



Annual Report

April 2015 to December
2015



Nijera Kori

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Executive Summary

Since 1980, Nijera Kori is working with rural poor to empower them to develop their own organizations as a vehicle to establish their rights and control over the institutions and resources that are meant to serve them. Nijera Kori is unique among Bangladeshi NGOs given its focus on rights-based approach to development concentrating on social mobilisation in contrast to service-delivery based development approach. To that end, Nijera Kori primarily works with the disadvantaged, exploited and deprived communities in Bangladesh use tools such as conscientisation, capacity building, advocacy and social mobilisation for their empowerment and ensuring equity and justice.

These goals are achieved through Nijera Kori's foundational commitments to social mobilisation, facilitated through a democratic management structure. Nijera Kori emphasises on raising awareness, supporting development of autonomous organisations of the poor, establishing the norms of gender equality at all levels through dedicated education programme all contributing to enhance the capacity of the poor to unite, analyse their problems/situations and demand their lawful rights. Nijera Kori is currently working in 14 districts, covering 31 upazilas, 147 unions and 1,168 villages. There are in total 10,512 landless groups with a membership of 213,897 (W:119,160 and M:94,737) representing 496,991 families. Of the total number of members organised, more than half are women.

In this report the achievements of Nijera Kori are assessed for the period April to December 2015 and they are noted against mobilisation for establishing rights, formation of committees, cultural activities, legal aid assistance, availing the right to information and its uses, role of watch committees, access to natural resources and government services, mobilisation against corruption, representation in the local committees and Union Parishad Standing Committees, participation in shalish, access to natural resources and its used land involvement in economic and gender issues among others. The report also briefly discusses the finance and administration of Nijera Kori.

Planned activities and achievements

Formation of new groups: The achievement in implementing the targeted number of group formation and holding of meetings varies. In total, 114 groups were formed against the planned target of 160. In terms of gender distribution formation of women's group is 88%, while for men this is 49%. Of the total planned meetings of 158,857 achievements is, 84%.

Membership: During the reporting period 2,203 new members joined the group. In terms of groups' performance such as holding of weekly/monthly meetings 67 groups, 67 (W:43 and M:24) graduated from the primary to the secondary level, and 3 groups (W:2 and M:1) graduated from the secondary to the tertiary level. In terms of mobilisation, co-ordination and organisation of issue-based programmes a total of 356 landless committees at various levels (village: 302, union: 23, upazila: 3 and area: 28) have been reported to be active.

Mobilisation of savings and its use: The landless groups continued to mobilise savings through monthly contribution to build up their own capital to finance their collective activities and to support members during unforeseen crisis and emergencies. In the reporting period, savings mobilised amounts to Taka 11,852,063 (\$151,950 USD). During the same period the groups also distributed Taka 19,524,784 (\$250,318 USD) among the members to address their personal needs

(production and consumption). Additionally, the groups invested Taka 70,332,400 (\$901,697 USD) for various collective economic activities, which gave them a 2% return on investment.

Training and workshops: Under the training programmes of Nijera Kori, various capacity building exercises were undertaken. A total of 1,014 landless members participated in trainings programs against the planned target of 1,461. The rate of achievement is 69% of the targeted benchmark. In addition, 4,748 members participated in workshops, against the target of 4,775 which gives a 99% rate of achievement. In both trainings and workshops, rate of participation of women (W:3,511 and M:2,251), was high in 156%, which is a clear sign of their interest in acquiring knowledge and taking leadership in initiating social change.

Cultural activities: Nijera Kori also undertook various cultural activities such as cultural meetings, performance of drama with both adult and children, during the reporting period. From cultural meetings and performance of drama the accomplishment rate is 90% of the planned target. Under the cultural programme 7 two-three days long marches were organised and the participants also composed and played 30 new dramas covering different issues. 51 women members performed for the first time in the drama. It is worth noting that the landless cultural groups were invited by 7 upazila level government offices for performing drama and songs.

Soliciting justice: During the reporting period: landless groups had to face 18 new legal cases. Of them, 14 cases were filed by the groups themselves that includes 6 against violence on women. On the above, 65 cases have been resolved, of which judgement against 59 (i.e., 85%) cases were in favour of the groups. Among the settled 65 cases, 36 cases were lodged by the local influential groups against landless members and for 59 cases the groups received verdict in their favour. 14 cases settled were on issue of violence against women and 13 of which were filed by the landless groups.

Making use of Right to Information Act: Taking advantage of the Right to Information Act has been a major area of focus for the Groups and Nijera Kori. The Groups submitted 67 applications for disclosure of information and 65 of them were responded positively. Among all applications submitted 13 were by women landless members. Additionally there were 4 appeals and 2 complaints submitted to the concerned authority and in all the cases information were received.

Education programme: New enrolment under the landless group initiated education programme is reported to 48,231 (*girls: 25,342 and boys: 22,889*).The rate of girl student's enrolment is 6% more than boys.

Protest and marches in support of their rights: The landless organisations organised 1,111 protests. Of those 743 addressed violence against women, 17 were to resist fundamentalism, 190 to establish their rights over resources, and 161 against local corruption and irregularities.

Advocacy

Throughout the year, Nijera Kori was particularly active in national and international advocacy campaigns on causes critical to landless group members and other marginal rural populations. In particular, the organisation's advocacy efforts were focused on ending violence against women, corporatisation of agricultural land, food sovereignty, promoting landless people's rights to *khasland*, and protection of human rights in Rampal areas in response to government's decision to install a new coal fired power-generating plant.

Advocacy work included

- National level seminar on land-agriculture-corporatisation of farming- food sovereignty.
- Research and fact-finding activities related to the denial of human rights, land rights and protection of environment, resulting in publication of scholarly journal articles and materials for public awareness campaigns.
- Advocacy campaign against violence against women at local, national and international levels.
- Raising of people's voice in development delivering address in the Global Development Talk in Sweden during 20 to 23 September 2015
- A total of 13 local and national level press conferences on issues such as violation of human rights, violence against women, land rights, water rights, and other issues.
- At the local level 6,249 dialogues with government officials, elected bodies and other individual.
- At the national level, publication of 303 news reports concerning demands presented by Nijera Kori on various issues relevant to the landless members.

Due to the above, the significant qualitative and quantitative changes that have taken place in the working areas of Nijera Kori are reported under three broad themes:

- ✓ **Governance and accountability**
- ✓ **Economic situation**
- ✓ **Gender**

Governance and Accountability

During the reporting period, 434 group members (W:132 and M:302) contested against the local powerful elite in the election of the school, market and sluice gate management committees. Of the 434 candidates from the landless groups, 231 got elected. Among the candidates who got elected, 72 were women and 336 men. This gives a success rate of 53%; for women rate being 55% and men, 53%. 147 landless members (W:49 and M:98) were nominated in 66 Union Parishad Standing Committees.

20,518 landless group members (W: 8,128 and M:12,390) were involved in monitoring local level judicial processes and they were present as observers during the *shalish*. Landless group members participated in 1,619 *shalish* for resolution of different issues. Of the total 1,539, in 85%, the landless group members played the role of judges along with the local leaders, while the rest 12% were conducted solely by the members. In the 1,539 *shalish* in which the landless group members participated as judges, 72% of cases were regarding violence against women; 15% concerning land disputes; 13% about oppressions and injustices. Landless groups have worked tirelessly to hold elected representatives and government officials responsible for ensuring the rights of the poor and marginalised. Landless organisations held 6,249 meetings concerning local issues with local government administration and other local bodies in different working areas.

This has resulted in, among others, the recovery of Taka 14,259,126 (\$182,809 USD) in misappropriated funds, payment of penalty through verdict in *shalish*. Additionally the groups through their collective efforts succeed to include 75,229 eligible families under various government safety net allowance programmes. The benefits from these safety net programmes stand to Taka 7,607,100 (\$97,527 USD).

Economic situation

The groups conduct a range of collective economic activities in support of individual members and their families, through group advocacy, savings, joint economic activities, access to land and water and agriculture production in khasland. These activities improved the lives of members and their families through shared investments and risks. These activities also contribute to develop a sense of community and collective ownership, which sustains and advances Nijera Kori's social mobilisation work more broadly.

By the end of the year, a total of Taka 70,332,400 (\$901,697 USD) was invested from group savings and a total of Taka 5,352,926 (\$58,627 USD) was earned as profit from joint economic activities by the groups. These joint economic activities created job opportunities for 7,485 individual for an average six month.

Nijera Kori's mobilisation activities with regard to *khasland* were particularly successful. The recovered 524 acres of *khaslands* and water bodies from the occupation of rich and other vested interest groups. The land got distributed among 1,044 members.

Additionally, the landless organisation successfully recovered 32.25 acre of private agricultural land, which were illegally occupied by others. The economic value of these resources is equal to Taka 229,822,789 (\$2,946,446 USD).

Recovery of water bodies created alternative source of income for landless families through fishing and vegetable cultivation during dry season. The group members after meeting their own consumption needs were able to sell the surplus fish and vegetables in the market. The economic value of such is equal to Taka 123,148,865 (\$1,578,832 USD). A total of 26,906 families were benefited through recovery and use of Khasland and water bodies and gained economic empowerment. On an average, each of the families earned Taka 4,577 (\$58.68 USD).

The evidence reported above clearly demonstrates the nature and extent of achievements that the groups realised through access to natural resources.

Gender

Nijera Kori is committed to promoting equality of men and women in Bangladesh society, through the promotion of gender equity among the landless groups it works with, as well as through mobilisation of opinions and raising awareness on gender issues at the local, national, and international levels.

During the reporting period, 1,773 landless male members reported on their participation in household chores. In addition to that, 16,860 landless member families reported that presently family decisions are taken through mutual discussions between the men and women. This indicates an increasing level of respect and acceptance of women in the society. This is a much desired positive change of the societal norms.

During the reporting period, in the election of the various Committee's 605 open seats (posts for which both women and men members are eligible to contest), 657 women members contested against 852 male members, and 387 women were elected. The rate of women's success in the election to the committee is 59%.

In the reporting period, a total of 743 events mobilisations on issue of violence against women were organised. Out of the total 743 movements, 249 mobilisations were initially started by male landless groups. As a result of collective mobilisations, 65 child marriages were stopped; 105 dowry marriages were avoided; 76 irrational divorces were prevented; 40 polygamy issues brought to justice; 285 case of domestic violence were stopped and 57 were able to recover maintenance money. In addition to that, 35 women got the title of 4.25 acres of inheritance land. The economic value of inheritance property and other cost recovered due to proper justice is equivalent to Taka 5,500,250 (\$70,516 USD).

In the reporting period, 34 women landless members were selected for the Joyeeta award. 10 of them were recognised in the category for development in society; 5 in the successful mother category; 5 for economic success; 8 for erasing the trauma of violence against women and starting a new life; and finally 6 in the education and service category¹.

¹ The 'Joyeeta Onneshone Bangladesh' is a national program initiated by the Women Affairs Department of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. The program gives awards to five women in five categories from each of the seven administrative divisions of Bangladesh. The five categories are: successful mothers; education and service; overcoming repression; role in social development; and becoming economically self-reliant. Joyeeta Onneshone Bangladesh, has had a tremendous impact on the society. Grassroots women have responded well to the initiative, and the program is considered as a positive indicator of women's empowerment. Recognition via the Joyeeta award further encourages women to face various challenges more confidently and become role models for the society.

CHAPTER ONE

1. Background information

1.1 Birth of Nijera Kori

Nijera Kori started as a program led by a group of Dhaka-based female social workers to protect the dignity of destitute rural women who migrated to Dhaka city in the aftermath of the 1974 devastating flood and severe famine through provision of shelter and food, and imparting some skills such as jute works, knitting, making of handicrafts and pickles that could give them some income earning opportunities to live on their own and eventually resettle themselves in the society. Since the main effort was to do something on one's own initiative, the initiators decided to name the program as Nijera Kori, a Bengali terms, which means "we do it ourselves". This social initiative continued for few years, and in 1978 Nijera Kori was formally registered with the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bangladesh as an NGO. In 1979 several staff of the CUSO's (Canadian University Service Overseas) women's program joined Nijera Kori, and expanded Nijera Kori's program particularly to cover CUSO's programs with rural poor women in four districts: Chittagong, Noakhali, Jessore and Khustia. A year later in early 1980s another group of field workers of BRAC, due to their disagreement with BRAC's approach to development also joined Nijera Kori. Such inclusion of new staff had significant influence in shaping the direction and content of Nijera Kori's programs. By mid-1980 Nijera Kori introduced a fundamental change in its work approach and decided to focusing on awareness raising of the rural poor and building their own organisation to address the multiple economic, political and social constraints which prevent them from establishing their rights over the institutions that govern their lives and livelihoods. By then Nijera Kori also decided to get all legal clearance from the government to pursue its work. To this effect, in February 1981 Nijera Kori registered as an NGO under the Societies Registration Act and in April with the NGO Affairs Bureau, and subsequently secured government's approval for receiving "Foreign Contribution".

1.2 Nijera Kori's Mission, Goal and Objective

The mission of Nijera Kori is to empower the rural poor, both women and men to create independent democratic organisation for taking up challenges within their own spheres for a better and more meaningful life for themselves and their immediate community, and establishing their rights over the institutions that decide on the allocation of resources and services for the poor.

Nijera Kori's overarching goal is a society free from oppression and deprivation through the establishment of the fundamental rights of people. Nijera Kori believes that the struggle to transform the underlying structures of inequality, injustice and exclusion must be conducted at different levels, starting with the individual and extending to the regional and national levels. In addition, it must encompass the various spheres; i.e. economic, social and political decision making processes, in which the poor are denied of their rights of participation.

Nijera Kori's objective is to raise awareness and unite the rural poor, who have long been the victims of exploitation and social exclusions, to voice their opinions and to ensure it is being heard, and involving them in decision-making processes at village and local levels which effect their lives.

1.3 Who Nijera Kori works with – the Target Population

Nijera Kori team based on a thorough analysis of the causes of poverty, inequality and social injustice, concluded to work with a broad spectrum of poor people who primarily depend on selling of labour as their main source of livelihood. They include wage labourers, sharecroppers, small and marginal farmers and people involved in various traditional trades and occupations. Furthermore, Nijera Kori makes it a priority to involve the ethnic communities of Bangladesh within its program. In sum, Nijera Kori aims to work with the poor who lives under extreme poverty and whose basic human rights and needs are largely ignored by the society.

The defined target population, according to Nijera Kori's analyses, is faced with multiple constraints such as economic, social and political. In terms of economic constraint, the poor i.e., the landless and asset-less rely on direct or indirect sale of their labour power to meet their basic needs. However, due to existing structure and organisation of the labour market the poor as a labour-seller have very little or no bargaining power. They must therefore accept wages for their labour, which are often arbitrarily determined by the buyers and may not be sufficient to meet even their daily subsistence needs. In political terms the poor rarely have any voice in local or national structures of decision-making. At the informal village level and/or local government institutions the powerful landed sections of village society dominate the shalish (informal village court) which addresses disputes within village society and in the delivery of the government's programs. In social terms, the poor are kept in their place by powerful norms and beliefs which legitimatise their oppression and disenfranchisement, and also prevent them from questioning the status quo. Due to their lack of exposure to any alternative set of values, and often reinforced by their lack of basic education, has left the poor unaware of their legally recognised rights, while absence of their own organisation prevents them from claiming and establishing these rights. An additional set of cultural norms and practice further undermines the position of women.

1.4 Fundamental Principles of Nijera Kori

Nijera Kori's overarching goal, as noted above, is a society free from oppression and deprivation through the establishment of the fundamental rights of people. It believes that the struggle to transform the underlying structures of inequality, injustice and exclusion must be conducted on a number of different levels, starting with the individual and extending to the village, regional and national levels. In addition, it must encompass the various spheres, economic, social and political, in which the poor are denied their rights. In realising this goal, Nijera Kori follows a number of principles that Nijera Kori adheres to, and they are:

Nijera Kori emphasises on social mobilisation: Nijera Kori believes that there is poverty, unemployment, concentration of wealth and power and various other injustices in the society. The majority of the poor are exploited by a handful, as the means of production as well as political power are owned and controlled by the latter. In this back- drop, Nijera Kori defined its role to act as a facilitator of a dialogical process, through which people would be equipped with the ability to analyse and assess their situation and to take action to redress the prevailing system. In this effort, Nijera Kori provides technical services to promote self-confidence and enhance people's organisational capacity so that they are able to claim and/or establish their rights through building their own organisations rather than depending on the agency such as Nijera Kori to act on their behalf.

Nijera Kori does not run any credit program: Though Bangladesh has become famous for its innovation in the arena of micro-credit, Nijera Kori continues with its principle of 'non delivery of credit'. Nijera Kori believes that micro-credit cannot and does not reach all sections of society - especially the neglected communities and people, who needs it the most. At the same time, Nijera Kori also believes that micro-credit programmes of NGOs, as an alternative financial institution, instead of making people self reliant self-reliant, succeeded in creating dependencies and vulnerabilities among the communities those have enlisted under the micro-credit program.

Nijera Kori strongly believes in gender equality: For Nijera Kori, gender equality is one of the pillars of the organisation and remains central to Nijera Kori's understanding of poverty and social injustice. Nijera Kori recognises 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-specific forms of discrimination and domestic violence within their household as well as face restrictions on their physical movements and discrimination within the labour market in the larger society. Nijera Kori also believes that male-female relations need not be inherently antagonistic and that men can become women's allies in the struggle against patriarchal oppression. Indeed, without active support and participation of the men from their families and from their class, poor women will find their own struggle for respect and recognition far more difficult.

Nijera Kori commits to promote autonomy: Nijera Kori's capacity-building strategy emanates from a fundamental belief that "power" should and must remain with the people. Hence, Nijera Kori's programs and activities are structured to ensure that financial and organisational autonomy remains with the people. Nijera Kori emphasises on promoting autonomous nature and structure of the working people's organisations so that the resource-poor members gradually decrease their dependency on Nijera Kori and finally rely on their own strength.

Nijera Kori values partnership: Nijera Kori believes in the enormous power of collective action, and consciously deploys its resources to strengthen bonds among the members of the poor people's organisation. This process is supported by high frequency of meetings, for both staff and landless groups. This frequency of face-to-face meetings is important for promoting closer relationships, establishing trust and ensuring participatory decision-making and accountability.

Nijera Kori strongly believes in democracy: Participatory democracy is the core value that shapes Nijera Kori's management structure and decision-making process. Nijera Kori also aims to infuse the democratic principles in the management of the people's organisation that they facilitate to develop. Nijera Kori strongly believes that democratic management is the key to successfully establish the rights of the poor

1.5 Organisational structure, decision making and work culture of Nijera Kori

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 General Body, made up 39 members, is responsible for overall governance and elects a Governing Body, every two years. The role of the Governing Body which meets quarterly, is to ratify policies and programs proposed by Nijera Kori, to approve the audited account and budget for the coming year, as required by government legislation and to appoint the Coordinator who is responsible for co-ordinating the overall programmes and management of Nijera Kori on regular basis.

Nijera Kori's organisational structure and culture demonstrate the basic organisational principles to which it is committed. Therefore, for linking the grassroots, 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.

