

# Annual Report

## 2009 - 2010

Nijera Kori, 7/8, Block - C, Lalmatia, Dhaka - 1207  
Phone: 880-2-8111 372, 8122 199, 9144 085 Fax: 880-2-8122 250  
Email: [nijerakori@nijerakori.org](mailto:nijerakori@nijerakori.org)

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### **List of Abbreviations:**

ALRD	-Association for Land Reform and Development
AC land	-Assistant Commissioner ( <i>Land</i> )
ASIA	-Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aquaculture
ASK	-Ain-O-Salish Kendra
BELA	-Bangladesh Environments and Lawyers Association
BES	-Bangladesh Economic Association
BKB	-Bangladesh Krishi Bang
BLAST	-Bangladesh Legal Aids Services Trust
BMP	-Bangladesh Mohila Parishad
DCR	-Duplicate Carbon Receipt
DD	-Deputy Director
EED	-Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.v.
GD	-General Diary
HDRC	-Human Development Research Centre
ICCO	-Dutch Inter-church Organisation for Development Co-operation
IDS	-Institute of Development Studies
LGED	-Local Government Engineering Department
MP	-Member of Parliament
MPO	-Monthly Payment Order
NGO	-Non Government Organisation
OC	-Officer Incharge
PBS	-Public Broadcasting Service
PIL	-Public Interest Litigation
PME	-Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
RAS	-Research and Advisory Services
RTI	-Right to Information
SWOT	-Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
TIB	-Transparency International Bangladesh
TOT	-Training of Trainers
UNO	-Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	-Union Parishad
VGD	-Vulnerable Group Development
VGf	-Vulnerable Group Feeding
WDB	-Water Development Board

### **Glossary**

Adivasi	- <i>Indigenous peoples</i>
Anchal	- <i>Area structure</i>
Char	- <i>Land rising up on the river banks or in the middle of rivers</i>
Khasland	- <i>Government property-normally agricultural land and water bodies</i>
Nirbahi	- <i>Executive (as in officer, or committee)</i>
Parishad	- <i>Committee or council</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>
Upazila Parishad	- <i>Third tier of local government</i>
Naripokkhko	- <i>A national NGO</i>
Brac	- <i>A national NGO</i>
Proshika	- <i>A national NGO</i>
Grameen Bank	- <i>A national microfinance institution</i>
ASA	- <i>A national microfinance institution</i>
Jotedar	- <i>Powerful land grabbers</i>
Talim	- <i>Religious informal classes specially held for women, conducted by unqualified people, and forcing them to conform to a particular fundamentalist form of adherence</i>
Ramon	- <i>A publishing house</i>
Sammilito Samajik Andolon	-A social movements
Vested Property (enemy) Act. Movement	-A social movements

# CHAPTER ONE

## A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF NIJERA KORI

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1

*a brief overview of nijera kori*

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### 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 225,016 group members. Of them, more than half are women. The total number of programme staff in Nijera Kori is 308 out of which 125 are female and 183 male. The programme staff directly functions in the field. Besides, 104 support staff works along with the programme staff. The current programme is called” Ensuring Democracy, Accountability and Rights for the poorest” 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 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 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*) (*table:1*). The Head Office of Nijera Kori is located in Dhaka.

Table -1: NK working areas

Year	2009	2010
Village	1,347	1,356
Union	170	170
Upazilla	40	40
District	17	17
Division	4	4

### 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. It is with this in mind Nijera Kori attempts to sensitise men regarding gender and their roles and mindset in existing patriarchal systems. Nijera Kori also works towards including men to support and participate in women's struggles for dignity, respect and equality.

## CHAPTER TWO

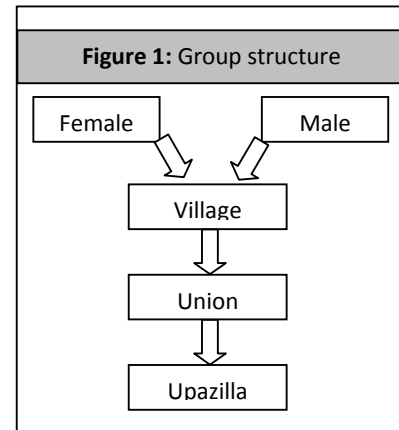
### LANDLESS GROUPS AND ITS ACTIVITIES

2.1

*the landless group and its activities*

#### 2.1 Formation of landless groups and members (Details in annex 2 and 3)

Primary landless groups are formed with a minimum of 16 and maximum of 30 members. The groups are separated by gender to allow women to express their voice without the prevalent socio-religious bias which dismisses women as intellectually inferior to men. After the groups have been separate for a while and both the men and women are more receptive and able to work together as equals, committees are formed which integrate the sexes. When two-thirds of the targeted population of a particular village has been formed into a group, a village committee is formed with representatives from the village. Similarly, when two-thirds of the villages in a union have formed groups, union committees are formed, again when two thirds of the unions in a upazilla are organized, representatives are sent to organize the upazilla level committee is formed. (see Figure 1 and Annex C). The landless can also form additional co-ordination committees called 'area committee' for running organizational activities in a particular area, even if the organised group members constitute less than two-third of the targeted population. The formation and renewal of the landless' committees at every level is done through annual conventions. In this process, the landless groups gradually become strengthened and achieve respect from the community at large, which ultimately assists them in contributing to the local power structure.



#### 2.1.1 Landless group formation and members (Details in annex 2 and 3)

##### Achievement analysis:

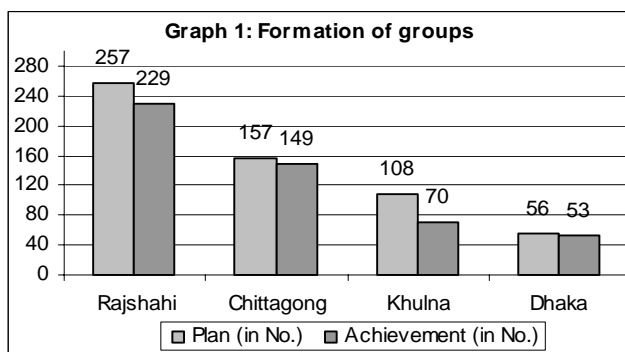
The overall percentage of group formation is 19% less than the previous year. As a result of forming new landless groups, the overall network of the landless was strengthened. During the last 4-5 years group formation activities were carried out with indigenous people of plain land in the Nijera Kori working areas. This year 11 new groups (Female-3, Male-8) of indigenous people were formed, making the percentage of formation of indigenous people's group 22% higher than the previous year. This indicates that ethnic groups are beginning to join Nijera Kori activities.

**Table 1: Group Formation and Group Member**

Description	Landless Group			Landless Member		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Up to March 09	6,384	7,586	13,970	137,449	150,099	287,548
Plan	276	302	578	5,520	6,040	11,560
Achievement	218	283	501	4,160	5,340	9,500
Decreased	1,948	1,665	3,613	39,188	32,844	72,032
Total March 10	4,654	6,204	10,858	102,421	122,595	225,016

Landless organisations primarily take up issues pertaining to village based planning. **Table 1** shows that 87% of the groups formed developed an annual plan; and that 94% of all of the women’s groups and 79% of the men’s groups engaged in this activity. The high percentage of participating women’s groups is a positive indication of unity of marginalized women. Village based planning, which includes the selection of appropriate members, is important for improving the quality and sustainability of the groups. The process includes identify issues, possible risks, and strengths and weaknesses for making effective plans. History has taught that meaningful activities for development of landless organization are essential to challenge the local village level power structure. Unstable political situation create negative impact in awareness activities. Prior preparation is very important and essential to face the situation. It may be noted that activities and groups were increased in nine new villages this year.

**Graph-1** shows that achievement ratio in terms of percentage of group formation as per plan, is 65% in Khulna division and 89% in Rajshahi division. It should be mentioned that the percentage of Rajshahi division is high because of the comparatively larger working areas.



This year the landless organizations wanted to ensure that inactive groups and members were removed from the records. A group was only cancelled for reasons of inactivity

after several meetings were held with various tiers of the group and Nijera Kori staff. In total, 3,613 (*Female-1,665 and male-1,948*) groups were cancelled, affecting a total of 72,032 people.

There are many reasons why landless groups would be cancelled. During the last two years rate of migration increased many times over.<sup>1</sup> 2,312 landless members in Nijera Kori areas were subject to eviction and had to seek shelter in the towns, many did not return because of lack of employment opportunities in the village. In other areas, such as Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Swandip, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Paikgacha, and Royganj, 1,120 group members were subjected to river erosion, and the landless members had to find alternative housing solutions in locations outside Nijera Kori’s working areas. Additionally, 1,181 group members developed relationship and became influenced by vested interests groups such as influential land owners and fundamentalists were thus excluded from the statistics of the landless organization by the groups themselves. Exclusion of landless groups from the record may be a negative indication but this is the reality and a lesson.

It should be mentioned that the number of participants in landless group actions are actually much higher than the actual number of landless groups or their members.

<sup>1</sup> "Ganatantra-Sangbidhan-Songkot: Desh Kon Pathey" professor Abul Barkat, Economic Department, University of Dhaka, General Secretary, Economic Society. An article presented at the round table discussion arranged by Peshajiby Somannoy Parishad at National Press Club on 23rd April 2008.

Generally one female and one male member of a family become members of landless group, but other members of landless families also participate in the various activities of the landless organisation such as participating in movements and attending discussion meeting, cultural shows and dramas. In March 2010 a total of 612,539 people from 125,008 landless families played a supporting role in strengthening the landless organization, and building their own personal awareness as a direct consequence. (*One family consists of 4.9 members' statistical pocket book-2009*).

**Reasons analysis:**

This year only 87% of the landless groups that Nijera Kori had hoped to organize actually became groups. There are two main reasons for this problem: 1) fundamentalist activities has begun to increase in villages, making it difficult and time consuming to select new members for group formation and 2) the people of the village often leave for increased employment opportunities.

In 2007 the army supported Caretaker Government assumed power and evicted landless families who were residing in slum areas in towns, coastal embankments, in khas lands and village areas. Professor Abul Barkat reported that all over the country a large number of small businesses were closed and 50,000 people were laid off from the bigger industries. During this period of emergency rule, 10,000,000 people were left without gainful regular employment. Simultaneously, unemployment rose in agriculture, which traditionally provides 50% of the employment opportunities.

**2.1.2 Group meeting, representative meeting and joint meeting (*Details in annex 4 & 5*):**

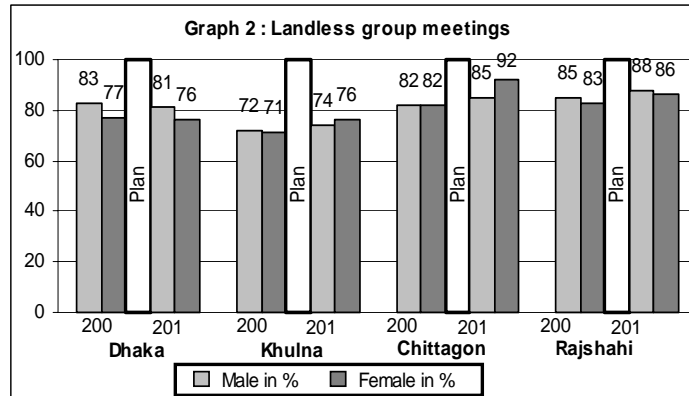
**Achievement analysis:**

Group meetings are the foundation of the conscientization programme, based on exchange of information and debate of ideas. In the group meetings the landless members decide the subjects for discussion, calling upon their experiences, information received during training, and current events. Trained members and staff of Nijera Kori enrich the group discussions by providing relevant information. Members also nominate representatives to participate in the salish after the discussion, which helps the members increase their knowledge, decision making, and accountability. They hold joint meetings with members and representatives of various groups of the area for coordinating joint initiatives. In these meetings they explain their strengths and responsibilities and identify their weaknesses in order to foster mutual discussion and criticism. Members also arrange joint and representative meeting for making issue based movements. They analyse the problems/issues in the meetings and decide the best course of action. This process aids the landless groups in understanding and fighting for their basic rights.

General members changed leadership of 1,450 (*Female-718 and Male-732*) old group leaders by evaluating their leadership qualities and responsibilities through elections. This is a positive indication of the democratic practices, accountability, efficiency of leaders, alternate leadership and participation of general members in the decision making process in the landless organisation.

This year 84% group meetings were held as per plan which is 3% more than last year's figure of 81%. Comparative figures of the number of group meetings by district from 2008-09 and 2009-10 are shown in **graph: 2**. In all but the Dhaka division the rate of the number of meetings increased. In Khulna, Chittagong and Rajshahi the percentage of women's groups holding meeting is higher than that of the men's groups. In

these three divisions the percentage of women's groups holding meetings increased by 8% this year. However, overall in all four divisions as compared to last year, this year percentage of women group meeting increased by 7% but men's group meetings decreased by 2%. Success of women's



group in implementing group meetings indicates the women's awareness, duties and self realisation. This is a powerful indication of women's empowerment.

This year the number of meetings was 118% higher than target in representative meetings and 145% higher than target in joint meetings. Group members initiated 52% of the meetings. Regular group meetings signify that the groups are fulfilling their duties and responsibilities. This is also a successful example of joint initiative and action between the Nijera Kori staff and landless organisations. The overall percentage of annual meeting was 94%, 4% less than the previous year. In the annual meeting elected leaders explain their duties and responsibilities to the general members.

#### **Reasons analysis:**

One of the main obstacles to holding a group meeting is that members are often forced to move outside their village in order to become gainfully employed, especially during the dry season. More men leave the villages than women, which could explain why there is a smaller percentage of men's groups meeting than women's groups. Not having group meetings decreases the groups awareness and cohesiveness. To compensate for the difficulties in meeting, more joint meetings were held for organising movements, especially in Paikgacha, Bagatipara, and Charjabber areas. The landless organisation reported that they felt they had sufficient group and annual meetings.

#### **Lessons learnt:**

In order to maximize participation in annual meetings, they should be organized to coincide when the maximum amount of group members are in the village, such as in the rainy season. When possible, discussion meetings, workshops, and cultural activities should also be held during this time. Group members also felt that more time and attention should be spent on accountability practices.

### 2.1.3 Landless group workshop (*Details in annex – 5 and 5.a*)

The landless group organised day long workshops at the field-level to analyse the activities of the group, identify organisational strengths and weaknesses, decide future activities, and assess local issues and risks. Other one day workshops were also organized on specific subjects.

#### Achievement analysis:

This year the landless group organised a total of 55 workshops relating to organisational matters, 104% of the target. The participants in the workshops are those who are less aware of their rights, in order to increase the total awareness of the village. For that reasons, ten workshops were organized in the movement prone areas alone. Additionally, four workshops were held in four districts for the children of the landless groups.

Last year skill development Last year’s annual report contains statistics of the project in **table 2**. This year issue based workshops, such as gender and right to

Description of workshops	P		A	
	N	P	N	P
Organisational matter	53	1,325	55	1,414
<b>Skill development workshops</b>				
Gender	12	300	12	308
Reproductive health rights	12	300	12	305
Strategic planning	80	2,000	63	1,601
Watch committee policy	4	100	5	160

*P=Plan, A= Achievement, N= Number, P= participant*

reproductive health care, were organised as planned. According to strategy planning and analysing committee's policy issue based workshops were held numbering 79% and 125% against number planned. The organisational workshops focused on democracy, joint decision making, accountability, leadership, and analysing local issues. The issue based workshops focused on

strategy. The participating members became more proficient in analysing information, making decision and creating strategic action plans.

#### Reasons analysis:

Several more workshops than planned were held this year for several reasons. Workshops are especially helpful for the landless members who are frequently out of the village to pursue employment opportunities, because it can tutor them on the lessons they missed during the meetings. Landless members also demanded a lot of workshops which resulted in the number being held being above planned. Budgetary constraints also made it difficult to host as many small group trainings as Nijera Kori would have liked, and thus workshops allowed them to reach people who were not able to receive training. Not all of the workshops went as planned. Plans were made to organise a total of 80 workshops on strategic planning in two big activity areas (*sub-centres*) and in two small activity areas (*sub-centres*). But the members of these regions were too occupied in organising movements against commercial shrimp cultivation khasland and water bodies to attend a workshop.

#### Lessons learnt:

The workshops must be carefully tailored to narrow the gap in rights awareness among the members as this can disrupt the power dynamic of the group. It is also necessary to emphasize strategic planning and to focus on specific issues. It is also important to ensure follow-up of group activity.

#### **2.1.4 Committee formation, meetings and group convention (*Details in annex - 6 & 7*)**

Organisational committees are formed at the village, union and upazila levels. When 66% population in a village is organised, a village committee is formed with seven representatives from the village landless groups. Similarly, when 66% of the villages in an area is organized, a union committee is formed with thirteen representatives. Same at the upazila level but it is comprised of twenty-one members. When it is not possible to form a committee at union or upazila level, an anchal (*Area*) committee can be formed at the village sub-centre to support and coordinate activities, ensure accountability and conduct rights movement. An anchal committee is formed with 11 members. The organisation committee is elected for a one year post by a democratically run open vote during the annual group convention. In the event that the time span of an annual group convention is more than one year from the last one the previous committee can carry on the responsibility on ad hoc basis.

##### **Analysis of achievement:**

Committee formation is an important part of organizing activities and strengthening the leadership. The means of committee formation, however, depends entirely on the working area covered and how many landless groups it contains. This year village committees have been formed in 20 villages. The implementation rate of the programs is 167 percent of number planned. There were 23% less village committees formed this year than last year, but any formation of new committees in new villages demonstrates the manifestation of the landless organization as a safeguard against the local power. As planned, there were no new committees formed at the union, upazilla or regional level because 66% of coverage was not achieved. It should be mentioned that as of March 2010 there are 349 village committees, 23 union committees, 3 upazilla committees and 33 regional committees.

A statistical analysis, shown in annexure table-7, shows that the percentage of the meetings planned that were actually held was 95% by the village and union committees, 72% by the upazilla committees and 97% by the area committees. These numbers indicate that the organisational programme committees are effective and take their responsibilities seriously. Additionally, the fact that the committees are held accountable for the number of meetings indicates the landless groups have high expectations for their leadership. The ratio of holding annual conference by the landless committees is 124% at village level, 100% at union and upazilla level and 108% at the area or anchal level as per annual plan.

The leadership was changed by a vote of the members in the landless committee conferences. Men and women compete for the same spots, which is indicative of the groups empowerment and commitment to building a collective leadership. A total of 245 women were elected 131 in the village committees, 43 in the union committees, 11 in the upazilla committees and 60 women in the regional committees. Similarly, for the general body elections, 789 people were elected: 482 women and 313 men.

##### **Reasons analysis:**

More village committees were formed than was originally planned. This meets this year goal of ensuring that 75% of the target people must be mobilized into village committees.

**Lessons learnt:**

The conditions for the formation of the committees needs to be reviewed because the current criteria does not take into account the knowledge and leadership skills of the members.

**2.1.5 Group savings and bank account (Details in annex-8,9 and 17)**

Group saving is collected to conduct group organisational activities and joint economic activities. The rate of contribution is decided by consensus of the group, but they are encouraged to consider the financial ability of all members of the group. The groups take full responsibility for managing the accounts, but Nijera Kori staff assists with book keeping. No staff ever collects funds or operates the account.

**Analysis of achievement:**

The members use the group savings for a joint fund in three main ways: 1) operating the group programs; 2) assisting with those experiencing a financial hardship; and 3) developing and implementing programmes including education, health, and road repair. An analysis of the data, summarized in annexure table no. 8 and 9, shows that the landless groups accumulated a total amount of 1,95,87,067 taka in the project year (*women accumulated 1,08,24,122 and men accumulated 87,62,945 taka*). This is 82% of the target, but is 9% higher than it has been in previous years.

The landless groups opened 192 new bank accounts this year (*women opened 124 bank accounts and men opened 68 bank accounts*). This is 12% less than the number of bank accounts opened last year, but it should be noted that because of exclusion of some inactive groups, a total number of 778 bank accounts were excluded from the final tally. (women - 442 and men- 336).

This year the groups distributed a total of 9,257,964 taka amongst the members who faced a financial hardship to enhance their financial capacity. The amount distributed was 30% less than what was distributed last year that allowed the groups to not take out any excess loans this year. The group members used a total of 11,07,004 taka to maintain a number of group activities including annual group conferences, workshops, trainings, repeated discussions, movements, litigation, and directing cultural functions. This expenditure is 6% more than last year. The groups also spend a total amount of 7,00,883 taka on development and welfare activities including construction of schools and roads, repairing reservoirs, cleaning and digging canals, providing for education and health, and arranging marriage without dowry. This expenditure is 1% higher than the previous year. These numbers indicate that the group members have developed a means to promote self-reliance.

**Reasons analysis:**

The daily expenditure of the members increased this year due to the abnormal price hike of the everyday essentials, such as food, during the last two years of the army-backed caretaker government. Regular group activities also faced financial setbacks. Many groups stopped their group savings activities during that time, but as the economic condition of the country improves, some groups have resumed their savings - sometimes to a lesser degree than what they could afford before the economic set back. The amount of the agriculture subsidy has increased this year, with a better form of distribution than previous. This is why



the members could get more government aid and subsidies in the farming season this year compared to last year. This year banks increased the service charge and is why less groups decided to open a bank account this year compared to last year. Detailed discussions were also held with the landless groups on the present financial condition of Nijera Kori.

The landless groups took it upon themselves to organize, arrange and participate in more of the organizational activities, to ensure continuation of the progress and share some of the burden with Nijera Kori.

**Lessons learnt:**

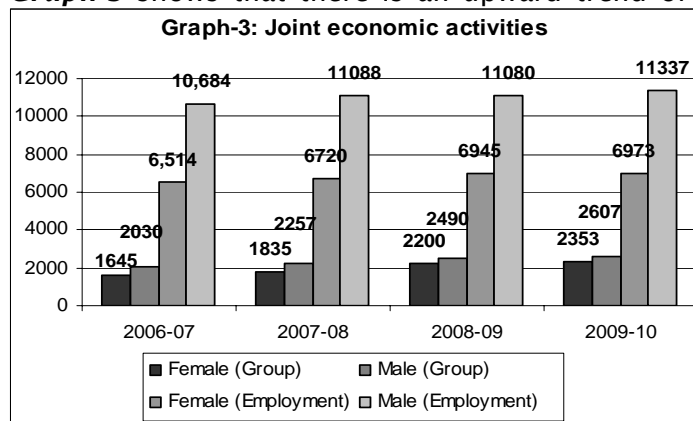
The landless groups have been participating and performing their responsibilities in this we hope, temporary programme implementation stage, with a greater involvement than ever before. If this trend continues for a longer time, then it would probably be difficult for the landless groups to continue to participate and perform their duties at such an intense rate due to having to also earn their own livelihoods. This is why taking immediate steps in searching and exploring new means to support the programme and to keep the work continuing is necessary.

**2.1.6 Joint Economic Activities (Details in annex - 13)**

Solidarity among the members is getting stronger through collective economic activities. The groups are learning to become self sufficient and able to handle difficult situations are making joint decisions, managing funds collectively, learning to resolve issues and crises as a group. Through creating economic opportunities, they are also supporting those who are the most marginalized and most in need of employment, such as the poorest sections of the community, the aged etc. and as such are also becoming more self confident as a group.

An analysis of the data, shown in annexure table-13, reveals that a total of 712 landless groups have newly undertaken joint economic activities (*women 340 and 372*). As compared to last year this is 25% less than that of numbers of new economic activities taken by groups last year. On the other hand, 442 groups from the well established groups have temporarily stopped their programs. These groups have been involved in the joint economic activities earlier. Currently, 4,960 landless groups earned a total of 39,28,607 taka as profit from these activities. As a result, these joint economic activities are helping to enhance the economic capacity of the members, and create Jobs for 654 new members (*women 256 and men 398*) for the next six months.

**Graph-3** shows that there is an upward trend of joint activities of the landless



groups. The numbers of women's groups are higher than men's groups against the time period of 2006-07 to 2009-10. On average, women comprise 55% of the total makeup of the groups, which is a positive example of success in attaining economic capacity of the female members. The graph also reveals that men's

status or condition in creating self-employment is higher than that of women. But, the graph also indicates that the rate of increase in employment generation was 6% for men during the time-frame of 2006-07 to 2009-10 while it was 7% for women. Additionally, the rate of increase in employment is higher in case of women to men.

**Reasons analysis:**

The landless members generally are only able to engage in agriculture or fishing by taking a lease of land, water body or by share-cropping. These activities have to be stopped if the lease or contract cannot be renewed, bringing the economic activities to a complete standstill. Due to this some groups were forced to forgo their joint activities during the project year. In the case of cattle rearing, after selling of cattle, the groups have to wait to purchase new cattle and until then this activity is also put on hold. As a result some groups do not show economic activities at the end of the year, even if this is only temporary.

**Lessons Learnt:**

It is important to ensure that the lease of either land or water body taken is renewed prior to its expiry. For contract farming too this is important to ensure continuity of the economic activity and lessen chances of the activity being closed down.

It is also important to encourage the undertaking of joint programmes or activities in the Khaslands and open water bodies, which would help to strengthen the legal claim the groups had to these resources and allow the groups to be able to hold on to these bodies.

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**Box-1**

***Collective Cultivation: Self Employment and Food Security***

*Char Jabbar is part of the coastal region. A landless group works in the area to continue the movement for establishing the rights of the landless people over khasland. Two such villages are named Nabagram and Bhatir Tek. The only source of income in the villages is one-crop agriculture. Deeply rooted in these villages are the practices of selling menial labor in advance, purchasing labor in advance (dadon byabsa) and money lenders gaining money through interest (mahajani byabsa). As a result, around 80 percent of the crops produced by the farmers go to the businessmen and the money lenders each year, but most of the time the villagers have very little crops.*

*The landless organizations in the Nabagram and Bhatir Tek villages decided to engage in joint cultivation. Around 19 landless organizations, totaling 320 members, participated in joint cultivation. They took money from the savings to start a joint fund in the amount of 2,74,327 taka. They bought a tractor to cultivate 189 acres of collective land. The regional market committee took care of the paddy. Their efforts raised a total 5,840 maunds of rice. Later the groups preserved 99 maunds of seed-corn or seed-paddy. They also deposited 70,000 taka into a joint bank account for next years harvest with money they collected from selling 100 maunds of rice. Each of the landless families received 18 maunds of rice.*

**Result:**

*Other organizations have been encouraged from the example of the collective or joint farming. We hope they will be encouraged to start a joint fund and purchase a tractor for the next farming season. Nijera Kori estimates that this could provide food security for up to seven months for each participating family.*

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### 2.1.7 Group Consciousness level (*Details in annex --16*)

Education for the landless groups is a continuous process. When half of the members of any group have mastered the skills taught in one level the entire group is elevated to the next level where they can continue to gain tools to become self reliant. Box 2 discusses the found levels in more detail.

#### **Analysis of achievement:**

In the activity year a total of 242 groups have gone from the primary level to secondary level, (*female 122 and male 120*) and another 41 groups have gone from secondary level to third level, (*female 19 and male 22*). Annex table-16 shows that the 81% of the planned secondary groups were formed and 47% of the planned third level groups. Compared to last year there was a 6% reduction in secondary group formation, but a 8% increase in third level group formation.

#### **Reasons analysis:**

We believe the main reason why there was less graduation from the first to second group this year had to do with the fact that more landless group members spent less time working and learning as a group as a result of economic hard times which led them to find work outside the village. It should also be mentioned it was fully expected that more groups graduate from the first to second group than the second to third: the subject matter in the third is very subtle and demands a high degree of knowledge, which can be difficult to achieve in the current economic and political environment.

#### **Lessons learnt:**

It is important that an analysis is done at the beginning of the year of the number of groups and group members who are able to give time to the strengthening of the organizations. A strategic planning exercise needs to be undertaken whereby groups can identify which groups are ready to move onto graduating to the next tier and accordingly make a plan. Those groups that are identified as being ready to move onto the third tier, should be part of regular workshops on all issues and topics those are relevant for their advancement. At the same time these groups should be encouraged to participate in all activities, programmes, movements in the area. They should also be part of a process along with staff in analyzing outcomes of each action, movements, planning processes, and causes behind each of these. This is an important exercise to be done at each sub-centre level looking at their working area as a whole. It is important to recognize that this process will never be a smooth and easy process, but one that has and is bound to have many ups and downs.

#### **Box 2: Level of Group Consciousness**

##### **Primary Level**

Groups at this level concentrate on developing basic awareness, organizing members of similar class, learning to trust and sympathies 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 protests if their initial efforts fail. The group members at this level learn from a evaluation of the various activities. The members raise awareness amongst the various professional groups in the society by holding discussions. The group also sees to the participation of its members throughout the village. *The group specifically takes the initiative to invest its savings in joint cooperative ventures and organise members of the same class to ensure group accountability and to develop a group 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 neighboring villages, expand and enlarge support of the well-wishers, raise the cultural and awareness amongst people. *The group should specifically develop a clear conception about exploitation, organize for the group savings to be invested in joint ventures, raise cultural awareness amongst the masses and take responsibility for conducting local committees.*

**CHAPTER THREE**  
**SECTION- A: TRAINING OF NIJERA KORI**

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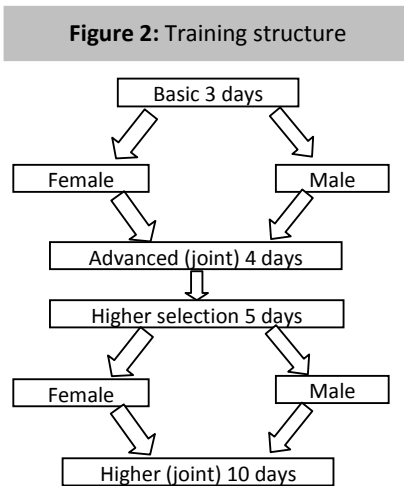
**SECTION- A**  
*the landless group members training activities*

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**3. A- Training (Details in annex - 10)**

Core development trainings are held with 20-25 participants in each session. At the basic level the training is done with female and male members separately while at the advanced level the trainings are organized jointly. Again at the higher selection level, it is organised separately and at its higher level, jointly (see Figure 2). This is the strategy that Nijera Kori has been following so far to provide training to both female and male members. Given the prevailing socio-religious condition, trainings are organised separately in order to creating a free environment, especially for women, so that they can interact openly with other fellow participants.

Afterwards, female and male members participate together in the advanced level training to create space for reciprocal interaction so that they can develop a greater understanding and overcome gender bias. The same process is followed at the higher selection and the higher training level for the same reason. A few other trainings are also undertaken, which are jointly attended by both men and women, based on the specific demand of groups from the working areas. An example of this is the organising of a joint cultural training at the basic and advanced level with 20 female and male cultural group members in attendance. Trainings on issues like "Leadership Development", "Joint Production Management", "Right and Access to Information", "Land Laws and Management Systems", "Citizens Rights and Constitutional Guarantees" and "Globalisation and Sustainable Development" are conducted with 20-25 female and male participants, who had previously received basic training and are prominent members.



**3.1 Landless group training (Detail in annex - 10)**

**Achievement analysis:**

The trained members take initiatives in group meetings. They also play an active role in encouraging the other members to participate. In many instances, by utilizing their previous experiences, they are able to create positive environment for discussion. As a result, those members who are less aware are becoming interested in participating in the discussion. Singing and telling stories is also used to make the meetings lively and interesting. Opportunities are created for follow up after the training.

As per recommendations given by the various review teams and Nijera Kori's own analysis at the Staff Convention and Council, for the past few years one member from every 5 members per group is being selected to participate in training programmes (i.e if a group has twenty members then 4 members, one at a time, can participate in the trainings instead of one per group as was the case previously)

At present certain positive results are noticed in this strategy. The discussions are becoming deeper. In a group, because more members are trained on responsibility and accountability, the differences in awareness and hierarchy reducing. It has also been noticed that the trained members are better able to take active and bold positions in analysing issues, finding causes, identifying the necessary actions and organising movements. Also the gender and reproductive health care training is reducing persecution on women and the tendency to resolve cases through shalish. It has also impacted their own lives with increasing and greater gender equal roles within their households.

**Table-3's** statistics, when analysed, reveals that the achievement rate of training at the primary level is 100%, at the advanced level is 67%, on cultural is 100%, on right to access to information is 100% and on land laws and management is 200%.

Description of Training	P		A	
	N	P	N	P
<b>CORE TRAINING</b>				
Basic	36	900	36	881
Advanced	9	225	6	149
<b>CULTURAL TRAINING</b>				
Basic	2	40	2	40
<b>OTHER TRAININGS</b>				
Right and Access to Information	1	25	1	25
Land Laws and Management	2	50	4	95

*P=Plan, A= Achievement, N= Number, P= participant*

### Reasons analysis:

This year, due to financial constraints, a limited number of trainings were planned. Even with the reduced planning, three advanced trainings that were planned could not be held. On the other hand Nijera Kori is a member of Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), who had previously provided trainings to groups on "Establishing Rights over the Khas land and water bodies" as well as on "land laws and management". This year, ALRD provided some trainings to Nijera Kori out of their own budget. As a result, Nijera Kori organised one training in four divisions separately. This shows that more trainings were held than was planned on this topic.

### Lessons learnt:

In order to maintain continuity of trainings held and keeping in mind current financial constraints, it is important to continue holding larger number of workshops at the village/grass roots level. Since no traveling costs are incurred and all costs are borne by the groups and the village themselves, this ensures that lessons learned during trainings are maintained and as mentioned continuity provided. Until further funding is available it is also necessary to build up relationships with like minded NGOs who could provide much needed and relevant specialized trainings to the groups at their own costs.

### **3.2 Follow up of training activities. (Details in annex - 11)**

#### **Achievement analysis:**

During training emphasis is given to the participants applying their training in group activities. In group meetings, the trained members are observed and coached on their participation in discussion and their interaction with their own and groups, especially in issue based movements. During the field-level training discussions are also held on how to improve the training, allowing the trained members to provide inputs on training methodologies based on their own experiences and are able to use this for planning as well as take on responsibility to conduct and organize groups meetings in the neighbouring areas and villages. This is a two way learning experience and increases ownership of the process. Forum meetings amongst the more advanced of the groups members are also held in the villages. As included in table 11, this year 168% of the planned training discussions were held, meaning that more were held than were planned and 93% of the planned forum meetings were held.

#### **Reasons analysis:**

During the activity year, due to financial constraint, the training was less than in past years. The landless members therefore held multiple trainings at the field-level to maintain their level of knowledge and overcome deficiency in training. Therefore, more field level discussions were held than plan. Additionally, the group members and leaders held more joint meetings to organize movements. Forum meeting discussions were also held, but a trifle less than planned as the field level training follow up discussions as many of the issues to be discussed at the forum meeting were already covered.

#### **Lessons learnt:**

It is important to analyze the trained members participation and their ability to decide the necessary actions. It is also imperative to hold discussions with members who have had their training a long time ago to refresh their skills as well as with the newly trained members to reaffirm their skills. The memory lapses amongst the older trained members, created through a long gap, could be overcome through these discussions and analysis made to fit with changing situations and current reality.

### **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 and has always used the motto "self-development. Special efforts are made to 1) arrange special "schooling" sessions in the weekly sub-centre, monthly regional, bi-monthly divisional meeting and quarterly executive meetings; 2) ensure continuous collection of new information and tools and sharing these materials with the staff at the sub-centre level; 3) organising various cultural training and workshops; 4) enabling the staff to participate as observers in all training sessions in order to gain further experience; and 5) reviewing the lessons and specific initiatives at the annual staff convention of Nijera Kori.

### Achievement analysis:

Topics for continuous discussions are selected for the weekly and monthly training of the staff. The divisional and central representatives participate in every phase of coordinating the trainings. The trainings have made a noticeable difference in the level of discussions, debates, and analyses. **Table 4** shows that one basic training workshop has been arranged for the newly appointed staff. Additionally, a workshop strategy has been adopted for holding of organizational and training cell meetings. As a result, the skill enhancement of the organizational and training cell members have been much more positive and effective.

Descriptions	Plan		Achievement	
	N	P	N	P
<b>Training</b>				
Basic level	1	40	1	30
Workshop				
Skill development on cultural team	1	14	1	14
Watch committee activity coordination	1	33	1	33
Training cell meeting at division level	4	56	4	53
Training cell meeting at central level	1	12	1	11
Organising cell meeting at central level	1	13	1	12
Divisional staff convension	4	308	4	308
Central staff convension	1	308	1	308
ToT	1	21	1	21

*N= Number, P= Participants*

Developed from a pilot project last year, one workshop was held to determine the strategic plan, operational guidelines, and coordination of four monitoring committees. Additionally, a workshop for enhancing the strategic skill of the cultural group staff was held. Four divisional and one central staff conference has been held to enhance the joint activity analysis, monitoring and strategic skills. The staffs adopted the Nijera Kori work plan on the basis of over-all activity review and monitoring.

### Reasons analysis:

Despite necessity, staff level development training could not be held due to the financial constraints. To fill some of the gap, workshops were held to build the staff's capacity. Additionally, more emphasis has been placed upon the training strategy in the weekly and monthly meetings in the sub-centers to supplement the gaps of staff level development training. The organizational and training cell meetings were also prioritized to make the staff development and follow-up processes more effective at the field level. Finally, staff conferences were held at the divisional and central level to retain their collective work endeavors.

### Lessons learnt:

The training program adopted a new strategy where books and articles by multiple authors were read to get a diverse view on a topic.

**CHAPTER THREE**  
**SECTION -B: CULTURAL GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES**

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**SECTION - B**

*The landless cultural groups and activities*

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**Landless cultural groups**

Nijera Kori considers cultural activities an integral part of social mobilisation. The objectives of all cultural activities of Nijera Kori is to fight against injustice, exploitation and repressions of 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 those who are interested in cultural activities. At the initial stage, t members sit for 2-3 hours every day among themselves and perform issue-based drama, song and other cultural activities.

**3. 4 Landless Cultural Groups and their Activities (*Details in annex - 13*)**

**Achievement analysis:**

The landless cultural groups held programs on the major target issues in the working area. As a result, the positive impact of the landless organization in building public opinions on behalf of the movement has increased. Cultural programmes were created from the demands of those in the working area to build public opinions of the movements. As a result the people's responsibilities for providing information about the issues in the songs and dramas has increased. Table-12 shows reveals that the rate of implementation of the cultural programs is higher than planned.

Number of meetings held for the cultural programmes was 94% of cultural discussion 385% of performances and mass song 258% of and for people's dramas 250%. Additionally, the landless cultural team commemorated nationally and internationally recognized days like the International Mother Language Day on 21st February, International Women's Day on 8th March, Independence Day on 26th March, International Labor Day on 1st May, Rokeya Day on 9th December,

Intellectual Martyrs Day on 14th December and Victory Day on 16th December.

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**BOX-3**

**There are many things to learn and know...**

*Abdul Khaleque (age: 45) has attended school up to the junior level. He is from the Rahimanpur village. He is a small farmer by profession. He came to see the poster exhibition by walking around four kilometers of road. The landless organization arranged a two day long poster exhibition in the field of the Jigri Government School on 22-23 December. Abdul Khaleque came alone on the first day of the exhibition, i.e., 22 December. He came on 23rd December or the next day along with his son. His son Abdul Haque (age: 9) is a student of class III. His father was explaining the posters on Liberation War, telling the war-stories and walking. When his son asked about the slogan on one of the posters 'We want rice, we want to live like human beings' he answered, 'I don't know when those things would be implemented. You would get the answers when you would be grown-up. Ask those who have organized it. They might know the answer.'*

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In addition, the landless organization observed some other days of their own movements where a number of their leaders were killed and martyred, such as Kanchmati Day on 14th April, anti shrimp movement leader Karunamoyee Day on 7th November (*which is also widely acclaimed in national and international circles*) and Martyr Jainal Day on 3rd December. The landless organizations undertook a number of programmes in different areas on these days.

The programmes included hoisting the national flag and a black flag as a sign of protest and mourning, morning assembly, offering flower wreaths, and having a poster exhibition, meetings, discussions and cultural programmes. Observation and commemorating these as yet nationally unrecognized martyrs encourages men and women from all walks of life in the areas where this is commemorated to become aware of the issues and the role of the subaltern peoples.

People's participation and support of these programs by the landless organization increases yearly. It should be noted that necessary steps have been taken to strengthen the cultural programmes. Two basic cultural training programme have been held with the members from the landless cultural groups in the Chittagong and Rajshahi division. Additionally, as planned a total 8 workshops have been planned. New dramas were made with factual and current information on three topics: war criminals, climate change and local people's living conditions as a result of cyclone Aila. 14 landless women members have been added in the cultural groups and an additional 30 other landless women members (*who are not members of the cultural groups*) participated in people's dramas and mass songs. Participation of women in mass songs and people's dramas in public, despite the social, religious and familial barriers, is a significantly positive achievement. It is also an example of women's challenge to the society in terms of women's emancipation, women's liberty and strength.

**Reasons analysis:**

Cultural programmes were held in more areas than planned because of their necessity. The landless cultural groups organized a number of workshops at their own initiatives.

**Lessons learnt:**

It is necessary to take and implement the cultural activities of the landless groups as supplementary to the organizational activities of the landless groups. Adequate and necessary steps should be taken to operate the cultural activities by further strengthening it on the basis of the local issue based movements.

**3.5 Cultural long march/drama festival (*Details in annex -12*).**

With support from the landless organisations, the cultural groups organise a 2-5 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:**

A total number of 11 cultural long marches and drama festivals have been organized (*cultural long march- 03, drama festivals- 08*) in the project year. The implementation rate per planning is 100%. Children and adolescents (offspring of the landless members) presented the dramas, created and directed themselves, along with poster exhibition in the four divisions.

It should be noted that people from all walks of lives were present in the cultural long marches/drama festivals; even local representatives and government officials were present and participated in almost all of these functions. One of the noteworthy positive aspects of the project year is that a number of schools in the working area are now inviting the landless cultural groups to present drama in their respective schools.

#### **Reasons analysis:**

There was no planning to hold any cultural long march in the Dhaka division in the project year because the fund raising activities of the landless group turned a bit uncertain because of lots of expenses borne by the landless groups in a number of movements and litigations in the project year. Fortunately, the drama festival was implemented as planned.

#### **Lessons learnt:**

Participation of the local people should be increased in the cultural long marches/drama festivals so that the audience can easily understand the difference between the cultural movement of the landless groups and the locally directed programs. It would also strengthen the network between the two groups, especially when it came to enhancing joint programmes on fundamentalism.

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#### **BOX-4**

##### **Cultural Long March- Voice of the Movement:**

**Working Area:** Devidwar and Rasulpur sub-centres, Comilla Area, Chittagong Division. Two sub-centers, Devidwar and Rasulpur, jointly undertook the program of cultural long march jointly to celebrate the International Mother Language Day. Devidwar upazilla, however, is a center of fundamentalism and extremism. There are therefore no locally organized cultural activities in this upazilla. Cinemas are not even allowed in the area.

It was the end phase of the winter season. It was mid day. More than one thousand men and women gathered for the cultural long march program of the landless organization like had been attended by their parents and grandparents. The cultural long march programme was commenced by hoisting the national flag in the presence of elected representatives, professionals, political activists, government officials and others. People sang: 'We would break away the shackle of exploitation (Shoshon er jinjir bhangbo mora)' s. Thus the declaration of the cultural long march was reflected in voices of thousands of men and women- 'The long march to break away the shackles of the exploitation.' A long march programme to walk in village after village began from the Devidwar upazilla premises on February 20. The landless members, along with three landless cultural groups, presented mass songs and people's dramas in different schools, markets, hats and other areas of 21 villages in 4 unions during the next two days. The landless members of the Luxmipur village shared the responsibilities to look after the traveling members and cultural performers. One landless female member took the responsibility of looking after two male member, after she got the permission of her husband and other members. . The landless members are just like siblings among themselves. The landless organization never takes into consideration that who is a relative or who is a stranger. But some religious fanatics (mullahs) and some of their supporters from among the local influential tried to obstruct this cultural long march.

But the cultural long march did not get stopped. Rather this long march began to be much stronger and protest oriented through participation of a vast number of people. The cultural long march for the second day began with the offering of flower garlands and wreaths in the premises of the Shahid Minar (martyr mausoleum) and protest demonstration. The concluding ceremony was held in the Rasulpur school field at night in presence of more than two thousands men and women. The concluding ceremony was addressed among others by Advocate Mahbubur Rahman and Rasulpur Union Parisad Chairman. The UP Chairman of Rasulpur condemned the incident of obstructing the cultural long march program of the landless organization by a vested quarter in his concluding speech. He, in addition, called on others to collectively resist such incidents.

#### **Result:**

A call from the part of the people's representatives and general public to resist the fundamentalists and locally influential people is a positive thing. Such sort of invitation from the people's side is very positive and important to built strong network. The landless organization and cultural groups presented a total number of 33 mass songs and people's drama functions in markets, schools, colleges and other open spaces of 21 villages in four unions of Devidwar upazilla.

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**CHAPTER THREE**  
**SECTION- C: MAJOR EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES**

**SECTION- C**

*The landless cultural groups and activities*

**4. MAJOR EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES**

**4.1 Legal-aid activities (Details in annex - 15 and 19)**

As the movements of the landless organisations for establishing basic rights is getting stronger, the voices and struggles of the disadvantaged people are gaining more recognition from the state and 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 necessary cases is large the cost is too high for the landless groups to support the economically disadvantaged people in fighting the legal battle, they turn to Nijera Kori for assistance, who will finance the case if it is determined it is important to establishing the rights of the landless groups.

**Achievement analysis:**

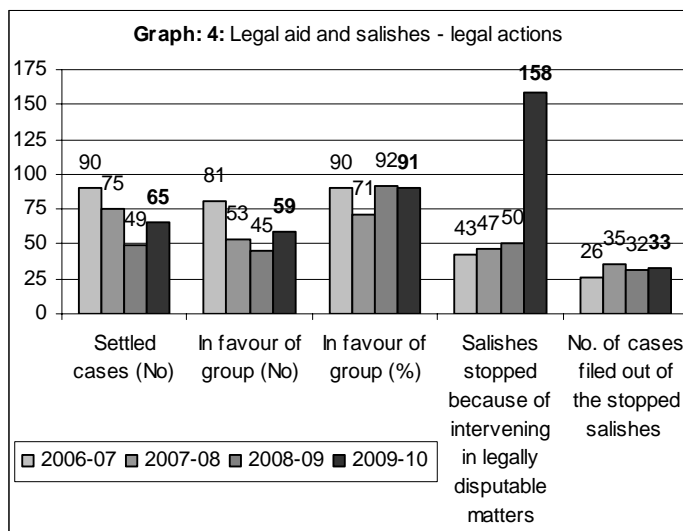
In the activity year numerical analysis shows a total number of 122 new cases were fought. This is 17% more than last year. Compared to last year, the numbers of new legal cases increased in Rajshahi, Khulna and Chittagong and decreased in Dhaka. Settlement was reached in 65 cases, which is 33% more than last year. Of the settled cases, the verdict was given in favour of the landless groups 59 times. In the other 6 cases, the landless groups filed appeal.

*Table- 5* 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 violence against women. Groups represent both the plaintiffs and the defence, but in violence against women cases the majority of support goes to the plaintiffs. This year there was an increase in the number of plaintiffs represented in criminal matters, which indicates that there was also a rise in the number of false accusations.

Decisions were given in favor of the landless groups in 75% of the civil cases, 92% of the criminal cases, and 95% of the violence against women cases. This indicates the courts are a powerful way for the landless groups to demand and attain their rights.

<b>Table-5: Characteristics of new cases and settlement</b>				
Characteristics of cases	Number of cases	settlement		
		T	I	A
<b>Criminal</b>	60	37	34	3
Groups of the plaintiffs	24	10	9	1
Groups of the accused	36	27	25	2
<b>Civil</b>	24	8	6	2
Groups of the plaintiffs	14	4	3	1
Groups of the accused	10	4	3	1
<b>Violence against Women</b>	38	20	19	1
Groups of the plaintiffs	32	18	17	1
Groups of the accused	6	2	2	0
<i>T= Total, I = in favour, A= Against favour</i>				

**Graph-5**, indicates that a gradual downward trend for resolving cases was observed in 2008-2009. In 2009-10 we can see that the number of settled cases



is again on the rise. It also reveals an upward trend in stopping shalish by the landless groups, especially when they found that nature of the case is criminal and needed to be tried in This year the landless groups taking legal action in these criminal cases is slightly higher than before. The ability of the groups to defend the rights of the

victims through knowledge of legal rights, presentation of facts and evidence, against powerful vested groups indicates their collective power to defend the rights of the community.

#### Reasons analysis:

In the activity year, issue based movements increased in Rajshahi, Khulna and Chittagong divisions, which is why there has been an increase in the total number of false cases filed against both the landless groups and Nijera Kori staff by those who oppose their causes. The landless groups have also file legitimate cases against those who commit physical assault, arson, murder, rape, abduction and assault. This year the number of petition cases filed has also increased as the landless groups due to the commitment to interrupt village salish cases that are criminal in nature.

#### BOX-5: Characteristics of the cases

The cases have been categorised in three broad categories- such as criminal, civil and women persecution cases.

#### Criminal cases total- 350

Abduction-19, Terrorism-37, physical violence-77, counterfeit documents-9, theft/dacoity-20, extortion-22, threat of murder/intimidation/ harassment-17, deceit-12, looting of paddy-40, violence relating to occupation of khasland-97.

#### Cases relating to Violence Against Women total- 223

Physical persecution-55, abortion due to persecution-2, demand for fathering the child-9, rape-14, child rape-16, rape and murder-5, murder of women-20, women trafficking-3, dowry-41, divorce-16, demand for maintenance-30, polygomy-10, child marriage-2.

#### Civil cases total- 225

Khasland-112, Boya's claim-8, DCR-5, khas water body-22, shrimp gher-18, own land-60.

#### Lessons learnt:

As the number of cases on trial has increased, the government has taken initiatives to increase the number of court to decrease the backlog. 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. It is necessary to have open discussions with the members about the risk factors so that the groups can prepare themselves for potential consequences of filing a case.

## 4.2 Educational activities:

Children from poor families are becoming 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. In the meantime, groups are getting involved in conducting educational activities through establishing school for creating educational opportunities for the deprived children.

### 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. It should be noted that two of those schools were included in the M.P.O. (Monthly Payment Order) and two have yet to be established. This year the rest two schools have also been included in the M.P.O. (Monthly Payment Order). The registration for 2 junior schools process is ongoing for another school.*

### Achievement analysis:

The landless organisations conducts educational activities with requires them to collect funds. They manage the activities themselves. They are currently operating a total number of 30 primary schools and 4 lower secondary schools.

The number of students in secondary and lower secondary is 26,233 (*girls 12,383 and boys 13,850*). In the activity year it increased by 2,498 students (*girls 1,448 and boys 1,050*) which is 4% higher than previous year. It is to be noted that increased rate of girls is 38% than boys. But in the activity year a total of 439 students (*girls 215 and boys 224*) dropped out from school. It should also be mentioned that in the activity year the total number of students with stipend is 1,561 (*girls 1,078 and boys 483*) which is significantly higher than last year (*2008-2009 students received stipend is 218- girls 90 and boys 128*). During the year 245 (*girls 118 and boys 127*) students rejected madrasa education and joined regular school which is very significant positive achievement.

In the early grades of the primary schools there are more boys than girls. In the lower secondary school the number of girls slightly edges out the boys (*a difference of 3 students*). Enabling young women to attend schools at about the same rate as young men is a significant achievement, especially in this society. It may be mentioned that in the activity year the members spent taka 30,652 from group savings for education, slightly less than last year. From this taka 12,432 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 school supplies such as books, paper, and pencils.

One of our significant achievements in terms of education in the activity year is that two schools have been included in the M.P.O. (*Monthly Payment Order*).

Description	Number of schools and students			
	Number	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary	30	10,749	12,219	22,968
Lower secondary	4	1,634	1,631	3,265
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>12,383</b>	<b>13,850</b>	<b>26,233</b>
Total No. of students with stipend		5,285	7,710	12,995

### Reasons analysis:

The government has stopped registration of schools by regulation for the last two years. As a result the registration process of the school could not be completed. A large number of children dropped out from schools because of the skyrocketing price-hike of essential commodities and rise in the cost of food items, which often necessitated the families to have the children earn and income rather than pay for their education.

### 4.3 Livestock vaccination activities

#### Achievement analysis:

Due to the inefficiency of government officials engaged in the livestock sector, the ordinary people in remote char areas are deprived of any benefits provided by the government. Nevertheless, the group members have started vaccination and

Description	Achievement
Vaccination	28,018
Treatment	1,866

treatment of their livestock at their own initiative in two remote activity areas in upazilla sadar, Paikgacha and Charjabbar. Additionally, to encourage the group members to rear livestock

by indigenous methods, a pilot training course was offered in Nongola. In this training the Nijera Kori staff assisted only in liaising with upazilla sadar, and collecting and administering the medicine and vaccinations. As a result, more livestock have been vaccinated in comparison to last year. In the activity yearly, nearly 9,194 families have benefited from this activity.

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

In the activity year the staff and members jointly participated in a workshop to analyse the activities of the experiences of the watch committees to determine the scope and structure of their activities. The policy and methods of operation of the watch committees were finalised in the workshop. According to the new policy, a watch committee will be comprised of 6 sub-committees at the union level And a Union committee will oversee the activities of the watch sub-committees. The sub-committees are the following (1) Health, (2) Education, (3) Access to natural resources (*Land, agriculture and water*) (4) Local governance, (5) Fundamentalisms and (6) Women.

#### Achievement analysis:

The monitoring sub-committees, created on an experimental basis, gained a significant amount of experience and contributed a considerable amount of useful information during their initial year of existence. To develop the watch

committees, a workshop was organized at the initial phase. Contributors included the central team of Nijera Kori, employees from the concerned departments, conveyer of the monitoring committee and representatives of the relevant union committees. At the

Descriptions	Plan		Achievement	
	N	P	N	P
Workshop				
Workshop on watch committee policy guideline	1	49	1	49
Workshop on watch committee planning and reporting process	6	135	6	130
Workshop on adult literacy	1	22	1	22

*N= Number, P= Participants*

workshop, the frame-work for the operational principles of the monitoring committee and strategic mechanisms was issued.

Separate workshops for each of the six monitoring sub-committees were organized during the second phase. Each sub-committee built a process for their activity wise planning, information collection, preservation, analysis and reporting by analyzing their experiences earned. Qualitative result of the activities of the monitoring committee in the next project years can be expected. The activity results of the monitoring sub-committees in the project year have been analyzed under the expected result no. 3.

Another positive aspect of the notable successes of the project year is that the monitoring committee on education undertook initiatives to operate the adult literacy programme on experimental basis and. Professor Anisur Rahman voluntarily helped to enhance the strategic capability to run this programme. The volunteers as selected by the sub-committee on education offered training to 8 male and 8 female teachers along with 4 staff of Nijera Kori. As a result the monitoring sub-committee on education provided for their supplies such as books, exercise books, mats and lantern oil. Around 100 women and 90 men members undertook adult education in the two months. As a result these adult students can now read books, magazines and numerical accounts. Selection of the students for the next session is being conducted at present.

**Reasons analysis:**

A higher number of workshops had to be organized to coordinate the operational principles of the monitoring sub-committees, strategic planning and reporting process in the project year. The adult literacy program has been adopted on the basis of demands from both the education monitoring committee and Professor Anisur Rahman.

**Lessons learnt:**

Qualitative level of the monitoring committees to collect information and analyze and verify the truth should be enhanced. Training programs on the 'Right to Information Act' should be offered to the members of the monitoring committees. Groups should be responsible for ensuring government transparency and holding the government accountable for inconsistencies through holding public audits .

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

To strengthen advocacy activities, an information centre is currently collecting and disseminating data in Khulna. As a result, more information is being collected and published on industrial shrimp farming, illegal occupation of khasland and illegal use of water bodies, and other human rights violations.

## CHAPTER THREE

### SECTION- D: NETWORKING AND ACTION FOR ADVOCACY

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#### SECTION- D

#### *the network and advocacy activities*

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

Nijera Kori is an activist organisation working from the grass root level. It mainly pursues development activities by organising self-sufficient, independent organisations of the hard-core poor for creating awareness on their 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 creates pressure on the policy makers at the national and international level. Thus mobilisation of public opinion and bonding with the suffering of the poor within the terms of a social pact remains central to the core values of Nijera Kori. Nijera Kori, on the basis of the demands and the issues raised by the landless group, adopts and conducts advocacy activities at local, national and international level with the participation of landless organisations.

#### 5.1 local level:

- **Collective movements:** in the activity year, the landless organisation has organised 989 movements. The topics that need to be addressed were women's persecution- 347, resisting fundamental activities- 24, establishing rights to local assets- 183 and fighting against local corruption and irregularities- 435 (Details in annex- 22).
- **Networking with local activists groups:** the landless organisation was successful in getting their demands in total of 836 issues. Though the movement were organised by the landless group on these issues but they were given active support by professionals, political-cultural workers, women's organisation, other development organisation, local clubs, rickshaw-bus-truck driver's samity (*association*) and school students. This is a positive achievement in developing public relation at local level and in building networks.
- **Dialogue with local decision maker and activists:** in the activity year, on local issues and problems, the landless organisation has held 7,078 meetings with the local government administration in the districts as well as local civic bodies. These sharing meetings were held 2,094 times at the initiative of the government administration and 4,984 times at the initiative of the landless groups. These opinion sharing meetings are positive aspects in solving local issues and also in collecting information and ensuring accountability and establishing rights (Details in annex- 23).
- **Ensuring justice through power bargaining:** in the activity year the landless organisation has participated in 1,303 salish. Of those, 719 salish were



organised at the initiative of local representatives and the powerful elite. In these salishes, 2,767 (*female 707 and male 2,060*) landless organisation's leaders were invited as judges. They were 98 by U.P Chairman, 214 by U.P. members, 62 by local teachers, 232 by local powerful persons and 113 by political personalities. On the other hand, in salishes organised by the landless organisation 1,187 (*female 332 and male 855*) persons played the role of judges. Above all, in these salishes 21,934 persons (*female 7,717 and male 14,217*) were present as observers. Participating in salish is a positive achievements in ensuring justice. (*detail in annex 19*)

- **Local and national news papers reports:** In the activity year 920 news reports were published in different local-national news papers on the demands and movements of landless relating to various issues. Among them 88 91 were for establishment of rights on khas land, 91 and 53 for dislodgement of illegal grabbers, 167 for resisting industrial shrimp cultivation, 8 for resisting looting of crops cultivated by the landless, 14 for establishing land rights of the adivasi, 420 against violation of human rights and 181 reports were published on fatwa, hilla marriage, rape, murder of women, and dowry.

A total number of 184 reports were published on the protests, movements and information provided by the landless people. Besides, in the activity areas of Nijera Kori, reporters published 67 reports on their own initiative on various issues.

Around 15 newspapers published these reports, namely Daily Sangbad, Daily Prothom-alo, Banglabazar Patrika, Janokhantho, Daily Somokal, Jugnator, Manabzamin, Kaler Khantho, Amer Desh, Ameder shomoy, Daily Ittefaq, Bhorer Kagoj The Daily Star, New Age, and The Daily Independent. In addition 16 local newspapers also published stories. During the present year more news was published in local newspaper than in previous years. These news reports have underscored demands of the landless at national level and helped in disseminating information and in generating public opinion.

## **5.2 National-International level:**

### **Issue- *Export oriented industrial shrimp cultivation***

#### **Action:-1- *national seminar***

On 29 September 2009, a seminar titled "Industrial Shrimp Cultivation: Impact on food security, social and environmental" was held at LGED auditorium at the joint initiative of Nijerakori, ALRD, BELA, HDRC and 22 local Associations. Affected people of the shrimp cultivating areas, including professionals and public representatives attended the seminar. Additionally the Commerce Minister, Government of Bangladesh, Members of Parliament, nationally renowned researchers, teachers, development workers attended the seminar. Information relating to negative impact of the export oriented shrimp cultivation and opinions about the violations against constitutional and human rights were discussed at the seminar.

The affected people also narrated their experiences and demands. The Minister and Members of Parliament explained the position of the Government. But they

also stated that through hearing the discussions, they have come to realize that export oriented shrimp cultivation is contrary towards reaching self sufficiency in food production by encroaching on agriculture lands and causing threat to the environment. In contrast, the Commerce Minister also stated the draft shrimp policy 2009 is not in accordance with govt. election manifestos and rather harmful towards agriculture, water bodies and environment. In fact, a few provisions of the proposed draft shrimp policy are contrary to ten other existing Government rules and acts. The contradictory provisions and the experiences of the affected people is mentioned elsewhere in this report. A common platform of all the anti shrimp cultivation movements of the country is being developed as success of the seminar.

**Result:**

Opportunities were ensured for direct discussion with the local people and the policy makers. As a result proposed draft shrimp policy 2009 has been kept in abeyance. The landless organizations are currently starting to build strong pressure against the shrimp policy.

**Action:-2- *legal action***

Shrimp cultivation by flooding agricultural land of the coastal districts with saline water is increasing rapidly. Many negative impacts result from the practice like eviction, murder, terrorism, food scarcity, and other human rights violations that severely impact the lives and livelihood of those who live in the area. Movements by the people are growing against the export oriented shrimp cultivation in all the shrimp cultivated areas as a result of continuous movements by the landless organisation and its advocacy network. But the people involved in the movement are subject to harassment, assault, rape and murder. Nijerakori and BELA jointly filed a writ petition (*PIL*), no. 57/2010 for banning the export oriented shrimp cultivation and to ensure cultivation of local people, food security, environment and above all to protect human and constitutional rights.

**Result:**

In the context of the writ petition, the honorable High Court issued an order to stop bringing saline water in the agricultural land of the coastal districts. As a result the local cultivators got legal support to stop forceful inlet of saline water into their agricultural land.

**Action:-3- *policy advocacy***

On 30 May 2009 a meeting of Asia Solidarity Against Industrial Aquaculture (ASIA) was held in Dhaka at the initiative of its members from Bangladesh. The proposed draft shrimp policy and the future course of action were discussed in the meeting. The position of the member organisations of ASIA regarding the proposed shrimp policy were presented to the relevant Ministries, Parliamentary committee and relevant Members of the Parliament.

**Result:**

The honourable Agricultural Minister met with ASIA and praised them for their opinion and efforts. BConcerned members of Parliament and members of the parliamentary committee also praised ASIA and discussed the negative impacts of the shrimp cultivation.

#### **Action:-4- *policy dialogue, debate and advocacy***

A regional network against the Shrimp Industry, ASIA, which had been formed through the initiative of Nijera Kori in 2005, hosted an international meeting in Khulna, between similar networks from Latin America, Red Manglar, and the African Mangrove Network as well as concerned groups and individuals from North America and Europe. Nijera Kori was responsible for organizing the meeting. Eighteen representatives from 11 countries were in attendance.

One outcome of the meeting was the development of a global advocacy plan. Highlights of the plan include: increasing information dissemination between the consumer and producer countries about the impact of shrimp culture; arranging experience sharing trips for the representatives of both the consumer and producing countries; generating awareness at the local, national, and international levels; engaging national and international policy makers in discussions; and developing a database of the countries where shrimp cultivation is currently active.

The meeting was followed by a field trip and a back to back dialogue with those not opposing the industry, almost all of whom were from consuming countries. The members of this group were either part of the industry, or supporting the industry or trying to reform it. The outcome was that those trying to 'reform' the industry were given a set of questions that they were unable to respond to at that time, and suggested a possible meeting to be held at a later date.

Both groups visited three areas in the district of Khulna. Two of the areas were directly affected by shrimp cultivation and the cyclone Aila, whose impact was magnified by weakening of embankments to allow intrusion of salt water for the shrimp fields. But both these areas were now moving away from shrimp cultivation. In Dacope, they saw a very successful attempt by local people, without the support of any NGOs or external agents to revert back to agriculture and thus help try to ensure food security. They also saw the catastrophic devastation caused by weak embankments where shrimp farming had taken place.

In Polder 20, which was under a World Bank project for responsible shrimp farming, with technical support from UNDP and DFID, they were witness to extreme violence inflicted by the shrimp industry goons, on the villagers of the area who were wanting to move back into agriculture. The intensity of the threats and violence even in the presence of 'outsiders' brought out the reality especially to those who felt that it was possible to do shrimp farming 'responsibly'.

The third area visited was Polder 22, which is where Korunamoyee was killed in 1990 while fighting off shrimp farming in the area. The polder has been shrimp free from then. It was evident that here the strong embankments could ward off the effects of Aila. The serenity and peaceful nature of Polder 22 was again a very strong factor towards understanding that this industry means to people who live in the areas.

#### **Result:**

Significant outcome of the joint meeting which was conducted by the Chatham House rules type of participation, was that those who were in favor of shrimp cultivation were confronted with the fact that the practice was directly causing

people to starve and was destroying the environment. The local people they met during the field visit had demanded that those who continue to support shrimp cultivation take responsibility for the destruction of the environment and violating their constitutional and human rights.

The final outcome was that those trying to 'reform' the industry were given a set of questions that they were unable to respond to at that time, and suggested a possible meeting to be held at a later stage within the year.

A dinner meeting where members of civic bodies and groups including Members of Parliament came and spoke about how damaging the Industry was to the local environment and people's livelihoods, besides causing severe rights violations and was directly responsible for increase of violence in the area ended the event..

**Issue- 'Fatwa' and flogging/whipping on women:**

**Action:-1- fact finding team**

A series of incidents of fatwa of flogging on women took place in the country during 2009-2010. A young mother claimed the recognition of her child's father in Noagaon village, Upazilla- Daudkandi, Comilla on 24 May 2009. But the local religious leaders held the innocent woman was guilty and sanctioned flogging upon her. A joint fact finding team comprising of Nijera Kori, ASK, BRAC (*Human Rights and Legal Aid Programme*), Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, BLAST, Naripokkhkho visited the area on June 01 2009. Nijera Kori, BLAST and BRAC helped to file case and provided legal aid. They held a joint press conference on June 17 2009 at national level and demanded for impartial probe and justice. Those organisations sent a memorandum to the Honorable Prime Minister on January 26 2010.

**Action:-2- legal action**

Nijear Kori, ASK, BLAST, Bangladesh Mohila Parisad, BRAC filed public interest litigation in the High Court on the issue of fatwa. The number of public interest litigation case is 5863/2009

**Result:**

The Honorable High Court issued a Rule Nissi that fatwa and such sort of punishment are not constitutional or supported by any other existing law of the land.

**Issue- Amendment of the Vested Property Act 2009:**

The Cabinet (*Council of Ministers*) approved the draft of the repeal (*amendment*) act of the communal and black law viz the Vested Property Repeal and Ammendment Act 2009 without consulting the affected people, researchers and lawyers involved and fighting for its repeal and ensuring proper implementation of the land to be returned to its genuine claimants since over two decades Organisations like ALRD, BLAST, Ain-O-Salish Kendra, Nijera Kori, Bangladesh Economic Society, Sammilito Samajik Andolon and Vested Property (*enemy*) Act movement groups jointly took up various activities to put up demands of the deprived people and exert pressure on the policy makers.

The main purpose of these activities is to create public opinion against this act that violates the constitution and human rights. Important activities are as follows:

**Action:-1-** National level press conference held on 26 November 2009.

**Action:-2 *district workshop***

Nijera Kori in collaboration with ALRD organised workshop on “Amendment of Vested Property Act and Immediate implementation: Expectation of the people” on 30 July 2009 at Tangail. Development activist, the teacher, politicians, lawyers, representatives of civil society, and the landless group members were present in the workshop.

**Action:-3- *national conference***

Round table conference on “Amendment of Vested Property Act and Immediate implementation: Expectation of the people” was held on 13 December at the initiative of earlier mentioned seven organisations. Development workers, politicians, researchers, lawyers, representatives of civil society, MPs and retired judges were present in the round table conference.

**Result:**

The Cabinet decision regarding the Vested Property (*Amendment Act 2009*) was withdrawn at the instance of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister instructed to present the Act after taking opinion from all spheres of people and after careful review.

**Issue- *forcible evjection of adivasi***

**Action:-1- *fact finding team and press conference***

On 12 June 2009, powerful land grabbers attacked and assaulted the indigenous people of Khatibpur-Sonadanga villages of Porsha upazilla within Naogaon district and set fire to their houses for taking possession of their land. In this respect a facts finding team, comprising of the representatives from the five organisations, was formed with the initiative of ALRD. The organisations are- Nijera Kori, Ain-O-Salish Kendra, BLAST, ALRD and TIB. The team visited indigenous villages from 17-20 June 2009 and prepared a report. The fact finding team held a press conference on 25 June 2009 at Dhaka Reporters Unity Auditorium and narrated their findings and demands of the indigenous people of affected villages.

Besides the members of the team demanded immediate administrative arrangement for ensuring security and preservation of the land rights of the indigenous people.

**Result:**

Government ensured security of the adivasi community. The Administration has rehabilitated the Adivasis in their land. Also government had taken action against the land grabbers.

Issue- rights and access to water

**Action:-1- *policy review and action***

Nijera Kori is a founder and active member of the “Water Rights Forum”. The government of Bangladesh is promulgating a new “Water Act-2009” and the primary draft of the Act has already been prepared and proposed. A day long workshop was held on 15 December at the initiative of “Water Rights Forum” to discuss and review the 'Water Act-2009' and the `Water body (*Jal Mahal*) policy.'

**Result:**

A primary draft of the future programme for the Water Rights Forum was prepared at the workshop.

**Issue- *experience sharing in the right based approach of Nijera Kori at the international level:***

**Action:-1- *participation in international forum***

The coordinator of Nijera Kori participated in the ‘Grant-makers Without Borders Annual Conference’ on 8-10 June 2009 at Washington DC at the invitation of the Goldin Institute who had done a PAR type research on Micro credit in one of Nijera Kori areas, with landless group members as co researchers. She presented two key-note papers on panels titled: “Measuring Success: Microfinance, Social Impacts and Listening to Borrowers: and “Partnerships for Community Engagement“ On June 17 2009, she was interviewed on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in a programme hosted by Daljit Dhaliwal “Foreign Exchange” and narrated the Nijera Kori experiences in awareness building and empowerment of landless men and women and their negative experiences of the very populist solution to poverty, Micro Credit. On June 17, the Nijera Kori Coordinator was interviewed on Chicago Public Radio and reflected on the theme “Bangladesh: The Dark Side of Micro-Credit.” Both these programmes were based on the Goldin Institute report “Improving Micro-credit Programs: Listening to Recipients.” On June 19, 2009 she presented a paper “Beyond Micro-credit: Gender, Empowerment and Community” at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

**Result:**

People around the world became more aware of Nijera Kori’s techniques for empowering the landless people and learned about the pitfalls of the micro-credit programs.

**Issue- *social networking (Nagarik Adhikar Mela)***

**Action:-1- *participation and presentation of Nijera Kori activities***

A joint research study was carried out on civil rights in Bangladesh in 2009 by the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex and BRAC University. The study examined the activities of eight organisations having four development activates: ASA and Grameen Bank on micro credit, BRAC and Proshika on micro credit and awareness and Samata and Nijera Kori on rights and awareness.

As a result of the study and continuous advocacy activities, a two day Nagarik Adhikar Mela was organised jointly by 57 development organizations invited by the Mela committee, who have been working on some form of Citizen’s Rights, beyond the Organisations who were studied. In this Nagarik Adhikar Mela, Nijera kori opened a stall and exhibited pictures, posters and books about the Nijera kori activities. Additionally, a cultural team of Nijera kori arranged mass music and people’s drama.

**Result:**

Nijera kori presented their position about their activities in a more positive way before the representatives of IDS and other organisations taking part in the Nagarik Adhikar Mela.

## **6. Research and publication activities:**

Although research is not the main activity of Nijera Kori, it is frequently done to review its strategies for addressing burning economic and social issues. In order to make an impact, Nijera Kori and the landless people need to be fully armed with fact, not mere impressions.

### **6.1 Research:**

#### **Research on export oriented industrial shrimp cultivation**

- In 2005 Nijera Kori completed a case study on commercial shrimp cultivation, but the export oriented industrial shrimp cultivation positions have now changed. Therefore Nijera Kori had requested the research institute Research and Advisory Services (RAS) to determine the reason for this current change. Out of respect for Nijera Kori, RAS agreed to launch “A Research Based Study of Brackish-Water: Shrimp Cultivation in Coastal Bangladesh and Its Consequences.” The report is expected to be completed next year.
- McGill University, Canada, has completed a case study at field-level??? on Nijera Kori’s experience on *Participation*. McGill University is preparing the report.

### **6.2 Publication:**

- Research, titled *Madrassa Education in Bangladesh: Impacts on the Peoples* was conducted by Nijera Kori with the help of HDRC completed. During the project year by the joint initiative of Nijera Kori and ALRD contract with RAMON publishers. The publication is in process and will completed this year.
- During the activity year The Working Paper Volume 2009 Number 333 written by Prof. Naila Kabeer titled - *Quantifying the Impact of Social Mobilisation in Rural Bangladesh: Donors, Civil Society and ‘The Road not Taken’* on Nijera Kori activities and its impact was published by the IDS, University of Sussex. This publication will help disseminate the information on Nijera Kori activities internationally.

**CHAPTER THREE**  
**SECTION- E: SPECIAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**SECTION- E**  
**rehabilitation activities**

**7. Rehabilitation activities: victims of Aila -2009**

**Background**

On 25th May, 2009, cyclone Aila hit the south-west coastal areas and seriously affected the people. Their life and livelihood were gravely impact with loss of agriculture, homesteads and embankments. After the cyclone the inhabitants were in dire need of drinking water and dry food. In The landless organisations made arrangements to purchase life saving food and medicine from their group savings The landless organisation also gave a considerable amount of money, time, and effort to agricultural rehabilitation activities sought assistance from Nijera Kori. Nijera Kori was able to secure additional funds from Bangladeshi professionals residing in United Arab Emirates to rehabilitation activities for the Aila victims.

**Achievement analysis:**

1. Agricultural rehabilitation activities. (*Distribution of seeds*).
2. Supplying materials for repairing their homesteads.

**Narrative analysis of agricultural rehabilitation (*distribution of seeds*)**

Table-9: analysis

- Seeds distributed to 248 families, 57 female headed and 57 male headed families. [who headed the rest]
- The total cultivated area for distributed seeds is 271. 91 acres.
- 270 children from the families who received seeds are studying in primary and secondary schools.

Table –9: Union – based description			
Districts	Upazila	Union	Beneficiary families
Khulna	Dumuria	Shahosh	74
		Dumuria	02
		Bhaqnderpara	21
	Paikgacha	Sharafpur	31
		Deluty	85
		Botiaghata	35
<b>Khulna</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>248</b>

**Procedure for purchasing seeds**

Two seed purchasing committees were formed -one comprising Dumuria and Paikgacha upazilas and another in the Botiaghata Upazila. Three Nijera Kori staff and 8 landless members formed 11 members committee to purchase the seeds. As per the decision of seed purchasing committee the seeds were bought from Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADDC) at a price fixed by the government. Each maund of paddy seed cost Taka 1,192/- including conveyance cost.



### **Selection of affected families and method of distributing seeds**

For selecting the affected people Nijera Kori formed 6 sub-centre based committees. The 11 member committee were formed with 2 Nijera Kori staff and 9 landless members. Every committee surveyed the area and formed a draft list which was scrutinized carefully. Then the list was openly discussed with the local people and then a final list was made.

### **Method of distribution**

#### **Venue was selected on the basis of discussion with the local people**

3. Shahash Union Parishad fixed the date for distribution on 2 August 2009. 128 families received seeds. During distribution the Honorable Member of Parliament-Khulna-5, Mr. Narayan Chandra Chanda, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Dumuria, Khulna, Upazila Agricultural Officer, Dumuria, Khulna, Upazila Vice Chairman and U.P. members were present.
4. Basoyaria village- 120 families received cards. During distribution Upazila Chairman and Vice-Chairman Paikgacha and Botiaghata, Union Parishad Chairmen Dalute and Surkhali were present.

### **Repair of homesteads activities. (*Distribution of bamboo*)**

#### **Area**

Khulna district's Paikgacha Upazila's Sholadana union's Boyarzaps village. 61 families benefited: 52 headed by men and 9 by women.

#### **House repairing activities (Purchase of bamboo), Selection of affected families and distribution method.**

- In the presence of about one hundred affected families a discussion meeting was held on 31st October 2009 and a 5 member committee was formed.
- The committee was formed with 2 Nijera Kori staff and 3 landless members.
- This committee purchased bamboo from Amur Kata Bazar and supplied it to Sholadana ghat.
- The committee made a draft list of 61 affected families.
- On 1st November the committee organised a gathering with affected people and finalised the list.

#### **Housing rehabilitation activities: Distribution of bamboo**

On 2nd November, 2009 the committee distributed bamboo according to the list in the presence of Sholadana Union Parishad Chairman and local distinguished people.

#### **Comment**

Bangladeshi residents of United Arab Emirates initially committed to provide BDT 3,14,500. but, despite their best intentions, they could only provided BDT 1, 28,206. As a result the assistance provide to the victims of Aila was less than what the landless groups and Nijera Kori intended.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PLANNING, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND ADMINISTRATION

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8.

#### *accountability and implementation of activities*

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#### **8. Planning, monitoring and evaluation process**

Nijera Kori plans, monitors and makes assessments using three means. Firstly, Nijera Kori organises yearly group meetings amongst the landless groups, representative meetings, workshops, committee meetings, experience exchange tours and group conventions. Activities are monitored and achievements are analysed.

Secondly, weekly staff meeting, monthly divisional and quarterly Nirbahi Parishad (*Executive Council*) meetings, staff-representative meetings, field tours by staff-representatives, experience gathering tours, staff conventions and councils, ensure the participation of all persons.

Thirdly, activities are analyzed in the General and Executive Council meetings. This ensures accountability and transparency of Nijera Kori's activities vis-à-vis all its stakeholders.

Besides, the Governing and general body participate, analyse, review and give necessary directions. In addition, field visits are made by representatives of partner organisations and, when asked, Nijera Kori conducts evaluations of the partner organizations.

#### **8.1 Participation and role of landless organisation in planning, monitoring and evaluation:**

- Through the workshop the elected members and nominated staff of sub-centres in the four divisions watched committees conduct activities. In the workshop the present activities of the watch committees were evaluated and a future action planned was decided upon. Through these workshops the participants finalised the structure and the names of the committees, their purpose, policy of operation, activity strategy, and coordination and accountability. In Nijera Kori's decision making process the participation of landless group's beneficial impact was also discussed.
- In total 9,716 groups (*female 5,420 and male 4,296*) participated in the annual group meeting through analyzing and evaluating the group activities and developing activity policy for the next year based on last year's experience.
- At village, union, upazilla and area levels, 385 group conventions were organized to discuss and evaluate the activities. The related committees shared their experiences to formulate a joint policy for the area.
- In various activity areas the group members actively participated and decided on organisational activities, evaluated policies, scrutinised group's strengths and weakness, and identified and evaluated the issues and the risk factors. A course of action was then determined through 980 representative meetings, 891 joint group meetings and 147 group workshops. As a result new issues were included for planning and activities worked out with the full participation of the members.

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

- Group annual planning and village based planning strategy was adopted after elaborate discussions on group planning in sub-centres which formed the basis of draft planning. In area meetings the staff evaluates the entire activities, identify strength and weaknesses, discusses issues, isolates risk factors and decides on the next course of action. Afterwards, elected staff representatives meet at regular intervals. In these regularly held meetings the representatives analyse, evaluate and decide the actions, reviews plan, adds to or subtract from the list of actions to respond to the needs of the people, thus making the annual plan more rational, realistic and effective.
- Staff conventions were held in all four divisions. All the staff in the divisions participated together in evaluating the activities. In the convention the staff went through the same exercises but in a larger forum. They analysed the strengths and weakness, developed strategies for combating risks and identified actions to be adopted. A divisional plan was adopted after reviewing all areas plans. Later on, in the bi-annual central staff convention, Nijera Kori's annual plan was adopted after scrutinizing and evaluating the four divisional plans and combining them into one master plan. .
- In the activity year two organisational and training cell meetings were held at the central level and four training cell meeting were held at the divisional level. As a result, organisational and training activities were evaluated, strengths and weaknesses were analyzed and necessary action items for adoption were considered.

## **8.3 Analysis of activities and participation of executive body and partners organisations in evaluation process**

- Nijera Kori's general body and annual meetings were held for evaluating progress. On a 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 and 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 24-25 March, 2010, a meeting was held with Nijera Kori's partners. Representatives of Christian Aid, E.E.D, Inter Pares and The Swallows participated. A representative of Goldin Institute (USA) attended as an observer. In the meeting activities from Present Scenario of Major Activities April 2009-December-2009 were discussed. Additionally, the proposed programme and budget from April 2010 to March 2013 were considered. The other important issue was that Nijera Kori and its partners' organisations will use the SWOT analysis for deciding on the future strategy for Nijera Kori

## **9. Administration and Financial account**

- During the activity year 31 staff (*female 13 and male 18*) left the organisation. At present the number of staff consists of 455 persons (*female 133 and male 210*), 112 (*female 11, male 101*) of whom are volunteers.
- This year Nijera Kori received taka 62,331,361.15 from various organisations as programme financial assistance. The expenditure amounted to taka 88,000,587.09 the excess having been financed from the local sources.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### KEY RESULTS AND IMPACTS

10.

#### *Key results and impact of the activities*

#### 10. Key results and impacts

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

##### **Outcome 1**

Rights of the organised landless is established in the working areas through strengthened organisational and mobilisation capacities of Nijera Kori at social and economic spheres

##### **Indicator**

- 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 access collective resources to mitigate economic and family crises.
- 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 (*including that of women and indigenous people*) and injustice

#### **Achievements:**

**1.1.1 *Accrual of collective assets through group savings:*** The group members saved a total of 19,587,067 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 61,063,246 taka. In this way, by taking the responsibility of their savings, the group members are becoming self-reliant and are overcoming their dependency on moneylenders. They also fund educational and social welfare activities, deal with unforeseen crisis and pay for legal aid from the group savings (*details in annex - table 8*).

**1.1.2 *Participation of the groups in joint economic activities:*** A total of 712 groups (*female 340 and male 372*) have undertaken joint economic activities. 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 invested a total of 8,497,897 taka from group savings. At present, 4,960 groups (*female 2,353 and male 2,607*) are managing joint economic activities as well as investment activities from their group savings. These activities are empowering the landless members to be economically self-sufficient, without bring

dependent on loans—either from banks or from traditional money lenders at exorbitant rates. The other big benefit is that these activities are serving as a catalyst in cementing their community spirit and belief in the effectiveness of joint actions. (*details in annex - 13*).

- 1.1.3 Increased livelihood security of the group members:** The group members have made a profit of 3,928,607 taka from their joint economic activities. This profit is particularly useful for the poor and landless members and has significantly contributed to increasing their livelihood security. In the activity year with group consensus funds were distributed in equal amounts among all members in order to counter financial crisis. The use of group saving in mitigating temporary financial crisis is a definite step toward economic empowerment. Besides, the landless groups are also conducting various activities such as yearly group conventions, workshops, trainings, organising movements and filing lawsuits. (*details in annex - 13*).
- 1.1.4 More employment opportunity for the group members:** The joint economic activities of the group members have created employment for 18,310 persons this year. Out of this total number 6,973 were female and 11,337 were male. (*details in annex table- 13*)
- 1.2.1 Increased success for the group members in ensuring higher wage rates:** During the year a total of 14 wage related lawsuits were settled which contributed to a daily wage increase of average 8 taka to 30 taka of 525 especially amongst weavers and earth-cutting day labourers. The number of movements demanding wage increase has been more than last year. Also those movements changed the lives and livelihood conditions for more people compared to last year. (*details in annex -I: cases studies and table- 22*).
- 1.3.1 More self-initiative by the group members in solving their financial problems:** The group members decided to distribute TK. 9,257,964 from their savings equally amongst themselves to use for agricultural farming. Thus through the collective initiatives of saving and wise investments the group members are able to improve their own economic condition and go further than just using the savings in case of need. (*details in annex- table 8*).
- 1.3.2 Increased group solidarity and collective initiatives in reducing their familial problems:** The group members spent a total of 700,883 taka to pay for health care, education, wedding expenses, which involved no dowry and for other family needs. They also spent a further 1,107,004 taka for various organisational activities and movements, legal actions to ensure rights and solving their family problems. Both of these trends are a significant positive indication towards attaining self-reliance and taking greater initiatives to solve problems. If a member is in trouble, the other members are actively extending their support which indicates their cooperative mentality and capability in confronting adverse situations (*details in annex - table 17*).
- 1.4.1 Success in evicting illegal occupants:** The group members have been able to recover an area of 6,730.83 acres of land belonging to the poor and marginalised farmers from illegal occupants. Out of these 6,710.95 acres of land was recovered from illegal shrimp farms. This significant success of the landless movements is an indication of landless people's organisational strength and increased empowered status to protect

themselves against illegal power holder, elites and jotedar (*powerful land grabbers*). Such success also helps ensure land rights of marginalised people (*details in annex - table 21*).

**1.4.2 Success in recovering land from commercial shrimp farming:** The group members have been able to recover an area of 7,161.72 acres of agricultural land and 92 acres of water body belonging to poor and marginalised farmers from illegal commercial shrimp farming (*details in annex - table 21*).

**1.5.1 Strong participation of the landless in the village salishes (alternative dispute resolution):** In total 2,767 (707 female and 2,060 male) group members participated as judges in 1,303 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 towards the recognition of landless leadership and power sharing within the society. (*details in annex - 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, 158 cases of *salishes* involving criminal offences were cancelled. Out of these cases, 41 cases were taken to the formal court. It is to be noted that in the present year 26% of total stopped *salishes* were taken to court. The village *salishes* which are usually controlled and commandeered by the local influential people are increasingly recognising the role and accepting the leadership of the landless member (*details in annex - table 19*).

**1.6.1 Increase in the number of students in school:** There are 26,233 students (12,383 girls and 13,850 boys) in the schools run by the group members, an increase of 2,498 students (1,448 girls and 1,050 boys). This is mostly as a result of increased awareness amongst the group members.

**1.7.1 Increased continuity and quality of issue-based Movements:** The group members organised 989 movements to establish their rights. In 836 cases, they have been able to secure their demands. The landless groups have raised a range of issues within the society especially on issues of *adivashi* land rights, violence against women and against corruption. Participation in these movements is not only limited to group members. Non-group members also participating in most of these movements. The benefits of movements led to increased access to, reduced exclusion and stronger establishment of rights for deprived communities in Bangladesh (*details in annex - table 22*).

<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Greater equity between women and men at family and community level for landless group members.</p>
<p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>2.1 Increased access of Nijera Kori female members to organisational leadership</p> <p>2.2 Increased access to justice for women survivors of violence</p> <p>2.3 Increased access of women to savings, <i>khas</i> land and economic resources</p> <p>2.4 The stereotype image of women at community space is challenged by increased participation of women in <i>salish</i>, bazaar committees, school committees and local bodies</p> <p>2.5 Increased men's participation on women issues</p> <p>2.6 Increased number of times the landless group members approached by other social actors regarding violence against women.</p>

### **Achievements:**

**2.2.1 More women in organisational leadership positions:** 245 women representatives have been elected and are providing competent leadership in the various committees at the village, union, upazila and area levels. 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 increased gender sensitive collective leadership.

**2.2.2 Increased movements organised by male landless group members against violence against women:** In the activity year landless groups organised 347 successful movements or protests against violence against women. It is to be noted that, in the activity year 34% movements on violence against women were raised and organised by the male groups. This indicates a positive change of attitude amongst the male group members. Some of these movements were organised outside the working areas of Nijera Kori which shows a strong linkage between the groups and the overall community. (details in annex - table 22).

**2.2.3 More active role of the landless peoples in demanding justice and fair treatment:** The landless group members played an active role in 740 *salishes* on issues related to violence against women. Out of total 651 *salishes* were ensure fair justice. The group members halted 89 *salishes* relating to violence against women as it was found out that justice towards the women was not served by the sentence given at these *salishes* and when it was found that as criminal offences these cases were not justified to be tried in court. Such strong and definite action taken by the landless groups is a step towards ensuring fair justice on violence against women (details in annex - table 19).

**2.2.4 Legal action for fair justice of the violence against women:** 89 *salishes* were stopped as a result of the active role of the group members as adjudication of the involved criminal cases did not fall within the scope of *salishes*. Out of these 89 cases, 33 cases have been filed in formal court. The remaining cases are in process of being filed in court. This is a positive indication of a greater ability to ensure fair justice for marginalised women (details in annex - 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 10,824,122 from their savings. At the end of March 2010 sum total of female groups savings was taka 36,077,307 which is 59 of total group savings. During the reporting period female members distributed taka 5,175,363, from their savings amongst themselves to mitigate needs. This shows the ability of the female members in overcoming immediate crisis through self sustainability. The collection and management of savings by the women members will further strengthen their management capabilities and help attain economic empowerment (*details in annex - table 8*).
- 2.3.2 Increased participation of women groups in joint economic activities:** During the activity year, 340 female groups undertook joint economic activities from their group savings. At present 2,353 female groups are running joint economic activities from their group savings and have reaped a total profit of 1,420,278 taka. This is very positive indication of economic empowerment of female members. This will also help to increase their participation in the family decision making process. (*details in annex - table 13*).
- 2.3.3 Increased economic empowerment and job opportunities:** The joint economic activities run by the female groups have created job opportunities for 6,973 female members. This trend contributes to the gradual increase of employment opportunity leading to a more secured economic position of the female group members (*details in annex- 13*).
- 2.3.4 Increased access of women members in the registration of khas land:** In the activity year, 26 female headed families received registration of 12.73 acres of khasland in their name. This ensures access of female headed households to government khasland to provide living and livelihood opportunities as a constitutional right (*details in annex-table 20*).
- 2.3.5 Establishment of female group member's possession over khas land:** 283 female group members successfully established their hold on 47.99 acre of *khas* land during the activity year. (*details in annex -table 20*).
- 2.4.1 Increased and more prominent role of the women group members in salishes:** 707 group women members played the role of the judge in various village *salishes*. The total number of group members as judges in *salishes* was 2,767, out of which 707 were female and 2,060 were male. However, female participation as judge in issues beyond those concerning women's rights indicates strong leadership of female members in the society (*details in annex - table 19*).
- 2.4.2 More active role of the women group members as observers in salishes:** 7,717 female members played the role of observers in various *salishes* and contributed in ensuring fair justice to the victims. In total 21,934 members participated as observers, out which 14,217 were men and the remaining women. Their stronger role is forcing the judges to be accountable to the communities and marginalised groups (*details in annex - table 19*).



**2.4.3 Increased participation of female in various informal and formal committees:** 208 female members were elected as representatives in various formal and informal institutional committees. The number of elected members are distributed as follows: In the School Managing Committees - 81 women have been elected; in the Bazaar Committee- the number of women elected is 63; in the Union Parishad Project Management Committee 15 women have been nominated; in the Sluice Gate Management Committee- 4 have been elected; and in Issue Based Movement Committee, 45 women have been selected (*details in annex - table 18*).

**2.5.1 More active role of male group members to stop abuse and violence against women:** Landless groups raised 347 issues on violence against women. Out of these 114 were raised by the male group members. Moreover, there was active participation of the men in all movements on the issue of violence against women which helped strengthen gender sensitive relationship between male and female group members within the groups as well as the society (*Detail in annex- table 22*).

**2.6.1 Strengthened collaboration and solidarity with professional and local associations on issues relating to 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 Public Representative, Press Clubs, Teachers Associations, and School Management Committees. Rickshaw pullers, Women's Associations, and Combined Cultural Alliance. Such collaboration is important for effectively creating a movement for establishing the rights of women (*details in annex- cases studies*).

**2.6.2 Strengthened collaboration with the public representatives and human rights organisations on issues relating to violence against women:** To ensure proper investigation and fair trial of cases related to violence against women, there has been an increase in collaboration with the public representatives and human rights organisations. This collaboration is particularly strong with the local UP Chairmen and Ward Members. The collaboration included joint initiatives with human rights organisations including Ain-O-Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust (*BLAST*), BRAC- (Human Rights and Legal Services), Association for Land Reform and Development (*ALRD*), Transparency International, Bangladesh (*TIB*), Bangladesh National Women's Lawyers Association (*BNWLA*) as well as smaller local NGO's and activist groups.

**Outcome 3:**

Locally elected representatives and government officials have been made more accountable and pro-poor in their actions, as a result of pressure from landless group members

**Indicator**

- 3.1 Increased actions against irregularities and corruption in government schemes at the local level
- 3.2 Increased allotment and possession of khasland and water bodies to the landless
- 3.3 Increased eviction of illegal land grabbers
- 3.4 Increased access of vulnerable and deprived women and men to various social and economic safety net measures of the local government
- 3.5 Ensure fairness in court verdicts on land and other human rights related cases involving the landless
- 3.6 Number of meetings between representatives of landless group and local government to discuss issues and concerns of the poor.

**Achievements:**

**3.1.1 Observation by pilot community watch committees:** During the activity year separate pilot watch committees on Health, Education, Access to Natural Resources (*land agricultural and water*), Local governance. The committee members collected relevant information and shared them with other landless groups and professionals at the local level. Also during the year cultural activists created and performed drama on themes aimed at developing people's awareness. This showcases the power of information to mobilise people to demand transparency and accountability for themselves. Some of the significant achievements in five sectors are listed below:

**Health sector:**

- 42,107 people (*16,226 adult females, 13,233 adult male and 12,648 children*) go to government hospitals and were able to get treatment due to the action of landless.
- 1,020 people, who were not being able to get admitted despite their numerous attempts, were successfully admitted in government hospitals.
- 11 new vaccination centres were established in scattered, remote areas and management of 27 vaccination centres.
- In 6 health centres the list of medicines on the wall was updated and attendances of doctors were ensured.

**Educational sector:**

- The landless members succeeded in getting approval for financing the building of one school through discussions with the Upazilla education officer who visited the site selected.
- 985 students (*additional students were selected for receiving grants*) who were dropped from the list for receiving stipend were included.
- The group arranged for the readmission of 451 students who had dropped out of school.
- 245 students switched to general educations system from the *madrassa* system.
- 20 poor students received board fees for filling up S.S.C examination papers.
- In 8 primary schools books were distributed, admission fees were given and irregularities such as demand undue fees, less payment of stipend and demand undue money for free book distribution were stopped.

**Local governance:**

- 48 (*additional*) landless group members, who were previously excluded, were included to receive agricultural subsidy.
- 40 non-operational tube-wells were repaired.
- 28 tube-wells were checked for arsenic by local government.
- 23 non-operational pipes were repaired for improving drainage system and remove water lodging.
- 250 women who were dropped from the list were reenlisted to the 100 Days Employment Programme and its activities were monitored.
- 2 Government Primary School repair work was completed under the supervision of the landless union committee (*Paiska-1 & Charjublee-1*)

**Fundamentalism:**

- 118 girls switched to the general school system from the *madrassa* system.
- 11 *talim* classes, (*religious informal classes specially held for women, conducted by unqualified people, and forcing them to conform to a particular fundamentalist form of adherence*) out of the 17 found, have been stopped. The rest are in the process of being stopped.

**Women:**

- 7 female students who had dropped out were readmitted to school due to initiative of watch sub committee.
- 95 pregnant women were vaccinated regularly.
- 2,815 pregnant women were admitted to the hospital despite their families opposing hospital deliveries.

**3.1.2 Continued 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 435 movements against corruption. Members and non members of the local community participated in these movements under the leadership of landless groups (*details in annex- table 22*).

**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 11 investigations (*relating to the 100 Days Employment Programme, khas land, agricultural subsidies, water bodies, child marriage, educational stipend, earth work in development projects and security of fisherman*), which is 5 more than the last year. The government had taken 11 administrative actions till March 2010. This has helped people get better access to regular government services without any hassles (*details in annex case studies*).

**3.2.1 More landless people registering khas lands:** 108 families received allotment for 37.35 acres of *khas* land. This is 43% less than last year in terms of the numbers of families and 77% less in terms of the amount of land. Despite the decreasing trend this is an overall achievement in securing shelter and livelihoods for the poor and the disadvantaged (*details in annex- table 20*).

**3.2.2 Increased inclusion of the landless in the allotment process of khas lands:**

Following relentless protests and movements of the landless peoples, the name of 340 landless families have been included in the allotment register of *khas* lands distribution and a considerable number of well off families were taken off the list. This has reduced the attempts of the local elite to usurp khaslands and established greater accountability, transparency in the distribution of khaslands.

**3.2.3 Increased access to water bodies for local communities:** As a result of landless movements 23,300 families now have access to 205 acres of water body. This is a big step towards ensuring access of local communities to common property. The success will contribute to livelihood security of the local communities specially the fisherman communities. (*details in annex case studies and table-20*).

**3.3.1 Decrease in the illegal occupation of marginalised families' own land:**

With the help of landless groups and organised movements 128 marginal families have been able to recover 19.88 acres of their own land which was forcefully taken. This will contribute to gradually reducing illegal occupation of land of marginalised families. This not only helps establish the land rights of the marginal families, but also helps reduce illegal occupation of land by *jotdars* (*details in annex- table 21*).

**3.4.1 Recovery of misappropriated funds:** During the activity year, landless people successfully organised the recovery of TK 1,583,519 in misappropriated funds from government and non-government development projects, wages and crop pillage. The amount recovered is much higher than the previous year. The success of landless groups indicates improved ability to reduce corruption and irregularities. The achievements also contribute to improved livelihood conditions for the landless (*details in annex - cases studies*).

**3.4.2 Gradual inclusion of landless peoples in government safety net programmes:** An additional 36,295 families (*female 22,570 and male 13,725*) have been included in the activity year in various government safety net programmes including the VGD (*Vulnerable Group Development*), VGF (*Vulnerable Group Feeding*), Old-Age pension, Widow pension, Freedom Fighter pension and Special Relief. The number of families included. Of the total number 21,431 members of landless groups (*12,897 women and 8,534 men*) received their cards at the initiative of Union Councils. However, 6,331 families (*3,914 women and 2,417 men*) received only after organised protests. It is worth mentioning that in the movements of the landless organisations, the Union Councils were forced to include the excluded above persons. Because of the movement, 2,012 persons were deleted from the list of such programmes. This is a clear indication of growing empowerment of the landless and the marginalised (*details in annex - table14*).

**3.4.3 Access to government agricultural subsidy programme:** During the activity year 46,595 landless marginal farmers were included in the agricultural subsidy list. It is to be noted that, the agricultural subsidy programme has been newly introduced. The landless organisation monitored the process of card distribution of the programme. This will help to reduce their production cost and ensure food security (*details in annex- table14*).

**3.5.1 Strengthened position of the landless in getting fair justice in the court of law:** Fair verdict was given in favour of the landless organisations in 59 cases of the total 65 cases settled, which is 91%. Furthermore, landless groups filed 70 cases in the activity year, mostly related to violence against women and land-water rights. Landless groups are now taking legal action on their own initiative to ensure their rights. The landless organisations have taken the responsibility of conducting 519 cases of the total 798 cases they are involved in. The cases required a total amount of 460,298 taka which was financed from the group savings. This demonstrates that the landless groups are becoming increasingly self-reliant (*details in annex- table 15 & 17*).

**3.5.2 Dialogue and advocacy for ensuring transparency and accountability:** 7,078 meetings/dialogues were organised between the representatives of the landless organisations, government officials and local peer groups to solve various local problems. 2,094 such meetings/dialogues were held at the initiative of the government, whereas the remaining 4,984 meetings were convened at the initiative of the landless organisations. The meetings/dialogues were immensely beneficial in ensuring the collective efforts of all parties involved, coordination amongst them, accountability and rights of the poor and the landless (*details in annex- table 23*).

<p><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 Nijera Kori</p>
<p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>4.1 Public opinion developed on land reform issues at local and national level</p> <p>4.2 Networks established at national and international level against industrial shrimp aqua- culture</p> <p>4.3 Strengthening a policy forum on access to water resource and its sustainable use.</p> <p>4.4 Increased knowledge base for pro-poor policy review and reform</p> <p>4.5 Number of Issue based media interactions held at local and national levels</p>

#### **Achievements:**

- 4.1.1 Integrating public opinion at local level on land reform:** Throughout the year there were activities to build public opinion on the issue of commercial use of agricultural land, the rights of the fishermen on water-bodies, and rescinding an abandoned property law.
- 4.1.2 People raised their voice in national media on land and water:** The landless groups organized seven press conferences on khasland, water bodies, land rights of adivasi. There were also several newspaper reports.
- 4.1.3 Dialogue with Government:** The landless people along with local representatives, and NGOs held workshops, seminars and discussions on the negative impact of the export oriented shrimp industry—especially how the practice was violating people’s rights at District and National levels. As a result, representatives of the government, including elected MPs, the Mayor of Khulna, and the Commerce Minister, agreed to review the very negative, anti people, environmentally unsound draft shrimp policy, which if passed would allow for the continued violation of the landless people’s as well as all activist’s constitutional and human rights.
- 4.1.4 Formulated fact finding teams to disseminate information at national level:** A joint fact finding team, including Nijera Kori, investigated one of the allegations of Fatwa this year. The team assisted the victim in attaining legal aid and demanded justice through sharing the story with the press and the Honorable Prime Minister.
- Nijera Kori was also part of a fact finding investigation on an alleged assault on indigenous people. The results of the investigation were shared at a press conference. The investigative team also took immediate steps to ensure administrative action in preserving the security and land rights of the adviashi.
- 4.2.1 Built a national level network:** A joint research study was carried out on citizen’s rights in Bangladesh in 2009 by the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex and BRAC University. The study examined the activities of eight organizations, including Nijera Kori. The results were not yet finalised. However a 2 day mela (*citizen’s fair*), organised by many different organisations was held where Nijera Kori participated as one of the key organisers, through setting up of stalls, display of posters, cultural programmes and distribution of books and other relevant materials. This was evaluated by all as being positive in network building and that could be taken up as a regular event.

**4.2.2 Developed a *strong network against industrial shrimp cultivation:***

There are many negative impacts of export based industrial shrimp cultivation. Inspired by the work of the landless groups, movements to overthrow the shrimp cultivators have started elsewhere, but the people involved in the movement are subject to harassment. Four national NGOs and 22 local groups have jointly moved and lobbied on this issue at the district and national level.

Besides a writ petition at the High Court, asking for redress against the excesses of this industry and to ensure the protection of people's human and constitutional rights, was jointly filed by Nijera Kori and BELA as petitioners. The High Court issued an interim order in favour of the petitioners.

**4.2.3 *Organized International joint activities against commercial shrimp cultivation:***

ASIA, formed through the initiative of Nijera Kori in 2005, hosted an international meeting in Khulna, with similar networks from Latin America, Red Manglar, and the African Mangrove Network as well as concerned groups and individuals from North America and Europe. Nijera Kori was responsible for organizing the meeting. One outcome of the meeting was the development of a global advocacy plan.

A back to back meeting between those hoping to reform the industry was also held in order to create space for a dialogue. The outcome was that those trying to 'reform' the industry were given a set of questions that they were unable to respond to at that time, and suggested a possible meeting to be held at a later in the year.

**4.3.1 *Landless group participate in advocacy activities to establish rights of water:***

The landless group held 235 dialogues with upazila and districts government officials and sought to resolve their problems. On the other side Government initiated 59 discussions with the landless groups which helped them to successfully establish their rights on open water bodies.

**4.3.2 *Raised voices on water policy:***

Nijera Kori presented its position at a regional seminar and workshop against privatization of water and participated in the activity of the regional network "Water and democracy". Nijera Kori is also a founder and active member of the "Water Rights Forum", which reviewed the government's draft 'Water Act-2009' and the 'Water body (*Jal Mahal*) policy.'

**4.4.3 *Shared activities internationally:***

The coordinator of Nijera Kori participated in the 'Grant-makers Without Borders Annual Conference' in June 2009 at Washington DC at the invitation of the Goldin Institute. She was interviewed on the Public Broadcasting Service (*PBS*) and on Chicago Public Radio, where she narrated the Nijera Kori experiences in awareness building and empowerment of landless men and women and their negative experiences of the very populist solution to poverty, Micro Credit. Both these programmes were based on the Goldin Institute report

"Improving Micro-credit Programs: Listening to Recipients." And Nijera Kori's own experiences with empowerment. She was also the guest speaker at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

As a result, People around the world became more aware of Nijera Kori's techniques for empowering the landless people and learned about the pitfalls of the micro-credit programs.

**4.4.4 Litigation against Fatwas:**

Nijera Kori and four other organizations, namely ASK, BRAC- Legal Aid, BMP, BLAST, filed a public interest litigation in the High Court on the issue of fatwa. The Honorable High Court issued a Rule Nissi (*primary judgment*) that fatwa and such sort of punishment are not constitutional or supported by any other existing law of the land.

**4.5.1 Actively participating in policy dialogue:** Nijera Kori participated in 261 national and international level workshops, seminars, and dialogue to express the views of the local poor and their experiences and demands.

**4.5.2 Impact of landless groups' demands and protests at local level:** 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, including violence against women, illegal land grabbing, and the rights of the adivasi. Additionally, Nijera Kori reporters published 31 reports on their own initiative on various issues.

**4.5.3 Landless members raised their experience to the international level:** A working paper on Nijera Kori's activities titled Quantifying the Impact of Social Mobilisation in Rural Bangladesh: Donors, Civil Society and 'The Road not Taken' by Prof. Naila Kabeer was published by IDS, University of Sussex. Similarly a case study on Nijera Kori's field work was also conducted by McGill University in Canada, yet to be published.



**ANNEX**  
**PEOPLES ACTION CASE STUDIES**

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**11.**

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

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**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. NK 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 were also held to protest against the illegal tricks during the measurement of lands by the corrupt officials.

**Case Studies-1**  
**Land rights of landless**  
*Case summary*

In Bangladesh there are simply more people than there is land. As a result, people are continually fighting over who is the true owner of the land. Sometimes the disputes are taken to the courts and other times it is merely a matter of who uses the most brute force. Despite being given several plots of land by the government, due to their poverty, the landless groups are constantly engaged in battles to preserve their claim in the land. This section identifies how the landless groups were able to work together, along with government officials and the police, to ensure that their land and the crops they grew on the land remained with the rightful owners.

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**CASE STUDY 1.1**

***Securing the crops***

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***Background:***

Thousands of landless people live in Noakhali District's Shubarna char, companygonj, Kabirhaat, Sadar upazilla and Ramgati upazilla of Laxmipur district's khaschar. The khasland ownership rights and regulations make the landless people legal owners of these lands. The landless people cultivate these land themselves with their own money. But, when the paddy ripens, Jotdar's terrorist groups frequent the fields.

***The crops of the landless are demanded by fake owners:***

The Jotdar coterie, by creating complications in the land records, put the khasland in their names. Every year they claim ownership of the land and demands ripe crops by showing "boyar rights" (*previous ownership*). There is a lack of legal oversight of the issue and therefore every year the landless groups must hand over some of their crops to the non-local Jotdars.

***Resisting illegal demand:***

On 15 October, 2009, Shubarno Char Upazilla landless groups organised a representatives meeting to discuss the strategy for cutting the crops without giving any to the Jotdars. They wanted to do it peacefully and thus presented a memorandum on 20<sup>th</sup> October to Noakhali and Laxmipur districts administrations with copies to the related administration. To coordinate the effort in every Mouja (*according to land law a plot call Mouja*) a committee was formed with seven members. A temporary police camp was also established in every upazilla. In every Mouja, under the united leadership of landless, groups crops were chopped despite fear of attacks from Jotdar.

***The landless are attacked:***

An attack was launched against them and 132 landless members were injured. Additionally, 61 false cases against the landless people were filed by Jotdars. In three instances the police prohibited the landless groups to continue chopping their crops, but the rest of the cases were dismissed.

***Results:***

The landless groups chopped crops in 16 Moujas over 11,155 acres. In total 204,790 mounds of food were brought home for 7,662 families.

***Background:***

Mouja south Charmajid, Union- Charbata, Upazila- Shubarnochar, District- Noakhali, and Noakhali district are comprised mainly of coastal chars. Landless families who were victims of river erosion in other districts and upazilas took refuge in these chars. In 2004 the government constructed dwellings around a pond measuring 3 acres to rehabilitate the displaced landless families. Fifteen landless families were given 57% of Khasland together with the co-operative pond. Every year the local jotdars harass and persecute them, forcing them from inhabiting the land they cultivated. When the landless families are able to cultivate the crops, they are only forcefully seized by the jotdars. The people are starting to starve.

***Rightful owner of the land?***

In the official government records the cluster village project land is listed as Khasland. However, Ismail and Haji Abdul Latif from adjoining union Charjubilee, used their political power to file a case claiming previous ownership. In 2005 these two powerful persons hired armed terrorists and, with the assistance of police, evicted the landless families. The ousted families took refuge in neighboring Khasland on the river side. Since 2005 multiple false cases have been filed against the landless families and they have been repeatedly harassed.

The army supported interim government (2007-2008) also considered the landless groups to be illegal occupiers of the Khaslands. As a result, the evicted landless families were evicted from the chars. It should be noted that despite the legalities surrounding Khaslands, other illegal occupiers, including shrimp cultivators, were allowed to illegally stay on the chars by paying tax for its use.

***Attempts to fight back – third times the charm:***

The treatment intimidated the landless groups to organize a movement. Several times the landless organizations aided the displaced landless families in appealing to the district -upazila administration, but the administration did give the appeals any consideration.

On 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009, the landless group presented people's signatures and a memorandum to the district administrator, with copies distributed to the relevant administration. On 17<sup>th</sup> August 2009, landless leaders met with the district administration. On the basis of the memorandum and the appeal the district administrator instructed Shubarnochar Upazila assistant commissioner (*Land*) to make an inquiry into the matter. On 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009, the assistant commissioner found that landless group's complaint was justified. Shubarnochar U.N.O therefore instructed the Charjabbar police to make arrangements to hand over the Khasland back to the landless families. Unfortunately, the police department simply ignored the request.

***Landless group's effort to establish rights on the Khasland:***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009, all the landless members in Charmajid sat for a joint meeting. After reviewing the situation they decided to eject the illegal settlers from the cluster village settlement. To avoid false legal cases on 4<sup>th</sup> September the landless organisation made a G.D (*general diary*) in Charjabbar police station. The landless group from Charmajid also offered their assistance. On 5<sup>th</sup> September 2009, the landless groups started cultivation in the cluster village

Khasland. Upon hearing the news, the jotdars charged the landless groups with their armed band. The landless groups resisted the attack from the inside, a few being injured in the process and members of adjoining chars barricaded the entry point from the outside. The jotdar coterie realized that the landless people were fighting back and fled.

**Result:**

All fifteen landless members recovered their legal right on the land. They are currently dwelling in the cluster village project where they constructed homes and are cultivating crops on eight acres of land.

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**CASE STUDY 1.3**

***Discovering the true owner of land***

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**Area:**

Village- Rampura, Union- Durgapur, Upazila- Mithapukur, District-Rangpur.

**Background:**

Despite the landless people having legal claim to land at mark number 504, in 2004 Abul Mannan received a court order stating he was the legal owner of the two acres plot. A year later Abdul Mannan sold this plot of land to influential Sakawat Hossain.

***Landless Organisation in collecting information:***

Since 2008 landless group have been engaging in the necessary preparations to visit the union Upazila land office to collect information on the true owner of the land at mark number 504. In the meantime, there was a survey that found by the landless members that in the surveyor's Mouja map 504 no mark land was marked as khas water-body. On the basis of this information, the landless group protested against the recording of this land in Sakawat Hossain's name. The landless group also demanded that the survey be stopped until the false record was nullified, but the surveyors showed a copy writ petition in favour of Abdul Manna. The landless group collected information about the writ petition from the court and appealed the results of the survey.

Demanding legal validity of forged verdict's copy counterfeit landless groups collected. About 200 signatures and a memorandum were submitted to the district administration, additional district administrator, Mithapukur U.N.O. and additional commissioner (*Land*). On 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2010, landless groups held a meeting in the premise of Mithapukur U.N.O. office. After the meeting they blockaded the office and demanded an investigation regarding the irregularities in the land survey. On the basis of the demand, the U.N.O. met the landless group and asked Kanungo-Mithapukur upazila to investigate the matter in person.

***The truth is finally revealed:***

Kanungo-Mithapukur conducted the investigation on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2010, and found that the land is khasland. The Court's verdict was also examined and shown to be counterfeit.

**Result:**

After discussing with U.N.O and assistant commission, the land was returned to the ten landless families. Administrative measures are in place to determine a fair settlement agreement.

**Case Studies-2**  
**Advasi land and cultural rights**  
*Case summary*

The advasi have traditionally been a marginalized group in Bangladeshi society. Many people even deny their existence. They are constantly subjected to severe human rights abuses, such as physical assaults and the taking of their land. Over the past few years the landless groups have been cultivating relationships with the advasi to help them advance their rights and demand justice for the wrongs they have suffered. The following two case studies describe how the landless groups were able to assist them in establishing an academy and receive justice after one of their own was murdered and their land was taken.

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**CASE STUDY 2.1**  
***Establishment of advasi academy***

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***Area:***

Village - Shahapur, Upzila- Pirganj, District- Rangpur.

***Demand for establishment of Adivasi Academy, movement by Bangalee Landless organisation:***

For the past two years Adivasi and Bangalee landless organisation have been continuously organising movements for the establishment of an academy. Though the government and elected representative of the people have pledged several times to realize their demand, no action has yet to follow. For example, during the last parliamentary election, the primary issue of the landless group was the establishment of an academy. As a result, all of the candidates pledged to found an Adivasi academy. After the election, landless group demanded the politicians make good on their promise.

To protest, the landless groups gathered more than five thousand signatures and submitted them along with a memorandum to the Prime Minister and other ministries. In March 2009, their parliament member came to visit and the landless group organised a few hundred people to form a human barricade on the road.

The parliament member agreed to meet with representatives of the landless group and promised to build the academy. The government has since granted taka 4 lacs from the Adivasi development fund for the construction of Adivasi academy in Shahapur village.

***Corruption further delays construction:***

The government invited bids for the construction of the academy. The lowest bidder was Bisharam, a Bangalee construction company. Bisharam started the work towards the end of April 2009. A nine member committee was formed by the U.N.O. with the Panchgachi union parishad chairman as the president. It was soon discovered that Bisharam started the construction work with second grade brick, despite having promised to use first grade brick in their bid.

The Shahapur landless village committee thus organised a representative meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009 with Adivasi-Bangalee landless group representatives. Unfortunately, the meeting was not sufficient to resolve the issue and a protest procession was organised against corruption and irregularities. The protesters went to the construction site and demanded that Bisharam use the brick agreed to in the purchase agreement.

Bisharam made many excuses and did not agree to use the first grade brick. The landless people brought notice of the violation to the project management committee. When the project management committee failed to take any corrective action, the landless group organized a movement on May 5. The landless group also held a meeting with the U.N.O. and lodged their complaint. After the discussion the landless group collected people's signatures and submitted a memorandum. In light of the demand of the landless group the U.N.O visited the site in person in May 2009 and instructed Bisharam to use first grade brick.

**Result:**

Two landless group members were added to the project management committee, which stopped the corruption and increased the transparency of the construction work. The Adivasi academy has now been established in Shahapur Village- with first grade brick.

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**CASE STUDY 2.2**

***Unplanned development-insecurity of marginal people due to expansion of Bazer***

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**Area:**

Village - Kachuahat, Union- Shaghata, Upzilla- Shagata, District- Gaibandha.

**Background:**

Nearly 150 years ago, Rajbhor (*dalit*) sect people came from East India's Bihar provinces' Chhapra district to Shaghata upazilla and settled in Kachuahat village. During the partition in 1947 some of the inhabitants left for India and others went to other districts in search of livelihood. 36 Rajbhor families remained on the village where they were forced to share a mere 4.88 acres of land they worked as sweepers, cobblers, potters and chowkidars.

