

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2003 - 2004

### NIJERA KORI

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## PREFACE

This year we have the pleasure to present once again our past years activities with the utmost sincerity and objectivity. This report spans a period between April 2003 to March 2004 corresponding to the third year of our programme entitled “Social Mobilisation, Voice and Democracy Programme”, which remains Nijera Kori’s central and only programme. Though the financial support from our long-term partners continues, and all our earlier partners, we are happy to note are jointly supporting this programme, the major funding source is DFID who joined as an NK partner in 2001. But true to NK’s inherent philosophy, all matters are dealt with, discussed and agreed upon collectively by all NK staff, partners, NK senior staff and with the Governing Body being regularly informed.

This third year of the seven year project was a crucial one. Having reached almost mid-way of the project at the end of this year, this is really the time to take stock, sit back and assess ourselves. Were we too ambitious? Were we realistic? Did we take into account factors over which we have no control, when estimating and determining targets of the project and when making plans? At the end of the year, the proposed Mid Term Review will take place, which again would give us the necessary feedback to move forward, not only for the remaining four years, but hopefully guide us towards future directions.

Internationally and nationally, the year has been eventful. The attack on Iraq, and the consequences arising from that, dominated everyone’s thinking, right from the peasant in the remotest village to the city dweller. The WTO Cancun meeting and the Role of NGOs in bringing farmer’s and third world concerns into focus, also provided further impetus for NK staff to try to understand the link between Global politics and financial interests and its impact on local producers. It also made us realise the need to understand the politics of Global Economics and how they get formulated.

The threat of fundamentalism and communalism continues with patriarchal structures as its greatest support base. The voices and concerns of all marginalised peoples get further silenced. In this context NK has decided to discuss in the forth coming Staff Council Meeting ways to move forward, in strengthening peoples autonomous organisations, without jeopardising or compromising their interests. A Gender Case Study on Nijera Kori was commissioned by Christian Aid. Plans are underway to have it translated into Bangla.

Taking into account the very welcome feedback we got from you regarding last years annual report, we have tried our best to incorporate your suggestions into this report. We have also given a summary of the report, which means I do not have to mention the contents of the report here.

Once again, we look forward to your feedback both regarding the report as well as our activities. We assure you that, at Nijera Kori every comment is considered very seriously.

**Khushi Kabir**  
Coordinator

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nijera Kori has completed yet another year of its activities under the organisation's core programme i.e. 'Social Mobilisation, Voice and Democracy Programme'. Since inception in its present form and focus in 1980, NK has been trying to bring about a positive change in society by raising the collective capabilities of the excluded for establishing their rights and building a just society. NK has gradually established itself as a non-conventional activist NGO that is different from others in its approach and understanding of the problems of the poor. NK is a continuous and diverse movement primarily because of its focus on social mobilisation, democratic management structure, non-credit policy, pro-people role of our staff, targeting the most marginalised groups, development of autonomous landless organisation and our approach to the gender equity.

NK's organisational objective is to create a society free from oppression and deprivation by awareness building of grass-root people of their rights and privileges through collective strength. NK's target group comprises of men and women who earn their living mainly through physical labour. At present the programme titled '*Social Mobilisation, Voice and Democracy Programme*', is operational in 17 districts. A summary of the activities for the year 2003-2004 is given.

### **Organisational Activities**

In this activity year 85% (female 82%, male 88%) new groups could be formed against the plan. Though the ratio is only 1% higher compared to that of previous year, the trend of progress is still positive.

Compared to the plan 74% group meetings could be held in the activity year, which is 35% more, compared to the achievement of last year. It is to be noted here that at groups' initiative the same is 73% higher compared to previous year. Against the plan 110% Representative Meeting could be implemented this year, which is 27% higher than that of previous year. Achievement relating to Joint Meeting is 8% higher than that of previous year. In case of Annual Group Meeting the ratio of implementation is 9% higher, compared to the previous year.

During this activity year 102% workshops could be held at group level against the plan. Also the ratio of committee formation against the plan is 67% at village level, 5% at union level, 100% at thana level and 17% at area level. Against the plan the ratio of implementation of group convention is 107% at village level, 49% at union level, 75% at thana level and 68% at area level. In case of committee meeting this implementation ratio against the plan is 81% at village level, 86% at union level, 105% at thana level and 86% at area level.

During the activity year the groups collected a total of taka 6,558,037 as group savings. With the savings they could open a total of 454 bank accounts, which is 2% higher than that of previous year. On the other hand the group members spent a total of 641,435 taka during the activity year in various activities.

A total of 801 groups could undertake joint economic activities. Compared to the previous year there is a sector wise increase of implementation ratio in the present year which is respectively 84% in agriculture, 20% in fisheries, 33% in livestock, 32% in rickshaw/van and 9% in case of small business. Out of the total groups that are involved in joint economic activities 44% are female and 56% are male groups as on March 2004.

A total of 128 groups, male 64, female 64 could be promoted to the secondary level, which is 57% achievement against the plan. Compared to the previous year this ratio of achievement is 58% higher.

### **Training of Nijera Kori**

All trainings could be implemented during the activity year as per plan. Also 2 additional cultural workshops were held in the year despite having no plan for it. Similarly, 1 advanced cultural training and 2 trainings on globalisation and sustainable development were held in addition to the plan.

It is to be noted here that during the activity year it is the training recipients who played the active role in forming more than 50% new groups. Also the ratio of holding meetings at groups' initiative has increased to 73% in the present year compared to the previous year. There was less participation of female group members in cultural trainings during the previous year. But in the present activity year this participation could be increased.

In case of staff development trainings the ratio of implementation is 100% against the plan. In addition, the staff also participated in several overseas trainings, seminars and workshops during the year.

### **Landless Cultural Group Activities**

During the activity year 5 new cultural groups could be formed. As per plan the ratio of achievement in cultural group formation is 71%. During the activity year the ratio of implementation against the plan by the cultural groups are 102% in cultural groups' meeting, 89% in cultural discussion, and 190% in performance of peoples' drama, which is 34% higher, compared to the implementation ratio of last year.

The landless group organised 5 weeklong cultural processions (*padajatra*) which is 25% higher than that of plan. A total of 13 cultural groups participated in the *padajatra* this year. They performed 111 open-staged functions like mass drama and peoples' songs, open discussion etc.

### **Special activities**

Among the 70 settled cases judgements were delivered by the court in favour of the landless groups in 63 cases. This ratio of success is 90% out of the total settled cases and compared to previous year it is 9% higher. During the activity year a total of 137 new cases were filed by the local elites against the groups and a total of 178 members were arrested out of which 7 were women. At the end of the year the number of total cases remained 531 out of which the landless groups themselves conducted 302 cases, which is 57% of the total cases. Moreover, the landless groups spent a total of 124,320 taka during the activity year for conducting these cases and they have provided 30,590 taka to the landless families of those who were arrested by police under various false cases.

On behalf of the landless people NK has also filed a writ petition in the High Court during the year against the illegal government declaration of 'shrimp zoning' taking the coastal regions of Noakhali district. In the above-mentioned case the judgement was delivered in favour of the landless.

Landless groups establish schools at their own initiative in the activity areas where the government sponsored educational institutions are not available. Total number of schools now is 25.

The ratio of total movements has increased to 22% compared to previous year as well as the ratio of success, which is 26% more than the previous year. The total number of movements conducted by the landless groups on different issues was 1,181. Out of the total number 472 issues for movement were raised by women groups, which is 51% more than the previous year, and the rest 709 issues were raised by male groups which is 8% higher than the previous year.

### **Advocacy and campaigning Activities**

During the activity year the landless groups held different meetings, discussion sessions, dialogues etc. concerning various local issues of concern with government administration, political parties, professional and women groups for improving reciprocal understanding and accountability. Total number of such meetings, discussion sessions and dialogues is 5,796 out of which 4,328 were at the initiative of landless groups, which is 57% higher than the previous year. Similarly the local administration and different other groups initiated 1,468 meetings/dialogues with the landless groups which is 52% higher than the previous year. In total the ratio of such meetings/dialogues is 56% higher than the previous year.

'The Blues of a Revolution' on industrial shrimp was published by the ISANet (Industrial Shrimp Action Network) with NK's participation. NK also participated in UK based Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) conducted investigation on industrial shrimp in Bangladesh, published in 2 reports titled, 'Smash and Grab' and 'Farming the Sea costing the Earth'.

This year NK obtained membership of FIAN, a Germany based International membership organisation and helped its international Fact Finding Mission to conduct an investigation concerning 'Food Security' in Bangladesh. Prof. Naila Kabeer from University of Sussex, published a paper on NK for IDS, Sussex namely 'Working Paper 200, Making Rights Work for the Poor: Nijera Kori and the Construction of Collective Capabilities in Rural Bangladesh'.

Also a number of reports on issues of industrial shrimp, environment, human rights, food security etc. were published at national and international level with NK's participation.

In addition, 3 district level issue based workshops were held during the activity year. NK staff participated in numerous national and international seminars and workshops. Also a 20 minutes documentary film 'Tahader Kotha' on adverse affects of industrial shrimp etc. was made by NK. On the other hand the local people with the participation of NK and nationally renowned persons built Hajongmata Rashimoni Memorial Monument in Susong Durgapur, with NK acting as the secretariat.

#### **Results: 1**

This year group formation activities have expanded in 52 villages and 1 union. 31 villages and 2 unions could be brought under village coverage and 18,168 new members could be associated with landless organisational activities. Through regular group meetings and conventions the process of organising the unorganised members, developing group leadership and ensuring groups' accountability is being strengthened in the concerned work areas of NK. Also by forming new committees the groups could consolidate their activities and develop a structural shape in those new working areas.

#### **Results: 2**

Group members are participating in the trainings regularly and are disseminating their training experiences among the wider grassroots audience through continuous sharing at different levels. Through the organisational activities a reciprocally positive relationship between the organised male and female group members is being developed. Male group members are playing pro-active role in the movements against repression on women. In the government service sectors particularly the health and education, participation of NK group members has increased. On the other hand the landless now a days are approaching the hospitals for free medical treatment instead of the village quacks. As a result their extra medical costs are being saved. Also the group members are being able to establish schools on their own initiatives in their areas where government schools are not available. They are being skilled in dealing with the prevailing laws, administrative and justice delivery systems also through conducting various cases filed against them.



### **Results: 3**

Total 1,181 movements on various issues of concern were organised out of which 977 movements were successful. At present 204 movements are ongoing. The landless groups participated in 128 movements waged by different professional and civil society groups. A congenial environment of ensuring accountability and transparency in village justice delivery systems is emerging due to NK groups' participation. A total of 6,064 landless group leaders participated in 2,115 village *shalishes* as judges out of which 1,946 were in favour of the grassroots people.

Total 886 members could obtain registration in 1,268.94 acres and possession in 1,086.96 acres of *khas* lands in which 1,557 landless families were benefited. They also could establish their rights on 1.12 acres of *khas* water bodies.

The landless could regain 87.77 acres of individually owned lands from the illegal usurpers. As a result 299 families were benefited. Due to continuous movements daily wages of organised and unorganised wage labourers have increased in NK work areas and their living standard improved.

The landless also regained 400 acres of lands from illegal shrimp farmers and around 2,200 families benefited.

Compared to previous year the ratio of filing false cases against the landless group members has decreased by 23% during the activity year. Also the court verdicts delivered in favour of the landless have increased by 9%. Through Health Watch Committees the grassroots are raising their demands for due health services. As a result 64 dialogues on the issue were held at government's initiative while at groups' initiative that number is 140.

Landless leaders are monitoring the prevailing education services in NK work areas and protesting against any corruption involved. So the concerned officials are being gradually accountable to their higher authorities and the local people.

### **Results: 4**

The elected landless members including the women are efficiently participating in various activities of the union councils. 158 elected landless members were nominated by 61 union councils for taking important responsibilities in the concerned development committees. Total 500 landless members were elected in 172 school management committees and 218 members in 103 market management committees while 5 landless were nominated by the government as member in 5 sugarcane-purchasing centres. Also 59 social committees were formed jointly by the landless and various other professional groups to conduct movement on various issues.

674 female group members (160 in open seats and 514 in reserved seats) were elected in different landless committees out of the total 1,974 members. Total 5,796 discussion meetings were held with the government on various

issues and the landless could form 59 joint movement-conducting committees in association with different professional and civil society groups.

### **Results: 5**

Increased participation of local and national level journalists, teachers, lawyers and members of different civil society in various activities of landless was ensured. Many issues of the landless generated strong debate at national level.

18 staff participated in the World Social Forum held in Mumbai, India. NK also participated in the East Asian Seas Congress 2003 held in Malaysia, which helped NK to gather information relating to shrimp. NK participated in the 'South Asia Level Planning Meeting On Food Sovereignty' held in India and in the seminar 'Peace in South Asia' held in Sri Lanka and contributed in framing relevant strategies and action plans.

### **Trend of important changes**

The staff of NK identified a few areas of changes that took place due to NK's ongoing social mobilisation activities. These areas include: Changes in family life, in greater social paradigm, organisation, grassroots voice and men women relationship, in economic status, trend of participation in social system, institutional structures and national movements and also in the relationship with people of different class and professions.

### **Remarks**

Overall achievements in general and the group formation and group meetings in particular were affected due to 'operation spider web' and 'combined military operation' in Khulna and Noakhali divisions. The operations obstructed peoples' mobility particularly after the sunset due to which the groups could not conduct their regular activities. As a result additional Representative Meetings beyond the plan were held to keep the group activities alive. Some UP elections held in April-May also hampered the activities as the people in general had to remain busy for it. But the group conventions implementation ratio was higher than the plan due to holding of outstanding group conventions of last year, which could not be held because of the union council election during the previous programme year.

The ratio of workshops implementation was higher compared to the plan as more workshops were organised in Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions following the local situational demands and in keeping with the intensified movements in those areas.

Cultural workshops, cultural trainings, peoples drama, cultural *padajatra* and refreshers trainings were held in addition to the plan as per demand of the groups and compelling local situations including movements, to enhance collective initiative and movements of the group members and staff at field level.

## 1. A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF NIJERA KORI

### 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”. After a certain number of years when the organisation became dormant, a group of development activists joined NK in 1980 to revive it. Since then NK has made bold strides by shifting from its initial programme of rehabilitating a handful of famine-affected urban destitutes to an NGO with an organisational objective of creating a society free from oppression and deprivation through the establishment of the fundamental rights of the people.

A number of people working in leading NGOs felt that consciousness raising of the poor held the key to resolving the core problems of rural society and joined NK, which in its present form and focus was established in 1980 from a group of such people who had started working at field level and concentrated on rural social mobilisation and they strongly 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. In order to achieve this goal, the strategy that NK developed was to make people conscious of their rights and to assist them to build up 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 and its programme today is called '*Social Mobilisation, Voice and Democracy Programme*', which is operational in 17 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 pre-requisites towards that goal. 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 people's organisation at the grassroots level and to play the role of a decision-maker in all spheres of life on the basis of participation.

- Development activities of NK are geared for the establishment of rights of the downtrodden people. NK believes that democratic practice is imperative 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 also replicates and practises 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. For this NK believes in the establishment of equal rights for men and women in all spheres of life.
- NK feels that absolute accountable democratic environment is essential for development. For democracy to be ensured the 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 1 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 staffs 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 sieved 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 -1):

From the very inception the NK activists as per organization'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 1</b>		
<b>NK WORKING AREAS</b>		
Year	2003	2004
Village	1,242	1,282
Union	175	170
Thana	39	37
District	18	17
Division	4	4

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 rights 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 51 sub-centres, 16 areas, 4 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 52 new villages and 1 more union.*

In addition to this, the slum dwellers in the Dhaka city became scattered in different areas due to eviction of slums by the government. All the slums that were under NK activities have been destroyed in the drive. Due to such uncongenial situation the ongoing activities of NK in the Dhaka City areas have been suspended sine die in consultation with the group members. Therefore, a total of 12 villages (slums), 6 wards, 2 thanas and 1 district have been deleted from the statistics.

### 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, and evaluation and overall management not only with the landless groups that 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 extends 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 staffs 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 immense that they are often excluded as targets for micro-credit activities, since they are not considered credit-worthy. Nijera Kori aims to reach those people - without land or any other resources - whose basic human rights and needs are largely ignored by 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 sharing both in physical and financial terms, among the group members in all its activities to inculcate a sense of belonging to the organisation vis a vis a feeling of ownership of work and responsibilities which ultimately lead them towards developing an independent autonomous organisation.

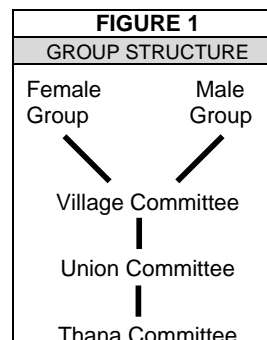
***Because of our approach to gender equity:***

- 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 incredibly difficult.



## 2. The landless group 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 receptive and able to work together as equals and when committees are formed both female and male members get integrated into one by being gender sensitised 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 1 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.



### 2.1 Group formation and members (details in Annex - Table 2 & 3):

*The rich are the exploiters and it is the poor who are exploited. Rich people are exploiting the poor through different strategies. In every level and spheres, rich people have their own people. Through this there is a strong network of communication between the rich men at the highest to the lowest level. Through this network they are exploiting us. Once this trend is understood our movement derives a natural incentive to get started. Our main target is 90% of our poor population. As long as this 90% of the poor people remain hungry and are deprived of their fundamental rights to food and shelter we have no other alternative except waging struggle to establish our rights. We are endeavouring towards this end.*

*Josim Uddin*

*A landless group leader from Saghata (his views relating to group formation)*

### **Achievement analysis:**

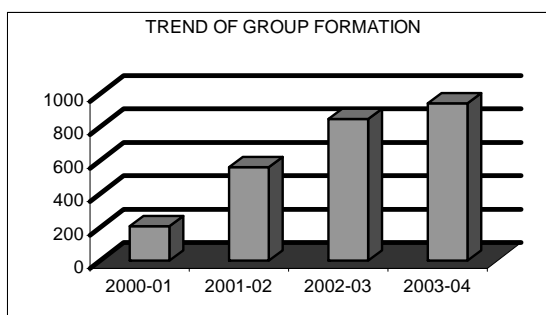
During the activity year 85% new groups could be formed against the plan, which is 1% higher compared to that of previous year. If the group formation number is considered then an increase of trend is seen in the present year than the previous year. For example, in the year 2002-03 the number of group formation was 848 and in 2003-04 this number reached to 943, which shows

that the trend of progress is still positive (see the graph 'Trend of Group Formation' below).

The total group members are 213,690 hailing from 119,756 families. Since 1 or 2 members from each family are directly involved with landless groups, the

Description	Group			Member		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Up to March 03	4,082	5,133	9,215	92,640	102,882	195,522
Plan	554	554	1,108	11,080	11,880	22,960
Achievement	488	455	943	9,519	8,649	18,168
Total 04	4,570	5,588	10,158	102,159	111,531	213,690

other members of their families also are getting involved with the social mobilisation process through them indirectly. As a result this process is influencing directly or indirectly over a total of 670,633 people through the landless groups (a family is comprised of 5.6 members, source: Bangladesh Statistical Year Book 2001). It is to be noted that through the group formation social mobilisation activities could be expanded to 52 villages and 1 union while 31-village coverage and 2 union coverage have been completed during the year.



#### Remarks:

The state has conducted two massive operations during the activity year i.e. the Operation Spider Web and Combined Military Operation against the so-called terrorist underground groups and in the name of controlling the law and order

situation in the south and southwestern part of the country. During the operations the general people of those areas were harassed, tortured, deprived from their normal social interaction and association and many were arrested on false grounds, which in fact appeared to them as very sudden and undeclared curfew like situation. The normal life of general people in both day and night time became very confined due to these operations as a result of which NK group members also could not meet regularly in the evening (what they usually do after whole day's hard labour) for conducting their usual organisational activities. In Paikgacha, Kumarkhali and Gangni areas these operations started in July 2003 and in Charjabbar area from December 2003, which are still ongoing in all those areas. As a result the usual activities of NK landless groups were obstructed and both NK staff and group members suffered various harassments and even inhuman physical torture. On 12 August 2003 four NK staff were arrested and inhumanely tortured for the whole day by the local camp in charge of the Operation Spider Web who arrested them based on false allegations from the vested quarters. NK has also filed 2 cases, one is for criminal offence and the other is for compensation, against that officer in charge as a result of which he has been

punished by the higher authority. Due to all such troubles the group formation activities could not be implemented in all those working areas as expected. This has affected the overall achievement relating to group formation.

In addition to this, the slum dwellers in the Dhaka city became scattered in different areas due to the unusual slum eviction conducted by the government. Almost all the slum dwellers under NK working areas have been evicted in the drive. The continuous ongoing eviction along with the dramatic rise in extra legal (underground) activities in remaining slums, NK felt that the risk the staff would entail in order to proceed with NK stated programmes in line with their aims and objectives would be enormous. As a result the ongoing activities of NK in those areas have been suspended for indefinite period in consultation with the group members. It is to be noted that due to withdrawal of activities from the Dhaka city areas a total of 188 groups (male 75 and female 113) and 3,785 members (male 1,414 and female 2,371) were deducted from the statistics.

**Lessons learned:**

Before undertaking group formation activities in a new area the likely risk factors have not been analysed thoroughly. In-dept analysis of these risk factors might have contributed positively in achieving the targets. Therefore, such analysis should be given due attention in future plans. Also it is required to consolidate activities rather than mere expansion of working areas meaning that more emphasis should be given to village coverage than its expansion. This will strengthen the very basis of NK activities in future.

**2.2 Group, representative and joint meeting (details in Annex - Table 4 & 5):**

*Previously there was a void in our understanding. We were unaware about what an individual requires for leading a human and dignified life. The staff of NK provided us various knowledge, ideas and suggestions through visiting us here and sitting in-group meetings. So we decided to continue this process and gradually got integrated with their works inseparably. These regular group meetings inspire us to fight for a dignified life and a better future for us.*

Ariful Islam

A group leader from Kumarkhali (his views favouring group meeting)

**Achievement analysis:**

Compared to the plan 74% group meetings could be held in the activity year, which is 35% more, compared to the achievement of last year. It is to be noted here

Description	Group Meeting			R M	J M	AGM
	Male	Female	Total			
Plan	105,432	139,032	244,464	1,098	-	-
Achievement	82,084	98,213	180,297	1,213	824	7,606

RM=Representative Meeting, JM=Joint Meeting, AGM=Annual Group Meeting

that organising meeting at staff's initiative is 23% higher than the previous year while at groups' initiative the same is 73% higher compared to previous year (see Table 4). Against the plan 110% Representative Meeting could be implemented this year, which is 27% higher than that of previous year. Achievement relating to Joint Meeting is 8% higher than that of previous year. In case of Annual Group Meeting 76% old groups could organise it, which is 9% higher, compared to the implementation ratio of previous year.

**Remarks:**

The major NK work areas, such as Kumarkhali, Gangni, Charjabbar and so on were under the massive combined military operation almost throughout the year. Also in Paikgacha area Operation Spider Web was conducted initially for a certain period, which was replaced later on by the combined military operation, which is still continuing. As a result, the general life of the poor specially after the evening, has virtually become standstill and holding of regular weekly group meetings particularly at night when the group members usually meet, has become almost impossible in all those areas due to fear of indiscriminate arrest and torture. Therefore, the group meetings could not be organised as per plan. This lack of mobility of the group members ultimately resulted into excessive Representative Meetings and Joint Meetings beyond the plan, which they have organised cautiously when they could, to keep the group activities alive.

Group Meeting at Group's Initiative		
By Gender	2003	2004
Male	17,601	29,639
Female	14,314	25,564
Total	31,915	55,203

**Lessons learned:**

Although the ratio of achievement relating to group meeting (at both staff and groups' initiative) is comparatively higher than the previous year, yet this ratio is not up to the level we expected. For promotion of groups' awareness level as per NK's group stratification process, emphasis on implementation of group meetings is an essential prerequisite. For attaining self-reliance and promotion of awareness level of the groups it is necessary to maintain the consistency of the group discussions and follow up actions on, that are decided in the group meetings.

**2.3 Workshops (details in Annex - Table 5):**

**Achievement analysis:**

The landless groups organise workshops for evaluating their activities, identifying strength, weaknesses, local problems and remedial measures, for analysing the issues of concern and above all formulating strategies for conducting their movements. During this activity year 102% workshops could be held at group level against the plan. A total of 108 daylong workshops and 7 two days long workshops were held. The two days long workshops are held mainly for Joint Production Management.

**Remarks:**

In Khulna division the ratio of implementation against the plan is comparatively less, which was caused by the combined military operation as mentioned earlier. In Dhaka division also the implementation ratio remained less due to frequent attack on the staff and group members by the usurpers of water bodies. On the other hand the ratio of implementation was higher in Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions. This was possible due to the movements held in those areas in context with the prevailing reality and local situational demands. As a result the ratio of implementation became higher compared to the plan.

**Lessons learned:**

When the local issues that concern the lives of the landless were raised before the general people of various social strata and profession the movement of the landless became strengthened with their active participation. This trend should continue and in these workshops the local issues of the poor should be highlighted for building solidarity between the landless and various other economically marginalised professional groups.

**2.4 Committee Formation, Meeting and Convention (details in Annex - Table 6 & 7):**

*When our landless organisation expanded considerably then we formed village committees. Once this committee was formed it became the foundation of our strength and the influential elites when they found that the members who formed committees and organised the meetings were huge in number felt intimidated.*

*Kasim Uddin*  
*A landless leader from Dhanbari (while expressing his views on committee activities)*

Description	V	U	T	A
Plan (Committee Formation)	48	20	01	12
Achievement	32	01	01	02
Plan (Convention)	173	39	04	37
Achievement	185	19	03	25
Plan (Committee Meeting)	2,169	212	22	286
Achievement	1,764	183	23	247

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

**Achievement analysis:**

During the activity year the ratio of committee formation against the plan is 67% at village level, 5% at union level, 100% at thana level and

17% at area level. The trend of committee formation was shown in the second graph of Result 1 under Chapter Five. Against the plan the ratio of implementation of group convention is 107% at village level, 49% at union level, 75% at thana level and 68% at area level. In case of committee meeting this implementation ratio against the plan is 81% at village level, 86% at union level, 105% at thana level and 86% at area level.

The landless organisations form various committees to successfully conduct their struggles/movements. The number of such committees apart from the usual organisational committees of the landless is 59. The nature and titles of such committees are like Saline Water Prevention Committee, Committee for Resisting Illegal Usurpers of Khas Lands and Water Bodies, Garbage Dump Resistance Committee and so on. It is to be noted that all these committees are playing very pivotal role in case of waging landless movements. In case of organising group conventions the financial participation of groups was satisfactory (see Table 17 for details in Annex).

### Remarks:

The precondition of forming an organisational committee at village level is the mobilisation of at least 75% target people of that village. In case of such committee formation at union and thana level 75% villages and unions respectively must be covered under the social mobilisation

Number of women elected in open seats		
Name of committee	2002-03	2003-04
Village	76	112
Union	19	22
Area	13	19
Thana	6	7
Total	114	160

activities. In addition to this, area committees can be formed as additional committees, if need be, for coordination of organisational activities in absence of thana committee (see the Annex C). Despite having plan the union level committees could not be formed during the activity year due to non-fulfilment of precondition of the committee formation. The group conventions were implemented more than the plan at village level. The reason of this over implementation is the holding of last year's group conventions in some particular areas in April 2004, which could not be held during last activity year due to union council election. One group convention at thana level and fourteen at area level could not be held in the activity year since the respective committees could not be formed as per plan. Due to combined military operation regular committee meetings also could not be organised in some areas as a result of which the target in this regard could not be achieved.

<b>Box 1</b>	
Total Committees	
Village:	195
Union:	20
Thana:	3
Area:	26
Movement:	59

### Lessons learned:

The ratio of village committee formation is less compared to the number of total villages in which NK activities are ongoing. More emphasis should be given on formation of committees. It is necessary to complete all the group conventions within the activity year to ensure the group planning process and their accountability.

### 2.5 Group saving and bank account (details in Annex - Table 8 & 9):

When the landless form a group they determine their amount of monthly saving taking into account the financial ability of the poorest member of the group. The overall responsibility for collection and safekeeping of the savings lies on the landless organisation. However, the staff of NK provides necessary

advice and technical support, if required, to the groups. By no means NK plays the role of neither collector nor does it keep their savings.

*Loans are provided to the members according to their urgent needs, such as daughter's marriage, treatment, education or other emergency situations. The main reason for joint production activity is to explore ways to solve our economic crises jointly on self-help basis. One important thing I would like to mention is that, apart from joint economic activities, whenever any member encounters any urgent financial crisis, other members collect subscription in an attempt to help the concerned person. Previously, people used to lose everything by taking loans. But now we can face any crisis by ourselves.*

*Habiba Khatun*

*A landless group leader from Comilla (while describing about the use of group savings)*

### **Achievement analysis:**

During the activity year the groups collected a total of taka 6,558,037 as group savings. For preserving the amount they could open a total of 454 bank accounts, which is 2% higher than that of previous year. During agricultural season or at the time of various crises group members distribute among themselves a particular portion of their savings. During this year they have distributed a total of taka 6,046,471 among themselves. Following this strategy the group members are being able to solve their own economic crises by themselves without taking any loan or being trapped in micro credit net. As a result the tendency of borrowing loan among the group members have decreased considerably.

On the other hand the group members spent a total of 641,435 taka during the activity year in various activities i.e. movements/struggles, conducting cases, group conference and conventions, support for education and treatment, conducting development activities in their respective areas, providing financial support from the group funds to the families of the arrested group members and so on. It is to be noted that all these activities are conducted not only for the group members alone but also for others who are not group members (see Table 17 for details in Annex).

### **Remarks:**

Compared to the plan the amount of savings has increased as the group members saved a portion of their profit earned from joint economic activities, together with usual group savings. Although the number of bank accounts have increased compared to previous year yet the target could not be reached. The primary reason for it is the long distance between the activity areas and the banks. Due to such distance the communication with the banks becomes more expensive for the groups and on the other hand it causes considerable insecurity as well for the group members in case of carrying the money to the banks. The second reason is the inertia of the bank authorities in opening bank accounts with the meagre amount that groups can provide. Bank authorities also remain reluctant in opening groups' joint-signature accounts. Thirdly, the bank interest rate at present is so meagre that

compared to the cost involved in depositing the money and paying the service charge it virtually makes the group savings a business of great loss and botheration. But still the only logic in favour of keeping savings in banks from the groups' side is security.

**Lessons learned:**

The groups were successful in investing their profit in different joint economic activities that enabled them to be self reliant in many cases. This strategy of saving a particular portion of the profit should be encouraged so that the groups can undertake different joint economic activities in future to attain economic stability. On the other hand the groups should be encouraged more to open and maintain bank accounts for safe preservation of their savings, despite the obstacles they face. It is also necessary to create collective pressure on the bank authority so that they do not ignore but help the landless group members in opening and operating the groups' bank accounts.

**2.6 Joint economic activities (details in Annex - Table 13):**

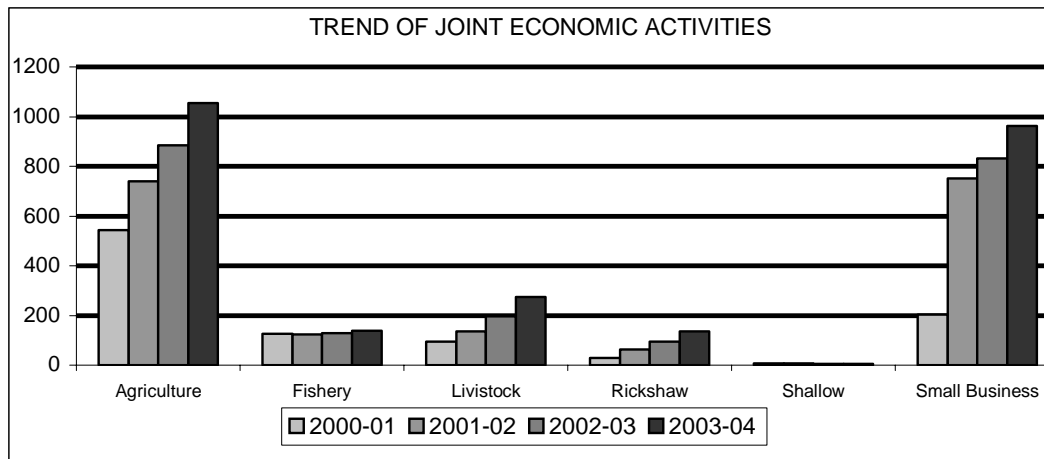
When a group reaches a certain level of consciousness and accrues a reasonable amount from its savings then it undertakes joint economic activity. Joint economic activity is also an integral part of regular awareness raising activities. The groups have been carrying out their joint economic activities 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.

*Most of the money that we all save through the groups are spent in joint production activities. These include agri-cultivation, livestock rearing, fisheries or purchasing rickshaw/van and the like. This investment helps a lot in increasing our family incomes.*

*Shabuddin*

*A landless group leader from Baghatipara (while commenting on joint economic activities)*





### Achievement analysis:

During the activity year a total of 801 groups could undertake joint economic activities. Among them 326 groups undertook joint economic activities in agricultural sector, 30 in fisheries, 130 in livestock, 58 in rickshaw/van renting, 01 in shallow tube well and 256 groups in other small business. Compared to the previous year there is a sector wise increase of implementation ratio in the present year which is respectively 84% in agriculture, 20% in fisheries, 33% in livestock, 32% in rickshaw/van and 9% in case of small business. Out of the total groups that are involved in joint economic activities 44% are female and 56% are male groups as on March 2004. During the activity year a total of 1,375 groups could earn a profit of 2,062,896 taka from their activities. They have preserved a portion of their profits in bank accounts for undertaking joint economic activities in the next year.

### Remarks:

Joint economic activities especially 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 availability of space and facilities for stocking are very 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. But all these 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. Owing to these uncertainties the groups are not able to keep the consistency of joint economic activities. Due to all the above reasons some of the groups were unable to continue their activities in the following sectors during the year: Agriculture 156, Fisheries 20, Livestock 52, Rickshaw/Van 18, Shallow 01, Small business 126, Total 373. They are now in the process of exploring new fields for joint economic activities.

**Lessons learned:**

The ratio of participation in joint economic activities is less compared to the total number of groups. Livestock rearing, rickshaw/van etc. activities are conducted individually although its management is a joint one. However, it is necessary to lay more emphasis on groups' participation in agriculture and fisheries sectors also.

**2.7 Level of group consciousness: (details in Annex - Table 16):**

The rational reflection of the knowledge acquired through the organisational activities is called 'consciousness' as NK perceives it. When the state of consciousness of most of the members (more than 50%) in a group is found similar as per the criterion defined, then this group is incorporated in a particular level of group consciousness. These levels of the groups with regard to their level of consciousness are defined as: Primary, Secondary and Final Level of group consciousness (see Box 2 in next page).

**Achievement analysis:**

In the activity year a total of 128 groups, male 64, female 64 could be promoted to the secondary level, which is 57% achievement against the plan. Compared to the previous year this ratio of achievement is 58% higher. But although there was plan to promote some groups into final level the target could not be achieved due to non-fulfilment of the preconditions. Table 09 shows a positive trend of groups' promotion to secondary level. But in case of final level the trend remained static for last several years.

Description	2001	2002	2003	2004
1 <sup>st</sup> Level	7,306	7,788	8,555	9,182
2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	685	764	845	973
Final Level	3	3	3	3

**Remarks:**

Promotion of consciousness level of the groups is basically a long-standing continual process with its complex dimensions that get reflected in the day-to-day lives of the group members. The group members acquire, perceive and generate new ideas and inspirations in them through their organisational activities and abandoning constantly the outdated social attitudes, ideas, blind faiths, values and systems. But the landless communities most of whom are wage labourers have to spend more than 10 to 12 hours a day in very arduous labour intensive work for maintaining their lives. Also due to lack of employment and other livelihood opportunities the landless, both women and men migrate to other areas from their respective localities in search of work for a significant period of time every year. As a result in many cases the group members cannot stay involved with this process of change as whole timer. On the other hand the existing social disparities, outdated values and ideas, fanatical religious notions, patriarchy driven gender relations and culture keeps the landless labour communities

confined within multiple social barriers. As a result the process of consciousness development of the groups vis a vis the achievement of the prerequisites for groups' promotion does not take place in faster pace as anticipated. This very weakness relating to groups' promotion following the group stratification process is being analysed by the NK staff for some time now.

<b>Box 2: Level of group consciousness</b>	
PRIMARY LEVEL	
Groups at this level concentrate on becoming organised, developing basic awareness and ensuring regular attendance at meetings. Group savings and account keeping are given importance in-group activity.	
SECONDARY LEVEL	
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>	
FINAL LEVEL	
At this level, groups become able to analyze 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.	

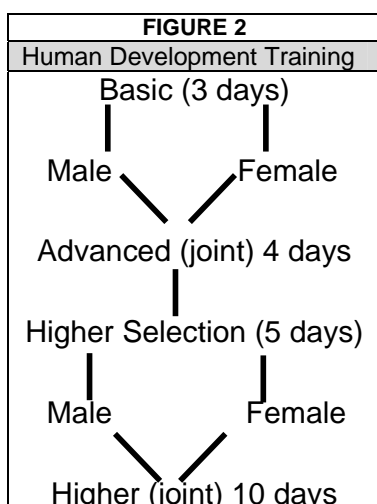
**Lessons learned:**

The prerequisites for promotion of groups from secondary level to final level are more extensive compared to those required for promotion from primary level to secondary level. As such the promotion of groups into final level is not being successful. This matter was discussed elaborately in the last staff representatives meeting held in March 2003 and through the discussion a proposal was accepted concerning creation of another level in between the first and secondary level. This proposal will be discussed again in the forthcoming staff council and subsequently the decision will be made afterwards in this regard.



### 3. Training (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 (see Figure 2). 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 especially 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 and Access

to Information" and "Globalisation and Sustainable Development" are being imparted to the groups comprised of 20-25 participants both female and male who were once given basic training and are prominent among the members. Furthermore, Para-legal trainings are also provided in all the work areas where the group members fall victim of various false cases, human rights abuses and other harassments.

*If we were to talk about the main strength of struggle and movement, I would say that, previously we the poor people could not understand many things. My father was a sharecropper and so was I. We used to think that we have to pass our days doing the same thing like this. Those who have assets will be the owners of everything. Poor will remain poor. After 1985, when I became active with the landless organisation, through the training of 'Nijera Kori', I came to know about issues regarding rich and poor, exploitation, social disparities and so on. I became aware that we are not born poor. Public assets, which are government assets are meant for the use and benefit of its people. And in the constitution everyone's fundamental rights as citizen of this country are guaranteed. But the elites' claim to public/government properties on false pretext is illegal. After we have realized this, we have formed organisation, gained strength and are fighting to establish our fundamental rights.*

*Ibrahim*

*A landless group leader from Noakhali (while speaking about the importance of training)*

### 3.1 Different Trainings for the Landless

#### Achievement analysis:

All trainings could be implemented during the activity year as per plan. Also 02 additional cultural workshops were held in the year despite having no plan for it. Similarly, 01 advanced cultural training and 02 trainings on globalisation and sustainable development were held in addition to the plan.

In case of Leadership Development, Production and Management, and Right of Access to Information trainings the participation of female members have increased to 19% in the present activity year compared to that of previous year. In cultural trainings and workshops the joint participation of staff and group members could be ensured. As a result it was possible to undertake joint initiatives by the staff and group members at field level. These trainings also contributed a great

Description of Training	Plan		Achievement	
	N	P	N	P
<b>HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING</b>				
Basic	60	1,500	60	1,410
Advanced	16	400	16	385
Higher Selection	10	250	10	223
Higher	2	50	2	48
<b>CULTURAL TRAINING</b>				
Basic	4	80	4	78
Advanced	1	20	2	39
Workshop	-	-	2	62
<b>OTHER TRAININGS</b>				
Leadership Development	4	100	4	92
Production & Management	4	100	4	90
Right to Information	4	100	4	89
Para Legal	30	750	30	767
Globalisation & Sustainable	14	350	16	394

*N= Number, P= Participant*

deal in promoting the creativity, improving art and techniques of acting of the cultural team members as well as selecting the right issues/subjects for the drama. After each training plans concerning the duties, responsibilities and activities of the training recipients could be formulated.

According to the staff the immediate result of the trainings is the pro-active role of the training recipients in forming new groups. It is to be noted here that during the activity year it is the training recipients who played the active role in forming more than 50% new groups. Also the ratio of holding meetings at groups' initiative has increased to 73% in the present year compared to the previous year.

There was less participation of female group members in cultural trainings during the previous year. But in the present activity year this participation could be increased.

#### Remarks:

Because of the urgency in context of the group activities and as per demand by the group members 2 additional trainings relating to Globalisation and Sustainable Development were held although these were not there in the plan. Despite having no plan 2 more cultural workshops and 1 advanced cultural training were held with a view to enhance collective initiative of the groups and staff at field level in improving the techniques of acting and selecting the suitable subjects for the drama as well as retaining their collective spirit intact. However, the impacts of trainings are not instant and the effects of the trainings therefore become visible only after a long period of time over the lives and living of the landless. And it is almost impossible to

identify the immediate impacts of the trainings and changes that take place, due to above reason.

### Lessons learned:

It is necessary to improve the contents of the cultural trainings/workshops relating to the real situations and issues of the locality and to ensure effective application of the lessons learned in all the activities and day-to-day lives of the landless people. If their own issues are made familiarised and remedies from the problems outlined in the trainings then such trainings will be more effective than the usually theoretical discourses they experience. Furthermore, the equitable participation of men and women is not being ensured in the cultural and special trainings, i.e. Leadership Development, Production and Management, Right of Access to Information trainings etc. although women's participation in these trainings have increased recently compared to that of previous years. As such, it is an urgent need also to give emphasis on ensuring equitable participation of women in all these trainings and workshops.

### 3.2 Follow up of training:

Follow 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

DESCRIPTION	P	A
Refresher Training	79	104
Participant	1,975	2,501
Training forum meeting	1,002	494
<i>P= Plan, A= Achievement</i>		

trained members to analyse and summarise the discussion in which they participated. Secondly, regular refresher trainings at the field level are organised with the trainees. Thirdly, training forums are formed usually consisting of 10 trained members with a view to deepen

their concepts, understanding and leadership skill.

### Achievement analysis:

During the activity year the average ratio of implementation of Basic and Advanced Refreshers' Trainings is 132%, which is 32% higher than the plan. Therefore, the number of participants has also increased. The ratio of Training Forum formation is 25% only against the plan and therefore the target of holding Training Forum meetings as shown in the plan could not be achieved. However, as per rule there is an obligation of holding one meeting per month by each of the Training Forums, which has been achieved during the activity year according to the existing number of the Training Forums.

### Remarks:

The training recipient members use to organise Refreshers' Trainings in the work areas at field level as per need. During the activity year these trainings were held more than the plan as per need of the landless group members. Training Forum is basically the first step of schooling process of the groups. Therefore, a forum cannot be constituted without proper scrutiny of its likely members. However, intensive involvement of the group members in various movements as well as the joint military operation imposed in many NK working areas hampered tremendously, the formation of Training Forums due to which the target could not be achieved as expected. It is to be noted that

the target of holding Training Forum meetings also could not be achieved due to non-formation of Training Forums as planned for the activity year.

**Lessons learned:**

The training recipients must ensure the attainment of necessary skill and effective strategy and successfully apply their lessons achieved from the training tallying these with their real situations at field level. It was noticed that there were weaknesses in case of forming training forums for the last few years. Joint initiative must be undertaken in this regard by analysing these weaknesses with due emphasis at both staff and group level.

**3.3 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.

**Achievement analysis:**

- During the activity year widening of staff's awareness and concept as well as increasing the flow of information on different issues could be possible through specific subject based schooling held during every staff meeting.
- One basic-level staff development training was held in the year taking a total of 41 new recruits out of which 9 were male and 32 were female staff.
- During the activity year a total of 4 advanced level staff development trainings were held. A total of 123 staff (male 93, female 30) participated in the trainings.
- 1 higher-level staff development training was held during the activity year. A total of 48 staff (male 25 and female 23) participated in the training.
- During the year 1 training on Human Rights and Law was held for the staff. A total of 60 staff (male 36 and female 24) participated in the training. The Law and Development Organisation conducted this training.



- During the activity year 1 cultural training (basic) was held. Total participants were 23 (male 13 and female 10).
- 1 advanced level cultural training was held during the activity year in which a total of 19 staff participated.
- During the activity year a total of 15 staff (male 7 and female 8) participated in 2 advanced cultural trainings jointly organised by the landless groups and the staff of NK.
- A total of 6 staff (male 3 and female 3) participated in a 7 day long training titled 'Economic Literacy' organised by the SANGHITA of India.
- Total 18 NK staff participated in the World Social Forum held in Mumbai, India, that brought the staff in direct touch with various concurrent issues, developments and changes that are taking place at the global level. Apart from this NK helped mobilise and channel funding from Christian Aid to enable 60 garments workers, trade union activists, dalits, adivasis and representatives from other marginalized sectors belonging to World Social Forum, Bangladesh to attend the World Social Forum, held in Mumbai, India.
- 1 NK staff participated in a seminar titled 'Peace in South Asia' held in Sri Lanka, arranged by EED.
- During the activity year a view sharing meeting titled 'Country's present situation, Globalisation and Bangladesh' was organised in Dhaka. A total of 21 staff participated in the meeting.
- A 1-day workshop on the methodologies of information collection, preservation, dissemination and reporting was held during the activity year. Total 25 NK staff participated in the workshop. Professor Naila Kabeer of the IDS, University of Sussex conducted the workshop.

**Remarks:**

Trainings were implemented fully as per plan. Compared to the previous year some new initiatives i.e. open dialogue involving the staff on current national and global situation, participation in trainings and workshops abroad etc. could be undertaken concerning staff development during the present activity year.

**Lessons learned:**

Among the staff some weaknesses were noticed in case of having sufficient information on concurrent development issues and global changes. Emphasis should be given towards overcoming this deficiency through ensuring regular collection of information and its dissemination. It is also necessary to review the tactics of applying the lessons learned and conceptualising the new changes clearly that are constantly taking place in the modern society, apart from acquiring subject based knowledge and ideas.

#### 4. Cultural groups and their activities (details in Table 12):

Without positive cultural transformation resisting the existing anti-people cultural practices the goal of social mobilisation cannot 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 culturally aware group members who discuss the issues among themselves 2/3 hours a day on a regular basis form the cultural groups through a weeklong discussion and each group is comprised of 13-20 male and female group members. The dramas and songs by these cultural groups are usually prepared taking various issues and different local problems into consideration that concern the poor, such as, social injustice and oppression, disparity between the rich and the poor, repression on women, corruption, violation of human rights, environmental degradation and so on. After presentation of the dramas or songs a feedback dialogue used to take place with the audience present. Also the cultural padajatras take place by the landless cultural groups with a view to disseminate the concerns relating to various local issues, raising awareness and mass opinion among the general people in favour of the movement of the landless.

##### 4.1 Landless Cultural Group Activities:

Description	P	A
Meeting	642	657
Drama	244	464
Discussion	114	101
Padajatra	4	5
Functions	298	286
<i>(P=Plan, A=Achievement)</i>		

##### **Achievement analysis:**

During the activity year 5 new cultural groups could be formed. As per plan the ratio of achievement in cultural group formation is 71%. It may be noted here that the cultural groups could not be formed in the previous year. At present a total of 52 groups are conducting cultural activities. During the activity year the ratio of implementation against the plan by the cultural groups are 102% in cultural groups' meeting, 89% in cultural discussion, and 190% in performance of peoples' drama, which is 34% higher, compared to the implementation ratio of last year. During the activity year a total of 99 open discussions were held with participation of local grassroots people in the NK work areas on various aspects of conventional and ongoing cultural movements, cultural imperialism and alien culture, future of folk culture etc. In addition to these a total of 286 open functions for presenting peoples' songs were organised in different rural markets, school and college premises and open fields.

Besides, the important national and international days also were observed in a befitting manner in different work areas of NK through organising mass gathering, meetings and cultural functions. These national and international important days include the International Language Day (21 February), International Women's Day (8 March), International Labour Day (1 May), Independence Day (26 March), Victory Day (16 December), Korunamoyee Martyr Day (7 November), Rokeya Day (9 December) and the like. All these activities ensured participation of people from various walks of life in the NK work areas. Through close interactions and opinions shared by the landless group members with the diverse participants in the aftermath of Drama and people song's orchestration, the support towards the causes of landless people and reciprocal cooperation and solidarity at different levels are being enhanced. The organised and unorganised group members are being inspired in spearheading their movements/struggles due to all these activities and developments.

**Remarks:**

2 cultural groups are still under the observational stage due to which the landless organisation did not give them recognition as full-fledged cultural groups as yet. Otherwise the target fulfilment could have been 100% as per plan. The planned cultural discussions of a few cultural groups could not be held because of combined military operation undertaken in a few of the southern districts where NK works. During the activity year almost in all NK work areas various movements took place on different issues of concern that necessitated the performance of people's drama on those issues by the groups. As a result the number of drama performances has increased comparatively. However, it was not possible to observe the Korunamoyee martyr day properly this year due to setting up of camp for the combined military forces in the only field of the area where such a large programme may be held. Permission was sought duly for organising the programme in the remaining areas of the field but the authority denied it. Therefore, the programme was held in a small scale due to lack of access to the big field.

**Lessons learned:**

Overcoming the tendency of depending solely on the cultural team members for strengthening cultural movements the strategy of enhancing joint initiative of the landless groups and NK staff should be strengthened more at field level. At the end of every cultural programme an open discussion should be ensured so that all can participate in the processes of changing the outdated values and ideas through sharing their views on various aspects of the performance and learning from the drama. Above all, it is also necessary to identify the weaknesses in the performance as well as finding out the anti-people elements through all these processes.

#### **4.2 Week long 'padajatra' (long march):**

In the work areas of NK the cultural groups with the help of landless organisation organises cultural *padajatra* (procession) once in a year. The cultural groups take their procession around the villages walking on foot for 3 to 7 days and organise various cultural events in the open public places. The villagers arrange boarding and lodging facilities for the participants at the local school premises and collect from among themselves rice, pulses, vegetables, fish, and utensils etc. for them. This effort of the cultural groups provides an opportunity to raise the local problems and issues of the whole year before the public and inspire them to be organised and enhance cultural movement for a greater positive change in the society.

#### **Achievement analysis:**

The cultural groups of Kumarkhali and Paikgacha area under Khulna division, of Comilla area under Chittagong division and Baghatipara area under Rajshahi division organised 05 weeklong cultural processions (*padajatra*) which is 25% higher than that of plan and 66.67% higher than the previous year. A total of 13 cultural groups participated in the *padajatra* this year. They performed 111 open-staged functions like mass drama and peoples' songs, open discussion etc. at various public places (hat/bazaar & school premises) arranged by 109 villages. About 1000/1200 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 unwavering support to the organisers and this has strengthened the solidarity between the landless and other groups of various occupations. During this year the financial contribution of the landless groups in this endeavour was higher than that of previous year.

#### **Remarks:**

01 additional cultural *padajatra* was organised by the landless groups in Paikgacha area as demanded by the local people to strengthen their movement at grassroots level. It is to be noted here that the cultural *padajatra* haven't been organised in Dhaka division as the landless groups organised month long cultural activities with the help of cultural groups for resisting frequent attack by the local powerful elites in the Mirzabari village of Dhaka division.

#### **Lessons learned:**

During the cultural *padajatra* various professional groups helped the landless cultural groups spontaneously, which obviously added additional strength and dynamism to the whole effort. But if this procession and other cultural activities can be organised jointly with these groups then a strong cultural movement may get generated in the rural areas from such joint effort. This aspect of partnership may be emphasized in the future initiatives.

## 5. Special activities

### 5.1. 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 recognized 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	2003-04
Till March 2003	457
New Cases	137
Settled Cases	70
Judgment in favour of Group	63
Appeal Cases	07
Total Cases	531
Conducted by Groups	302
Supported by NK	229

#### Achievement analysis:

Among the 70 settled cases judgements were delivered by the court in favour of the landless groups in 63 cases. This ratio of success is 90% out of the total settled cases and compared to previous year this ratio of success is 09% higher. During the activity year a total of 137 new cases were filed by the local elites against the groups the ratio

of which is 23% less compared to previous year. At the end of the year the number of total cases remained 531 out of which the landless groups themselves conducted 302 cases, which is 57% of the total cases. Moreover, the landless groups spent a total of 124,320 taka during the activity year for conducting these cases and they have provided 30,590 taka to the landless families of those who were arrested by police under various false cases during the year.

LAWSUITS FOR ESTABLISHING RIGHTS OF THE POOR
<p>On 06 May 2003 the government of Bangladesh declared the vast coastal regions of Noakhali district a 'shrimp zone'. But previously a considerable amount of these cultivable <i>khas</i> lands of the <i>chaar</i> areas were distributed among the landless and also a portion to the forest department of the government. Besides, the individually owned lands also were included in the shrimp zone without any notice. Without legal reacquisition of these lands this declaration of the government concerning shrimp zone is illegal. In this context, Nijera Kori filed writ petition in the High Court against the declaration, on behalf of the landless people. When the High Court started a dilly-dallying tactic in delivering the verdict, on various excuses around one thousand landless women and men gathered into the High Court coming from the <i>chaar</i> areas. The honourable justice had to assure them to immediately deliver the judgement and after getting this assurance they left the premise of the High Court. In the above-mentioned case the attorney general had to give an undertaking before the court on behalf of the government that the government will not harass or evict the organised landless people of NK without proper rehabilitation. At present this confessional verdict of the court still remained effective. Advocate Sigma Huda and BELA (Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association) conducted the case on behalf of NK.</p>

**Remarks:**

Out of total 137 new cases the landless organisation filed 9 cases as petitioner. All these cases basically were concerning land rights, illegal shrimp aquaculture, repression on women and so on. The other cases were filed by the vested quarters. During the activity year the landless groups filed only 7 appeal cases. Compared to the previous year the number of appeal cases in the present year was fewer. The reason behind is that, the verdicts are not being delivered in all the existing cases because of the unwillingness of the influential land usurpers and shrimp farmers towards settling these cases. To linger the process they conveniently influence the local administration as a result of which the pace of settling these cases became lengthy during the present year. Since the verdicts were not available the appeal cases also could not be filed based on any verdict. And compared to previous year the number of new cases also is less in the present year. The degree of harassment on the landless group members has increased this year compared to that of previous year. This trend is visible from the number of arrests; the police arrested 178 group members in the present year.

**Lessons learned:**

Although during the activity year the number of new lawsuits were fewer compared to previous year but towards the end of the activity year the number of new lawsuits filed against the landless increased suddenly as the conflicts with the vested quarters in many work areas of NK increased. It can be assumed from this trend that the number of false cases will increase in the coming days. As a result the level of harassment on both the NK staff and group members may increase significantly. Therefore it is crucially important to have preparatory measures to overcome all these risks.

BOX 3: FALSE CASES AND HARASSMENT
<b>KHULNA DIVISION</b>
The number of total existing cases in this division is 133 and the number of accused landless group members in those cases is 1,879 out of which 19 are women. During the current year a total of 86 landless group members were arrested out of which 2 were women. There are instances of orchestrating many false cases against a single group member. For example, each of a total of 74 group members was made accused in six false cases individually in Khulna Division. On the other hand a total of 1,879 group members are accused in at least 2 or 3 false cases individually.
<b>DHAKA DIVISION</b>
Total number of cases in this division is 91. Total number of accused in those cases is 159 out of which 3 are women. During the activity year a total of 7 group members were arrested. 2 group members in this division are accused in 6 cases individually. On the other hand a total of 959 group members are accused in at least 3 false cases individually.
<b>RAJSHAHI DIVISION</b>
Total number of cases here is 92. Total number of accused is 983 out of which 3 are women. During the activity year total 4 group members were arrested out of which 2 were women. