgacha area’s Kazi’s Hula village in Khulna district’s Dumuria upazila. In the opinion sharing discussion the group members presented their experience and the negative impact of commercial shrimp cultivation. The parliamentary team had first hand information about the life and livelihood of grass-root people, infringement on their rights, their insecurity and the resistance movements undertaken by the landless men and women to establish their rights.

## 5.4 Networking and alliance

### Expansion of Networking and alliance

- In the activity year Nijera Kori participated in the universal periodic review (UPR) activities. In total 17 organisations participated to form one network to co-ordinate and conduct the activities. Some of these are development and human rights organisations such as Forum on UPR and other organisations were established for women's rights, labour rights etc. On behalf of the network report was formulated, opinions were exchanged, seminar was organised, public opinion was gathered and published and it was presented to the United Nations' UPR review committee. Besides, Nijera Kori participated actively in the news conference and opinion sharing discussions based on the report by the government officials and other agencies. At present continuous advocacy activities are on going on behalf of the network.
- CRC Trust, for the first time in Bangladesh concluded on-line law and trial related data-base chancery law chronicles activities. Nijera Kori and CRC Trust jointly organised the inaugural function of the on-line data-base. The on-line data-base will enhance awareness among people in law and will aid in establishing justice.

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#### **BOX-8 what is UPR**

*The UPR is a new mechanism whereby the human rights record of all States will be studied over a period of 4 years. This new process allows for input from NGOs and other civil society actors at different stages in the UPR processes.*

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### 6. Research and publication activities:

Although research is not the main activity of Nijera Kori still for reasons of impact analysis and the need for constant review of strategy in view of burning socio-economic issues, research has become integral to its core activities. In order to make the demands of landless group forcefully supported, their needs and discontent based on hard information and not mere impression Nijera Kori commissions research or partners with others as it also undertakes action research internally.

- With the joint initiative of Nijera Kori, ALRD and SAMATA the follow up research on the harassment of the minorities by state authorities in league with the influential land grabbers was concluded. In a seminar on 14 May 2008 the publication ceremony of the research was celebrated.
- With the assistance of Unnayan Anneshan research activities on "Accumulation, Land Transactions and The Agrarian Transition in Bangladesh" was concluded. In-house follow up discussion was started.
- In 2005 Nijera Kori concluded activities on a case study on commercial shrimp cultivation. This year follow-up to the case study, a number of activities were planned and implemented.
- Nijera Kori remained involved in promotion of young students in their research through support provided to young scholars visiting as interns. This year Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts student Destry Maria Sibley



worked on Nijera Kori for her graduation thesis on development. She lived in the activity areas and concluded her activities to complete the thesis “Contesting Poverty, Patriarchy and Patronage: grassroots development and the ultra poor of rural Bangladesh”.

- The access Initiative (TIA). It is a world-wide net-work. On behalf of this network a research report activity is being conducted on “Access to information, Participation and Justice in environment decision making.” Three organisations BELA-(Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association), Nijera Kori and CDS-(*Center for Sustainable development*) are participating in conducting this activity. The final report is under preparation.
- A seminar was organised by HDRC (*Human Development and Research Centre*) on the Bengali translation of “Development as conscientization: The case of Nijera Kori in Bangladesh.” In the seminar the cover story of the published book and it’s main theme was presented to national level intellectuals, teachers, researchers, development workers and interested university students.
- A national seminar to present information derived from research found with the assistance of HDRC (*Human Development and Research Centre*) on “Contract Farming in Bangladesh: Political Economy of Tobacco Cultivation and Processing” was planned and preparation initiated to hold it.

#### **7. Planning, monitoring and evaluation:**

Normally Nijera Kori conducts planning in three stages. First, group annual meeting, representative meetings, workshops, committee meetings and experience sharing tours are held. Through this process of reflective experience sharing the next course of action is adopted in the format of a strategy and plan in a group convention.

Nijera Kori keeps on constantly evaluating its own activities and timely completion of planned actions. The monitoring system in place generates regular information through field staff which is collated at the centre. The results are disseminated from time to time either through revised action plan or general instructions on specific issues. It is shared with groups and organisations through discussion and seminars etc.

In regular monitoring and evaluating the landless organisation participates and carries out it’s own responsibility. Secondly, for discussing the activities of the staff weekly sub-centre meetings are held, then regular monthly area meetings, bi-monthly divisional and quarterly executive committee meetings are held. Besides, staff representative meetings, staff representative’s field tour, experience sharing visit are conducted. Above all, through divisional staff convention, central staff convention and council meeting all the staff participate in the discussion of the activities and make their inputs. Thirdly, the agreed activities are reflected upon and evaluated from time to time through General and Governing body meetings, and external evaluators through field visits by representatives of donor- partner organisations, partner meetings and above all by individual researchers.

## **7.1 Participation and role of landless organisation in planning, monitoring and evaluating:**

- In the activity year two work-shops were held with the participation of both Nijera Kori staff and groups for reviewing, modifying and finalising activities, policy and strategy. In the two days long first workshop 20 groups and 20 staff total 40 (*half male, half female*) participated from the entire activity area. In the first workshop both policy and organisational activities were deliberated upon based on the activities of, Nijera Kori and landless organisations. These issues were finalised as a result.
- In the second workshop the elected members and nominated staff of sub-centres in the four divisions where watch committees conduct activities participated. In the workshop the present activities of watch committees were evaluated and what needed to be done was decided after looking into the strength and weakness of strategy and action. Through this the participants finalised structure and the names of the committees, their purpose, and mode of operation, activity strategy, coordination accountability and policy. In Nijera Kori's decision making process the participation of landless group's beneficial impact was also discussed.
- In total 10,084 groups (*female 5488 and male 4596*) through annual group meeting analysed and evaluated group activities and formed activity policy for the next year utilising past year's experience as a base.
- At village, union, upazila and area level in total 367 group conventions to discuss and evaluate over all activities were organised The related committees, on the basis of shared experience formulated respective total policy for the area.
- In various activity areas the group members actively participated and decided organisational activities, evaluated policies, scrutinised group's strength-weakness, identified, evaluated the issues and the risk factors , and then decided the course of action through 977 representative meetings, 796 joint group meetings and 158 group workshops. As a result new issues were included for planning and activities worked out with the full participation of the members.

## **7.2 Participation and role of staff in planning monitoring evaluation process**

- Group annual planning and village based planning strategy is adopted after elaborate discussion on group planning in sub-centres which forms the basis of draft planning. In area meeting the staff evaluates the entire activities, identify strength and weaknesses of those, issues under discussion, isolate risk factors and decide next course of action. Afterwards, in a continuous manner elected staff representatives meetings like weekly sub-centre meeting, area monthly meeting, bi-monthly divisional parishad meeting and quarterly executive meeting regularly are held. In these regularly held meetings the representatives analyse, evaluate and decide the actions, reviews plan and adds to or subtracts from the list of actions to respond to the needs thus making it more rational, realistic and effective.

- In the activity year, for in depth analysis and evaluation of activities experience sharing tours were organised at staff level by the centre. Staff from one division stayed in the sub-centre of another division for a week and evaluated and analysed the activities, organisational strength-weakness, new issues, risk, strategy for overcoming the risk and charted the actions to be taken. This was later used as a lesson for formulating plan.
- Staff conventions were held in all the four divisions. All the staff in the divisions participated unitedly in evaluating the activities. In the convention the staff went through the same exercise but in a larger forum. They analysed the strength-weakness, strategy for combating risks and identified actions to be adopted. A divisional plan was adopted after collating all areas plans. Later on in the bi-annual central staff convention Nijera Kori's annual plan was adopted after scrutinising and evaluating four divisional plans and putting all of these in a macro frame.
- 2 elected staff representatives' meetings were held to evaluate and propose strategy and actions for the programme. In these' meetings details of group activities, training, cultural activities, movement etc. were discussed, strength-weakness analysed and necessary actions proposed.
- In the activity year twice organisational and training cell meetings were held. As a result organisational and training activities were evaluated, strength-weakness analysed and necessary actions for adoption were considered.

### **7.3 Analysis of activities and participation of executive body and other organisations in evaluation process**

- Nijera Kori's General body and annual meetings were held for evaluating progress. On quarterly basis regular Executive body meetings were held to provide its recommendations to the General body. In the annual General Body meeting proposed activity plan and budget was approved. On the basis of planning and budget approved by the General body, the Executive body worked out the quarterly budget, reviewed the action plan before implementation started. The members working through a rigorous evaluation gave positive direction for achieving the desired goal.
- In the activity year, on 1st March, 2009, a day-long partners' meeting was held. Representatives of D.F.I.D, E.E.D, The Swallows and Canadian CIDA among others participated. The representative of Manusher Janno Foundation attended as an observer. In the meeting activities from 2007-08 and April 2008-January 2009 were discussed. Besides, proposed activity plan and budget from March 2009-April 2010 were considered.

## **8. Administration and infrastructure development**

### **Construction of the infrastructure**

Nijera Kori takes initiative, on the basis of activity area's need to expand or renovate the infrastructure for facilitating implementation of programme activities. Physical construction of training center and area office is given priority in implementation. Besides, in remote, scattered areas sub-centres are constructed as these facilities are needed to start any work. These works are undertaken through Committees formed in each area of operation. These committees also manage the purchase of local assets, renovation of facilities, new construction and sundry supplies. In the activity year the following construction was undertaken -

- Pirgonj sub-centre office was constructed in Rajshahi division.
- Dhanbari area office under the Dhaka division was completed.

### **9. Financial account**

- In the activity year 75 staff were recruited in the organisation (*female 23 and male 52*). Above all, in total 52 staff (*female 20 and male 32*) left the organisation. 31 staff left before they were made permanent. At present the number of staff consists of 484 persons (*female 146 and male 228*). Out of total staff 112 persons (*female 13, male 99*) performed their responsibilities as volunteer.
- This year Nijera Kori received taka 123,406,255.670 from various organisations as programme financial assistance. The expenditure amounted to taka 130,427,369.95 the excess having been financed from the local sources.

## 10. KEY RESULTS AND IMPACTS

The activities of Nijera Kori are making concrete and tangible impacts in the life of the landless group members, encompassing their individual, familial, social and political spheres. The achievements/results of Nijera Kori's activities are herewith presented under 4 (*four*) outputs based on precise indicators.

<b>Outcome 1</b> Rights of the organised landless is established in the working areas through strengthened organisational and mobilization capacities of NK at social and economic spheres
<b>Indicator</b> 1.1 Economic base of landless group members strengthened through greater accumulation of collective capital and increased revenue from collective investments. 1.2 Increased success of the landless in collective bargaining for living wages. 1.3 Increased success of members to collective resources to meet economic and family crisis. 1.4 Cumulative increase in the amount of land recovered for landless and marginal farmers 1.5 Increased leadership of landless group members in conflict mediation 1.6 Increased number of children of landless group members attends Schools 1.7 Increased voice of the organised landless against religious fundamentalism, corruption, violation of rights ( <i>including that of women and indigenous people</i> ) and injustice

### Achievements:

**1.1.1 Accrual of collective assets through group savings:** The group members collected a total of 17,903,176 taka during the reporting year, which significantly added to cumulative amount of group savings. The cumulative savings of the group members, at present, stands at 50,734,143 taka. In this way, by taking the responsibility for collection and preservation of savings, they try to attain self-reliance to overcome their dependency on moneylenders. They also fund educational and social welfare activities, deal with unforeseen crisis and afford legal aid from the group savings (*Detail in annex-J: table 7*).

**1.1.2 Increased participation of the groups in joint economic activities:** In total 954 groups (*male 467 and female 487*) have undertaken joint economic activities, which is 21% higher than the last year's achievement. Also the participation of female groups in joint economic activity is significantly higher than last year, which is an indication of increased economic empowerment of female group members. During the reporting year, the landless groups have invested a total of 8,083,867 taka from group savings. At present, in total 4,668 groups (*male 2,477 and female 2,191*) are managing joint economic activities as well as investment activities from their group savings. These activities are empowering the landless members economically and helping them to stand on their own, most importantly without contracting any loan—either from banks or the traditional money lenders at exorbitant rate. The other big beneficial effect is that these activities are serving as catalyst in cementing their community spirit and belief in the cause of joint actions. (*Detail in annex table-J:9*)

**1.1.3 Increased livelihood security of the group members:** The group members have realised a profit of 3,151,642 taka from their joint economic activities. This profit is particularly useful for the poor and landless members and has significantly contributed in increasing their livelihood security. To counter financial crisis, in the activity year they distributed fund in equal proportion among the members with group consensus. In combating temporary financial crisis the use of group saving is definitely a positive step in their economic empowerment. Besides, the landless groups are also conducting their activities such as group yearly convention, workshop, training, movement and law-suits, which is an indication of achieving self-sufficiency (*Detail in annex table-J: 9*).

**1.1.4 More employment opportunity for the group members:** The joint economic activities of the group members have created employment for 18,025 persons for maximum time of the year, compared to 17,808 persons last year. Out of this total number 11,080 were male and 6,945 were female (*Detail in annex table-J:9*)

**1.2.1 Increased success for the group members in ensuring higher wage rates:** During the year a total of 69 ( 23 in 2006-07) wage related claims were settled which contributed to a daily wage increase of average 8 taka of 21,500 daily labourers. The number of wage movement has increased than last year. Also those movements changed more people's life and livelihood condition than past year's achievement (*Detail in annex-I: cases studies and table-J: 17*).

**1.3.1 More self-initiative by the group members in solving their financial problems:** The group members, by their own decisions, equally distributed TK. 13,315,393 from their savings to invest in their agricultural activities, which is 55% higher from past year. Other than enabling them to withstand adverse economic situations, this is also a good indication of their increased awareness and empowered status. Due to increased capabilities and collective economic strength they are now able to overcome financial crisis by self initiatives (*Detail in annex-J: table 7*).

**1.3.2 Increased group solidarity and collective initiatives in reducing their familial problems:** The group members spent a total of 696,592 taka (4% higher than last year) to pay for health care, education support, contributing towards marriage ceremony, which is without dowry and for other family needs. They also spent a further 1,045,888 taka (30% higher than last year) for various organisational activities and movements, legal actions leading to ensure rights and solving their family crisis-problems. Both of these increasing trends are a significant positive indication towards attaining self-reliance and initiatives for reducing their problems. If a member faces any problem, the other members are actively extending their hands in support of the aggrieved member which indicate their collective mentality and capability in confronting adverse situations (*Detail in annex-J: table 16*).

**1.4.1 Success in evicting illegal occupants:** The group members have been able to recover an area of 873.68 acres of land of the poor and marginalised farmers from illegal occupants, which is 398% higher than

previous year. Out of these 873.68 acres, 856.03 acre of land was recovered from illegal shrimp farms. This significant success of the landless movements are an indication of landless people's organisational strengthens and increased empowered status to and protect themselves against illegal power holder, elites and jotedar. Such success also led to ensure land rights of marginalised by evicting illegal occupants from their won resources (*Detail in annex-J: table 21*).

**1.5.1 Strong participation of the landless in the village salishes (alternative dispute resolution) as judge:** In total 3,391 (2,514 male and 877 female) group members took part as judge in 1,449 village *salishes*. It is also noteworthy that in roughly half of these *salishes*, group members took their seats as judge alongside elected representatives of local governments, professionals and local elites. This is a very positive indication of the recognition of landless leadership and power sharing within the society. It is to be noted that, the number of participation is less than the past year. But the number of *salishes* on family conflict reduced from previous year. This is important positive indication for building peaceful communities and improving relationship among their family (*Detail in annex-J: table 19*).

**1.5.2 Improved quality of judgment due to role played by the landless group members in village salishes:** Due to the firm position of the landless group members, 50 cases of *salishes* stopped, which were found as criminal offences. Out of these cases victims filed 32 cases in the formal court. It is to be noted that, (*according to ratio of legal action out of total stop cases*) in the present year number of legal action taken out of total stopped *salishes* is 18% higher than the last year. The village *salishes* which are usually controlled and commandeered by the local influential people are increasingly recognising the leadership of the landless member (*Detail in annex-J: table 19*).

**1.6.1 Increase in the number of students in school:** There are in total 23,243 students (10,935 boys and 12,800 girls) in the schools run by the group members, an increase of 2,393 students (1,142 boys and 1,252 girls) from the previous year. This is mostly as a result of increased awareness of the group members. What is even more remarkable is the bigger number of attendance of girls in schools.

**1.7.1 Increased continuity and quality of Issue-based Movements:** The group members organised 1,052 movements to establish their rights. In 996 cases, they have been able to achieve their demands. The number of movement is slightly less than last year. The case studies prove that the continuity and quality of movement has increased which is very positive indication. Also the landless groups have raised all the issues within the society. Specially, landless groups achieved significant results during the year on adivashi land rights, violence against women and against corruption which indicates towards ensuring transparency and accountability. These movements are not only limited within the group members, common people are also participating in most of these movements remarkably. The benefits of movements led to increased access, reduced exclusion and establishment of rights for all of the deprived local community (*Detail in annex-J: table 17*).

**Outcome 2:** Greater equity between women and men at family and community level for landless group members.

**Indicator**

- 2.1 Increased access of Nijera Kori female members to organisational leadership
- 2.2 Increased access to justice for women survivors of violence
- 2.3 Increased access of women to savings, khas land and economic resources
- 2.4 The stereotype image of women at community space is challenged by increased participation of women in salish, bazaar committees, school committees etc. local bodies
- 2.5 Increased mens' participation on women issues
- 2.6 Number of times the landless group members approached by other social actors regarding violence against women.

**Achievements:**

**2.2.1 More women in organisational leadership positions:** 482 women representatives have been elected and are providing competent leadership in the various committees at village, union, upazila and area levels. In the present year the number of elected women representative is 20% higher than last year. This is a clear reflection of increased women leadership capability, acceptance of women leadership and their empowerment and sets a positive trend of acceptance by men. Gradually this change led to increase gender sensitive collective leadership (*Detail in annex-J: table 22*).

**2.2.2 Increased movements raised by the male landless groups on violence against women:** Significantly in the activity year 16% more movements on violence against women were raised and organised by the male groups indicating a positive change of attitude. In the activity year landless group organised 423 successful movements/protests on violence against women. The number of movements is 2% less from previous year. Because in 2006-2007 some of the movements were on going therefore 26 numbers of movements added from past year in the year of 2007-2008. These movements were even organised outside the working areas of Nijera Kori which led to strengthen linkage beyond the overall communities (*Detail in annex-J table 17*).

**2.2.3 More active role of the landless peoples in demanding fair justice and treatment:** The landless group members played an active role in 687 *salishes* organised on issues related to violence against women. The positive indication is that in 2% more cases satisfactory fair justice was meted out than last year. On the other hand the number of *salishes* is 17% less than last year. The members also stopped 30 *salishes* when it was found that as criminal offences these cases were not justified to be tried in salish. Such pro-active and collective actions of the landless groups, comprising both male and female, are proving to be very conducive in ensuring fair justice on violence against women (*Detail in annex-J: table 19*).

**2.2.4 Legal action for fair justice of the women:** 30 *salishes* were stopped due to active role of the group members as adjudication of criminal cases did not fall within the scope of *salishes* (*alternative dispute resolution*).



Out of these 30 cases, 18 cases have been filed in formal court. The remaining cases are under process to be filed in court. This is positive indication for ensuring fair justice for marginalised women (*Detail in annex-J: table 19*).

**2.3.1 Women members are gaining stronger position in group savings:**

During the activity year, the women members have collected a total of taka 9,614,786 taka from their savings. At the end of March 2009 sum total of female groups savings was taka 30,428,548 which is 60% of total group savings. During the reporting period female members distributed taka 7,221,067 from their savings among them which is 75 % higher than last year. This is very significant indication of overcoming immediate crisis through reaching self sustainability of female members. The collection and management of savings by the women members will further strengthen their management capabilities and economic empowerment in the family as well as community (*Detail in annex-J: table 7*).

**2.3.2 Increased participation of the women groups in joint economic activities:**

During the activity year, 487 female groups undertook joint economic activities from their group savings which is 38% higher than previous year. At present 2,200 female are running joint economic activities from their group savings and have reaped a total profit of 1,193,853 taka. This is very positive indication of economic empowerment of female members (*Detail in annex-J: table 9*).

**2.3.3 Increased economic empowerment and job opportunities:**

The joint economic activities run by the female groups have created job opportunities for 336 female members, most of the time round the year, which is 3% higher than previous year. This trend contributes to the gradual increase of employment opportunity which led to secure economic position of female members (*Detail in annex-J: table 9*).

**2.3.4 Increased access of women members in the registration of khas land:**

In the activity year, 106 female headed families received registration of 71.10 acres of khas land in their name, which is 41% higher than the last year. This success indicates ensuring shelter security and livelihood opportunities of the female headed households (*Detail in annex-J: table 20*).

**2.3.5 Establishment of female member's possession over khas land:**

241 female members successfully established their possession on 317.17 acre of khas land during the activity year. Out of the total achievement regarding possession female success is 43% (*Detail in annex-J: table 20*).

**2.4.1 Increased strong role of the women members in salishes:**

In total, 877 women members played the role of judge in various village *salishes* (*the total number was 3,391, out of which 2,514 are male and 877 are female*). Female participation as judge increased during this by 4% than last year. Female participation as judge in beyond the women issues indicate strong leadership of female members in the society. Most remarkable reflection is that female members played their role with active boldness along side the male members who are often the most influential persons in the community (*Detail in annex-J: table 19*).

**2.4.2 More active role as observer of salish:** 6,887 female members played the role of observers in various *salishes* and contributed in ensuring fair justice for the victims, which is 2% higher than last year (*in total 20,266 members participated as observers, out which 13,379 were men, with remaining women*). Their vocal role is increasingly forcing the judges to be accountable to the communities (*Detail in annex-J: table 19*).

**2.4.3 Increased participation of female in various informal and formal committees:** 173 female members have been elected and are representing in various formal and informal committees. It is to be noted that, on an average 34% higher female participation than that of previous year shows significant positive indication of female empowerment. They are distributed as the following; School Managing Committees - 56 (*all elected*), Bazaar Committee-60 (*all elected*) (131%, *higher than last year*), Union Parishad Project Management Committee-11 (*nominated*) (57%, *higher than last year*), Sluice Gate Management Committee-4 (*elected*) (300%, *higher than last year*), All-party Movement Committee formed with participation of cross sections of representatives from various professional backgrounds to claim the rights of the poor-42 (*all elected*), Furthermore, there are 37 women representatives in various thematic 'observation committees'. What is more commendable is that out of the 20 conveners for these committees, 7 are held by women (*Detail in annex-J: table 22*).

**2.4.4 Increased elected representation of female in higher elected bodies:** During the year 2 female members contested against more powerful opponents and were elected in upazila parishad (*council*). This is a clear indication of acceptance and recognition of female leadership, capabilities and empowerment within the larger society (*Detail in annex-J: table 22*).

**2.5.1 More active role of the male members to stop abuse and violence against women:** Landless groups raised total 423 issues on violence against women. Out of these 154 were raised by the male members, which is 8 % more than previous year. Besides, there was active participation of the men in all movements on the issue of violence against women which led to strengthen gender sensitive relationship between male and female group members as well as within the society (*Detail in annex-J: table 17*).

**2.6.1 Strengthened collaboration and solidarity with professional and local associations on violence against women:** During the activity year there was an important increase in the collaborative initiatives among the local professional organisations on the issue of violence against women. These associations included local Press Clubs, Teachers Associations, School Management Committees. Rickshaw pullers, Taxi Driver Association, Bus Drivers Associations, Women's Associations, Combined Cultural Alliance, Freedom Fighters Council, etc. For effectively creating a movement for the rights of the women, such collaboration is deemed extremely valuable (*Detail in annex-I: cases studies*).

**2.6.2 Strengthened collaboration with the public representatives and human rights organisations on violence against women:** For ensuring proper investigation and fair trial of cases related to violence against women, there has been an increase of collaboration with the public representatives and the human rights organisations. This collaboration is particularly strong with the local UP Chairmen, Ward Members, etc. With regard to the human rights organisations, the collaboration included joint initiatives with Ain-O-Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust (*BLAST*), Association for Land Reform and Development (*ALRD*), Transparency International, Bangladesh (*TIB*), Bangladesh Environmental lawyers association (*BELA*) and Bangladesh National Women's Lawyers Association (*BNWLA*). As well as local NOG's and activist groups.

<p><b>Outcome 3</b> Locally elected representatives and government officials are more accountable and pro-poor in their actions, as a result of pressure by landless group members</p>
<p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>3.1 Increased actions against irregularities and corruption in government schemes at local level</p> <p>3.2 Increased allotment and possession of landless on khas land and water bodies</p> <p>3.3 Increased eviction of land grabbers</p> <p>3.4 Increased access of genuinely vulnerable and deprived women and men in various social and economic safety net measures of the local government (<i>e.g. VGD, VGF, Elders Allowance, Widow Allowance, Female student-stipends etc.</i>)</p> <p>3.5 Majority of the court verdicts ensured in favor of organised landless regarding land and other human rights related cases</p> <p>3.6 Number of meeting between representatives of landless group and local government to discuss issues and concerns of the poor.</p>

### **Achievements:**

**3.1.1 Observation of corruption and irregularities:** During the activity year separate watch committees on Health, Education, Access to Natural Resources (*Land and water*), Local Development, Fundamentalism and Women were reorganised with newly included two issues of gender and fundamentalisms. The committee members collect relevant information and share with other landless groups and professional activists at local level. Also during the year cultural activists developed their drama based on relevant information to aware and develop people's opinion. This significant indication is that, through information dissemination enhance peoples' mobilisation to demand transparency and accountability. The significant achievements are as follows:

#### **Health sector:**

- Admission of 178 people in government hospitals who were unable to get admitted despite their numerous attempts.
- Opening of 7 new vaccination centers in scattered, remote areas, management of 16 vaccination centers.
- In 3 health centers the list of medicines on the wall was updated and attendances of doctors were ensured.

#### **Educational sector:**

- The landless members succeeded in getting sanction of stipend of one school through discussion with the Upazila education officer who visited the place in person.
- 119 students who were dropped from the list for stipend were included.
- The group re-admitted 78 students who had previously stopped going to school.
- 218 students admitted in general education who are back from in Madrasha.
- Board fees were given for filling up S.S.C. examination papers to 11 poor students.
- In 6 primary schools books were distributed, admission fees were given and some irregularities were stopped.

**Agriculture:**

- 648 share-croppers were enlisted for getting agricultural subsidy.
- 12 non-operational tube-wells were repaired and in the costal area 2 new deep tube-wells and 4 shallow tube-wells were fixed.
- In two water-logged areas arrangement was made for drainage.

**Local development:**

- Government bathrooms were built in 3 bazars.
- Above all in 100 days employment programme 2,587 persons who were dropped from the list were again enlisted and the activities were monitored.

**Fundamentalism:**

- 13 girls' students were again admitted in school.
- 90 girls' students admitted in general school who are back from in Madrasha.
- 95 pregnant mothers were vaccinated regularly.
- Though there was family restraint among them about having the delivery in hospital even than 15 pregnant mothers were admitted in hospital 3 pregnant mothers were enlisted for safe pregnancy grant.

**3.1.2 Continue movement by the landless peoples in stopping corruption and irregularities at local level:** In the activity year, the landless peoples' organisations held a total of 478 movements against corruption. Members and non members of the local community participated in these movements under the leadership of landless groups (*Detail in annex-J: table 17*).

**3.1.3 Investigation against irregularities/corruption and administrative actions taken against the corrupt government officials:** As a result of the movements of the landless people, the government carried out 6 investigations (*100 days employment programme, agricultural subsidy, water bodies, child marriage, educational stipend and earth work and wages*), which is 4 more than the last year. Till March 2009 the government has taken 2 administrative actions out of total 6. This has been taken as a good example in all corners of the government and as a result, people are getting regular government services without any hassles (*Detail in annex case studies-I: and J: table 7*).

**3.2.1 More access of the landless peoples in the registration of khas lands:** 191 families received allotment of 164.11 acres of khas land and the process has been completed which is respectively 2% higher in numbers of families and 591% in amounting of land. This is a positive initiative for the life, shelter and livelihood security of the poor and the disadvantaged (*Detail in annex-J: table 20*).

**3.2.2 Increased Inclusion of the landless in the allotment process of khas lands:** As a result of relentless protests and movements of the landless peoples, the name of 268 families have been included in the allotment register of khas lands and a considerable number of well off families were taken out from the register. Number of this type of cases is 18% higher than last year. This has reduced the intrigue played by the local elite to usurp more khas lands and established greater accountability and transparency in the distribution of khas lands.

- 3.3.1 Decrease in the illegal occupation of marginal families' own land:** With the help of the landless organisations and movements 141 marginal families have been able to recover 17.65 acres of khas land. The achievement ratio is 44% higher than last year which is gradually reducing illegal occupation of marginal land of families in the society. Such cases, while helping to regain the land rights of the marginal families over their own lands, have also been contributing in reducing illegal occupation of the influential (*zotdars*) over such lands (*Detail in annex-J: table 21*).
- 3.4.1 Recovery of misappropriated funds:** During the activity year, landless people had to take the action for recovery of TK 15,249,428 from Government -non Government development project, wages service sector and crop pillage. The achievement is largely higher than previous year. The success of landless groups indicates in reduction of corruption and irregularities. Also the achievements contribute to improve the livelihood condition of landless (*Detail in annex-I: cases studies*).
- 3.4.2 Gradually inclusion of the landless peoples in government safety net programmes:** An additional 23,061 families (*female 12,351 and male 10,710*) have been included in the activity year for VGD (*vulnerable group development*), VGF (*vulnerable group feeding*), old age pension, Widow Pension, Freedom Fighter's pension and special relief which is 73% higher than previous year. Out of this, 17,587 members of landless groups (*female 9,166 and male 8,421*) received their cards at the initiative of Union Councils. On the other side 5,474 families (*female 3,185 and male 2,289*) received only after movements, which is 20% more than last year. It is worth mentioning that in the movements of the landless organisations, the Union Councils were forced to include the above persons. Most remarkably, because of the movements of the landless people, in total the names of 1,864 persons had to be deleted from the list of such programmes. This is a clear indication of growing empowerment of the landless and the marginalised (*Detail in annex-J: table 15*). .
- 3.5.1 Strengthened position of the landless in getting fair justice in the court of law:** Of the total 49 cases settled, verdicts came in favour of the landless organisations in 45 cases. During activity year the percentage of favorable case is 21% higher than last year. Also in the activity year landless groups filed 59 cases mostly on violence against women and land-water rights. A very significant trend is that landless groups are taking legal action by their own initiative for ensuring their rights. Most importantly, of the 660 cases of legal fights, the landless organisations are running 375 cases by themselves. For this, they have spent an amount of 421,340 taka from their group savings which shows an increasing trend from last year and landless groups are becoming self-reliant (*Detail in annex-J: table 14*).
- 3.5.2 Dialogue and advocacy for ensuring transparency and accountability:** In total 6,522 meetings/dialogues were organised between the representatives of the landless organizations to solve various local problems, government officials and local peer groups which is 5% higher than previous year. 1,834 such meetings/dialogues were held at the initiative of the government, whereas the remaining 4,688 meetings were convened at the initiative of the landless organisations. The meetings/dialogues were immensely beneficial in ensuring the collective efforts, coordination, accountability and rights of the poor and the landless (*Detail in annex-J: table 18*).

<b>Outcome 4:</b> A demonstrably high profile agenda of pro-poor policy reform leading to a policy debate for reform through the work of landless group members and NK
<b>Indicator</b>
4.1 Public opinion developed on land reform issues at local and national level
4.2 Networks established at national and international level against industrial shrimp aqua- culture
4.3 Strengthening a policy forum on access to water resource and its sustainable use.
4.4 Increased knowledge base for pro-poor policy review and reform
4.5 Number of Issue based media interactions held at local and national levels

## Achievements:

- 4.1.1 Integrating public opinion at local level on land reform:** Activities to build public opinion on the issue of commercial use of agricultural land, the rights of the fishermen on water-bodies, and rescinding abandoned property law were organised with the assistance of well wishers, even from outside activity areas. On the issue of land reform the spontaneous initiative to extend networking activity is a positive aspect. As a result during the activity year many farmers (*working and non working areas of 23,959 acre*) came back to agriculture from shrimp farming only in Khulna, (*Daily star dated 13 April 2009*) (*Detail in box-7*)
- 4.1.2 People raised their voice in national media on land and water:** At local level landless group organized 7 news conferences. In all these conferences main issues were khas land, water bodies and land rights of adivasi. The demands of the landless groups were published in local and national news papers.
- 4.1.3 Expressed peoples opinion and experiences to the elected representative and others:** On 12 January 2009 a seminar was organised with the participation of 1,200 people from Khulan, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts. Elected Mayor of Khulna City Corporation was expressing position against industrial shrimp cultivation. A very remarkable achievement was that three local activist platforms such as Korunamoyee sriti shanrakhan committee, Dakop Upazila Nagorik Committee and Dhan-Mach – Poribesh Rokkha Committee, Paikgacha united in developing and strengthening their movement against industrial shrimp cultivation. After this seminar they also developed coordination strategy for mass movement against industrial saline water shrimp farming through a follow up workshop.
- 4.1.4 National level joint initiative on land reform has been consolidated:** With the joint initiative of Nijera Kori, ALRD and SAMATA follow-up research and publication of book namely “Deprivation of Hindu Minority in Bangladesh: Living with Vested Property” has been concluded. In a seminar on 14 May 2008 publication ceremony of the book was celebrated. The research findings as well as participants of ceremony pertinently viewed that land reform is essential.

#### **4.1.5 Formulated fact finding team to disseminate information at national level:**

In the activity year Nijera Kori formed 2 fact finding teams to investigate on issues relating to physical assault within the court premise on Nijera Kori staff and landless members, false legal case and arrest, dislodgement of landless from khas land, with some other like minded national organisations. The fact finding teams presented their findings in press conference on 30 April, 2008 and high lighted the demands of the landless group. As part of the networking Nijera Kori also participated with the fact finding team to investigate the incident in Lalmonirhat district, sadar upazila, Rajpur union. The issue is minority communities dwelling on khas land were dislodged forcibly.

**4.2.1 Building national level network:** In the activity year Nijera Kori participated in the universal periodic review activities. To coordinate and conduct the activities total 17 organisations participated to form a network. Some of these are development and human rights organisations such as Forum on UPR and other organisations were established for women's rights, labour rights etc. On behalf of the network report was formulated, opinions were exchanged, seminar was organised, public opinion was gathered and published and it was presented to the united nation's UPR review committee and published. Nijera Kori in this network actively participated in the all activities such as conference and opinion sharing discussions based on the report by the government officials and other agencies.

**4.2.2 Strong international network developed against industrial shrimp cultivation:** On 5-7 May, 2008 Nijera Kori Participated in the "ASIA" co-ordination committee meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand. In the meeting working policy for "ASIA" was formulated.

**4.2.3 International joint activities against commercial shrimp cultivation has been extended:** NGO convention namely "Wetland (RAMSAR)" was held in Korea in 24 to 27 October 2008. "ASIA" (*Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aqua-culture*) participated in the convention. Along with the main convention (*Parallel*) dialogue was also held. In the dialogue "ASIA's" view, evaluation and policy regarding industrial shrimp cultivation was presented. Besides, posters, leaflet, documentary film against industrial shrimp cultivation was exhibited in the convention. Through these actions public opinion at international level increased and aided in building relationship with international level activist.

**4.3.1 Landless group participate in advocacy activities to establish rights of water:** During the activity year landless group held 34 dialogues with upazila and districts government officials and sought to resolve their problems. On the other side landless group organised 13 and successfully established their rights on open water bodies.

**4.3.2 Raised peoples voice on water policy:** Nijera Kori presented position at national and regional seminar and workshop against Privatization of water and raised people's voice on rights and access to water. Also Nijera Kori actively participated in the activity of regional network "Water and democracy".



**4.4.1 Discussing policy and law relating to water and identifying the short comings:** “ASIA” participated in the dialogue named “Shrimp certification” held in Bangkok on 17-18 November 2008. In the dialogue “ASIA” presented its policy attitude towards industrial shrimp cultivation by presenting Lampung-Indonesia declaration. It may be mentioned that Lampung-Indonesia declaration was signed by the representatives of other countries of the world. At present this declaration has been accepted by the policy makers of the world.

**4.4.2 Initiatives on research activities taken so that opinions of the poor can create pressure in the policy making forum:** During this year 4 research were completed on the issues of “Contract Farming in Bangladesh: Political Economy of Tobacco Cultivation and Processing” “Accumulation, Land Transactions and The Agrarian Transition in Bangladesh” “follow-up study on industrial shrimp cultivation”. These research activities report that reflect public opinion will be disseminated to policy making bodies and eventually influence them.

**4.4.3 Ensuring research findings at all level of people through local language:**

During the activity year with the help of HDRC Nijera Kori published in Bangle version and organised seminar on “Development as conscientization: *The case of Nijera Kori in Bangladesh.*” In the seminar the cover story of the published book and its main theme was presented National level intellectuals, teachers, researchers, development workers and some university students participated. Also Nijera Kori and ALRD jointly published in Bengali version the research book “Deprivation of Hindu Minority in Bangladesh: Living with Vested Property” with the intention to disseminate research findings of people at large and develop their opinion.

**4.4.4 Landless groups against Government initiatives to form new anti pro-people law:** In the southern districts commercial shrimp cultivation is causing havoc to life and livelihood of the local people, violating human rights and damaging the environment. Despite this reality the government is formulating the policy for shrimp cultivation 2008. In this situation Nijera Kori invited the reporters demanding that the views of the local people, their experience and demand ought to be taken into consideration before formulating the policy. With the consent of the reporters Nijera Kori formed a team with the media staff of national level newspapers and electronic media news reporters. After the conclusion of tour of this team some news papers and electronic media flashed the demand of the local people highlighting “local farmers want to go back to farming”. This created strong pressure on the policy makers.

**4.5.1 Increase active participation in discussing and in forming policy:** Nijera Kori participated in 234 national and international level workshops, seminars, dialogue etc which is 13% more than last year. Through these activities the views of the local poor masses, their experiences and demands and in achieving people’s support have become more active.

**4.5.2 Impact on landless group's demands and protests at local level:** 192 news reports on the protests and movements of landless group at local level have been published in 23 local, national news papers. The ratio of news publication is 20% higher than previous year. As a result, people's support and solidarity in favour of the demands of the landless group at local and national level has increased and it is positive aspect in creating pressure on the policy makers.

**4.5.3 Solidarity and support expressed by the media in issues raised by the landless:** News reporters, at their own initiative published 31 reports in 11 news papers on the issues and demands identified by the landless groups. The ratio of news publication by the media is 7% higher than previous year. These reports positively highlighted the demands of the landless groups, assisted in creating public opinion and eventually enhanced pressure.

**4.5.4 Publication of IFI (International Finance Institution) watch bulletin:** In the activity year, with the assistance of Unnayan Onneshan two IFI Watch bulletin were published named "Agricultural loan and foreign commercial bank" and "Agricultural subsidy: Government's pledge versus international objection". The published bulletins were distributed in the activity areas among the members and well-wishers. In group meeting, workshop, training and staff schooling the published bulletins were used as material.

**4.5.5 International policy forum issue-based local public opinion was focused:** On 10 September 2008, in the "U.K.-Bangladesh Climate Change Conference" Nijera Kori's coordinator attended as government representative. This is very significant participation in policy making process and raised people's voice in the decision making process.

**4.5.6 Formulate a declaration on climate change:** In the U.K.-Bangladesh Climate Change Conference a civil society group signed a position declaration on the basis of opinion of 7 organisations from Bangladesh and U.K in an agreement signed by U.K and Bangladesh regarding "Climate Change". The organisations who signed are Caritas-Bangladesh, Christian Aid-U.K, Drishtipat-U.K, Nijera Kori-Bangladesh, Practical Action-U.K, Tearfund-U.K, Centre for global change-Bangladesh. The main demand is that in view of climate change this assistance should be considered as right and compensation and this will help for future advocacy action.

**4.5.7 Landless members raised their experience with international policy maker team:** The German parliamentary team visited Nijera Kori activity area. They exchanged views with male-female groups in Paikgacha area's Kazi's Hula village in Khulna district's Dumuria upazila. In the opinion sharing discussions the members presented their experience and the negative impact of commercial shrimp cultivation. It also revealed the life and livelihood of grass-root people, infringement on their rights, their insecurity and the movements conducted by the landless males-females to establish their rights.

## **ANNEX-I**

### **A-People's action case study**

The landless organisations undertook various protests and movements in the activity areas to proclaim their rights and most importantly to resist the illegal settlement of lands. Nijera Kori is supporting the landless organisations in this struggle focused on establishing the rights of the landless people over khas lands, Furthermore, a number of movements/protests were also held to protest against the illegal tricks during the measurement of lands by the corrupt officials.

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## Case study-1

### **Right of fishing for the landless in Sonaidanga Water body: The efforts of a landless organisation to establish its rights in the face of a forcible occupation of the Sonaidanga Water body by a Jotdar and an illegal case lodged against them.**

#### *Case summary*

##### ***Establishing rights of people on Khas water-body***

*Sonaidanga water-body, area 56.68 acres. Raiganj Upazila, Sirjganj. In 1950, when permanent settlement bill was repealed, sonaidanga water-body was recorded as government khas water-body. But later on, during pre and post liberation surveys, powerful Zahir and Foyajuddin, with the assistance of local land administration got their names recorded as the legal title holders.*

*Since 2007, the landless organisation had been trying to retrieve the khas water-body for public use. They launched a movement for its release from private hands. They presented a memorandum with mass signatures to the U.N.O. for rectifying the documents. On the basis of this demand, the government undertook a full scrutiny and found out that the survey was actually tampered with.*

*Despite this, the hired band of these powerful persons continued to work for the consolidation of their illegal holding and constructed a bamboo partition in the mid-stream of the water-body to cultivate fish. This obstructed the free usage of the water body for passage and fishing. False cases were filed against Nijera Kori members and staff to harass them. When the water receded during the dry season, land on the sides of the water-body was fit for cultivation. The landless groups defied the deterrence and kept pressure on the authorities to move into action against these usurpers with continuous movements, processions, gatherings, human chain, and memorandum to the government for action. They organized support of the local people and began cultivating the land for rice.. The grabbers' hired hands attacked the members and their homesteads. They were routed out by the members who mobilized a mass resistance. Even though some of the culprits were apprehended and handed over to the police, the latter refused to accept a case against them. Instead; they accepted the case against the landless filed by the grabber. The movement then became very tense. So, another larger protest meeting was organized and a sit-in-strike was held on 25 April 2008 in the Upazilla premises. They presented a memorandum demanding the right to harvest, immediate withdrawal of false cases against landless members and declaration of the water-body as Khas water-body for the public.. The administration relented and on 30 April, 2008 the members of the landless groups cut the ripe crop in the presence of the U.N.O. and assistant superintendent of police. The administration declared Sonaidanga water-body open to all.*

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#### **Background**

An ineffective and corrupt land administration is increasingly making the legalities of land ownership more complicated. As a result, many small and marginalised farmers are losing ownership of their land. Such landless people are gradually denied access to khas land and common government properties. These marginalised farmers and landless people have become victims of forcible occupations, terrorist attacks, false accusations and cases, and harassment.

**Area:** Nolchia mouza, Dhangara union, Raiganj upazilla, Sirajganj zilla.

#### **The legal status of the body of water**

The name of this water body is Sonaidanga. Its total area is 56.68 acres. Its original owner was Bharat Samrat (*the Emperor, at present the government as*

*his successor*), but Umeshchandra Sinha became the owner of 28.34 acres of the land due to lease settlement tenure of land. After the demise of Umeshchandra Sinha, his successor, Dineshchandra Sinha, sold the land to Saleh Taher Ali Sarker and Faizuddin Sarker in 1948. In 1950, when the permanent settlement of land law was abolished, the Soanidanga water body was incorporated into government khas land. Despite this change, Faizuddin Sarker and Taher Sarker later had this water body registered under their names during a settlement survey (*State Acquisition Survey or SA survey*) with the complicity of the local land administration. After national liberation in 1971, successors of these men had this water body recorded illegally in their names during a subsequent survey. With the assistance of the land administration and through the use of false papers, the jotdar group altered the pages of a land record book so that the entire area of 56.68 acres of Sonaidanga government khas land became a private property.

### **The landless organisation's efforts to determine the legal truth**

The landless organisation collected the legal documents of the Sonaidanga water body. After scrutinising them, they found evidence that the legal papers had been made up. The landless organisation then arranged a meeting of various stakeholders in order to decide the next best course of action. The meeting decided to organise a movement to dislodge these illegal occupiers of the Sonaidanga water body and create access to everyone. Along with their movement, the landless organisation presented a memorandum with signatures from members of the public to the Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) in April of 2007. This memorandum demanded the revocation of the forged papers regarding the Sonaidanga water body. On account of this appeal from the landless organisation, a representative from the UNO visited the Sonaidanga water body area in person and held investigation as to the legality and status of documents and occupation. The investigation revealed that the landless organisation's allegation was true; the pages of the record book had indeed been tampered with. In response, the UNO sent a report and suggestion to the assistant upazilla administration. The case was number 454, from the 29th of April 2007. On the 1st of October 2007 the assistant upazilla administration sent the report to the land record office in Tejgaon to verify further the truth of the record book's forgery. The land record office also concluded that record book had been altered. As a result, on account of the landless organisation's demands, the Sonaidanga water body was legally proved to be government khas land.

### **The landless organisation's movement to regain access to the lake**

For years the people of the area, including the fishermen community, used the lake to gain a viable livelihood. However, in 2006 the Jotdar group forcibly arrested the community's fishing activities in the water body. They not only stopped the fishermen from catching fish but they also denied the rest of the community access to the water for basic agricultural purposes and other daily necessities. The group hired men to erect a bamboo barrier in the middle of the water body in order to catch fish. As a result, the general local population had no way to use the lake, nor could they travel by boat. Moreover, the people found themselves virtually water locked. As a result to this situation, the local

people wrote to the U.N.O. demanding the reopening of the water body for travel. The U.N.O. directed the concern to the local police administration so that they would take necessary action. But the thana administration of police refused to take any action. As a result, under the leadership of the landless organisation, on the 7th of October 2007, nearly 4,000 men and women held a march on the banks of the lake, demanding that the water body be reopened for their travel. The landless organisation then proceeded to uproot the bamboo barrier. The Jotdars attempted to obstruct them but failed. Instead, the Jotdars took reactive action by lodging complaints in the thana against members of the landless organisation and Nijera Kori staff.

Then began harassment of the landless members by the police.

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**Box-9: A Landless movement dislodges jotdar's illegal hold on government land and creates access to all**

*Tangail zila, Dhanbari upazila Birtara union's Shujalkhar mouja. A local union parishad member in collaboration with the local government administration made false documents of (names of the water bodies) khas water bodies and recorded them in his name. Since 2004, the local landless organisation has been trying to restore the waterbodies to their lawful status as a public property through various movements. They also filed a court case in order to invalidate the fabricated documents. The verdict of the upazilla judge, upheld their position, the fabricated part of the document was nullified and the water body was declared open to the public. Failing thus, the U.P. member, with the connivance of the local government administration, took a lease of the water bodies in the rounge of a youth programme.*

**Attack by the jotdar:** *The jotdar hired goons to diffuse the movements led by the landless groups and to reopen the water bodies for their use. The hirelings attacked one landless leader, Golap Ali, on the 26th of September at 8 a.m. in Kendra Bazar. The landless resisted and the goons fled. That evening, the landless groups organised a protest demanding justice against the attack. Undaunted, the next day, in the early hours of the morning, the jotdar's ment stabbed and seriously injured another landless leader, Abdul Mannan, and two other members who came to rescue him . Abdul Mannan died on the 28th of September 08 while undergoing treatment for his injuries. Abdul Mannan's wife filed a case against this murder.*

**The landless protests:** *The landless groups organised another protest in Dhanbari Bazar to prevent further attacks and to press for justice. After the protest meeting, they went to the police station in a procession and held seige.of the office demanding the immediate arrest of the culprits.The police arrested the three accused persons. In the meantime, the landless groups held people's dramas, roadside meetings and gatherings with the intention to gain popular support for dislodging the illegal occupiers of the land. They presented a memorandum with mass signatures to the upazilla administration office. Soon thereafter this protest, hundreds of men-women dislodged the illegal occupiers from the Shujalkhar khas water bodies.*

**Result:**

*The people, under the joint management of the landless groups, now use the three acres of the Shujalkhar water body. These groups' two cases, the one murder case and the other for the attack, are currently on-going in court.*

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**The landless organisation mobilising around the illegal occupation**

To fortify the movement against this illegal occupation of Sonaidanga, the landless organisation began an effort of mass communication across villages by conducting meetings and gatherings. To increase public opinion in favour of their movement, the group organised people's dramas in public spaces such as bazaars and schools. As a result, many people in the area demonstrated their support for the landless organisation's demands by taking a stand against the illegal occupation.

## **Saving paddy in the water body and establishing a right to the Land**

As the water receded when the seasons changed, many of the areas in the lake proved ready for cultivation. The landless organisation held a joint meeting and decided to plant paddy in these areas. With massive support from the public and with diligent preparation, the landless organisation planted 30 acres of paddy in the lake on the 20th and 24th of February 2008. However, while sowing paddy in the area one day, four landless members were attacked by Jotdar Ismail's hired men and seriously injured. In response to this unwarranted attack, the landless group members filed two cases. Four days later, on the 28th of February, the Jotdars group filed two cases against 41 of the landless members, falsely accusing them of mugging and extortion.

## **The landless organisation resists terrorism and assault as professional groups offer support**

In response to the terrorist attack, the forgery of the documents, and the closure of the Sonaidanga water body, the landless groups organised a human chain in Raiganj upazila sadar on the 27th of February 2008. Reporters, lawyers and students spontaneously supported and participated in this protest. After the gathering the landless organisation sent a memorandum via U.N.O. to the Chief Advisor. A number of TV channels and local and national newspapers covered the protest and meetings of the landless people and made their demands heard across the nation. As a result, both at the local and national level this occurrence generated much response. Seven human rights organisations coordinated a "Fact Finding Team", which visited the area on the 27th of April 2008. On the basis of the facts they gathered, the team organised a national press conference on the 30th of April and demanded that the government immediately revoke the counterfeit documents and reopen the Soanidanga water body.

## **Assault on the members' homestead and the landless organisation's resistance to the attack**

On one particular day, a number of male landless members were away while busy at work. Taking advantage of their absence, the terrorist group of Jotdar Israfil attacked the members' houses on the 28th of February, and injured three male and three female members in the process. When the news of this attack spread, hundreds of men and women gathered under the leadership of the landless organisation to protest. Meanwhile, in response to the landless organisation's claims, the Assistant Police Super of the Raiganj upazila visited the place of the attack. Unfortunately, as a result of the mass resistance, the hired terrorist had already fled from the area. Instead the landless organisation pressured the police to arrest Jotdar Israfil. As a result, the Jotdar group attempted to file a case against the landless members in the thana but they failed to do so. Later on, the Jotdar group filed a case in the Sirajganj zila magistrate court against 38 landless members and a number of Nijera Kori staffs. When these accused people appeared in court to seek bail, the court sent the staff and one of the landless members to jail under police custody. All the while the paddy sown by the landless members was ripening. The landless organisation decided to prepare to chop the paddy, and on the 23rd of April

2008, nearly 200 men and women cut the rice paddy of the Sonaidanga water body. Thanks to the huge public support and the strong solidarity of the landless organisation, the Jotdars were unable to obstruct their work. Instead they filed a false case against 48 of these members—36 male and 12 female. The police arrested a few of the landless organisation members, and then began the police's extensive harassment. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Jotdar's hired terrorists began to chop paddy on the 25th of April. As a result, members from all the villages along the lake organised a united resistance. In the face of this unified opposition the terrorists and the Jotdars fled. After this successful resistance, the landless members made an instantaneous decision to protest and barricade the U.N.O office. They gathered to protest the terrorist's cutting of paddy, to stop the police's harassment, and to ensure security in the area. They made these demands in writing to the U.N.O., which soon assured them assistance in stopping the chopping of paddy.

### **Results**

On the 30th of April 2008, in the presence of U.N.O. and the Assistant Police Super, the members cut their paddy and brought the harvest home to their houses. In the presence of the administration, the landless members declared the Sonaidanga water body officially open.



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## **Case study-2**

### **Land Deception: Movement of Adivasi**

#### **Case summary**

#### **The adivasi got back their own land**

*In Natore Zila 30 adivasi live within Lalpur Upazila in Naodapara settlement. They have been residing there for the last 30-40 years. During liberation war the adivasi took shelter in India as refugees. During this period about 82 acres of their land was illegally grabbed by powerful locals. After liberation, the powerful coterie in the area in connivance with the land administration fabricated false documents of title in their own names. Despite making several appeals to the land administration, the adivasi could not get back their land. In this situation, under the leadership of the landless organisation, they presented a memorandum with mass signatures to the zila administration for remedy. They also filed a case in the zila judge court for quashing those fabricated documents.*

*The grabbers engaged hired bands and on 30 September 2008 attacked the adivasi homestead and raped Shanuka (31). The terrorists repeated the attack on 11 October, and after vandalising their houses and physically assaulting them abducted their leader Shapan.*

*The landless organisation gathered in Upazila Sadar on 12 October demanding arrest of the culprit who raped Shanuka, and to rescue adivasi leader Shapan, demanding immediate action they barricaded the thana and presented a memorandum. The police administration was compelled to take action. On the same day they rescued Shapan from illegal confinement. The landless organisation held a press conference on 14 October and reported some incidents of violation of human rights to obtain mass support. The Upazila Ain-jibi Samity appealed to the zila judge court to give verdict on the case regarding repealing the counterfeit documents. The court, after assessing the rape, abduction and dislodgement news published in the news paper started the process of final hearing of the case for annulment of the forged documents and passed the verdict annulling those. Accordingly, on 4 April 2009, the land administration handed over the land to adivasi as the rightful owners.*

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#### **Background:**

In addition to the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Adivasi people live in various areas of the plain regions. Out of necessity the Adivasi people have changed their occupations; in so doing they have become dependent on agricultural activities. However, they continue to be cheated by powerful actors who forcibly rob them of their lands.

#### **Area:**

Naodapara Adivasi village, Arabar Union, Lalpur upazila, Natore. Thirty 'mal' hilly Adivasi families reside in Naodapara Adivasi village. These families work as day labourers in agricultural activities, but their lives have become unbearable and their livelihoods insufficient due to daily social, economic and political oppression. As a result, they suffer permanently from insecurity.

#### **Illegal occupation of the Adivasi's land belonging:**

In 1971, during the war a number of Adivasi families sought shelter and refuge in India. During this period, local powerful land grabbers forcibly occupied 82 acres of land belonging to the Adivasi. After the liberation war, the Adivasi returned to their homes in the Naodapara Adivasi village. They started their life anew on 15 acres of land and built new homesteads, but the land grabbers

treated them like illegal occupants. Meanwhile, these elites bribed land administration officials to draw up false documents of title of this land. On the basis of these documents the land grabbers became the owners of the land. The Adivasi petitioned several times in vain to the land administration to have their property rightfully returned.

**The Adivasi unite:**

In 1994 Nijera Kori began to work in Arabar Union. Subsequently, in 2006 the Adivasi formed an organisation with the help of the NGO. The landless group's right to land became their primary focus and issue. The organisation discussed this issue in group meetings until ultimately the Adivasi people decided to organise a united movement to establish their right to land.

**The struggle of the Adivasi for land:**

The Adivasi people organised gatherings and meetings in various places to generate public support for their movement and to collect signatures on their petitions. In November of 2007, the Adivasi organisation presented a memorandum signed by nearly a thousand signatures to the Zila administration with the demand to cancel the false documents. The next month, they filed a case in Zila judge court. In an effort to get them to withdraw the case, the powerful elite began to intimidate them with death and eviction threats. The Adivasi people tried to file a General Diary for knowledge and protection of the police at the local thana but they refused to accept it. On September 30, 2008 Shamika, a 31-year-old Adivasi woman, was raped by Jotdars hired men in the Adivasi village. Facing the landless people's pressure, the police had no choice but to accept the rape case. Even so, they took no initiative to arrest the rapists. Just a few weeks later, on the morning of October 11th, Swapan, an Adivasi landless leader, was abducted by the land grabbers' men. The landless group held an instant meeting in Naodapara Adivasi village to decide how to respond to this situation. They decided to hold a protest meeting on October 12th to demand justice in the rape case, the arrest of the rapists, and the release of Swapan. Nearly a thousand men and women stormed the Thana demanding Swapan's rescue. The Thana administration had no choice but to accept their General Diary and make attempt to rescue their Adivasi leader. The landless group members started searching for information of their Adivasi leader. By evening the landless members had learned where Swapan was being held. The members informed the police but the administration delayed any rescue operation. The landless organisation responded by sending nearly a thousand men and women to protest and rescue Swapan themselves. The solidarity and powerful position of the landless members compelled the police to participate in their rescue efforts. After this event, in the presence of the police, the landless organisation held a press conference on October 14th proclaiming their stance against rape, human rights violations, and the illegal forcible grabbing of Adivasi land. Local and national newspapers covered their press conference and, as a result, the Adivasi landless people's movement was debated across the country. This news coverage generated national moral support for the effort, which then pressured the police administration further. Due to this relentless demand for the people's security the police administration was forced to take steps to arrest the local terrorist and the rapists. Meanwhile, in order to expedite the case

regarding the false documents, the Ain-Jibi Samity appealed to the court on behalf of the landless peoples. The court was made aware of the facts about the assault, rape, ejection, persecution and human rights violations that the Adivasi had endured. The court declared these documents void and directed the local land administration to return the land immediately to its rightful owners. The Jotdars appealed this verdict to the higher court. However, as per the court's directions, the land administration returned 82 acres of land to the Adivasi on April 4th, 2008 in the presence of the police. The Adivasi began their agricultural activities the next day. But the hired men of the Jotdars again attacked the Adivasi and seriously injured two of their horses. Instantly Adivasi men and women retaliated with their traditional bows and arrows. In the face of this collective resistance the terrorists fled. The Adivasi filed a case in the Thana in response to the assault. The next day, nearly a thousand landless men and women again barricaded the Upazila U.N.O. office and demanded the immediate arrest of the culprits and guaranteed protection of the Naodapara village. The police responded by arresting the culprits on June 4th. However, instead of relying solely on the police for protection, the landless organisation decided to ensure their safety by cultivating their land collectively.

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**BOX 10- Adivasis recover their land from grabbers**

*For nearly 70 years the Adivasi have lived in Nandikuja village. In 1997, Zillur, a powerful local obtained a one sided court verdict on the basis of false claim to title of this land. A decade later, in 2007, Jotdar Zillur got his name registered in the land records filing for 'naam-jari' and ejection of the Adivasi. The adivasis were not able to contest as the grabber manipulated court administration and blocked notice on both occasions. In April 2008, with the help of police and his armed men, Zillur began evicting adivasis from their ancestral homes. He succeeded in detroying 16 Adivasi houses when the landless members from neighbouring villages resisted this forcible dislodgement.*

*First, the armed band fled vacating their hold on the grabbed land. Then the movement compelled the local administration to reckon the problem with seriousness laying seige of their office. Administrations at all levels were kept informed through protests and petition with mass signature. . In response to their memorandum of 16 April, 08 the office of the Chief Advisor sent the landless people 500 maunds of rice and TK 5,500/-. With these resources the victims were able to survive two months by starting a community kitchen. The administration at upazilla still did not make any recommendation for remedy.*

*The landless members continued to support the Adivasi movement by holding meetings with lawyers, reporters and other professionals who not only participated in protests but also investigated into the fraud. They revealed that the Adivasi's inhabited land was originally theirs and then stood as vested property (government)*

*Considering the appeal of the landless the zila administration finally rectified its records and marked it as vested property after due physical survey. The right of the Adivasis' life and living was thus restored.*

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**Result**

Today, the Adivasi are in possession of 82 acres of land, which 30 Adivasi families jointly cultivate. The local people believe that joint cultivation is a necessary and sustainable solution, especially in order to secure their security. In 2008, they jointly harvested 184 maunds of rice, 20 maunds of jute, and 155 maunds of sugar cane. This agricultural production has increased the quality of their lives and livelihoods.

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### Case study-3

## Insecure student amid vicious teachers: Demand for justice by landless organisation against rapist cum murderer.

### *Case summary*

#### ***landless organisation against rapist***

*The unfortunate victim Lima Akther (12) was an eighth class student of Chukuria Government Primary school( or Secondary school). On 22 June, 2008 Lima came to Sunmoon Coaching Centre to attend a tutorial class. Osman Ali Khan 38 and other teachers with the assistance of some in- living students held her on the third floor, gang raped her and later killed her.. Local landless group mounted a movement seeking justice This movement initiated by the landless group was spontaneously joined by students, teachers' association, leaders of school management committee, chairman-members of Union Parishad, Pakullah bazar traders' association, rickshaw-van, taxi cab drivers' association, , representatives of human rights, women's lawyers', journalists and members of cultural organisations. After a protracted movement for a month the main culprit of Lima murder and rape case Osman Ali Khan along with five others were arrested. The case is on- going in the court.*

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**Area:** Village: Chukuria, Union-Jamurki, Upazila-Mirzapur, Tangail.

#### **Background:**

Lima Akhter (12) was a fifth class student of Chukuria Government Primary school. As a brilliant student, Lima was selected officially for primary scholarship examination. She got admitted in the Sunmoon Coaching Centre to prepare for this nation wide talent competition. After school when Lima did not return home they started looking for her. The female members of the landless group immediately called all other members of the group who lived in the vicinity. The members formed two groups, one went looking for Lima in the village and the other went to the coaching centre. The locked coaching centre aroused their suspicion. Normally, in this coaching centre classes are held even after dusk. Two staff of the coaching centre opened the lock of the centre after the members persistently called them. The members enquired about the teachers of the coaching centre, but the staff informed that all the teachers had left. As members were suspicious they searched all the rooms in the third floor where coaching is held and at length found in one room the beheaded body of Lima. Immediately they informed the police administration (Thana). In the late evening police recovered the dead body of Lima and arrested the two staff –Momena Khatun and Ajay Bose.

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#### ***BOX- 11-Who is rapist-murderer Osman***

*Osman Ali Khan-38 the, son of late Antaz Ali Khan of, village-Bhabkhand, Upazila-Mirzapur, Tangail, is a teacher by profession working in privately owned hostel- coaching centre. There were numerous complaints against this coaching centre for indecent persecutory behaviour with women. As stated by some in-living students who were his accomplices he called Lima from her study table in the second floor to a room in the third. He held her there and raped and murdered her with the assistance of these accomplices.*

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### **Landless group demands justice:**

With the assistance of landless organisation Lima's grandfather Azharul Islam lodged a case at night on June, 2008 against 11 accused persons. On 23<sup>rd</sup> June, the landless organisation held a representatives' meeting to decide the strategy for movement. In the meeting the group announced to launch a continuous movement until justice is met. On 24<sup>th</sup> June, the landless group organised a meeting in the premises of Chukuria Government Primary school. The meeting was attended by students, teachers and members of the school management committee. In the gathering they demanded immediate arrest of the culprits. The landless group exchanged views with members from all strata of the society to generate mass support. As a part of the movement the students boycotted the class and observed strike. With mass support, on June 26 the landless group formed a human chain extending from the play ground of Chukuria Primary school upto Dhaka-Tangail main road protesting against this heinous crime. People from various professions, specially the students, teachers'

samity, Union Parishad members, leaders from various school management committees, Pakullah bazar traders' association, rickshaw-van samity, baby taxi drivers association, political leaders, cultural activists, reporters and women participated in this protest spontaneously. The protest procession ended at the Office of the UNO where it submitted a memorandum with copy to police thana for quick arrests of the culprits and their trial. Various news papers published news on Lima rape and murder case with the information provided by the landless group and their loud demand for justice. The police administration assured them that the culprits would be arrested. But due to interference by

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#### **BOX- 12**

***Father had the last word in daughter's marriage: both mother and daughter were undone till assistance by the landless organisation***

***Village-Basurabad, Upazila-Botiaghata, Zila-Khulna.***

***Description:*** Bipasha is a bright student from eighth grade (14). She is still too young to take the responsibility of a house-hold. For the last one year the father is obstructing her attendance in school on various pretexts and is trying to arrange her marriage. But due to protest by his wife and daughter he could not succeed. At length the father secretly arranged Bipasha's marriage with Gopal from Shukhdara village without her and her mother's knowledge. On 13 April, 2008, as preplanned, Bipasha's father stopped her from going to school and he pretended to be sick. On that same day the members from the groom's family came to bless Bipasha. Both, daughter and mother informed the incidence to landless organisation. The local members of landless group objected to this marriage by stating that Bipasha is still under-age. The Union Parishad Chairman and school teachers on receiving the news from landless group came to Bipasha's house. Ignoring Bipasha's opinion; the protest of landless organisation, opinion of the teachers and chairman, Bipasha's father fixed the date of the marriage on 16 April. In this situation the landless group organised press conference on 14 April. The conference was attended by School teachers and Union Parishad Chairman. They demanded cancellation of the marriage as it was illegal to give in marriage under-age girl. Besides, the landless group met the U.N.O and related the incidence and to expedite the process collected mass signatures and submitted a memorandum. After receiving the memorandum the U.N.O and Upazila women's affair's official and local police asked the local administration to take necessary action.

***Result:*** On 16 April, in the presence of police, the official from women's affairs stopped the child marriage after holding discussions with both the sides. Later on Bipasha stood second in the annual examination and now she is studying in class 9.

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some powerful political group and bribery the thana police refrained from arresting the culprits. In this situation, the landless group resorted to certain tactics to pressure the police administration. They mobilised public support by door to door people contact and holding awareness programmes like staging people's dramas in the villages, bazars and public places. On 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2008 a protest meeting was organised in Chukuria school ground. After the meeting with the participation of people from all sectors a protests procession was held and police thana was barricaded demanding arrest of the culprits. Besides, the landless group held a press conference demanding investigation of the case. This was published in the news papers and electronic media also broadcast the event. A citizen's committee was formed to conduct the movement continuously and to continue to exert pressure on the police administration the landless group regularly exchanged views with professional groups, organised meetings and gatherings and maintained public relation.

**Result:**

The main culprits in the rape/murder case along with four others were arrested. At present the case is still on- going. The citizen's committee is monitoring the legal procedure.

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***BOX-13- Dipti – Animesh wage life and death struggle against prevalent tradition.***

*Hetalbunia village, Botiaghata Upazila, Khulna.*

*In 2008 Dipti was married to Sanjit Mondal, son of Hajera Mondal. Unfortunately only after seven months of their marriage Sanjit Mondal died in January, 2009. Both Dipti's parents as well as her in-laws refused to take any responsibility of Dipti. She had no home to go. Sanjit Mondal's younger brother Animesh Mondal expressed his desire to marry Dipti. Dipti agreed to this proposal but her father and mother-in-laws objected initially, but later on they gave consent. When this matter became known in their social circle the religious leaders objected citing religious excuses. On 16 February, 2009 they held a meeting in the village. According to government legal procedure marriage of Hindu widow is allowed by law. But the religious leaders refused to abide by the provisions of law.. They opined that according to Hindu tradition re-marriage of widow is forbidden and hence this marriage can not take place. They threatened that if the marriage took place they ( the powerful religious leaders) would give a decree to isolate both the families from their society and evict them from their locality. The landless members who were present in this meeting objected to this decision and rejected it out right and demanded an assured future life for Dipti. Consequently, the socially influential leaders and their terror hierlings gave threats to landless members and declared that Dipti would be persecuted and torched if they disagreed to the sanction by the religious and social elites.. The landless members held meeting at night to decide their course of action. When they enquired the intention of Dipti and Animesh, Dipti said, "it is my life, I shall decide, if it becomes necessary I shall give my life to wage struggle against immolation in the name of religion." Animesh Mondal supported Dipti's resolute decision. As both of them expressed similar intention the landless organisation decided to arrange their marriage.*

***Result:*** *On 19 February, at night, Dipti and Animesh were legally married. Due to the initiative taken by the landless group the marriage of Dipti and Animesh has been accepted in the locality duly despite traditional prejudice. Specially, the women folk in the locality have supported this unconventional marriage wholeheartedly.*

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## Case study-4

### *Minimum wage and job security: a united movement of labourers of all sex.*

#### *Case summary*

##### *Increase in wage and establishing Job security*

*In various activity areas, day labourers (male/female) from 69 villages have received increased wages and established job security under the leadership of a landless organisation. In 2008-9, the increase in wage of female labourers was noticeable. In the face of unilateral fixation of wage at Taka 6/- per sack of potato for browsing and packing by the owners of cold storages, the landless stopped work demanding discussion and a raise of take 4/=. The owners rejected the demand and threatened them with dismissal from their jobs. The landless organization, undaunted, mobilised protests through meetings, mass gatherings and support of workers from adjoining areas engaged by the owner to work in lieu of them. The protests went on between 16-20 October 2008. They reformed up their demand for raise in wage and the movement gained momentum. As a result, the cold storages were closed. On 23 October 2008 the owners Samity (association) was obliged to sit for discussion with them. Both groups bargained hard and the wage was finally fixed at Tk. 8/= per sack for browsing and packing instead of Tk. 6/=. Besides, for working during night a wage of Tk. 10/= was fixed making an allowance of Tk.2 for food.*

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*'If businessmen increase the price of commodities, we still have to buy them. But if commodity prices go up, why should not workers' wages also rise? We demand a liveable wage.'*

***Rufia Begum***  
*Landless leader, Noadda village*

#### **Background**

The lives and livelihood of petty day labourers are seriously threatened due to scarcity work. Toiling male and female labourers find themselves deprived of earning of even a minimal viable wage. Female labourers in particular are not only deprived but also discriminated against. As a result, women labourers in many areas are demanding a rightful wage against this form of economic injustice.

#### **Places where movements have occurred:**

Movements around this issue have taken place in 69 different villages in Upa-kendra Daudkandi, Lalpur, Natore, Bagatipara, Shibahat, Banarpara, Polashbari, Noai, Kumarkhali and Khoksha, all within Nijera Kori activity areas.

### **Fields of labour**

Day labourers have demanded an increase in wages in cultivation, weeding, harvesting, rice-processing, and weaving. In all of these fields women workers are paid less than men.

### **Members gaining experience and getting prepared**

In order to share their experiences and activities, a number of group members visited a different village from their own for a week-long stay. During this visit, members came to understand better the labourers' wage problem, the need for a movement, and the mobilisation strategy. As a result they grew more enthusiastic to pursue the issue. This experience of sharing knowledge and inspiration between villagers extended the demand for a wage increase to various areas of Bangladesh. On May Day of 2008 landless organisations in a number of regions organised movements for a rightful, liveable wage. These landless organisations gained public support for their movement by organising mass communication and discussions: staging drama and rendering inspirational people's songs with the participation of the unorganised labour force. As a result, during the past year raising wages for female labourers and ensuring them secure job opportunities assumed greater importance in their overall activity.

### **Arbitrary practice of wage fixation**

Village Noadda of Daudkandi upazila, Comilla zilla. Sarker Ice and Cold Storage factory employs female labourers from neighbouring villages to pick and package potatoes. In that year the owners had unilaterally fixed their wage at six taka per sack of potatoes. After establishing this wage an owner invited the labourers to join his factory for work. The landless members found this lower than the market and organized a representatives meeting on the 16th of October 2008 to decide their best course of action. The members decided to demand a raise of four more taka per sack, but the owners refused to meet this demand and warned that, if they wanted a job in their factory, they should refrain from a trade union sort of activity which would not be allowed. They added that if any movement were organised to demand a wage increase, the labourers would immediately be fired.

### **Movements for a raise in wages**

In response to the factory owners' unilateral decision on their wages, the landless groups in the area organised a protest in the factory premises on the 20th of October. During this protest the landless groups declared that their members would abstain from work if their demand for a fair wage was not met. The landless members had also gathered the support of other labourers from adjoining villages so that the factory owners were unable to find any workers from within their locality. On the 23rd of October the factory owners brought 20 male labourers from Moloi Bazaar, an adjacent village, to work in the factory. The landless members organised another sit-in-strike in response to the engaging of workers from outside the locality. During this protest they also reiterated the landless members' demands for higher wage and right to work.



When they learned of the protest, the male labourers employed in the cold storage also stopped their work as a show of support for the female labourers. This movement in the Sarker Ice and Cold Storage factory in Noadda inspired factory workers in other areas, who also organised movements and strikes for a wage increase. As a result the owners had no choice but to propose a meeting with the landless members, which finally took place on the 23rd of October. During the meeting the leaders of the landless organisation demanded ten taka for each sack of potato instead of the six taka that the factory owners had initially offered. They also demanded refreshments and 12 taka per sack for those labourers working at night.

### **Result**

After mutual bargaining, the factory owners and landless organisation agreed upon a wage of 8 taka per sack of potatoes, and ten taka per sack and a meal allowance for night work. The cold storage owners also agreed that this new wage would be applied to all cold storages in the locality. As a result, nearly 21,500 labourers have enjoyed the benefit of receiving a more just and liveable wage.

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### **Box-14-Poor wage for hazardous labour**

*Paikgacha upazila, Khulna zila. There exists an acute shortage of work in this locality due to commercial cultivation of shrimp. The women here work for hours soaked in water while picking weeds in the shrimp gher (form). They suffer from skin ailments because of their work, and yet are paid only ten taka per hour. The regional landless organisation began to mobilize movements and generate public awareness to address this inhuman condition of work and seek redress in different villages. On the 25th of July 2008 labourers from 14 villages gathered together to demand a wage increase of three taka per hour. In this meeting the landless organisation announced that they would abstain from work if their demands were not met. The gher owners brought in labourers from an adjoining upazila and continued their work as usual. However the landless members met with these outside labourers and motivated them to press for a raised wage. Their joint action left the gher owners with no choice but to settle the wage in discussion with the leaders of the landless organisation.*

**Result:** *As of 4th August, 2008 the shrimp gher owners and landless labourers agreed on an hourly wage of 12 taka, signifying a two taka per hour increase. Female labourers in various villages of three upazillas have begun to work at this higher hourly rate.*

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## Case study-5

### **Irregularity, corruption, embezzlement of fund: Struggle by the deprived for establishing rights and access**

#### *Case summary*

*Day by day corruption, irregularity and embezzlement of fund is spreading extensively in the society specially in the service sector. As a result access to government social service is decreasing alarmingly. The poor people are being deprived of their basic rights. This year the landless organisations organised a series of movement against corruption, irregularity and embezzlement of fund. Stories of a few such movements are narrated below:*

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#### **Case study-5.1**

### **Resisting irregularity in distribution of agricultural subsidy**

Upazila Rowmari, Kurigram. It is a flood-prone area. Every year people become victims of damage caused by flood. The government started rehabilitation programme for those whose crops had been damaged by the flood. Taka 52 lacs were allocated by the government as subsidy to be given to thousands of farmers' families in Rowmari upazila. According to government policy those farmers who owned farm land measuring 2.50 acres or less and those who are directly involved in agricultural activities were eligible for getting the subsidy and would be included in the safety net programme. But in various unions of the upazila sub-assistant (*block*) agricultural staff in connivance with chairman-members, with the assistance of brokers, took Tk. 100/= per family for enlisting the names in the entry roll. Besides, they left out the names of genuine victims in the entry roll and registered false names. The landless organisation called a representatives' meeting on 19 October, 2008 to discuss all these irregularities and corruption in providing agricultural subsidy. In the meeting they decided that movements would be organised after collection of pertinent information. The members collected information of bribe money taken from per family and also produced example of inclusion of false names in the entry roll. After analysing this information it appeared that in all of the upazila's 5 union 192 villages corruptions and irregularities prevailed in full swing. Some government officials and union parishad members who had the support of landless organisation provided them with some information about irregularities and corruptions in various villages by organisation gatherings and meetings. Through this publicity huge public support developed among the masses. On 6 November 2008 the landless organisation lay siege of the office of the U.N.O after a procession against these irregularities and corruptions and presented a memorandum demanding proper investigation. The U.N.O gave assurance that proper investigation would be carried out.

On 14 November the U.N.O started investigation in Rowmari Union's primary school. In the presence of hundreds of males/females allegations of irregularities and corruptions raised by landless organisation and allegation of

false enrollment were made public. The U.N.O enquired from the public whether those enlisted families resided in that locality. The people replied that these families were not residents of that locality. As a result, in the investigation corruptions and irregularities indulged by union sub-assistant (*block*) agricultural staff and chairman-members were proved true. In this situation the U.N.O asked the landless organisation to provide the names of genuine victims. The landless organisation provided the names of 3 thousands families who were actually affected by the flood to the U.N.O. The U.N.O, upazila agricultural officer, sub-assistant (block) agricultural officer and Union Parishad chairman unitedly made the final selection from the list.

**Result:**

2,161 false names were dropped from the list. In this place, the genuine victims, whose names were provided by the landless organisation, were included. The embezzled money amounting taka 6,200/= were refunded to the relevant families. In the next agricultural season the small farmers were spared from taking loan from the money-lenders who take high interest due to this movement organised by the landless organisation.

**Case study-5.2**

**Taking bribe while making list of awardees for stipend:  
Protest by landless organisation.**

**Area:**

Village-Chhatian Garh, Union-Angar Para, Upazila-Khansama.

**Description:**

Chhatian Garh Government Primary School. Regular students in attendance are nearly 8 hundred. After fifth grade the students got admitted in the neighboring secondary school. Among the 17 students 9 students were to be enrolled for getting stipend. The school management committee started the procedure for making a new list of students for possible award. The members of the school committee and teachers scrupulously enlisted the names of 17 students. Later on the proposed names of the students were approved in the management committee meeting and subsequently the names were published in the notice board. In this list of 17 students were children of the teachers and members of the management committee. Not a single poor landless member's children were included in the list. Hence, the landless organisation, apprehending corruption and irregularity in enrolment called a representatives" meeting on 8 April 2008. In the meeting they gathered information from the students and parents of the enrolled students. The parents informed that the teachers took bribe for enrolling the names. In this situation the landless organisation called an opinion sharing meeting on 14 April in the school ground with students and parents. As decided in the opinion sharing meeting the landless organisation collected nearly 5 hundred signatures demanding investigation and justice and submitted

a memorandum to the upazila education official. Accordingly, the upazila education official called the leaders of the landless organisation for discussion on 21 April in his office. After discussion the education official gave assurance that he would investigate the matter in person on 24 April. On his assurance to members of landless group, parents and local people gathered in the school ground. During investigation by the education official, some parents informed that they had given taka 300/= for enlisting the names of their children. The head master, as he realised the impact of the tremendous pressure created among the audience admitted receiving taka 300/= bribe for each student.

**Result:**

The school committee dropped the names of 17 students previously enlisted and enrolled 17 names proposed by the people who were present in the meeting. The teachers refunded taka 5,100/= to the parents. Above all, in the presence of the people they admitted their mistake and promised not to indulge in irregularity and corruption in future.

### *Case study-5.3*

#### **Siege and gherao by female farmers to retrieve embezzled wage**

**Village:** Char Afzal, Upazila-Ramgoti, Laksmipur.

In 2007 Danida started the maintenance work of road in Ramgoti upazila's rural areas. As per this project plan, in May, 2008 it was announced that in May, 2008, earth digging would start in No. 12 char Gazi union's No. 1 ward. Accordingly the process of selecting the labourers started. As demanded by the landless organisation, forty women members were selected by the project. As per the rules of the project labour contract society was formed with the 40 selected female labourers. For the proposed activities of the project DANIDA and LCS agreed that daily each female labourer would receive Tk. 100/ over a period of 41 days for completion of the work costing Tk. 1,64,000/. This agreement was signed by 14 labourers and hence the work commenced. According to the agreement the labourers received Tk. 50/ everyday. These 40 female labourers, instead of working 8 hours per day, worked for 10 hours per day and completed the work in 38 days. After this grinding work load and completion of the project before schedule they demanded their remaining wage amounting Tk. 60,000/. The staff of the project took the copy of the agreement from labourers on the pretext of making final bill. Two weeks lapsed and yet they did not pay the bill. More than once they had fixed the date of payment of the remaining wage but again failed. They made lame excuses for their failure and changed the date of payment. In this situation the leaders of the landless organisation made a written demand to the higher officials of the project for realising the wage. But the local officials did not take any step to make the payment. Hence the landless members decided to siege the office of the project and make their demand to

the authorities. Accordingly on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2008 the leaders of landless group sieged the project office temporarily located in Upazila Parishad's Bhaban with at least 5 hundred male/female members. In this situation the project officials were compelled to make an announcement that they would pay Tk. 48,000/. The landless members enquired why they should receive less wage. The officials replied that the labourers finished their work in 38 days instead of 41 days. Hence 3 days' wage amounting TK. 12,000/ would be deducted. In this situation the landless members replied that the labourers worked overtime to finish the project. As such the wage costing TK. 60,000/ is their rightful due. Besides, the landless organisation organised an instant gathering for realising their demand. They declared that if their demand was not fulfilled they would continue their siege of the office and sit-in-protest. After about 2 hours the UNO had a discussion with both the groups to come to a settlement.

**Result:**

After listening to the rightful demand of the labourers for their due wage and the conditions of the agreement decision was given to pay TK. 60,000/ to the labourers. The project official handed over the money in the presence of the U.N.O.

***Case study-5.4***

**Depriving the extreme poor from job opportunity: Demand for transparency and accountability and stopping irregularities and corruption**

**Background**

In August 2008 the government started 100 days job opportunity programme for the poor. In the current budget taka 2 thousand crores was allocated for social security net that would ensure 100 days job opportunity for the poor. In the first stage for completion of the programme 12 hundred crores were spent. According to official account in country's 64 districts 20 lacs jobless labourers were assured 60 days of work opportunity getting taka 100/ per day.

**Present Situation:**

Present government suspended the programme because of corruption, parochialism wastage and above all, local government's inability to follow the regulations and failure in achieving even minimal success. According to the information provided by the World Bank out of total 2 thousands crores taka's project 12 hundred crores were not used properly at the primary stage. Besides corruption and irregularities, a huge chunk of fund was also wasted. According to the assessment of the government, and informations derived from other sources it is proved how extensive was the rate of corruption and irregularities prevalent in this project.

**Experience of the landless organisation:**

The landless organisation collected information from every activity areas when this 100 days job opportunity project started. By examining the information irregularities and corruption at the time of enlisting names was detected. These charges are the following, secrecy in inventory of names, parochialism, taking bribe, deception in master roll by enlisting false names and embezzling the fund, not paying the wage, and lack of transparency and accountability. In the activity areas these problems were given much attention by the landless organisation. In every activity area they highlighted one or more flaws of the project and organised movement against corruption and irregularities and sought accountability. One such movement is narrated below:

**Area:**

Village-Balughat, Sribardi Union's, 3 no. ward, Upazila-Sribardi, Sherpur.

**Description of the incidence:**

In August 2008 inventory of names of the labourers for 100 days job opportunities project started. The local Union Parishad's Chairman-Members enlisted their relatives names in the inventory clandestinely. In Balughat village 16 female laborers who were the earning members of their families went to Member Abdul Quddus of No. 3 ward for enlisting their names. Quddus Member demanding Tk. 16,000/= from them to enlist their names. As they were in dire need of job, the female labourers gave Quddus Tk. 14,000/=. Eventually, in the first week of October the female labourers received the work permit card. The assured job opportunity emboldened their sprint. The unorganised workers related the incidence to their friends and they picked up landless organisation to get support for their cause. On 12 October they went together to landless organisation to reveal this corruption and help them demand justice. When the Member heard this news he threatened them to drop their names from the inventory.

In this situation the landless organisation organised a meeting on 16 October against bribery and irregularity in the play ground of Balughat School. They exposed the corruption, irregularity and parochialism in the project with evidence before the public and sought their opinion in resolving the issue. Public opinion was that the U.N.O should be informed about this corruption and the aggrieved persons must get justice after investigation. Instantly the landless group collected about 2 hundred signatures and demanded proper investigation and justice and presented a memorandum. On 19 October 2008 the U.N.O came in person to investigate the matter. In his presence in a meeting in Balughat School ground allegations of corruption, irregularity and parochialism were proved. As demanded by the local public the enlisted names of 96 labourers were dropped from the inventory.

**Result:**

With the consensus of landless group 96 jobless labourers names were enlisted. In the presence of U.N.O Tk. 14,000/= taken from 16 female labourers was returned. Temporarily this corrupt member was relieved of any responsibility of the project.

### **Illegal extortion in the name of collecting toll**

**Area:**

Village- Harishpur, Rahmatpur, Senerhat, Upazila-Sandwip, Chittagong.

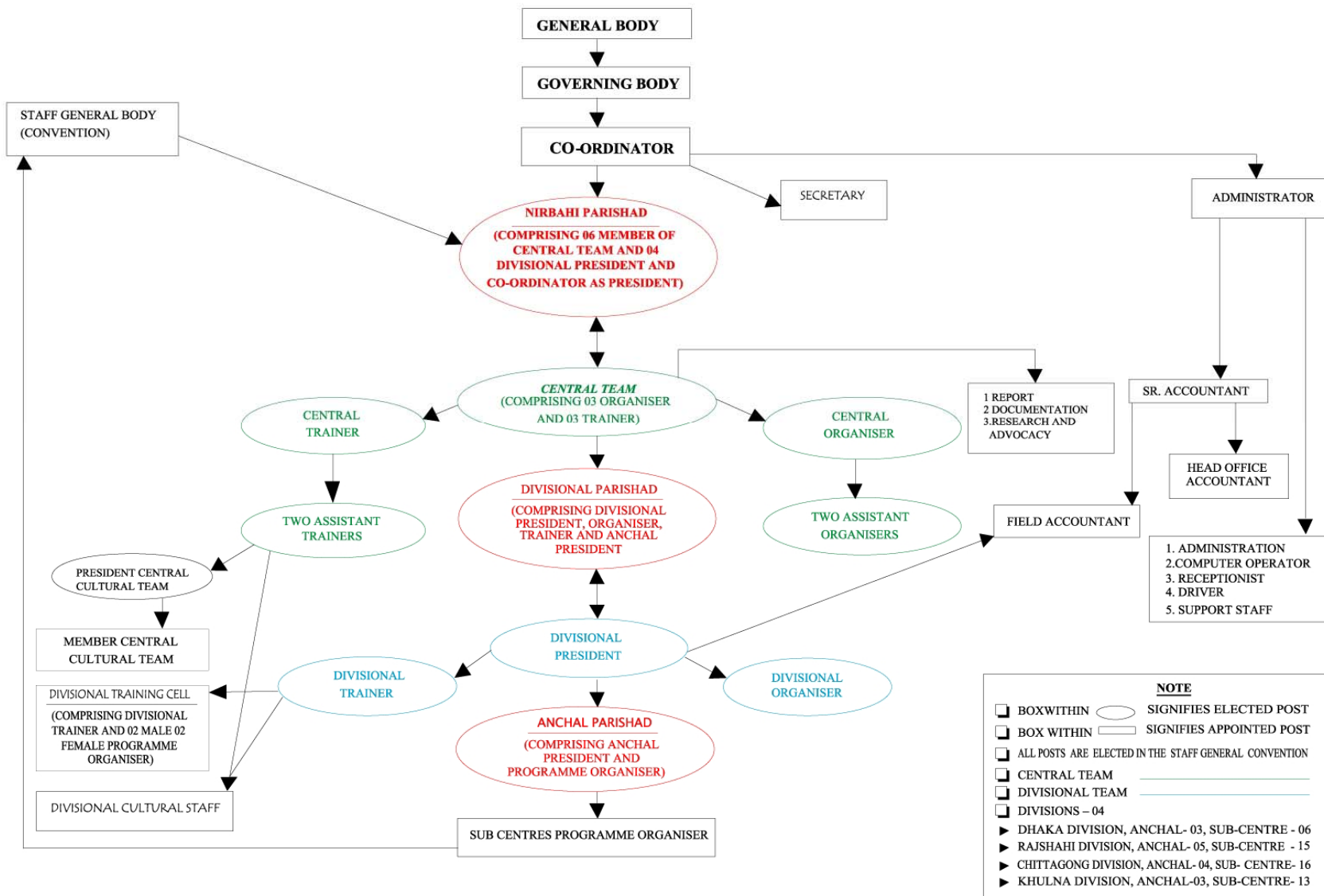
**Description of the incident:**

There is an isolated island from the mainland Sandwip upazila In between the two villages flows the Sawtal canal and on both sides of this canal are villages called Harishpur, Rahmatpur and Senerhat where fishermen community live. Every day the fishermen come for fishing in this canal for their day to day living. But the powerful political coterie and rent collectors take yearly lease of this canal. As per the lease agreement toll should be collected only from the goods on trawlers/boats plying on this canal. In 2008 the powerful businessmen being leaseholders started collecting toll from the fishermen charging Tk.60/= for each boat everyday. This was a gross violation of lease agreement as the rate was arbitrarily fixed. Collectively the fishermen held a group meeting, declared this toll collection illegal and refused to pay the money. The powerful lease holder coterie hired goons to intimidate the fishermen and tried to obstruct the plying of fishermen's boats. The fishermen unitedly handed over a memorandum to the U.N.O and the municipal chairman demanding security against this illegal toll collection. The administration did not pay any heed to their demands. Hence, the fishermen collectively stopped selling fish. After four days, on 6 May, 2008 the U.N.O held a meeting with the lease holders and landless fishermen organisation to come to a settlement.

**Result:**

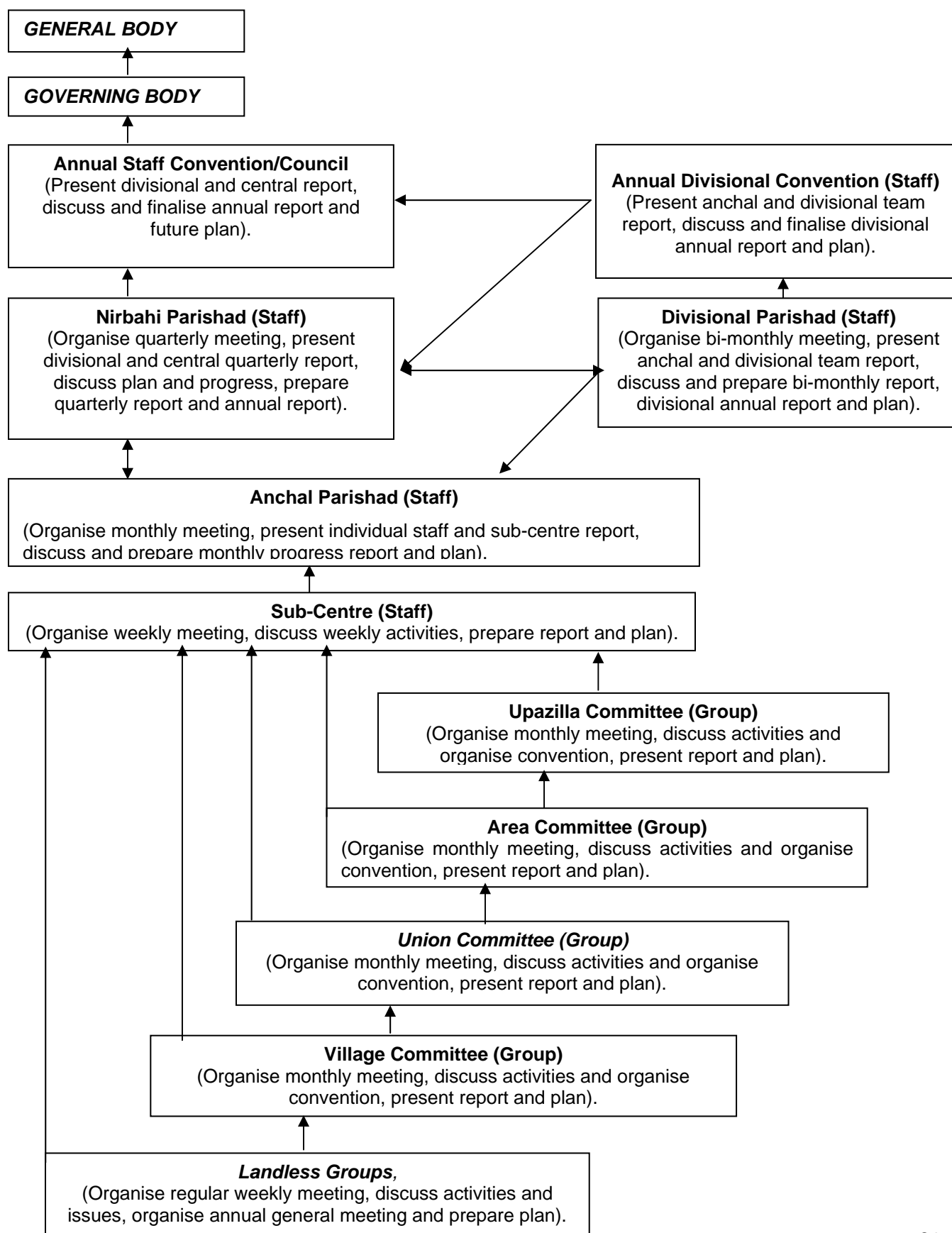
Government reconfirmed that collecting toll from fishing boats of fishermen was illegal as per the lease agreement. At present no toll is being collected from 51 boats belonging to the fishermen community. As a result, 180 fishermen families have been able to save taka 3,060/ per day from the rent seekers.

**ORGANOGRAM OF NIJERA KORI**





## Planning and Monitoring Structure

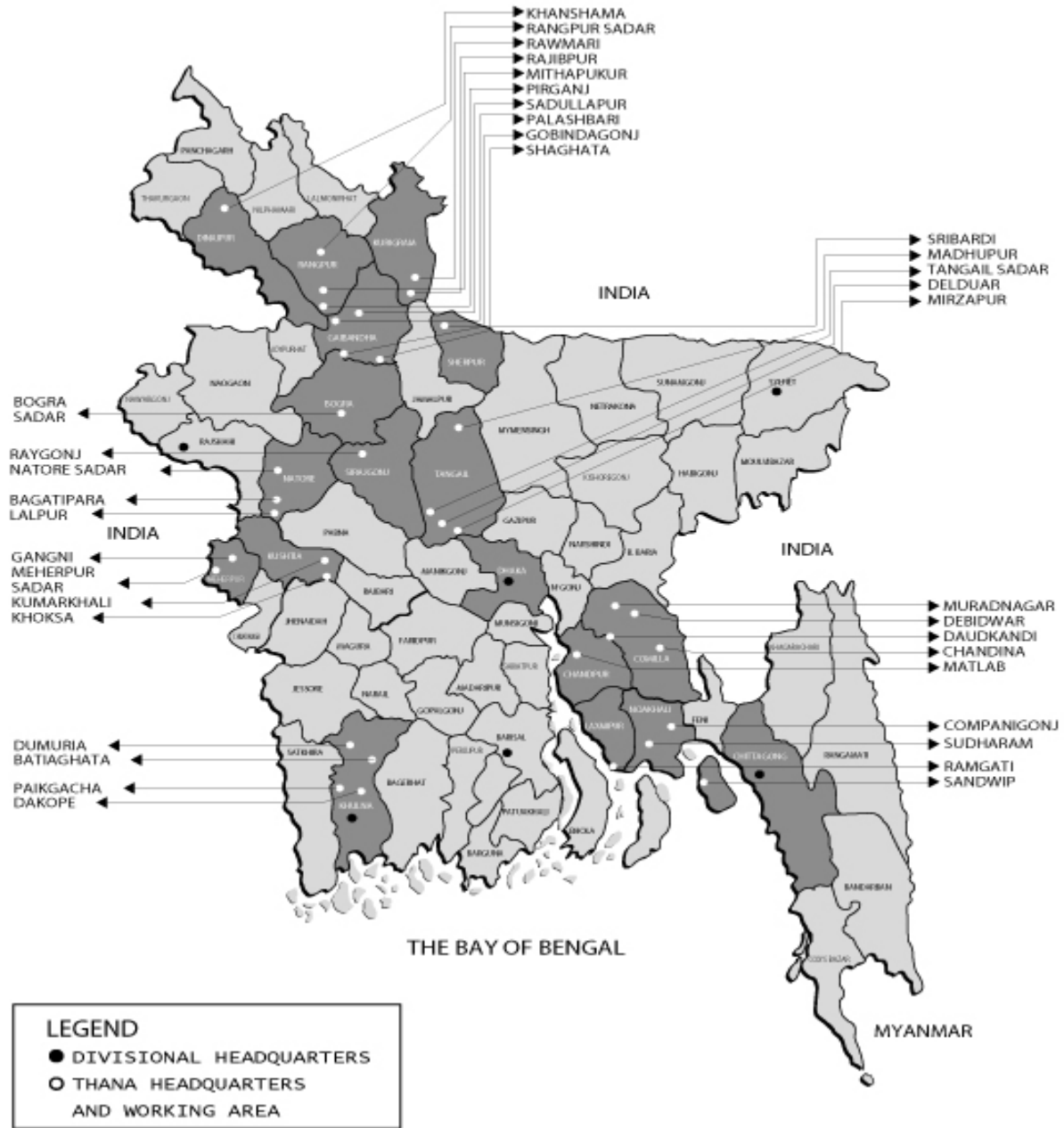


## Geographical Location of Programmes of Nijera Kori

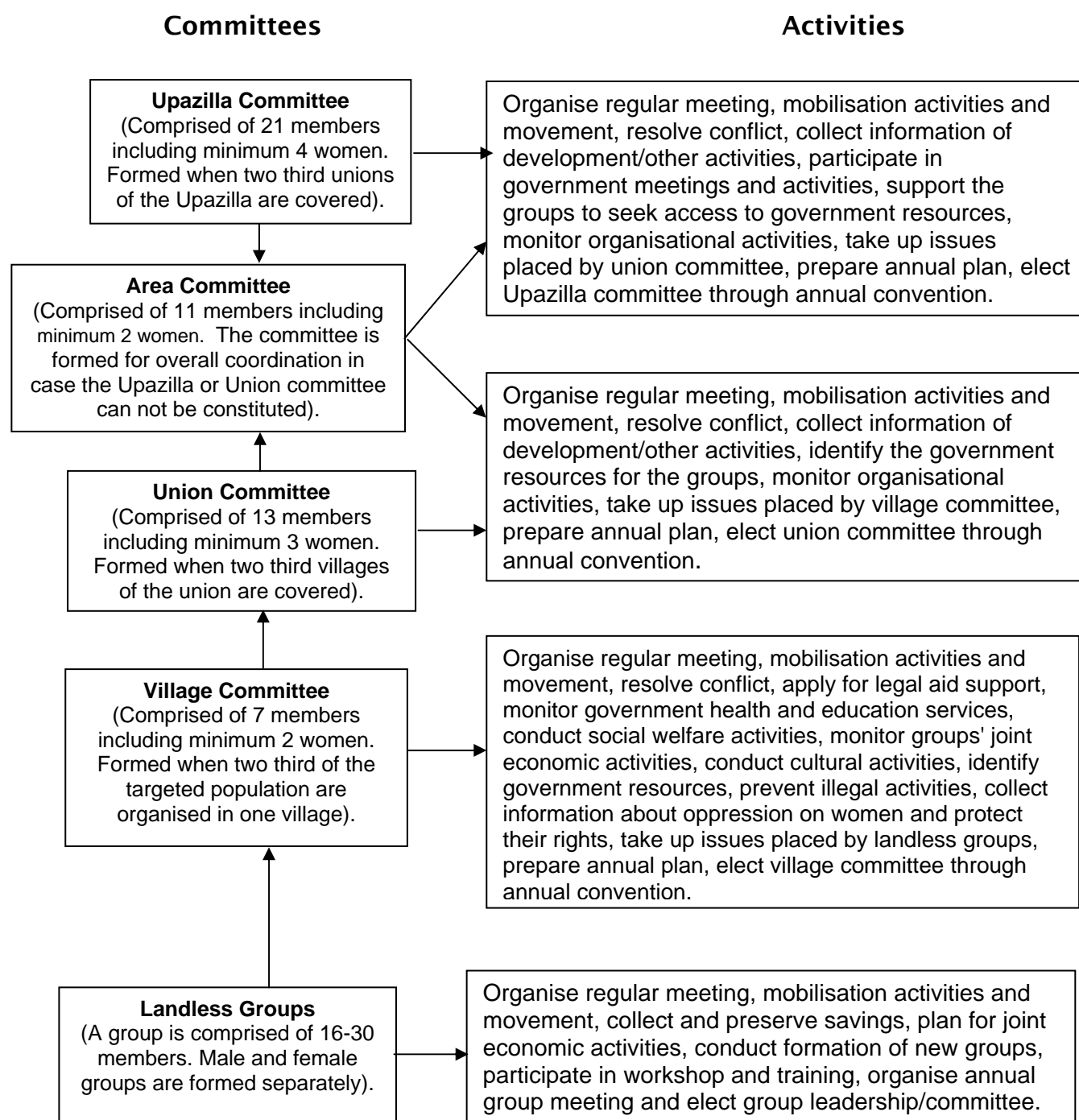
Sl. No	Division	District	Upazilla	Area	Sub-centre	Expansion in 2008-09		Total up to March 2009		Village Coverage		
						Union	Village	Union	Village	Up to March 2008	New Coverage in 2008-09	Up to March 2009
01.	Chittagong	Comilla	Chandina Daudkandi Debidwar Muradnagar Matlab	Comilla	5	-	-	29	136	25	-	25
		Chandpur										
		Noakhali	Sudharam Companigonj Kabirhat Subarnachar	Charjabbar	5	-	-	9	45	5	-	5
		Lakshmipur	Ramgoti	Ramgoti	3	-	-	6	28	3	-	3
	Chittagong	Sandwip	Sandwip	4	-	-	14	34	-	-	-	
<b>01</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>17</b>			<b>58</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33</b>	
02.	Dhaka	Tangail	Mirzapur Delduar Tangail Sadar	Tangail	4	-	1	11	81	25	-	25
			Madhupur Dhanbari	Madhupur	2	-	2	12	127	17	2	19
		Sherpur	Sribardi	Sribardi	1	-	1	3	22	-	-	-
<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>44</b>	
03.	Khulna	Kushtia	Kumarkhali khoksa	Kumarkhali	2	-	-	7	51	11	1	12
		Meherpur	Meherpur Sadar Gangni	Gangni	4	-	-	7	48	16	1	17
		Khulna	Paikgacha Dumuria Batiaghata Dakope	Paikgacha	9	-	-	17	166	35	2	37
<b>01</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>66</b>	
04.	Rajshahi	Sirajgonj	Raygonj	Noongola	3	-	-	5	82	11	1	12
		Bogra	Bogra Sadar									
		Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar Mithapukur	Rangpur	2	-	1	9	78	19	3	22
		Dinajpur	Khanshama	Dinajpur	1	-	1	4	22	3	1	4
		Kurigram	Rowmari Rajibpur	Rowmari	2	-	-	8	95	19	1	20
		Gaibandha	Palashbari Saghata Sadullapur Gobindagonj Pirgonj	Gaibandha	4	-	2	23	193	62	6	68
	Natore	Bagatipara Lalpur Natore Sadar	Bagatipara	3	-	4	10	167	35	3	38	
<b>01</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>164</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>307</b>

T=Total

**WORKING AREA  
NIJERA KORI**



## Groups and Group Coordination Committee Structure



### Level of group consciousness

#### Primary level

Groups at this level concentrate on developing basic awareness, organising members of the same class and learning to trust and sympathise with members of the same class.

*The group gives special emphasis on cultivating a sense of unity amongst the members. It organises regular meetings, ensures regular deposits and withdrawal of savings and undertakes the responsibility of forming and renewing group committees.*

#### Secondary level

At this level the group is able to organise protests against any ongoing injustice. The group is also responsible for ensuring the continuation of the movement for protest if their initial efforts fail. The group members at this level learn from a rational evaluation of the various activities. The members raise awareness amongst the various professional groups in the society by holding discussions with them. The group also sees to the participation of its members at the various levels in the village.

*The group specifically takes the initiative to invest its savings in joint cooperative ventures, organise members of the same class, to ensure accountability and to undertake the practice of people's culture.*

#### Third level

At this level the group must be able to: distinguish exploitation and oppression and take necessary steps against them, organise movements by ensuring the support of the local people, take initiative for publicity at the national level, strengthen the organisational activities of the villages, ensure support of the neighbouring villages, expand and enlarge support of the well-wishers, raise the cultural awareness amongst people.

*The group should specifically develop a clear conception about exploitation, organise for the group savings to be invested in joint ventures, raise cultural awareness amongst the masses and take responsibility of conducting local committees.*

**LIST OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2008-2009**

01.	Nurul Islam Khan	Chairman
02.	Latifa Akanda	Vice-Chairman
03.	Khushi Kabir	Secretary
04.	Ira Rahman	Treasurer
05.	Dil Monowora Monu	Assistant Treasurer
06.	Syeda Jamil Akhter	Member
07.	Moqbula Manjur	Member
08.	Mohammad Shahid Hossain Talukdar	Member
09.	Abdul Majid Mallik	Member
10.	Rabiul Hussain Kochi	Member
11.	Shaheen Islam	Member
12.	Bashirul Haq	Member
13.	Biren Shome	Member



**S.K. BARUA & CO.**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Continuation Sheet

**NIJERA KORI  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
SOCIAL MOBILISATION, VOICE AND DEMOCRACY  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009**

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	NOTE	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
<b>Opening Balance:</b>			
Project Funds		13,509,995.06	
Other Funds		3,406,560.61	16,916,555.67
Grants From:			
Christian Aid		6,720,000.00	
DFID		93,425,824.80	
EED		13,990,492.74	
ICCO		5,814,000.00	
Interpares		250,000.00	
The Swallows		927,970.87	121,128,288.41
Exchange Gain			2,277,967.26
Other Receipts			919,111.81
Advance Realised			31,430.00
Development Fund			31,950.00
		<b>Taka</b>	<b>141,305,303.15</b>
<b>PAYMENTS:</b>			
Civil Construction	23		10,007,748.00
Other Material Inputs	24		1,793,015.00
Personnel	25		57,969,117.00
Training Expenses			15,437,189.00
Seminar, Meeting, and Conference			11,581,882.00
Training and Sub Centre Accommodation	26		3,302,050.00
Office Equipment	27		2,155,524.00
Vehicles	28		1,942,750.00
Traveling and Daily Allowances			4,365,867.00
Contingency			7,933,173.00
Others	29		13,939,054.95
Other Funds	30		185,909.00
<b>Closing Balance:</b>			
Other Funds		4,139,763.42	
Project Funds		6,552,260.78	10,692,024.20
		<b>Taka</b>	<b>141,305,303.15</b>

**Foot Notes:**

01. The annexed notes 1 to 30 form an integral part of these financial statements  
02. Signed as per our annexed report of even date.

Dated, Dhaka  
June 30, 2009



*S.K. Barua*  
S.K. BARUA & CO.  
Chartered Accountants

**ANNEX -J: Statistical Programme Achievement Tables (Nos 1- 22)**

**TABLE – 01 (Group Formation)**

Division	Up to March 2008			Plan			Implementation			Total up to March 2009		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	2,297	2,669	4,966	177	176	353	127	162	289	2,424	2,831	5,255
Dhaka	724	831	1,555	71	56	127	55	42	97	779	873	1,652
Khulna	904	1,326	2,230	62	67	129	34	42	76	938	1,368	2,306
Chittagong	2,175	2,429	4,604	108	90	198	68	85	153	2,243	2,514	4,757
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>7,255</b>	<b>13,355</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>6,384</b>	<b>7,586</b>	<b>13,970</b>

**TABLE – 02 (Group Member)**

Division	Up to March 2008			Plan			Implementation			Total up to March 2009		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	48,961	52,334	101,295	3,525	3,479	7,004	2,426	3,071	5,497	51,387	55,405	106,792
Dhaka	15,640	16,392	32,032	1,400	1,140	2,540	1,051	799	1,850	16,691	17,191	33,882
Khulna	20,620	27,686	48,306	1,104	1,176	2,280	629	765	1,394	21,249	28,451	49,700
Chittagong	46,785	47,364	94,149	2,160	1,718	3,878	1,337	1,688	3,025	48,122	49,052	97,174
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,006</b>	<b>143,776</b>	<b>275,782</b>	<b>8,189</b>	<b>7,513</b>	<b>15,702</b>	<b>5,443</b>	<b>6,323</b>	<b>11,766</b>	<b>137,449</b>	<b>150,099</b>	<b>287,548</b>

**TABLE – 03 (Group Meeting: – Attended by Staff, Only Group and Group Annual General Meeting)**

Division	Plan for Group Meeting Attended by Staff and Group			Implementation of Group Meeting Attended By Staff			Implementation of Group Meeting Attended By Only Group			Total implementation of Group Meeting By (Group and Staff)			Implementation of Annual Group Meeting		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	48,926	56,679	105,605	10,241	22,060	32,301	31,463	27,126	58,589	41,704	49,186	90,890	2,016	2,320	4,336
Dhaka	21,731	22,867	44,598	5,251	7,062	12,313	12,766	10,611	23,377	18,017	17,673	35,690	433	419	852
Khulna	22,110	32,978	55,088	8,222	16,107	24,329	7,775	7,397	15,172	15,997	23,504	39,501	636	971	1,607
Chittagong	28,200	34,296	62,496	12,282	17,310	29,592	10,969	10,781	21,750	23,251	28,091	51,342	1,511	1,778	3,289
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,967</b>	<b>146,820</b>	<b>267,787</b>	<b>35,996</b>	<b>62,539</b>	<b>98,535</b>	<b>62,973</b>	<b>55,915</b>	<b>118,888</b>	<b>98,969</b>	<b>118,454</b>	<b>217,423</b>	<b>4,596</b>	<b>5,488</b>	<b>10,084</b>

**TABLE – 04 (Workshop, Representative Meeting and Joint Group Meeting)**

Division	Workshop				Representative Meeting		Joint Group Meeting	
	Plan		Implementation		Plan	Implementation	Plan	Implementation
	Number	Participant	Number	Participant				
Rajshahi	59	1,475	44	1,137	227	308	339	442
Dhaka	44	1,100	38	990	53	120	22	66
Khulna	25	625	19	493	68	139	83	218
Chittagong	71	1,775	57	1,488	320	410	45	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>4,975</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>4,108</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>796</b>



**TABLE – 05 (Formation of Structural Committee)**

Division	Total No. of Committee up to March 2008				Formation of Structural Committee								Total No. of Committee up to March 2009			
					Plan				Implementation							
	Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee			
	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area
Rajshahi	149	11	1	3	24	-	-	-	16	-	-	1	165	11	1	4
Dhaka	42	7	1	3	6	1	-	-	3	-	-	1	45	7	1	4
Khulna	55	3	-	12	11	2	-	-	7	1	-	-	62	4	-	12
Chittagong	60	3	1	14	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	60	3	1	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>35</b>

**TABLE – 06 (Committee Meeting and Group Convention)**

Division	Committee Meetings								Group Convention							
	Plan				Implementation				Plan				Implementation			
	Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee			
	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area
Rajshahi	1,812	132	12	36	1,791	131	12	36	173	11	1	3	161	11	1	4
Dhaka	510	85	12	36	460	62	11	31	48	8	1	3	42	2	1	3
Khulna	671	38	-	144	591	35	-	136	66	5	-	12	57	3	-	12
Chittagong	724	37	12	168	701	35	4	161	64	4	1	14	55	2	1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,717</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>3,543</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>30</b>

**TABLE – 07 (Group Saving)**

Division	Total up to March 2008			Plan			Implementation			Distribution			Total up to March 2009		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	4,668,903	7,557,654	12,226,557	3,141,458	3,623,116	6,764,574	2,832,742	3,285,603	6,118,345	1,661,149	2,126,239	3,787,388	5,840,496	8,717,018	14,557,514
Dhaka	2,106,342	2,307,923	4,414,265	1,070,799	1,151,282	2,222,081	905,101	782,283	1,687,384	874,731	154,405	1,029,136	2,136,712	2,935,801	5,072,513
Khulna	2,730,889	6,523,733	9,254,622	1,472,428	2,469,191	3,941,619	1,225,927	2,041,963	3,267,890	869,678	2,045,379	2,915,057	3,087,138	6,520,317	9,607,455
Chittagong	8,605,397	11,645,519	20,250,916	4,067,510	4,621,319	8,688,829	3,324,620	3,504,937	6,829,557	2,688,768	2,895,044	5,583,812	9,241,249	12,255,412	21,496,661
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,111,531</b>	<b>28,034,829</b>	<b>46,146,360</b>	<b>9,752,195</b>	<b>11,864,908</b>	<b>21,617,103</b>	<b>8,288,390</b>	<b>9,614,786</b>	<b>17,903,176</b>	<b>6,094,326</b>	<b>7,221,067</b>	<b>13,315,393</b>	<b>20,305,595</b>	<b>30,428,548</b>	<b>50,734,143</b>

**TABLE – 08 (Bank Account and Position of Group Saving)**

Division	Bank Account									Position of Group Saving			
	Total up to March 2008			New Increases in 2008-09			Total up to March 09			Total up to March 2009			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Bank	Cash	Investment	Total
Rajshahi	405	733	1,138	11	24	35	416	757	1173	1,977,808	2,058,301	11,315,407	15,351,516
Dhaka	325	439	764	37	47	84	362	486	848	615,565	759,394	3,119,003	4,493,962
Khulna	212	649	861	23	53	76	235	702	937	1,526,548	964,518	7,039,486	9,530,552
Chittagong	505	835	1,340	4	18	22	509	853	1362	2,745,605	2,707,765	15,904,743	21,358,113
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,447</b>	<b>2,656</b>	<b>4,103</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>4,320</b>	<b>6,865,526</b>	<b>6,489,978</b>	<b>37,378,639</b>	<b>50,734,143</b>

**TABLE – 09 (Joint Economic Activity)**

Description		Agriculture	Fishery	Livestock	Rickshaw/Van	Shallow/Crasher	Small Business	Total
<b>Up to March 2008</b>								
Group	Male	788	162	380	121	4	802	2,257
	Female	604	22	191	10	-	1,008	1,835
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,392</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>4,092</b>
Member	Male	16,107	3,906	8,063	2,232	87	14,786	45,181
	Female	11,037	351	3,836	170	-	18,372	33,766
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27,144</b>	<b>4,257</b>	<b>11,899</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>33,158</b>	<b>78,947</b>
Employment	Male	5,760	1,675	178	340	40	3,095	11,088
	Female	928	385	588	1	-	4,818	6,720
Quantity		1,127.84	416.97	909	278	4	-	-
Investment in TK		16,291,215	4,608,468	5,584,699	755,404	60,000	8,713,786	36,013,572
<b>Increase in April 2008-March 2009</b>								
Group	Male	76	20	92	19	1	259	467
	Female	126	9	42	1	-	309	487
	<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>954</b>
Member	Male	1,535	407	1,864	377	20	4,615	8,818
	Female	2,528	172	784	20	-	5,007	8,511
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,063</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>2,648</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9,622</b>	<b>17,329</b>
Employment	Male	96	38	50	20	2	83	289
	Female	183	36	37	-	-	80	336
Quantity		76.01	140.87	129	17	1	-	-
Investment in TK		2,945,956	582,686	1,558,257	117,050	40,000	2,919,918	8,163,867
<b>Decrease in April 2008-March 2009</b>								
Group	Male	56	9	59	43	1	66	234
	Female	58	-	18	1	-	45	122
	<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>356</b>
Member	Male	1,146	196	1,205	758	22	1,223	4,550
	Female	1,179	-	326	16	-	1,009	2,530
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>7,080</b>
Employment	Male	112	6	56	30	-	93	297
	Female	32	-	10	1	-	68	111
Quantity		83.87	3.80	48	78	1	-	-
Investment in TK		1,393,904	109,200	1,045,078	341,925	19,000	2,374,539	5,283,646
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>								
Group	Male	808	173	413	97	4	995	2,490
	Female	672	31	215	10	-	1,272	2,200
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>4,690</b>
Member	Male	16,496	4,117	8,722	1,851	85	18,178	49,449
	Female	12,386	523	4,294	174	-	22,370	39,747
	<b>Total</b>	<b>28,882</b>	<b>4,640</b>	<b>13,016</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>40,548</b>	<b>89,196</b>
Employment	Male	5,744	1,707	172	330	42	3,085	11,080
	Female	1,079	421	615	-	-	4,830	6,945
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,823</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7,915</b>	<b>18,025</b>
Quantity		<b>1,119.98</b>	<b>554.04</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>4</b>	-	-
Investment in TK		<b>17,843,267</b>	<b>5,081,954</b>	<b>6,097,878</b>	<b>530,529</b>	<b>81,000</b>	<b>9,259,165</b>	<b>38,893,793</b>
<b>Profit in cash (2008-09)</b>	Male	<b>1,000,089</b>	<b>232,857</b>	<b>178,099</b>	<b>81,892</b>	<b>10,757</b>	<b>454,095</b>	<b>1,957,789</b>
	Female	<b>560,871</b>	<b>57,150</b>	<b>25,715</b>	<b>10,220</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>539,897</b>	<b>1,193,853</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,560,960</b>	<b>290,007</b>	<b>203,814</b>	<b>92,112</b>	<b>10,757</b>	<b>993,992</b>	<b>3,151,642</b>

**TABLE – 10 (Level of Group Consciousness)**

Description	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Khulna			Chittagong			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Secondary Level															
<b>Up to March 2008</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>1,882</b>
Plan	56	58	114	31	22	53	25	27	52	35	31	66	147	138	285
Implementation	49	57	106	24	20	44	20	25	45	29	33	62	122	135	257
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>2,139</b>
Third Level			-			-			-			-			-
<b>Up to March 2008</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>223</b>
Plan	20	17	37	5	5	10	6	6	12	8	8	16	39	36	75
Implementation	15	12	27	1	2	3	4	-	4	1	3	4	21	17	38
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>261</b>

**TABLE – 11 (Training)**

Subject	Rajshahi				Dhaka				Khulna				Chittagong				Total			
	N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant		
		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T
<b>Cultural (Basic)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2008</b>		<b>206</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>233</b>		<b>181</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>226</b>		<b>152</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>191</b>		<b>138</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>188</b>		<b>677</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>838</b>
Plan	2	30	10	40	2	30	10	40	2	30	10	40	2	30	10	40	8	120	40	160
Implementation	2	35	5	40	2	31	10	41	2	31	9	40	2	18	19	37	8	115	43	158
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>		<b>241</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>273</b>		<b>212</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>267</b>		<b>183</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>231</b>		<b>156</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>225</b>		<b>792</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>996</b>
<b>Cultural (Advance)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2008</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>59</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>59</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>57</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>53</b>		<b>170</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>228</b>
Plan		6	4	10		6	4	10		6	4	10		6	4	10	2	24	16	40
Implementation		7	4	11		8	2	10		5	5	10		5	5	10	2	25	16	41
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>		<b>57</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>69</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>67</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>63</b>		<b>195</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>269</b>
<b>Cultural (Higher)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2008</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>91</b>
Plan		5	3	8		4	2	6		6	3	9		5	2	7	1	20	10	30
Implementation		5	3	8		4	2	6		6	3	9		5	2	7	1	20	10	30
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>121</b>

*N=No. of Training, M= Male, F= Female, T= Total*

**TABLE – 11 (Training)**

Subject	Rajshahi				Dhaka				Khulna				Chittagong				Total			
	N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant		
		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T
<b>HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING</b>																				
<b>Basic</b>																				
Up to March 2008		3,349	3,312	6,661		1,617	1,834	3,451		1,963	1,938	3,901		3,037	3,312	6,349		9,966	10,396	20,362
Plan	18	225	225	450	13	150	175	325	13	150	175	325	16	200	200	400	60	725	775	1,500
Implementation	18	223	223	446	13	150	182	332	13	141	169	310	16	200	203	403	60	714	777	1,491
Total up to March 2009		3,572	3,535	7,107		1,767	2,016	3,783		2,104	2,107	4,211		3,237	3,515	6,752		10,680	11,173	21,853
<b>Advance</b>																				
Up to March 2008		1,083	1,106	2,189		523	560	1,083		729	705	1,434		767	953	1,720		3,102	3,324	6,426
Plan	4	56	44	100	3	39	36	75	3	39	36	75	4	49	51	100	14	183	167	350
Implementation	4	49	51	100	3	36	38	74	3	38	35	73	4	48	53	101	14	171	177	348
Total up to March 2009		1,132	1,157	2,289		559	598	1,157		767	740	1,507		815	1,006	1,821		3,273	3,501	6,774
<b>Higher Selection</b>																				
Up to March 2008		395	333	728		197	208	405		303	254	557		313	367	680		1,208	1,162	2,370
Plan	2	25	25	50	2	25	25	50	2	25	25	50	2	25	25	50	8	100	100	200
Implementation	2	25	25	50	2	18	21	39	2	19	24	43	2	26	25	51	8	88	95	183
Total up to March 2009		420	358	778		215	229	444		322	278	600		339	392	731		1,296	1,257	2,553
<b>Hight</b>																				
Up to March 2008		48	28	76		22	25	47		42	25	67		39	32	71		151	110	261
Plan	6	2	8	8	2	3	5	5	3	3	6	6	1	3	4	7	1	14	12	26
Implementation	6	2	8	8	2	3	5	5	3	3	6	6	1	3	4	7	1	14	12	26
Total up to March 2009		54	30	84		24	28	52		45	28	73		42	36	78		165	122	287
<b>OTHER TRAINING</b>																				
<b>Production &amp; Management</b>																				
Up to March 2008		143	93	236		93	76	169		135	103	238		133	113	246		504	385	889
Plan	1	14	11	25	1	13	12	25	1	13	12	25	1	13	12	25	4	53	47	100
Implementation	1	13	12	25	1	11	11	22	1	13	12	25	1	13	11	24	4	50	46	96
Total up to March 2009		156	105	261		104	87	191		148	115	263		146	124	270		554	431	985
<b>Leadership Development</b>																				
Up to March 2008		141	101	242		111	96	207		134	104	238		126	117	243		512	418	930
Plan	3	42	33	75	1	13	12	25	2	26	24	50	2	25	25	50	8	106	94	200
Implementation	3	39	36	75	1	14	11	25	2	29	19	48	2	26	24	50	8	108	90	198
Total up to March 2009		180	137	317		125	107	232		163	123	286		152	141	293		620	508	1,128
<b>Right &amp; Access to Information</b>																				
Up to March 2008		117	93	210		93	82	175		127	88	215		123	98	221		460	361	821
Plan	2	28	22	50	2	26	24	50	2	32	18	50	2	24	26	50	8	110	90	200
Implementation	2	24	25	49	2	24	24	48	2	26	20	46	2	23	27	50	8	97	96	193
Total up to March 2009		141	118	259		117	106	223		153	108	261		146	125	271		557	457	1,014

*N=No. of Training, M= Male, F= Female, T= Total*

**TABLE – 11 (Continue Training)**

Subject	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Khulna			Chittagong			Total							
	N	Participant		N	Participant		N	Participant		N	Participant		N	Participant						
		M	F		T	M		F	T		M	F		T	M	F	T			
<b>Globalisation &amp; Sustainable</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2008</b>		<b>543</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>837</b>		<b>141</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>256</b>		<b>693</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>1,369</b>		<b>532</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>897</b>		<b>1,909</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>3,359</b>
Plan	2	28	22	50	2	26	24	50	2	30	20	50	2	24	26	50	8	108	92	200
Implementation	2	26	24	50	2	23	25	48	2	32	18	50	2	23	27	50	8	104	94	198
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>		<b>569</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>887</b>		<b>164</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>304</b>		<b>725</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>1,419</b>		<b>555</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>947</b>		<b>2,013</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>3,557</b>
<b>Citizen Rights &amp; Constitutional Guarantees</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2008</b>		<b>480</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>913</b>		<b>274</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>522</b>		<b>645</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>1,177</b>		<b>470</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>988</b>		<b>1,869</b>	<b>1,731</b>	<b>3,600</b>
Plan	2	28	22	50	2	25	25	50	2	25	25	50	2	24	26	50	8	102	98	200
Implementation	2	24	23	47	2	22	29	51	2	23	27	50	2	23	27	50	8	92	106	198
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>		<b>504</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>960</b>		<b>296</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>573</b>		<b>668</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>1,227</b>		<b>493</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>1,038</b>		<b>1,961</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>3,798</b>
<b>Land Law &amp; Management System</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2008</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>95</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>117</b>		<b>97</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>171</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>145</b>		<b>296</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>528</b>
Plan	1	14	11	25	1	13	12	25	1	15	10	25	1	13	12	25	4	55	45	100
Implementation	1	14	10	24	1	11	12	23	1	17	8	25	1	13	12	25	4	55	42	97
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>		<b>68</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>119</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>140</b>		<b>114</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>196</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>170</b>		<b>351</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>625</b>
<b>Adibasi &amp; Land Management</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2008</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>
Plan	1	13	12	25	1	13	12	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	24	50
Implementation	1	13	13	26	1	18	9	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	31	22	53
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>49</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>		-	-	-		-	-	-		<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Land &amp; Women</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2008</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	-	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	-	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	-	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	-	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>
Plan	1	14	11	25	1	13	12	25	1	12	13	25	1	13	12	25	4	52	48	100
Implementation	1	13	12	25	1	9	13	22	1	10	14	24	1	13	12	25	4	45	51	96
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>41</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>39</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Gender</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2008</b>		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-
Plan	1	9	9	18	2	9	9	18		11	10	21		12	12	24	3	41	40	81
Implementation	1	9	9	18	2	9	9	18		11	10	21		12	12	24	3	41	40	81
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Reproductive Health</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2008</b>		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-
Plan		-	17	17		-	12	12		-	14	14	2	-	16	16	2	-	59	59
Implementation		-	17	17		-	12	12		-	14	14	2	-	16	16	2	-	59	59
<b>Total up to March 2009</b>		-	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>		-	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>		-	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>		-	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>		-	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>

*N=No. of Training, M= Male, F= Female, T= Total*

**TABLE - 12 (Refresher Training and Training Forum)**

Division	Refresher Training				Workshop For Higher Trainees				Forum		Forum Meetings	
	Plan		Implementation		Plan		Implementation		Up to March 2008	Up to March 2009	Plan	Implementation
	No.	Participant	No.	Participant	No.	Participant	No.	Participant				
Rajshahi	39	1,002	35	1,031	1	9	1	9	16	16	192	186
Dhaka	17	449	17	438	-	6	-	6	5	5	60	54
Khulna	9	225	13	347	-	7	-	7	12	12	144	134
Chittagong	25	625	43	1,103	-	7	-	7	9	9	108	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2,301</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>2,919</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>481</b>

**TABLE – 13 (Cultural Activity)**

Division	Cultural Group		Cultural Workshop				Cultural Activity									
	Up to 2008	Up to 2009	Plan		Implementation		Plan					Implementation				
			N	P	N	P	Meeting	Discussion	Drama	Drama Festival /Padajatra	People Song	Meeting	Discussion	Drama	Drama Festival /Padajatra	People Song
Rajshahi	21	21	4	80	2	34	252	38	255	1	117	246	32	253	1	124
Dhaka	15	15	7	145	7	151	180	24	111	2	80	156	21	106	2	90
Khulna	17	17	6	120	6	112	204	17	152	4	118	202	16	174	4	124
Chittagong	10	10	12	240	8	169	120	18	235	3	180	95	15	201	4	148
Central Level	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>486</b>

N = No of Workshop, P = Participants

**TABLE – 14 (Legal Aid Activity)**

Division	Cases up to March 2008	New Cases	Total Cases	Cases Settled	Result		Cases on Appeal	Remaining Total Cases	Nijera Kori Run Cases	Group Run Cases
					Favour	Against				
Rajshahi	128	32	160	11	10	1	1	150	48	102
Dhaka	114	26	140	8	7	1	1	133	52	81
Khulna	82	16	98	12	11	1	1	87	59	28
Chittagong	277	30	307	18	17	1	1	290	126	164
<b>Total</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>375</b>

**TABLE – 15 Access to Government Services (Safety net Programme)**

Description	VGF/VGD Allowances			Elder Allowances			Widow Allowances			Freedom Fighter Allowances			Relief and Others Allowances			Total		
	By U.P	By protest	Total	By U.P	By protest	Total	By U.P	By protest	Total	By U.P	By protest	Total	By U.P	By protest	Total	By U.P	By protest	Total
Rajshahi	1,984	708	2,692	166	92	258	24	11	35	1	-	1	1,301	168	1,469	3,476	979	4,455
Dhaka	3,056	1,126	4,182	182	122	304	30	6	36	16	-	16	225	135	360	3,509	1,389	4,898
Khulna	1,386	738	2,124	135	17	152	100	48	148	25	7	32	991	123	1,114	2,637	933	3,570
Chittagong	8,633	2,047	10,680	946	366	1,312	892	186	1,078	11	-	11	1,327	431	1,758	11,809	3,030	14,839
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,059</b>	<b>4,619</b>	<b>19,678</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>2,026</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>4,701</b>	<b>21,431</b>	<b>6,331</b>	<b>27,762</b>

**TABLE – 16 (Various Activities undertaken from Group Saving and Voluntary Services provided by Group Members)**

Description	Participation			Support Provided To	Contribution			Voluntary Labour			Beneficiary families		
	No. of Group				Within Group (TK)	Outside Group (TK)	Total (TK)	By Group Member			Among Group	Outside of Group	Total
	Male	Female	Total					Male	Female	Total			
Village Convention	1,698	1,904	3,602	315	98,849	-	98,849	499	333	832	Grassroots people		
Union Convention	608	833	1,441	18	33,477	-	33,477	100	73	173	Grassroots people		
Upazila Convension	317	406	723	3	36,000	-	36,000	25	35	60	Grassroots people		
Area Convention	974	1,255	2,229	31	64,883	-	64,883	117	84	201	Grassroots people		
Workshop	1,195	1,355	2,550	147	74,533	-	74,533	73	66	139	Grassroots people		
Refresher Training	935	1,052	1,987	108	41,584	-	41,584	41	37	78	Grassroots people		
Social Movement/Struggle	61	66	127	428	13,940	-	13,940	36	11	47	Grassroots people		
Cultural Programme	1,225	1,184	2,409	110	109,487	-	109,487	287	86	373	Grassroots people		
National/International Day	2,082	2,622	4,704	199	117,108	-	117,108	506	276	782	Grassroots people		
Conducting Case	1,160	877	2,037	350	421,340	-	421,340	111	24	135	205	52	257
Sopport to Arrested Member Family	124	128	252	61	34,687	-	34,687	102	10	112	57	4	61
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>10,379</b>	<b>11,682</b>	<b>22,061</b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>1,045,888</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,045,888</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>2,932</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>318</b>
Medical Support	903	1,501	2,404	274	252,333	16,510	268,843	335	329	664	251	23	274
School Repairing	42	23	65	3	11,300	-	11,300	4	-	4	200	100	300
Educational Support	146	111	257	60	133,583	1,650	135,233	35	20	55	58	2	60
Marriage without Dowry	85	104	189	28	23,440	-	23,440	64	62	126	28	-	28
Contribution in Marriage	405	439	844	63	122,675	20,385	143,060	182	124	306	58	5	63
Bridge Repairing/ Construction	83	60	143	16	9,300	-	9,300	181	59	240	766	1,923	2,689
Road Repairing/ Reconstruction	82	54	136	26	27,401	-	27,401	175	65	240	795	638	1,433
Dredging of Canal	7	6	13	2	1,940	-	1,940	20	7	27	30	10	40
Repairing of House	63	170	233	51	15,960	1,600	17,560	195	46	241	36	15	51
Tree Plantation	4	5	9	1	2,200	-	2,200	17	29	46	135	138	273
Burial and Others	128	145	273	55	50,810	5,505	56,315	180	78	258	38	17	55
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,948</b>	<b>2,618</b>	<b>4,566</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>650,942</b>	<b>45,650</b>	<b>696,592</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>2,871</b>	<b>5,266</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12,327</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>26,627</b>	<b>2,349</b>	<b>1,696,830</b>	<b>45,650</b>	<b>1,742,480</b>	<b>3,285</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>5,139</b>	<b>2,657</b>	<b>2,927</b>	<b>5,584</b>

**TABLE – 17 (Activity relating to Social Movement/Struggle)**

Issue of Social Movement /Struggle	Issue raised by organisation of Women / Men	On going Movement in 2007-08		Total No of Movement in Current Year	Division wise Movement/ Struggle in 2008-2009					Total No of Movement in Current Year & running for last year	No of Movement Won			On going Movement till date
		Women / Men	Total		Rajs	Dha	Khu	Chit	Total		in running for last year	In Current Year	Total	
<b>Violence against women:</b> dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical assault, kidnapping, fundamentalism and religious indictment	Women	5	5	418	123	11	10	120	264	423	1	257	258	11
	Men	-			60	4	8	82	154		-	151	151	3
<b>Fundamentalism</b>	Women	-	1	26	7	1	2	2	12	27	-	10	10	2
	Men	1			6	1	2	5	14		1	14	15	-
<b>Establishment of rights on local resources:</b> establishment of rights on khas land, water bodies, regaining possession of disposed land Environmental Issues: resisting commercial shrimp aquaculture, creating public support against excessive use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides. Resistance to action and oppression of reactionary groups: resisting eviction of land less from land, looting of ripe paddy, torching the houses, physical assault	Women	-	9	115	6	2	2	24	34	124	-	31	31	3
	Men	9			24	3	19	35	81		9	73	82	8
<b>Resistance against corruption in Local Govt. (U.P),</b> partial justice in exchange of money, decisions contrary to the interest of land less masses, misappropriation of wheat from food for work and food for education programme, illegal transaction of money and false cases. Resisting illegalities and irregularities of micro credit Movement for due wage. Movement against others	Women	13	26	452	83	9	13	68	173	478	12	155	167	19
	Men	13			140	18	26	95	279		12	270	282	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	Women	18			219	23	27	214	483	1,052	13	453	466	35
	Men	23			230	26	55	217	528		22	508	530	21
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>1,011</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>56</b>



**TABLE - 18 (Opinion Sharing, Dialogue between Landless Group and Government Authority on following Issues)**

Description	Initiative by Government/Landless Group	Govt Resource	Commerecial Shrimp Aquaculture	Education, Food for Education and Work	Local Govt Corruption	Local Development Activity	Health	Environment and Water logging	Natural Calamity & Relief	National/International Day	Oppression on Women	Paddy Plantation and Harvesting	False Cases & Harassment	Fundamentalism	Law & Order situation	Total
Deputy Commissioner	By govt:	10	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	3	0	1	23
	By group	64	4	7	5	6	3	0	0	6	4	1	6	0	4	110
Land Administration	By govt:	87	4	1	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	9	3	0	7	117
	By group	363	14	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	0	9	399
Upazilla Administration	By govt:	69	6	35	16	22	5	3	8	39	4	10	10	0	23	250
	By group	303	18	63	47	47	28	7	13	75	32	25	55	1	51	765
Police Administration	By govt:	103	9	1	56	2	0	0	3	19	54	26	119	2	109	503
	By group	200	14	7	70	2	2	0	1	37	97	52	241	5	184	912
Election Commissioner	By govt:	1	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	13
	By group	7	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	8	22
Political Party	By Party	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
	By group	7	0	3	0	2	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	23
Parliament Member	By member	5	1	2	2	2	0	0	1	3	1	0	4	0	9	30
	By group	23	3	3	6	9	1	1	0	14	6	0	10	0	13	89
Union Council	By council	87	10	65	51	90	9	4	18	43	49	18	49	0	42	535
	By group	333	30	152	127	120	38	11	54	131	114	39	128	3	135	1,415
Health Administration	By govt:	0	0	9	0	9	66	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	89
	By group	18	0	4	0	1	238	1	1	1	8	0	1	0	3	276
Press Club	By club:	28	0	4	6	6	2	1	3	9	6	4	11	2	15	97
	By group	52	0	9	11	1	3	1	2	47	15	4	28	1	16	190
Bar Council	By council	8	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	13	0	2	27
	By group	91	0	7	16	3	0	1	0	5	27	14	97	0	15	276
Women Organisation	By org:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	6
	By group	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	0	1	0	0	13
Education Administration	By govt:	0	0	111	2	0	10	1	0	13	1	0	0	0	0	138
	By group	2	1	144	0	3	2	3	1	37	0	0	0	0	5	198
<b>Grand Total</b>	By govt:/others	400	30	230	140	138	93	9	35	136	119	69	217	4	214	1,834
	By group	1464	84	404	284	196	320	25	72	365	309	137	571	10	447	4,688
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,864</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>6,522</b>

**TABLE – 19 (Participation in Local Shalish)**

Description		Women against: (dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, kidnapping, physical assault, fundamentalism & religious indictment)	Illegal Possession of Property from the Landless	Fundamentalism	Issue of Injustice & oppression	Total	
Total Shalish of Current Year 2008-09		687	255	16	491	1,449	
Member attended the Shalish	Male	6,573	2,636	168	4,002	13,379	
	Female	3,686	1,179	116	1,906	6,887	
Nature of Participation in Shalish	Shalish at Self-initiative of Landless Leader Nijera Kori	By Female Leader	45	15	-	30	90
		Jointly by Female & Male Leader	304	98	8	245	655
	Shalish under Joint Leadership of Landless and Village Authority	UP Chairman	56	31	-	36	123
		UP Member	97	49	4	59	209
		Teacher	14	11	2	16	43
		Local Matbar	130	28	2	73	233
		Political Persons	41	23	-	32	96
	Landless Leader as Judge/Mediator	Male	1,229	523	35	727	2,514
Female		516	134	14	213	877	
Total		1,745	657	49	940	3,391	
Landless Leader as Judge/Mediator In Internal Group Shalish	Male	329	78	12	179	598	
	Female	138	27	6	57	228	
	Total	467	105	18	236	826	
Result	No of settled Shalish	657	248	16	478	1,399	
	No of unsettled Shalish	30	7	-	13	50	
No of Court Cases on Unsettled Shalish		18	6	-	8	32	

**TABLE – 20 (Registration, Lease & Possession of Khas Land and Water Body)**

Subject	Khas Land (Acre)								Water Body (Acre)					
	Land Registered		Land Leased		Land Owned		DCR		Water Body Leased		Water Body Owned		Water Body Open	
	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land
<b>Up to March 2008</b>	<b>21,858</b>	<b>21,071.36</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>108.30</b>	<b>46,359</b>	<b>26,749.26</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>42.14</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>344.25</b>	<b>3,088</b>	<b>747.83</b>	<b>9,750</b>	<b>1,287.58</b>
Increase in April 08 March 09	191	164.11	-	-	561	647.24	-	-	82	6.90	5,090	16.43	2,450	33.44
<b>Total March 2009</b>	<b>22,049</b>	<b>21,235.47</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>108.30</b>	<b>46,920</b>	<b>27,396.50</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>42.14</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>351.15</b>	<b>8,178</b>	<b>764.26</b>	<b>12,200</b>	<b>1,321.02</b>

**TABLE – 21 (Regaining of Properties of the Landless and Marginal Farmers from Illegal Possessors)**

Description	No of Movement for Reclaiming Illegally Occupied Land	Won in the Movement for Own Land and Quantity of regained Land		No of Movement against Commercial Shrimp	Won in the Movement against Commercial Shrimp and Quantity of Regained Land			Beneficiary Family	No of Present Movement
		No.	Amount of Land (Acre)		No.	Amount of Land (Acre)	Amount of Water Bodies (Acre)		
Last Year	<b>40</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>219.76</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42.00</b>	<b>30.81</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Current Year</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>17.65</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>856.03</b>	<b>1010.02</b>	<b>12,091</b>	<b>16</b>

**TABLE – 22 (Participation of Group Member in different Committee)**

Description	Rajshahi				Dhaka				Khulna				Chittagong				Total			
	No	M	F	T	No	M	F	T	No	M	F	T	No	M	F	T	No	M	F	T
<b>Union Parishad Up To March 2009</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Upazila Parishad Up To March 2009</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
School Management Committee till March 2008	107	97	19	116	19	24	4	28	49	51	24	75	70	101	9	110	245	273	56	329
<b>School Management Committee till March 2009</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>329</b>
Market Committee till March 2008	38	68	21	89	6	12	-	12	24	49	2	51	42	90	3	93	110	219	26	245
<b>Market Committee till March 2009</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>278</b>
Sugarcane Purchase Committee till March 2008	2	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	4
<b>Nominated till March 2009</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>
Project Management Committee (U.P) till March 2008	10	10	2	12	8	8	2	10	6	6	1	7	5	4	2	6	29	28	7	35
<b>Nominated till March 2009</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>44</b>
Sluice Gate Management Committee till March 2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	16	-	16	4	11	1	12	17	27	1	28
<b>Sluice Gate Management Committee till March 2009</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>
Social Movement Committee till March 2008	13	18	14	32	17	52	-	52	2	20	11	31	10	36	14	50	42	126	39	165
<b>Social Movement Committee till March 2009</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>140</b>

M= Male, F= Female, T= Total