**Development of Kachuahat Village through Pacca Road:**

About ten to twelve years ago Shaghata was an upazilla isolated from sadar District - the closest road was seven miles away. During the dry season the only mode of transportation was rickshaw and van and in a monsoon boats plied into the area. Then the government constructed the pacca road, the first road to transcend across Kachuahat village and connect to sadar upazilla. The road allowed Kachuahat village to gain in prominence and the land price in the area increased many times over.

When the pacca road was built there was an attempt to dislodge the Rajbhor sect from their settlement. At that time the Rajbhor community formed the Saghata landless organisation and created a movement against dislodgement and forcible occupation of their land. Due to their movement attempt they were permitted to stay on their land, but intimidation and harassment continued. In the meantime,

from January 2007 emergency rule was established in the country. As a result the continuous movement of Rajbhor community was disrupted.

***Murdering for a market:***

Immediately after the construction of pucca road in Kachuahat village, the local jotdars and middlemen made plans to construct a wholesale market in the area, right where the Rajbhor dalit sect had their settlement. The area's local powerful Mandal family forced the community from 3.76 acres of their land and commenced with the project. The Mandal family then spent a meager amount of money to make fake documents that showed they were the owners of the land. The market began to gain in

popularity and it made commercial sense to expand the market. In 2005 Lion Mandal Baburam forcibly bought from Rajbhor sect 0.02 acre land by paying a nominal price. In 2006 Lion Mandal Baburam forced Rajbhor from this homestead and occupied .25 acre. Lion Mandal built a double storied shopping complex on the land he acquired by both legal and illegal means.

Near the shopping complex, in 0.03 acre land, Radha Rajbhor's home is situated. Since 2008 Lion Mandal had been trying to force Radha Rajbhor from her home to expand his shopping complex. Through, intimidation and hiring the police to harass her. The landless group worked to assist her with resisting, but on 15 July she was murdered by men hired by Mandal

***Movement to bring a rich murderer to justice:***

Monowar Rajbhor, Radha Rajbhor's son, went to the thana police to file the murder case. The officer in charge, however, pressured him to exclude Lion Mandal's name from the list of the accused. When the landless group protested the police officer threatened them. The news was spread in the locality. Instantly thousands of landless members went to the thana police office to demand that Lion Mandal's name be included in the list of suspected murders. The O.C.(officer incharge) was compelled to take the case. The case No. is 10/157.

On 16th July 2009 Radha Rajbhor's body was brought to Kachuahat Shahid minar by the landless group. People, from all over placed wreaths in her honor. In the presence of about two thousand men and women, a meeting was held in which everybody demanded the arrest of the Lion Mandal immediately and security for Rajbhor village. The police, however, refused to make the arrest. As a result, Monowar Rajbhor was pressured to withdraw the case. Out of respect, the landless members held a vigil for killing Radha Rajbhor village that lasted the entire night.

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**Box-9:**

***Is development for the poor or for the rich***

*Parul Begum-42, Village- Bashhata, She declared, "We want development for ourselves. But the development that takes place does not benefit us. Concrete road has been built in Kachuahat. Market was constructed by jotdair and wholesale businessman by killing and illegally occupying. The poor people can not buy anything in the market by bargaining. The whole sellers use the road to carry goods in trucks. They buy commodities from us at lower prices and sell these in cities at higher prices. Then who is benefiting by this concrete road? This type of development brings no benefit to us. Instead, we are cheated more by the businessman. Terrorist activities have increased. They are all unitedly killing people to grab our land. These are the results of development. Poor people die and rich be come richer. We do not want this type of development. We want development to safeguard our rights."*

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On 17th July 2009, the landless group again organised a protest procession demanding the arrest of Mandel and security for Rajbhor village. After the procession a memorandum with the demands of the landless group was submitted to the U.N.O. On 19th July a news conference was held in the presence of twelve reporters by the landless group. Additionally, the demands of the landless group were published in almost all of the newspapers. To maintain the pressure against the police, the landless group organised a protest meeting in Kachuahat market on 26th July. The landless group kept stationery on the table for people to sign their names in support. The gathering was strongly supported by lawyers, reporters, teachers, women leaders, and labors leaders. Nearly three thousands individuals signed their name and participated in the protest. The signatures were submitted to the Parliament member, District administrator and police super.

Due to other official business in Saghata upazilla, the local Parliament member and water resources Minister came on 1st August, 2009. They agreed to attend a meeting on the issue and local political leaders brought Radha Rajbhor murder to their attention. The landless people also presented their memorandum and list of signatures. In the meeting the local political leaders supported the landless group's demand and gave assurance for justice.

***Result:***

The murder case is proceeding and there is security in Rajbhor village. The landless group jointly participated in the tender (call for lease). The government has granted lease of Kachuahat bazar in landless group's name. At present Kachuahat bazar is being managed by the landless group, which has resulted in a decrease in terrorist activities and middleman control of the market.



**Case Studies-3**  
**Access service and accountability**  
*Case summary*

In Bangladesh corruption is present at almost all levels of society. It prevents the poor or those who do not believe in paying bribes to perpetuate corruptness from engaging in necessary and daily activities. Essential government services are also commonly not given to the people they have been allocated to assist because the money has been redirected to the pocket of the middleman or his friend. This section explores how corruption affected the lives of many in five diverse situations: securing a bank loan for agriculture activities, protecting the safety for fisherman, seeking assistance from the formal courts, funding a physically handicapped child to attend school, and living on land that you own the legal title. In each instance, the landless groups were able to assist the affected individuals with demanding their rights and eliminating corruption from the situation.

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**CASE STUDY 3.1**  
**Access to agricultural loans**

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**Area:**

Bangladesh Agricultural Bank, Debidwar branch, Upazilla- Devidwar, District- Comilla.

**Background:**

In Bangladesh, the small farmers are generally denied the opportunity to take loans directly from the banks. Instead, the majority of loans for agriculture go to large land owners and other influential people. Intermediaries often block small farmers from taking loans with their power and close ties with the bank officials.

**Bribes for loans:**

The intermediaries are responsible for issuing the loan contracts, but there are no rules or regulations to control their actions. In fact, most of the papers and documents they prepare are false. For example, some of the applications state that the applicant has already inherited the land of their father despite the fact that his father is still alive and the legal owner of the land.

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**BOX-10**

**Father is alive- but shown dead on papers**

*As the dishonest bank officials do not pay regular visit to the spot, many take receiving a loan as a right, such as Khalilur Rahman, son of some Hashem, from the Burir Par village who stated that his living father was dead and thus obtained a 20,000/ taka loan. Similarly, another villager named Ferdous said that his father Abdus Samad was dead and was thus able to receive a 25,000taka loan. The most amazing story is that of Kashem's from Shiv Nagar village, who stated he was dead and obtained a 25,000/ taka loan in the name of his son Alamgir.*

*Source of the Information: Dainik Comillar Kagoj, 29 August, 2009*

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Having an intermediary prepare a false document costs 1,000 taka and a loan renewal costs 150 taka per 1,000 taka of the loan. Most renewals need to be paid within one to three days of receiving notice.

There are about ten groups of corrupt banking intermediaries and officials in this upazilla. The dishonest officials get 60 percent and the agents or intermediaries get 30 percent of the money. Rest 10 percent goes to the agents of the circle of the intermediaries in the rural areas. To avoid paying the bribes, many people try to apply directly to the bank, but the bank authority cancels the applications on the grounds of minor errors. Many have stated that when their application was denied by the bank they took the same application form to the intermediary (*with the 1,000 taka "payment"*) and got approved. Those that have raised their voices against such corruption of the bank officials have suffered harassment and intimidation.

***Collective efforts of the landless organization in taking the agricultural loan:***

The landless organization begins preparations to make a movement to get loans directly from the banks at the beginning of the farming season. On August 13<sup>th</sup> 2009, a meeting was held with all the landless organizations in the area and a decision was made to identify the group members who were most likely to be approved for a loan. Six members were selected from the Bhoshna village and more than one hundred landless members went to the Devidwar branch of the Agricultural bank to submit applications on their behalf. Jan-e-Alam, the leader of the intermediaries, physically obstructed the landless members from entering the bank. Other intermediaries also threatened the landless members. The landless members quickly organized and surrounded the bank, causing the intermediaries to flee. The landless people received a lot of support from people of all classes and professions while they continued to surround the bank. After about two hours, the manager of the agricultural bank met with the landless leaders and representatives from professions. The bank officials promised to hold an inquiry into the complaints of the landless organization and take proper administrative measures and arranged to have the six loans received by a bank authority.

On August 18, 2009 the landless organizations organized a demonstration and protest meeting in the Debidwar upazilla field. Landless members from different villages, common people, professional circles and leaders from the Debidwar market committee participated in the demonstration. They demanded a higher level of inquiry into the incidents of mismanagement and corruption in disbursing loans. The landless organization also handed over a memorandum to the Director General of the Bangladesh (*Krishi*) Agricultural Bank demanding a deeper investigation into their allegations of corruption. The memorandum contained more than five hundred signatures. Additionally a fact finding team was formed comprising of representatives from the landless organization, Devidwar press club and the Devidwar market committee.

***Fact finding:***

The facts finding team took interviews of farmers from different villages of the Debidwar upazilla that were directly affected by the loan corruption, bank officials and the Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (*UNO*). A bank official, who asked to remain anonymous, stated, 'It is becoming very difficult for the bank officials to recover the money disbursed as loan against fake names and fake documents of land ownership.' The manager of the Debidwar Agriculture bank admitted the 'mismanagement in disbursing agricultural loan' and said, 'inquiries are being held at local level immediately after we have received complains.' It was learnt from him that a number of false applications for agricultural loans could be

obtained in the probe. But, those applications are yet to be approved and the loans against those applications are also to be granted yet. The Debidwar UNO also admitted to the 'mismanagement of the Agriculture bank' and said that the complaint from Shah Alam, a loan receiver from the Chotna village, has shown to be true. He admitted that necessity of a higher level of inquiry to understand the mismanagement of bank authority.

The landless organizations collected information regarding loan corruption from people in each of the villages within the working areas. According to the information received, around 98 people have been deceived by the intermediaries last year alone. The required payment ranged from 500 to 6,000 taka.

Meanwhile, a number of detailed reports have been published in the local and national level newspapers on basis of information furnished by the facts finding team.

**Result:**

In response to the efforts by the landless people, Jan-e-Alamhas promised to return the money, albeit gradually. The landless organisation has also filed a G.D. (*general diary*) in the thana against him so that he cannot flee the area. The people from the villages are further ensuring he does not flee. Meanwhile, Jan-e-Alam has begun returning money. To date about 27,000 taka has been paid. In addition, there is a higher level of inquiry into his actions.

There is no longer the undue influence of the intermediaries in the Debidwar Agriculture Bank. Those wishing to take a loan can now apply directly from the banks. According to an estimate by the Debidwar Agricultural Bank last year 1,688 recipients received a loan. From July 1 to August 16 of this year, however, 202 people have received loans. This statistic indicates that people are now more able to receive loans directly from the bank. The bank authorities have also taken action against the false loans.

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**CASE STUDY 3.2**

***Demand for security of professional fishermen-their right to access in the market directly***

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**Area:**

Upazila- Sandwip, District- Chittagong.

**Background:**

Among the scattered island in the Meghna river Sandwip is an upazila. For generations professional fishermen have lived there; currently there are 22 fishermen villages that host five-thousand families. Fishing is the only source of income in the area.

**Description of the incidence:**

On 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2010, fishermen from Sharikait area's four villages went in their boats to catch 'hilsa' fish. Upon their return early the next morning, six of the fishermen were kidnapped by pirates in the Jailachar area.

They pirates made their two lac ransom demand through the remaining fisherman. The families of the fishermen families sought assistance from the police administration who assured they would rescue the fisherman, but in actuality, the police did nothing. Hence the families were forced to rescue the fishermen by paying 60,000 taka.

***Landless groups efforts:***

On 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2010, the landless groups organised a representative meeting with leaders of various areas in Sandwip upazila. 5,000 landless members from fourteen unions attended the meeting. Problems discussed at the meeting included extortion, abduction and demand for ransom, forcible confiscation of boats, demanding illegal toll in the ghat, depriving rightful price of the fish by advance paying tenders and allowing the fisherman direct access to the fish market.

Harilal Jaldash (65), the leader of the Sharikaita landless organisation, made a speech where he said, "at various times we have organised movements on different problems. For some time the problems were contained. We thought the problems were solved. But this is a wrong notion. Actual solution was not achieved. This time we will organise a consolidated movement to solve all the problems. We are fishermen, fishing is our right. We shall realise this demand. We are called "Jaldash", this is an ancestral title. We are not slaves; we are citizen of this country with voting rights."

In the representative meeting it was decided to organize a consolidated movement. They declared that until they were provided secure fishing by the administration they would abstain from fishing in the deep river. For immediate action they decided to collect people's signatures and submit a memorandum.

The landless organisation collected nearly three thousands signatures from Sandwip upazila. While collecting the signatures they established public relation and support for the movement. Additionally, landless groups from the coastal belt organised a protest procession comprising nearly five thousands members and barricaded the office of the U.N.O. The U.N.O. thus agreed to discuss the demands of the landless group and assured them he would visit the Sarikaite area in person on 18<sup>th</sup> March. He also promised that that people's signatures and memorandum would be sent to the district administrator and police super in Chittagong.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010, landless group organised a protest in Sarikaite Enam Nahar school ground. Nearly three thousands landless members from every union participated in the meeting. The U.N.O. took the stand and requested the landless group remain peaceful and promised that a high official of the police department will visit Sandwip and settle the matter through discussion.

***Investigation in person and exchange of views with landless:***

In March, the police super of Chittagong held a meeting in Sandwip upazila. In the meeting the landless leaders and professional groups demanded that the harassment of the fishermen be stopped and they should be provided with security. After the meeting the police super gave assurance to the fishermen that safety would be provided. Additionally, he asked them to report to the police station on 21st March, 2010 to file their claims.

The landless did and reported a total of 41 incidences of extortion, forcible confiscation of boats, abduction, and demand for ransom.

On 22nd March the police super visited various fishermen villages in Sandwip upazila in person. That evening, the police super, the U.N.O, the upazila and union parishad chairman, and other officials met with ten landless leaders. In the meeting the police super and U.N.O directed the local administration to make the union parishad chairman responsible for monitoring the situation - and required that every incident be reported to the police, steps must be taken for quick investigation, to stop realising toll for the boats from the fishermen in all the ghats (*river station*), the fisherman would give their fish caught during 12 hours at night to advance paying lender but the fish caught during the day could be directly sold to the market, and a fast police boat would patrol the river.

**Result:**

The fishermen communities have achieved their status as protected citizens and professional fishermen. There is much improvement in the situation: the illegal toll has stopped the fish can be sold directly in the market. Each family's monthly income has also increase by at least 70 taka.

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**CASE STUDY 3.3**  
***Women beaten for filing a case***

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**Area:**

Village: Mehmanshahi, Union- Dhubil, Upazilla- Royganj, District- Sirajganj.

**Description of the Incident:**

Rokeya Khatun (*age: 32*) is from the Mehmanshahi village. She was divorced around six years ago, and as is custom, moved into her father's house. She support herself and her father through menial tasks like filling in eart with a CARE project. She started a relationship with Abdul Malek, son of some Jainal Pramanik of the village, Jainal's father denied to accept Rokeya as her dauther-in-law, and thus Abdul Malek refused to marry her.

**The landless organization demanding for proper justice:**

The landless organization held a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009, where they analyzed the incident and determined that Abdul had sexually harassed Rokeya. The members assisted Rokeya in taking legal action and together they filed a petition case before the Chief Judicial Court harassment (*Petition Case number: 81/2009, Salanga police station*). The petition was accepted by the police.

The local power elite felt insulted when Rokeya declined to the incident through salish or arbitration. The elite and Abdul offered her money to drop the case, but she declined. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009, the power elite declared salish and caned Rokeya 100 times.

The landless people reached the place of salish only after Rokeya's caning had occurred. The landless leaders took the seriously injured Rokeya to Royganj health complex along with the Chairman of Dhubil Union for support.

They also reported the incident to the Salanga thana, but it refused to take the case because of pressure exerted by the influential people in the village.

The landless organization held a press briefing at the Royganj press club on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. The landless leaders condemned the incident, especially because it was held in secret. They demanded a proper trial for those who held the salish and cained Rokeya 100 times.

Soon after the news was published in the newspapers and magazines, the administration realized that they could no longer ignore the issue and had to take action. To show support of the cause, thousands of men and women went to the Salanga thana on 8th June 2009. The landless organization rallied against the incident of fatwa and caning of Rokeya and demanded the immediate arrest of the responsible. The Officer in Charge agreed to meet with the leaders of the landless organization. The Salanga thana authority then became bound to accept the case (*GR-103/2009*). The police also arrest four others involved with the case.

**Result:**

Abdul Malek consented to marry Rokeya Khatun. The marriage ceremony was arranged with the dower money fixed at one lakh taka for the bride. Now both Abdul Malek and Rokeya Khatun are the members of the landless organization. The case against those who administered the Fatwas is currently being heard.

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**CASE STUDY 3.4**

***Physically handicapped students get access to government services***

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**Area:**

Village- Chathali, Union- Durgapur, Upazila- Mithapukur, District- Rangpur.

**Prevailing situation:**

The handicapped students in Bangladesh are striving entirely on their own for self betterment. Society does not support them, they are not treated with dignity, and their talents are not recognized. There are few government services allocated directly for them, but due to rampant corruption, it rarely reaches these students.

**Description of the incident:**

Bristi Rani (14) is a class VI student in Mithapukur government high school. She was born with deformed left hand and leg. Her family does not have a lot of money, but sought the best medical treatment they could. The treatment was not yield any positive result and thus the family decided to stop treating Bristi when she was eight.

Bristi refused to be denied the opportunities of other boys and girls, and thus, with the support of her family, got admitted to the government high school. She was a bright student-when she finished her primary education she got admitted to Mithapukur high school. For the past three years Bristi has regularly appealed

to the school authority for the government allowance due to her handicap, but due to negligence of the teachers and ambiguity in the definition of handicapped, Bristi has been deprived the allowance. Bristi's parents were in dire need of the financial assistance to send her to school, and were worried she could not longer go if the allowance continued to be denied to her. They went to the landless committee for assistance.

***The landless groups fight to send Bristi to school:***

The village committee first gathered information on the definition of handicapped – which included people with physical challenges like Bristi's – and she meets all the criteria for government school assistance due to a handicap.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010, the landless committee held a discussion with school teachers where the landless group gave them the government definition in writing. In the meeting the landless group demanded an explanation, in writing, for why Bristi was not considered handicapped.

In response, the school authority agreed that Bristi fit the definition of handicapped and gave her family the appropriate form to bring to the government officials. The landless organisation submitted Bristi Rani's appeal with the proper paperwork to the upazila social welfare official on 10 March, 2010, but the official informed them that that handicapped list for the year was already complete. The landless organisation demanded to see the complete list, but their request was denied. The landless group started to gather more information and found that the list was still being prepared. They organized a protest with nearly two hundred landless group members on 18 March, 2010, where they barricaded the upazilla social welfare office. By the end of the day, Bristi was on the official scholarship list.

***Result:***

Bristi is now regarded with dignity. Her name has been included in the handicapped list. Every month she receives Tk. 450/- as government grant.

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***CASE STUDY 3.5***  
***Restoring the property of the Adivasi***

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***Area:***

District- Natore, Upazila- Lalpur, Village- Naodapara (*Adivasi Village*).

***Background:***

For generations the adivasi community has been residing in Naodapara of Lalpur upazila in Natore district. During the liberation war of 1971, the adivasi community took shelter in India's refugee camps. During that time the local jodars occupied 42 acres of adivasi's agricultural land. After liberation the adivasi community came back to their original village in Naodapara, but were met with threats and were intimidated by a hired armed band. As a result, 33 adivasi families were confined to only 10 acres of land, and were gradually compelled to change their occupations (*which also reflected their culture*).

In the meantime jotdar Jamat Ali, forged documents to get the adivasi land recorded in his name. He also shared the land for cultivation with the area's known terrorists so that they would help him defend the land.

***Relation between landless organisation and adivasi community:***

Though landless group members had some link with the adivasi, distance kept the link from being strong. Gradually the activities of landless groups started expanding, which inspired the Adivasi to join the landless group in Naodapara in 2006. In 2007 the adivasi and bangalee jointly started a movement for land. As a result they were able to recover 14 acres of the land that originally belonged to them in 2008. The groups also began to gather the land records and documents.

***Assistance for Bhusan Sardar***

Bhusan Sardar is a new member of a landless group. He owns 7 acres of land. But all his land has been illegally occupied by the jotdars. Because of the movement by the landless groups the illegal occupiers started making false documents to stake a claim on the land. The powerful jotdars even threatened to murder Bhusan Sardar and abduct his sister.

Jamat Ali, by providing false information, took Bhusan Sardar to Natore district Sadar. In the premise of Natore district court, with the assistance of hired armed band, through Notary Public Jamat Ali forcibly prepared Power of Attorney of Bhusan Sardar's 7 acres of land.

When the landless organisation came to know about this Power of Attorney in January 2009 when they went to collect information. With the assistance of landless group they collected the necessary documents and filed a case for canceling the Power of Attorney.

To return Bhusan land to him, the adivasi-bangalee alliance started making preparations for movements. They decided to jointly cultivating the land. To gain support for their cause, a human chain was organized to meet in Kachua market area on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2008. Eight people made speeches in support of the cause, including Natore District and Sadar, Bagtipara upazila teacher, lawyers, reporters, political social workers and representatives of local clubs. Adivasi's demand for land was published in local and national news papers and Desh T.V. telecasted the news.

On 9th August Jamat Ali came to Naodapara with his hired armed band. Claiming his right to the land from the Power of Attorney he attempted to chop the crops. News spread that there was attempt to chop the crops and thousands of people moved to forcibly remove Jamat Ali. Jamat Ali and his armed band was forced to flee. On 10 August 4 representatives from professional groups and nearly two hundred landless members met the U.N.O. and discussed the matter. In the meeting the adivasi demanded security and the U.N.O. agreed to visit the Naodapara adivasi village the same day. After the visit he required the Bagtipara police administrator to take necessary precautions to protect the adivasi.

***Result:***

Jamat Ali has been evicted from the land and Bhusan Sardar got his 7 acres of land back and the Power of Attorney has been declared void. The harvest from the jointly cultivated land was distributed evenly among the adivasi. Above all there is now more support and from the professional groups for the adivasi.



**Case Studies-4**  
**Right and access to water**  
*Case summary*

Like all rivers, the rivers of Bangladesh provide many essential functions for its citizens: fish can be eaten or sold, water can be used to grow crops or raise animals, and people can use the water to drink, cook, and clean. The government of Bangladesh has declared the banks of the rivers to be public lands, but in the two case studies that follow, greedy individuals have attempted to seize the river embankments for their personal use through armed guards, threats, harassment, false allegations, and befriending government officials. In both instances, the landless people, through organizing movements that rallied support from the public at large and government officials, were able to return the embankments to land that was truly available for public use.

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**CASE STUDY 4.1**

***Return of public embankments on the Boral River***

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***Area:***

Bagtipara upazilla, Natore district.

***Geographic orientation:***

The Boral River is part of the river Padma. It originates in Rajshahi district's Padma river and flows through Natore, Pabna, Sirajgonj and ultimately is united with the river Jamuna.

***Unlawful occupation of public water bodies:***

Under the Bangladesh river laws and regulations, all water bodies are government property and there is unrestricted public use. Every year after the monsoon season temporary embankments are built on the Boral to facilitate the villagers in the area to fish, plant agriculture, and attend to their domestic needs such as bathing and collecting water. Despite the regulation, in 2001 “water grabbers” began to take control of the water bodies to develop fishing communities and prohibited the public to continue to use the public lands. The water grabbers developed relationships with the administering bodies, and thus no government action was taken to enforce the river laws and regulations. Armed guards lined the embankments to ensure that the general public did not make use of the land. People report they are afraid to even take a bath.

***Landless groups organize for change:***

Landless people have organized along the banks of Boral in two areas: Bagatipara and Lalpur. In 2008 the landless organisations of Bagtipara's Misripara and Nandikuja villages started movements to evict the water grabbers. On 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2009 the landless groups of these two villages organised a protest procession followed by a meeting at the U.N.O's office to demanded free access to the Boral river. After the meeting the landless leaders submitted a memorandum to the U.N.O.

The local villagers from other villages recall they were inspired by the demands of the landless groups that they saw through the banners and festoons calling for change. To further gain public support the landless cultural groups organised people's dramas in villages adjacent to the river. The villages that did not have any landless groups started making movements to re-open water-bodies for public use. A meeting was held with the representatives from three upazilla groups to coordinate efforts, and lawyers, reporters, teachers, cultural and political workers, women leaders, and U.P representatives joined the meeting to support the efforts. At the meeting's conclusions the attendees agreed to strengthen public opinion through collecting signatures and hosting a press conference.

***Harassment and threats to landless group:***

The water-body grabbers became worried at the extent and strength of the movements and began launching false rumors against the landless groups.

Water-body grabber's leaders Mozammel Haque and Azharuddin announced, "The landless organisation if it is removed from the locality, the movements will cease. The landless group is spreading agitation in the locality." On the basis of this false allegation the water grabbers filed three false cases against the landless members. Police harassment against the

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***Box-11***

***False case dismissed-harassment ceased:***

*The water-body occupier accused nearly hundreds of landless members and filed 3 false cases. The cases were taken to the court for hearing. In the court due to lack of sufficient evidence 35/2009 and 42/2009 cases were dismissed in August and September. Dismissal of the cases by court indicates that the water-body grabbers file framed cases only to cause harassment to the landless.*

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landless groups began to increase, but it only sparked sympathy and support from the community. The parliament representative came to visit the people and gave assurance that the embankments would be returned to public use.

***Dislodgement of illegal occupiers with the leadership of landless organisation:***

The leaders of the landless and professional groups continued to fight and held a joint press conference to express their demands on 8th April, 2009. On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009, the landless leaders and representatives of professional groups and local bodies met with the district administration regarding opening the Boral river for public use. Nearly six thousands signatures and a memorandum were submitted at the meeting.

Due to the demand of the people, the district administration pledged to visit the river in person, investigate the allegation, and take the necessary action. On 12<sup>th</sup> April the district administrator, after visiting Lalpur, Boraigram upazillas AC land came to Nandikuja village of Bagatipara upazilla. In front of nearly two thousands people he declared that the construction of the embankments on Boral river was illegal. On the basis of this declaration the leadership of landless groups and the people in Nandikuja and Misripara village's snapped the temporary embankments on the river. The news spread instantly to other upazillas. The people of those localities also snapped the embankments on the river.

On 13<sup>th</sup> April, the illegal occupiers attempted to re-occupy the river with the assistance of hired armed band, but fled after realizing they were up against thousands of people. In every village the local people guarded the river and made preparations to fight any more attempts at illegal occupation. Thankfully, none were made.

**Result:**

On 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, in 3 upazillas, Boral river was again open to the public. Nearly 11 thousands families living on river barks in Bagatipara, Lalpur and Boraigram upazillas have benefited. Nearly 1,050 fishermen are making a living by fishing in the Boral river. Total benefited families are 8,500. Fishermen families are 850. In every area the leadership of landless organisation is much acclaimed.

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**CASE STUDY 4.2**

***Making water-bodies open for all: demand for stopping lease***

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**Area:**

Union- Batiaghata, Upazilla- Batiaghata, District- Khulna.

**Geographic background:**

The Batighata canal is a five kilometers long canal that flows through west Baruyabad, Hatbati Baruyabad and the Batiaghata village before connecting with the Chakshailmari river. After liberation in 1971 this canal was a swift flowing river. In 1972 Bangladesh water development board constructed embankments on both sides of the river so that a sluice gate could be added for drainage in the Batiaghata village, changing the river into a canal.

**Local people's life and livelihood:**

Nearly 200 people relied on this canal for their livelihood, most are fisherman. After the construction of embankments the supply of fish became depleted. Therefore, the people started looking for other sources of livelihood. Simultaneously the local powerful people occupied the canal illegally. Though they demanded to take base but according to government record book Batiaghata canal was never given for lease. At least there is no record. The illegal occupiers hired an armed band to guard the canal and the local fisherman were threatened, harassed, and had false cases filed against them. As a result the local fisherman had to stop going to the canal and the local people faced a shortage of food water for domestic use.

***Demands by the landless group regained the canals:***

In 1996, during the parliamentary elections the landless group demanded that the candidates promise to make the canal free for use by the masses. The candidates made promises prior to election to meet this demand.

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**Box-12**

**Occupied-Open-When and whose.**

- 1972 - 1997 Local powerful groups were occupying.
  - 1998 - 2006 Open for all the masses.
  - 2007 - 2008 Reoccupied illegally by water-body grabbers.
  - 2009 - Till now- Open for all.
-

After the election, the leadership of the landless group organised a movement to assure the promises were met, and in 1998 the elected Parliament Member made the canal open for everybody's use.

***Opportunist seize control of the embankments while Bangladesh was under emergency rule:***

In 2007 the president declared emergency rule in the country. As a result constitutional rights were suspended. People could not express their demands and arrange movements. The powerful land grabbers took this opportunity and became active. They established relationships with that administration and occupied Batiaghata canal. Though it was a violation of fundamental rights, the government did not take any steps to stop it.

***The landless group organize to reclaim the canals:***

In 2008 Parliament and upazilla elections were declared to be held by the then government. The landless groups began to prepare to bring their grievances before the next elected government. Landless group started mobilising the masses to demand the candidates promise to open the canal if elected. They collected nearly five thousand signatures, which was presented to the candidates. The landless people also hung festoons and banners. As a result, one of the main issues in the Parliamentary and upazilla elections was on whether the canal should open. Eventually candidates from both sides gave assurances for opening the canal in their election campaigns.

***The landless groups demand results from the politicians:***

After the elected government came to office the landless groups held meetings on 4-8 April 2009 in all adjoining villages to consolidate public opinion and strengthen networks. On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009, landless groups organised a meeting in Batiaghata market. The meeting was attended by local U.P. Upazilla representatives, teachers, reporters, lawyers, and members of market committee. They all supported the movements and assured the landless groups of their continued participation.

On 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, the landless groups presented five thousand signatures and a memorandum to U.N.O, Police Super, Member of the Parliament and U.P Chairman. On the basis of the memorandum, U.N.O. visited the canal on 15 April. To ensure a thorough investigation and administrative follow-up the landless groups kept constant pressure by holding meetings, including with previous parliament members, present parliament members, and the U.P. Chairman and Vice Chairman.

After the inspection, the U.N.O. declared in front of the masses. For the benefit of the people this canal will remain open. Those who are occupying are doing so illegally." From the demand of the masses, in the presence of the elected representatives and U.N.O, the landless groups snapped the illegal embankments. The landless groups then declared the canal open by hoisting red flags and the present parliament Member gave directives to ensure the security of the people and monitor the situation.

***Result:***

Batiaghata canal is now open to the public. The landless groups and local professional groups formed a committee and have taken responsibility to maintain and supervise the canal. About two hundred fisherman families have returned to the villages and are again fishing for their livelihood. About 9,500 families are benefiting by rearing cattle and poultry on the embankments.

**Case Studies-5**  
**Violence against women and children**  
*Case summary*

Although the government of Bangladesh is working to eradicate violence against women and children through establishing special laws and tribunals for those who commit such acts, in actuality many women and children in Bangladesh still fall victim to extreme abuse. The landless groups are dedicated to assisting these victims through providing them with medical care, legal services, and safe alternatives. This section address how landless groups were specifically able to help a six year old rape victim, acid attack survivors, a pregnant woman abused by her husband who continued to demand extra dowry money, and two children being forced into marriage by their families.

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**CASE STUDY 5.1**

***Child persecution - attempt of the powerful coterie for settlement -demand of the landless organisation for justice***

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***Area:***

Village- Koira, Union- Paiska, Upazilla- Dhanbari, District- Tangail.

***Background:***

Persecution of women and children is increasing in Bangladeshi society. These incidences are sometimes suppressed by powerful individuals and groups. In some places these are condemned and movements are organised for justice.

***Description of the incidence:***

Ratna is a student of Koira Government Primary School. She is six years old. On 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 she went to the Banshai river 'ghat' (*river station*) to watch the immersion of an idol to mark the conclusion of the Durga festival. Most of the people were busy watching the immersion of goddess Durga. As a result the streets were deserted. It was late evening when Ratna was returning home. While she was going through the Atapara village Jahangir (30) from Koira village got hold of her and, covering her mouth tightly to muffle her screams took her to a paddy field, where, bound and blindfolded, she was raped. After being raped Ratna lost consciousness. Rapist Jahangir took shelter in the house of a powerful political leader in the area. When Ratna gained consciousness her loud screams for help were heard by many and people came running to help her. The members of the landless group immediately admitted her to Madhupur upazilla health complex. As Ratna's condition deteriorated they sent her to Tangail sadar hospital.

***Description of the rapist:***

Rapist Jahangir (30) was the son of Rahim Mia. Upazilla- Bhurgamari, District- Kurigram. Mother-Jahanara Begum, upazilla- gopalpur, District- Tangail. Jahangir was married with two children and he was a van driver. He used to roam around sometimes in Bhurangamari, sometimes Gopalpur and at times in Dhanbari upazilla.

***Attempts made to settle the offense without proper trial:***

Jahangir took shelter in a local powerful political leader's house. When news spread that a protest movement was being organised the powerful coterie tried to suppress the matter by a farcical trial where the culprit was beaten just to deceive the people and they claimed that Jahangir was duly punished. The landless members could see through the scheme and reported the matter to the police. Anticipating that Jahangir might flee, the officer-in-charge of the police station came immediately.

***Culprit arrested, legal measures taken:***

With the assistance of the landless leaders the culprit was arrested from the house of the powerful political person on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. Ratna's mother filed a case under women and children persecution law. The case No. 5/2010. Jahangir is in jail now.

***Treatment and legal aid:***

Ratna's father, Nurul Islam, is a farmer. When there is a dearth of work in the area he drives a van as an alternative source of income. In spite of being very poor he wanted his daughter to receive an education, but the family cannot even find the money to pay for her medical and legal expenses. The landless groups have given money for Ratna's continued care and Nijera Kori agreed to provide for legal assistance

***Landless organisation's movement to demand justice:***

The local powerful coterie made attempts to settle the matter on behalf of rapist Jahangir by paying 30,000 takas. They tried to influence the investigation of the case and made attempts to tamper with the medical report. In this situation the landless group arranged a meeting in Dhanbari market on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. Landless members, school-college students, reporters, lawyers, teachers, rickshaw/van driver's association and, women leaders attended the meeting. About three thousands people were present. In the meeting the landless group demanded a neutral investigation and quick submission of the medical report. After the meeting about two thousand men and women marched to U.N.O and submitted their demands along with a memorandum. When the news of the demands made by landless group were published in the local and national newspapers, the administration began to feel pressure to act. To expedite the medical report the landless group collected more than a thousand signatures and submitted with a memorandum on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to the civil surgeon. Meanwhile, school students who came from landless group's families influenced their peers and they all protested by walking out of class in Koira Government School for 2 hours and formed a human chain in upazilla sadar. In this manner everybody in the area started supporting the cause of the landless group. As a result, the attempt to settle the matter in lieu of money was stopped.

***Result:***

Rapist Jahangir is in jail law. His trial is ongoing, but the medical report identifies him as the rapist.

*Protest against terrorist act like acid throw on women, legal steps taken*

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**Area:**

Village-Kamlapur, Union-Sadar Khoksha, Upazial- Khoksha, District- Kushtia.

**Introduction:**

Idris Ali is a petty government official. He was posted in Meherpur district. Idris Ali and Jamila Khatun had 5 children: the first three girls and the youngest two boys. Though his earning was meager but he gave equal opportunity for education to all his children. Shila, after passing H.S.C. took admission in Kushtia Government College in Bengali Hon's faculty.

**Shila refused forcible marriage proposal:**

Independent minded Shila was proposed to several times by a local wayward body, but she never consented. As a result, the boy made life very difficult for her. Idris Ali was about to retire from his job and became worried about his daughter's financial security. He therefore arranged for Shila to be married on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.

**Acid is thrown on Shila became a victim of acid-throwing:**

Shila's eldest sister, Shimul, came from her in-laws house to attend Shila's marriage. On 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009, one day before the wedding, Shila and her sister were sleeping together in one room. At about three in the morning acid was thrown on the sleeping sisters. Their shrieks of agony as acid literally melted their flesh woke everyone in the house, but for fear of their own safety, no one came to help.

**Landless organisations quick reaction in arranging treatment:**

With no one else to help them, the members of the landless group quickly took Shila and her sister to Khoksha hospital. The next day Nijera Kori and BRAC jointly made necessary arrangement for proper treatment through "Acid Survival Foundation."

**Protest- Legal action taken:**

Though a case was filed in the police station no investigation was made. On 4<sup>th</sup> November a meeting was held at Khoksha upazilla officewhere the landless organization demanded the immediate arrest of the suspect. The request was furthered with a procession to the U.N.O, where a memorandum was submitted. The meeting was attended by almost all the students from all the schools and colleges in the area, representations of professional groups and many others. Local and national newspapers published the reports of people's demand for stopping acid-throwing and arresting the accused.

**Result:**

Public opinion has formed against acid throwing. Two accused were arrested and at present they are in jail. Shila and Shimul are being treated.

**Area:** Village- Bharra, Union- Banail, Upazilla- Mirzapur, District- Tangail.

***Kohinoor- Victim of dowry:***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 Kohinoor was married to Harun Mia. At her wedding her father gave gold earrings, a nose tad and 25,000 taka. Within six months the money was gone. Pressure was put on Kohinoor by her new family to bring more money from her father's house. In the meantime Kohinoor became pregnant. Six months into the pregnancy Kohinoor was beaten and sent to her father's house to bring taka 10,000. Her father, a mere van driver, did not have the money but borrowed 5,000 taka to meet the demands of her greedy husband. This money was exhausted within two month. Again she was harassed and abused to get more money. In the meantime he took her earrings saying that he would use the money to purchase a rickshaw, but a rickshaw was never purchased. Now eight months into her pregnancy, Kohinoor was again beaten and sent back to her father's house to get money – allegedly to buy a rickshaw. Kohinoor father could not provide any more dowry money and had not even been able to repay his 5000 taka loan – and the interest was continuing to compound. As a result, Kohinoor had to return without more dowry money.

***She is forced to endure a brutal beating:***

Kohinoor tried to explain to her husband that her father could not give more money, but he refused to listen to her explanation and beat his eight month pregnant wife mercilessly. Although her mother in law tried to intervene, she was restrained by her father in law, and the besating continued. Finally, the piercing screams became too much for the neighbors who came to Kohinoor's aid. On 22nd October the neighbors brought her to her father's house.

***Efforts of landless organisation and their limitation:***

Although Kohinoor and Harun Mia come from same upazilla, they live in different unions. In Jamurki union landless group had recently started their activities and Harun Mia did not live without the activity area. As a result they could not build up strong movement.

***Resolution by Shalish fails:***

On May 5<sup>th</sup> 2009, leaders of landless groups had a meeting with Jamurki union's chairman to discuss Huran Mia beating his wife and demanding dowry from her family. They demanded justice. Jamurki union's Parishad Chairman called for a Shalish in the presence of the landless group on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 09. The leaders of the Shalish directed Harun Mia to stop beating his wife and demanding dowry. He was also order to provide for her medical expenses and maintenance as well as ensure her security. Harun Mia stated that he agreed to the terms, but continued to beat his wife. Shalish was held three times, and three times he was ordered to stop the beatings, but each time he continued to physically abuse his wife.

***Legal steps to demand justice:***

For justice gala Anchalie committee decided to take legal stop. In this respect landless organisation made an appeal to the legal aid organization, BLAST, who assisted Kohinoor in filing complaint No -15/27/97/2009.

***Result:***

Blast fixed four hearing dates, but Harun Mia is fleeing.



**Area:**

Village Shaharwati, Union Shaharwati, Upazial Gangni, District- Meherpur.

***A marriage is arranged between two children:***

Shefali, daughter of Rafjol, is 11 years old. Hasan Ali is 14 years old. Due to poverty they have both been out of school for a long time. They assist their families by engaging in various agricultural tasks, but neither of them are old enough to earn money on their own. Additionally, neither of them are old enough to be legally married. Nonetheless, their parents agreed for them to be married on 12 May, 2009.

***Landless organisation in resisting child marriage:***

When the landless group came to know about the marriage, they discussed the matter with both families. They tried to explain legal bar against child marriage and that their children were not old enough to financially or emotionally support themselves, but neither family agreed to call off the marriage.

***Taking assistance from the administration:***

Shaharwati landless village committee held a meeting on 7 May. They decided to seek administrative assistance to stop the marriage. They made a written plea for assistance to U.N.O. and a copy to the upazilla Women's Affairs official and the police. In response, the upazilla human affairs officer came to the village on May 10, 2009, accompanied by the police. The landless leaders summoned the families and the groups sat down for a discussion.

***Result:***

The child marriage was stopped and Shafali is now taking sticking lessons in the government youth development programme.

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**Box--12**

***"Landless organisation's resistance against harassment of women in the street"***

**Area:** Village Kuripara, Union Sribardi, Upazilla Sribardi, District- Sherpur.

*School girl Habiba commutes regularly through the village road in Kuripara. Every day she is harassed while moving to and fro. On August 8, 2009 while she was going depraved Ratan blocked her path. He offered his love and followed her uttering indecent comments. To find relief from those costs of harassment Habiba lodged a complaint to Kuripara No. 5 male landless Samity. As per the complaint Ratan's father was called by them to a meeting in the evening. In meeting the matter was discussed and after investigation Ratan confessed to his guilt. He asked for forgiveness in their presence and promised not to repeat his conduct.*

**Result:** *Women are no longer harassed in the road and bazar of Kuripara. The members make it a point to monitor the situation.*

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**Case Studies-6**  
**Export oriented industrial Shrimp cultivation**  
*Case summary*

Shrimp cultivation has ruined the lives of many. The land that they rely on to grow crops, raise livestock, and nourish fruit trees is flooded with salt water, which kills all of the vegetation on the land. As a result, people live on barren land - unable to generate enough food to live. While some people have the opportunity to work on the shrimp farms, the work is painstaking and does not pay enough to feed a family. Moreover, the majority of people hired are not from the flooded areas. Those who resist are met with violent resistance. It is not uncommon for people to be beaten or arrested on a false allegation. Many have even died. The landless groups have been working with the people in villages affected by shrimp cultivation, assisting them with evicting the shrimp cultivators and clearing the salt water from the area.

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**CASE STUDY 6.1**

***Resisting forcible shrimp cultivation in polder 20***

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***Area:***

Polder no-20, Upazilla- Paikgacha, District- Khulna.

***Background:***

In the 1960s the Dutch built a series of round-shaped polders that had a perimeter comprised solely of Beri bandh (*embankments*) to prevent saline water from flooding the agriculture. The communities thrived and had a surplus of food: multiple crops yielding multiple harvests could be grown on the land, fruit trees flourished, and the families could raise chickens, cows, and goats. In the 1970s, however, commercial shrimp farmers began to take over the polders and flood them with saline water. The saline destroyed the polders environmentally, and left the local communities with a severe food shortage. Due to a lack of employment in the areas, the people began to live an inhuman life.

***Geographical location and description of the Polder no. 20:***

Polder number 20 is 21 square kilometers and is located in the south-west corner 35 km away from the Khulna district. The polder comprises areas from Lata and Deluti unions. There are twelve villages in the polder. A number of rivers flow from all sides, including the river Gangrail in the east, the rivers Gunakhali and Salta in the west, the rivers Gayachapa and Bhangari rivers in the north, and the river Chakri-Bakri river in the south.

***25 years of shrimp cultivation***

Shrimp cultivation commenced on the polder around 1985. Shrimp cultivators from outside the area began grabbing the land of the local farmers by force. Meanwhile, two large projects were taken to combat poverty eradication and shrimp farming: the third fisheries project (1990-97) and the fourth fisheries project (1999-2005). Through the projects privately owned agricultural lands were flooded with saline water to allow shrimp cultivation in the area. The local people tried to protest as saline water destroyed their only means of obtaining

food, but their demands were ignored and sluice gates were built to pump additional saline water into the polder. The local people, especially women, who protested were faced with oppression, discrimination, and harassment. Soon, the entire polder was within the control of the shrimp cultivators, 95% of whom were rich outsiders who bought land in the area solely to make money off of shrimp cultivation. Up until last year there were 825 shrimp enclosures on the polder. The largest enclosure was 767 acres, owned by well, the son to Wazed Ali Bishwas, the convicted murderer of Shahid Karunamayee Sarder, a local woman who tried to protect her land from the devastating effect of saline.

***Connection, solidarity- construction of the landless organization***

A few landless groups were organized on polder no. 20, but they could not operate their programs on a regular basis due to the violence and harassment they experienced from the shrimp cultivators. Every November 7th, however, they hosted programmes on movements to commemorate the anniversary of Shaheed Karunamayee murder. The landless organizations of polder no. 20 have also been supported by other landless organizations in the area, which has created solid networks.

***Taking vows for movement and its intensity:***

On November 7th, 2009, the landless organization declared that they were going to rid the polder of shrimp cultivation. The landless groups have organized a number of meetings, demonstrations, protests, and marches to generate enthusiasm and support for the movement. They have created anti-shrimp farming committees in several villages and guard the sluice gates to prevent the shrimp cultivators from pumping in the saline water. Their efforts have been met with violent hostility by the shrimp owners. Goons have been hired to patrol the shrimp farms.

***The landless groups resist:***

On January 31, 2010, the rich outsider shrimp cultivators and their hired goons came to the polder at midnight and tried to pump saline water into the polder by breaking sluice gates no. 8 and 9. More than three hundred men and women instantly came to the spot to prevent them. A fight ensued. Three landless leaders, including the female leader, Nurjahan, died. Ultimately the landless groups prevailed and the shrimp cultivators fled. On February 1st 2010, the landless organizations held a demonstration and protest meeting in Parmadhukhali, demanding an end to the pumping of the saline water. The Station Officer of the Water Development Board (WDB) promised administrative support to return the polders to fresh ("sweet") water in the presence of more than five hundred people, even pledging to break the sluice gates if required. He also pledged to take legal steps against those pumping saline water.

On 14th February, 2010 the outsider shrimp cultivators again went to two sluice gates at midnight. More than one thousand landless men and women marched to the area to prevent them. The shrimp cultivators fled from the mass resistance. Later, however, the powerful shrimp cultivators began to threaten the landless members and file false murder and rape cases against them. The landless organizations prepared protests, meetings, demonstrations and processions to enhance public knowledge and support of the movement. They also sought support from professional circles in areas such as Paikgacha, Dumuria and Khulna. A further challenge for the landless organizations was that some of the small shrimp farmers joined with the large outsider shrimp

cultivators – sharing a significant amount of information with them. The small shrimp cultivators began trying to pump the saline water into the polder with support from the outsider shrimp cultivators and their hired goons. To stop the unexpected actions, more than three hundred men and women, including the Station Officer of the Water Development Board, stopped this saline water pumping process by filling the holes with earth.

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the hired goons of the outsider shrimp cultivators hid in the houses of the small shrimp cultivators while the outsider shrimp cultivators entered the polder by eight trawlers at midnight. An armed attack was launched against the landless groups and bombs were detonated. Fifteen landless members were seriously injured. The shrimp cultivators then began pumping saline water through a number of sluice gates of the polder. Before long, the shrimp cultivators had control of half the sluice gates on the polder and were able to flood the entire area with saline water.

***The landless organizations regain control of the polder:***

The landless organization built ties with the nearby polders, local representatives, and professionals, to evict the shrimp cultivators who had illegally grabbed the land of polder 20 and stopped the pumping of saline water. A collective movement was initiated on March 20 that resulted in around two thousand men and women assembling to generate mass resistance against the shrimp cultivators. The participants began with a protest on the embankment or the polder and then marched to one of the sluice gates to force the shrimp cultivators to cease pumping saline water. The shrimp cultivators and their hired goons fled the area. The police came, but took no action against the shrimp cultivators. To date, however, the shrimp cultivators have not returned and the sluice gates no longer pump saline water into the polder and the local people have returned to being able to live off the land. The landless group has filed two legal cases against the shrimp cultivators. The Water Development Board (WDB) Khulna has also filed a case against the shrimp cultivators on the ground of breaking sluice gates and cutting the polder or embankment on basis of the demands raised by the landless organization. The case number is GR-104.

***Cases against the landowners:***

The shrimp cultivators have filed eight legal cases accusing 534 landless individuals of crimes they did not commit. The police have arrested 33 of the landless group members, but only one of the shrimp cultivators. The police also regularly harass the landless people.

***Result:***

After 25 long years, polder no. 20 is again free of shrimp cultivation. The local land owners are now preparing seed bed. They are taking preparations to sow paddy in around 6,000 acres of land. It is a significant successes in achieving the food security and food sovereignty for around 1,200 families.

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***Box--13***

***Activities in violation of human rights as ignoring the verdict of the higher court***

*Nijera Kori and Bela, two organizations, filed two writ petition cases on behalf of the local people. On March 1, 2010, the High Court issued an injunction against the forced pumping of saline water in the arable lands of the coastal districts. Additionally, the concerned departments of the government were instructed to take effective measures to end the saline water pumping in the agricultural lands. The local people are taking efforts to ensure compliance with the order.*

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**Area:**

Union-Sahas, Upazilla- Dumuria, District- Khulna.

**Background:**

A vast tract of agricultural and arable land in the southern districts of Bangladesh, known as the *shoal* lands, can no longer be cultivated due to commercial shrimp farmers pumping saline water into the fields, severely interfering with the lives and livelihoods of those who relied on these lands for food and income. The shrimp cultivators have pumped saline water into twelve villages in the Sahas Union, which is part of the Dumuria upazilla in Khulna district, an area of about four kilometers.

The movement of the anti-saline water landless people has continued for many long years. The landless organizations have taken steps to resist the pumping of saline water at the beginning of the year, including educating and forming coalitions with the general public. The landless organizations have also successfully communicated with the people's representatives at local and national level.

***The landless organize:***

The local people have suffered while the shrimp cultivators flooded their lands with saline. The shrimp cultivators have not been providing them with meals, despite the fact that they are no longer lands to farms, raise livestock, or support fruit trees. They are also subjected, especially the women, to harassment and a general feeling of terror. One of the worst atrocities against them are false criminal cases being filed against them. The local people have been supporting the landless groups' efforts to combat the saline flooding of the polder. As a result, the anti-export- commercial shrimp farming movement has become vast, strong and well-organized.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2010, the shrimp cultivators hired goons to open the mouth of the inlet pipes around the polder to pump water into the embankment, flooding the agricultural lands. The goons guarded the pipes so that their efforts could not be stopped.

In an attempt to combat the situation, a procession of around five thousand men and women began marching towards the embankment and surrounded it. The shrimp farmers and their hired goons escaped the area to avoid facing the people's demands. The landless groups declared the 12 villages free of saline water and under their direction hundreds of men and women opened the broken mouths of the 23 inlet pipes around the villages. The landless people also held a demonstration at the Golaimari sluice gate and started a rotation for who would guard the area to ensure that the saline water did not flow into the polder.

***The landless organize***

The landless organizations have continued with their anti-shrimp cultivation movement. An anti saline water demonstration was organized at the Nakati market square on February 2007. Honor'abe national MP Narayan Chandra, Upazilla Vice Chairman and the representatives from the local professional class supported and participated in the movement. The landless organization placed

some concrete demands to the local and national representatives, including ending illegal pumping of saline water the forceful cutting of the beri bandh (*embankments*), the digging out of filled-up canals, and the use of inlet pipes. The landless groups also asked that false cases be dismissed, the police abuse stopped, and that the women of the area be treated with respect by the shrimp cultivators.

***In light of the demands, he Honor'able MP promised:***

- That to protect agriculture and the environment, landowners would not be permitted to flood their land with saline.
- There would be no more use of inlet pipes or cutting the embankments for pumping saline water. Legal steps would be taken if necessary.
- Dialogues with the administration would be held so that the landless organization and local people to prevent harassment from the police and easy dismissal of false cases.
- The sluice gate management committee would be reconstituted and the overall control and management would be conferred on the committee.
- Measures would be taken to dig up the filled-up canals.

The MP also supported the landless groups, commenting 'The landless organization must be stronger. Local resistance should be built up as it is the most effective way.'

***Result:***

Saline water no longer floods the twelve villages. As a result, the local farmers are now cultivating around 450 acres of land, benefiting 1,100 families.

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***CASE STUDY 6.3***

***Resisting the installation of shrimp encircle***

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***Area:***

Charalaunddin Mouza, Union Charclerk, Upazilla Subarnachar, District: Noakhali.

***Background:***

New shoal lands emerged outside the Boalkhali beri bandh in 2000. People who were forced from their lands due to river erosion elsewhere in Bangladesh built their new homes there, and the people were able to generate enough food to live by cultivating paddies, rearing cattle, and fishing. In 2008, however, the local leaders attempted to evict the landless people so their land could be flooded with saline for shrimp cultivation. The land grabbing shrimp-cultivators threatened and harassed the landless people and even filed four false cases against them.

***The landless group organize:***

A joint meeting was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 between several landless groups to decide on a common strategy for defeating the shrimp cultivators. One aspect of the strategy was to have the landless leaders meet with the Chairmen and Members of the Union Parisad to demand that their right to shelter be protected by declaring: 'As we are landless, so we are the owners of khas land in accordance with the government law. We pay tax to the Union Parisad for the lands used, possessed or consumed by us. This is why the right to shelter or habitat is our constitutional right.'

On October 18<sup>th</sup> of 2009, the landless organization held a press briefing in which they voiced their demands to stop the eviction by force. Additionally, the landless leaders demanded in the press briefing that there is a writ petition against declaration of shrimp enclosure in the Noakhali district. The Honor'able High Court laid instruction not to evict the landless people living there as well as not to install or build any shrimp enclosure. This is why the building of any shrimp enclosure by evicting the landless people is contrary to the provisions of the Constitution- it violates the decision of the High Court. Demands of hundreds of the landless people to stop the eviction from the government khas land and building illegal shrimp enclosure were published in the newspapers and magazines at the local and national level. As a result, a number of institutions and persons expressed their support to the demands of the landless people. Thus, the administration was also pressed to look after the demands of the landless people.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the landless organization placed a memorandum in front of the District Commissioner demanding that the landless people be allowed to stay and the shrimp cultivators be evicted from the area. The memorandum contained 500 signatures of the landless people and was supported by well-wisher lawyers and journalists. The demand was also raised at a meeting of District Law and Order preservation committee. The Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO), held a discussion with landless families in Char Alauddin when he visited the area on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Later, the UNO ordered the police administration to protect landless families against intimidation and force.

In October 2009, the Honor'able Minister of Land came to visit the Subarnachar upazilla of the Noakhali district. More than two thousand landless men and women attended the meeting. They began chanting slogans for khas land settlement. The landless leaders handed over two memorandums voicing their demands. The Honor'able Minister of Land called the shrimp cultivators 'land pirates' and declared his promise to stop the shrimp cultivating and allocate khas land to the landless people.

The landless organization contacted the local administration more than once to implement the promise of the land minister. But, the local administration was actually supporting the local leaders of the ruling party to install the necessary enclosures with from shrimp cultivation. On December 12, 2009, the shrimp cultivators and their armed bands began building the shrimp enclosure by force. The news began spreading from char to char. Landless men and women from different chars began getting together to resist. In total, more than five hundred people came. The shrimp cultivators and their armed band attacked the landless men and women, but the landless people were able to fight back from all sides. The shrimp cultivators and their armed band fled from the area.

**Result:** Shrimp enclosure was not built in the area, preserving the agricultural land for the landless people. The landless people have submitted applications to the land administration office allocate khasland to them, but the administration is slow to process the application. Unfortunatley, only two shrimp cultivators were arrested for their role in the attack. After the attack the Upazilla Nirabhi Officer (UNO) and the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the Subarna Char thana came to the spot of Char Alauddin with the police force. The landless organization handed over two of the attackers, who were promptly arrested. The UNO influence by the work of the landless people declared that it' is illegal to install shrimp enclosure and evict the landless people.

**Case Studies-7**  
**Fatwa and fundamentalism**  
*Case summary*

The views of the religious fundamentalists are contrary to many of the beliefs landless people and articles of the constitution. Perhaps the biggest source of contention is the treatment of women. Another is separating religion from politics. The following case studies demonstrate how the landless groups preserved their integrity by challenging two decisions by religious fundamentalists.

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**CASE STUDY 7.1**

***Fatwa: father-daughter victims of flogging***

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***Area:***

Village- Noaga, Union-Biteshar, Upazila- Daudkandi, District-Comilla.

***A village divided by religious devotion:***

In Comilla district, many powerful 'Pirs' (religion persons) are established and have significant power over the daily lives of the area's inhabitants and they have extrusive inference. Devotion to a specific Pir tends to follow social and economical lines - with the poor and marginalized following one Pir and the rich and powerful another. Especially due to this breakdown, conflicts between the followers of different Pirs are common, usually with the poor people being intimidated and harassed by the more wealthy.

This is the case in Noaga, one of the villages in Comilla. It is divided into east and west sectors: the inhabitants of eastern zone tend to be poor and marginalized and follow Naked Pir and the inhabitants of western zone tend to be rich and powerful and follow Kasem Pir. Kasem Pir is still alive and more powerful politically then Naked Pir.

***A child conceived on a mere promise to marry:***

Karim, son of Chunnumia, is from Noaga village. Rahima, daughter of Abdul Matin, lives in the same village. Karim is from the west and follows Kasem Pir. Rahima is from the eastern zone and follows Naked Pir.

In 2001, Karim initiated a relationship with Rahima and promised to marry her. Rahima was seduced by his promise to marry and in 2008 Rahima conceived a child. When Rahima asked Karim to honor his promise to marry her, he refused. Instead, he asked her to abort the child and threatened her with social stigma she would face if she carried the child to term. Rahima refused to abort the child and demanded that he take responsibility for being the father of the child. In 2003, Rahima gave birth to a healthy baby, Ramjan.

***Justice denied:***

Over the past seven years Rahima has requested eleven shalishs to be held. Because of the conflict between the followers of the different Pirs, however, compounded by the difference in wealth and power, compromise has proven to be impossible.



In 2005 Rahima took the advice of a lawyer and filed a case against Karim on 16th August 2005. But, Karim was able to bribe Rahima's lawyer to only charge him with a dowry offense, not of raping her under the pretext of marriage. Case No. CR-172/2006. The case was thrown out because there was no evidence to support that Karim violated the dowry laws.

***Fatwa by Pir, Rahima is flogged:***

Kasem Pir has many disciples who are working in the United Arab Emirates and other countries. One such disciple, Shahid Driver, came back in 2008. He gave a different explanation about the relationship between Rahima and Karim - the relationship was against "Shariat" (*religion*) and judgment should be issued according to "Sharia" law. On 22nd May, 2009 Shahid brought Kasem Pir from Dhaka and started a judgment hearing late at night in a room of the Mollabari madrasa in order to insure complete secrecy. As a result, the ordinary people and landless members did not know the hearing was taking place. Before the fatwa was issued, Rahima's father was given ten floggings for not following Kasem Pir. At midnight Kasem Pir declared his fatwa - that Rahima be flogged. After 39 flogs Rahima lost consciousness.

***Landless group arranged treatment and legal measures:***

Late at night the landless members heard about the fatwa and flogging. In the early hours of the morning they contacted each other and made a plan. First, Rahima was taken to the Daodkandi upazilla hospital. The next day they divided themselves into two groups. One group contacted the reporters to get the story publicized. The other group took measures for legal action. With the assistance of landless members, Rahima's father filed a case under "repression of women and child persecution" special law. Case no 112/2009. The main culprits of the case Karim, Pir Kasem and were arrested by the police.

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***Box--13***

***Writ in favours of people and directive:***

*On August 25, 2009 Blast, Ain-O-Shalish Kendra, Mohila Parishad, BRAC (human rights and legal aid programme) and Nijera Kori united to file a writ petition no. 5863/2009. While the writ petition was proceeding in the court, the honorable court gave directives to the ministry and division of Bangladesh government, which stated that all the municipal and union parishads abstain from giving extra judicial penalties.*

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***Newspapers speak out about the case:***

"Fatwa" and "Durra" were considered to violate human rights by most of the electronic media and newspapers- such as Ittefaq, Prothom Alo, Somokal, Destiny, Bangla Bazar, Rupasi Bangla, Moinamati, Channel-i, Bangla Vision, NTV, BBC and Voice of America. But a few newspapers, like Inqilab, Amar Desh and the local newspaper Monir, supported "fatwa" and Pir Kasem.

***Support from the administration:***

Because the high court had recently held that fatwas were unconstitutional, the case put pressure on the administration to take immediate action. As a result, Comilla district administrator, police super, and U.N.O visited Rahima in the hospital on 25th May. The Prime Minister also gave special instruction to arrange better treatment for Rahima - and she and her father were brought to Dhaka medical college at the state's expense.

In the meantime, the followers of Pir Kasem held a meeting on 26th May 2009 in Zingatola union ground demanding the release of Pir kasem. The police administration declared this meeting illegal and stopped it.

***Landless groups support Rahima and vow to stop fatwas:***

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2009, in Daodkandi activity area, a meeting was held by representatives of the organisations to gather information on “fatwa-dorra” from landless organisation. They identified the weaknesses in their advocacy efforts and expressed determination to end fatwas. On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009, a protest meeting was arranged in Noyaga village where a demand was made to stop acts that violated the constitution and human rights like “fatwa-dorra”. After the meeting, thousands of landless members demonstrated in Upazilla sadar.

Many organisations formed a fact finding team at the national level. The team included representatives from Ain-O-Shalish Kendra, BRAC, (*Human rights and legal assistance activity*), Blast, Jatiyo Mohila Aingibi Samity, Mohila Parishad, Naripakka and Nijera Kori. This team visited the area on 1st June 2009. On the basis of the information they gathered, a press conference was held on 17 June in Dhaka. The representatives of the newspapers claimed that in a definite court without definite offender and definite offense giving judgment is extra-constitutional. Additionally they stated that "fatwa-dorra", is a gross violation of human rights and constitution.

The landless members also contributed 10 kg of rice and Tk. 1,000/- to Rahima and her father for daily expenses while Rahima was hospitalized

***Case and cases relating to people's interest:***

BRAC is currently conducting the case of Rahima under human rights and legal aid activity. The case no is 112/2009.

***Result:***

Writ petition no is 5863/2002-25<sup>th</sup> August was filed by the concerned NGOs and legal aid organizations to again bring the incidents of fatwas to the attention of the high court.

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**CASE STUDY 7.2**  
***Separations of church and state***

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***Area:***

Village- Kacharipara, Union- Rajibpur, Upazilla- Rajibpur, District- Kurigram.

***Incident:***

The area's Musulli (*those who after prayers regularly*) say their prayers in Kacharipara village mosque. Every Friday, after the Jumma prayers, the fundamental political leaders discuss topics like the need for fundamental politics and that women should not be leaders. Landless group members who attend prayers got information about the activities of fundamental group.

***Due to protest by landless group fundamental activities are stopped:***

To discuss the information and plan their strategy, the landless group called a representative meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2010. It was decided that on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January, the landless members would attend Jumma prayers and protest against fundamental activities.

According to plan, they went for prayers in the mosque. After the prayer a fundamentalist leader gave a lecture calling for the repeal of the 5th amendment of the constitution that bans fundamental politics. After listening to this lecture, the landless members demanded that political activities should be stopped in the mosque. At this the fundamental leaders spoke against the religions belief of the landless members, but all the other musallis supported the views of the landless members. At one stage they all demanded that prayer hall not be used for political activities. The landless group announced prohibition against political activities inside mosque.

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**Box--14**

***Resisting Talim lessons:***

*Village- Balapara, Khamarpara Union, Khansama upazila, Dinajpur district.*

*On 2nd October 2009, Molla Munshi taught Talim lessons in Ajida's, Balapara village's landless leader, house. He told Ajida that he would give lessons in modern method of learning holy Quran. Ajida attended the lesson with her neighbors. At one stage of the lesson the class asked "how come this is lessons on learning holy Quran?" If this is modern method of learning holy Quran than those who had learnt earlier was it wrong? The munshi, (religions teacher) became agitated because he could not think of a good answer. The members protested and the munshi was compelled to leave. The landless group then organised a gathering on 5 October in front of a few hundred people to declare that Balapara village would be free from Talim lesson.*

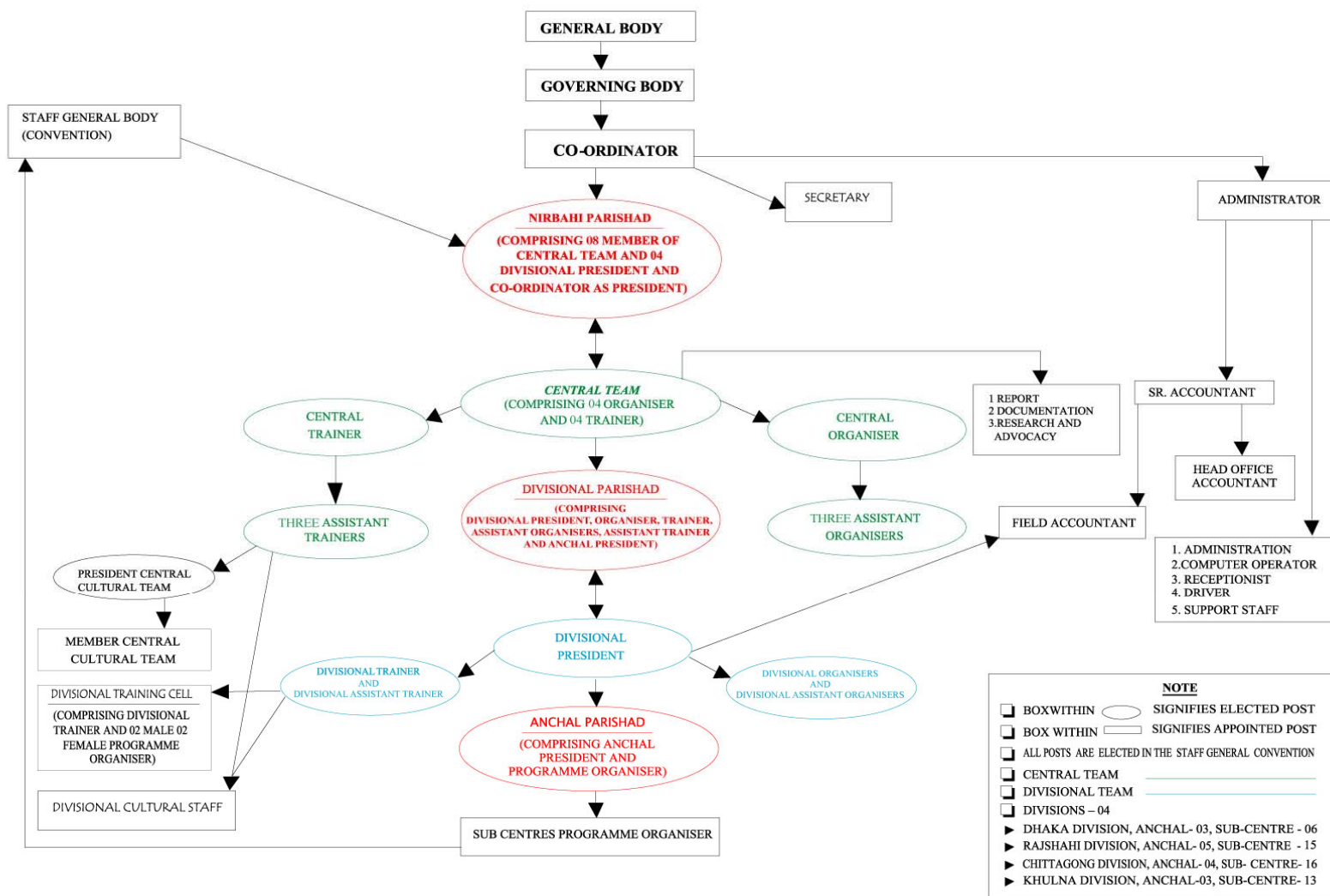
***Result:*** *The members were able to stand to the challenge of an assault on their logic and religious beliefs. At present Balapara village is of free from Talim lesson.*

---

***Result:***

From the following Friday fundamental discussions were stopped. The landless members continue to attend Jumma prayer to monitor the ban on political discussions.

**ORGANOGRAM OF NIJERA KORI**



# Planning and Monitoring Structure

ANNEX -B

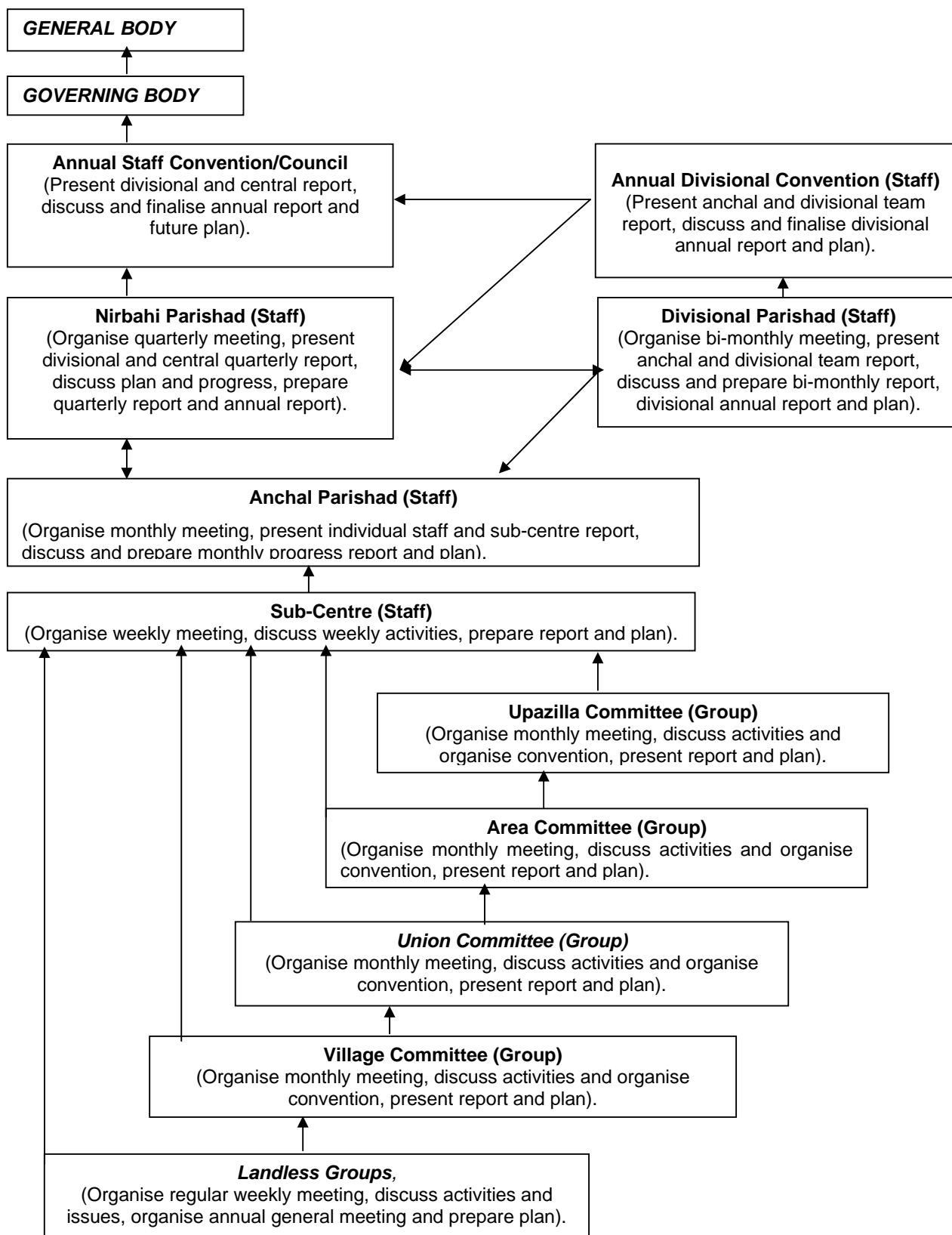
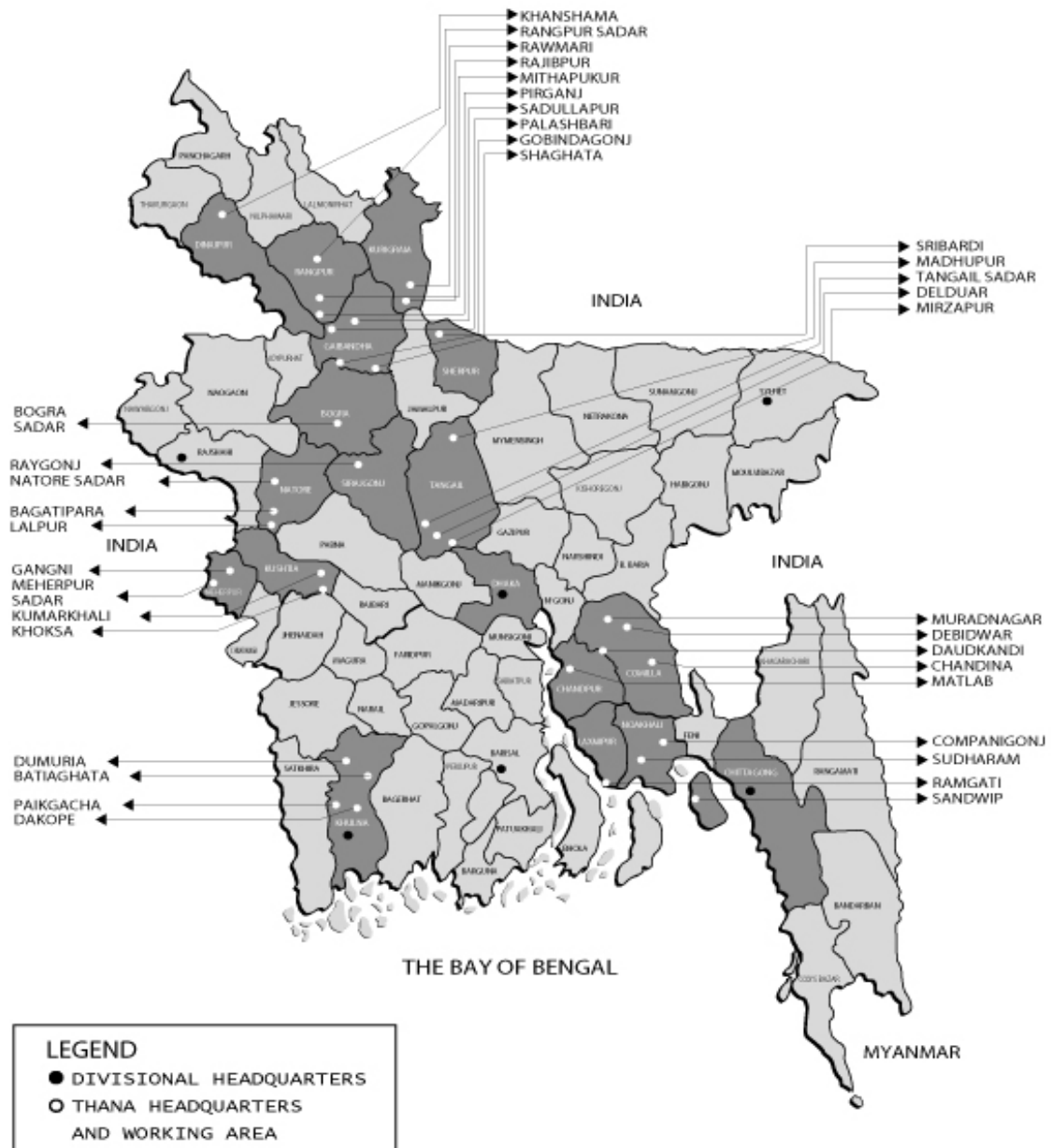


TABLE – 01: Geographical Location of Programmes of Nijera Kori

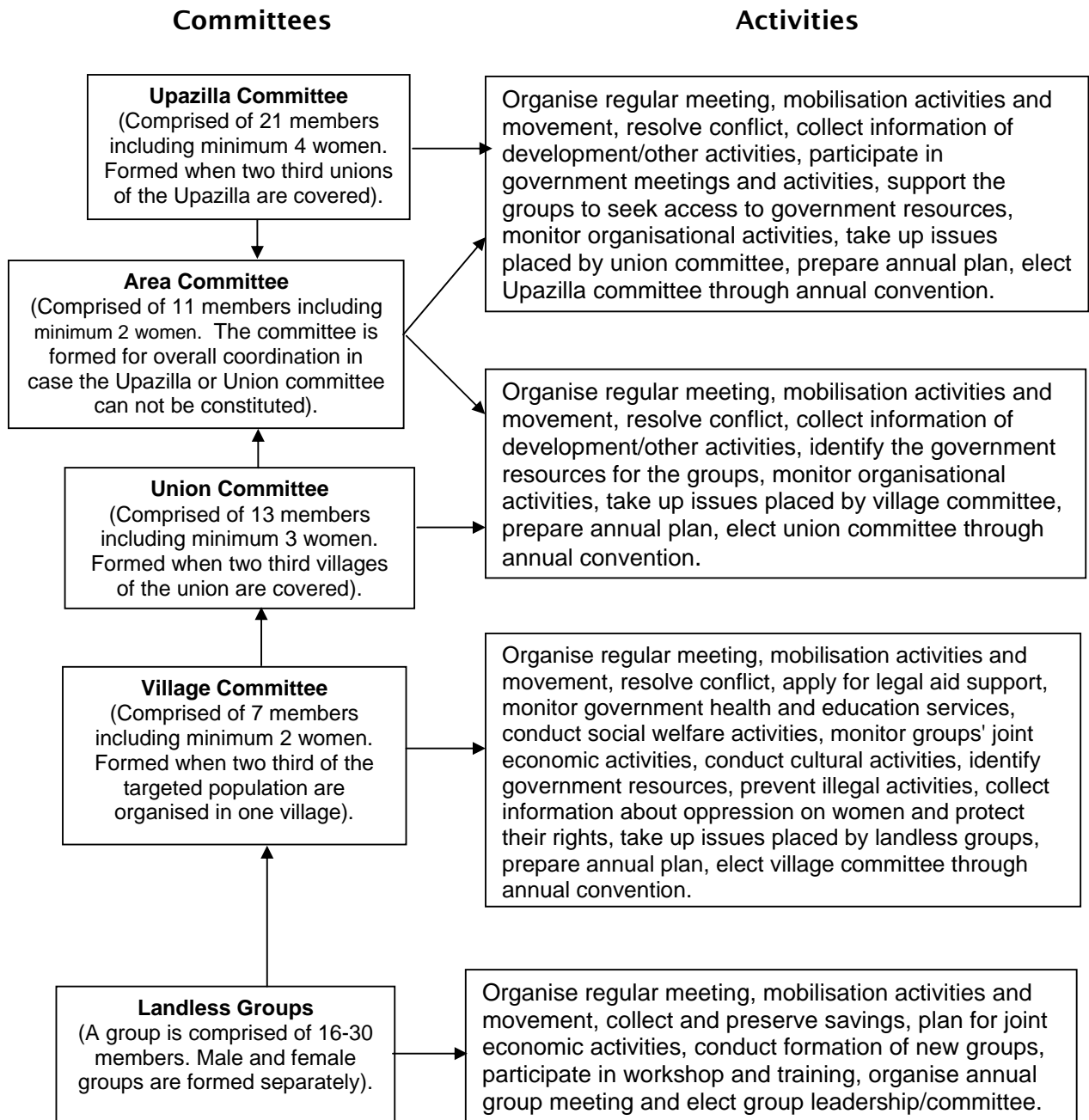
Sl. No	Division	District	Upazilla	Area	Sub-centre	Total up to March 2010		Expansion in 2009-10		Decrease in 2009		Total up to March 2010		Village Coverage		
						Union	Village	Union	Village	Union	Village	Union	Village	Up to March 2009	New 2009-10	Up to March 2010
1	Chittagong	Comilla	Chandina	Comilla	5	29	136	-	-	3	8	26	128	25	-	25
			Daudkandi													
			Debidwar													
			Muradnagar													
		Chandpur	Matlab	Charjabbar	5	9	45	-	-	-	-	9	45	5	-	5
		Noakhali	Sudharam													
			Comanigonj													
		Kabirhat	Lakshmipur	Ramgoti	3	6	28	-	-	-	-	6	28	3	-	3
		Subarnachar		Chittagong	Sandwip	4	14	34	-	-	1	7	13	27	-	-
	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33</b>
2	Dhaka	Tangail	Mirzapur	Tangail	4	11	81	-	3	-	-	11	84	25	1	26
			Delduar													
			Tangail Sadar													
			Madhupur													
		Dhanbari														
Sherpur	Sribardi	1	3	22	-	2	-	-	3	24	-	1	1			
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>47</b>	
3	Khulna	Kushtia	Kumarkhali	Kumarkhali	2	7	51	-	-	-	-	7	51	12	1	13
			khoksa													
		Meherpur	Meherpur Sadar	Gangni	4	7	48	-	-	-	-	7	48	17	1	18
			Gangni													
		Khulna	Paikgacha	Paikgacha	9	17	166	-	-	-	1	17	165	37	1	38
			Dumuria													
Batiaghata																
		Dako														
<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>69</b>	
4	Rajshahi	Sirajgonj	Raygonj	Noongola	3	5	82	-	-	-	-	5	82	12	1	13
		Bogra	Bogra Sadar													
		Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar	Rangpur	2	9	78	-	1	-	-	9	79	22	2	24
			Mithapukur													
		Dinajpur	Khanshama	Dinajpur	1	4	22	-	-	-	-	4	22	4	1	5
		Kurigram	Rowmari	Rowmari	2	8	95	-	-	-	11	8	84	20	1	21
			Rajibpur													
		Gaibandha	Palashbari	Gaibandha	4	23	193	-	2	-	1	23	194	68	5	73
			Saghata													
			Sadullapur													
			Gobindagonj													
Rangpur	Pirgonj	Bagatipara	3	10	167	-	1	-	-	10	168	38	3	41		
Natore	Bagatipara															
	Lalpur															
		Natore Sadar														
<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>177</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>326</b>

T=Total

**WORKING AREA  
NIJERA KORI**



## Groups and Group Coordination Committee Structure





**LIST OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2008-2010**

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



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

Continuation Sheet

NIJERA KORI  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
ENSURING DEMOCRACY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND RIGHTS FOR THE POOREST  
And  
SOCIAL MOBILIZATION VOICE & DEMOCRACY  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	NOTE	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
<b>Opening Balance:</b>			
Project Funds		6,488,880.78	
Other Funds		4,203,143.42	10,692,024.20
Grants From:	Sch-D		
Christian Aid		3,357,852.00	
Receivable Fund Received (DFID)		23,874,049.79	
EED		24,050,082.98	
ICCO		9,720,150.00	
Interpares		605,324.00	
The Swallows		743,902.38	62,331,361.15
Relief Rehabilitation Programme (Aila)			128,206.00
Other Receipts	<b>14.00</b>		15,696,866.31
Advance Realised	Sch-B		51,500.00
		<b>Taka</b>	<b>88,899,957.66</b>
<b><u>PAYMENTS:</u></b>			
Personnel	<b>21.00</b>		55,256,137.00
Seminar, Meeting, and Conference	<b>16.00</b>		8,772,475.00
Training and Sub Centre Accommodation	<b>22.00</b>		3,385,250.00
Training Expenses	<b>23.00</b>		4,553,562.00
Traveling and Daily Allowances	<b>18.00</b>		3,792,564.59
Contingency	<b>19.00</b>		6,104,301.00
Others	<b>24.00</b>		6,136,297.50
Transferred to Relief Rehabilitation Programme (Aila)			128,206.00
Development Fund (Liability for expenses)			31,950.00
<b>Closing Balance:</b>	<b>8.00</b>		
Other Funds			739,214.57
		<b>Taka</b>	<b>88,899,957.66</b>

**Foot Notes:**

01. Signed as per our annexed report of even date.

Dated, Dhaka  
May 25, 2010

4



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

**ANNEX –H Statistical Programme Achievement Tables (Nos 2- 23)**

**TABLE – 02 (Group Formation)**

Division	Up to March 2009			Plan			Achievement			Decrease in 2009-10			Total up to March 2010		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Rajshahi	2,831	2,424	5,255	138	119	257	123	106	229	426	426	852	2,528	2,104	4,632
Dhaka	873	779	1,652	30	26	56	29	24	53	261	272	533	641	531	1,172
Khulna	1,368	938	2,306	54	54	108	49	21	70	356	338	694	1,061	621	1,682
Chittagong	2,514	2,243	4,757	80	77	157	82	67	149	622	912	1,534	1,974	1,398	3,372
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,586</b>	<b>6,384</b>	<b>13,970</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>1,665</b>	<b>1,948</b>	<b>3,613</b>	<b>6,204</b>	<b>4,654</b>	<b>10,858</b>

**TABLE – 03 (Group Member)**

Division	Up to March 2009			Plan			Achievement			Decrease in 2009-10			Total up to March 2010		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Rajshahi	55,405	51,387	106,792	2,760	2,380	5,140	2,298	2,013	4,311	8,420	8,686	17,106	49,283	44,714	93,997
Dhaka	17,191	16,691	33,882	600	520	1,120	527	445	972	5,183	5,357	10,540	12,535	11,779	24,314
Khulna	28,451	21,249	49,700	1,080	1,080	2,160	884	379	1,263	7,183	6,879	14,062	22,152	14,749	36,901
Chittagong	49,052	48,122	97,174	1,600	1,540	3,140	1,631	1,323	2,954	12,058	18,266	30,324	38,625	31,179	69,804
<b>Total</b>	<b>150,099</b>	<b>137,449</b>	<b>287,548</b>	<b>6,040</b>	<b>5,520</b>	<b>11,560</b>	<b>5,340</b>	<b>4,160</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>32,844</b>	<b>39,188</b>	<b>72,032</b>	<b>122,595</b>	<b>102,421</b>	<b>225,016</b>

**TABLE – 04 (Group Meeting: – Attended by Staff, Only Group and Group Annual General Meeting)**

Division	Plan for Group Meeting Attended by Staff and Group			Achievement of Group Meeting Attended By Staff			Achievement of Group Meeting Attended By Group			Total Achievement of Group Meeting By (Group and Staff)			Annual Group Meeting					
													Plan			Achievement		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Rajshahi	60,576	48,983	109,559	24,962	10,828	35,790	27,278	32,512	59,790	52,240	43,340	95,580	2,405	1,998	4,403	2,249	1,941	4,190
Dhaka	23,663	18,942	42,605	8,126	4,470	12,596	9,889	10,932	20,821	18,015	15,402	33,417	612	507	1,119	506	461	967
Khulna	33,692	21,870	55,562	17,791	8,517	26,308	7,857	7,689	15,546	25,648	16,206	41,854	1,012	600	1,612	978	588	1,566
Chittagong	34,053	26,461	60,514	20,353	12,134	32,487	10,931	10,315	21,246	31,284	22,449	53,733	1,892	1,331	3,223	1,687	1,306	2,993
<b>Total</b>	<b>151,984</b>	<b>116,256</b>	<b>268,240</b>	<b>71,232</b>	<b>35,949</b>	<b>107,181</b>	<b>55,955</b>	<b>61,448</b>	<b>117,403</b>	<b>127,187</b>	<b>97,397</b>	<b>224,584</b>	<b>5,921</b>	<b>4,436</b>	<b>10,357</b>	<b>5,420</b>	<b>4,296</b>	<b>9,716</b>

**TABLE – 05 (Workshop, Representative Meeting and Joint Group Meeting)**

Division	Workshop				Skill Development Workshop				Representative Meeting		Joint Group Meeting	
	Plan		Achievement		Plan		Achievement		Plan	Achievement	Plan	Achievement
	Number	Participant	Number	Participant	Number	Participant	Number	Participant				
Rajshahi	18	450	16	432	29	725	21	572	348	370	392	562
Dhaka	7	175	6	159	18	450	18	505	68	109	41	58
Khulna	10	250	10	253	27	675	22	571	105	144	137	205
Chittagong	18	450	23	570	34	850	31	726	309	357	44	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2,374</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>891</b>

**TABLE – 05 (A) (Skilled Development Workshop)**

Division	Workshop on Gender				Workshop on Reproductive Health Rights				Workshop on Strategic Planning				Workshop on Follow-up in field level Watch Committee				Total			
	Plan		Achievement		Plan		Achievement		Plan		Achievement		Plan		Achievement		Plan		Achievement	
	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P
	Rajshahi	3	75	3	75	3	75	3	75	22	550	14	385	1	25	1	37	29	725	21
Dhaka	3	75	3	76	3	75	3	79	11	275	11	315	1	25	1	35	18	450	18	505
Khulna	3	75	3	81	3	75	3	75	20	500	15	382	1	25	1	33	27	675	22	571
Chittagong	3	75	3	76	3	75	3	76	27	675	23	519	1	25	2	55	34	850	31	726
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1,601</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2,374</b>

**N- Number of Workshop, P-Participants**

**TABLE – 06 (Formation of Structural Committee)**

Division	Total No. of Committee up to March 2009				New Formation of Structural Committee								Total No. of Committee up to March 2010			
	Name of the Committee				Plan				Achievement				Name of the Committee			
	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area
	Rajshahi	164	11	1	4	6	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	177	11	1
Dhaka	44	6	1	3	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	46	6	1	3
Khulna	61	3	-	12	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	65	3	-	12
Chittagong	60	3	1	14	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	61	3	1	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>

**TABLE – 07 (Committee Meeting and Group Convention)**

Division	Committee Meetings								Group Convention							
	Plan				Achievement				Plan				Achievement			
	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	1,985	132	12	48	1,934	132	12	48	140	11	1	3	176	11	1	3
Dhaka	532	72	12	36	465	59	11	34	38	3	1	3	43	3	1	3
Khulna	738	36	-	144	656	35	-	140	45	3	-	10	55	3	-	10
Chittagong	722	36	12	168	715	36	3	163	47	3	1	10	60	3	1	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,977</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>3,770</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>

**TABLE – 08 (Group Saving)**

Division	Total up to March 2009			Plan			Achievement			Distribution			Total up to March 2010		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Rajshahi	8,717,018	5,840,496	14,557,514	4,259,235	3,646,756	7,905,991	3,333,216	2,976,359	6,309,575	1,828,948	1,675,047	3,503,995	10,221,286	7,141,808	17,363,094
Dhaka	2,935,801	2,136,712	5,072,513	1,399,098	1,394,377	2,793,475	1,106,623	1,114,947	2,221,570	141,460	336,264	477,724	3,900,964	2,915,395	6,816,359
Khulna	6,520,317	3,087,138	9,607,455	2,872,529	1,573,488	4,446,017	2,501,405	1,335,336	3,836,741	1,815,830	916,931	2,732,761	7,205,892	3,505,543	10,711,435
Chittagong	12,255,412	9,241,249	21,496,661	4,057,794	4,773,665	8,831,459	3,882,878	3,336,303	7,219,181	1,389,125	1,154,359	2,543,484	14,749,165	11,423,193	26,172,358
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,428,548</b>	<b>20,305,595</b>	<b>50,734,143</b>	<b>12,588,656</b>	<b>11,388,286</b>	<b>23,976,942</b>	<b>10,824,122</b>	<b>8,762,945</b>	<b>19,587,067</b>	<b>5,175,363</b>	<b>4,082,601</b>	<b>9,257,964</b>	<b>36,077,307</b>	<b>24,985,939</b>	<b>61,063,246</b>

**TABLE – 09 (Bank Account and Position of Group Saving)**

Division	Bank Account											Position of Group Saving				
	Up to March 2009			Increases in 2009-10			Decrease in 2009-10			Total up to March 2010			Total up to March 2009			
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Bank	Cash	Investment	Total
Rajshahi	757	416	1,173	30	35	65	112	61	173	675	390	1,065	1,589,657	2,432,462	13,340,975	17,363,094
Dhaka	486	362	848	46	26	72	77	89	166	455	299	754	1,720,095	1,759,397	3,336,867	6,816,359
Khulna	702	235	937	33	6	39	69	47	116	666	194	860	1,806,918	1,905,623	6,998,894	10,711,435
Chittagong	853	509	1,362	15	1	16	184	139	323	684	371	1,055	3,783,649	4,109,718	18,278,991	26,172,358
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>4,320</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>3,734</b>	<b>8,900,319</b>	<b>10,207,200</b>	<b>41,955,727</b>	<b>61,063,246</b>

**TABLE – 10 (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>HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING</b>																				
<b>Basic</b>																				
Up to March 2009		3,535	3,572	7,107		2,016	1,767	3,783		2,107	2,104	4,211		3,515	3,237	6,752	-	11,173	10,680	21,853
Plan	12	150	150	300	6	75	75	150	8	100	100	200	10	125	125	250	36	450	450	900
Achievement	12	149	144	293	6	71	67	138	8	100	100	200	10	127	123	250	36	447	434	881
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		<b>3,684</b>	<b>3,716</b>	<b>7,400</b>		<b>2,087</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>3,921</b>		<b>2,207</b>	<b>2,204</b>	<b>4,411</b>		<b>3,642</b>	<b>3,360</b>	<b>7,002</b>		<b>11,620</b>	<b>11,114</b>	<b>22,734</b>
<b>Advance</b>																				
Up to March 2009		1,157	1,132	2,289		598	559	1,157		740	767	1,507		1,006	815	1,821	-	3,501	3,273	6,774
Plan	3	36	39	75	2	25	25	50	2	25	25	50	2	25	25	50	9	111	114	225
Achievement	2	24	26	50	1	13	12	25	2	19	30	49	1	13	12	25	6	69	80	149
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		<b>1,181</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>2,339</b>		<b>611</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>1,182</b>		<b>759</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>1,556</b>		<b>1,019</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>1,846</b>		<b>3,570</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>6,923</b>
<b>Higher Selection</b>																				
Up to March 2009		358	420	778		229	215	444		278	322	600		392	339	731	-	1,257	1,296	2,553
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		<b>358</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>778</b>		<b>229</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>444</b>		<b>278</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>600</b>		<b>392</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>731</b>		<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>2,553</b>
<b>Highbt</b>																				
Up to March 2009		30	54	84		28	24	52		28	45	73		36	42	78	-	122	165	287
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>84</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>52</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>73</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>78</b>		<b>122</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>287</b>
<b>OTHER TRAINING</b>																				
<b>Production &amp; Management</b>																				
Up to March 2009		105	156	261		87	104	191		115	148	263		124	146	270	-	431	554	985
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>261</b>		<b>87</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>191</b>		<b>115</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>263</b>		<b>124</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>270</b>		<b>431</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>985</b>
<b>Leadership Development</b>																				
Up to March 2009		137	180	317		107	125	232		123	163	286		141	152	293	-	508	620	1,128
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		<b>137</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>317</b>		<b>107</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>232</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>286</b>		<b>141</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>293</b>		<b>508</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>1,128</b>
<b>Right &amp; Access to Information</b>																				
Up to March 2009		118	141	259		106	117	223		108	153	261		125	146	271	-	457	557	1,014
Plan	1	4	4	8		2	2	4		3	3	6		3	4	7	1	12	13	25
Achievement	1	4	4	8		2	2	4		3	3	6		3	4	7	1	12	13	25
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		<b>122</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>267</b>		<b>108</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>227</b>		<b>111</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>267</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>278</b>		<b>469</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>1,039</b>

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

**TABLE – 10 (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 2009</b>		318	569	887		140	164	304		694	725	1,419		392	555	947	-	1,544	2,013	3,557
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		318	569	887		140	164	304		694	725	1,419		392	555	947		1,544	2,013	3,557
<b>Citizen Rights &amp; Constitutional Guarantees</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2009</b>		456	504	960		277	296	573		559	668	1,227		545	493	1,038	-	1,837	1,961	3,798
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		456	504	960		277	296	573		559	668	1,227		545	493	1,038		1,837	1,961	3,798
<b>Land Law &amp; Management System</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2009</b>		51	68	119		64	76	140		82	114	196		77	93	170	-	274	351	625
Plan	1	6	7	13	-	4	5	9	-	6	6	12	1	8	8	16	2	24	26	50
Achievement	1	11	14	25	1	10	10	20	1	9	16	25	1	13	12	25	4	43	52	95
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		62	82	144		74	86	160		91	130	221		90	105	195		317	403	720
<b>Adibasi &amp; Land Management</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2009</b>		24	25	49		9	18	27		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	33	43	76
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		24	25	49		9	18	27		-	-	-		-	-	-		33	43	76
<b>Land &amp; Women</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2009</b>		20	21	41		18	14	32		19	15	34		19	20	39	-	76	70	146
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		20	21	41		18	14	32		19	15	34		19	20	39		76	70	146
<b>Gender</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2009</b>		9	9	18		9	9	18		10	11	21		12	12	24	-	40	41	81
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		9	9	18		9	9	18		10	11	21		12	12	24		40	41	81
<b>Reproductive Health</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2009</b>		17	-	17		12	-	12		14	-	14		16	-	16	-	59	-	59
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		17	-	17		12	-	12		14	-	14		16	-	16		59	-	59

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

**TABLE – 10 (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 2009</b>		32	241	273		55	212	267		48	183	231		69	156	225		204	792	996
Plan	1	4	6	10		4	6	10		5	5	10	1	4	6	10	2	17	23	40
Achievement	1	-	10	10		4	6	10		5	5	10	1	4	6	10	2	13	27	40
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		32	251	283		59	218	277		53	188	241		73	162	235		217	819	1,036
<b>Cultural (Advance)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2009</b>		13	57	70		18	51	69		21	46	67		22	41	63		74	195	269
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		13	57	70		18	51	69		21	46	67		22	41	63		74	195	269
<b>Cultural (Higher)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2009</b>		9	25	34		9	20	29		11	21	32		7	19	26		36	85	121
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>		9	25	34		9	20	29		11	21	32		7	19	26		36	85	121

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

**TABLE - 11 (Refresher Training and Training Forum)**

Division	Refresher Training				Number of Forum		Forum Meetings	
	Plan		Achievement		Up to March 2009	Up to March 2010	Plan	Achievement
	Number	Participants	Number	Participants				
Rajshahi	14	350	31	830	16	16	192	188
Dhaka	6	150	6	146	5	5	60	45
Khulna	8	200	11	279	12	12	144	133
Chittagong	12	300	19	482	9	9	108	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1,737</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>468</b>

**TABLE – 12 (Cultural Activity)**

Division	Cultural Group	Cultural Workshop For Group Member				Cultural Activity									
		Plan		Achievement		Plan					Achievement				
		N	P	N	P	Cultural Group Meeting	Cultural Discussion	Drama	Drama Festival/ Padajatra	People Song	Cultural Group Meeting	Cultural Discussion	Drama	Drama Festival/ Padajatra	People Song
Rajshahi	21	1	20	-	-	245	6	80	2	50	247	23	237	2	116
Dhaka	15	1	20	1	20	170	4	50	1	35	171	22	123	1	92
Khulna	17	1	20	6	117	220	5	60	2	45	200	16	138	4	114
Chittagong	10	1	20	1	22	147	5	70	2	50	118	16	152	4	143
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>465</b>

*N = Number of Workshop, P = Participants*



**TABLE – 13 (Joint Economic Activity)**

Description		Agriculture	Fishery	Livestock	Rickshaw/Van	Shallow/Crasher	Small Business	Total
<b>Up to March 2009</b>								
Group	Female	672	31	215	10	-	1,272	2,200
	Male	808	173	413	97	4	995	2,490
	<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	Female	12,386	523	4,294	174	-	22,370	39,747
	Male	16,496	4,117	8,722	1,851	85	18,178	49,449
	<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	Female	979	390	615	-	-	4,830	6,814
	Male	5,744	1,707	172	330	42	3,085	11,080
Quantity		<b>1,120</b>	<b>554</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>Increase in April 2009-March 2010</b>								
Group	Female	50	17	79	2	-	192	340
	Male	67	45	87	8	-	165	372
	<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>712</b>
Member	Female	1,027	334	1,652	45	-	3,828	6,886
	Male	1,419	927	1,745	149	-	3,228	7,468
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,228</b>	<b>7,468</b>
Employment	Female	96	24	67	2	-	67	256
	Male	158	101	62	9	-	68	398
Quantity		<b>51.55</b>	<b>62.93</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>13</b>	-	-	-
Investment in TK		<b>2,715,355</b>	<b>648,164</b>	<b>2,446,139</b>	<b>65,400</b>	-	<b>2,622,839</b>	<b>8,497,897</b>
<b>Decrease in April 2009-March 2010</b>								
Group	Female	56	6	51	1	-	73	187
	Male	74	39	72	11	-	59	255
	<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>442</b>
Member	Female	1,091	120	918	20	-	1,347	3,496
	Male	1,491	590	1,445	226	-	1,170	4,922
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,582</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>2,363</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>8,418</b>
Employment	Female	21	2	36	-	-	38	97
	Male	77	7	37	6	-	14	141
Quantity		<b>71.20</b>	<b>45.46</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>18</b>	-	-	-
Investment in TK		<b>2,696,573</b>	<b>342,225</b>	<b>1,573,070</b>	<b>122,830</b>	-	<b>701,265</b>	<b>5,435,963</b>
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>								
Group	Female	666	42	243	11	-	1,391	2,353
	Male	801	179	428	94	4	1,101	2,607
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,492</b>	<b>4,960</b>
Member	Female	12,322	737	5,028	199	-	24,851	43,137
	Male	16,424	4,454	9,022	1,774	85	20,236	51,995
	<b>Total</b>	<b>28,746</b>	<b>5,191</b>	<b>14,050</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>45,087</b>	<b>95,132</b>
Employment	Female	1,054	412	646	2	-	4,859	6,973
	Male	5,825	1,801	197	333	42	3,139	11,337
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,879</b>	<b>2,213</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7,998</b>	<b>18,310</b>
Quantity		<b>1,100</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>4</b>	-	-
Investment in TK		<b>17,862,049</b>	<b>5,387,893</b>	<b>6,970,947</b>	<b>473,099</b>	<b>81,000</b>	<b>11,180,739</b>	<b>41,955,727</b>
<b>Profit in cash (2009-10)</b>	Female	630,042	65,009	172,300	4,320	-	548,607	1,420,278
	Male	962,980	537,766	272,147	96,035	4,800	634,601	2,508,329
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,593,022</b>	<b>602,775</b>	<b>444,447</b>	<b>100,355</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>1,183,208</b>	<b>3,928,607</b>

**TABLE – 14 Access to Government Services (Safety net Programme)**

Description	Krishi Card			VGF/VGD allowances			Elder allowances			Widow allowances			Other (relief) allowances			Total allowances		
	Total Card by U. P	Group member received card		Total Card by U. P	Group member received card		Total Card by U. P	Group member received card		Total Card by U. P	Group member received card		Total Card by U. P	Group member received card		Total Card by U. P	Group member received card	
		Normally by U.P	By protest		Normally by U.P	By protest		Normally by U.P	By protest		Normally by U.P	By protest		Normally by U.P	By protest			
Rajshahi	45,500	19,456	3,343	34,645	13,738	1,202	1,113	466	67	208	71	31	20,719	12,810	485	102,185	46,541	5,128
Dhaka	16,300	4,878	656	25,655	1,438	138	17	9	3	9	4	2	6,641	1,646	35	48,622	7,975	834
Khulna	45,500	6,045	1,137	5,290	3,084	193	124	65	10	107	51	4	13,030	5,852	582	64,051	15,097	1,926
Chittagong	38,500	8,564	2,516	47,887	15,506	996	480	260	65	6	1	0	9,083	6,914	1,109	95,956	31,245	4,686
<b>Total</b>	<b>145,800</b>	<b>38,943</b>	<b>7,652</b>	<b>113,477</b>	<b>33,766</b>	<b>2,529</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>49,473</b>	<b>27,222</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>310,814</b>	<b>100,858</b>	<b>12,574</b>

U. P.= Union Parishad

**TABLE – 15 (Legal Aid Activity)**

Division	Cases up to March 2009	New Cases	Total Cases	Cases Settled	Result		Cases on Appeal	Remaining Total Cases	Nijera Kori Run Cases	Group Run Cases
					Favour	Against				
Rajshahi	150	38	188	19	18	1	1	170	51	119
Dhaka	120	14	134	6	5	1	0	128	46	82
Khulna	156	37	193	11	9	2	0	182	60	122
Chittagong	312	33	345	29	27	2	2	318	122	196
<b>Total</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>519</b>

**TABLE – 16 (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 2009</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>2,139</b>
Plan	52	57	109	14	21	35	27	24	51	14	12	26	107	114	221
Achievement	46	49	95	15	18	33	21	12	33	32	27	59	114	106	220
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>2,359</b>
Third Level			-			-			-			-			
<b>Up to March 2009</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>261</b>
Plan	15	14	29	1	1	2	6	7	13	4	4	8	26	26	52
Achievement	14	14	28	1	1	2	1	4	5	2	3	5	18	22	40
<b>Total up to March 2010</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>301</b>

**TABLE – 17 (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	2,288	1,817	4,105	334	123,429	-	123,429	366	535	901	Grassroots people		
Union Convention	637	514	1,151	20	31,701	-	31,701	85	113	198	Grassroots people		
Thana Convension	503	351	854	3	22,960	-	22,960	30	49	79	Grassroots people		
Regional Convention	1,120	970	2,090	28	69,766	-	69,766	68	137	205	Grassroots people		
Workshop	1,252	1,037	2,289	163	99,873	-	99,873	47	619	666	Grassroots people		
Refresher Training	677	597	1,274	67	25,672	-	25,672	26	30	56	Grassroots people		
Social Movement/Struggle	405	350	755	989	27,145	-	27,145	36	59	95	Grassroots people		
Cultural Programme	1,294	1,068	2,362	111	79,839	-	79,839	95	170	265	Grassroots people		
Observance of National/International Day	2,390	2,159	4,549	210	155,281	-	155,281	217	410	627	Grassroots people		
Conducting Case	1,223	1,385	2,608	370	460,298	-	460,298	79	164	243	1,341	350	1,691
Assistance to Family of arrested Member	113	92	205	10	11,040	-	11,040	21	80	101	5	5	10
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>11,902</b>	<b>10,340</b>	<b>22,242</b>	<b>2,305</b>	<b>1,107,004</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,107,004</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>3,436</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>1,701</b>
Medical Support	1,314	1,126	2,440	1,071	242,866	72,665	315,531	273	1,338	1,611	621	450	1,071
School Repairing	12	18	30	2	12,432	-	12,432	56	103	159	250	300	550
Educational Support	115	115	230	160	13,920	4,300	18,220	170	50	220	51	109	160
Marriage without Dowry	207	492	699	199	41,245	9,020	50,265	347	315	662	120	79	199
Contribution in Marriage	438	487	925	66	99,670	46,030	145,700	155	153	308	40	26	66
Bridge Repairing/ Construction	121	130	251	27	24,660	-	24,660	113	326	439	891	1,523	2,414
Road Repairing/ Reconstruction	57	79	136	14	14,240	-	14,240	350	965	1,315	2,777	2,987	5,764
Dredging of Canal	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	45	129	174	100	180	280
Repairing of House	119	158	277	79	33,690	4,100	37,790	113	174	287	75	4	79
Tree Plantation	30	27	57	33	6,600	-	6,600	82	140	222	300	800	1,100
Burial and Others	258	239	497	317	57,930	17,515	75,445	162	136	298	277	40	317
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,672</b>	<b>2,872</b>	<b>5,544</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>547,253</b>	<b>153,630</b>	<b>700,883</b>	<b>1,866</b>	<b>3,829</b>	<b>5,695</b>	<b>5,502</b>	<b>6,498</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14,574</b>	<b>13,212</b>	<b>27,786</b>	<b>4,274</b>	<b>1,654,257</b>	<b>153,630</b>	<b>1,807,887</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>6,195</b>	<b>9,131</b>	<b>6,848</b>	<b>6,853</b>	<b>13,701</b>

**TABLE – 18 (Participation of Group Member in different Committee)**

<i>Description</i>	<b>Rajshahi</b>				<b>Dhaka</b>				<b>Khulna</b>				<b>Chittagong</b>				<b>Total</b>			
	No	F	M	T	No	F	M	T	No	F	M	T	No	F	M	T	No	F	M	T
<b>Union Parishad Up To March 2010</b>	14	16	12	28	6	4	5	9	12	9	10	19	25	14	21	35	57	43	48	91
<b>Upazila Parishad Up To March 2010</b>	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2
School Management Committee till March 2009	129	17	98	115	20	8	29	37	45	22	49	71	76	9	97	106	270	56	273	329
<b>School Management Committee till March 2010</b>	149	33	106	139	20	8	29	37	53	22	51	73	82	18	137	155	304	81	323	404
Market Committee till March 2009	41	23	62	85	6	-	15	15	25	30	41	71	42	7	100	107	114	60	218	278
<b>Market Committee till March 2010</b>	39	23	60	83	6	-	15	15	25	33	48	81	45	7	105	112	115	63	228	291
Sugarcane Purchase Committee till March 2009	1	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	3
<b>Nominated till March 2010</b>	2	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	3
Project Management Committee (U.P) till March 2009	10	3	11	14	8	2	8	10	6	2	8	10	5	4	6	10	29	11	33	44
<b>Nominated till March 2010</b>	12	4	13	17	8	2	8	10	6	3	10	13	5	6	8	14	31	15	39	54
Sluice Gate Management Committee till March 2009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	7	10	4	1	11	12	9	4	18	22
<b>Sluice Gate Management Committee till March 2010</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	7	10	4	1	11	12	9	4	18	22
Social Movement Committee till March 2009	17	16	23	39	18	2	25	27	2	9	11	20	12	15	39	54	49	42	98	140
<b>Social Movement Committee till March 2010</b>	17	18	30	48	18	2	25	27	2	9	11	20	12	16	39	55	49	45	105	150
Watch Sub Committee till March 2009	5	12	13	25	5	10	15	25	5	6	19	25	5	9	16	25	20	37	63	100
<b>Watch Sub Committee till March 2010</b>	6	15	15	30	6	15	15	30	6	15	15	30	6	15	15	30	24	60	60	120

**M= Male, F= Female, T= Total**

**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 2009-10		740	273	7	283	1,303
Member attended the Shalish		Female	4,702	1,271	63	1,681
		Male	7,781	2,526	120	3790
Nature of Participation in Shalish	Shalish at Self-initiative of Landless Leader Nijera Kori	By Female Leader	37	13	-	17
		Jointly by Female & Male Leader	280	110	4	123
	Shalish under Joint Leadership of Landless and Village Authority	UP Chairman	62	24	-	12
		UP Member	106	61	1	46
		Teacher	41	9	-	12
		Local Matbar	142	40	2	48
		Political Persons	72	16	-	25
Landless Leader as Judge/Mediator	Female	436	108	7	156	
	Male	1,086	459	19	496	
	Total	1,522	567	26	652	
Landless Leader as Judge/Mediator In Internal Group Shalish	Female	173	31	1	44	
	Male	549	93	2	128	
	Total	722	124	3	172	
Result	No of settled Shalish	651	251	6	237	
	No of unsettled Shalish	89	22	1	46	
No of Court Cases on Unsettled Shalish		25	3	1	4	

**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 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>
Increase in April 2009 -March 2010	108	37.35	-	-	513	104.21	-	-	40	10.31	2,200	6.92	23,300	205.00
<b>Total March 2009</b>	<b>22,157</b>	<b>21,272.82</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>108.30</b>	<b>47,433</b>	<b>27,500.71</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>42.14</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>361.46</b>	<b>10,378</b>	<b>771.18</b>	<b>35,500</b>	<b>1,526.02</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>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>
<b>Current Year</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>19.88</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>450.77</b>	<b>6710.95</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>17</b>

**TABLE – 22 (Activity relating to Social Movement/Struggle)**

Issue of Social Movement /Struggle	Issue raised by organisation of Women / Men	On going Movement in 2007-08		Division wise Movement/ Struggle in 2008-2009					Total No of Movement in Current Year	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	11	14	106	10	16	87	219	333	347	10	190	200	30
	Men	03		63	03	10	38	114			03	99	102	15
<b>Fundamentalism</b>	Women	02	02	7	01	--	09	17	22	24	02	15	17	02
	Men	--		03	01	--	01	05			--	05	05	--
<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 lands less from land, looting of ripe paddy, burning the houses, physical assault	Women	03	11	11	01	03	32	47	172	183	03	36	39	11
	Men	08		44	05	28	48	125			07	92	99	34
<b>Resistance against corruption</b> in Local Govt. (U.P), 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	19	29	93	7	8	36	144	406	435	17	113	130	33
	Men	10		135	17	28	82	262			10	234	244	28
<b>Grand Total</b>	Women	35	56	217	19	27	164	427	933	989	32	354	386	76
	Men	21		245	26	66	169	506			20	430	450	77
	<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>153</b>

**TABLE - 23 (Opinion Sharing, Dialogue between Landless Group and Government Authority on following Issues)**

Description	Initiative by Government/Landless Group	Govt Resource	Comme-rcial Shrimp Aquaculture	Education, Food for Education and Work	Local Govt Corruption	Local Development Activity	Health	Environ-ment and Water logging	Natural Calamity & Relief	National/International Day	Oppres-sion on Women	Paddy Plantation and Harvesting	False Cases & Harassment	Fundame-ntalism	Law & Order situation	Total
Deputy Commissioner	By govt:	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	2	2	2	21
	By group	55	6	6	5	3	-	-	4	2	1	-	2	2	8	94
Land Administration	By govt:	103	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	3	4	-	6	122
	By group	436	10	1	2	2	-	4	1	1	-	7	6	1	5	476
Upazilla Administration	By govt:	92	8	21	33	17	7	5	34	40	12	8	9	2	20	308
	By group	454	27	29	67	54	13	8	37	68	32	17	44	4	43	897
Police Administration	By govt:	82	7	-	47	1	1	-	8	18	56	14	128	8	128	498
	By group	162	30	-	65	17	1	1	2	38	94	20	213	5	129	777
Election Commissioner	By govt:	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	3	10
	By group	2	2	-	2	4	-	-	2	1	3	-	-	-	3	19
Political Party	By Party	6	-	1	2	2	-	-	4	1	1	-	4	-	-	21
	By group	19	3	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	3	33
Parliament Member	By member	29	5	5	6	25	4	-	19	11	6	1	3	1	7	122
	By group	165	17	10	25	31	3	1	16	28	12	7	37	1	21	374
Union Council	By council	88	12	18	71	79	23	11	98	40	54	14	36	4	37	585
	By group	413	31	20	174	129	15	16	144	139	132	30	87	7	74	1,411
Health Administration	By govt:	-	-	12	7	6	99	-	10	-	2	2	-	-	1	139
	By group	5	-	16	1	2	222	1	-	3	9	-	-	-	5	264
Press Club	By club:	20	5	2	8	-	2	1	5	6	27	-	23	9	7	115
	By group	57	5	7	12	7	5	3	5	45	26	-	34	11	23	240
Bar Council	By council	5	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	11	-	1	23
	By group	69	5	-	3	4	1	-	2	7	11	3	46	-	4	155
Women Organisation	By org:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	-	-	-	-	10
	By group	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	10	-	-	1	6	29
Education Administration	By govt:	-	2	103	2	4	2	1	-	3	2	-	-	-	1	120
	By group	2	-	178	1	-	-	-	-	26	2	-	-	-	6	215
<b>Grand Total</b>	By govt. and others	437	41	162	181	135	140	19	180	126	172	42	220	26	213	2,094
	By group	1,839	136	267	360	254	260	34	213	370	333	85	471	32	330	4,984
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,276</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>7,078</b>