

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# **C**HAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION TO NIJERA KORI

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## **1.1 BACKGROUND:**

Nijera Kori (NK) is a well-known activist NGO in Bangladesh. After the famine of 1974, many destitute rural women made their way to the cities in search of food and work. Some women took the initiative of training some of these women in food processing so they were able to generate income. The process gradually resulted in the development of an organisation “Nijera Kori”, which, in English, means, “We do it ourselves”. At its inception, therefore, famine-affected urban destitute women constituted the target group of Nijera Kori and the aim of the organisation was to rehabilitate these women.

During the early period of the NGOs, the mainstream NGOs in Bangladesh concentrated on rural social mobilisation to challenge the power structure, which brought a strong backlash from the rural elites particularly during the martial law. This was one of the reasons why there was a general move by the NGOs away from the noted aspect and towards concentration on micro-credit. This concentration allowed professionalisation of NGOs and increased the tendency of measuring progress in terms of money and quantity. However, a number of people working in leading NGOs, who felt that consciousness raising of the poor held the key to resolving the core problems of rural society joined in. NK with its current form and focus was formed in 1980 from a group of such people who had started working at field level and concentrating on rural social mobilisation, felt that the increasingly service-based approach of NGOs would simply create dependency among the target population.

This group brought about a change in the focus of the organisation. It began to concentrate on addressing the situation which causes poverty and destitution of rural people rather than temporarily ameliorating, and that too at a surface level, the suffering of those who faced such circumstances. The organisational objectives of Nijera Kori shifted to the struggle to create a society free from oppression and deprivation through the establishment of the fundamental rights of the people. In order to achieve this goal, the strategy that NK developed was to make people conscious of their rights and to assist them to develop the collective strength necessary to establish those rights. Under this goal, the target group of NK also expanded from its original concentration. Now NK defines its target group broadly as those women and men who earn their living mainly through physical labour. Its geographical concentration has an emphasis on rural rather than urban areas.

The organisation now has 199,307 group members, of whom more than half are women. It has a staff of 342 out of which 103 are female and 239 are male including 100 support staff consisting of both women and men and its programme today is called '*Social Mobilisation, Voice and Democracy Programme*', which is operational in 18 districts.

## **1.2 MISSION OF NIJERA KORI:**

- NK believes in an environment friendly sustainable development process. The development of leadership among the organised groups is one of the important directions towards that end. In this process they can identify their own role within production processes, analyse their surrounding conditions and problems and act positively towards a solution. In other words to develop independent grassroots level people’s organisation and to play the role of decision-maker in all spheres of life on the basis of participation.
- Development activities of NK are directed for the establishment of rights of the downtrodden people. NK believes that democratic practice is necessary to successfully manage this activity. With this perception NK imbibes democratic conduct through participation and accountability in

planning, implementation, evaluation and overall management not only with the groups organised but replicated and practised within the organisation itself.

- Women are an important and integral part of all production processes. They are a crucial part of the collective labour force. In order to break the patriarchal value system inherent in male mind-set NK works to change this inherent male perception towards women and encourage women to recognise and assert their own position in society and for this NK believes in the establishment of equal rights for men and women in all spheres of life.
- NK feels that real accountable democratic environment is absolutely essential for development. For democracy to be ensured right to information is a crusade. In this connection it is necessary to ensure flow of information to all people and to take initiative to establish real accountable democratic management through public hearing and mounting pressure.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF NIJERA KORI:**

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

### **1.4 TARGET GROUP OF NIJERA KORI:**

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

### **1.5 MANAGEMENT OF NIJERA KORI (ORGANOGRAM IN ANNEX - A):**

The core value that shaped the management structure and decision-making system of Nijera Kori is 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 3 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 decision-making body of the organisation is the Central Staff Convention, which is held every alternate year and attended by all staff of NK. Here they constitute a 3-tier council for 2 years for overall management and coordination by electing their representatives (except coordinator) from among the staff. These councils are 1) Anchal Parishad (Area Council), 2) Bibhagiya Parishad (Divisional Council) and 3) Nirbahi Parishad (Central Executive Council). The overall activities of NK 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 Anchal (area structure) 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 NK along with the landless people. The landless groups themselves have their own structure for group activities (*See Figure 01 and Annex C*).

Nijera Kori ensures that all staff and target group members have equal participation and say in the planning, monitoring and implementation of its activities. According to group structure the groups through annual group meetings, village, union, thana and anchal group/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. NK staff by participating in those meetings become part of the decisions/outputs taken in these meetings, which they later share in NK's internal meetings/forums as per organisational structure. This process of synthesizing opinions from group level to central staff convention/council and its subsequent reflection in the formulation of a concrete plan, shapes the participatory management system of Nijera Kori.

**1.6 PLANNING, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING SYSTEM OF NIJERA KORI:**

NK has been practicing a comprehensive PME and reporting system ensuring equal participation of staff and landless groups in the whole process (See Annex B). The landless groups through regular meetings evaluate their activities and formulate plans. In these meetings leaders, representatives of landless groups/committees from other working areas too, besides the field staff of NK participate. In fact these meetings constitute the basis of the whole system. The information and recommendations generated from these meetings of the landless groups are discussed at various other levels (i.e. village, union, area and thana committee meetings and conventions etc.) of the landless organisation. Being fine-tuned through this process the recommendations, proposals of the landless are sent to the sub-centres of NK through NK field staff, which later are discussed and evaluated at various levels of the organisation as per the organisational structure. Through this process guidelines for NK activities are set, based on which NK staff formulate the plans for the organisation. To help coordinate activities, facilitate interaction between staff and groups, share the opinion and provide necessary suggestions, the executive council, divisional council and area presidents directly participate in field level activities on a regular basis. In addition, the staff and the groups at times visit each others working areas with a view to assess, evaluate, monitor and provide necessary counseling to their counterparts. The same process is followed where written reports are produced in each meeting based on which the annual report is made at the end of every activity year.

**1.7 WORKING AREAS AND NIJERA KORI (DETAILS IN ANNEX MAP- E AND TABLE - 01):**

From the very inception the NK activists as per organisation's long-term vision started working in the areas that are densely populated by the poor who basically depend on sale of their physical labour for their livelihood. Most of these working areas fall in close vicinity of the seacoasts and river basins.

<b>Table 01</b>		
<b>NK WORKING AREAS</b>		
Year	2002	2003
Village	1,194	1,242
Union	170	175
Thana	37	39
District	17	18
Division	04	04

Besides, Nijera Kori also works in some specific areas where most of the inhabitants belong to the vulnerable communities i.e. weavers, blacksmiths, tobacco and sugarcane farmers etc. and in the areas where fundamentalism, human right abuse and violation against women are usual phenomenon. Nijera Kori provides enough logistics support to carry out its programmes at field level, coordinate all its activities including regular trainings. Overall activities in the working areas are being managed and coordinated through 52 sub-centres, 17 areas, 04 divisional offices cum training centres located respectively in Tangail (Gala), Bogra (Noongola), Comilla (Chandina) and Khulna (Maniktala). The Head Office of NK is located in Dhaka. *During the activity year NK has expanded its activities in 48 more new villages, 05 unions, 02 thanas and 01 district as per plan of the previous year stated in the Annual Report 2001-2002.*

However it is to be noted that one sub-centre was being coordinated and monitored by the Rangpur area office, which was geographically under the district of Dinajpur and far away from Rangpur area office. Due to this distance, coordination and monitoring of the activities of that centre were being hampered seriously. Therefore, a new area has been created particularly for that sub-centre which is now known as Dinajpur area. Furthermore, in Ramgati area under the Chittagong division the group members in 06 unions are migrating from their village due to coastal river erosion. Hence the group activities became irregular in those areas as the groups became scattered by river erosion.

## 1.8 WHY IS NK DIFFERENT?

### ***Because of our focus on social mobilisation:***

- NK believes that the only true experts on poverty are the poor.
- NK's strategy is to provide poor and marginalised groups within society with largely intangible resources which promote their self-confidence and build their organisational capacity so that they are able to claim their rights through their own collective agency, rather than the agency of others who act on their behalf.
- NK's priority is to promote collective empowerment, rather than the empowerment of the individual. However, we recognise the importance of changes at the level of the individual, beginning with the issue of individual consciousness.

### ***Because of our democratic management structure:***

- Participatory democracy is the core value that shapes NK's management structure and decision-making process.
- NK believes that democratic management is necessary to successfully establish the rights of the poor.
- NK imbues democratic practices through participation and accountability in planning, implementation, evaluation and overall management not only with the landless groups which NK organises, but replicates and practises within the organisation itself.
- Our own structure and culture seeks, as far as possible, to replicate the principles of democracy, accountability, transparency and gender equity that are fostered through our attempts to organise the landless.

### ***Because we don't do credit:***

- What has set NK apart from perhaps every other NGO in Bangladesh is that we eschew service provision in the form of micro-credit for the poor. At a time when Bangladesh has become famous for its innovations in the arena of micro-credit, NK continued with its principle of 'we-don't-do-credit'.

### ***Because of pro-people role of our staff:***

- NK expects a level of dedication, commitment and 'people' skills from its staff that goes beyond what is required by the more professionalised NGOs in Bangladesh.
- In general, staff in large organisations expect and receive a higher remuneration, more comfortable working conditions and more benefits than NK staff. However, NK believes this widens the social and economic distance between its staff and its constituency, thereby jeopardising the relationship on which their interactions are based.
- NK staff are more like social activists, who must live among and interact closely with the poor whom they try to mobilise.
- The role of NK staff is less like an 'information collector' (as is the case in many development organisations), but more as a 'brother' or 'sister'. Their main purpose is to advise and support the *samity* (organisation) by skills that create bonds of trust between them and the landless groups. This affects the *samity* by giving the groups within it a stronger sense of unity and a greater set of common goals and values.
- NK is characterised by a high frequency of meetings, for both staff and landless groups. It is this frequency of face-to-face meetings which the organisation regards as the most important way of promoting closer relationships, establishing trust and ensuring participatory decision-making and democratic accountability.

### ***Because we target the most neglected groups:***

- NK aims to reach the most poor and marginalised groups in society. These groups include those dependent on physical labour as their main source of livelihood.

- NK works with specifically vulnerable communities, such as indigenous communities, fisher-folk, farmers, weavers etc.
- Development organisations in general have failed to reach the 'hardcore poor' - people whose poverty is so extreme that they are often excluded as targets for micro-credit activities, since they are not considered credit-worthy. Nijera Kori aims to reach those people - without land or any other resources - whose basic human rights and needs are largely ignored by society.

***Because we develop autonomous landless organisation:***

- NK emphasises on promoting autonomous nature and structure of the landless organisations so that the landless members gradually decrease their dependency on NK and finally rely on their own strength.
- NK follows a strategy through its inbuilt processes, of encouraging participation and share both in physical and financial terms, from the group members in all its activities so that the group members develop in them a sense of belonging vis a vis a feeling of ownership on the works which ultimately lead them towards being a self-dependent autonomous organisation.

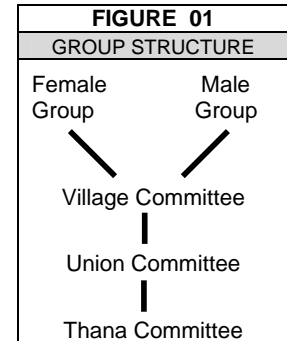
***Because of our approach to gender equity:***

- Gender inequality remains central to NK's understanding of poverty and social injustice. We recognise that patriarchy perpetuates the disadvantages of inequality, injustice and exclusion, which are intensified in relation to women and girls. In addition, they also suffer from gender-specific forms of discrimination and domestic violence within their household, restrictions on their physical movements and discrimination within labour markets, beyond the household in the larger society.
- However, NK 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, women from landless households will find their own struggle for respect and recognition far more difficult.

# CHAPTER TWO: ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES

## 2.1 THE LANDLESS ORGANISATION AND ITS FORMATION:

With a minimum of 16 and maximum 30 members a primary landless group (separately for female and male) is formed. The reason behind having a separate group for women is both for strategic reasons of giving space to women to enable them to empower themselves and also due to the prevailing socio-religious bias, which stresses exclusion and seclusion of women from society. But at a later stage when both women's and men's groups are more ready and able to work together as equals and when committees are formed both female and male members get integrated into one by being gender sensitized and conscious through the organisational process. By expanding such group formation and through covering two third of the targeted population of a particular village, union or thana the committees in those areas are formed (See Figure 01 and Annex C). However, the landless can form additional coordination committees called 'area committee' as per need for running organisational activities in a particular area, even though the organised group members constitute less than two third of the targeted population. The formation and renewal of the landless' committees at every level is done through annual conventions. In this process the landless organisation gradually get strengthened and achieves a reputable identity, which ultimately ensures its share to the local power structure.

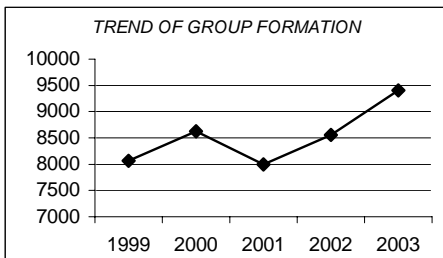


## 2.2 GROUP FORMATION AND MEMBERS (DETAILS IN ANNEX - TABLE 02 & 03):

**Achievement Analysis:** Against the plan the average (male & female) of new group formation during the activity year is 84.38 percent, which is 34.15% higher than that of previous year. The trend is obviously positive (please see the graph below titled 'Trend of Group Formation'). On the other hand the total group members of Nijera Kori now stands at 199,307 under 108,401 families which reveals the fact that a total of 520,325 population are becoming part of the social mobilisation process directly as a family member since one family is comprised of 4.8 persons in our country (Source: Statistical Pocket Book, Bangladesh 2000).

**Table 02 (Group Formation and Group Member)**

Description	Group			Member		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Upto March 02	3,726	4,829	8,555	85,159	97,065	182,224
Plan	490	515	1,005	9,800	10,300	20,100
Achievement	431	417	848	8,895	8,188	17,083
Grand Total 03	4,157	5,246	9,403	94,054	105,253	199,307



**Remarks:** It is a fact that a number of new staff who cannot adjust with the ideals and work culture of Nijera Kori leave the organisation within a year. Last year although the staff vacancies were filled up by recruiting new staff, the above stated reason again caused some staff vacancies during the activity year. As a result NK had to recruit again a total of 109 new staff. At present though the staff vacancies are apparently filled up but the new staff are still under learning process due

to which they could not play expected role in carrying out the group formation activities. In Dhaka and Khulna division the ratio of group formation is comparatively less than the plan. Due to slum eviction in NK working areas in Dhaka the group formation has been negative. On the other hand due to frequent attack on the staff and group members in Paikgacha and Gangni area in Khulna by the hired goons the staff and group leaders could not move freely for group formation activities and had to spend most of their times in defending themselves. All the above-mentioned factors hindered NK in achieving the target.

It may be mentioned at the outset that two factors negatively affected in fulfilling our achievements the last year. Deployment of the armed forces in a drive to bring the deteriorating law and order



situation under control meant that free movement of our group members and staff were greatly hampered and also our activities specially at night when male members meet. This deployment named 'Operation Clean Heart' began in October and continued till December at the outset of the Union Parishad Election. The second factor affecting day to day work was the Union Parishad Election where all group members were involved some way or the other. Both these actions took place during the dry season, which is the peak work period.

**Box 01: Comparative analysis of two areas**

The Madhupur area is under Dhaka Division and the Gaibandha area is under Rajshahi Division. Nijera Kori has been working in both the areas since the eighties. In terms of organisational activities both the areas are remarkable having full-fledged landless organisational structure from village committee to thana level committees. In terms of group formation Modhupur achieved 45% while Gaibandha achieved 71%. Why such difference in case of achievement? If the reasons are analyzed it is found that the prime issue for the landless movement in Madhupur area is Khas water bodies while in Gaibandha area it is the khas land. In both the areas the landless organisation remains vocal through various issue-based movements. The vested quarters including land usurpers have been trying to weaken the landless organisation from the very beginning through various intrigues. If we compare the strength of vested quarters in the two areas we find that the opposing forces in Modhupur are basically hardcore fundamentalists who are very active and use not only the thugs but also the power structure when required for attacking and kidnapping the landless, torching their houses and creating obstructions in their normal life. They have filed 19 false cases against the landless during the activity year. Under such situation the landless organisation in Modhupur area had to remain busy for defending its members and consolidating its existing activities and networks rather than forming new groups. As a result the ratio of group formation in Modhupur is comparatively less than Gaibandha. On the other hand the vested quarters in Gaibandha were less active than Modhupur. The false cases filed by them against the landless were only 06. As a result the landless organisation could avail comparative advantage in Gaibandha to expand their activities. However, in Modhupur area too the landless organisation is gradually becoming stronger through rigorous movement although at the moment it is facing tremendous adversities.

**Attack on poor continues**

The vested quarters including the fundamentalists never wanted the landless to flourish. A fundamentalist leader once circulated a leaflet urging people to resist the thana convention of the landless and the observance of International Women Day on 8 March 2003 branding these activities as anti-Islamic. Despite the call the convention was held very successfully. Subsequently the identified thugs hired by the vested quarters attacked Mr. Kachim Uddin, the president of the landless thana committee on 28 March at night when he was returning home after discharging his organisational duties. They injured him seriously breaking both the legs beating with iron rod and hockey stick. They have also been threatening another woman leader Ms. Apurba to rape and kill her (for more details please see the case study titled 'Attack on a Voice').

**2.3 GROUP, REPRESENTATIVE AND JOINT MEETING (DETAILS IN ANNEX - TABLE 04 & 05):**

Description	Group Meeting			R M	J M	AGM
	Male	Female	Total			
Plan	78,344	105,383	183,727	949	-	-
Achievement	57,754	75,760	133,514	952	760	6,993
R M=Representative Meeting, J M=Joint Meeting, A G M=Annual Group Meeting						

**Achievement Analysis:** This year the overall achievement in group meeting is 72.67% against the plan. It may specially be mentioned that the ratio of arranging group meeting at group's initiative has increased by 6.43% in comparison to that

of previous year (please see Table 04). Similarly representatives' meeting was achieved 100.32% as per plan while joint meeting and annual group meeting increased respectively by 51.70% and 158.71% than that of previous year.

**Remarks:** Due to military deployment at grassroot level, which hampered movement of the group members specially at night and 2 months long union council election, the staff and group leaders were unable to sit together and conduct group level activities freely. In the north Bengal under Rajshahi division severe cold waves hampered activities while in Paikgacha and Gangni area under Khulna division and Modhupur area under Dhaka division hired goons conducted series of attack on the staff and group leaders. All the above obstructions hampered the planned activities of NK due to which the target could not be reached as per plan. In addition, group members migrate to other places during non-peak agricultural season in search of employment, which minimises their attendance in the meetings resulting in irregularities in holding the meetings on a regular basis.

Group Meeting at Group's Initiative		
By Gender	2002	2003
Male	16,671	17,601
Female	13,315	14,314
Total	29,986	31,915

### **Hired thugs attacked the landless in polder 22**

It is the Nijera Kori Sub-centre at Noai which has come under attack by the armed thugs twice within 5 months. Noai is a village in 22 polder under Paikgacha Thana in Khulna District. Through rigorous movement the landless poor could retain the status of 22 polder as shrimp free zone as a result of which the polder at present is considered to be the only green belt amidst the entire shrimp farm areas in Bangladesh. However the shrimp farmers and local elites have been trying consistently for years to introduce shrimp in the polder and are threatening its inhabitants.

As part of the same blueprint the underground gangs hired by shrimp farmers attacked the staff and landless group leaders of Nijera Kori at Noai on 5 October 2002 at night when 4 staff and 12 group members were injured seriously.

Again on 20 March 2003, Thursday, around midnight, they attacked the landless group leaders and staff at Noai. The attack was carried out just before a day when the group members decided to take action against the illegal erection of embankments by shrimp farmers couple of days back, forcibly occupying farmlands in the area. 3 landless group leaders and a non-group member were hospitalised being seriously injured in the attack. The thugs also tied up the staff of Nijera Kori and snatched away mobile phones. They threatened them with dire consequences if they henceforth become engaged in campaigning against shrimp cultivation in the 22 polder.

The group members have tried to file a case of the incident with the local police station. However, police did not accept their case on the pretext that the officer in charge was not present. This was just a mere excuse by the police as the group members are normally deprived from availing legal support services. Eventually the police was forced to accept a general diary against the incident in the wake of massive protest by the landless and pressure from other civil society groups.

#### **2.4 WORKSHOPS (DETAILS IN ANNEX - TABLE 05):**

**Achievement Analysis:** The groups organise workshops to review their activities and identify strengths and weaknesses as well as local issues with a view to strengthen and consolidate the organisation. According to the plan the overall achievement during the activity year was 91.92%.

Description	N	P
Plan	99	2,475
Achievement	91	2,425

(N=Number, P=Participant)

Furthermore, 6 advanced level workshops (2 day long) were held in Rowmari, Modhupur, Ramgati, Comilla and Charjabbar area while last year this number was 3. These workshops are believed to have strengthened the concept and system of "Joint Production Management" among the members. In these 5 areas the landless organisation could undertake joint economic activities more extensively than the previous years.

**Remarks:** In the Chittagong division the achievement ratio is higher than the plan. The reason behind is that the group members felt the necessity to organise more workshops beyond the plan for the sake of consolidating and strengthening the organisation. On the other hand in Khulna and Dhaka divisions the achievement was less than the plan due to series of attack by the thugs hired by vested quarters on the groups and staff. Therefore in the early phase of the year the workshops could not be organised in those two divisions. When the organisation tried to organise the

workshops in the remaining phases of the year, it could not do so encountering military deployment and prolonged local government election during that period. Hence the target could not be achieved as per plan in those two divisions. As a result the full achievement could not be of target as planned. It may be mentioned that in each workshops the participants themselves contribute financially and inspire others to practice it in all activities.

## 2.5 COMMITTEE FORMATION, MEETING AND CONVENTION (DETAILS IN ANNEX - TABLE 06 & 07):

Description	V	U	T	A
Plan (Committee Formation)	39	15	01	07
Achievement	36	03	-	-
Plan (Convention)	134	26	03	26
Achievement	149	14	02	28
Plan (Committee Meeting)	1,599	220	22	264
Achievement	1,190	166	27	223

(V=Village, U= Union, T= Thana, A= Area)

**Achievement Analysis:** During the year the achievement in committee formation was 92.31% at village level and 20% at union level. The total number of committees formed at the end of activity year (till March 2003) is given below in Box 02. The achievement in group convention was respectively 111.19% at village level, 53.85% at union level, 66.67%

at thana level and 107.69% at area level. The implementation ratio of committee meetings is 74.42% at village level, 75.45% at union level, 122.73% at thana level and 84.47% at area level. It is to be noted that the landless organisations formed 4 new additional committees (that are specifically formed for conducting and strengthening issue-based movements in the concerned area, but not part of the landless groups' structure) in 4 divisions in addition to 30 existing committees. The total number of such committees now stands at 34. These issue based additional committees have been successfully continuing with their struggle/movement on issues like khas land and water bodies, resistance against industrial shrimp aquaculture, unplanned development projects etc. in cooperation with other formal committees.

**Remarks:** As per groups' policy, the precondition of forming an organisational committee is to organise two third of the targeted population of the concerned area (please see Annex C). As the above precondition could not be fulfilled the committees at thana and area level as planned could not be formed. However, the achievement ratio of group conventions at village and area levels was more than the plan since a few conventions of the previous year were held in April 2003 which could not be included in the last year's report. Also as per the number of committees the group conventions at village and union levels could not be held due to military deployment, local government election, spell of cold waves particularly in the northern region, series of attack by thugs etc. For the same reason the committee meetings also could not be achieved as per plan although thana committee meeting is an exception. In case of thana committee meeting the achievement is more than 100% as the landless had to organise more meetings in Modhupur area under Dhaka division to find out ways to tackle the attacks on the landless. It may be mentioned that at all levels of group convention the groups contribute financially (please see Annex Table 17).

Total Committees	
Village:	163
Union:	19
Thana:	02
Area:	24
Additional:	34

## 2.6 GROUP SAVING AND BANK ACCOUNT (DETAILS IN ANNEX - TABLE 08 & 09)

When the landless form a group they determine their rate of monthly saving taking into consideration the financial ability of the poorest member of the group. The overall responsibility for collection and safeguarding the savings lies on the landless organisation. However, the staff of NK provide necessary advice and technical support, if required, to the group. By no means NK plays the role of neither collector nor does it keep their savings

Description	Plan	Achievement
Saving	3,973,896	9,485,351
Bank Account	-	445

**Achievement Analysis:** The achievement in group savings is comparatively higher than the plan. Similarly number of opening new bank accounts for safeguarding the savings reached to 445 which is 58.93% higher than the previous year.

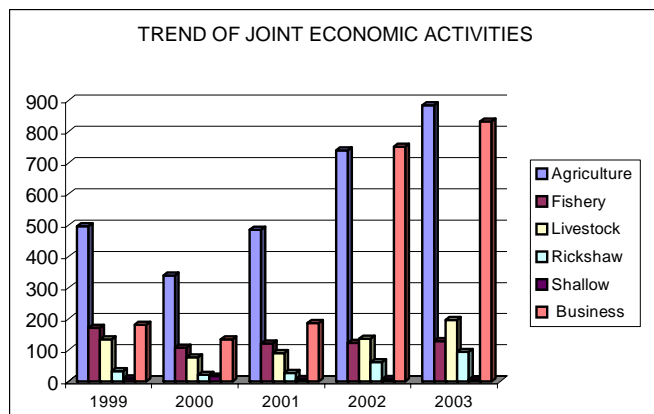
The group members have been utilizing a portion of their savings to help themselves during various crises they face in their day-to-day life. For instance, they have distributed among

themselves a total of TK. 3,127,540 during the year to overcome the dependency on moneylenders or institutional credit net, which appears as means of attaining their self-reliance. On the other hand the groups spent TK. 453,874 from the group savings in various organisational, legal aid, educational and other social welfare activities in the year inside and outside the activity areas (details in Annex - Table 17).

**Remarks:** A few of the groups increased their rate of savings as per groups' decision, which has been reflected in the total figure of the groups' savings in the activity year. As a result, the achievement in group savings became higher than the plan. However, the groups' bank accounts are not increasing as expected due to following reasons. The main reason is the distance between the bank and working area. Secondly, the bank authority still continues to remain reluctant to help open joint bank accounts (group's bank account requires 3 signatories) with such meager amounts the groups can provide.

## 2.7 JOINT ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (DETAILS IN ANNEX - TABLE 13):

When a group reaches a certain level of consciousness and accrues a reasonable amount from its savings then it undertakes joint economic activity. Joint economic activity is also an integral part of regular awareness raising activities. The groups have been carrying out their joint economic activities by taking lease of individually owned or khas land/acquiring khas land and water bodies, purchasing rickshaw, livestock etc. depending on local conditions and opportunities available in the activity area.



The groups have a collective management system under which the joint economic activities are undertaken. Under the system they distribute equally among themselves some portion of the profit generated from these joint activities. The remaining portion they save in their joint accounts for future initiatives.

**Achievement Analysis:** Except the one shallow pump (irrigation) the groups' increased their activities in all other sectors in comparison to that of previous year (please

see the graph). This year the groups newly have increased the volume of joint economic activities in the following sectors respectively: Agriculture 177, Fishery 25, Livestock 98, Rickshaw/Van 44 and Small Business 234, total 578. The groups have earned a total of 4,176,322 taka from joint economic activities in the activity year.

**Remarks:** Joint economic activities specially agriculture and fish farming depend on occupying khas land and water bodies or on taking lease of the individually owned agricultural land and water bodies. For livestock rearing the main hurdle is non-availability of animal feed and necessary veterinary treatment facilities. For small trading of seasonal crops also the space and facilities for their preservation are too limited. In case of rickshaw/van renting activities although the investment is made jointly but the running of the business has to be done individually as deemed by the nature of the business. Above all, all such joint economic activities are seasonal and cease to continue after a certain period. Reinitiating such activities depend on overall congenial atmosphere of the next period. Due to these uncertainties the groups are not being able to keep the consistency of joint economic activities. Due to all of the above reasons some of the groups were unable to continue their activities in the following sectors during the year: Agriculture 32, Fisheries 20, Livestock 38, Rickshaw/Van 11, Shallow 1, Small business 153, Total 255. They are now in the process of exploring new fields for joint economic activities.

### **Box 03: Financial self-reliance through social mobilisation**

A congenial environment with improved human rights situation enhances the economic capability of the people. The landless organisation has been trying relentlessly to expedite the process of ensuring human rights through its movements/struggle. Towards this end the landless achieved considerable success in many cases, which helped them directly or indirectly to explore the avenues for economic solvency or other resources. Undoubtedly solvency can be achieved through increased income or wealth but at the same time it can be ensured through reduction in unnecessary expenditures. A few examples are given below:

#### **Saving and its use**

- *The group members increase their savings gradually starting with a meagre amount even while living in extreme poverty. Here the tendency for hard work and a positive attitude towards life is the guiding factor for their activities.*
- *With the savings the group members undertake joint economic activities like agriculture, fishery, livestock rearing, renting of rickshaw/van and other seasonal businesses and distribute the profit equally among themselves. This helps them considerably in uplifting their financial position and the joint economic activities are on rise every year (please see Table 13).*
- *At the time of severe crises, specially during the agricultural season, group members borrow money from their savings without interest and refund it gradually. As a result they are spared from paying a considerable amount as interest if the loan is taken from local mahajans (money lenders) or micro-credit institutions. They can invest this saved amount in other income generating activities for the welfare of their families.*
- *In some special cases when the savings become huge the group members distribute a portion of the amount equally among themselves. Most of the members undertake income-generating activities with the amount like livestock rearing, taking lease of cultivable land, purchasing rickshaw, opening small shops, initiating embroidery works etc. Many of them are increasing their economic solvency and moving towards self-reliance through this process (please see case study 'Suphia's struggle for dignity came true through the landless organisation').*
- *In many cases group members also undertake individually some income generating activities like producing mats, kantha (home made blanket), making puffed rice, craft items etc. borrowing money from the savings provided they will pay 5-10% to the group savings (in addition to the amount borrowed) out of their total profit. These economic activities are also helping considerably to promote self-reliance of the group members.*

### **Economic solvency through movements**

- *Increasing access to state resources and regaining the illegally occupied lands is helping the landless and marginal farmers to gain self-sufficiency on a permanent basis (please see Table 20 and 21).*
- *The movement of the groups for due wages is gradually being intensified in every working area and in many cases the group members were successful in increasing their wages. This increased amount is contributing to some extent to increase the economic base (please see case study 'Struggle for due wages').*
- *Due to rigorous movement of the groups on different issues like bribery, corruption etc. as well as due to the meaningful dialogues between the groups and the local administration and civil bodies the cases of bribery, corruption, mismanagement are being reduced considerably in many working areas. Participation of the group members in different committees is also contributing a lot towards reducing these anomalies. As a result the undue expenses of the poor for the mentioned purposes are being saved which is contributing towards stabilizing the financial condition of the groups (please see Table 18, 22 and 23).*
- *In every working area the landless had to spend a considerable amount earlier as fee for doctor and purchasing medicine. Now the situation is changing gradually due to groups' activities. When the access to government provided medical facilities is being ensured the landless are being spared from spending the undue money for the treatment or taking loan from moneylenders. As a result they are having a chance to save the amount for undertaking other income generating activities or other necessary purposes.*
- *In every working area participation of the landless leaderships in local shalishes is gradually increasing. Earlier when the landless had no hold in the local power structures they had to spend money for getting justice. This is no more needed now as the landless are the justice providers. As a result undue expenses are no more required for the landless for the purpose (please see Table 19).*
- *Dowry, predominant in rural societies, affects the financial state of the poor for arranging the marriage of their daughters. Sometimes they borrow a substantial amount from the traditional moneylenders for giving to the bridegroom. This sometimes causes destitution. But due to protest and consciousness raising activities by the landless organisation the cases of dowry have been reduced in the NK working areas saving the poor families from the debt trap provoked by the dowry culture.*

### **Landless organisation and its members**

- *Members of the landless organisation usually come together to solve any problem faced by any of their fellow members and other non-members. They provide voluntary help like physical labour and grant from the savings to the extremely hapless one for purposes like treatment, education, repairing houses etc. As a result collective initiative for promoting self-reliance is being strengthened (please see Table 17).*

### **2.8 LEVEL OF GROUP CONSCIOUSNESS: (DETAILS IN ANNEX - TABLE 16):**

In NK's perception consciousness means, rational reflection of overall experiences gained through organisational activities. When the state of consciousness of most of the members in a group is found similar as per the criterion defined, then they are put to a particular stratum of groups. These strata of the groups with regard to their level of consciousness are defined as: Primary, Secondary and Final Level (please see Box 04).

**Achievement Analysis:** During the activity year Male 49, Female 32, total 81 groups were successfully promoted to the secondary level from the primary stage, which is 47.09% against the plan. Although the number could not be achieved as per plan the ratio of achievement is 2.53% higher than the previous year. But the promotion of groups into final level from the secondary one

Description	2000	2001	2002	2003
1 <sup>st</sup> Level	7,823	7,306	7,788	8,555
2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	796	685	764	845
Final Level	03	03	03	03

could not be achieved. Table - 09 shows the trend of progress of the groups at different levels.

At the secondary level the trend of progress is found upward although the same remained downward in the year 2001. The reason for this was group members' migration from their respective areas due to river erosion and slum

eviction for which some groups have been excluded from the statistics.

**Remarks:** *The landless groups ensure the process of change of consciousness level through practical experiences gained from overall activities/struggle in their day-to-day life. Through this process the group members strive to bring about a change in their consciousness level by striking on the outdated ideas and views prevailing in the society. They try to nourish and uphold progressive ideas and values through this process. This is a lengthy, practice oriented but steady process. However, the group members have to remain busy for their livelihood so much so that they in many cases fail to integrate themselves with the process. Moreover, coming out of the prevailing mindset that is imbued with elements of traditional social disparity, socio-religious prejudices, parasitic thoughts and ideas inherited through feudal social system, is really a tough job and in such a context achieving higher state of consciousness is very much time-consuming. In order to reach the next stage, many group members may fulfill certain criteria but they are yet to fulfill all the criteria. Also majority of group members need to be of the same level of consciousness to reach the stage so that a few leaders do not dominate the groups.*

<b>Box 04: Level of group consciousness</b>	
<b>PRIMARY LEVEL</b>	
Groups at this level concentrates on becoming organised, developing basic awareness and ensuring regular attendance at meetings. Group savings and account keeping are given importance in-group activity.	
<b>SECONDARY LEVEL</b>	
At this level the groups reach a level of social awareness where they can act on behalf of all members of their class within their area, irrespective of their member, non-member identity. They develop accountability and leadership skills and initiate collective action. <i>At this level the group members can organise group meetings without help from NK staff, ensure participation of all in the discussions, use the savings in joint economic and solidarity activities and organise movements by identifying the issues of concern in the locality as well as organise other people of similar classes in the locality. They also bear responsibility of their works collectively at this level. Through this process of undertaking actions and carrying out their responsibilities they gradually proceed to the higher level.</i>	
<b>FINAL LEVEL</b>	
At this level, groups become able to analyse national and global issues and relate these to their own situation. They participate in national rallies and organise rallies in their own localities. Their savings are used for the benefit of the community. They also ensure access to local and national resources for collective production or use through constant movement/struggle. Their leadership is established in the locality.	

**Box 05: A long process of awareness building**

*Changing of consciousness is an internal and thoroughgoing process. The change is noticed through groups' activities. Such change has been examined below by analysing the activities of two groups having varied experiences and duration. The same set of questions evoked responses are given below which gives an idea of awareness levels at different stages.*

<b>GROUP THAT PASSED 01 YEAR</b>	<b>GROUP THAT PASSED 10 YEARS</b>
<p><b>Introduction to the group:</b>            Name: Tinchita 3 no. landless organisation            Address: Village -Tinchita, Union - Babupara, P.S. – Dawdkandi, District – Comilla            Number of group members: 22            Savings: Taka 4,820.00</p> <p><b>Why was the organisation formed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group members themselves will be united.</li> <li>• They will do something together by saving some amount.</li> <li>• Will fight against exploitation.</li> </ul> <p><b>How to achieve targets?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will organise meeting regularly and discuss issues of public interest.</li> <li>• Form more landless organisations.</li> <li>• Will be united with other landless organisations.</li> <li>• Will participate in training.</li> <li>• Organise movement against injustice.</li> <li>• Increase the strength of the landless by mobilizing support of other civil society groups.</li> </ul> <p><b>Achievements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could organise 2 meetings a month.</li> <li>• Average attendance in those meetings was 50%.</li> <li>• 15% actively participated in the discussion.</li> <li>• Participants came to know about their basic rights.</li> <li>• At least 10-12 members of a group are being able to participate in the movements.</li> <li>• Group members could overcome their dissidence and become articulate.</li> <li>• Group members could gain self-confidence and strength out of their unity.</li> <li>• They can make future plan collectively by discussing among themselves.</li> <li>• Group members are convinced of necessity for savings.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Introduction to the group:</b>            Name: Rasulpur 10 no. landless organisation            Address: Village – Rasulpur, Union – Rasulpur, PS. – Debidwar, District – Comilla            Number of group members: 16            Savings: Taka 67,860.00</p> <p><b>Why was the organisation formed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To contribute in establishing a just society.</li> <li>• To protest against all forms of injustice and disparity.</li> <li>• To run joint economic activities with the savings.</li> </ul> <p><b>How to achieve targets?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By increasing organisational strength through forming more landless organisations in villages.</li> <li>• Accelerating the process of achieving rights through issue-based movement/struggle.</li> <li>• Ensuring participation at all levels of the society with a view to control the rural power structure.</li> <li>• Building effective relationship with other progressive forces of the society.</li> </ul> <p><b>Achievements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could ensure the weekly meetings.</li> <li>• Groups became capable of organising group meetings at their own initiative.</li> <li>• Group members can discuss on various national and international issues.</li> <li>• Average attendance of the members in group meetings was 80%.</li> <li>• Average participation in the discussion was 70%.</li> <li>• Groups play leadership role in struggle/movements.</li> <li>• Undertook joint economic activities in the year 2000.</li> <li>• The initial investment of taka 15,000 in joint economic activities reached now at taka 45,000.</li> <li>• The members could share among themselves 70% of the profit and deposit the rest 30% in their group account.</li> <li>• 02 members could be elected in the regional committees.</li> <li>• 01 member was elected in the Market Committee.</li> <li>• 01 member was elected in the Rasulpur Union Parishad.</li> <li>• 01 member was elected in the social committee for maintaining security and peace in the area.</li> <li>• The group could reach secondary level as per consciousness criteria.</li> <li>• Group leaders conduct local shalishes.</li> </ul>

**Comparative Analysis:**

If the level of consciousness and group activities of the above two are compared the following differences and changes can be noticed. However, to achieve these changes the groups had to come a long way with their relentless effort.

- The group that has been continuing 10 years could bring positive changes through organisational process, in evaluating the prevailing socio-economic structure, in perceiving clear-cut idea about their goal and objectives and taking firm stand for materializing their plans and activities. It is a direct result of group dynamics.



- This group through its continuous experiences and effort could gain self-confidence. Group members themselves are able to run the group activities without seeking help from the staff of Nijera Kori.
- In selecting subjects of discussion and ensuring participation of members in the meetings a consistent progress is noticed.
- A system of utilizing savings for right purposes, has been established which is the outcome of change at consciousness level of group members and long practiced group activities.
- Participation and partnership of the group in institutional and social power structures is being ensured which happened due to group's sustained organisational activities, movements and recognition of its leadership by the society.
- The change and difference in these two groups reveal that social mobilisation vis a vis enhancing the level of consciousness of masses and gaining control over the rural power structure etc. is a long process that requires definite vision and commitment as well as collective leadership.

## 2.9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION:

Local government structure as planned should comprise of four components. Its components are: 1) Village government (council), 2) Union council (in case of city it is municipal corporation), 3) Upazilla council and 4) District council. Although it is a four-tiered system but only Union council/ Municipal Corporation is operational at present. Other three tiers are not yet functioning and no election process is yet planned to take place. Landless organisation participated in the union council election held during the activity year. Nomination of the candidate is usually done

Description	Male	Female	Total
Year – 1997-1998			
Candidates	81	49	130
Elected	35	23	58
Year – 2002-2003			
Candidates	111	77	188
Elected	44	40	84

through elaborate discussion in meetings of the landless at different level. In areas where landless committees still could not be formed, the candidate is selected through representative meeting. The cost of election is borne by the landless organisation, from the subscriptions given by its members. Nijera Kori does not provide any cost for such election.

**Achievement Analysis:** During the activity year male 111, female 77 (56 were reserved and 5 were open seats), total 188 persons contested in the election. A total of 84 persons, male 44, female 40 (37 in reserved and 3 in open seats) were elected out of the 188 contestants. If the election of 2002-03 is compared with the one of 1997-98 it is seen that in the present year the ratio of candidates has increased for male 37.04% and female 57.14%, total 44.62% than the previous election. On the other hand male 25.71%, female 73.91%, total 44.83% persons more were elected than before. In 1997-98 no female member contested in the open seats. But in the election of 2002-03 a total of 5 female members contested in the open seats out of whom 3 were elected.

And in all 3 reserved seats of Pairaband union 3 women leaders of the landless were elected. It is positive to notice that women are ahead of men throughout the process from contesting to being elected in the area.

Furthermore, the landless organisation supported 4 persons as candidate in the post of chairman from others who are well wisher of the landless but not group member and also 107 male and 31 female, total 138 persons as contestant member in the union council. The 4 have been elected as chairman and out of other 138 persons 72 male and 18 female (in the reserved seats) have been elected as member in the union council. In the previous election the landless organisation supported 96 candidates for the post of union council member out of which 64 were elected, all were male.

If the result of two elections is analysed, it is seen that the number of candidates supported by the

landless organisation in the present year is 47.92% more than the previous election. It reveals the fact that the reciprocal relationship between the landless and other civil society groups is positively on the rise and the landless organisation is present in the society as a positive force. This force can not be ignored by any sector particularly in the rural socio-political context.

### ***Women empowerment is in process***

The union is Pairaband under Mithapukur upazilla in district Rangpur. It is the birthplace of Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, the frontrunner in the movement of women emancipation in the sub-continent. The area where the process of women empowerment and emancipation should have been strengthened shows just the opposite trend. Women in this area are confined by various prejudices in family and socio-religious domains. Landless organisation is striving to gradually break all these barriers. In 1996-97 3 female members from landless groups contested in the election of union council and 2 got elected. In 2002-03 3 landless women have been elected in all 3 reserved seats of Pairaband union council. The neutral role and activities of elected women leaders of previous tenure inspired people of the area to elect 3 landless women in the present year too. However the landless have been trying to take control of the union council for expediting the pace of progress in the area. Therefore, besides the female members the winning of a male member Badshah Miah also in Ward No. 3 of the council is a step forward towards this end. This success reveals the acceptance of the landless organisation by the people on the one hand and the positive trend of women empowerment on the other. The constituencies and other information of the elected members are as follows:

1. Sahana Begum, Ward No. 1, number of votes obtained – 1965. Number of persons contested against her – 4. She had been elected in 1996-97 election too.
2. Anjuara Begum, Ward No. 2, total votes obtained – 2,186. Number of opponent contestants – 3.
3. Mariam Begum, Ward No – 3, total votes obtained – 1495 and number of opponents – 5. She had been elected in 1996-97 election as well.

### ***Remarks:***

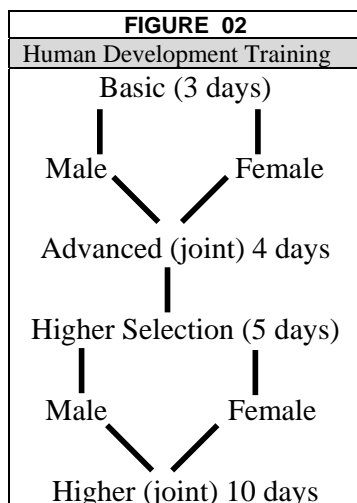
In different unions of Charjabbar and Ramgati areas the union council election has been withheld by a court order due to pending cases concerning border dispute. Otherwise there was a possibility of increase in the number of elected landless members if the election could be held in these two areas.

It may be mentioned here that the enthusiasm of women candidates participating in the local election is contradictory to the findings of the Power and participation resource center (PPRC), Local Government Support Group, which shows the national trend. The number of women participating in the reserved seats was considerably lower during this election as compared to last election. It is a fact that in areas where organised landless groups are non-existent, women do not feel encouraged to contest in the reserved seats as they can play no active role in absence of organised support and backing from the fellow masses. In Nijera Kori working areas the picture is just the opposite as there is organised backing and support to women candidates from their fellow landless group members.

# CHAPTER THREE: TRAINING AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

## 3.1 TRAINING AND CULTURE: (DETAILS IN ANNEX - TABLE 10):

Human development training is held with 20-25 female/male participants in each of the training events. At the basic level the training is imparted to female and male members separately while at the advanced level the same is imparted jointly. Again at the higher selection level, it is organised separately and at the higher level, jointly (please see Figure 02). This is the strategy that NK has been following so far to provide training to both female and male members. Given the prevailing socio-religious condition trainings are organised separately with a view to creating free environment specially for women so that they can interact openly with other fellow participants which in the presence of male members becomes uncomfortable.



Afterwards both female and male members are taken together during the advanced level training to create scope of reciprocal interaction for both the participants so that they can develop a greater understanding and overcome gender bias. The same process is followed at the higher selection and the higher training level for the same reason. In the same line, a few more trainings are also undertaken based on the specific demand of groups from the working areas. Organising joint cultural training at basic and advanced level with participation of 20 female and male cultural group members is an instance at point. Trainings on issues like "Leadership Development", "Joint Production Management" and "Right of Access to Information" are being imparted to a group of 20-25 participants both female and male who once were given basic training and are prominent among the members. On the other hand, in Rajshahi, Khulna and Chittagong Divisions, specially in coastal areas and polders, livestock training (basic and advanced) is imparted to

promote the traditional way of livestock rearing, ensure vaccination and emergency treatment. The participants are those who are deprived of every opportunity provided by the government. Furthermore, Para-legal trainings are also provided in those working areas where the group members fall victim of various false cases, human rights abuses and related harassments.

**Achievement Analysis:** In case of trainings the achievement ratio was up to expectation except one higher-level human development training. In case of advanced cultural training the achievement was higher than the plan (please see Table 10). However, the para legal and livestock trainings were suspended during the activity year after first quarter for improving the training modules and enhancing the skill of the trainers. The modules have been improvised in the last quarter of the year through TOT and the livestock training has been renamed as 'sustainable development training' unanimously. 20-25 members usually participate in a training. From that count, the number of participants in the trainings was reasonable. In case of advanced cultural training the number of participants was more than it was planned. It may be noted that, at the end of the training participants as usual formulated an elaborate plan concerning their future role and responsibilities, being driven by the inspiration and commitment reinforced through the trainings. The participants instantly composed songs, poetry, and drama etc. from the issues discussed which they later presented before the audience. This may be considered as an immediate

Description of Training	Plan		Achievement	
	N	P	N	P
<b>HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING</b>				
Basic	54	1,350	54	1,288
Advanced	14	350	14	328
Higher Selection	09	225	09	189
Higher	01	25	-	-
<b>CULTURAL TRAINING</b>				
Basic	04	80	04	79
Advanced	01	20	02	51
Higher	-	-	01	13
Workshop	-	-	01	07
<b>OTHER TRAININGS</b>				
Leadership Development	04	100	04	79
Joint Production Management	04	100	04	99
Right to Information	04	100	04	90
Para Legal	30	750	02	48
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>				
Basic	10	250	03	73
Advanced	04	100	-	-
<i>N= Number, P= Participant</i>				

outcome of trainings while the long-term outcome may show in the overall activities. Primarily the groups are mobilised by these trained members before they are formed. The trained members regularly participate in meetings of their own group and other and share their learning and experiences with the fellow members. The most significant aspect of the cultural trainings was the joint participation of the staff and the group members.

**Remarks:** Higher trainings could not be organised during the year due to the attack on the group leaders and staff by the hired miscreants, false cases filed by vested quarters etc. In many working areas the training could not be held because in the absence of selected members the fellow members felt they would not be able to tackle the crisis in the absence of leadership. On the other hand one additional advanced training had to be organised taking the staff and group members of every working area together as the reinvigoration of the cultural movement in those areas was felt by the groups and staff. The reason for suspending the para legal and livestock trainings was to improve the training modules as well as enhance skill of the trainers. The improvised training modules will be made effective from the next working year. It is to be noted that NK learned from the activities that participation of female group members in the production management, leadership development, right and access to information and cultural trainings was comparatively less than the plan. NK will give emphasis to ensure equal participation of both segments in these trainings next year.

### 3.2 FOLLOW UP OF TRAINING:

Following up of the given trainings is an integral part of the whole training activities. After imparting training to the group members, it is followed up through the following strategies. Firstly, in group meetings NK encourages trained members to analyse and summarise the discussion they took part in. Secondly, regular refresher trainings at the field level are organised with the trainees.

DESCRIPTION	P	A
Refresher Training	66	91
Participant	1,650	2,145
Training forum meeting	822	839
<i>P= Plan, A= Achievement</i>		

Thirdly, training forums are formed usually consisting of 10 trained members with a view to deepen their concepts, understanding and leadership skill.

**Achievement Analysis:** In case of refresher training the implementation ratio was 137.87%, which is higher than the plan. As a result the number of participants has also increased (please see Table 11). On the other hand, the achievement in training forum meeting was 102.06% and the formation of training forums at the initiatives of trainees increased to 38 from 35.

**Remarks:** The trainees themselves take initiative to organise refresher trainings for improving their concepts and understanding, as they feel necessary. So due to such self-initiative of the trainees (group members), refresher trainings were held more than that of plan. It may be mentioned that in each follow-up training the participants themselves contribute financially and inspire others to follow this participatory process at all levels.

### 3.3 CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:

Without positive cultural transformation resisting the existing anti-people cultural practices the goal of social mobilisation can not be achieved fully. Therefore, cultural activities are an integral part of NK's social mobilisation process. The purpose of cultural activities is to develop social awareness about disparities and all sorts of injustices and deprivations, remove prejudices from society and strengthen solidarity among the masses by promoting human values through cultural practices. The universal appeal against inhuman disparities in the society generated through such cultural activities strengthens social resistance. From this standpoint the cultural groups are formed through a weeklong discussion by the culturally aware group members who discuss the issues among themselves 2/3 hours a day on a regular basis.

Description	P	A
Meeting	564	585
Drama	183	346
Discussion	100	166
Padajatra	04	03
Function	224	334

*(P=Plan, A=Achievement)*

**Achievement Analysis:** Till the date a total of 47 cultural groups are playing active role at field level. The cultural group meeting has achieved 103.72% while the achievement in drama was 189.07%, in cultural discussion 166% and in cultural functions (held on important national and international days *including Korunamoyee Martyr's Day and Rokeya Day*) 149.11%. Only in case of weeklong cultural padajatra the achievement was 75% as one padajatra could not be organised as per plan (*please see Table 12*). Through these cultural activities based on local issues like injustice, atrocities against the poor, violence against women, human rights abuses and environmental degradation etc. the cultural groups have been trying relentlessly to awaken and encourage the masses for their participation in peoples' movement.

**Remarks:** *The landless organisation emphasized on reorienting the cultural groups and consolidating activities rather than forming new groups during the activity year due to which the new cultural groups could not be formed. However, the formation of a few more cultural groups is under process. In almost every working area the cultural movement of the grassroots has been strengthened and as a result the cultural activities have been overachieved.*

### **3.3.1 WEEK LONG 'PADAJATRA' (LONG MARCH)**

The cultural groups of Gaibandha area under Rajshahi division, Tangail and Modhupur area under Dhaka Division have organised 3 weeklong cultural processions (padajatra) with the help of the landless groups. A total of 13 cultural groups participated in the padajatra, alongwith hundreds of poor women and men covering 199 kilometres on foot. They performed 64 open-staged functions like mass drama and peoples' songs, open discussion etc. at various public places (hat/bazaar & school premises) arranged by 109 villages. The villagers arranged boarding and lodging facilities for the participants at the local school premises and collected from among themselves the rice, pulses, vegetables, fish, and utensils etc. About 1000/1500 women and men attended each of the functions. In almost every area local Rickshaw Driver's Association, Baby Taxi Driver's Association, Hat/Bazaar Committee etc. extended their unconditional support to the organisers and this has strengthened the solidarity between the landless and other civil bodies.

### **3.4 STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:**

NK has a comprehensive staff development strategy, which the organisation has been applying for staff development from the beginning. As part of this development strategy schooling is a must in all regular meetings i.e. weekly, monthly group and staff meetings, divisional and executive committee meetings etc. In view of providing sufficient information and reading materials to the groups and staff NK has established libraries in all training centres. Studying and idea sharing on a regular basis is mandatory for all the staff and is an integral part of the staff development process. In all group trainings the staff alternately have to participate as observer, beside their mandatory participation in the staff development trainings at primary, secondary and higher level.

#### **Activities:**

- Holding regular meetings of the staff, activity evaluation sessions and imparting staff development trainings at all levels were given emphasis during the activity year.
- A total of 5 staff development trainings for the new recruits at primary level were organised where 109 new recruits participated.
- A total of 18 staff participated in 2 advanced level cultural workshops.
- With a view to promote the cultural sector at grassroot level through enhancing the skill and performance of the cultural team of Nijera Kori 1 cultural workshop was organised specially for the cultural team members.

- A week long TOT was organised for enhancing the skill of the training cell of Nijera Kori where 19 staff participated. The TOT was conducted by the Institute for Law and Development (ILD), a pioneer institution for legal trainings and development of law in Bangladesh founded in 1987.
- A 7 days workshop on development of women leadership was organised specially for the women staff of Nijera Kori where a total of 26 staff participated.
- A 2 day workshop on class, patriarchy and gender was held with a view to enhance the level of understanding of the staff and help conceptualise the nature of class, patriarchy and gender disparities. 30 senior most staff including the central team and the coordinator of Nijera Kori participated in the workshop, which was conducted by Kamla Bhasin, a renowned gender specialist of the sub-continent.

**Remarks:** *The advanced and higher level staff development trainings could not be held as per plan due to adverse situation in many working areas like attack on the staff and group leaders etc.*

## CHAPTER FOUR: SPECIAL & OTHER ACTIVITIES

### 4.1 SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

#### 4.1.1 LEGAL AID (DETAILS IN ANNEX - TABLE 15):

Through constant struggle and movements the landless organisation is being able to strengthen and speed up the effort of establishing rights of the masses. The more the voice and demands of the grassroots are being recognised in society the more the vested groups are striving to alienate this voice from the society and cause a rift among the grassroots leadership through various intrigues, false cases, police harassment and intimidation. Primarily the false cases are taken care of by the group members using their own savings. When the groups are unable to cover the cost of the cases themselves, Nijera Kori provides them with legal aid support.

DESCRIPTION	2002-03
Till March 2002	348
New Cases	177
Settled Cases	73
Judgment in Favour of Group	58
Appeal Cases	05
Total Cases	457
Conducted by Groups	175
Supported by NK	282

**Achievement Analysis:** Out of 73 settled cases 58 were settled in favour of the landless groups, which is 79.45% of the total settled cases. The groups also conducted by themselves 175 cases out of total 457, which is 38.29% of the total. They spent a total of 40,295 taka in addition to their transportation and other expenses to conduct those cases and 29,425 taka to support the families of the arrested group members.

**Remarks:** Out of 177 new cases the groups filed only 11. These too are mainly regarding violence against women and against illegal shrimp farming. The groups filed only 05 appeal cases. The reason of decrease in number of resolved cases compared to previous years was that the government decided to emphasize on resolving the cases serially starting from the old ones. As a result the cases filed contemporarily were not brought forward for hearing. With regard to appeal cases the number is less because in a number of settled cases the judgments were such that the cost of appeal against the judgments would be higher than the punishment sanctioned. As for example in a few cases the penalty was a one-month jail or 2,000 taka. Therefore the group members as per decision of their groups decided not to appeal against the judgments. However, 03 cases were selected for appeal considering the above ground by the group members, which are now under process. Usually the groups file their cases based on actual facts while the opponents (feudal elites, land grabbers, shrimp farm owners etc.) file their cases just to harass the group members and destabilise their strength. As a result the group members are becoming the worst sufferers of these false cases. During the activity year many cases were filed against the staff also causing extra pressure to the organisation. It is to be mentioned specially that every year the group members are being compelled to stay in jail for months being detained under the special power act without specific charges (please see Box 06).

Due to these false cases the victims become the loser not only in terms of money and time but also of their livelihood causing tremendous suffering to themselves and their family members. Following court's order the accused has to appear before the judge for hearing and for it she/he has to spend a major portion of her/his working days of a month. As a result the victims cannot earn during those days. In addition, they have to spend a major portion of their hard-earned money to meet some of the expenses related to these cases, particularly arranging food and money for the families on the days they are unable to earn due to appearance at court and for their conveyance.

### **BOX 06: The black laws and grassroot poor**

Besides the usual laws of the land there are a few more special laws. Most of these laws are viewed by the general people as black laws. Influential quarters use these laws for their interest while the general people can hardly reach the benefit of any law. In this 21<sup>st</sup> century such laws are still operational which were made in 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the 54 No. Clause of the criminal procedure code promulgated in 1898 it was stated "police can arrest anybody at any time on reasons of any suspicion without any warrant or specific accusation". Furthermore in the Special Power Act 1974 a provision was made that the Deputy Commissioner can sanction 1 month's detention to anybody without giving him any chance of self-defense which can be extended by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Arrest under Special Power Act is non-bailable. However an accused can pray for bail only by submitting writ petition to the High Court. During the activity year some leaders of the landless have been victimised due to misuse of these black laws by the administration being instigated by influential quarters. A few cases are as follows:

#### **KHULNA DIVISION**

Name: Nirapada Dafadar, Village: Darun Mallick, Union: Deluti, Police Station: Paikgacha, District: Khulna. He was arrested 6 times in a year and detained for 4 months in a case. In other 5 cases he was jailed for a total of 3 months. That means within one year he had to spend in jail 7 months.

Furthermore, other landless leaders like Kartik Sarder, Abul Khair, Sankar Bakar, Nirmal Mistri, Malek Gazi and Syed Gazi each of them was given detention for 4 months. Local administration through influence of vested powers brands them as miscreants but the local masses regard them as brave leaders who have been fighting against industrial shrimp cultivation to save the lives and livelihoods of thousands of poor. They all were granted bail by the High Court through writ petition.

#### **CHITTAGONG DIVISION**

Name: Jamal Uddin, Village: Char Alauddin, Union: Char Clark, Police Station: Sudharam, District: Noakhali. He is an active organiser and very popular in the locality for providing courageous leadership in the movement of establishing right of the landless on khas lands. It is an interesting fact that he never had any case against him with the police station. But when the fields started blooming with ripe paddy feudal elites started roving around. All of a sudden police arrested Jamal Uddin one fine day and detained him for 4 months. During his detention period feudal elites filed 6 more new cases against him with the help of police administration. But as per decision of the landless organisation he contested for the post of member in Char Clark union council from jail and got elected with a margin of 400 votes.

He was also granted bail by the High Court through writ petition.

### **4.1.2 EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY:**

Description	Number	Male	Female
Primary School	15	3,768	2,605
Junior High School	04	315	182
Night School	06	406	251

Landless organisations establish schools at their own initiative using group savings and collecting social subscription. Through such a noble initiative they have been running educational programmes in those activity areas where the government sponsored educational

institutes are not available. In addition to this, the group members with the help of local students and literate elders practice reading and writing during the group meetings. The number of students in those schools has increased in comparison to that of previous year and a few of the schools are undergoing registration process now.

### **4.1.3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY:**

Description	Plan	Achievement
Vaccination	93,850	33,920
Medical Treatment	5,600	2,146

It is to be noted here that the previous name of this 'Sustainable Development Activity' was 'Livestock Development Activity'. It has been renamed through TOT discussion of NK and group members considering the fact

that it includes other components also like organic agriculture etc. in addition to livestock. Because of negligence and at times corruption by government officials, the grassroots are being deprived of all opportunities more so in the coastal belts of the country. Based on specific demand of the landless groups the above activities were undertaken in the coastal region of Paikgacha and Charjabbar – two remote areas far from the upazilla headquarter and beyond reach of any civic amenity and opportunity. With a view to inspire the group members in sustainable development activities including livestock rearing following indigenous methodology, the programme is being



carried out from the Noongola Training Centre in Bogra.

**Remarks:** Due to series of attack on the group members and staff at Paikgacha, the main area for the activity, the target could not be achieved as planned. The staff could not collect the vaccines as well as discharge their usual duties in this regard as they had to remain busy in tackling the adverse situation. Also due to shortage in supply of vaccines from the concerned government authority in the working areas the expected target could not be reached.

**4.2 ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING ACTIVITIES:**

**4.2.1 INFORMATION CELL OPENED:**

In order to strengthen the advocacy and lobbying activities formation of 2 information cells were initiated during the activity year in Khulna and Noakhali through regional workshops. The cell in Khulna will collect and disseminate information on impacts of industrial shrimp, human rights violations related to the industry, degradation of environment including Sundarban bio-diversity and so on. Similarly the information cell in Noakhali will deal with the issue of water logging, land use, environmental degradation, land grabbing and other issues pertinent to the local poor.

**4.2.2 CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME:**

A cultural group of Nijera Kori visited Sweden recently to participate in a month long cultural exchange programme from 13 March to 13 April 2003 where they staged a drama depicting the state of socio-economic and environmental degradation and human rights violation due to promotion of industrial shrimp in Bangladesh. A Swedish group also took part in the drama, which pointed out the irresponsible consumerist indifference on part of rich consumer countries like Sweden towards the problems of the poor caused by shrimp production in Bangladesh. Below are the glimpses from the performances of two groups.

<b><i>The Bengali performance</i></b>	<b><i>The Swedish performance</i></b>
<p>When the play starts we see Bangladesh as prosperous resourceful and agriculturally rich country. Slowly the picture changes. Extensive shrimp farms begin to spread over large areas in Bangladesh, salinity level rises up in these areas and the greeneries disappear. Shrimp farmers start export of shrimp and evict the poor villagers to occupy their lands for shrimp production. They use musclemen who rape their girls and shoot dead the protesting landless people. But the poor masses never give up and the struggle for their survival continues.</p>	<p>The Swedish actors explained through their performance the negative attitude of people of rich countries towards the problems in the third world. They are mesmerised by the attractive advertisements regarding various delicacies like tiger prawn from Bangladesh and other elements of consumerism. The performance persuades a debate on what should be the role of the people in rich countries – should they promote the devastating development for the poor farmers in Bangladesh by purchasing shrimp produced in their lands at the cost of their lives or should they turn their eyes towards their own indigenous mushrooms, fish, crayfish, potatoes, fresh tomatoes and the like to save the poor from eviction.</p>

**4.2.3 WORKSHOP ON THE 'ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION OF SUNDARBAN BIO-DIVERSITY':**

The workshop was held on 19 March 2003 in Khulna with participation of representatives from the districts of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat. Total 65 distinguished individuals from various walks of life participated in the workshop. Problems and remedial measures concerning the issue of Sundarban bio-diversity were identified in the workshop. All the participants stated that the "Sundarban Bio-diversity Conservation Project" of 77.5 million USD funded by Asian Development Bank could not bring any positive change in the area and its implementation could show no remarkable progress. In the mean time huge amount of the project has already been spent mostly for foreign consultants in conducting their consultancy activities. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to transform the issue of Sundarban biodiversity conservation into a social movement

and carry forward the campaign at national and international level. The news of the workshop was published in local and national newspapers and also telecasted in ATN Bangla, a leading TV channel of the country.

#### **4.2.4 WORKSHOP HELD AT DIVISIONAL LEVEL ON ISSUE OF WATER LOGGING AND LAND USE:**

The workshop titled 'Water logging and land use in Noakhali' was held on 31 March 2003 at Noakhali. A total of 50 participants including representatives from landless organisation and other professional groups attended the workshop. Through an elaborate discussion and exchanging of views by the participants the causes of the problem and the required measures could be identified. The participants also decided to follow the strategy of raising public awareness and mobilizing opinion as well as creating mass pressure on the government, political parties and the donor communities, to have the protective measures undertaken. A six member advisory committee and a five member executive committee were also formed after an elaborate discussion in the workshop.

#### **4.2.5 STAFF PARTICIPATED IN SEMINAR ABROAD:**

2 staff of Nijera Kori participated in the seminar on "Impact of shrimp monoculture on livelihood security of the coastal poor" held in Orissa, India on 11-12 February 2003. The seminar was organised by the Institute for Motivating Self Employment (IMSE), an activist NGO based in Calcutta, India. A joint forum titled 'South Asian Network Against Industrial Shrimp Monoculture' was launched from the seminar. The staff of Nijera Kori contributed in the seminar in formulating the plan of action and adopting the 'Bhubaneswar Declaration' and to adopt the following decisions in particular that are pertinent to NK's endeavour and principles.

- a) To develop and strengthen a network for common action in South Asia to fight back the shrimp menace.
- b) To organise exchange visits of struggling coastal people and activists to develop awareness and cementing the bond among them.
- c) To observe November 7 as a Martyr Day, in memory of Ms. Korunamoyee Sarder who sacrificed her life in 1990 in the struggle against industrial shrimp monoculture in Bangladesh and also to observe the days in other parts of the South Asia as well in memories of the Martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the struggle.

#### **4.2.6 CAMPAIGNING WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND ORGANISATIONS:**

- Industrial Shrimp Action Network (ISA Net) highlighted the 'country report on saline water shrimp aquaculture in Bangladesh' prepared by Nijera Kori, in their international publication on devastating shrimp 'The Blues of a Revolution' (source: ISA Net website – [www.shrimpaction.com](http://www.shrimpaction.com)).
- Nijera Kori helped collect information and investigate the cases of human rights violations related to shrimp industry based on which the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) produced a report that provoked a debate and mobilised huge public opinion at international level on the issue. Translation of the report into Bengali is underway. The report will be launched in the near future.
- During the activity year Nijera Kori could develop a good working relationship with FIAN (Food first, Information and Action Network), an international organisation based in Germany, through participating in dialogue sessions and exchanging views on issues of mutual interest and understanding. Obtaining membership of FIAN by Nijera Kori is underway.
- Total 6 members of landless cultural groups, male 4, female 2 participated in the anti-shrimp campaign activities held in Sweden. They performed a drama in Sweden on the issue together with a Swedish cultural group. Based on these campaign activities and a few case studies a book was published in Swedish language. Translation of the book into English and Bengali is under process (please see 'cultural exchange programme' ).
- With a view to strengthen the advocacy and campaign activities making of a website for Nijera Kori with technical support from Christian Aid is underway. In the second quarter of the next

activity year the full installation of it is expected to be completed.

- Reports on activities of Nijera Kori and the landless organisation, case studies on various incidents etc. were published and telecast in various local, national and international print and electronic media including websites. The Channel I, ATN Bangla, Ekushey TV, Journal Kyoto – 53, website of EJF and ISA Net are a number of media that highlighted the activities.
- The landless group members of Nijera Kori participated in the Dialogue on Health Sector Programme: Promoting Participation and Social and Gender Equity' organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). CPD published the suggestions of the landless representatives on the issue in its report.
- 2 case studies on movement of the landless in NK working areas of Noakhali and Saghata were published in a research book titled 'Struggle of Women for Land Resources in Bangladesh' written by Altaf Parvez and published by ALRD.
- At various times and on various issues Nijera Kori was supported by many organisations like Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA), Bangladesh Women Lawyers' Association, Ain O Shalish Kendra, Transparency International, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Institute for Law and Development etc. during the activity year in collaborating or conducting various issue based activities concerning the landless poor.
- Nijera Kori helped in making a video documentary on the occasion of 11<sup>th</sup> death anniversary (7 November 2001) of martyred Korunamoyee Sarder, which has been telecast in the 'Prekkhapat Programme' of ATN. The role and supreme sacrifice of Korunamoyee in the struggle against commercial shrimp was highlighted in the programme that reached a wide range of audience at home and abroad.

#### **4.2.7 PARTICIPATION IN 'STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEES' OF MOHFW:**

To Support the initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Nijera Kori has joined in its 12 stakeholder committees since 1999. The committees are operational in four divisions where Nijera Kori works out of which 4 at thana level (in Modhupur, Bagatipara, Dumuria and Sudharam thana) and remaining 8 at union level. These committees are participating in implementation of the government run HPSP programmes, monitoring the health services, identifying problems, collecting overall information and disseminating these among the people. Through this process the committees are promoting joint initiative of landless peoples and partners and also strengthening the process of mutual cooperation. During the activity year 4 landless group members participated for several times in different consultative meetings organised by the government and the donors where they strongly raised their issues of concern. This process of participation and sharing is ongoing despite a general lull in the programme itself.

#### **4.3 MONITORING ACTIVITIES:**

- In every sub-centre regular weekly meeting could be ensured.
- Every area office could organise monthly meeting regularly. However due to attack by thugs in Paikgacha area it's meeting in February could not be organised.
- Training Cells in the four divisions could be reorganized through a meeting of the Central Training Cell.
- The meetings of the Organising Cells could be held as usual.
- The monthly meetings of the Central Team could not be held regularly as its members had to visit fields to help reduce the tension caused due to attack by the thugs. But constant sharing and informal meetings were held in lieu of regular formal monthly meetings.

#### **4.3.1 STAFF CONVENTION:**

Divisional conventions could be organised in all divisions. Evaluation of previous activities, accountability process was done and plans could be finalised at divisional level. Due to undergoing construction of the Noongola Training Centre in Bogra the Central Staff Convention could not be organised. Since the NK year has now been shifted to April-March, it was decided that in the year 2003, Divisional Conventions are to be held in April and the Annual Staff Convention in May.

#### **4.3.2 FOREIGN EXCHANGE VISIT:**

During the activity year a foreign experience-sharing visit was organised after a long gap caused due to financial crisis. A total of 11 staff participated in the Asian Social Forum held in Hyderabad, India in January 2003. They also visited a number of different NGOs in Calcutta, Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad during their visit to India.

#### **4.3.3 EXPERIENCE SHARING ACTIVITY:**

Experience sharing activities by the staff of Nijera Kori were undertaken in all four divisions- Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Chittagong. Through this activity the staff identify the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation process by participating in weeklong field level activities from one place to another. This is an integral part of staff development process as well as a strategy for internal evaluation.

#### **4.3.4 GENERAL BODY AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Overall activities of NK are being implemented through a collective accountability process by the staff, General Body and the Executive Committee. General Body meets once in a year while the Executive Committee meets every three months. During the activity year the meetings of General Body and the Executive Committee were held regularly. During the activity year the vice-chair of NK Executive Committee Latifa Akanda visited Gala working area of NK under Dhaka Division while Rabiul Hossain Kochi, Member of the Executive Committee helped organise a workshop on water logging and land use in Noakhali. Regular review and monitoring of activities as well as the recommendations made in the meetings of the above bodies play a crucial role in leading the activities of NK through the right track.

#### **4.3.5 MEETING WITH PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:**

From 4-5 March 2003 the meeting was held at Noongola Training Centre in Bogra. 7 representatives from DFID, Christian Aid, EED, ICCO and the Swallows and 16 representatives from Nijera Kori attended the meeting. Among the donors the Inter Pares' representative could not attend the meeting due to illness.

#### ***Output of the meeting:***

- Through intensive evaluation of NK activities the understanding and reciprocal accountable relationship of both the counterparts could be reviewed and strengthened.
- Mutual advocacy initiatives relating to implementation of future activities of Nijera Kori could be decided.

#### **4.4 OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

Apart from the above activities NK has undertaken the following additional activities:

##### **4.4.1 RESEARCH:**

The Global Greengrant Fund allocated funds to NK in order to help NK conduct a study on availability of fresh ground water in Polder 22, Khulna as a possible measure to counter shrimp aquaculture and increase agriculture and food production. The study is completed and preparation of report is underway. The completion of study required some extra time as the researchers took the liberty to observe the changes in two consecutive seasons pertinent to their study. The intention of this study is to observe feasibility of fresh water for agriculture during dry season to counter the onslaught of shrimp aquaculture and grow a second crop.

##### **4.4.2 TRAINING ON 'DEVELOPMENT, DEMOCRACY, SOCIETY AND CULTURE':**

Following request of the Swallows-Sweden NK conducted 5 trainings on the above subject at Thana Para Swallows Development Society (TSDS), Rajshahi. The trainings were conducted for 3 categories of participants such as for trainers, members of the executive councils and members of the representative council. The objective of the training was to make the governing body, representative council and the general staff of TSDS more aware and analytical towards the issues of development, democracy, society and culture. Another intension was to strengthen the democratic process by inspiring them to instill the values of participatory democracy in their day-to-day life, in their family and the organisation.

#### 4.4.3 EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAMME IN RAJSHAHI DIVISION IN 2003:

The northern part of Bangladesh often gets affected by severe cold wave. During the period of December '02 – January '03 of the financial year 2002-2003 severe cold waves swept through north Bengal. During that period in order to save the poor people from the onslaught of severe cold, Nijera Kori distributed 2,000 pieces of blanket among the 2,000 landless poor families in the region. Nijera Kori and group members jointly organised the distribution in the presence of Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO). Priority was given to women headed households, widows, single mothers and economically distressed families. The relief activities were undertaken with fund support provided by the Christian Aid.

Table: Statistical information

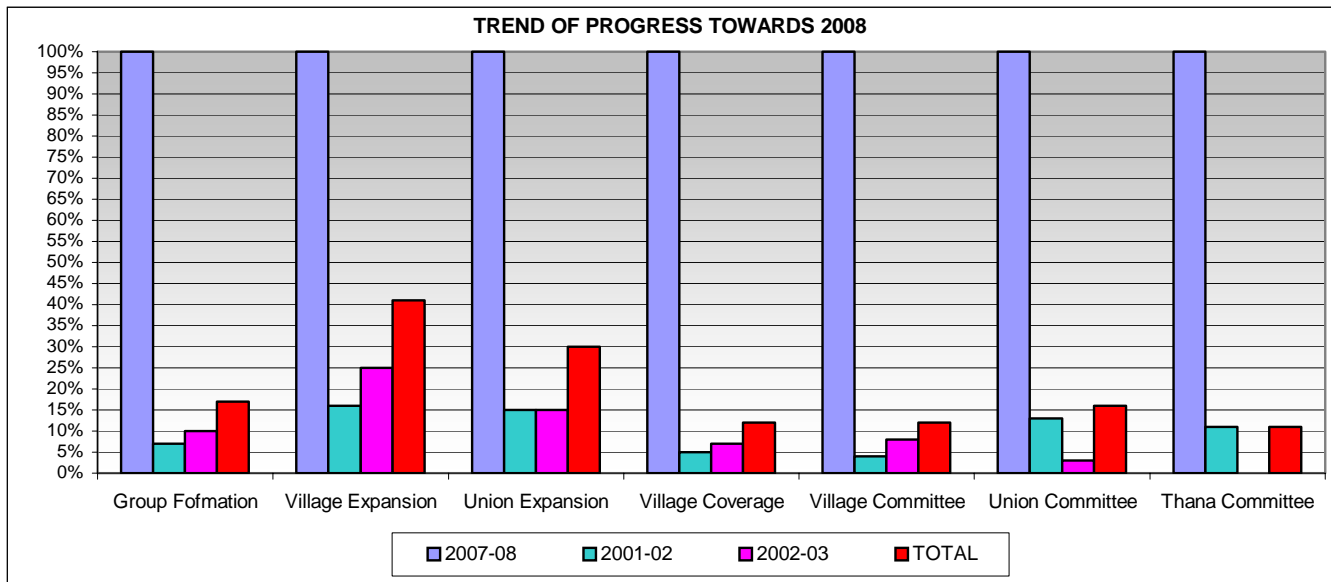
Description of working area			No. of blankets distributed	No. of beneficiary families
District	Thana	Union		
Dinajpur	Khanshama	04	450	450
Rangpur	Mithapukur	08	250	250
Sirajgonj	Raygonj	05	200	200
Gaibandha	Saghata	10	600	600
Kurigram	Roumari	05	300	300
	Rajibpur	03	200	200
<b>Total = 05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>

#### 4.4.4 CONSTRUCTION OF TRAINING CENTRES AND SUB-CENTRES:

Construction of 2 training centres were initiated respectively in Noongola, Bogra under Rajshahi division and in Chandina, Comilla under Chittagong division. Construction work of the 2 training centres is likely to be completed in the next fiscal year. Similarly, construction of 2 sub-centres was initiated during the year, one in Baroaria and the other in Banda both in Paikgacha area under Khulna division. It is to be noted here that in the fiscal year the budget was allocated for construction of Baroaria sub-centre only, but due to non-availability of rent house in Banda for a long period the urgency of having NK's own sub-centre in Banda too was felt. Therefore, construction of both the sub-centres was initiated on an urgent basis with the budget available for Baroaria. As a result the construction was completed partly, the remaining part of which will be completed fully with the budget allocated for the Banda sub-centre in the year 2005-2006.

### OUTPUT 01

Social mobilisation with poor men and women in NK working areas at village, union, thana and regional levels sustained and expanded.



#### Indicators of progress:

- Number of new groups, village, union & thana committees formed as planned with a greater gender balance.
- Regular elections of NK committees at various levels held (village, union, thana).
- Women members elected to open posts within NK committees at various levels.
- Progression of groups to higher levels of maturity as per NK's strategy noticed.
- Quantitative and qualitative indicators of NK's involvement in collective activities of wider Grassroots People's Organisations at thana and higher levels noticed.

#### Progress:

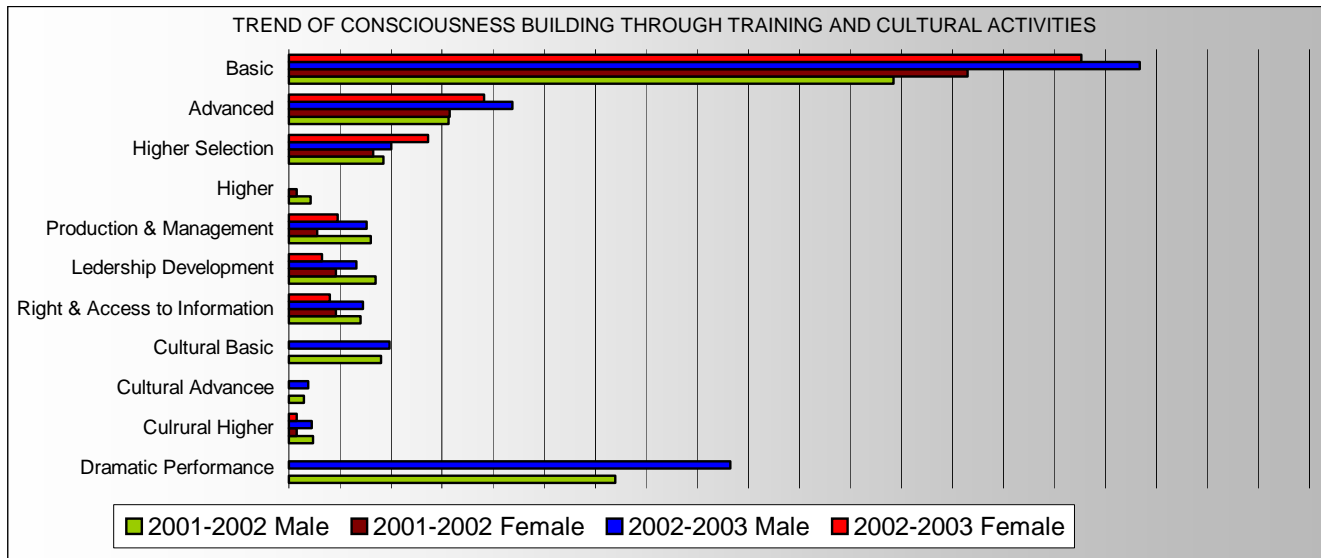
Organisational activities could not be conducted in all areas at an even pace. It is noteworthy that the achievement in social mobilisation is a two-step forward and one-step backward process of continuity. The success depends basically on a congenial atmosphere. Otherwise frequent attack, intimidation, false cases by the elites on the landless etc. hampers the pace of achievement. However the following statistics show a positive trend of progress in terms of consolidation and expansion of organisational activities.

- In the present year social mobilisation activities could be expanded in 1 district, 2 thanas, 5 unions and 48 villages. The ratio of village expansion in comparison to that of previous year is 45.46% higher, which indicates that the trend of organisational activities is positive.
- 21 new villages could be brought under village coverage (means two third of the villagers are organised) during the activity year. The landless organisation is gradually turning to a consolidated force through this process.
- A total of 848 new groups, 431 male and 417 female could be formed this year through which a total of 17,083 persons could be integrated with social mobilisation process. Compared to the previous year the ratio has increased 51.16% in case of group formation and 45.26%. in case of group members.

- A total of 6,993 groups, 3,154 male and 3,839 female could organise annual group meeting. Group members could evaluate their previous activities, plan for next year, check accountability process of leadership and elect new group leaders. The ratio of annual group meeting has increased 158.71% compared to that of previous year. Such increase indicates a rising trend in accountability, transparency and promotion of leadership among the groups.
- The groups could organise 31,915 group meetings, 17,601 male and 14,314 female without any help from the staff of Nijera Kori. The ratio of increase compared to that of previous year is male 5.58% and female 7.50%, which in total is 6.43%. Though slow in progress, it supports the claim of positive development in terms of self-dependency and change in the level of group consciousness.
- A total of 81 groups, male 49 and female 32 have been promoted to secondary level. This ratio of change is 2.53% higher than that of previous year.
- Landless organisation could form 36 new committees at village level and 3 committees at union level which is 300% higher than the previous year in both cases. This increase indicates towards an expanding and sustaining organisational control in rural power structure.
- Landless organisation organised 149 annual conventions at village level, 14 at union level, 2 at thana level and 28 at area level which is respectively 101.35% higher at village level, 75% at union level and 133.33% at area level if compared to that of previous year. Apart from the reserved seats (in the NK's landless committees quota is reserved for women group members. Please see Annex – C) a total of 126 female members were elected (76 at village level, 19 at union level, 1 at thana level and 30 at area level) in the open category seats of landless committees and by defeating other male contestants. Through this process the women leadership is being promoted and reciprocally accountable relationship between male and female leadership is being strengthened.
- A total of 445 groups, 169 male and 276 female could open bank accounts, which is 58.93% higher than that of previous year.
- A total of 578 groups, male 356, female 222 could undertake new joint economic activities and earn profit amounting to taka 4,176,322 during the year, which they have equitably shared among themselves. The profit indicates the capability of the groups in financial management and also towards achieving self-reliance and higher level of consciousness.
- For undertaking seasonal works 601 groups shared among themselves an amount of 3,127,540 taka from their group savings. As a result the groups did not have to depend on moneylenders or micro-credit institutions for their profitable seasonal businesses and agricultural activities.

## OUTPUTS 02

Poor women and men in the working areas of Nijera Kori became more aware of their civil, political, economic, and social rights, including gender equality.



### **Indicators of progress:**

- Knowledge of the landless on entitlement forms and procedures relating to various government services increased.
- Group members received basic, advanced and higher training.

### **Progress:**

Raising consciousness among the grassroots is a lengthy process. In some specific cases the success of work is measurable within a short period but in most of the cases it is difficult to measure as the impacts become visible only after a long time. In the continuously changing contexts the space and dimension of rights is also being widened. Therefore the life struggle of the grassroots is also confronting new challenges and complications, which varies from place to place in the working areas of Nijera Kori. Basically the consciousness is generated from this complicated process of life struggle of the grassroots. The level and nature of consciousness differ from each other depending on differences of realities that affect the lives of the grassroots in different working areas of Nijera Kori. However, some basic questions and issues concerning the lives of the grassroots affects them equally as a result of which some common consciousness and understanding is bound to be evolved among the grassroots. The following achievements indicate the gradual development in the level of group consciousness.

- Almost every member is aware of his or her fundamental rights.
- As the group members are conducting various cases relating to their rights they are gradually learning about the relevant laws, legal procedures and administration system of the court etc. through their experiences.
- On 8 July 2002 the representatives of landless organisation participated in a dialogue titled "Health Sector Programme: Promoting Participation and Social and Gender Equities" organised jointly by the Columbia University, USA and Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh. Before the learned audience full of top-brass officials of the government, civil society leaders and donor representatives the landless suggested that to ensure accountability to the people all actors in power should consider health service as right of the people but not merely a service occasionally to be delivered.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: Report of the dialogue on Health Sector Programme: Promoting Participation and Social and Gender Equities.



- Due to activities of stakeholder committees on experimental basis in 8 unions under 4 thanas the following changes have been noticed:
  - Awareness among general people about their right to health service has increased.
  - The number of patients in the medical centres has increased.
  - The standard of service, supplying medicine to people, approach of the officials towards the poor etc. has improved.<sup>2</sup>
- Most of the children of the landless members are going to school. Furthermore, the members are encouraging other guardians to send their kids to school.
- The landless organisation has established schools in areas where education facilities provided by the government are not available and run these schools at their own initiative by collecting subscription from group members and using group savings. They also help provide stipend to the insolvent but meritorious students of the landless which indicates their social consciousness and awareness about their rights.
- Group members participated in various trainings as per plan which is 95.41% at basic level, 93.71% at advanced level, 84% at higher selection level, 79% at leadership development level, 90% at right to information, 99% at joint production management, 98.75% at basic cultural and 75% at advanced cultural level. In addition, cultural trainings at higher levels were held as per need although this was not incorporated in the plan.
- The trained members are being able to organise group meetings accurately and to place their suggestions and logic about their rights at various levels of the society.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Report of the dialogue on Health Sector Programme: Promoting Participation and Social and Gender Equities.

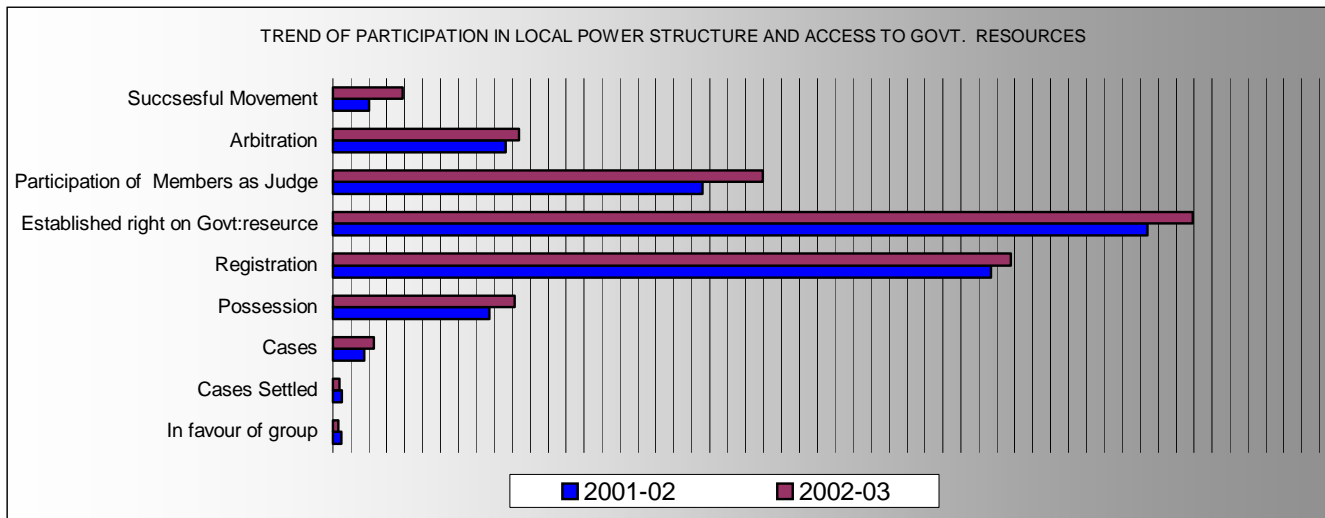
### OUTPUT 03

Collective actions planned and taken by poor women and men in specific areas to:

3.1 Protest abuses and protect rights at community levels.

3.2 Increase security and access to resources and entitlements for the poor.

3.3 Improve accountability and operation of government services.



#### Indicators of progress:

- Successful protests on specific issues like violence against women, dowry etc. organised, village shalishes conducted successfully, number of shalishes resolved in favour of the poor.
- Accountability of police in terms of reduced numbers of false arrests, payment of bribes etc. improved.
- Conflicts over access to *Khas* land & water bodies resolved successfully, land grabbing by elites for shrimp farming etc. reduced, wages of daily labourers increased.
- Campaign & watch committees on government food security & employment schemes, health & education services of both public and private sectors established.
- Legal cases supported by NK resolved in favour of the landless and other poor people.

#### Progress:

Difference of organisational strengths and conditions is obvious depending on the working areas of varied nature. Due to this difference the problems and issues, tendency, strengths and continuity of the movements/struggles of the poor in those areas also varies. For, in the char areas there are sufficient scope to increase access to natural resources, which is limited in other areas. The following facts indicate both positive and negative impacts in achieving the above outcome.

#### 3.1. Protest abuses and protect rights:

- Landless organisation has long been conducting movements on various issues for establishing rights of the grassroots. In some cases the success was quick while in many cases it is a long process. However the landless are trying to transform their movements from issue based nature to a continuous social struggle. During the year they could organise 400 movements on issues like dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, fatwa and other fundamentalists' sanctioned violence against women as well as on micro-credit and exploitative money lending by the local elites. The landless won in 317 movements within a short time as they resisted strongly against those injustices. The ratio of success is 85.38% higher if compared with the previous year despite a non-increase in the number of movements. The fact that the volume of movements have not increased despite the presence of strong landless groups reveals that the trend of human rights violation is decreasing in the working areas of Nijera Kori. Both male and female

groups are organising the movements rigorously (for more details please see Table 22 and case study titled 'violence against women').

- Landless organisations are trying to build up alternatives to the existing corrupt and biased local justice delivery system through organising their own shalishes in their localities. To ensure justice they all try to remain present in all shalishes as attentive observer. Women leaders too are conducting shalishes as judge, which indicates the positive trend of women empowerment. In comparison to that of previous year the number of shalishes has increased 7.47% during the activity year while the presence of group members in the shalishes increased 34.72%. Landless leaders played the role of judges, which has increased by 16.31% and as co-judges with other local elites 74.57% during this year. The ratio of judgment delivered in favour of the landless has also increased by 2.14% than the previous year. The victims are increasingly seeking justice due to positive role of the landless, which they were discouraged to do before as the elites controlled the whole system. Influential quarters are compelled now to recognise the landless leadership as positive force and as judges in solving various conflicts in the locality. The trend indicates the dynamics of gradual social empowerment and a more positive justice delivery process which has been possible only due to increasing participation and watchdog role of the landless in rural power structure.

### **3.2. Increase security and access to resources:**

- As part of continuous struggle for establishing rights of the landless to state resources the landless organisation could organise 342 movements on issues of khas land, water bodies, commercial shrimp, land grabbing etc. during the activity year. The ratio of movement is 29.92% less and ratio of success is 50.56% higher than the previous year. During the activity year 222 group members obtained registration on 222.34 acres of khas land. However this ratio is 52.46% less than the previous year although 374 cases are under process for registration and 147 landless members received 'Kabuliat' (preliminary recognition by land administration before registration). Land registration is also a lengthy process, which depends mainly on the positive response on the part of government.
- In the year 562 group members regained 229.72 acres of khas agricultural land by defeating illegal usurpers ratio of which is 10.85% higher than that of previous year.
- 125 group members could take lease on 10 acres of water bodies from the government. 188 group members could regain control over 38.19 acres of water bodies by defeating illegal usurpers.
- Landless organisation could rehabilitate 353 marginal farmers (who are not group member) on 136.32 acres of their individually owned lands by recapturing the lands from illegal usurpers.
- In the working areas of Nijera Kori the process of having due wages has been accelerated due to strong movement of the landless. The wage has been increased @ 10 taka due to this movement (for more details please see the case study titled 'Struggle for due wages').
- Due to rigorous movement the process of abolishing illegal shrimp farms could be strengthened. As for example:
  - In polder 29 the landless could abolish illegal shrimp farms from 20 acres of land. Now 80% of the polder is shrimp free.
  - The landless could resist the flooding of saline water into 22 polder.
  - The landless could reopen the canals and water bodies for public by dismantling illegal dams created on the rivers and canals to introduce shrimp in those areas (please see the case study titled 'Struggle against illegal shrimp culture').

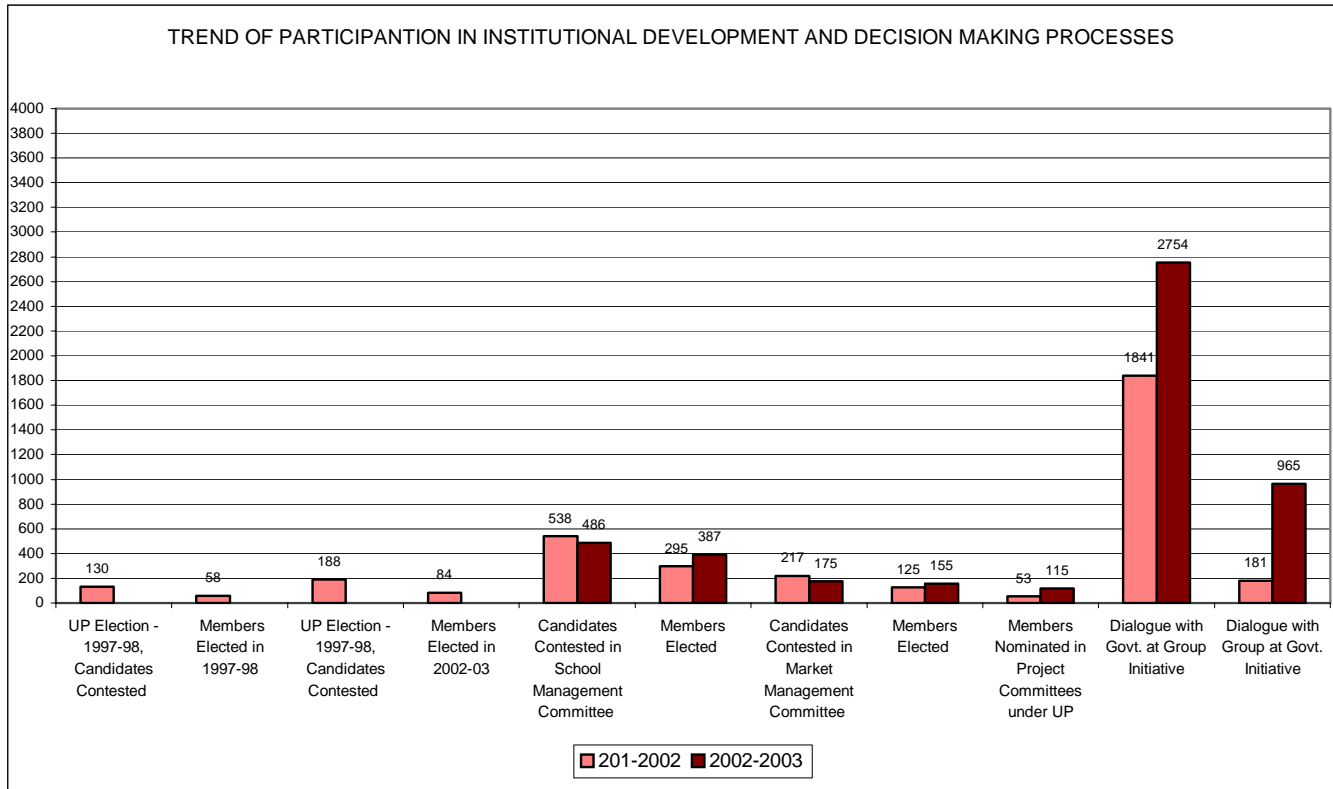
### **3.3. Improve accountability:**

- If compared with the previous year the ratio of false cases against the group members is 39.37% higher in the present year. On the other hand the ratio of delivering verdict has decreased to 29.13%.
- The responsibility of Nijera Kori in conducting false cases has increased by 36.89% in comparison to that of previous year while the same is 23.24% in case of landless organisation (details in Table 15).

The reason behind the increasing number of false cases is the intensification of landless movement against all injustices. When the movement intensifies the vested quarters file more cases against the landless as it hampers their interest. Therefore they follow the strategy of silencing the voice of the landless at initial stage by filing more false cases. However, in most of the settled cases the verdicts were delivered in favour of the landless. The trend indicates the legal recognition towards the movement of landless and their rights.

## OUTPUT 04

Poor people gain more influence over local level administrative and political arenas and related decision-making processes.



### Indicators of progress:

- Increased number of landless women & men elected to local power structures like union councils, shalish, school, health service and bazaar management committees;
- Gender balanced village committees formed in areas of matured groups;
- Regular meetings with local government officials and politicians on specific issues held.
- Progressive individuals and groups supported various issue-based movements of the landless.

### Progress:

In various committees including union council the active participation of landless organisation is being ensured. But in the committees that are usually controlled by the influential quarters the landless hardly get any scope to play their positive role. However, the poor masses are getting most of the information about those institutions through the landless representatives in the committees. This flow of information is paving the way to building a reciprocal accountable relationship between the poor and the local government authorities in conducting the activities. It is also strengthening the social empowerment process of the grassroots that basically indicates a change in the deeper social structure.

- In the election of union council held in 1997-98 the landless candidates were a total of 130 out of which 81 were male and 49 were female. In the election of 2002-03 total number of candidates was 188 in 82 unions, male 111 and female 77, which is 44.62% higher than the previous election.
- In the election of 1997-98 a total of 58 landless members, male 35 and female 23 were elected. In 2002-03 the number of elected members was 84 in 42 unions, male 44, female 40, which is 44.83% higher than the previous election.

- No female candidate of the landless could be elected from open seats in the election of 1997-98, but in 2002-03 a total of 5 female candidates contested from the open seats and 3 were elected (more details in Table 18).
- During the year a total of 486 landless group members, male 415 and female 71 contested in the election of 198 school management committees in different areas. A total of 387 members, male 338, female 49 were elected in 179 school management committees. The group members' participation in the number of school management committees has increased by 23.45% than the previous year while it is 31.19% in case of success in the elections.
- During the year a total of 175, male 166, female 9 contested in the election of 111 market management committees out of which 155 members, male 147, female 8 were elected in 103 committees. The ratio is 19.77% and 24% higher than the previous year in terms of new participation in market management committee and success in election respectively.
- In the activity year 7 landless members have been nominated by the government in 6 sugarcane purchase committees. In comparison to that of previous year the ratio of participation by the landless in those committees has increased by 40% while the ratio of nomination by the government increased 40%.
- In some specific cases the landless form social committee ensuring participation of people of all walks of life to conduct various movements/struggles. During the activity year 4 new committees of such kind were formed by the landless (more details in Table 18).
- Noted personalities like political, cultural and human rights activists, journalists, lawyers, women rights activists participated in various issue-based mass gathering, observance and conventions organised by the landless organisation to express their solidarity. During the activity year Korunamoyee Day, Rokeya Day, Thana convention of Dhanbari and Saghata, regional convention of Kumarkhali particularly the mass gathering organised in protest of Rasheda's rape and killing are mention worthy in this regard. Furthermore, the landless organisation could mobilize mass support on the issue of water logging and land grabbing in Charjabbar area in Noakhali district. The support of civil society and other professional groups on the issue of industrial shrimp in the southern part of the country is also inspiring.
- Many meetings and experience sharing sessions were held between the landless organisation and government officials and institutions at various levels on various issues.
- On groups initiative a total of 2,754 meetings were held with government administration and institutions on various issues which is 49.59% higher than the previous year.
- On the other hand at the initiative of government administration and institutions a total of 965 meetings were held which is 433.15% higher than the previous year (more details is in Table 23).

This reciprocal initiatives indicate that an accountable relationship between the landless organisation and government administration and institutions is being developed and strengthened gradually. As a result the partnership of the poor with the administration is being increased and the general people as a whole are being benefited.

## **OUTPUTS 05**

Improved organisational capacity of Nijera Kori and its members for learning, advocacy and coalition building at national and international levels

### ***Indicators of progress:***

- Documentation of cases and lessons learnt, in Bangla & English Improved;
- Media coverage of rights and policy issues raised by NK increased;
- NK's participation in campaigns initiated by other organisations as well as participation of other organisations in campaigns of NK increased.

### ***Progress:***

Nijera Kori has been running its documentation and advocacy activities through enhancing the skill of the concerned staff in a gradual process. NK is unwilling to rapidly change and develop in its advocacy activities by appointing skilled personnel from outside the programme as is done usually. Rather it intends to enhance the skill of existing personnel with the help of experts from outside if need be and in this regard the progress is satisfactory. However, during the activity year NK could not compile the reports published in the local and national newspapers as yet. The achievements of the activities are as follows.

- During the year an 11-member team comprising staff and representatives of Nijera Kori participated in the Asian Social Forum held in India and also visited 5 other organisations there to witness their activities and share experiences.
- Nijera Kori participated in the seminar on "Impact of shrimp monoculture on livelihood security of the coastal poor" organised by IMSE in India. The important points of the plan of action decided in the seminar are quoted below (source: Bhubaneswar Declaration and Plan of Action).
  - a) To develop and strengthen a network for common action in South Asia to fight back the shrimp menace.
  - b) To organise exchange visits of struggling coastal people and activists to develop awareness and cementing the bond between them.
  - c) To observe November 7 as a Martyr Day, in memory of Korunamoyee Sardar who sacrificed her life in 1990 in the struggle against industrial shrimp monoculture in Bangladesh and also to observe the days in other parts of the South Asia as well as in memories of the Martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the struggle.
- The initiative of collecting and disseminating information on industrial shrimp, Sundarban biodiversity, water logging, land reform and land use etc. for the purpose of advocacy activities has been completed by establishing two information centres at Khulna and Noakhali.
- The apex networking body against industrial shrimp, the Industrial Shrimp Action Network (ISA Net) published the 'country report on saline water shrimp aquaculture in Bangladesh' and highlighted the related human rights violations in their publication titled 'The Blues of the Revolution' (source: ISA Net Website – [www.shrimpaction.com](http://www.shrimpaction.com)).
- The report of the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) produced on the basis of information collected with help of Nijera Kori sparked a debate at international level on the issue (source: EJF Website – [www.ejffoundation.org](http://www.ejffoundation.org)).

- Translation of the report of EJF into Bengali is underway. Regular debate and discussion is ongoing among the stakeholders and human rights activists on the issue through national and international newspapers as well as the Internet.
- During the activity year Nijera Kori developed a good working relationship with FIAN (Food first, Information and Action Network), the international organisation based in Germany, through participating in dialogues and exchanging views on issues of mutual interest. Obtaining membership of FIAN Network by Nijera Kori is underway.
- Total 6 members of landless cultural groups, male 4, female 2 participated in the anti-shrimp campaigning activities held in Sweden. They performed a drama in Sweden depicting the stark realities of a shrimp producing country. On the other hand a Swedish cultural group also participated in the drama depicting their realities as a consumer country. Based on these activities and some case studies a book was published in Swedish language. Translation of the book into English and Bengali is under process.
- With a view to strengthen the advocacy activities the making of a website for Nijera Kori with technical support from Christian Aid is underway. Within next financial year the initiative is expected to be operational.
- Reports on activities of Nijera Kori, case studies on its landless organisations etc. were published and telecasted in various local, national and international print and electronic media including websites. News items on activities of the landless organisation were published in every local newspaper of the working areas as well as in almost all national dailies. A few of the important medias who applauded the activities are the Channel I, ATN Bangla, Ekushey TV, Journal Kyoto –53, Swedish newspapers, website of EJF, the Swallows, ISA Net and so on.
- The statements and suggestions of the landless group members of NK were published in the 'Report of the Dialogue on Health Sector Programme: Promoting Participation and Social and Gender Equity' published by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh.
- 2 case studies on movement of the landless in NK working areas of Noakhali and Saghata were published in a research book titled 'Struggle of Women for Land Resources in Bangladesh' written by Altaf Parvez and published by the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD).
- Many civil society organisations like Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA), Bangladesh Women Lawyers' Association, Ain O Shalish Kendra, Transparency International, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) etc. extended their support and cooperation at various times on various issue based activities of the landless during the activity year.



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## **The Constraint 01**

### **In Polder 22 the landless poor were attacked by the armed gangs hired by the shrimp farmers**

It is the Nijera Kori Sub-centre at Noai, which has come under attack by the armed gangs twice within 5 months. Noai is a village in 22 polder under Paikgacha Thana in Khulna District. Through rigorous movement the landless poor could retain the status of 22 polder as shrimp free zone as a result of which the polder at present is considered to be the only green belt amidst the entire shrimp farm areas in Bangladesh. However the shrimp farmers and local elites have been trying consistently for years to introduce shrimp in the polder and are threatening its inhabitants.

As part of same blueprint the underground gangs hired by shrimp farmers attacked the staff and landless group leaders of Nijera Kori at Noai on 5 October 2002 at night when 4 staff and 12 group members were injured seriously.

Again on 20 March 2003, Thursday, around midnight, they attacked the landless group leaders and staff at Noai. The attack was carried out just before a day when the group members decided to destroy the embankments erected by the shrimp farmers couple of days back to make shrimp ponds occupying farmlands in the area. Three landless group leaders and a non-group member were hospitalised being seriously injured in the attack. The gangs also assaulted the staff of Nijera Kori and snatched away mobile phones. They threatened them with dire consequences if they continued to be engaged in campaign against shrimp cultivation in the 22 polder.

The group members have tried to file a case of the incident with the local police station. However, police did not accept their case on the pretext that the officer in charge was not present. This was just a mere excuse by the police as the group members are normally deprived from availing legal support services.

## **The Constraint 02**

### **Organisation is under constant threat and obstacles**

In Dhanbari activity area of Modhupur under Dhaka Division the landless organisation has been conducting movement to regain khas water bodies from illegal usurpers since 1995. Every year this vested quarter tries to harass the organisation through various means. This year the harassment took a new turn when they planned their attack on the organisation with the help of fundamentalist forces. When the landless members were in a process to organise their Thana Convention and observe the World Women Day on 8 March 2003, the vested quarter circulated a leaflet urging people to resist the activities of Nijera Kori and the programme of 8 March claiming that these activities are anti-Islamic. They also called a meeting on 28 February 2003 at the adjacent mosque of Dhanbari bus station convened by one Dr. Aftabuddin where the fundamentalists decided to attack the participating people on 8 March but due to NK's and the groups' image in the area this was not successful. From the very beginning the landless groups have been struggling against such threats and obstacles under the leadership of their Thana Committee. But on 28 March at night a group of identified thugs attacked the president of the Thana Committee Kachim Uddin when he was returning home after a meeting. They injured him seriously breaking his legs by beating him with iron rod and hockey sticks. The thugs have also been openly threatening another woman leader Apurba saying that they would rape and kill her if she did not give up her role in the landless groups. The groups and Apurba however are still active and have drawn up a plan to continue their role and activities.

## **The Constraint 03**

### **Armed gangs attacked the staff**

The incident took place in Gangni area under Khulna Division. On 21 September 2002 staff of Nijera Kori called a meeting at Hijalbaria village. When they were returning to the sub-centre at around 10:00 am after the meeting, the armed gangs of the area blocked their way and kidnapped them to a remote village called Malsadaha. The thugs were just preparing to slaughter the NK staff when a group of people arrived at the venue of the incidence. The thugs ran away leaving the hostages. The reason why they kidnapped the staff was the resistance against a fatwa by the landless with help of the staff. An influential quarter in the Hinda village sanctioned a fatwa but in the wake of rigorous protest the fatwa mongers had to beg pardon before the public.

## **CASE STUDY 01**

### **Sufia's struggle for dignity came true through the landless organisation**

Sufia Begum (39) is the daughter of M.A. Aziz (70) and Atarjan (60) and wife of Shah Alam (43) of Etbarpur village under Chandina Thana in the district of Comilla.

Sufia never had a chance to go to school. As deemed by the society she got married in 1979 at the age of 16. Leaving with the joint family she had to care for her father in law, husband and others as if that was her only goal in life. The family circle was the only space allowed for her movement and interaction. Even showing her face to a male stranger was considered to be a severe offence. Therefore, the black veil that covers completely became regular dress for Sufia.

From 1982 the staff of Nijera Kori started social mobilisation in the disadvantaged areas of the district. While approaching people door to door in 1983 Sufia came in contact with some of the staff of Nijera Kori. When informed about the process and reasons of social disparities she became interested in group formation, but she was barred from joining in by her family. Nonetheless, Sufia fought against all obstacles out of her invincible desire for progress. She got the female staff of Nijera Kori as friend in her struggle. Although she got permission to become a member of the landless group after discussing time and again with her father in law and husband, but the embargo remained on her about going out of her home. In 1984 she formed her first group with other members and relatives of the family. Her zeal, commitment and honesty promoted her into leadership and within 6 months all the members elected her as the Finance Secretary of the group.

It was the starting point for Sufia to resist the obstacles of a rural conservative society and religious prejudices. Just within a year Sufia formed 4 other landless groups. She faced threats from the so-called leaders of the society and the mullahs. She fell victim of fatwa several times indicted by them. They conducted many salishes against her movement outside the family and imposed restriction on her movement beyond family circle. She was also blamed of being a sinner for not having a baby. The elites and mullahs launched propaganda against her and instigated her husband and other family members to divorce her. Misunderstanding started with her husband; other family members tried to get her husband married to another women. They blamed her for her outgoing nature. Her group members too dissociated themselves from group activities at the pressure of her family members. Sufia started to confront inhuman torture by her husband on various pretexts. But Sufia did not give up her hope; she tolerated all these tortures silently to reach her goal.

Sufia rejected the pressure of her mother in law and mother to get help from village quacks and *pir*

for having a baby. Instead, she approached a doctor and proved that the blame of infertility given to her was false and evil-designed. She again formed landless groups with the help of Manowara Begum, Lathfur Nahar and others in and around her village. In the mean time many landless groups were formed in nearby areas also by others. To coordinate all the groups village and area committees of the landless were also formed in those areas. The groups started their social mobilisation activities in the area where cultural activities were an integral part. Sufia performed in a drama staged during the convention of Etbarpur village committee of the landless. The fundamentalists again started hue and cry to expel Sufia from the society. But due to huge popularity within the general masses the fundamentalists failed to do so this time. For strategic reason Sufia formed male landless groups comprising of husbands of female group members. Sufia's acceptance to others gradually got strengthened as she led movements on various social issues organised by the Area Landless Committee. Finally her family also accepted Sufia's leadership.

When it was difficult to manage the family with the lone income of her husband who was a rickshaw puller, they jointly started sharecropping by taking lease of land. Due to Sufia's well-thought planning and effort today her family has attained a distinct position in all respects. Sufia received an amount of taka 7,200 (taka 1,000+600+2,300+3,300) in four times from the savings and profit distributed among the group members by their group. With the amount she took lease of cultivable land and purchased a rickshaw. They had a mud house, which they now could rebuild with tin roof. They were illiterate but now can read newspapers. With joint decision by husband and wife they adopted a baby girl who is now studying in class two. At the same time they together spend two hours a day for organisational activities in nearby villages. While mobilising people from one village to another Sufia brought the issue of Rasheda's gang rape and murder to the notice of the group and public. The villagers admired her saying that 'Sufia is their brave companion, a friend of the poor'.

Gradually Sufia got elected as the President of the village committee, area committee and in the year 1997 she got elected with huge margin in the union council election. At present she is conducting village *salishes*, bargaining and sharing views with local administration and performing as cultural activist at national level. Her family members and previous foes have also turned into her well wishers which inspires Sufia in all her good works.

## **CASE STUDY 02** **Struggle for due wages**

### **Bagatipara area of Natore District and Rangpur area of Gaibandha District witnessed the success of the struggling poor in August 2002,**

Day labourers sell their labour mainly in the agricultural fields and earn their sustenance. The government decided the minimum wage of a labour @ 3.5 k.g. rice or an equivalent amount that is around 49 taka per day. But the instruction of the government is never followed anywhere. Agro-based labourers particularly the female workers are the worst victims of injustice done by the feudal elites who usually decide two types of wages. One is at the time of planting and the other is for harvesting. Here the workers have no scope of expressing their opinion. Feudal elites decided the wages in the mentioned areas in the following manner:

For planting paddy: Female labourers will receive 1 kg. rice and one meal while the male labourers will receive 35 taka and one light refreshment.

For harvesting: Female labourers will receive 1 kg. rice and one meal while the male labourers will

receive 40 kg. paddy against collecting 400 kg. each time from paddy field.

Against such an exploitative decision the landless demanded an increase of the wages as decided in their representatives' meeting. The meetings were organised respectively on 7 May and 17 August 2002 at Palashbari sub-centre of Rangpur and Bagatipara area. Afterwards landless representatives also discussed the issue with other fellow labourers of the neighbouring areas and formed a committee for conducting movement where Abu Taher, a landless leader was nominated its convener. Feudal elites at the same time declared a ban on hiring the striking labourers and also tried to bring labourers from other villages and unions. But landless leaders could convince the fellow labourers of those villages and unions who also joined them for intensifying their just movement.

The movement soon reached its momentum and the landless announced a complete boycott of all works of the elites. The elites tried to attack the landless several times with the help of hired goons and filed false cases against the landless leaders. When the boycott continued for 5 days the elites ultimately had to negotiate with the landless organisation. As a result the landless could achieve the following successes.

Daily wages were re-determined in the following manner:

- For planting paddy, female labourers will receive 2 kg. rice and 2 meals per day instead of 1 kg. rice and 1 meal.
- Male labourers will get 45 taka instead of 35 taka.
- Female labourers became capable of organising movement against wage discrimination at their own initiative.
- The success of increasing wages inspired other unorganised labourers who have also started organising such movement in nearby areas.
- A bargaining relationship between the elites and the landless has been established.
- Day labourers from 19 villages under 2 thanas could avail the benefit of this financial increase that helped them to overcome their financial constraints to some extent.

### **CASE STUDY 03**

#### **Struggle against violence on women**

22 May 2002, at the village of Khirasar Mohanpur under Chandina Thana of Comilla District

The operational area of the landless organisation is extended up to the Etbarpur village of Chandina Thana. Khirasar Mohanpur village is very far from Etbarpur; with one more village in between. Due to this distance the landless organisation could not undertake any activity in Khirasar Mohanpur.

Rasheda (14) belongs to the village of Khirasar Mohanpur. She belongs to a very poor family but well known as a brilliant student who reads in class VII. For more than a year some eve teasers had been harassing her and tormenting her psychologically. Her poor father failed to have justice from the society although he tried several times because the miscreants were close relatives of the local elites.

On last 22 May 2002 late at night a group of miscreants led by Ripon kidnapped Rasheda. After gang rape they poured acid on the body of the senseless Rasheda and set her on fire. At her screaming the people living along the riverside came to her rescue and took her to Comilla City Hospital. The landless after collecting subscription from among themselves transferred her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on 25 May 2002 for better treatment. On the other hand

thousands of people besieged Chandina Police Station and the office of the Thana Executive Officer demanding quick arrest of the accused and to deliver justice to the victim. However, the administration adopted a dilly-dally approach. On 27 May Rasheda died at night. On 28 May thousands of people took to street again protesting the death of Rasheda, which finally could sensitise the administration. Local and national media had wide coverage on this barbaric act. At national level also various organisations condemned this barbarism and expressed their solidarity with the landless. On 27 June about 10,000 women and men organised a protest, besieged the offices of local administration and submitted memorandum at various levels. With help of landless organisation the relatives of the victim filed a case in Comilla court.

The results

- The landless organisation is being able to organise movement on issues of public interest beyond their working areas.
- The people of other areas are accepting the role of landless organisation gradually.
- Local and national print medias as well as the TV channels like Ekushey and ATN Bangla publicised serially and broadcast on this barbaric act.
- The support and participation of the people in general at national level against such barbaric incident could be ensured.
- The police administration could be activated and two accused were arrested.
- National Women Lawyers' Association undertook the responsibility of conducting the case.
- No further incident of such kind took place in the area after such a huge and spontaneous protest.
- The landless organisation has taken initiative to expand its activities in the area as demanded by the people of Khirasar Mohanpur village.

## **CASE STUDY 04**

### **Struggle against illegal shrimp aquaculture Fight is on in 22, 29 and 31 polder in Khulna District**

The people in 22 polder have been struggling for years to retain the shrimp free status of the polder confronting various intrigues, physical attack and intimidation. Since 1980 they have been conducting movements against the forcible encroachment of their lands for shrimp.

In their fight for survival the landless had to sacrifice the life of Korunamoyee Sarder, a valiant leader of the area, in 1990. She was shot dead by the hired goons of shrimp farmers while leading a protest rally against their encroachment. As part of invasion process the shrimp farmers opened the inlet pipes of the embankments in 22 polder particularly in Kalinagar, Syedkhali, Darun Mallick and Harinkhola village on last 5 April 2002 in the presence of the police and hired musclemen, for making shrimp ponds. But thousands of landless instantly came out to lock the pipes and they were successful after a clash with the musclemen. One group member was seriously injured

during the clash. In spite of arresting shrimp farmers and musclemen police registered cases against 3 staff and 31 landless members of Nijera Kori. However the landless did not give up. They have been patrolling the embankment by rotation in groups. On the other hand 80% areas of 29 polder is shrimp free. On 13 December 2002 shrimp farmers from outside built a shrimp pond on 20 acres of land in 'Sukurmahibil' of the polder with help of hired musclemen. On last 16 December about 500 women and men including the chairman of the union dismantled the embankments of that pond. Shrimp farmers filed cases against 25 landless leaders. However, the landless organisation made a plan to free the rest 20% area of the polder from shrimp. The movement of the landless is on and at least 13 cases have been filed so far during the year against the landless group members in 22 and 29 polder.

Shrimp cultivation and human rights			
Only a meager portion of news regarding shrimp related violations are published in the newspapers. This is due to the remoteness of the places and lack of security for the information providers. However, a statistics of incidents in the year 2002 is given below by analyzing the reports of a local daily 'Janmabhumi' published from Khulna			
Incidences of the year 2002			
District	Incident	Killed	Injured
Khulna	20	10	40
Bagerhat	15	02	19
Satkhira	04	0	09
Total	39	12	68

**Result:**

- Shrimp free status of 22 polder could be retained again by blocking the inlet pipes opened by the shrimp farmers.
- The shrimp farms from 20 acres of land in 29 polder could be dislodged.
  - The open water bodies like Kichir Michir Khal, Dolbhanga, Sukurmari, Moikhali, Bhadra and river Mara Bhadra in 29 polder could be regained again and the landless could establish their control on these water bodies.
  - The landless organisation could establish for the first time their control over the open water bodies like Mailmara, Daruyabad, Patrighata, Kichmat Fultala, Sapa, Boga and Raipur in 31 polder by defeating illegal occupants.
  - The landless organisation could undertake agricultural activities in the khas lands in 22 and 29 polder by obtaining DCR (duplicate carbon receipt) from government authority.

**CASE STUDY 05  
(Struggle against unplanned activities)**

The Gala union of Tangail district is basically an agricultural and densely populated area. It is known for its high yield of high quality crops in Bangladesh. During 1966-67 the then government evicted thousands of families by acquisition of their land to build the town. The meager compensation allotted was also not given. These evicted families took shelter in the Gala union near the town.

As proposed by the Chairman of Tangail Municipality a decision was taken on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2002 at the meeting of Land Registration Committee to acquire 6 acres of land for garbage dumping in Magurhata Mouza of Gala union. So a notice was issued by the authority on 9 July 2002 ordering acquisition of the land. Landless organisation submitted a mass application to the administration against the decision. As a result the Chairman of the concerned union along with Assistant Commissioner (Land) held an enquiry on the disputed land. In their report they pointed out the following facts:

- The proposed garbage dump falls within the agricultural lands where profitable Boro rice is produced.
- On its west and north sides dense residential areas are located.
- Within 100 yards of its west there is a community health clinic.
- The concerned landowners are completely dependent on agriculture. Agricultural produces of the whole area will be affected if the waste disposal is allowed.

- Thousands of people travel through the adjacent concrete road of the area everyday.
- There is a possibility of tremendous pollution if allowed; it may also cause the spread of various diseases in the area.
- Due to the above reasons the place is not suitable for the proposed garbage dump.

Although the enquiry report was not favourable the district administration still remained adamant to implement their decision. The landless organisation also formed an action committee in association with the local inhabitants to organise and coordinate rigorous movement against the move. The committee submitted a reply to the authority against its notice for land acquisition. Afterwards thousands of women and men led by the landless held a protest march and gathering in front of district administration office. They also organised a press conference on 10 August 2002 with the view to mobilise public opinion at national level against this unplanned and anti-people move. Series of reports on the issue were published in newspapers criticizing the move of the government, which became a great debate at the national level. On 13 August 2002 again a mass gathering was organised in the Shibpur area where the landless cultural group performed a drama reflecting the likely affects of the proposed garbage dump. The action committee mobilised huge public support by organising meeting, mass gathering, procession and holding drama performances in various public places i.e. school premises, markets etc. in every village.

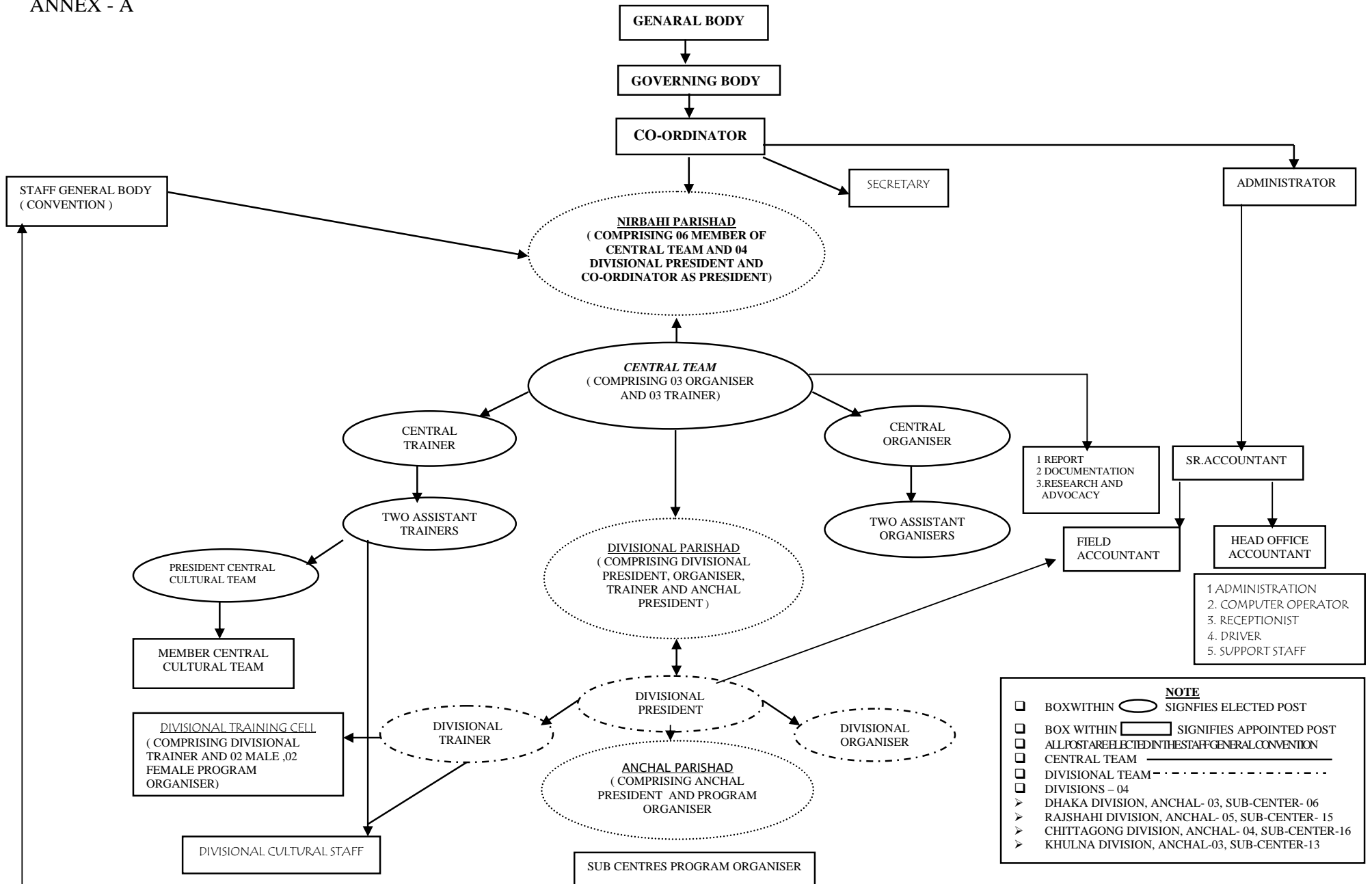
Ignoring such massive protest and public opinion the commissioner of Dhaka Division approved the proposal of land acquisition on 19 August 2002. Instantaneously a demonstration was organised on 20 August in Magurhata Mouza against the decision. Many distinguished individuals and institutions from national level participated in the gathering and expressed their solidarity. After the gathering around 5,000 participants brought out a procession and encircled the district administration office and submitted a mass memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner. On 23 August the landless leaders held a meeting with the Tangail District Lawyers' Association. This Association along with the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association took initiative to deal with the matter legally. On the other hand when the Minister and the State Minister of Education were passing through the area to inaugurate a college in another place the agitated mob blocked their way and submitted memorandum on 25 August 2002 regarding the problem. Then in a gathering of about 7,000 people the Ministers promised not to build the dustbin destroying agricultural land. The copy of the same memorandum was also sent to the Minister of Environment and Forest by post. In this regard a letter from the Ministry of local government, rural development and cooperatives was issued to the district administration on 25 September 2002 seeking its opinion regarding the matter. At present the move to build the dustbin has been withheld. Through this movement the question of banning the hazardous brickfields that are built in residential areas is also being discussed among the public.

#### **The output:**

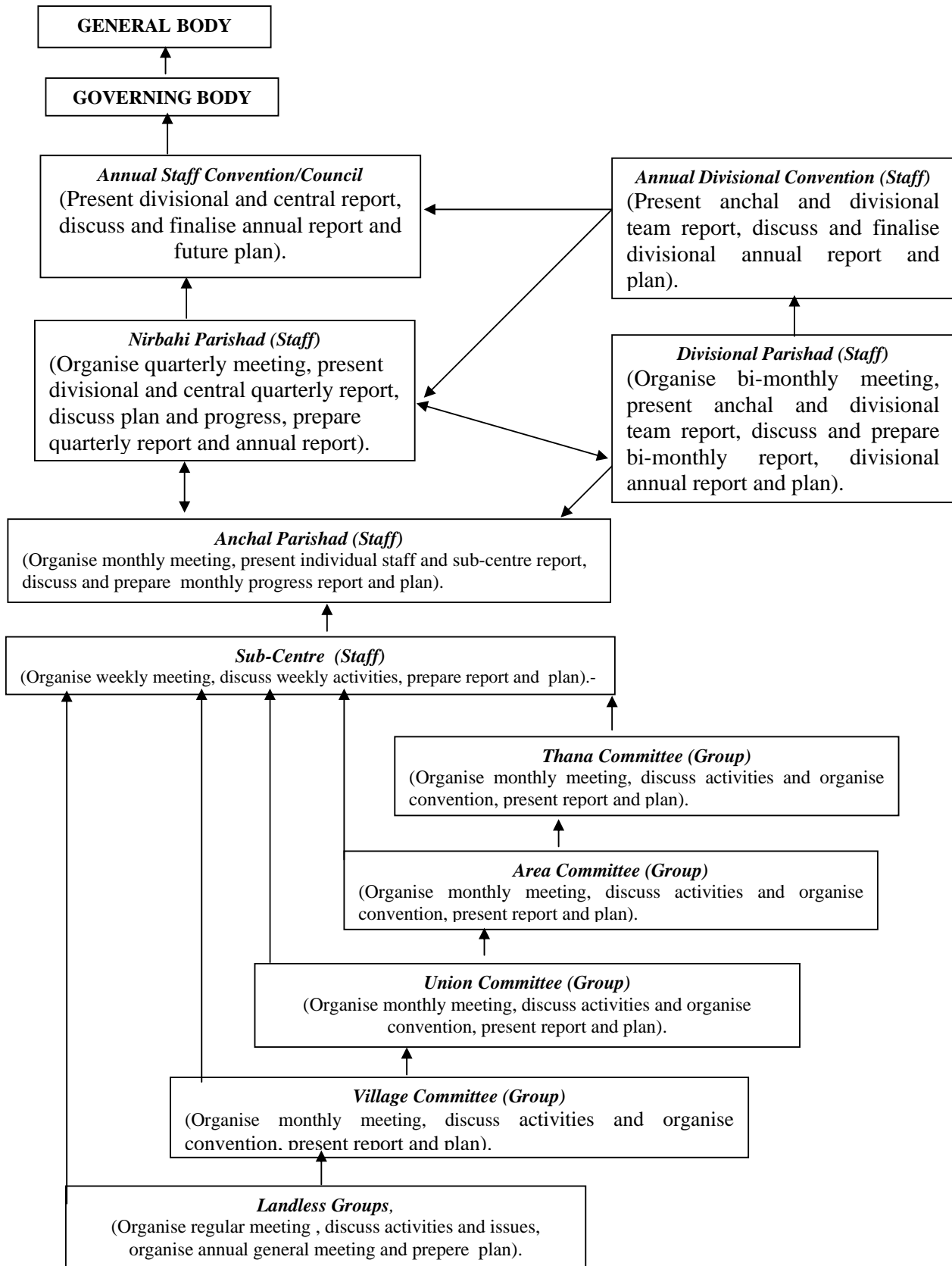
- Increasing number of the general people recognised the leadership of the landless organisation positively who urged the organisation to intensify the movement by mobilising more support from the masses.
- The movement could ensure participation of many distinguished individuals and institutions from various fields at local and national level.
- The image and acceptance of the landless organisation strengthened in the locality.
- Effective pressure could be created for being attentive to public demands and delivering at least to some extent accountable democratic system of administration.
- With the issue of garbage dump the landless could also intensify their movement for banning environment-damaging brickfields.
- The activities of building the garbage dump could be withheld.



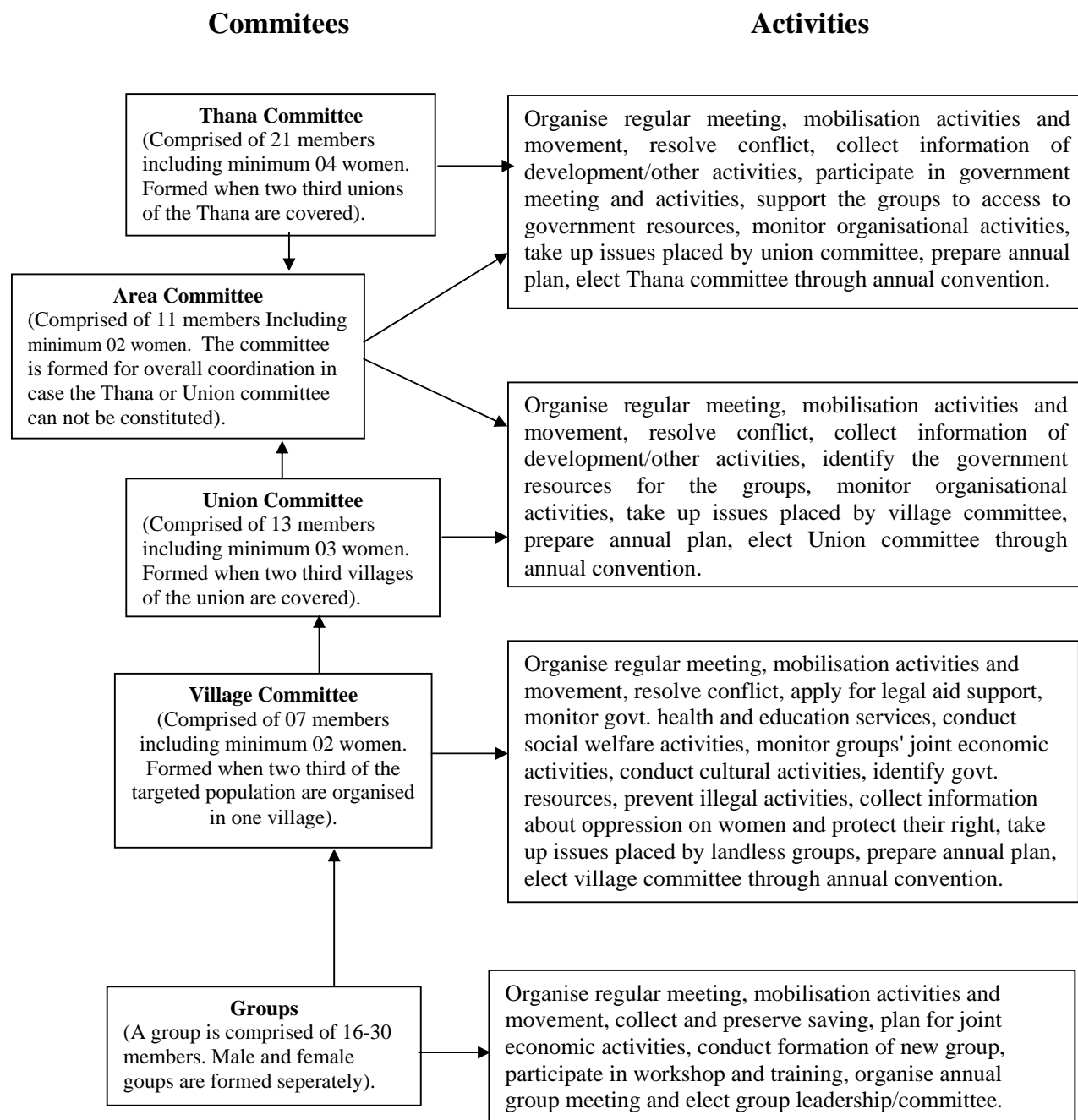
## ORGANOGRAM OF NIJERA KORI



PLANNING, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING SYSTEM – ANNEX - B



FLOW CHART: LANDLESS ORGANISATION OF NK ANNEX - C



**NIJERA KORI**  
**RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**  
**SOCIAL MOBILISATION, VOICE AND DEMOCRACY**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2003**

**ANNEX-D**

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Balance - 01.04.2002		15,876,549.44
 <b><u>FUND FROM:</u></b>		
D.F.I.D	35,448,305.00	
Christian Aid	5,586,915.76	
E.Z.E. Fund, Germany	7,433,938.64	
I.C.C.O.	3,838,355.20	
Interpares	188,000.00	
The Swallows in Sweden	<u>1,913,788.52</u>	54,409,303.12
 Fund from Christian Aid for E.R.P	474,042.50	
Less: Transferred to E.R.P A/c.	<u>474,042.50</u>	
 Local Received		541,352.25
Advance Realised		500.00
		<hr/>
	<b>Taka</b>	<b><u><u>70,827,704.81</u></u></b>
 <b><u>PAYMENTS:</u></b>		
Civil Construction		5,304,023.74
Other Material Inputs		406,888.00
Personnel		33,307,416.64
Training Expenses		3,376,600.80
Seminar, Meeting, Workshop & Conference		3,035,286.24
Office Accommodation		2,408,800.00
Office Equipment		547,762.00
Vehicles		1,462,260.00
Travelling and Daily Allowances		2,855,152.16
Contingency		3,862,861.02
Others		5,478,119.03
Advance		537,465.00
Closing Balance – 31.03.2003		8,245,070.18
		<hr/>
	<b>Taka</b>	<b><u><u>70,827,704.81</u></u></b>

ANNEX-E (MAP EXTRA ATTACHED)

**TABLE – 01: Geographical Location of Programmes of Nijera Kori**

Sl. No	Division	District	Thana	Area	Sub-centre	Expansion in 2003		Total up to March 2003		Village Coverage		
						Union	Village	Union	Village	March 2002	New Coverage	March 2003
01.	Chittagong	Comilla	Chandina Daudkandi Debidwar Muradnagar Matlab	Comilla	05	01	03	29	128	18	02	20
		Chandpur										
		Noakhali	Sudharam Companigonj	Charjabbar	05	--	01	08	41	02	--	02
		Lakshmipur	Ramgoti	Ramgoti	02	--	--	06	26	02	--	02
		Chittagong	Sandwip	Sandwip	04	--	--	14	34	--	--	--
<b>01</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>24</b>	
02.	Dhaka	Dhaka	Dhanmondi Mohammadpur	Dhaka City	01	--	--	06 Ward	12 Slums	--	--	--
		Tangail	Mirzapur Delduar Tangail Sadar	Tangail	03	--	03	11	74	11	03	14
			Madhupur	Madhupur	02	--	03	11	107	09	01	10
		Sherpur	Sribardi	Sribardi	01	02	09	02	09	--	--	--
<b>01</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>24</b>	
03.	Khulna	Kushtia	Kumarkhali khoksa	Kumarkhali	02	01	03	07	47	02	01	03
		Meherpur	Meherpur Sadar Gangni	Gangni	03	--	01	07	43	11	01	12
		Khulna	Paikgacha Dumuria Batiaghata Dakope	Paikgacha	09	--	03	17	161	20	--	20
<b>01</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>35</b>	
04.	Rajshahi	Sirajgonj	Raygonj	Noongola	03	--	04	05	73	05	02	07
		Bogra	Bogra Sadar									
		Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar Mithapukur	Rangpur	02	01	03	08	64	04	02	06
		Dinajpur	Khanshama	Dinajpur	01	--	02	04	21	--	01	01
		Kurigram	Rowmari Rajibpur	Rowmari	02	--	05	07	80	07	02	09
		Gaibandha	Palashbari Saghata Sadullapur Gobindagonj Pirgonj	Gaibandha	04	--	01	23	185	04	03	07
Natore	Bagatipara Lalpur Natore Sadar	Bagatipara	03	--	07	10	137	04	03	07		
<b>01</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>37</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>120</b>

**LIST OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2003-2004, 2004-2005**

01. Nurul Islam Khan	- Chairman
02. Latifa Akanda	- Vice-Chairman
03. Khushi Kabir	- Secretary
04. Ira Rahman	- Treasurer
05. Dil Monowara Monu	- Asst. Treasurer
06. Shahin Islam	- Member
07. Syeda Jamil Akhter	- Member
08. Mohammad Shahid Hossain Talukdar	- Member
09. Sara Zaker	- Member
10. Sitara Ahsanullah	- Member
11. Sultana Kamal	- Member
12. Abdul Majid Mallik	- Member
13. Rabiul Hossain Kochi	- Member





**TABLE – 02 (Group Formation)**

Division	UP TO MARCH 2002			Plan			Implementation			Total up to March 2003		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	1,322	1,594	2,916	137	162	299	152	150	302	1,474	1,744	3,218
Dhaka	543	724	1,267	93	111	204	60	43	103	603	767	1,370
Khulna	604	916	1,520	83	88	171	56	76	132	660	992	1,652
Chittagong	1,257	1,595	2,852	177	154	331	163	148	311	1,420	1,743	3,163
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,726</b>	<b>4,829</b>	<b>8,555</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>4,157</b>	<b>5,246</b>	<b>9,403</b>

**TABLE – 03 (Group Member)**

Division	Up to March 2002			Plan			Implementation			Total up to March 2003		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	29,600	31,666	61,266	2,740	3,240	5,980	3,312	2,981	6,293	32,912	34,647	67,559
Dhaka	12,158	14,663	26,821	1,860	2,220	4,080	1,171	809	1,980	13,329	15,472	28,801
Khulna	14,729	19,605	34,334	1,660	1,760	3,420	1,118	1,475	2,593	15,847	21,080	36,927
Chittagong	28,672	31,131	59,803	3,540	3,080	6,620	3,294	2,923	6,217	31,966	34,054	66,020
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,159</b>	<b>97,065</b>	<b>182,224</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>8,895</b>	<b>8,188</b>	<b>17,083</b>	<b>94,054</b>	<b>105,253</b>	<b>199,307</b>

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

Division	Plan for Group Meeting attended by Staff			Implementation of Group Meeting attended by Staff			Implementation of Group Meeting attended by Group alone			Total implementation of Group Meeting (Group and Staff)			Implementation of Annual Group Meeting		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	27,956	35,712	63,668	11,867	18,841	30,708	7,381	5,790	13,171	19,248	24,631	43,879	1,307	1,551	2,858
Dhaka	11,820	16,548	28,368	5,997	9,616	15,613	4,619	3,465	8,084	10,616	13,081	23,697	340	416	756
Khulna	13,092	20,315	33,407	8,812	15,067	23,879	2,092	2,264	4,356	10,904	17,331	28,235	488	604	1,092
Chittagong	25,476	32,808	58,284	13,477	17,922	31,399	3,509	2,795	6,304	16,986	20,717	37,703	1,019	1,268	2,287
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,344</b>	<b>105,383</b>	<b>183,727</b>	<b>40,153</b>	<b>61,446</b>	<b>101,599</b>	<b>17,601</b>	<b>14,314</b>	<b>31,915</b>	<b>57,754</b>	<b>75,760</b>	<b>133,514</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>3,839</b>	<b>6,993</b>

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

Division	Workshop				Representative Meeting		Implementation of Joint Group Meeting
	Plan		Implementation		Plan	Implementation	
	Number	Participant	Number	Participant			
Rajshahi	25	625	24	681	305	287	266
Dhaka	15	375	10	274	96	119	104
Khulna	26	650	15	367	182	174	270
Chittagong	33	825	42	1,103	366	372	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>2,475</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>760</b>

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

Division	Total up to March 2002				Plan				Implementation				Total up to March 2003			
	Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee			
	Village	Union	Thana	Area	Village	Union	Thana	Area	Village	Union	Thana	Area	Village	Union	Thana	Area
Rajshahi	30	10	01	05	13	05	--	01	26	--	--	--	56	10	01	05
Dhaka	20	05	01	03	06	02	01	--	04	--	--	--	24	05	01	03
Khulna	25	01	--	04	10	04	--	03	02	02	--	--	27	03	--	04
Chittagong	52	--	--	12	10	04	--	03	04	01	--	--	56	01	--	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>24</b>

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

Division	Committee Meetings								Group Convention							
	Plan				Implementation				Plan				Implementation			
	Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee			
	Village	Union	Thana	Area	Village	Union	Thana	Area	Village	Union	Thana	Area	Village	Union	Thana	Area
Rajshahi	412	156	06	51	357	114	06	34	35	10	01	04	51	10	01	03
Dhaka	250	60	12	51	179	45	19	45	21	06	01	02	32	02	01	05
Khulna	333	04	--	18	135	07	--	12	28	04	--	09	19	02	--	10
Chittagong	604	--	04	144	519	--	02	132	50	06	01	11	47	--	--	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>28</b>

**TABLE – 08 (Group Saving)**

Division	Total up to March 2002			Plan			Implementation			Distribution			Total up to March 2003		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	3,476,134	4,174,821	7,650,955	712,776	791,112	1,503,888	1,398,043	1,662,108	3,060,151	330,170	599,848	930,018	4,544,007	5,237,081	9,781,088
Dhaka	2,832,193	2,088,604	4,920,797	239,832	295,248	535,080	524,558	3,53,783	878,341	192,502	157,013	349,515	3,164,249	2,285,374	5,449,623
Khulna	2,490,143	4,745,903	7,236,046	286,,728	392,568	679,296	673,979	1,544,313	2,218,292	161,218	407,136	568,354	3,002,904	5,883,080	8,885,984
Chittagong	4,850,471	7,234,038	12,084,509	604,440	651,192	1,255,632	1,573,514	1,755,053	3,328,567	474,540	805,113	1,279,653	5,949,445	8,183,978	14,133,423
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,648,941</b>	<b>18,243,366</b>	<b>31,892,307</b>	<b>1,843,776</b>	<b>2,130,120</b>	<b>3,973,896</b>	<b>4,170,094</b>	<b>5,315,257</b>	<b>9,485,351</b>	<b>1,158,430</b>	<b>1,969,110</b>	<b>3,127,540</b>	<b>16,660,605</b>	<b>21,589,513</b>	<b>38,250,118</b>

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

Division	Bank Account						Position of Group Saving					
	Total up to March 2002			New Increases in 2002-2003			Total up to March 2003			Total up to March 2003		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Bank	Cash	Investment
Rajshahi	181	409	590	51	65	116	232	474	706	234,542	4,535,718	5,010,828
Dhaka	90	152	242	47	65	112	137	217	354	416,205	3,100,167	1,933,251
Khulna	97	261	358	33	76	109	130	337	467	801,445	7,350,629	733,910
Chittagong	372	606	978	38	70	108	410	676	1,086	3,935,309	4,087,103	6,111,011
<b>Total</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>1,704</b>	<b>2,613</b>	<b>5,387,501</b>	<b>19,073,617</b>	<b>13,789,000</b>

**TABLE – 10 (Training)**

Subject	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Khulna			Chittagong			Total							
	No	Participant			No	Participant			No	Participant			No	Participant						
		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T				
<b>HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING</b>																				
<b>Basic</b>																				
Up to March 2002		<b>1,902</b>	<b>1,838</b>	<b>3,740</b>		<b>673</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>1,609</b>		<b>988</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1,928</b>		<b>1,767</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>3,727</b>		<b>5,330</b>	<b>5,674</b>	<b>11,004</b>
Plan	16	200	200	400	12	150	150	300	12	150	150	300	14	175	175	350	54	675	675	1,350
Implementation	16	187	191	378	12	163	122	285	12	144	141	285	14	173	167	340	54	667	621	1,288
Total up to March 2003		<b>2,089</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>4,118</b>		<b>836</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,894</b>		<b>1,132</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>2,213</b>		<b>1,940</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>4,067</b>		<b>5,997</b>	<b>6,295</b>	<b>12,292</b>
<b>Advanced</b>																				
Up to March 2002		<b>595</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>1,265</b>		<b>333</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>712</b>		<b>425</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>848</b>		<b>417</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1,017</b>		<b>1,770</b>	<b>2,072</b>	<b>3,842</b>
Plan	05	75	50	125	02	30	20	50	03	40	35	75	04	60	40	100	14	205	145	350
Implementation	05	67	52	119	02	20	24	44	03	40	30	70	04	48	47	95	14	175	153	328
Total up to March 2003		<b>662</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>1,384</b>		<b>353</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>756</b>		<b>465</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>918</b>		<b>465</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>1,112</b>		<b>1,945</b>	<b>2,225</b>	<b>4,170</b>
<b>Higher Selection</b>																				
Up to March 2002		<b>158</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>283</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>175</b>		<b>112</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>192</b>		<b>102</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>204</b>		<b>472</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>854</b>
Plan	03	50	25	75	01	-	25	25	02	25	25	50	03	25	50	75	09	100	125	225
Implementation	03	46	23	69	01	-	18	18	02	14	21	35	03	20	47	67	09	80	109	189
Total up to March 2003		<b>204</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>352</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>193</b>		<b>126</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>227</b>		<b>122</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>271</b>		<b>552</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>1,043</b>
<b>Higher</b>																				
Up to March 2002		<b>14</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>09</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>67</b>
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	15	10	25
Implementation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total up to March 2003		<b>14</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>09</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>OTHER TRAINING</b>																				
<b>Production &amp; Management</b>																				
Up to March 2002	<b>01</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>86</b>
Plan	01	08	17	25	01	08	17	25	01	10	15	25	01	10	15	25	04	36	64	100
Implementation	01	16	09	25	01	14	09	23	01	16	08	24	01	15	12	27	04	61	38	99
Total up to March 2003		<b>38</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>48</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>37</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>48</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>52</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>Leadership Development</b>																				
Up to March 2002	<b>01</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>105</b>
Plan	01	12	13	25	01	12	13	25	01	12	13	25	01	12	13	25	04	48	52	100
Implementation	01	16	08	24	01	11	-	11	01	14	06	20	01	12	12	24	04	53	26	79
Total up to March 2003		<b>38</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>48</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>46</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>50</b>		<b>121</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>Right &amp; Access to Information</b>																				
Up to March 2002	<b>01</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>93</b>
Plan	01	12	13	25	01	12	13	25	01	12	13	25	01	12	13	25	04	48	52	100
Implementation	01	14	07	21	01	10	10	20	01	18	06	24	01	16	09	25	04	58	32	90
Total up to March 2003		<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>41</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>45</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>48</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>49</b>		<b>114</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>183</b>

M= Male, F= Female, T= Total

**TABLE – 10 (Training)**

Subject	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Khulna			Chittagong			Total							
	No	Participant		No	Participant		No	Participant		No	Participant		No	Participant						
		M	F		T	M		F	T		M	F		T	M	F	T			
<b>Livestock(Basic)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2002</b>		<b>178</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>216</b>		--	--	--		<b>328</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>717</b>		<b>178</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>228</b>		<b>684</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>1,161</b>
Plan	04	50	50	100	--	--	--	--	04	50	50	100	02	25	25	50	10	125	125	250
Implementation	01	--	23	23	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	02	25	25	50	03	25	48	73
<b>Total up to March 2003</b>		<b>178</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>239</b>	--	--	--	--		<b>328</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>717</b>		<b>203</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>278</b>		<b>709</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>1,234</b>
<b>Livestock(Advance)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2002</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>123</b>	--	--	--	--		<b>88</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>143</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>213</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>300</b>
Plan	02	25	25	50	--	--	--	--	02	25	25	50	--	--	--	--	04	50	50	100
Implementation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Total up to March 2003</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>123</b>	--	--	--	--		<b>88</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>143</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>213</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Paralegal</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2002</b>		<b>134</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>285</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>132</b>		<b>357</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>657</b>		<b>115</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>249</b>		<b>678</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>1,323</b>
Plan																	30	375	375	750
Implementation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Total up to March 2003</b>		<b>134</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>285</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>132</b>		<b>357</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>657</b>		<b>115</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>249</b>		<b>678</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>1,323</b>
<b>Cultural(Basic)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2002</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>55</b>		<b>56</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>169</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>183</b>
Plan	01	20	--	20	01	20	--	20	01	20	--	20	01	20	--	20	04	80	--	80
Implementation	01	19	--	19	01	20	--	20	01	20	--	20	01	20	--	20	04	79	--	79
<b>Total up to March 2003</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>49</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>75</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>90</b>		<b>48</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>48</b>		<b>248</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>262</b>
<b>Cultural(Advance)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2002</b>		<b>06</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>06</b>		<b>05</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>05</b>		<b>05</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>05</b>		<b>03</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>03</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>19</b>
Plan																	01	20	--	20
Implementation	--	04	--	04	--	03	--	03	--	05	--	05	--	03	--	03	01	15	--	15
<b>Total up to March 2003</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>08</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>08</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>06</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>06</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Cultural(Higher)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2002</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>16</b>	--	<b>09</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>09</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>08</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>51</b>
Plan																				
Implementation	--	07	01	08	--	03	02	05	--	05	03	08	--	03	--	03	01	18	06	24
<b>Total up to March 2003</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>24</b>	--	<b>12</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>75</b>

M= Male, F= Female, T= Total

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

Division	Refresher Training				Training Forum		Forum Meetings	
	Plan		Implementation		Up to March 2002	Up to March 2003	Plan	Implementation
	Number	Participant	Number	Participant				
Rajshahi	19	475	34	813	15	16	186	203
Dhaka	15	375	12	260	03	04	174	181
Khulna	08	200	14	330	08	09	204	179
Chittagong	24	600	31	742	09	09	258	276
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>839</b>

**TABLE - 12 (Cultural Activity)**

Division	Cultural Group		Cultural Activity							
	Up to March 2002	Up to March 2003	Plan				Implementation			
			Meeting	Discussion	Drama	Padajatra	Meeting	Discussion	Drama	Padajatra
Rajshahi	18	18	192	34	64	01	171	28	94	01
Dhaka	12	12	120	22	30	01	125	38	104	02
Khulna	11	11	150	26	56	01	148	39	71	-
Chittagong	06	06	102	18	33	01	141	61	77	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>03</b>

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

Description		Agri-Culture	Fishery	Livestock	Rickshaw / Van	Shallow / Crasher	Small Business	Total
<b>Up to March 2002</b>								
Group	Male	414	89	73	55	07	294	932
	Female	326	35	63	07	--	457	888
	<b>Total</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>1,820</b>
Member	Male	7,869	1,443	1,587	1,076	206	5,318	17,499
	Female	6,552	759	1,344	138	--	9,852	18,645
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,803</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>2,931</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>15,170</b>	<b>37,526</b>
Quantity		333.67 (Acre)	127.00 (Acre)	203	113	17	--	--
Investment in taka		5,215,774	1,330,299	679,247	563,831	128,500	2,652,716	10,570,367
<b>Increase in April 2002- March 2003</b>								
Group	Male	104	22	76	42		112	356
	Female	73	3	22	2		122	222
	<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>44</b>		<b>234</b>	<b>578</b>
Member	Male	2,237	498	1,468	683		3,243	8,129
	Female	1,335	60	386	44		2,545	4,370
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,572</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>727</b>		<b>5,788</b>	<b>12,499</b>
Quantity		113.46 (Acre)	41.35 (Acre)	119	121			
Investment in taka		2,928,567	197,175	384,166	407,236		789,209	4,706,353
<b>Decrease in April 2002- March 2003</b>								
Group	Male	11	6	27	10	1	52	107
	Female	21	14	11	1		101	148
	<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>255</b>
Member	Male	199	114	400	224	21	958	1,916
	Female	392	273	210	22		1,869	2,766
	<b>Total</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2,827</b>	<b>4,682</b>
Quantity		18.48 (Acre)	16.34 (Acre)	31	25	1		
Investment in taka		422,480	292,580	152,415	103,200	30,000	487,045	1,487,720
<b>Total up to March 2003</b>								
Group	Male	507	105	122	87	6	354	1,181
	Female	378	24	74	8	--	478	962
	<b>Total</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>2,143</b>
Member	Male	9,907	1,827	2,655	1,535	185	7,603	23,712
	Female	7,495	546	1,520	160	--	10,528	20,249
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,784</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>4,175</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>18,131</b>	<b>45,343</b>
Quantity		428.65 (Acre)	152.01 (Acre)	291	209	16		
Investment in taka		7,721,861	1,234,894	910,998	867,867	98,500	2,954,880	13,789,000
<b>Profit in cash</b>		<b>2,408,926</b>	<b>330,110</b>	<b>295,600</b>	<b>273,620</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>844,066</b>	<b>4,176,322</b>

**TABLE – 14 (Live Stock Development Programme)**

Description	Poultry Vaccine		Livestock Vaccine		Livestock Treatment	
	Plan	Implementation	Plan	Implementation	Plan	Implementation
Rajshahi	46,500	18,200	23,200	7,700	2,700	1,495
Khulna	10,000	--	3,200	--	1,700	--
Chittagong	6,500	5,685	4,450	2,335	1,200	651
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,000</b>	<b>23,885</b>	<b>30,850</b>	<b>10,035</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>2,146</b>

**TABLE – 15 (Legal Aid Activity)**

Division	Cases up to March 2002	New Cases	Total Cases	Cases Settled	Result		Cases on Appeal	Remaining Total Cases	NK run Cases	Group run cases
					Favour	Against				
Rajshahi	62	46	108	19	15	04	03	92	33	59
Dhaka	42	44	86	08	06	02	01	79	50	29
Khulna	102	39	141	30	21	09	01	112	97	15
Chittagong	142	48	190	16	16	--	--	174	102	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>175</b>

**TABLE – 16 (Level of Group Consciousness)**

Description	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Khulna			Chittagong			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Secondary Level</b>															
<b>Up to March 2002</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>764</b>
Plan	31	20	51	20	13	33	25	21	46	25	17	42	101	71	172
Implementation	19	13	32	07	05	12	11	06	17	12	08	20	49	32	81
<b>Total up to March 2003</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>845</b>
<b>Final Level</b>															
<b>Up to March 2002</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<b>03</b>	--	<b>03</b>	<b>03</b>	--	<b>03</b>
Plan	11	06	17	06	03	09	10	06	16	11	07	18	38	22	60
Implementation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total up to March 2003</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<b>03</b>	--	<b>03</b>	<b>03</b>	--	<b>03</b>

**TABLE – 17 (Various Activities undertaken from Group Saving and Voluntary Services provided by Group Members)**

Description	PARTICIPATION		CONTRIBUTION			VOLUNTARY LABOUR	BENEFICIARY FAMILIES		
	No of Group	Support Provided To	By Group (Taka)	By Non-Group (Taka)	Total (Taka)	By Group Member	Among Group	Outside of Group	Total
Village Convention	2,301	53	37,140		37,140	116			
Union Convention	460	5	13,395		13,395	65			
Thana Convention	200	1	13,304		13,304	50			
Regional Convention	2,650	20	55,800		55,800	124			
Social Movement/Struggle	1,117	93	17,227		17,227		Grassroots People		
Cultural Programme	280	03	62,500		62,500	155	Grassroots People		
Observance of National/International Day	1,588	141	36,405		36,405	40	Grassroots People		
Conducting Case	680	115	40,295		40,295		107	56	163
Help to Family of arrested Member	241	30	29,425		29,425		37		37
Medical Support	767	121	56,410	5,820	62,230	242	74	51	125
School Repairing	23	2	15,700		15,700	140	150	150	300
Educational Support	233	46	10,095	1,450	11,545		6	40	46
Marriage without Dowry	1,210	120	27,720	5,554	33,274	172	19	98	117
Bridge Repairing/Construction	109	6	5,684		5,684	402	320	106	426
Road Repairing/Reconstruction	22	3	4,435		4,435	1,935	132	50	182
Household Repairing	76	13	6,620		6,620	140	7	5	12
Tree Plantation	48	111	1,995		1,995	128	103	53	156
Burial	63	17	6,900		6,900	56	9	8	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,068</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>441,050</b>	<b>12,824</b>	<b>453,874</b>	<b>3,765</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>1,581</b>



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

Description	Rajshahi				Dhaka				Khulna				Chittagong				Total				
	No	M	F	T	No	M	F	T	No	M	F	T	No	M	F	T	No	M	F	T	
<b>Union Parishad Election</b>																					
Contested Candidate in Union Parishad 1997-98	36	36	23	59	13	15	08	23	12	21	13	34	11	09	05	14	72	81	49	130	
Elected Candidate in Union Parishad 1997-98	15	14	08	22	06	05	03	08	09	10	08	18	08	06	04	10	38	35	23	58	
Contested Candidate in Union Parishad 2002-03	39	40	28	68	13	13	10	23	12	29	21	50	18	29	18	47	82	111	77	188	
Elected Candidate in Union Parishad 2002-03	16	16	10	26	06	05	08	13	09	12	10	22	11	11	12	23	42	44	40	84	
Contested Women Candidate open post in Union Parishad 02-03	01	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	04	-	04	-	-	-	-	-	05	-	05	05	
Elected Women Candidate open post in Union Parishad 2002-03	01	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	02	-	02	-	-	-	-	-	03	-	03	03	
<b>School Management Committee till March 2002</b>	48	52	05	57	06	13	02	15	46	69	16	85	45	121	17	138	145	255	40	295	
Left out after Expiry of Term	48	52	05	57	06	13	02	15	46	69	16	85	45	121	17	138	145	255	40	295	
Contested in School Committee during 2002-2003	70	70	10	80	10	18	04	22	46	77	22	99	72	250	35	285	198	415	71	486	
Elected in School Committee till March 2003	60	58	05	63	09	16	02	18	38	53	18	71	72	211	24	235	179	338	49	387	
<b>Market Committee till March 2001</b>	27	29	01	30	03	07	0	07	17	25	0	25	39	56	07	63	86	117	08	125	
Left out after Expiry of Term	27	29	01	30	03	07	0	07	17	25	0	25	39	56	07	63	86	117	08	125	
Contested in Market Committee in 2001-2002	50	71	01	72	03	08	0	08	17	27	03	30	41	60	05	65	111	166	09	175	
Elected in Market Committee till March 2002	44	65	01	66	03	07	0	07	15	19	02	21	41	56	05	61	103	147	08	155	
<b>Sugarcane Purchase Committee till March 2002</b>	03	03	0	03	0	0	0	0	01	02	0	02	0	0	0	0	04	05	0	05	
Left out after Expiry of Term	03	03	0	03	0	0	0	0	01	02	0	02	0	0	0	0	04	05	0	05	
Nominated till March 2003	05	05	0	05	0	0	0	0	01	02	0	02	0	0	0	0	06	07	0	07	
<b>Project Management Committee (U.P) till March 2002</b>	14	17	05	22	04	05	01	06	03	04	02	06	16	19	0	19	37	45	08	53	
Left out after Expiry of Project	14	17	05	22	04	05	01	06	03	04	02	06	16	19	0	19	37	45	08	53	
Nominated till March 2003	14	17	05	22	08	07	02	09	06	04	04	08	31	66	10	76	59	94	21	115	
Social Movement Committee till March 2002	14	39	08	47	04	30	10	40	06	72	18	90	06	24	06	30	30	165	42	207	
Social Movement Committee till March 2003	14	32	07	39	06	62	03	65	04	47	24	71	10	66	07	73	34	207	41	248	
Health Watch Committee till March 2003																					
Thana Level (Member from Landless Group)	01	03	03	06	01	01	03	04	01	02	03	05	01	01	02	03	04	07	11	18	
Union level (Member from Landless Group)	02	06	05	11	02	05	05	10	02	06	05	11	02	06	06	12	08	23	21	44	

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

Description	Total Shalish of Last Year.	Total Shalish of Current Year.	Member attended the Shalish		Nature of Participation in Shalish			Landless Leader as Judge/Mediator			Result		No of Court Cases on Unsettled Shalish
			Male	Female	Shalish at Self-initiative of Land Less Leader (NK)		Shalish under Joint Leadership of Landless and Village Authority	Male	Female	Total	No of settled Shalish	No of unsettled Shalish	
					By Female Leader	Jointly by Male & Female Leader							
Women Against: (dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, kidnapping, physical assault, fundamentalism and religious indictment)	235	451	3,337	1,955	71	215	165	870	406	1,276	414	37	17
Illegal Possession of Property from the Landless	270	235	3,974	1,018	13	143	79	583	43	626	188	47	37
Fundamentalism	33	20	261	173	4	8	8	49	23	72	20		
Family Feud	932	805	6,084	1,329	94	621	90	1,205	242	1,447	765	40	9
Issue of Injustice and Oppression	152	194	2,260	789	1	128	65	346	79	425	161	33	13
Theft, Burglary and Hijacking	57	21	381	116		17	4	81	27	108	18	3	2
Local Corruption	97	85	932	432	3	59	23	156	31	187	75	10	8
Social Conflict	152	261	3,676	998	7	187	67	512	140	652	221	40	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,928</b>	<b>2,072</b>	<b>20,905</b>	<b>6,810</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>3,802</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>1,862</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>98</b>

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

Subject	Khas Land (Acre)						Water Body (Acre)			
	No of Group Member	Land Registered	No of Group Member	Land Leased	No of Group Member	Land Possessed	No of Group Member	Water Body Leased	No of Group Members	Water Body Possessed
<b>Up to March 2002</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>7,334.68</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>108.30</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>1,245.99</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>95.54</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>298.58</b>
Increase in April 2002 - March 2003	222	222.34	--	--	562	229.72	125	10.00	188	38.19
<b>Total March 2003</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>7,557.02</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>108.30</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>1,475.71</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>105.54</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>336.77</b>

**TABLE – 21 (Recuperation of Properties of the Landless and Marginal Farmer from Illegal Possessor)**

Description	No of Movement for Reclamation of Illegally Occupied Land	Win in the Movement and Quantity of Recuperated Land		No of Present Movement	Beneficiary Family
		No.	Amount of Land (Acre)		
Last Year	124	101	314.07	23	1,603
Current Year	219	196	136.32	43	353

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

Issue of Social Movement /Struggle	No of Movement in Last Year	Issue raised by Organisation of Women / Men	Division wise Movement/Struggle in 2002-2003					Total No of Movement in Current Year	No of Movement Won	On going Movement till date	Group's Participation in Movement of others
			Chittagong	Dhaka	Khulna	Rajshahi	Total				
Violence against women: dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, kidnapping, physical assault, fundamentalism and religious indictment	321	Women	69		15	42	126	263	98	28	33
		Men	64	12	12	49	137		94	43	
Fundamentalism	99	Women	4		14	3	21	66	20	01	
		Men	4	3	31	7	45		41	04	
Resistance of corruption 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 realisation of money and false cases.	187	Women	10	1	2	5	18	112	15	03	
		Men	27	8	4	55	94		75	19	
Establishment of rights on local resources: establishment of rights on khas land, water bodies, regaining possession of disposed land	309	Women	22	6	17	12	57	276	46	11	
		Men	139	10	10	60	219		176	43	
Environmental Issues: resisting commercial shrimp aquaculture, creating public support against excessive use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides.	38	Women						11			
		Men	10		1		11		09	02	
Resistance to action and oppression of reactionary groups: resisting eviction of lands less from land, looting away ripe paddy, burning the houses, physical assault.	121	Women	4	1		15	20	55	14	06	
		Men	13		7	15	35		26	09	
Resisting illegalities and irregularities of micro credit	97	Women	4	2	16	10	32	71	30	02	
		Men	10		17	12	39		34	05	
Movement for due wage		Women		1	11	5	17	49	16	01	
		Men	4		17	11	32		26	06	
Movement against war		Women	6			15	21	65	19	02	60
		Men	13			31	44		38	06	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>93</b>
		<b>Men</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>656</b>		<b>519</b>	<b>137</b>	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>968</b>		<b>777</b>	<b>191</b>	

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

Description	Initiative by Government /Landless Group	Govt Resource	Commercial Shrimp Aquaculture	Education, Food for Education and Work	Local Development Activity	Local Govt Corruption	Health	Environment and Water logging	Oppression on Women	Paddy Plantation and Harvesting	Falls Cases & Harasment	Fundame-ntalism	Natural Climate & Relief	National/International Day	Law & Order situa-tion
Deputy Commissioner	By govt:	03	04	02	02	01	01	01	01	01	07		01	01	01
	By group	77	04	09	07	03	06	10	04	09	04		06	02	08
Land Administration	By govt:	12	04					07		05				02	
	By group	129	08					22		10	01			05	
Upazilla Administration	By govt:	18	05	27	12	11	12	10	08	18	13	05	04	10	09
	By group	213	08	22	28	32	24	34	21	46	61	10	11	13	19
Police Administration	By govt:	13	02	07		15		06	11	15	12	13	01	03	55
	By group	31	03			46		06	37	38	60	32		04	53
Candidate of National Election	By candidate	06				05								06	
	By group					04									09
Parliament Member	By member	04	05	04	07	03	03	05	01	04	03	01	01	01	02
	By group	42	02	16	38	30	15	08	07	11	13	13	06	11	29
Union (parishad) Council	By council	18	02	68	38	57	30	47	30	20	15	17	14	05	41
	By group	126	15	90	140	75	60	47	86	64	46	40	51	27	106
Health Administration	By govt:	05	03		02	05	15	02						02	
	By group			01			32		09				15		
Education Administration	By govt:			29											
	By group	07		63					04			02		12	
Press Club	By club:	11	03	02	12	05	03	03	01	05	02		02	01	05
	By group	36	02	08	09	08	03	04	07	23	20		11	16	05
Bar Council	By council									02	02		01		
	By group		08					07	05	05	05			05	05
Women Organisation	By org:								08						
	By group							02	11						01
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	By govt:/ others	90	28	139	73	102	64	81	60	70	54	36	24	31	113
	By group	661	50	209	222	198	140	140	191	206	210	97	100	95	235
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>348</b>