At present, Nijera Kori's has 14 *anchal* (area) and 31 *upa-kendra* (sub-centre). In its headquarters, there is a central team which is made up of the co-ordinator, 3 central organisers and 3 central trainers. This team oversees organisation-wide co-ordination, administration overall programmes. The Dhaka office is also made up of the cultural team, accounts office, reporting and monitoring team, administrative and other support staff. Field level responsibility for these functions are decentralised to the divisional and anchal teams. (see organogram annex- A)

Programmatic Decision-making and reporting:

Democratic decision-making, based on documentation, feed-back and deliberation, is a central organisational principle of Nijera Kori. All officials with decision-making responsibilities, with the exception of the Coordinator, are elected from amongst the staff to the relevant levels and committees. For instance, each division elects a Divisional Coordinator who works with a Divisional parishad (committee) to co-ordinate and provides overall supervision at divisional level. The Divisional Coordinator also represents the division in the central executive council (nirbahi parishad) which has strategic executive powers. There is provision for an additional woman member if no woman is on any of the elected committees, but this was never needed.

While there is a fixed percentage of women and men groups represented among elected members, election to specific posts is open to both women and men. Currently, there have been 2 women elected to open anchal posts out of 14, 4 into open divisional posts out of 12 and 4 into open central posts out of 7).

The entire staff at both field and central levels participates in strategic decision-making, both directly and through these elected representatives. Nijera Kori's decision-making, reporting and evaluation processes are closely inter-related. There is a great deal of emphasis on documenting these processes through written minutes, reports of visits and activity reports, all of which are then synthesised into the annual report. Decisions are made and modified, and progress evaluated through open and participatory processes on the basis of these vertical (mainly staff) and horizontal (amongst staff and groups) flows of information. Importantly, staffs are informed by the self-reflection and learning process of groups. This is particularly important in the context of protests and struggles for physical occupation of Khasland, where decisions on how to act have to be made by groups themselves, and not staff.

A description of the processes by which different levels of Nijera Kori staff perform their duties, share information, evaluate performance, take decisions and engage in forward planning will best help to illustrate how principles of democracy, accountability and transparency are built into its organisational culture. It will also help the readers to understand Nijera Kori's organisational strategy.

- Staff at the 31 different sub-centre meet on a weekly basis to reflect on their performance over the week, share problems they have encountered, evaluate each other and discuss plans for the coming period. These are minuted. Every staff member has to maintain a separate file for each of the groups which she or he is overseeing so that continuity is maintained in relationships with groups even if the staff member in question is changed.

- 2-3 day monthly area meetings are held each month at the 14 anchal (areas) level. Individual staff member in an anchal submits a written activity report for the month and provides a verbal self-evaluation of their performance for comments and questions. Individual and anchal-level activities are decided at these meetings.

These meetings are minuted and a monthly report prepared. Administrative decisions regarding leave internal transfer are taken here. One day is kept aside for study and learning, based on current newspaper articles, reports, books and periodicals which have been recommended by the trainers.

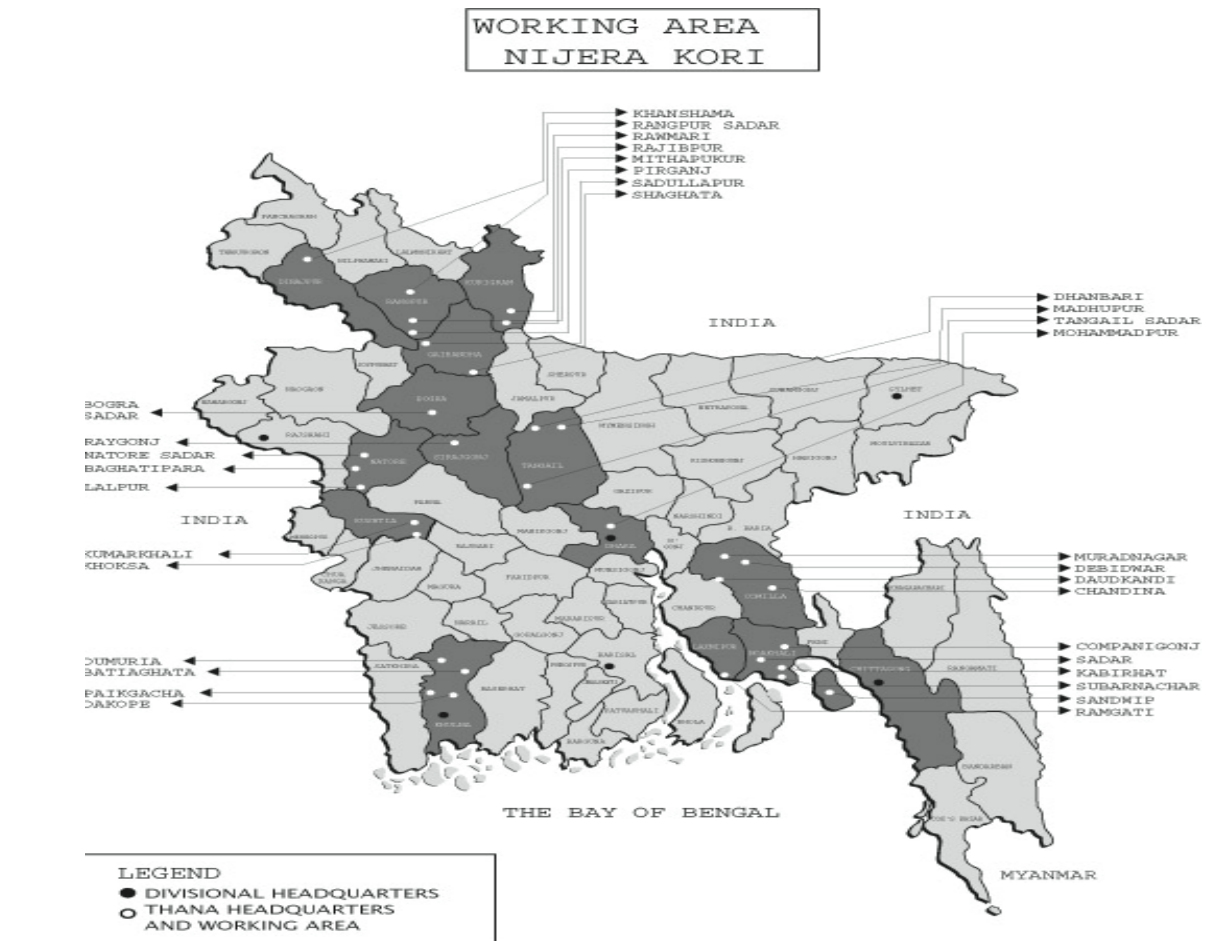
- 2 day divisional council meetings are held by the divisional parishad every second month. The anchal chair and office holders at the divisional level review the entire division's performance against the objectives and targets of the annual plan, evaluate its activities and make adjustments where necessary. Administrative decisions for the divisional level are also taken here. Recommendations which have implications beyond the division are sent on to the central team which either makes a decision itself or takes it up at the staff executive committee (nirbahi parishad). Proceedings are minuted and sent to the anchals and to the centre.
- 2-3 days quarterly meetings are held by the executive council (nirbahi parishad). Four divisional chairs and all central committee members, including the co-ordinator, meet to review the entire program. The divisions give their reports, identify and discuss key issues and decide on new strategic directions. The entire administrative decisions for the organisation are taken here. Proceedings are minuted and circulated among the divisions and anchals and read out at their respective meetings.
- Annual 3 day conventions are held at the divisional level. All staff of the division, including divisional accountants, conducts a review of divisional and area performance, check achievements against targets & prepare a report on divisional activities for the entire year.
- A 4 day central convention meets every second year. All Nijera Kori staff members are present, including the accountants, administrative and support staff. During the convention, each division presents a report for the past year, reviews policies and guidelines in the light of any changed circumstances. An annual report, which synthesises the quarterly reports of each division and hence provides an overview of the organisation's activities and achievements over the past year, is presented for discussion at this convention. Staff members at the convention also elect representatives to different levels, either retaining or changing the previous representative on the basis of their performance over the past year. Thus, anchal staff elects the anchal chair; divisional staff elects divisional co-ordinator, the divisional organiser and divisional trainer. The entire bodies of staff elect the central organisers and the central trainers. The only non-elected members in the decision-making structure is the co-ordinator who is appointed by the Governing Body and has remained the same for the sake of continuity since 1980.
- 4 day council meetings are held every alternate year. Here, every five NK staff members are represented by an elected councilor. This is thus a smaller forum than the biennial convention and allows for more in-depth analysis and evaluation than is possible in the larger forum. The annual report for the year in question is presented at this meeting. Any changes to decisions or policies taken at these biennial council meetings have to be approved at the next convention.

Finally, if specific issues need discussion, an extended meeting of the nirbahi parishad and all elected representatives is convened. This is to ensure that decisions taken on unanticipated issues or unplanned changes are also taken democratically and implemented at the relevant level. The outcomes of all meetings, at different levels, are transmitted back to lower level committees and groups after each meeting.

1.6 Nijera Kori's Working Area

Nijera Kori works in four divisions in Bangladesh: Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Khulna. Its main criteria for selecting the areas are that the majority of the population in those areas belonged to its target group and secondly, that where there were few other NGOs working there. Nijera Kori plans to continue work in these four divisions in the foreseeable future, widening and deepening its coverage within them rather than expanding into other parts of Bangladesh. The critical constraint on the expansion of the activities of social mobilisation organisations like Nijera Kori is quality of staff and Nijera Kori is reluctant to expand into new areas, with the attendant start-up costs, unless it is sure of maintaining the quality of staff.

Currently in these four divisions, Nijera Kori covers 14 districts; 31 upazila, 147 unions and 1,168 villages (see map annex table-1). In these areas, there are 10,398 groups with 211,694 members, of whom 117,579 are women and 94,115 are men. As of December, there were approx 101,997 landless members with families (496,991 women, men and children). If we compare this with the overall statistics on the number of poor in these villages, it appears that Nijera Kori has covered 10% of the target population (each families is comprised of 4.3 members, source BBS 2014).



CHAPTER TWO

Outcome

The key outcomes of Nijera Kori's work during April to December 2015 can be categorised under four key areas:

2.1 Raising awareness and developing collective capabilities

Access to government services

Mobilisation against corruption

2.2 Enhancing Governance and accountability

Representation in local level institutions

2.3 Improving Economic situation

Establishing rights over natural resource such as Khasland and open water bodies

2.4 Ensuring Gender Equality

Establishment of women's rights and empowerment

2.1 Raising awareness and developing collective capabilities

2.1.1 Access to Government Services and Strengthening Wage Bargaining Capacities

According to the Bangladesh Economic Review, 2014, 31.5 percent of the people are living below poverty. To lift them out of poverty and address their vulnerabilities, the Bangladesh government along with regular public services such as education and health has undertaken several programmes under a package called the "Social Safety Net Program (SSNP)". For this program the government allocated Taka 253,713.5 million during the fiscal year 2014-15, which is 11.5% of the total budget. In total there are about 145 schemes under 5 types of social safety net programs namely (i) food aid programme, (ii) cash support programme, (iii) special programme for poverty reduction, (iv) self-employment programme through micro-credit, and (v) some specific special programme for poverty alleviation. A set of criteria is used to select households to be enrolled under the SSNP. Among others, these include those who are landless or own less than 10 decimal of land; whose daily income is less than Taka 30 (\$0.38 USD) per head; whose debt amount is Taka 2,500 (\$32 USD) more than their savings as per financial profile; and families with destitute women and illiterate family members. However, often, due to corruption, political influence, poor monitoring and lack of co-ordination, the selection process gets distorted and the actual targeted families are denied access to the SSNP. It is reported that the poor and ultra-poor people are not getting the full benefits of the SSNP (The Financial Express, 18 June 2015). Poor people's access to these services is minimal and they are deprived of the benefits of these services. Access to safety-net and other government services could make a positive contribution in improving the quality of poor peoples' lives.

NijeraKori, believes that enhanced access to social services could offer significant relief to the misery of the poor, and therefore provides assistance to the landless people to make them aware of their entitlements and strengthen their capacities to access the government services and establish their fundamental rights.

In this pursuit, over the reporting period, Nijera Kori organised and supported a series of trainings, workshops, cultural programs and started monitoring of the SSNP by the Watch Committee of the Landless Groups. These programs significantly contributed in increasing transparency and accountability in the implementation of the SSNP. The landless organisation, in view of the RTI (Right to Information) Act, submitted 24 applications asking for detailed information regarding the selection of beneficiaries. The groups organised 161 protests and mass demonstrations against corruption and mismanagement of the SSNP. Due to such protests and demonstrations, the Union Parishad officials and other concerned authorities invited the landless group for dialogues and for submission of alternative list of beneficiaries to be included in the SSNP.

As presented in **Table-8**, during the reporting period, a total 75,229 members (W: 37,908 and M: 37,321) were enrolled under the various SSNP. Of them 22,347 members received their social safety net benefit cards due to the groups' collective pressure. Of them 2,289 are single women and 1,327 people with disability. Furthermore, due to protests and demonstrations by the landless groups, 13,842 poor families who are not members of the landless groups were also registered under the programme and another 22,175 ineligible names were deleted from the list of safety-net programme. This twin success gave the groups a huge moral boost and the enrolled families were assured of food security for a limited period.

Description	Total Card	Women	Men	Disable	Single Women
Rajshahi	40,738	19,134	20,655	949	1,930
Dhaka	1,865	1,157	695	13	53
Chittagong	24,985	13,401	11,401	183	204
Khulna	7,641	3,236	4,223	182	102
Total	75,229	36,928	36,974	1,327	2,289
BDT	120,379,300	40,900,700	70,379,500	1,492,000	7,607,100
USD	1,543,324	524,368	902,301	19,128	97,527

The economic value of the goods and services that is received by the beneficiaries under the SSNP is equivalent to Taka 120,379,300 (\$1,543,324 USD). Additionally, access to services and opportunities to participate in the local development activities empowered the landless group members. The above evidences clearly demonstrate the economic value of awareness building and mobilisation activities.

Across the various working divisions of Nijera Kori there, is a high degree of variance in terms of member enrolment under the SSNP. Highest number of beneficiaries is reported in the Rajshahi division, followed by Chittagong division (See Table-8 above). The reasons for the high degree of variance is due to extent of geographical coverage of Nijera Kori's work in Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions, which is larger compared to the other divisions. In Rajshahi, Nijera Kori covers 13 upazilas and working with 4,757 groups with 96,572 members. Additionally, both Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions are considered disaster prone, with many char areas that mostly inhabited by poor.

2.1.2 Mobilisation Against Corruption

In Bangladesh, corruption is reported as an endemic problem. According to a report of Transparency International Bangladesh, on average, 42.1% of households stated that they had to pay bribe for receiving different services of the government. The highest incidence of corruption is reported in the education sector, where 72.2% households who interacted with educational institutions for accessing services had to pay bribes. The issue of corruption has also been acknowledged by the government. Bangladesh government's Finance Minister Mr. A M A Muhit stated that corruption is responsible for 2-3% of GDP loss (BdNews24.com, 9 July 2015).

The poor are the casualties of this vicious cycle of corruption. The poor's inability to pay the required bribes lead to denial of access to services, which means deprivation from government food-support, access to medical services and education. Often the desperate families sell their assets such as cow, goat, poultry and furniture to get access to these services, and in the process their economic position gradually deteriorates further.

To redress the current situation, during the reporting period, the landless organisations mobilised communities to create public opinion in establishing their rights and access to various government services. The landless organisations organised 161 collective actions, which include street protest, dialogue with concerned authorities, signature campaigning, submission of memorandum, and demonstrations by forming human chains demanding end of corruption and irregularities in the implementation of various government social welfare programs and development projects. By virtue of these public actions and close monitoring of the program delivery by the Landless Watch Committees, the groups succeeded in stopping various irregularities and corruptions in six working areas, those of health, education and local *shalish* (*Alternative Dispute Resolution*). As a result, the landless members were able to ensure access to services without un-due expenditure. These successes significantly contributed in improving their economic condition. Some key success data are reported in **Table-9** below.

Table-9: Economic benefits as a result of collective movements (In Taka)

Division and description	Prevention of corruption in education, health sector and recover fund		Increased wages		Prevention of corruption in development project recover fund	Total
	Education	Health	Women	Men	wages	
Rajshahi	1,108,840	1,965,540	795,075	336,440	868,200	5,074,095
Dhaka	185,000	66,540	2,250	0	334,750	588,540
Chittagong	110,960	2,172,071	86,250	48,000	0	2,417,281
Khulna	227,500	986,460	0	0	130,000	1,343,960
Beneficiary	21,874	27,542	2,760	736	2,868	55,780
Total BDT	1,632,300	5,190,611	883,575	384,440	1,332,950	9,423,876
USD	20,927	66,546	11,328	4,929	17,089	120,819

Due to these initiatives, the landless members benefited in two ways. Firstly, they have received government services without paying bribe, and secondly, they have successfully recovered embezzled funds from various social services.

During the reporting period, the landless groups, through their actions

against corruption, were able to save Taka 8,155,861 (\$104,562 USD) and also increase their wages by Taka 1,268,015 (\$16,257 USD) due to better implementation of development projects. This success was shared by 55,780 landless members, which means, for each member, the economic gain is nearly Taka 169 (\$2.17 USD). Establishment of their rightful claims empowered the landless groups to continue raising their voices, undertake collective actions against irregularities and corruptions, and establish a more transparent and accountable society.

2.2 Governance and accountability issues

2.2.1 Governance, Accountability and Representation in Local Bodies/Committees

Presently, at the local level development administration, the Members of the Parliament (MPs) have an oversight role, but often this role extends beyond 'oversight' and almost all of the local committees are constituted in consultation with the MPs and/or individuals with strong political connections. Therefore, actual community representation is under challenge. This weakness is recognised and currently being addressed in the Seventh Fifth Year (2016-2020) Plan of Bangladesh. It is anticipated that the plan will propose a fresh approach to decentralisation and local governance structure of Bangladesh.

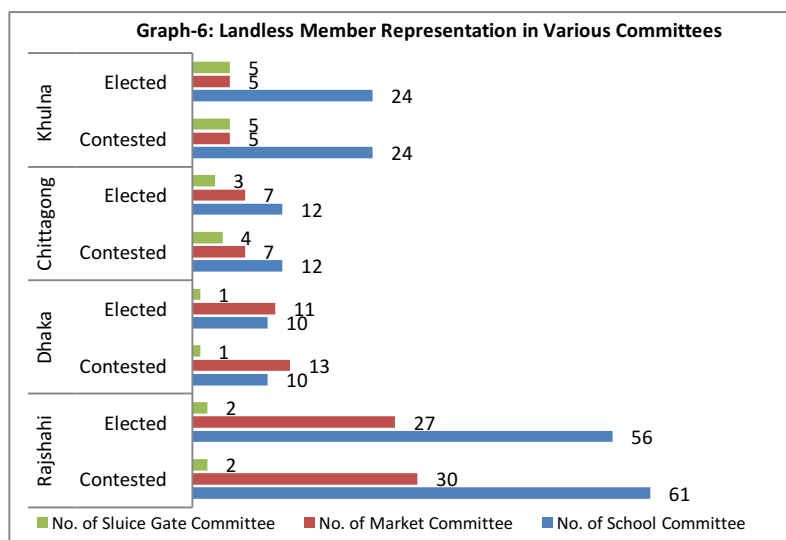
There are a number of policy documents pertaining to the constitution of local government institutions and other relevant committees with representation of the people. For example, school committees are formed in accordance to 2009 Notification of the Ministry of Education; market committee, per Hat-Bazar Nitimala, 2011; sluice/water management committees as per the Participatory Water Management Rules, 2014 of the Ministry of Water Resources. These Committees are mostly composed of 12-13 members who are elected annually.

Engagement in these committees offers excellent opportunities to the landless organisations to establish their leadership and get trained in democratic participatory decision making processes. In view of this, during the reporting period, the landless organisation participated in the election of the local government institutions and other relevant committees such as school, market, sluice gate committees. Nijera Kori provided training and organised workshops to make the members aware of the existing policies and regulations for governing local government institutions and relevant committees and their functions. The landless cultural team played an important role in creating a strong public opinion for a transparent election system. The landless organisation in consultation with their local allies selected their candidates and participated in the election of different committees. A short account of these is presented below.

2.2.2 Participation in Election of Various Local Committees

Table-10 shows that, during the reporting period, a total of 434 group members (W:132 and M:302) contested against the local powerful elite in the election of the school, market and sluice gate management committees (see Annex Table-18.) Of the 434 candidates from the landless groups, 231 got elected. Among the candidates who got elected 72 were women and 159 men. This gives a success rate of 53%; for women the rate being 55% & men, 53%.

Description	Gender	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chittagong	Khulna	Total
Contested Candidate	Women	81	10	22	19	132
	Men	174	19	54	55	302
	Total	255	29	76	74	434
Elected Members	Women	37	9	13	13	72
	Men	77	12	32	38	159
	Total	114	21	45	51	231



Again, as reported in annex table (annex table 18-A), the electoral success of landless groups in terms of their representations in local committees varies. The highest number of representation was in School Management Committee (132 members), followed by the Market Committee (76 members), and then Sluice Gate Management Committee (23 members). It is also evident from the data (see **Graph-6**) that in the School

Committee election, the highest number of members who participated in Rajshahi division, the second highest in Khulna division, the third, in Chittagong, and lastly, Dhaka division.

The rate of those elected in Rajshahi was 92%; Dhaka, 100%; Chittagong, 100%; and Khulna, 100%. On the other hand, in the Market Management Committee election, the highest number of members participated in Rajshahi, second in Dhaka, third in Chittagong, and the lowest in Khulna.

The rate of elected in Rajshahi was 90%; Dhaka, 85%; Chittagong, 100%; and Khulna, 100%. Finally, in the Sluice Gate Management Committee election, the highest number of members participated in Khulna, second in Chittagong, third in Rajshahi and the lowest in Dhaka. The rate of elected in Rajshahi was 100%; Chittagong, 75%; Khulna, 100% and Dhaka 100%.

2.2.3 Representation in the Union Parishad Standing Committee

An effective local governance mechanism plays a critical role in ensuring improved service delivery to citizens. IN Bangladesh Union Parishad (UP) is the lowest level of local government institution. Recently the government decided to establish various standing committees (SCs) to enhance the UPs service delivery capacities, and to ensure transparency and people's participation in decision making. In the UP, there are 13 Standing Committees, all of them selected for one year. The Standing Committee, composed of 5-7 members, is lead by an elected Councillor. The Standing Committee is empowered to co-opt additional members, but such members do not have voting rights. The SC meets once every two months, but emergency meetings can be arranged any time. The core functions of the SC consist of monitoring the activities of service providers and solicit feedback from the general masses to assess their needs and priorities; give planning support to the service delivery providers and monitor the implementation process, and provide regular reports to the UP about the activities of the committee (cf. *Local Government Division (2012), Union Parishad Operation Manual*).

But in reality, often representation of local communities in the UP Standing Committee is decided by through influence of power, which excludes the poor. The landless organisations closely monitor the functioning of the SCs and organise public advocacy to promote transparency through signature campaigning and submission of memorandum to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (Upazila Executive Officer) on the roles and functioning of the different UP Standing Committees. As a result of this, during the reporting period, the Upazila administration has taken initiatives to reorganise several Standing Committees and included the landless members in the UP Standing Committees.

Due to the re-organisation of the UP Standing Committees, 147 landless members (W:49 and M:98) were nominated in 66 Union Parishad Standing Committees. This makes the women's participation rate 50% (see Table-

11). The highest numbers of landless members nominated in the UP Standing Committees were in the Rajshahi division, which is 66% of the total nominated members. The second highest is reported in Khulna division, 16% of the total, followed by Dhaka division with 12% and Chittagong division with 6%.

Description	Gender	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chittagong	Khulna	Total
Number of Nominated Members	Women	29	8	1	11	49
	Men	67	10	8	13	98
	Total	96	18	9	24	147

When the data on the landless member representation in the UP SC is compared with the total working area of Nijera Kori, it appears that in 45% Union Parishad (66 out of 147) the landless groups succeeded in securing their positions in the SC (see table 11).

The data clearly demonstrate the dynamic changes that are taking place in the management of the local government institutions, the acceptance of the leadership of landless groups, and their empowerment. This representation of the landless organisations in the local power structure has restored some degree of balance in the distribution of power. The representation of landless members also created an avenue through which the landless organisation can fight against corruption, the irregularities of government administration, and the traditional political and social power structure. Due to this change, the landless organisation can now articulate their opinions in the committees and also claim their rights. This marks an important indicator of the landless organisations' power, and the move towards transparency and accountability in running the affairs of the local government institutions.

2.2.4 Participation in Shalish as Judge and Observer

The *shalish* (Alternative Dispute Resolution) plays a very important role in resolving small-scale civil and criminal disputes and has now emerged as a social institution in Bangladesh. Though *shalish* is recognised by the state as a mediation body, it has no legal standing, and its verdict with reference to criminal cases, marriage, and dowry disputes are not acknowledged by the Court of Law. Generally, a *shalish* is conducted by local leaders who command respect. But since 1990, *shalish* has been dominated and/or controlled by the local politically powerful groups. Consequently, in many cases the victims did not get justice.

According to TIB National Household Survey 2007 on Corruption in Bangladesh, report, about 51% of households covered under its study reported that they experienced irregularities during *shalish* administered by the Union Parishad. In another study (The Role of Union Parishad in Rural Dispute Resolution in Bangladesh: An Evaluation in the Light of People's Perception in March 2013), 70% of respondents stated that this local dispute resolution process is unable to ensure a level playing ground for both parties involved in the judiciary process, while 30% opined that it has a positive or strong role. The studies noted above suggest that the victims did not get justice from the *shalish*.

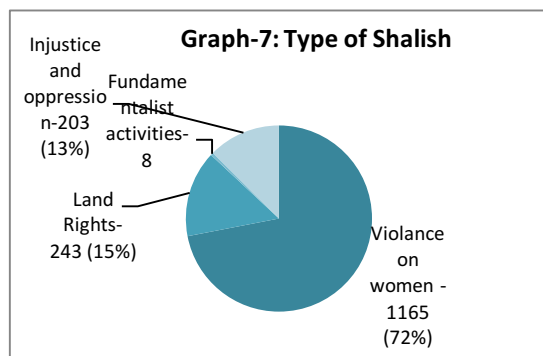
In view of the above, to ensure justice, the landless organisations are increasingly becoming active within their working areas and started monitoring the *shalish* process and its outcomes. The landless members participate as observers in the *shalish*, and when they notice irregularities/nepotism they create collective pressure on the judges.

Division and issues	No. Of shalish	Arranged by		Result			On process	Recover Tk. as punishment
		Group	Group and local leader	Settled	Stopped	Cases		
Rajshahi	348	33	314	336	3	3	9	2,204,400
Dhaka	98	12	86	95	3	1	0	635,000
Chittagong	1040	137	903	987	14	0	39	1,672,500
Khulna	133	4	123	121	4	1	8	323,350
Total	1,619	186	1,426	1,539	24	5	56	4,835,250

In cases where criminal offences are negotiated through *shalish*, the landless groups intervene, call for the community's participation to stop

shalish, and take the matter to a formal court for ensuring justice. Consequently, in several instances, the landless group members were invited to join the *shalish* as judges along with the powerful people.

In the reporting period, landless group members participated in 1,343 *shalish* for resolution of different issues. Of the total 1,619, in 95% or 1,539 *shalish*, the landless group members played the role of judges along with the local leaders, while the other 12% were conducted solely by the members. (See Table-11 in above)



In the 1,619 *shalish* in which the landless group members participated as judges, 72% of cases were regarding violence against women; 15% concerning land property disputes; 13% about injustice and oppression; and very few on fundamentalist activities (see Graph-7).

In addition to their role as judges, the landless members played an important role in monitoring the cases. As reported in the Table-12, during the

reporting period, 20,518 members (W: 8,128 and M:12,390) were involved in monitoring and they were present as observers during the *shalish*. Participation of landless members as observers by division are as follows: Chittagong, 52%; Rajshahi, 35%; Khulna, 9%; and Dhaka, 4%. Due to active engagement of the landless members in the *shalish*, 10 criminal cases were not entertained by the *shalish* but referred to a formal Court of Law. Also table 12 shows that, a total 4,092 members (W: 1,267 and M: 2,825) participated as judges in *shalish*. Participation of landless members as judges by division is: Chittagong, 53%; Rajshahi, 20%, Khulna, 20%; and Dhaka, 7% (see Table-12). As a result of participation of landless group members, 1,454 cases were successfully settled in favour of the real victim. Through the *shalish*, the landless organisation could recover Taka 4,835,250(\$61990 USD); mainly on account of dowry payment; cost of family maintenance treatment cost; and wage compensation.

Division	Observer			Judge		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Rajshahi	3,567	3,654	7,221	328	509	837
Dhaka	214	566	780	72	198	270
Chittagong	3,688	6,946	10,634	638	1,555	2,193
Khulna	659	1,224	1,883	229	563	792
Total	8,128	12,390	20,518	1,267	2,825	4,092

2.3 Economic Situation

2.3.1 Access to Natural Resources (Khasland and Open Water Bodies Owned by the Government)

In Bangladesh, 47% of the labour force depends on agriculture for their primary livelihood (Bangladesh Economic Review, 2014). Thus, for rural population, access to land and open water bodies is of crucial importance to ensure employment and living. However, Bangladesh is a land-scarce country, and a large number of people have no ownership of and/or access to land which they could cultivate. According the national Agriculture Census of 2008 conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 58.55% of the total 28,695,000 households were landless, and this number is gradually increasing.

The landless families can only have access to land through tenancy market or Khasland distribution program of the government. According to available statistics, there are 2.5 million acres of Khasland and 0.8 million acres of government owned water bodies. The government of Bangladesh have formulated several policies to distribute Khasland and water bodies to the landless poor.

However, due to lack of effective policy enforcement, landless households' access to natural resources remains limited. According to a study, of the total 830,356 acres of Khasland and water bodies available, only 5% have been distributed among the poor (Barakat, 2004, p. 3). Again, when the poor receive Khasland under the government redistribution program, they can hardly retain control over the land. Thus, ensuring poor people's access to natural resources remains a major policy challenge for the government.

In this backdrop, Nijera Kori is extending its services to the landless organisations to establish their rights over Khasland. During the reporting period, Nijera Kori conducted trainings and workshops to raise awareness and mobilise support for implementation of the laws in establishing rights of the landless people over the Khasland. Such programs also contributed in developing alliances with organisations and professional groups at the local, regional and national levels in support of the landless people's demand for Khasland.

These greatly helped in launching strong collective movements. In the reporting period, 190 collective public demonstrations/marches were organised under the leadership of the landless organisations. The landless cultural groups performed during these marches. Additionally, 1,405 dialogues with relevant authorities and submission of memorandum were organised. The Right to Information Act and support from the media was sought for collecting information. All these actions contributed to create a positive enabling environment for the landless people to demand their rights over the Khasland. However, due to unwarranted political instability created by the opposition on the question of the 5th January parliamentary election, the process slowed down and the movement could not realise the results expected. In the section below some key outcomes of the movements are noted.

The landless members, through the movement, succeeded in obtaining information and eventually demarcating 524 acres of Khasland. Of this amount, in the reporting period, the landless groups secured ownership over 13.3 acres, registered it in favour of 60 landless families, and took physical possession over 454 acres pending registration. The groups also recovered 26 acres of water bodies from illegal occupation of powerful elites and made these water bodies open to all as common property resources (for details, see **Table-13**).

Division	Khasland and Water Bodies (Acres)								Economic Value		
	Reg. of Khasland	Posse. of Khasland	Posse. of W.B leased	Water body opened	Rec. land from Shrimp Farm	Rec. land of Farmers from illegal Occupiers	Rec. Inheritance Property in favour of women	Total	Bene. Household	BDT	USD
Rajshahi	3	5	0.6	13	0	0	3.96	25.56	1,044	15,460,677	198,214
Dhaka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chittagong	10.3	446.15	0	0	0	0	0.1	456.46	970	18,877,876	2,421,511
Khulna		3.1	0	11	27	1	0.19	42.29	495	25,484,236	326,721
Total	13.3	454.25	0.6	26	27	1	4.25	524.31	1,044	229,822,789	2,946,446

Reg-Registration, Posse- Possession, Rec- Recovering, Bene-Beneficiary, EV- Economic Value, WB- Water Bodies

Additionally, the landless organisation successfully recovered 32.25 acre of private agricultural land and water bodies, which were illegally occupied by powerful individuals. Among the recovered land, 27 acres were under occupation of shrimp-lords, and the rest were farmland. Of the land recovered one acre of agricultural land is owned by a marginal farmer and 4.25 acres of land were inherited by women, but was under occupation of the male members of their families.

The economic value of these resources is equal to Taka 229,822,789. (\$2,946,446 USD) This gives the landless members some degree of empowerment in economic terms, opening up possibilities for them to use the land resources to ensure employment and earn extra income. From the data presented in Table-13, it is evident that the success was highest in Chittagong division.

The Chittagong division being the coastal belt of Bangladesh has large tracts of Khaschar land, so the success was expected. On the other hand, the coastal belt of Khulna division, where commercial shrimp farming is in practice, and the illegal occupation of marginal and small farmers' land is a common story, recovery of land from illegal occupation remains an issue to protest against and organise movements for recovery.

As a result of this movement for establishing land-rights, it can be stated that 1,044 landless families are benefited in terms of food security, and have access to or regained ownership of natural resources. This has also created possibilities for these households to contribute more in sustaining the organisations that gave them these opportunities.

2.3.2 Sustainable Economic Empowerment through Utilisation of Natural Resources

Through collective farming, landless families have secured control over possession on Khasland and water bodies and in turn increased their food security. In the reporting period, the landless group members cultivated rice, pulse and vegetables in the Khasland. They harvested enough food for consumption and also sold some of the excess production for extra income.

Recovery of water bodies created alternative source of income for landless families through fishing and vegetable cultivation during dry season. In most cases not only the landless members but also the community were able to harvest fish for themselves and also for market. There are solid evidences of enhanced food security, additional earning opportunities leading to economic empowerment for landless families as a result of their access to natural resources such as Khasland and open water bodies.

Description	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Khulna	Chittagong	Total
Paddy production	5,267	0	658	34,389	40,314
Pulse production	42	0	46	293	381
Fish production	490	1	2	71	564
Vegetables production (taka)	69,359,050	240,550	4,818,780	15,132,635	89,551,015
Beneficiary families	12,990	129	3,574	10,213	26,906
Economic Value BDT	91,387,500	380,550	5,298,580	26,082,235	123,148,865
USD	1,171,635	4,879	67,931	334,388	1,578,832

Table-10 shows that the economic value of agriculture produce such as paddy, pulse and vegetables is equal to Taka 123,148,865 (\$1,578,832 USD).

This benefited 26,906 families. On average each of the families earned Taka 4,577 (\$58.68 USD).

2.4 Gender

2.4.1 Women's Empowerment and Establishment of Women's Rights

In Bangladesh there are a number of special legislations to address domestic violence against women, but implementation of these legislations is weak. According to the Human Development Report 2014 published by UNDP, the position of Bangladesh among 188 countries was 142 (Medium human development category).

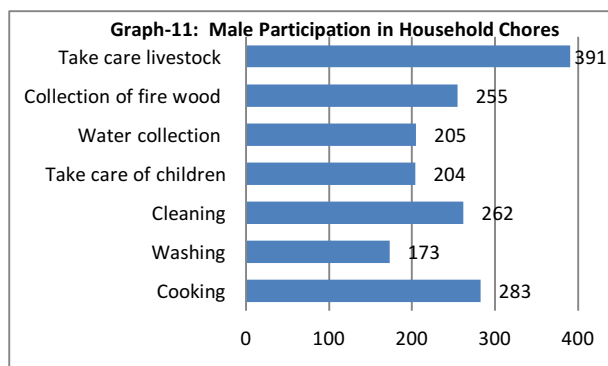
Also according to a survey conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in 2013, 87% of married women experienced domestic violence mainly from their husbands. A study conducted by the Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission noted that 62% of women were beaten by their husbands and family members and of them only 18% had availed of the justice system, while 30% did not take any legal step since violence is considered a family matter.

The national survey on child marriage conducted by Plan Bangladesh and ICDDR-B in 2013 shows that Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child marriages in the world. According to this survey, 66% of girls get married before the age of 18, and over one third of the girls are married before the age of 15. The study also noted that progress towards elimination of child marriage is slow.

Nijera Kori and the landless organisation recognise that gender inequalities are socially constructed and that in a societal context like that of Bangladesh, women's empowerment requires transformation of current political and social relations, and control over economic resources. Nijera Kori's work therefore focuses to enhance women's dignity and to improve their access to and control over resources. The impact of Nijera Kori's work is assessed based on four indicators as discussed in the sections below.

2.4.2 Changes within the Household

Gender relations within the household are important aspects to consider in order to changing the patriarchal social values and norms. In this context, Nijera Kori and the landless organisation encourage women and men to work together, and carry out a structured program of sensitising men's groups alongside women's group. This has created some space for women to establish better rights within the home. In many cases, women reported positive changes in their relationships with husbands in terms of increased mutual respect, caring and co-operation and a decline in domestic violence, and spoke of better participation in the household decision making process.



According to our data (see **Graph-11**), 1,773 landless male members reported on their participation in domestic work including: cleaning the house, taking care of children, and helping with cooking and washing. It is to be noted that, the highest number of male participation was in taking care of livestock and lowest participation was in washing. In addition to that, 16,860 landless member

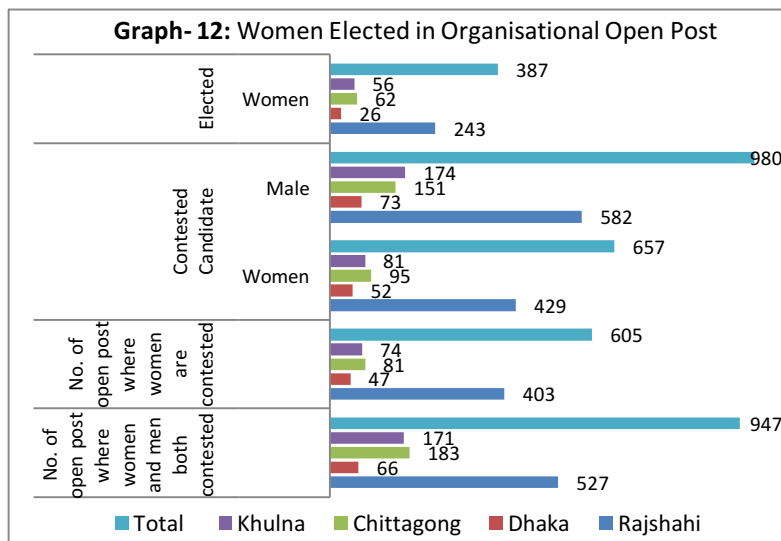
families reported that presently family decisions are taken through mutual discussions between the men and women. This indicates an increasing level of respect and acceptance of women in the society. This is a much desired positive change of the societal norms.

2.4.3 Women Leadership within Landless Organisation

Nijera Kori and the landless organisations recognise that developing collective leadership of women and men within the organisation is a challenge, which needs to be addressed seriously. Participation of women in mobilisation, meetings and all other activities demonstrate active participation of women, but their voice is still not heard as expected and their leadership is undermined. Therefore, to encourage women's leadership, landless organisations and NijeraKori adopted a two-pronged strategy. Firstly, in both female and male group meetings, women's issues were given high priority in the discussions. Secondly, trainings and workshops on leadership development were organised particularly on women issues. Issues and concepts such as gender, patriarchy, women's right, violence against women etc. were included in the cultural activities and legal trainings.

Furthermore, in the membership of committees at various levels (village, union, upazila, anchal etc.) 50% seats are kept reserved for women, but to be elected by both female and male members' votes. For the rest of the seats, women members are encouraged to contest as well.

During the reporting period, in the election of the committee's open seats (posts for which both women and men members are eligible to contest), 657 women members contested against 852 male members in 605 open post, and 387 women were elected. The rate of women's success in the election to the committee is 59%.



Data presented in **Graph-12** also shows that the highest number of women's participation in the election as well as success was in Rajshahi division, followed by Chittagong division. The higher rate of women's participation in the election is a testimony of value changes within the landless organisation in terms of acceptance of women's leadership. This is another milestone of enhanced women's leadership. It is worth noting that among the elected women

members, 8 are from the "excluded or ethnic minority" communities. Acceptance of ethnic minorities in the leadership position is another signal of positive change.

2.4.4 Raising Collective Voice and Encouraging Participation of Men in Movements to Stop Violence against Women

The landless organisation, through regular group meetings, monitor incidents of violence against women within their groups and the society. Furthermore, the landless 'Watch Sub-committee on Gender' carries out its own monitoring within the working area. The cultural activities play a crucial role to address the issue of violence against women. Consequently, more and more women now raise their voices against violence.

This break in the culture of silence is a positive change. In the reporting period, the landless group has actively resisted violence against women in two ways – firstly, by organising collective mobilisation to stop violence against women; and secondly, by monitoring and participating in the *shalish* to ensure justice and establish women's rights through legal actions.

Analysis of data presented in Table-15, shows that in the reporting period, a total of 743 movements on violence against women were organised collectively. Among these, in 709 of the movements (95%), the landless organisations were successful in materialising their demands. It is worth noting that out of the total 743 movements, 249 movements were initially started by male landless groups.

Division	No. of total Movement	Movement won	Stop Child Marriages	Stop Forcible Divorces	Stop Polygamy	Stop Domestic Violence	Stop Dowry Marriages	Recover Maintenance Allowance
Rajshahi	301	296	35	34	19	115	47	31
Dhaka	31	26	2	7	0	26	1	2
Chittagong	363	355	24	30	20	136	49	23
Khulna	48	32	4	5	1	8	8	1
Total	743	709	65	76	40	285	105	57

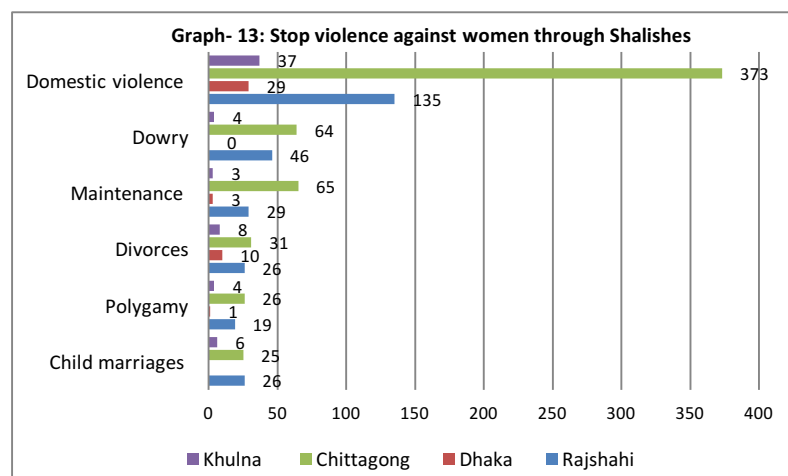
Due to these movements (described in Table-15), 65 child marriages were stopped; 105 dowry

marriages were avoided; 76 irrational divorces were prevented; 40 polygamy issues brought to justice; 285 case of domestic violence were stopped and 57 recovered maintenance.

2.4.5 Ensuring Justice and Access to Inheritance Property

Unequal social and economic structure (based on class and gender) is one of the major obstacles towards ensuring women's right and empowerment. On the other hand, political use of religion also often undermines women's rights. Therefore, violation of women's rights in rural Bangladesh is increasing. To redress this, Nijera Kori and the landless organisation emphasise on the power of collective mobilisation describes above. In the reporting period, the landless organisations devoted specific attention to ensuring justice and the establishment of the right to inheritance of property. A total of 44 collective mobilisations were organised for realising inheritance property rights. As result of these, 35 women got the title of 4.25 acres of land which

was till then under the possession of their male family members.



Additionally, during the reporting period, the landless organisation has conducted 1,619 *shalish*, (Alternative Dispute Resolution) of which 1,165 were related to women's rights and violence on women.

Graph-13 shows the types of cases addressed during the reporting period. 12% of them are on issues of dowry; 8%

related to divorces; 5% on polygamy; 6% related to child marriages; 59% on domestic violence and 10% on the claiming of maintenance allowances. Of the 1,165 *shalish* related to women's right and violence against women, 1,125 cases were resolved in favour of the women.

Further 19 shalish were stopped as a result of the active role of the group members when adjudication of the involved criminal cases did not fall within the scope of shalish system. Out of these, 5 cases were filed in a formal court. The rate of legal action taken by the landless groups is 26%. Due to the support and co-operation given by the landless groups, women victims were able to file cases against the culprits in the formal court and thus, were able to access justice.

Description	Taka	USD	Beneficiary
Recover treatment cost, dowry and maintenance allowances	3,749,250	48,067	1,165
Value of inheritance property	1,751,000	22,449	35
Total	5,500,250	70,516	1,200

Table-16 shows that, the economic value of inheritance property and other cost recovered due to proper justice is equivalent to Taka 5,500,250 (\$70,516 USD). This is another

economic indicator of the value of awareness building and mobilisation activities.

2.4.6 State Recognition of Contribution Made by Women Landless Members and Recognition of Leadership

The 'Joyeeta Onneshone Bangladesh' is a national program initiated by the Women Affairs Department of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. The program gives awards to five women in five categories from each of the seven administrative divisions of Bangladesh. The five categories are: successful mothers; education and service; overcoming repression; role in social development; and becoming economically self-reliant. Joyeeta Onneshone Bangladesh, has had a tremendous impact on the society. Grassroots women have responded well to the initiative, and the program is considered as a positive indicator of women's empowerment. Recognition via the Joyeeta award further encourages women to face various challenges more confidently and become role models for the society.

In the reporting period, 34 women landless members were selected for the Joyeeta award. 10 of them were recognised in the category for development in society; 5 in the successful mother category; 5 for economic success; 8 for erasing the trauma of violence against women and starting a new life; and finally 6 in the education and service category. All of them were honoured by the government through official award giving ceremonies. This recognition of landless women members by the family, society and the government is an extremely positive step towards women's empowerment and encourages more women to take part in the development process.

Figure 1: Group structure

CHAPTER THREE:

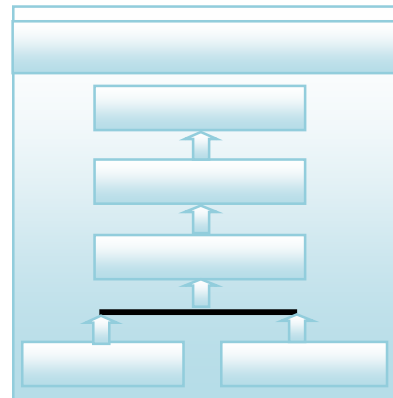
Landless Groups and Their Activities

3. Approach to organisation of Landless groups and their structures

Primary landless groups (*shamity*) are formed with a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 30 members. Male and female members are organised into separate groups to ensure that at the initial stage of group formation, the women get a safe space of their own to express their voice and concerns in a predominantly patriarchal society, which often excludes women from public spheres. At a later stage, when both women and men are more aware, as well as receptive and able to work together as equals, committees are formed with both male and female representation. The committee is formed once group membership covers two-thirds of the target population of a particular village, union and upazila (See Figure-1)

Upazila
Union
Village

Women Male group



However, at times, to give impetus to organisational activities, the members decide to form ad-hoc co-ordination committees called 'area committees' in areas where membership coverage is less than two-thirds. The formation and re-organisation of the committees at every level is achieved through an annual convention of landless groups. This process gradually strengthens the landless groups, and the committee members gain credibility in their own communities, which ultimately helps the group to participate in the local decision making structures.

3.1 Formation of landless group and members

Analysis of achievement:

The fundamental basis of awareness building activities is organising neglected and deprived men and women in the society, particularly the ultra-poor. Through discussions the landless women and men are given the realisation on the need to develop solidarity among themselves and encouraged to form groups. This process also helps them to analyse and understand the nature and basis of disparities in society and their own role within it. The groups can then begin to take steps to articulate their demands and realise their rights.

Description	Plan			Achievement			%
	W	M	T	W	M	T	
Rajshahi	29	21	50	27	8	35	70
Dhaka	8	6	14	7	4	11	79
Chittagong	33	29	62	34	18	52	84
Khulna	22	12	34	13	3	16	47
Total	92	68	160	81	33	114	71

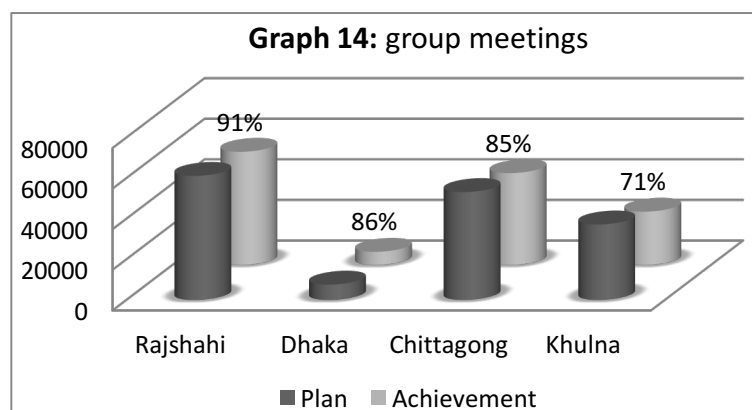
As presented in **Table-17**, the plan for this year was to form **251** groups (W: 145 and M: 106). The actual achievement is 114 (W: 81 and M: 33), which is 71% (M: 88% and M: 49%) of the targeted output.

Despite falling short of the planned target, the formation of more women groups is a powerful sign of women's desire to establish their rights and gaining empowerment by defying the patriarchal values in both society and home.

Data presented in **Table-17** gives division-wise achievements; which is 70% in Rajshahi, 79% in Dhaka, 84% in Chittagong and 47% in Khulna. At present, the total number of *adivasi*(indigenous) groups is **93** (W: 42 and M: 57) covering 1,700 indigenou people. Short-fall in realisation of target is mainly due to political tention, militant killings, and the municipality election. The 251 new groups received membership of **2,203** (W: 1,581 and M: 622) individuals

Nijera Kori's awareness building activities are not limited merely to the landless members themselves. Family members of landless group members also benefit from the activities through inclusion in activities such as listening to group discussions and people's songs, watching people's dramas, and participating in the movements. They eventually become involved in various activities of Nijera Kori.

Group meeting is the fundamental tool of awarness building process. These meetings are used for dissemination of information, which plays a very important role in building the foundation of people's power. Therefore, much emphasis given to group meetings and they remain a pivotal activity in the development of people's organisations. In the group meetings the members



determine the topics for discussion based on their experiences and recognised knowledge gaps. The members learn through sharing of their personal experiences and enhance their knowledge by attending the training courses. The members also discuss local issues in group meetings and work out strategies to address them. The groups also select who will attend training courses or serve as

mediators in the *shalish*. All these are largely decided in a participatory way and such process continue to build their capacities to work together.

The group members also co-ordinate organisational activities in the working areas and join forces to organise representative meetings with leaders and members of various groups for undertaking joint initiatives those are considered important. During the reporting period number 133,637 (W:86,892 and M:46,745) meetings were organised against the planned target of 158,857 (see annex Table-4). The rate of achievement is 84%. It is to be noted that, 72% group meetings were initiated/moderated by the landless groups. Details of meetings per divisional is presented in **Graph-14**, and score per division is 91% in Rajshahi, 86% in Dhaka, 85% in Chittagong and 71% in Khulna.

In addition to regular group meetings during the reporting period, 4,539 annual group meetings were held against the planned 5,407 for coordination and monitoring. The rate of achievement is 84%. In these meetings the members review their activities to identify their weaknesses and strengths. During such meetings the members also elect their leadersto institutionalise the culture of democracy.

Holding of regular group meetings, participating in workshops, trainings and collective mobilisations all contributes to enhance members level of understanding and awareness. In this process, when at least half of the members of any group reaches a same or common level of understanding and conceptual clarity the group is elevated to the next level, whereby they can continue to gain tools to become self-reliant. Details precondition and indication to assess level of group consciousness **(Box-1)**

During the reporting period, a total of 67 landless groups (W: 43 and M: 24) were promoted from the primary to secondary level. The target was 63(W: 35 and M: 28). The rate of achievement is 106% (W: 123% and M: 86%). It should be noted that more women's groups were promoted from the primary to the secondary level than the men's groups. This in itself is a positive indication. On the other hand in the reporting period, the number of promotions of groups from secondary level to third level was 3 (W: 1 and M: 2) against the target of 6 (W:2 and M:4). The rate of achievement is 50%.

At the end of December 2015, there were 6,484 (W: 3,898 and M: 2,586) groups at primary level; 3,499 (W: 1,865 and M: 1,634) groups at secondary level and 529 (W: 303 and M: 226) groups at the tertiary level.

Co-ordination, collective review and monitoring are some of the important processes for building

an autonomous organisation. Therefore, the groups organise representative and joint meetings. During the reporting period, 429 representative meetings were organised against the plan of 391. Additionally, 359 joint meetings were held against the planned target of 304 (see annex Table-5). In these meetings, the groups reviewed their achievements and formulated plan of action to facilitate collective mobilisation for establishing their rights.

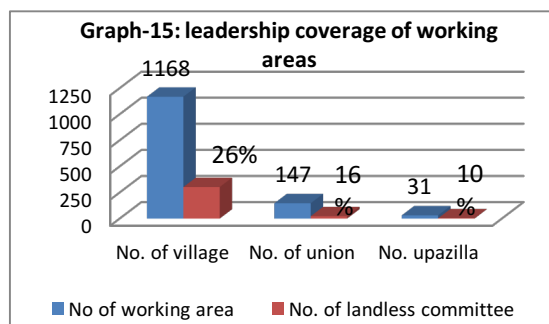
3.2 Formation of landless committee to enhance cohesion and building collective leadership

Committees are formed at the village, union & upazila levels when a recognisable percentage of the target populations are enrolled as group members. For example, when 66% of the target population in a village is organised, a village committee is formed with seven members.

Box-1:	
Brief indicator for assessment of level of group consciousness	
Primary Level	
Groups at this level concentrate on developing basic awareness, organising members of similar class, learning to trust and sympathise with members of the same class. <i>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.</i>	
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 an 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. <i>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.</i>	
TertiaryLevel	
At this level the group must be able to: distinguish exploitation and oppression (and take necessary steps against them), organise movements by ensuring the support of the local people, take initiative for publicity at the national level, strengthen the organisational activities of the villages, ensure support of the neighbouring villages, expand and enlarge support of the well-wishers, and raise the cultural and awareness amongst people. <i>The group should specifically develop a clear conception about exploitation, organise for the group savings to be invested in joint ventures, raise cultural awareness amongst the masses, & take responsibility for conducting local committees.</i>	

Similarly, when 66% of the total villages of any union are covered under the programme, a union committee is formed with thirteen representatives. The same principle is also followed for formation of the upazila committee, where the committee is formed with twenty-one members. When it is not possible to form a committee at the union or upazila level, an area committee is often formed to support and co-ordinate activities, ensure accountability and organise right-based movements. The organising committee in such cases is elected for one year through an open voting process during the annual group convention.

A total of 356 landless committees at various levels have been reported to be active through mobilisation, co-ordination and organisation of issue-based programmes. As of December 2015, the total number of committees are 356 consisting of 302 village committees, 23 union committees, 3 upazila committees and 28 at the area-level. Within the working area of Nijera Kori, committees exist in 26% of the villages, 16% unions and 10% upazilas (see Graph-15). These committees are increasingly being recognised as a legitimate voice of the poor within the community. These committees also facilitate building linkage with the Union Parishad.



The landless committees regularly review and monitor their activities, and guide their members to take play active role for the development of collective leadership and monitoring progress. In the reporting period, 2,107 village committee meetings were held against the target 2,310. For union committee meetings this figure is 188 against the target 200 and 25 for upazila committee against the target of 29; and 230 area committee meetings against the target 241. Rate of achievement is 91% for village, 94%; union, 86% for upazila, and 95% for area committees.

In the reporting period the landless committee facilitated a total of 1,111 mobilisation events for establishing rights. Of these mobilisations, 743 addressed violence against women, 17 resisted fundamentalism, 190 concerned establishing rights to natural resources such as Khasland and water-bodies, and 161 addressing local corruption and irregularities. This data are self explanatory in terms of groups march towards establishing fundamental rights and justice.

Finally, the landless groups organised group convention to review their activities, select issues for mass actions and carryout risk analysis to finalise future action plan. As per the plan, rate of implementation of landless committee conventions was 87% at the village level, 100% at the union level and 57% at the area level (see Table 18). In these group conventions, in addition to reviewing of activities and finalising action plan for the following year, the members also elected the new committee members. (See annex Table-7) Results of committee election per division are presented in Table-19. In the election of 947 open seats (seats in which both women and men can contest), 657 women members and 980 male members contested.

	Village	Union	Area
Plan	211	4	7
Achievement	184	4	4

In the election, a total of 657 women members, who contested against the male members in 605 post, and were elected in the open posts for the different landless committees. In the election 39% women were elected against their male members. It may be mentioned that out

Table-19: Women elected in open post of committee

Description	No. of open post where women and men both contested	No. of open post where women are contested	Contested Candidate		Elected
			Women	Male	Women
Rajshahi	527	403	429	582	243
Dhaka	66	47	52	73	26
Chittagong	183	81	95	151	62
Khulna	171	74	81	174	56
Total	947	605	657	980	387

of elected women members, 99 were from women-headed households. This is a very significant positive indication of empowerment of the most vulnerable women in society.

Acceptance and election of women members for leadership is a significant development and sign women's

empowerment and their recognition in society. Election of single women especially in an open seat, is rather remarkable and demonstrate empowerment of deprived and oppressed women.

3.3 Group savings and bank account

Group savings are collected to support organisational activities and undertake joint economic activities. The rate of contribution is decided by consensus. The groups take full responsibility for managing the accounts, but Nijera Kori staff assists with book keeping. No staff of Nijera Kori ever gets involved in collection of funds or operate these accounts.

Analysis of achievement

During the reporting period, the landless group mobilised Taka 11,852,063 (W: 7,274,144 and M: 4,577,919) as group savings. This is equivalent to USD \$151,950. The rate of achievement against the target is 58%. To manage these funds 70 collective bank accounts (W: 58 and M: 12) have been opened (details in Annex table 8 and 9). The members' contributions to group savings accounts indicate their aspiration and commitment to achieving self-sufficiency.

In this reporting period, the members, through the collective decisions distributed a Taka 19,524,784 equivalent USD \$240,318 (W: 12,420,299 and M: 7,104,485) to its to meet their personal immediate needs (production and consumption) and temporary crises.

Mobilisation of group savings and its use to help members during the crisis is a good testimony of the groups' awareness and commitments to support each other to overcome seasonal unemployment which is rather common in the rural agrarian society of Bangladesh. The group savings and its use substantially reduced members' dependency on the traditional money lending system practiced by the village *mahajans* and/or micro credit lending programmes of the numerous NGOs.

The group savings is not only used for addressing unforeseen crisis faced by members, but also for undertaking collective economic activities and covering costs of various group activities such as, organising local workshops, trainings, group conventions, providing legal support, organising protest-movements and cultural activities.

For such collective activities, the landless groups have spent a total of Taka 3,821,073 (\$48,988 USD). In addition to the above activities, the landless organisations have also provided scholarships to meritorious students of the members, assistance for medical expenses, and celebrating dowry free marriages (see Annex Table-17). The above activities clearly demonstrate the growing awareness and commitment for collective ideology among the members, contributing in strengthening the process of social mobilisation — the core focus of the work of Nijera Kori. A total 14,205 members and individuals from the community benefitted through such direct support.

3.4 Use of group savings in a collective form

The main purpose of savings by the landless groups is to initiate and conduct collective economic activities. This process contributes in developing an ideology of collectivism. As a result of collective economic activities, the bond between the members gets strengthened. The members become accustomed to making collective decisions; they learn to execute and manage activities in co-operation with each other and gain an understanding of the concept of equal distribution. The group members themselves through such processes can identify their abilities and weaknesses; they can decide the course of action and by making and implementing their decisions at the field-level, they gain practical experience of collective work and principle of equity in sharing benefits. This is a very positive practice.

Analysis of achievement

The landless groups, instead of borrowing money from NGOs (under micro-credit program), bank or money-lenders are able to undertake collective economic activities with their own group savings. The activities pursued by the landless groups include cultivation of crops, fish farming, rearing of cattle, buying rickshaws and small businesses. These collective economic activities also contribute in developing a sense of solidarity amongst themselves. Through these activities the members also get exposed to dynamics of effective collective management and equal distribution, as well as learn to detect problems, risks and weaknesses of their various activities. The self-reliance of the landless groups' collective economic activity with group savings is a gesture of economic sustainability and this is a positive sign. These activities through creation of jobs pave the way for self-reliance.

In the reporting year, 223 (W: 139 and M:84) new groups started collective economic activities with own savings. By the end of December 2015, of the 10,512 landless groups 52% were involved in collective economic activities. Number of groups engaged in collective economic activities is highest in Chittagong division, followed by Rajshahi and Khulna. Engagement of women's group in collective economic activities was 48%, which is slightly less compared to men groups. As of end December 2015, a total of 5,503 (W: 2,621 and M: 2,882) groups were involved in collective economic activities. These groups are engaged in a variety of activities. 5,511 groups have taken up collective agricultural projects, 262 are in fishery, 644 in livestock rearing and 3,554 in small businesses and operating/pulling of rickshaw van (See annex Table-13).

At the same time 98 groups (W: 48 and M: 46) had to close down their collective enterprises, at least temporarily, for not being able to renew their lease of Khasland and water-bodies, and/or buying new livestock during the reporting period.

The landless groups invested Taka 70,332,400 (\$901,697 USD) out of their savings fund for various collective economic enterprises. This investment gave them a profit of Taka 5,352,926 (\$68,627 USD), of which share of women's group is Taka 1,372,930 (\$17,602 USD) and for men's group this comes to Taka 3,979,996 (\$51,026 USD). The rate of return is around 8%. In terms of employment, the collective activities generated work for 7,485 (W: 2,552 and M: 4,933) members for a period of 6 months, meaning 1,302,390 labour days.

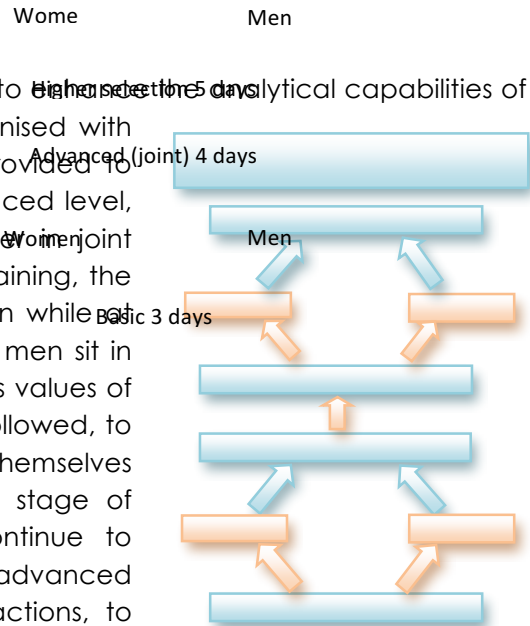
Training structure

Higher (joint) 10 days

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 Awareness raising and capacity building activities

Nijera Kori on a regular basis organises training sessions to enhance the analytical capabilities of the group members. Such trainings are normally organised with 20-25 participants. At the basic level, trainings are provided to female and male members separately; while at advanced level, both female and male members participate together in joint training sessions. Again, at the higher selection level training, the sessions are organised separately for women and men while at the advanced level of such training, the women and men sit in joint session. In recognition of the existing socio-religious values of the society, the gender dis-aggregated approach is followed, to create space for women so that they can express themselves freely and interact with fellow women at the initial stage of organisation building. Eventually as the groups continue to mature, joint sessions are organised at higher and/or advanced levels to create an environment of reciprocal interactions, to develop greater understanding and overcome gender bias.



When special training sessions are organised at the request of the groups, they are normally organised as joint sessions. It is worth noting that cultural trainings, both at the basic and advanced levels, are organised jointly with female and male cultural group members.

Analysis of achievement

Trained members hold discussions to share their learning with other group members, encouraging them to participate in the discussions and relay the material to them in a way that is easily understood. Music, role-play and story-telling are also used as tools to make the discussions more practical and lively.

With the experience gained through trainings, the members become capable of analysing local issues and determining the most appropriate courses of action. Once the members gain awareness through training, they are more willing and better-equipped to shoulder responsibility. In group settings, discussions become in-depth, deliberative, and analytical. In the reporting period, 1,014 (W: 591 and M: 423) members participated in different training programs against the planned target of 1,461 (W:738 and M:723; See Table-3 below). In the joint trainings participation of women was 46% and 54% men.

Description of Trainings	Plan			Achievement		
	W	M	T	W	M	T
Basic	299	188	487	232	108	340
Advance	53	49	102	47	45	92
Total Core	352	237	589	279	153	432
Land and Women	39	51	90	41	34	75
Citizen right & constitutional guarantees	48	71	119	37	33	70
Gender training	46	44	90	19	18	37
Food Sovereignty & Land Use	41	58	99	28	26	54
Land reform, Land law & land rights	36	75	111	44	30	74
Leadership Development	38	40	78	25	25	50
Right to Information	12	13	25	0	0	0
Organic manure	22	22	44	23	21	44
Agricultural and women	34	34	68	34	33	67
Collective production & management	32	28	60	20	15	35
Climate change & food sovereignty	12	25	37	14	11	25
Agricultural Rights	4	4	8	4	4	8
Family Law, Patriarchy & Role of Women	12	11	23	13	10	23
Family Law, access to Service and Natural Resources	10	10	20	10	10	20
Sub Total	386	486	872	312	270	582
Total	738	723	1,461	591	423	1,014

Due to financial constraints few trainings could not be organised though all technical preparations were put in place. As a result, the number of trainings is less as compare to plan target (see annex Table-20 below).

Analysis of data as presented in Table-20, shows that, in the activity year, participation of women members in training was higher than that of male members. This demonstrates women's increased mobility and enhanced level of awareness, which is a pre-condition of women's empowerment.

The trained members are now facilitating discussions on various thematic subjects of concern in regular group meetings. They are also taking the lead in ensuring more engaged participation of members in the discussion and follow-up activities. Consequently, the quality of discussion and level of participation in the group meetings have improved remarkably.

4.2 Follow-up trainings

Follow-up training is very important to ensure effectiveness of the trainings programme that aims to building awareness about human rights, injustices in society and their consequences. In the follow-up trainings the trained members go through analyses of their own lived experiences in relation to the broader socio-political context. They analyses local issues in the light of the theoretical knowledge gained during the trainings. As a result, there is a noticeable increase in the level of awareness among the members. In addition, all the members analyses issues and decide on strategies based on their real life experiences. This makes the activities of the trained members more dynamic (see Annex Table-11). During the reporting period, 32 follow-up trainings were conducted against the target of 34. A total of 847 members (W: 458 and M: 389) participated in these follow-up trainings (see Annex Table-11).

Also in the reporting period, 101 forum meetings were held against the target 113. Rate of achievement is 89%. It mentioned that, each of the forums consists of higher-level women and men leaders. At present, 28 forum activities have been conducted.

4.3 Workshops at local level

Landless groups organise day-long field-level workshop to analyse their activities, identify organisational strengths and weakness, identify local issues to address, carry out risk analysis and making decisions about future activities. During the past few years, such day-long workshops are being held regularly and with participation of around 25-30 members.

Achievement

During the period, a series of thematic workshops were organised. A total of 4,748 members (W: 2,920 and M:1,828) participated in these workshops (details in annex Table-26). Women's participation in the workshops was higher than that of men. This higher rate of women's participation is a clear sign of their interest in acquiring knowledge and taking leadership in initiating social change. **Table-21** gives details of women/men distribution of participants in the workshops.

Description	Table-21: Participants in workshops						
	Plan			Achievement			%
	W	M	T	W	M	Total	
Rajshahi	867	808	1,675	933	741	1,674	100
Dhaka	376	349	725	391	322	713	98
Chittagong	947	703	1,650	1,184	529	1,713	104
Khulna	399	326	725	412	236	648	89
Total	2589	2,186	4,775	2,920	1,828	4,748	99

In the reporting year importance was given to ensure participation particularly of members who migrated outside of the working areas for employment. Due to such seasonal migration, some 30% workshops were held for these landless people when

they returned home. This initiative contributed to reduce gap between general landless members and leaders of the organisation. Moreover, in the activity year, importance was given to organise thematic workshops to increase the awareness of the members and enhance their proficiency. This helped to cover the knowledge gap due to less number trainings in the reporting period.

4.4 Landless cultural group and its activities

Nijera Kori believes that cultural activities are an integral part of social mobilisation. The program is designed to develop human qualities, increase social consciousness. The program also enables people to conceptualise social injustices and depict them through stories and play to bring changes in the attitudes, overcoming superstition, dependency and ignorance. In this effort weekly discussions are held for 2-3 hours and through this process, 15-20 members are selected to form a group. The group performs issue-based dramas and songs in various working areas and plays a critical supporting role in mobilising people.

Analysis of achievement

Cultural activity of the landless groups

Currently there are 54 cultural groups and activities undertaken by these groups are reported in **Table-22**. In the reporting period there was one cultural training at basic level with 20 participants (W: 8 and M:12) and 235 cultural group members participated in the day-long drama-based workshops. During the training and workshops, the participants composed 30 new dramas covering issues such as women's right (16); rights of agricultural workers (7); against fundamentalism (3); rights to Khasland and water bodies (4) and (5) common folksongs reflecting on various social issues.

Description	P	A	%
Meetings of cultural group	447	418	94
Cultural discussion	30	25	83
Drama performance	273	247	90
Padajatra/Drama festival	7	7	100
Cultural function by children	30	51	170
Cultural workshop	561	235	42
Cultural training (basic)	20	20	100
<i>(P=Plan, A=Achievement)</i>			

The cultural groups organise 2-5 days long cultural festival each year. During this period the troupes make door to door visits in the village and also perform in the *haat* (bazaar) in their area. In the reporting period, 7 'Cultural Long March' were organised. The themes were against commercial agricultural and intrusion of saline water in the agricultural fields; establishment of agricultural workers rights and recognition of women as farmer; against violence on women; women's right on resources; against fundamentalism and communalism and child marriages. Cultural Long March had positive impact in generating public opinion.

The landless cultural groups were invited by 7 upazila level government administrations for performing drama and songs in national and international day celebration events. This means in 23% working upazilas the landless cultural groups received this recognition. And interestingly enough the groups were requested to perform addressing violence against women. This indicates the work of the landless organisations in stopping violence on women and ensuring justice has had impacts. This also contributed to build relation and linkage, as well as recognition of the landless organisation.

It is worth noting that this year, 51 women members performed for the first time in the drama and musical events that were held in public space such as local markets and school grounds. The participation of women members in the cultural activities is an indication of women's freedom, empowerment and decision-making.

Children's cultural groups, comprised of the children of the landless group members, staged 51 dramas. Gradually the children's cultural group is becoming stronger and popular in all the activity areas of Nijera Kori. The children teams are the new generation activists who are expected to carry forward the work towards its desired goals. Additionally, the landless cultural team commemorated national and international days.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.1 Legal aid

As the movements of the landless organisations for establishing basic rights become stronger, the voices of the disadvantaged people gradually gain more recognition from the State and society. However, this is not without challenge. The local elite and the vested-interest groups systematically try to harass the landless groups and often through filing false lawsuits and using the police to persecute them. In such context, legal recourse is one of the most potent means for the landless people to defend their rights. With the rise of legal suits it becomes difficult for landless groups to pursue these legal battles. At this stage they turn to Nijera Kori for financial support. In such situation, depending on the merits of the cases from the view point of their relevance for establishing the rights of the landless groups, Nijera Kori provides necessary legal and finance support.

Achievements

During the reporting period, 18 new legal cases were conducted (see Table 23). Among these cases, 4 were filed by the local influentials and the rest 14 were filed by the groups. Of the cases filed by the landless groups, 6 cases are concerning violence against women, and one was filled by the rich influential. Against illegal occupation of Khasland by *jotdars*, the landless groups filed 5 cases. In response to this, the local influential people have filed 1 case. On the other hand, the local influential filed 3 criminal cases against the landless members, whereas landless members filed 2 cases for self-protection. The landless groups are trying to use legal means to establish justice in society and eventually establishing their own rights, while the local influentials are filing cases only to harass the landless members with the intention of denial of justice.

Characteristics of cases	New cases	Resolved cases			
		T	I	Ag	A
Total	18	65	59	6	2
Criminal	5	37	34	3	2
Groups of the plaintiffs	3	12	9	6	2
Groups of the accused	2	25	25	0	0
Civil	6	14	13	1	0
Groups of the plaintiffs	5	4	3	1	0
Groups of the accused	1	10	10	0	0
Violence against Women	7	14	12	2	0
Groups of the plaintiffs	6	13	11	2	0
Groups of the accused	1	1	1	0	0
T= Total, I = infavour, Ag= Against, A= Appeal					

Of all the cases filed during this reporting period and previous years by both the landless groups and the influential people, 65 have been settled out of total 718. Among these 65 cases the landless groups in 59 cases received the verdict in their favour, while against the verdict of another two cases the groups have appealed in higher court.

The 65 cases that have been settled of them 36 of these were filed by the local influential groups against landless groups and 14 cases were concerning khasland and water bodies, and of them 10 cases were filed by the local influential. And interestingly enough the rich influential did not appeal against the verdicts in the higher court. Out of 37 criminal cases that have been settled, landless groups received verdict in their favour for 25 and in these cases also the local influential, they did not appeal in higher courts.

Finally, 14 cases on the issue of violence on women have been settled. 13 of them were filed by the landless groups to seek justice and prevent violence on women. The overall results throughout the reporting period indicate that the landless groups have gained considerable strength and now well positioned to challenge the local power holders through legal means as well.

For ensuring justice and establishing their rights through legal process the landless groups have spent Taka 772,240 (\$ 9,901USD) from their group savings. This spending demonstrates their level of awareness and commitment to establish their rights and justice in society. By the end of December 2015 total number of court cases was 718, and of them, Nijera Kori assisted in 201 cases, whilst 517 cases were pursued by the groups themselves based on their own resources.

5.2 Educational activities

Due to lack of awareness and absence of public schools, children of the poorer families start to work at a very early age. The landless groups over the years have undertaken various programs to reverse this. The groups also recognise that children from the disadvantaged background have the ability to realise their right to education.

Achievement

The landless organisations over the period succeeded to establish 30 primary schools, 4 junior high schools and 1 high school to give access to education of their own children and children from other poor. The number of students enrolled in these schools stand to 48,231 (*Girl students: 25,342 and Boy students: 22,889*). The rate of increase in the number of female students is recorded 53% which is higher than male students. The higher enrolment of female students, particularly in the secondary schools in the remote areas, is a positive indicator of growing consciousness and recognition of the importance and rights of women's education within the landless organisation.

Description	Number of students		
	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary	18,401	13,612	32,013
Junior high schools	5,017	6,928	11,945
High schools	1,924	2,349	4,273
Total	25,342	22,889	48,231
Total No. of students with stipend	9,826	5,249	15,075

A total number of 15,075 students received government grants for education (*Girl students: 9,826 and Boy students: 5,249*) in the reporting period. This rate is 5% higher than the previous year. And unfortunately a total of 219 students (*Girl students: 141 and Boy students: 205*) were forced to drop-out from schools in the reporting period for employment.

The landless groups spent a total of Taka 79,000(\$1,013 USD) from their group savings to purchase books and notebooks and support other cost for students. Of this amount, around Taka 28,440 (\$365 USD) was spent to support the children of non-group members.

The landless organisations monitor the educational activities or program in their schools on a regular basis. Assemblies are held in every school. Furthermore, the schools also organise sports, discussion meetings and cultural functions. The members of landless organisations regularly held discussion with the guardians of the students on the necessity of education. If a student stop coming to school or if his/her absence rate suddenly increases, the teachers and landless members visit his/her house, collected information, and take necessary steps.

5.3 RTI Application and access to information

During the reporting period, the landless group members submitted a total of 67 applications under the RTI Act to obtain information. These included 7 applications concerning health service; 24 on safety-net programme; 5 regarding Khasland and water bodies; 18 about local development projects; 12 on education (one with reference to Masjid based education-1) and one for fisheries. Of these 69 applications, 13 applications were submitted by women's group. In response to 67 applications the groups received information against 63 applications.

During this period the landless group members also submitted 4 appeal applications and in all these cases they received the information that was requested for.

Additionally, the landless groups submitted 2 complaints to the Right to Information Commission. In both cases hearing sessions were held and the judgment was passed in favour of the landless.

A summary of application submitted by the groups requesting for information, the information received and experience of landless members.

Summary of application analysis see table below

Table 25: RTI Applications						
Description	No. of RTI Applications		Total	Information Recived		Total
	April to December -2015	Pending Application		April to December-2015	From Pending Application	
Primary applications	67	12	79	63	2	65
Appeal applications	4	2	6	4	-	4
Complain application	2	-	2	2	-	2

CHAPTER SIX

6. Advocacy and networking

Nijera Kori through its program aims to enhance the collective ability of the masses so that they can establish their rights through grassroots movements. Such local level mass actions mobilise public support and creates opportunities for local-level joint initiatives to create pressure on policy makers at various levels. Thus, mobilisation of the masses and coalition-building between the landless and different professional groups remain central to the core objectives 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 levels often with the participation of landless organisations.

6.1 At Local Level

- **Collective movements:** In the reporting period, the groups organised 1,111 marches and/or demonstrations. Of these 743 addressing violence against women, 17 resisting fundamentalism, 190 for establishing rights of the landless over local resources, and 161 addressing local-level corruption and irregularities.
- **Networking with local activist groups:** Though the movements were organised by the landless groups, they received active support from professionals, political and cultural workers, women's organisations, other development organisations, local clubs, rickshaw-bus-truck driver's samity (association) and school students. This is a positive achievement in developing public relations and networks at local levels. Due to solidarity with others the landless organisations were successful in having their demands met on 805 issues.
- **Dialogue with local decision-makers and activists:** In this reporting period, the landless organisations held 6,249 meetings concerning local issues with local civic bodies and local government administration in different districts. These opinion-sharing meetings were held 2,198 times at the initiative of the government administration and local institutions and 4,051 times at the initiative of the landless groups. These meetings are positive steps towards solving local issues, collecting reliable information, ensuring accountability and establishing rights, and above all recognition of the landless group as a legitimate body.
- **Local and national newspaper reports:** 303 news reports were published in 11 local-national newspapers on the demands and movements of the landless on various issues. Among them, 49 were for establishment of rights to khasland, 37 for removal of illegal land grabbers, 14 for resisting industrial shrimp cultivation, 9 for establishing land rights of the excluded community, and 194 against violation of human rights such as rape, murder of women, dowry, fatwa and hilla marriage²

² The word Hilla in terms of English means "Interim Marriage" i.e. a marriage between two marriages! According to Muslim law, the divorced woman (after fulfilling the Iddat period) first has to marry another person (this is called Hilla/Interim marriage), and has to live with him for at least three months and three days (the marriage has to be consummated). After expiration of such period if the new husband divorce her only then she can re-marry her former husband. The system of Hilla/Interim marriage is no more exist in our statutory legal practice.

- A total of 37 reports were published on protests and movements with information provided by the landless people. Additionally, in the activity areas of different newspaper published 13 reports independently on various issues of concern to the landless groups.

6.2 At National Level

Advocacy activities conducted at the national level included issues regarding agriculture, prevention of violence against women and land-rights.

6.2.1 Generating of public opinion regarding violence against women and sexual oppression

The inaction, confusing statements and position of the security forces regarding the sexual violence on 14 April, 2015 in the Dhaka University campus came under criticism nationwide. In this regard, Nijera Kori adopted a programme to build up protest movements at the local and national level. The landless organisations organised protest meetings and processions in every working area. Cultural activities were used to build up public opinion. In 27 upazilas, the landless organisations organised signatures campaigns and submitted memorandums to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer.

On Nijera Kori's initiative, an independent alliance (open platform including different human rights organisation and individuals) opposing sexual harassment was formed. This alliance group brought many organisations with participation of progressive individuals and students. Different programmes, such as continuous protest activities at the national level, press conferences, human chains, writing in newspapers, discussions on television, to unearth the true nature of the incident and press for punishment of the culprits were organised. On 14 June, as part of programme, a concert against sexual harassment was organised at Dhaka University where many bands from Bangladesh performed. Every band or group announced their views against sexual harassment, and asked for the guarantee of the audience to stand against sexual harassment before their performances. As a result, this played a big role in bringing together every one at the national level and put pressure on the government. The words of their promises were "We, men and women, will live together, work together, enjoy together.

The Co-ordinator of Nijera Kori is trusted with the responsibility to co-ordinate the "One Billion Rising". As a part of this the landless organisations organised day-long activities such as rallies, discussions, meetings, human chains, art competition for students etc. in all working areas of Nijera Kori. The One Billion Rising was celebrated in 61 schools of the working areas through the efforts of the landless organisation. The youth cultural teams performed dramas. The Upazila government officials participated and supported the programmes. This is a positive achievement.

On 30 November 2015, on the Shoparjito Shadhinota premises in Dhaka University, One Billion Rising and SANGAT - South Asian Network for Gender Activists and Trainers, announced their yearlong work plan. The primary focus of their plan was to make aware, awaken and organise the youth. The work plans have been adopted giving priority to different educational institutions.

6.2.2 Land-agriculture-corporatisation of farming-food sovereignty

Nijera Kori finished its research titled, "Food Sovereignty: Commercial Shrimp Farming" in 2013. A team of 12 members were trained by Nijera Kori and two researchers in participatory method of qualitative research. The research team used the dialogue method. Testimonies/interviews of a total of 426 people from the grassroots were collected. They also recorded their own experiences/testimony. Two researchers, Kasia Paprocki and Jason Cons analysed the data and prepared the research report.

Nijera Kori jointly by the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) organised a national seminar titled "On Shrimp Cultivation: Experience, Reality and Responsibility" on 2 May 2015. The seminar was attended by several national level policy makers, civil servants and academics. The State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock was the Guest of Honour. The speakers were critical of the National Shrimp Policy 2014 and highlighted its shortcomings. In the light of the research findings and discussion during the seminar the State Minister stated that "it is not right and the policy of the government to allow shrimp cultivation on agricultural land by bringing saline water from outside. Such practices clearly harm the environment, cultivation of crops, society and the people." The State Minister promised to constitute a committee to review the National Shrimp Policy 2014 and requested for written feedback highlighting the issues that needs to be changed in the light of the research findings and the discussion of the seminar.

6.2.3 Environment and human rights Conduct fact findings on Rampal

South Asian for Human Rights (SAHR) is a regional organisation formed with like-minded organisation, researchers and organisations. Nijera Kori is a member of this regional organisation. The organisation has taken the initiative to investigate and collect information regarding the human rights and environmental impacts due to the proposed coal-fired power plant in Rampal of Bagerhat district. Nijera Kori, as a member, is co-operating with the other members in the investigation. The investigation team visited Bangladesh from 5-11 April, 2015.

Important findings of the report by (SAHR)

The report noted that with the implementation of the project there will be some positive socio-economic such as development of infrastructure, steady supply of electricity for domestic and industrial use, relation of employment. However, the project will cause irreparable damage to ecological diversity and natural habitats. And unfortunately, these aspects are not taken into considerations in the design of the project. Additionally, the report noted that due process was not followed in land acquisition and relocation—the affected population were not made cognisant of the facts of the project nor consulted with regard to the compensation process by the government. Furthermore, compensation for land was inadequate, falling short of the standard market price of equivalent land in the area. A large number of landless families who depended on the land and water bodies for their livelihoods have been displaced without any compensation and also been excluded in government statistics on project affected people. Additionally, the river belt from the Mongla port to Rampal is undergoing rapid industrialisation, with land being acquired both legally and illegally. Displaced people have been deprived of their traditional livelihoods along with their cultural way of life causing much distress to them. The local people and activists who are protesting against this development project have been constantly harassed by powerful quarters through threats, intimidation, assaults and filing of false cases.

The current Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report has serious shortcoming on numerous accounts. The Government of Bangladesh has not conducted an independent EIA on the construction of this coal power project and has also disregarded the valid opinion given by local environmental experts and activists on the project.

In preparation of the ground for the plant, approximately 400 acres of land, including a natural canal, has been land-filled by about 20 feet. Extensive dredging of riverbed and seabed areas as well as leakage of toxins will in turn harm the ecosystem health and aquatic biodiversity of the Passur and Maidara rivers; especially the Dhangmari dolphin sanctuary which is 8km away from the site. In addition, with more than 400 ships transporting coal through the river every year, there will be water pollution due to coal and oil spillage, bilge water and ballast discharge; noise pollution; and air pollution generating coal dust to the environment. Such environmental pollution will in turn create extreme weather conditions which will have a large effect on the area and the country in general.

The Department of Environment (DoE) has expressed their concerns about the project and has given conditional approval of the EIA. The DoE has raised 59 specific points to be addressed. Concerned authorities stated that it would comply with all conditions, which would in turn increase production costs.

SAHR, as a regional human rights organisation, calls upon the Government of Bangladesh to suspend all construction and other project activities until a comprehensive science-based EIA is conducted by impartial and independent experts. If the EIA report concludes any damaging impacts on the Sundarbans, the project must be cancelled immediately and relocated to an environmentally sustainable site.

6.2.4 The people's voice in development- Glocal Development Talk

The year of 2015 has been an important year for development. The global community adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The Swallows India-Bangladesh organised the Glocal Development Talk in September 2015 during 20 to 23 September 2015. The objective was to create a platform to highlight the experience, perceptions, and opinions of individuals and organisations who have been working to bring change to the lives and livelihood of the marginalised communities in the countries of South Asia and Latin America in the light of the Glocal Development Talk. The co-ordinator of Nijera Kori, participated in two sessions on "Food Sovereignty - Land Rights" and "Gender Justice and Feminist International Policy and Development" as a panellist. Policymakers from the Swedish government, aid organisations, university teachers, students and development workers were present in these sessions.

6.2.5 Public Audit in char convention

The first national char conference was organised on 6 June, 2015 at the initiative of 71 national and international development organisations. Nijera Kori was one of the organisers. Nijera Kori organised a public hearing on "khasland and water bodies" in the conference. In the public hearing, testimonies of 30 men and women who had submitted their application under the Right to Information Act in different regions namely Noakhali, Sirajganj and Khulna shared their experience with the participants. Members responded to various questions raised by the participants. Members of the national parliament, high-level officials of the government, researchers, development workers, journalists and representatives of national and international development organisations were also present at the public hearing.

CHAPTER SEVEN

7.1 Administration and Finance

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 (*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 members. The groups themselves have their own structure. 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, Upazila and area 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 become part of the decision making process, by participating in these meetings. Later on, they share experiences in Nijera Kori's internal meetings as per the organisational structure. This process of synthesising 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.

7.2 Staff strength

A total of 23 (W: 10 and men-13) staff joined the organisation in April to December 2015. On the other hand, a total number of 118 staff (W: 40 and M: 78) left the organisation in the reporting period. The total number of staff working in Nijera Kori in December 2015 was 261 (W: 100 and M: 161). Out of these 65 staff (W: 10 and M: 55) are performing their duties as service staff.

7.3 Statement of Financial Accounts

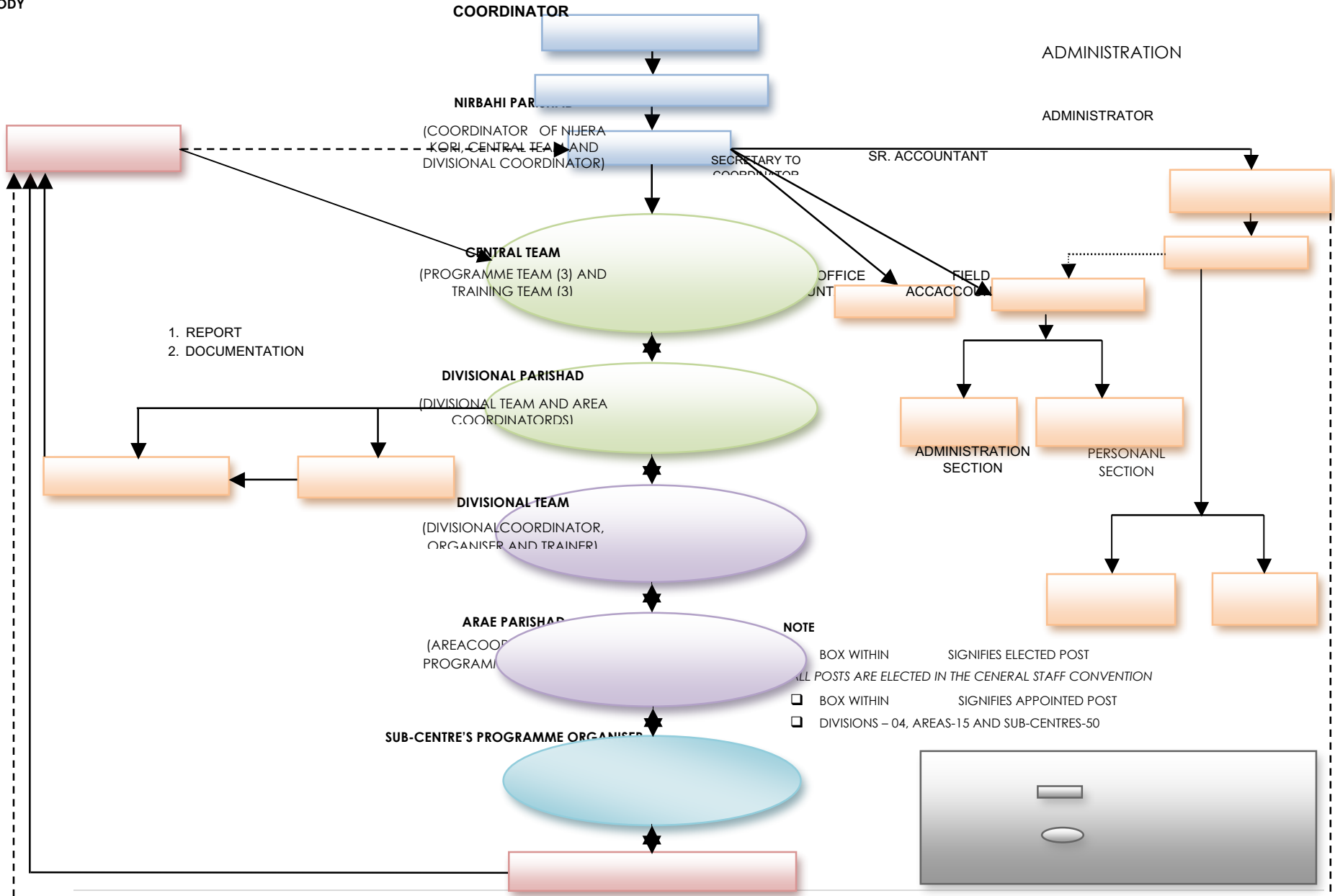
During the reporting April 2015–December 2015 Nijera Kori received financial assistance totalling Taka 3,125,518 from different partner organisations. The total spending for the reporting period is Taka 42,553,719.

GENERAL BODY (39)

GOVERNING BODY (13)

Annex- A

GENERAL BODY



NOTE

- BOX WITHIN SIGNIFIES ELECTED POST
- ALL POSTS ARE ELECTED IN THE GENERAL STAFF CONVENTION
- BOX WITHIN SIGNIFIES APPOINTED POST
- DIVISIONS - 04, AREAS-15 AND SUB-CENTRES-50



List of Governing body Members 2014-2016

1.	Mr. Nurul Islam Khan	Chairperson
2.	Kazi Madina	Vice Chairperson
3.	Ms. Khushi Kabir	Secretary
4.	Ms. Ira Rahman	Treasurer
5.	Ms. Dil Monowora monu	Asst. Treasurer
6.	Mohammad Shahid Hossain Talukder	Member
7.	Mr. Abdul Majid Mallik	Member
8.	Ms. Shaheen Islam	Member
9.	Mr. Bashirul Haq	Member
10.	Mr. Biren Shome	Member
11.	Mr. Shafique uz Zaman	Member
12.	Dr. Rowshan Ara Firoz	Member
13.	Syed Abul Barq Alvi	Member

Annex table from - 1 to 23

Table - 1: Geographical Location of Programmes of Nijera Kori

Sl. No	Division	District	Upazila	Area	Sub-center	Total up to March 2015		Expansion		Total up to Dec' 2015		Village Coverage		
						U	V	U	V	U	V	Up to March 2015	New	Up to Dec' 2015
1	Chittagong	Comilla	Chandina	Comilla	3	24	110	0	0	24	110	21	0	21
			Daudkandi											
			Debidwar											
			Muradnagar											
		Noakhali	Sudharam	Charjabbar	5	9	45	0	0	9	45	6	0	6
			Companigonj											
			Kabirhat											
Lakshmipur	Ramgoti	Ramgoti	1	6	28	0	0	6	28	5	0	5		
Chittagong	Sandwip	Sandwip	2	14	28	0	0	14	28	-	0	0		
Sub total	1	4	9	4	11	53	211	0	0	53	211	32	0	32
2	Dhaka	Tangail	TangailSadar	Tangail	1	4	22	0	0	4	22	5	0	5
			Madhupur	Madhupur	2	12	127	0	0	12	127	20	0	20
		Dhanbari												
Sub total	1	1	3	2	3	16	149	0	0	16	149	25	0	25
3	Khulna	Kushtia	Kumarkhali	Kumarkhali	1	7	51	0	0	7	51	14	0	14
			khoksa											
		Khulna	Paikgacha	Paikgacha	6	19	171	0	0	19	171	39	0	41
			Dumuria											
			Batiaghata											
Dakope														
Sub total	1	2	6	2	7	26	222	0	0	26	222	53	0	55
4	Rajshahi	Sirajgonj	Raygonj	Raygonj	2	5	82	0	0	5	82	13	0	13
			Bogra											
		Rangpur	RangpurSadar	Rangpur	2	9	81	0	0	9	81	24	0	24
			Mithapukur											
		Dinajpur	Khanshama	Dinajpur	1	4	22	0	0	4	22	5	0	5
		Kurigram	Rowmari	Rowmari	1	8	84	0	0	8	84	21	0	21
			Rajibpur											
		Gaibandha	Saghata	Gaibandha	2	16	147	0	0	16	147	64	0	64
			Sadullapur											
		Rangpur	Pirgonj											
Natore	Bagatipara	Bagatipara	1	10	170	0	0	10	170	42	0	42		
	Lalpur													
	NatoreSadar													
Sub total	1	7	13	6	9	52	586	0	0	52	586	169	0	169
Total	4	14	31	14	30	147	1,168	0	0	147	1,168	279	0	281

Table-2: Formation of Landless Group

Description	Up to March 2015			Plan			Achievement			Total up to December 2015		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rajshahi	2,615	2,107	4,722	29	21	50	27	8	35	2,642	2,115	4,757
Dhaka	422	318	740	8	6	14	7	4	11	429	322	751
Chittagong	2,148	1,527	3,675	33	29	62	34	18	52	2,182	1,545	3,727
Khulna	800	461	1,261	22	12	34	13	3	16	813	464	1,277
Total	5,985	4,413	10,398	92	68	160	81	33	114	6,066	4,446	10,512

Table-3: Group Members

Description	Up to March 2015			Plan			Achievement			Total up to December 2015		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rajshahi	51,360	44,546	95,906	493	336	829	524	142	666	51,884	44,688	96,572
Dhaka	8,117	7,284	15,401	128	96	224	129	74	203	8,246	7,358	15,604
Khulna	15,721	9,512	25,233	528	464	992	696	350	1,046	16,417	9,862	26,279
Chittagong	42,381	32,773	75,154	352	192	544	232	56	288	42,613	32,829	75,442
Total	117,579	94,115	211,694	1,501	1,088	2,589	1,581	622	2,203	119,160	94,737	213,897

Table-4, Group Meeting, Attended by Staff, Group Annual General Meeting

Description	Plan for Group Meeting									Achievement of landless groups Meeting								
	Attended by Staff			Meeting Initiated by Group			Total plan		Total	Meeting Attended by Staff			Meeting Initiated by Group			Total Achievement		Total
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M		W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	
Rajshahi	6,292	2,645	8,937	31,749	20,381	52,130	38,041	23,026	61,067	7,873	3,241	11,114	26,168	18,442	44,610	34,041	21,683	55,724
Dhaka	2,346	1,460	3,806	2,408	1,310	3,718	4,754	2,770	7,524	1,798	777	2,575	2,379	1,506	3,885	4,177	2,283	6,460
Chittagong	7,851	3,581	11,432	24,429	17,252	41,681	32,280	20,833	53,113	9,882	3,945	13,827	18,404	12,988	31,392	28,286	16,933	45,219
Khulna	6,511	3,513	10,024	16,530	10,599	27,129	23,041	14,112	37,153	6,533	3,023	9,556	13,855	2,823	16,678	20,388	5,846	26,234
Total	23,000	11,199	34,199	75,116	49,542	124,658	98,116	60,741	158,857	26,086	10,986	37,072	60,806	35,759	96,565	86,892	46,745	133,637

Table-5, Representative and Joint Group meeting and Annual Group Meeting

Description	Representative Meeting		Joint Group Meeting		Annual group Meeting Plan			Achievement		
	Plan	Achievement	Plan	Achievement	Women	Male	Total	Women	Male	Total
Rajshahi	115	118	175	185	1,220	850	2,070	1,025	732	1,757
Dhaka	34	27	4	5	181	157	338	112	91	203
Chittagong	181	189	49	49	1,326	813	2,139	1,206	714	1,920
Khulna	61	95	76	120	543	317	860	409	250	659
Total	391	429	304	359	3,270	2,137	5,407	2,752	1,787	4,539

Table-6, Description of Workshop

Description of workshops	Rajshahi						Dhaka						Chittagong						Khulna						Total							
	Plan for Participants			Achievement			Plan for Participants			Achievement			Plan for Participants			Achievement			Plan for Participants			Achievement			Plan for Participants			Achievement				
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M
Strategic planning	130	120	250	141	104	245	50	50	100	53	48	101	106	94	200	141	66	207	78	72	150	94	56	150	364	336	700	429	274	703		
Climate change & impact on livelihood	52	48	100	58	41	99	38	37	75	42	27	69	52	48	100	74	33	107	13	12	25	16	9	25	155	145	300	190	110	300		
Collective production & management	78	72	150	78	65	143	24	26	50	26	23	49	121	104	225	145	84	229	26	24	50	30	20	50	249	226	475	279	192	471		
Re-productive health	13	12	25	18	8	26	13	12	25	13	12	25	33	17	50	40	11	51	13	12	25	17	8	25	72	53	125	88	39	127		
Patriarchy	52	48	100	60	41	101	38	37	75	35	38	73	55	20	75	60	16	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	145	105	250	155	95	250		
Globalisation & impact on livelihood	114	111	225	123	100	223	38	37	75	41	35	76	68	32	100	83	17	100	54	46	100	35	15	50	274	226	500	282	167	449		
Gender	78	72	150	78	69	147	37	38	75	37	38	75	60	40	100	75	30	105	26	24	50	30	20	50	201	174	375	220	157	377		
Food Sovereignty	39	36	75	43	32	75	38	37	75	36	35	71	152	123	275	169	108	277	28	22	50	32	18	50	257	218	475	280	193	473		
Fundamentalism & impact on livelihood	129	121	250	129	114	243	38	37	75	41	35	76	93	82	175	140	38	178	15	10	25	16	9	25	275	250	525	326	196	522		
Leadership Development	78	72	150	79	62	141	37	38	75	40	31	71	117	83	200	136	62	198	26	24	50	35	15	50	258	217	475	290	170	460		
Leadership Development for women	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	25	27	0	27	25	0	25	23	0	23	25	0	25	25	0	25	75	0	75	75	0	75		
Land rights of indigenous people	13	12	25	17	8	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	12	25	17	8	25		
Land and Women	13	12	25	11	14	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	60	125	83	49	132	13	12	25	15	10	25	91	84	175	109	73	182		
Workshop with Watch Committee	13	12	25	13	8	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	30	15	10	25	16	9	25	28	22	50	44	32	76		
Organic Agriculture	26	24	50	27	26	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	12	25	14	11	25	39	36	75	41	37	78		
Organic Production Methodology	13	12	25	12	13	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	24	50	23	25	48	39	36	75	35	38	73		
Seed Collection and Perseveration Method	13	12	25	27	26	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	12	25	0	0	0	26	24	50	27	26	53		
Government policy and Access to Govt. service	13	12	25	19	10	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	10	25	14	11	25	28	22	50	33	21	54		
Total	867	808	1,675	933	741	1,674	376	349	725	391	322	713	947	703	1,650	1,184	529	1,713	399	326	725	412	236	648	2,589	2,186	4,775	2,920	1,828	4,748		

Table- 7, Formation of structural committee, Committee Meeting and Group Convention

Division	Total No. of Committee up to December 2015				Committee Meetings								Group Convention							
	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Plan				Achievement				Plan				Achievement			
					Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee			
					Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area
Rajshahi	167	11	1	6	1,145	98	9	49	1,094	93	8	45	98	1	0	0	91	2	0	0
Dhaka	28	6	1	1	213	49	8	9	192	44	8	9	27	0	0	1	16	0	0	0
Chittagong	58	3	1	13	501	26	12	111	480	25	9	109	47	1	0	0	43	0	0	0
Khulna	49	3	0	8	451	27	0	72	341	26	0	67	39	2	0	6	34	2	0	4
Total	302	23	3	28	2,310	200	29	241	2,107	188	25	230	211	4	0	7	184	4	0	4

Table-8, Group Saving

Division	Total up to March 2015			Plan			Implementation			Distribution			Total up to December 2015		
	W	M	Total	W	M	Total	W	M	Total	W	M	Total	W	M	Total
Rajshahi	16,982,221	15,148,730	32,130,951	3,112,075	2,121,449	5,233,523	1,942,301	1,325,742	3,268,043	6,066,928	3,366,010	9,432,938	12,857,594	13,108,462	25,966,056
Dhaka	1,086,023	684,649	1,770,672	1,005,935	696,096	1,702,030	435,636	354,530	790,166	763,902	758,068	1,521,970	757,757	281,111	1,038,868
Chittagong	21,544,878	17,887,662	39,432,539	6,338,527	3,719,262	10,057,788	3,650,878	2,241,503	5,892,381	2,937,870	2,037,840	4,975,710	22,257,886	18,091,325	40,349,211
Khulna	9,100,221	5,557,779	14,657,999	2,335,830	1,009,255	3,345,085	1,245,329	656,144	1,901,473	2,651,599	942,567	3,594,166	7,693,951	5,271,356	12,965,307
Total	48,713,342	39,278,819	87,992,161	12,792,365	7,546,061	20,338,426	7,274,144	4,577,919	11,852,063	12,420,299	7,104,485	19,524,784	43,567,188	36,752,254	80,319,442

Table-9, Bank Account

Description	Up to March 2015			Plan			Increases in 2015			Total up to December 2015		
	Women	Male	Total	Women	Male	Total	Women	Male	Total	Women	Male	Total
Rajshahi	694	326	1,020	7	1	8	16	2	18	710	328	1,038
Dhaka	248	201	449	10	14	24	13	7	20	261	208	469
Chittagong	594	323	917	8	2	10	10	1	11	604	324	928
Khulna	553	156	709	19	13	32	19	2	21	572	158	730
Total	2,089	1,006	3,095	44	30	74	58	12	70	2,147	1,018	3,165

Table- 10, Landless groups Trainings

Description of Trainings	Rajshahi						Dhaka						Chittagong						Khulna						Total							
	Plan			Achievement			Plan			Achievement			Plan			Achievement			Plan			Achievement			Plan			Achievement				
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M
Basic	99	100	199	78	22	100	50	25	75	25	25	50	100	50	150	80	48	128	50	13	63	49	13	62	299	188	487	232	108	340		
Advance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	41	85	39	36	75	9	8	17	8	9	17	53	49	102	47	45	92		
Total Core	99	100	199	78	22	100	50	25	75	25	25	50	144	91	235	119	84	203	59	21	80	57	22	79	352	237	589	279	153	432		
Land and Women	17	14	31	17	14	31	4	4	8	4	4	8	15	31	46	17	14	31	3	2	5	3	2	5	39	51	90	41	34	75		
Citizen right and constitutional guarantees	19	16	35	5	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	50	74	26	24	50	5	5	10	6	4	10	48	71	119	37	33	70		
Re productive health rights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Gender training	23	20	43	9	9	18	17	16	33	4	4	8	3	6	9	3	3	6	3	2	5	3	2	5	46	44	90	19	18	37		
Food Sovereignty and Land Use	14	11	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	40	59	22	17	39	8	7	15	6	9	15	41	58	99	28	26	54		
Land reform, Land law and land rights training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	75	111	44	30	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	75	111	44	30	74		
Leadership Development	24	21	45	11	9	20	3	3	6	3	3	6	3	6	9	3	3	6	8	10	18	8	10	18	38	40	78	25	25	50		
Right to Information	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	13	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	13	25	0	0	0		
Organic manure	14	14	28	14	14	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	16	9	7	16	22	22	44	23	21	44		
Agricultural and women	14	14	28	14	14	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	40	20	19	39	34	34	68	34	33	67		
Collective production & management	19	16	35	6	4	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	12	25	14	11	25	32	28	60	20	15	35		
Climate change and food sovereignty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	25	37	14	11	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	25	37	14	11	25		
Organic Market Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Agricultural Rights	4	4	8	4	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	8	4	4	8		
Family Law, Patriarchy and Role of Women	12	11	23	13	10	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	11	23	13	10	23		
Family Law and access to Service and Natural Resources	10	10	20	10	10	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	20	10	10	20		
Sub Total	170	151	321	103	93	196	36	36	72	11	11	22	112	233	345	129	102	231	68	66	134	69	64	133	386	486	872	312	270	582		
Total NijeraKori	269	251	520	181	115	296	86	61	147	36	36	72	256	324	580	248	186	434	127	87	214	126	86	212	738	723	1,461	591	423	1,014		

Table- 11, Refresher Training and Forum Meeting

Division	Refresher Training									Forum Meetings		
	Number	Plan			Number	Achievement			Up to March 2015	Plan	Achievement	
		Participants				Participants						
	Women	Male	Total	Women	Male	Total						
Rajshahi	12	151	148	299	9	107	105	212	15			
Dhaka	2	26	24	50	3	40	33	73	3	25	19	
Chittagong	16	200	175	375	14	212	175	387	0	88	82	
Khulna	4	61	64	125	6	99	76	175	10	0	0	
Total	34	438	411	849	32	458	389	847	28	113	101	

Table- 12, Cultural Activities

Description	Number of Cultural Group	Cultural Workshop				Cultural Activity												
		Plan		Achievement		Plan						Achievement						
		N	P	N	P	C.G. Meeting	Cultural Discussion	Drama Performance	D.F./ Padajatra	People Song	Children C.P	C.G. Meeting	Cultural Discussion	Drama Performance	D.F./ Padajatra	People Song	Children Drama	
Rajshahi	20	18	215	9	100	144	15	96	3	51	18	130	10	81	3	41	24	
Dhaka	9	9	121	2	21	72	5	55	1	28	5	64	3	37	1	21	12	
Chittagong	14	11	153	5	51	114	6	72	1	114	4	115	5	76	1	110	5	
Khulna	11	6	72	6	63	117	4	50	2	38	3	109	7	53	2	57	10	
Total	54	44	561	22	235	447	30	273	7	231	30	418	25	247	7	229	51	

Table- 13, Collective Economic Activities

Description	Agriculture					Fishery				livestock				Small business/rickshaw van				Total					
	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chitta	Khulna		Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chitta	Khulna	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chitta	Khulna	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chitta	Khulna	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chitta	Khulna	NijeraKori	
Up to March 2015																							
Group	W	257	6	161	32	29	5	10	13	189	2	128	4	763	44	860	27	1,238	57	1,159	78	2,530	
	M	366	33	149	38	76	17	88	23	115	13	161	2	665	52	1,024	18	1,222	115	1,422	77	2,844	
	T	623	39	310	70	105	22	98	36	304	15	289	6	1,428	96	1,884	45	2,460	172	2,581	155	5374	
Member	W	4,798	113	3,227	609	663	98	213	248	2,451	38	2,600	63	15,427	284	15,905	1,308	23,339	533	21,945	2,228	48,080	
	M	297	690	3,009	263	1,275	238	1,844	214	3,753	259	2,708	36	19,526	1,329	19,790	1,172	24,851	2,516	27,351	1,685	56,311	
	T	5,095	803	6,236	872	1,938	336	2,057	462	6,204	297	5,308	99	34,953	1,613	35,695	2,480	48,190	3,049	49,296	3,913	104,391	
Employment	W	228	3	28	50	225	3	16	28	106	0	88	1	1,076	0	585	68	1,635	6	717	147	2,505	
	M	722	11	161	99	322	7	129	185	137	3	134	0	2,122	4	635	236	3,303	25	1,059	520	4,907	
	T	950	14	189	149	547	10	145	213	243	3	222	1	3,198	4	1,220	304	4,938	31	1,776	667	7,412	
Quantity (Acre/No)		347.49	35.04	233.21	99.85	78.1	19.15	166.72	46.58	349	42	529	11	1,484	87	721	159	2258.59	183.92	1649.93	317.31	4409.75	
Investment in Tk		11,622,658	1,527,335	3,785,582	1,461,350	1,067,974	138,681	1,563,986	404,473	3,173,388	467,934	2,471,513	149,440	18,733,734	2,129,357	17,892,220	2,200,388	34,597,754	4,263,307	25,713,301	4,215,651	68,790,013	
Increased 2015																							
Group	W	5		8		1				16		10		32		65	2	54	0	83	2	139	
	M	2		3		3				10		10		13		41	2	28	0	54	2	84	
	T	7	0	11	0	4	0	0	0	26	0	20	0	45	0	106	4	82	0	137	4	223	
Member	W	103		173		18				339		211		567		786	38	1,027	0	1,170	38	2,235	
	M	42		60		50				201		197		256		497	42	549	0	754	42	1,345	
	T	145	0	233	0	68	0	0	0	540	0	408	0	823	0	1,283	80	1,576	0	1,924	80	3,580	
Employment	W	11		1						15		5		1		16		27	0	22	0	49	
	M	3		0		2				10		10		6		13	1	21	0	23	1	45	
	T	14	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	25	0	15	0	7	0	29	1	48	0	45	1	94	
Quantity (Acre/No)		1.93		3.33	0.1	36		0		28		12		59		721		124.93	0	736.33	0.1	861.36	
Investment in Tk		352,000		222,500	13,000	64,600		15,000		282,640		309,200		366,860		1,364,990	50,000	1,066,100	0	1,911,690	63,000	3,040,790	
Decreased 2015																							
Group	W	6				0				3		5		13	1	19	1	22	1	24	1	48	
	M	14			1	0			3	2		6		10	1	9		26	1	15	4	46	
	T	20	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	0	11	0	23	2	28	1	48	2	39	5	94	
Member	W	111								40		92		241	21	260	21	392	21	352	21	786	
	M	273			22				52	59		115		178	18	118		510	18	233	74	835	
	T	384	0	0	22	0	0	0	52	99	0	207	0	419	39	378	21	902	39	585	95	1,621	
Employment	W	1														0		1	1	0	0	2	
	M	3			1				11	2		2						5	0	2	12	19	
	T	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	2	13	21	
Quantity (Acre/No)		46.16			0.1	2.58			2.3	2				11			61.74	0	0	2.4	64.14		
Investment in Tk		589,937			20,000	15,000			18,375	92,250			188,760		348,900	78,981	142,000	4,200	1,046,087	78,981	330,760	42,575	1,498,403
up to December 2015																							
Group	W	256	6	169	32	30	5	10	13	202	2	133	4	782	43	906	28	1,270	56	1,218	79	2,621	
	M	354	33	152	37	79	17	88	20	123	13	165	2	668	51	1,056	20	1,224	114	1,461	75	2,882	
	T	610	39	321	69	109	22	98	33	325	15	298	6	1,450	94	1,962	48	2,494	170	2,679	154	5,503	
Member	W	4,790	113	3,400	609	681	98	213	248	2,750	38	2,719	63	15,753	263	16,431	1,325	23,974	512	22,763	2,245	49,529	
	M	66	690	3,069	241	1,325	238	1,844	162	3,895	259	2,790	36	19,604	1,311	20,169	1,214	24,890	2,498	27,872	1,653	56,821	
	T	4,856	803	6,469	850	2,006	336	2,057	410	6,645	297	5,509	99	35,357	1,574	36,600	2,539	48,864	3,010	50,635	3,898	106,350	
Employment	W	238	3	29	50	225	3	16	28	121	0	93	1	1,077	0	601	67	1,661	6	739	146	2,552	
	M	722	11	161	98	324	7	129	174	145	3	142	0	2,128	4	648	237	3,319	25	1,080	509	4,933	
	T	960	14	190	148	549	10	145	202	266	3	235	1	3,205	4	1,249	304	4,980	31	1,819	655	7,485	
Quantity (Acre/No)		303.26	35.04	236.54	99.85	111.52	19.15	166.72	44.28	375	42	541	11	1,532	87	1,442	159	2,321.78	183.92	2,386.26	315.01	5,206.97	
Investment in Tk		1,1384,721	1,527,335	4,008,082	1,454,350	1,117,574	138,681	1,578,986	386,098	3,363,778	467,934	2,591,953	1,49,440	18,751,694	2,050,376	19,115,210	2,246,188	34,617,767	4,184,326	27,294,231	4,236,076	70,332,400	
Profit in cash	W	317,720	8,775	20,000	38,400	89,785	0	4,000	500	82,565	260	36,320		449,409	12,886	304,010	8,300	939,479	21,921	364,330	47,200	1,372,930	
(April 15-December 2015)	M	1,361,620	42,468	30,000	38,300	379,205	9,094	138,040	27,900	64,500	9,975	76,160		443,922	27,156	1,322,336	9,320	2,249,247	88,693	1,566,536	75,520	3,979,996	
Total	T	1,679,340	51,243	50,000	76,700	468,990	9,094	142,040	28,400	147,065	10,235	112,480	0	893,331	40,042	1,626,346	17,620	3,188,726	110,614	1,930,866	122,720	5,352,926	

Table- 14- Access to Government Services (Safety net Programme)

Description	From last year			Krishi Card					VGF Card					VGD Card					Elder Allowances					Widow Allowances	Maternity Allowances	100 Days Employment Generation Programme					Disable card			
	W	M	Total Card	W	M	D	Adivasi	SW	Total Card	W	M	D	SW	Total Card	W	D	SW	Total Card	W	M	D	S	W	W	W	Total Card	W	M	D	SW	Total Card	W	M	SW
Rajshahi	4,044	4,566	1,062	154	908	19	59	18	25,986	12,571	13,415	912	1,628	1,359	1,359	5	36	102	54	48	7	3	17	4	2,628	919	1,709	6	243	21	12	9	2	
Dhaka	307	169	225	78	147	3	0	6	931	655	276	7	11	39	39	1	3	4	2	2			3	0	174	73	101	2	33	0				
Chittagong	1,322	619	126	11	115	0	0	4	20,445	10,641	9804	173	64	804	804	7	16	511	226	285	1	8	61	9	897	324	573	2	111	8	3	5	1	
Khulna	1,266	670	3,105	340	2,765	103	0	38	1,704	1,150	554	72	44	309	309	7	19	10	2	8	1		4	5	382	156	226			4	4			
Total	6,939	6,024	4,518	583	3,935	125	59	66	49,066	25,017	24,049	1,164	1,747	2,511	2,511	20	74	627	284	343	8	12	85	18	4,081	1,472	2,609	10	387	33	19	14	3	

Table- 15, Legal aid Activity

Characteristics of cases	Up to March 2015	New cases	Rajshahi				New cases	Dhaka				New cases	Chittagong				New cases	Khulna				New cases	Total			
			T	I	Ag	A		T	I	Ag	A		T	I	Ag	A		T	I	Ag	A		T	I	Ag	A
Total	716	8	14	13	1	0	2	11	8	3	1	3	34	32	2	1	5	6	6	0	0	18	65	59	6	2
Criminal	333	3	7	7	0	0	0	4	3	1	1	2	22	20	2	1	0	4	4	0	0	5	37	34	3	2
Groups of the plaintiffs	139	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	10	8	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	3	12	9	6	2
Groups of the accused	194	1	7	7	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	12	12	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	2	25	25	0	0
Civil	182	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	11	11	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	6	14	13	1	0
Groups of the plaintiffs	97	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	5	4	3	1	0
Groups of the accused	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	10	0	0
Violence against Women	201	3	7	6	1	0	1	5	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	7	14	12	2	0
Groups of the plaintiffs	174	3	6	5	1	0	1	5	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	6	13	11	2	0
Groups of the accused	27	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0

T= Total, I= Infavor, Ag= Against and A= Appeal

Table -16: Level of Group Consciousness

Description	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Chittagong			Khulna			Total		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
Secondary Level															
Up to March'2015	526	468	994	90	72	162	295	265	560	911	805	1716	1,822	1,610	3,432
Plan	11	10	21	2	3	5	14	8	22	8	7	15	35	28	63
Achievement	12	5	17	3	5	8	23	11	34	5	3	8	43	24	67
Total up to December 2015	538	473	1,011	93	77	170	318	276	594	916	808	1,724	1,865	1,634	3,499
Third Level															
Up to March'2015	104	91	195	7	2	9	40	19	59	151	112	263	302	224	526
Plan	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	6
Achievement	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	3
Total up to December 2015	105	92	197	7	2	9	40	19	59	151	113	264	303	226	529

Table- 17: Various Activities undertaken from Group Saving and Voluntary Services Provided by Group Members

Description	Contribution (In Taka)	Organisational activities								Cooperation and Support Activities				Total NK	Beneficiary	
		Workshops	Refresher Trainings	Movement	Landless group Convention	Cultural Programme	Day Celebration	Conducting Case	Assistance to Family of arrested Member	Total	Medical Support	Educational Support	Contribution in marriage without Dowry			Total
Rajshahi	Within Group	14,643	1,961	5,200	28,325	6,225	34,145	23,775	17,340	131,614	44,210	15,300	41,570	101,080	232,694	1,107
	Outside Group	0	0	0	1,800	0	0	0	0	1,800	3,700	2,450	5,760	11,910	13,710	105
Dhaka	Within Group	1,090	140	1,000	14,115	43,400	1,250	0	0	60,995	9,830	6,000	3,900	19,730	80,725	298
	Outside Group	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chittangong	Within Group	39,850	11,730	8,700	37,500	195,590	21,940	535,565	58,300	909,175	75,425	45,450	55,350	176,225	1,085,400	2,645
	Outside Group	0	0	0	1500	0	0	0	0	1,500	17,550	7,900	10,100	35,550	37,050	299
Khulna	Within Group	8,720	1,900	7,080	28,290	34,570	48,020	57,710	11,200	197,490	135,200	500	17,600	153,300	350,790	8,426
	Outside Group	0	0	0	4000	2000	0	0	2000	8,000	27,140	1,400	8,000	36,540	44,540	1,325
Total	Within Group	64,303	15,731	21,980	144,600	504,560	105,355	617,050	151,190	1,299,274	264,665	67,250	118,420	450,335	1,749,609	12,476
	Outside Group	0	0	0	14,600	0	0	0	4,000	11,300	48,390	11,750	23,860	84,000	95,300	1729
	Total	64,303	15,731	21,980	159,200	504,560	105,355	617,050	155,190	1,643,369	313,055	79,000	142,280	534,335	1,844,909	14,205

Table-18: A, Representation in Different Institutional Committees

April to December 2015	Gender	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chittagong	Khulna	Total
Number of School Contested			61	10	12	24
Number of School Elected		56	10	12	24	102
School Management Committee (Contested candidate)	Women	73	6	19	13	111
	Men	93	7	21	34	155
	Total	166	13	40	47	266
School Management Committee (Elected)	Women	35	5	10	8	58
	Men	38	4	9	23	74
	Total	73	9	19	31	132
Number of Market Contested		30	13	7	5	55
Number of Market Elected		27	11	7	5	
Market Management Committee (Contested candidate)	Women	8	4	2	3	17
	Men	74	11	23	14	122
	Total	82	15	25	17	139
Market Management Committee (Elected)	Women	2	4	2	3	11
	Men	32	7	16	10	65
	Total	34	11	18	13	76
Number of Sluice Gate Management Committee Contested candidate		2	1	4	5	
Number of Sluice Gate Management Committee Elected		2	1	3	5	
Sluice Gate Management Committee (Contested candidate)	Women	0	0	1	3	4
	Men	7	1	10	7	25
	Total	7	1	11	10	29
Sluice Gate Management Committee (Elected)	Women	0	0	1	2	3
	Men	7	1	7	5	20
	Total	7	1	8	7	23
Number of Contested Committee		93	24	23	34	162
Number of Committee in Elected		85	22	22	34	102
Total Contested candidate	Women	81	10	22	19	132
	Men	174	19	54	55	302
	Total	255	29	76	74	434
Total Elected	Women	37	9	13	13	72
	Men	77	12	32	38	159
	Total	114	21	45	51	231

Table-18: B, Representation in Different Institutional Committees

April to December 2015	Gender	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chittagong	Khulna	Total
Community Health Clinic Management Committee (Nominated)	Women	3	0	0	1	4
	Men	1	0	0	0	1
	Total	4	0	0	1	5
LGSP project management committee	Women	0	0	0	0	0
	Men	0	0	5	0	5
	Total	0	0	5	0	5
Policing Committee	Women	2	0	0	1	3
	Men	4	0	0	5	9
	Total	6	0	0	6	12
Union Parishad Standing Committee (Nominated)						
Disaster Management Committee (Nominated)	Women	3	1	0	2	6
	Men	4	1	0	1	6
	Total	7	2	0	3	12
Law and Order Situation Control Committee(Nominated)	Women	4	3	1	0	8
	Men	18	6	1	0	25
	Total	22	9	2	0	33
Committee on Stop Violence against Women (Nominated)	Women	5	0	0	2	7
	Men	2	0	0	1	3
	Total	7	0	0	3	10
Agriculture Standing Committee (Nominated)	Women	1	1	0	0	2
	Men	10	2	0	0	12
	Total	11	3	0	0	14
Education Standing Committee (Nominated)	Women	5	1	0	3	9
	Men	5	0	0	1	6
	Total	10	1	0	4	15
Rural Development Standing Committee (Nominated)	Women	0	1	0	0	1
	Men	10	0	0	0	10
	Total	10	1	0	0	11
Birth-Death Registration Standing Committee (Nominated)	Women	2	0	0	0	2
	Men	1	0	0	0	1
	Total	3	0	0	0	3
Environment and Forest Standing Committee (Nominated)	Women	2	0	0	2	4
	Men	2	0	0	5	7
	Total	4	0	0	7	11
Sanitation and Water Supply Standing Committee (Nominated)	Women	1	0	0	0	1
	Men	2	0	1	0	3
	Total	3	0	1	0	4
Vat and Tax Standing Committee (Nominated)	Women	0	0	0	0	0
	Men	1	0	0	0	1
	Total	1	0	0	0	1
Cultural and Game Standing Committee (Nominated)	Women	0	0	0	0	0
	Men	3	0	0	0	3
	Total	3	0	0	0	3
Audit and Financial Management Standing Committee (Nominated)	Women	0	0	0	0	0
	Men	2	0	0	0	2
	Total	2	0	0	0	2
Finance and Establishment Standing Committee (Nominated)	Women	1	1	0	0	2
	Men	2	1	1	0	4
	Total	3	2	1	0	6
Number of Nominated Members	Women	29	8	1	11	49
	Men	67	10	8	13	98
	Total	96	18	9	24	147

Table- 19-Participation in local shalish

Division and issues	No. ofshalish	Observer			Judge			Arranged by		Result			On process	Recover Tk. as punishment
		W	M	Total	W	M	Total	Group	Group and local leader	Settled	Stopped	Cases		
Women against: (dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical assault, fundamentalism indictment)														
Rajshahi	293	2,877	2,933	5,810	278	410	688	32	255	288	3	3	2	1,662,900
Dhaka	51	119	311	430	46	103	149	6	45	49	2	1	0	435,000
Chittagong	747	2,398	4,317	6,715	502	1,073	1,575	33	714	720	12	0	15	1,443,000
Khulna	74	399	598	997	80	204	284	2	72	68	2	1	4	208,350
Total	1,165	5,793	8,159	13,952	906	1,790	2,696	73	1,086	1,125	19	5	21	3,749,250
Illegal Possession of Property from the Landless				0			0							
Rajshahi	18	266	305	571	13	32	45		18	14	0	0	4	256,000
Dhaka	5	10	70	80	10	5	15	3	2	5	0	0	0	
Chittagong	197	820	1,704	2,524	89	337	426	68	129	183	2	0	12	90,000
Khulna	23	103	243	346	21	60	81	0	21	21	1	0	1	60,000
Total	243	1,199	2,322	3,521	133	434	567	71	170	223	3	0	17	406,000
Fundamentalist activities				0			0							
Rajshahi	1	20	14	34	1	1	2		1	1				
Dhaka	1	5	8	13	2	3	5		1	1	0	0	0	
Chittagong	6	10	26	36	2	8	10	2	4	6				
Khulna	0			0			0							
Total	8	35	48	83	5	12	17	2	6	8	0	0	0	0
Issue of Injustice and oppression				0			0							
Rajshahi	36	404	402	806	36	66	102	1	40	33			3	285,500
Dhaka	41	80	177	257	14	87	101	3	38	40	1		0	200,000
Chittagong	90	460	899	1,359	45	137	182	34	56	78			12	139,500
Khulna	36	157	383	540	128	299	427	2	30	32	1		3	55,000
Total	203	1,101	1,861	2962	223	589	812	40	164	183	2	0	18	680,000
Rajshahi	348	3,567	3,654	7,221	328	509	837	33	314	336	3	3	9	2,204,400
Dhaka	98	214	566	780	72	198	270	12	86	95	3	1	0	635,000
Chittagong	1,040	3,688	6,946	10,634	638	1,555	2,193	137	903	987	14	0	39	1,672,500
Khulna	133	659	1,224	1,883	229	563	792	4	123	121	4	1	8	323,350
Total	1,619	8,128	12,390	20,518	1,267	2,825	4,092	186	1,426	1,539	24	5	56	4,835,250

Table- 20- Registration, Lease and Possession of Khasland and Water

Subject		Khasland (Acre)						Water Body (Acre)			Total (Acre)			
		Land Registered		Land Possession		DCR		Water Body Leased		Amount of water body opened	Amount of land	Beneficiary	Amount of water body	Beneficiary
		No of member	Amount of land	No of member	Amount of land	No of group member	Amount of land	No of member	Amount of water body					
Up to March 2015	Rajshahi	7,293	5,378	1,753	444	2	0	17	21	138	5,822	9,048	159	6,472
	Dhaka	8	11	24	3	0	0	551	1	67	14	32	68	29,342
	Chittagong	14,307	12,783	5,070	16,084	0	0	21	12	135	28,867	19,377	147	29,265
	Khulna	1,227	3,359	837	387	19	10	2,485	42	297	3,756	2,083	339	22,192
	Total	22835	21531.1	7684	16917.7	21	10.34	3074	76.37	636.41	38,459	30,540	713	87,271
Increase in April' to December 2015	Rajshahi	24	3	49	5	0	0	1	0.6	13	8	73	13.6	870
	Dhaka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chittagong	36	10.3	438	446.15	0	0	0	0	2	456	474	2	18
	Khulna	0	0	19	3.1	4	2	0	0	11	5	23	11	445
	Total	60	13.3	506	454.25	4	2	1	0.6	26	469.55	570	26.6	1333
Total December 2015	Rajshahi	7,317	5,381	1,802	449	2	0	18	22	151	5,830	9,121	173	7,342
	Dhaka	8	11	24	3	0	0	551	1	67	14	32	68	29342
	Chittagong	14,343	12,793	5,508	16,530	0	0	21	12	137	29,323	19,851	149	29,283
	Khulna	1,227	3,359	856	390	23	12	2,485	42	308	3,761	2,106	350	22,637
	Total	22,895	21,544	8,190	17,372	25	12	3,075	77	663	38,929	31,110	740	88,604

Table- 21, Regaining of Properties of the Landless and Marginal Farmers from Illegal Possessors

Description		Won in the Movement for Own Land and Quantity of Regained Land		Beneficiary	Won in the Movement against Commercial Shrimp and Quantity of Regained Land			Beneficiary	Recover Inheritance Property		
		No. of Movement	Amount of land (Acre)		No. of Movement	Amount of land (Acre)	Amount of Water Bodies (Acre)		No. of Movement	Amount of land (Acre)	Beneficiary
Up to March 2015	Rajshahi	9	262	612	-	-	-	-	6	3	6
	Dhaka	4	19	461	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
	Chittagong	16	887	1,058	-	-	-	-	4	2	14
	Khulna	8	132	237	40	1,135	1,122	7,964	5	1	13
	Total	37	1,300	2,368	40	1,135	1,122	7,964	17	7	36
Increased establishing of rights	Rajshahi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	3.96	27
	Dhaka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
	Chittagong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	0.1	4
	Khulna	3	1	4	13	27	-	53	7	0.19	4
	Total	3	1	4	13	27	-	53	44	4.25	35
Total December 2015	Rajshahi	9	262	612	-	-	-	-	37	6.96	33
	Dhaka	4	19	461	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
	Chittagong	16	887	1,058	-	-	-	-	10	2.1	18
	Khulna	11	133	241	53	1,162	1,122	8,017	12	1.19	17
	Total	40	1,301	2,372	53	1,162	1,122	8,017	61	11.25	71

Table- 22- Issue of Social Movement /Struggle

Issue of Social Movement /Struggle	Issue raised by organisation of women/men	Division wise movement/struggle in-2015					No. of movement won					Ongoing movement December 2015
		Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chittagong	Khulna	Total no. of movement in current year	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chittagong	Khulna	Total No. of movement won	
Movement on stopped Violence against women:	Women	180	27	251	36	494	177	23	246	24	470	24
Violence against women such as dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical assault, kidnapping, fundamentalism and religious indictment	Men	121	4	112	12	249	120	3	109	8	240	9
Fundamentalism	Women	3	2	3	2	10	3	1	3	1	8	2
	Men	1	0	1	5	7	1	0	1	2	4	3
Establishment of rights on local resources:	Women	10	2	72	12	96	6	2	32	8	48	48
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	Men	21	8	45	20	94	20	8	42	16	86	8
Resistance against corruption:	Women	39	5	31	10	85	39	5	30	7	81	4
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.	Men	33	3	25	15	76	32	2	25	9	68	8
Total	Women	232	36	357	60	685	225	31	311	40	607	78
	Men	176	15	183	52	426	173	13	177	35	398	28
	Total	408	51	540	112	1,111	398	44	488	75	1,005	106

Table- 23-A, Opinion Sharing, Dialogue Between Landless Group and Government Authority-Elected Bodies on Following Issues

Description	Initiative by Government/ Group	Natural Resource (land and water body)	Commercial shrimp Aquaculture	Local Development	Health	Education	Agriculture	Violence on Women	Paddy Harvesting	False Cases and Harassment	Fundamentalisms	Law and Order situation	Total
Deputy Commissioner	Govt.	45	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	53
	Group	19	0	12		1		1	2	1	0	2	38
Upazila Land Administration	Govt.	123	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	129
	Group	356	0	12	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	12	386
Education Authority	Govt.	0	0	2	10	192	1	6	0	0	0	3	214
	Group		2	17	8	199	6	3				11	246
Health Authority	Govt.	0	0	15	156	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	176
	Group	1	0	17	308	6		6	2			9	349
Upazila Administration (UNO)	Govt.	81	1	185	17	32	7	23	3	12	1	41	403
	Group	260	5	289	30	41	6	49	3	39	3	97	822
Police Administration	Govt.	32	0	96	0	0	0	17	125	2	47	8	327
	Group	49	1	52	0	0	0	95	21	189	3	91	501
Parliament Member	PM	16	1	95		10	1	2	2	9	5	12	153
	Group	70	3	95	4	11		10	2	28	0	17	240
Union Perished	UP	116	2	305	16	4	2	69	8	73	0	32	627
	Group	237	10	482	33	24	5	107	19	91	1	88	1,097
Total	Government and elected Authority	413	4	707	199	239	11	120	141	97	53	98	2,082
	Group	992	21	976	383	282	17	272	51	351	7	327	3,679
	Total	1,405	25	1,683	582	521	28	392	192	448	60	425	5,761

Table- 23-B, Opinion Sharing, Dialogue between Landless Group and Different Stakeholders on Following Issues

Description	Initiative by CBO's/ landless Group	Natural Resource (land and water body)	Commercial shrimp Aquaculture	Local Govt. Corruption	Local Development	Health	Education	National/International Day Celebration	Violence on Women	False Cases and Harassment	Fundamentalisms	Law and Order situation	Total
Political Party	Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group	2	0		2							1	5
Press Club	P. Club	1	0	6	11	2	1		12	15	6	1	62
	Group	12	0	11	9	3	10		21	27	21	0	133
Bar Council	B.C	3	0	3	2	0	0		1	1	11	0	25
	Group	20		6			1		27	109		9	172
Women Organisation	WO	1			1				1	16	7	0	29
	Group	2	0						6	40	5	9	62
Total	Stakeholders	5	0	9	14	2	1		14	32	24	1	116
	Group	36	0	17	11	3	11		27	94	135	0	372
	Total	41	0	26	25	5	12		41	126	159	1	488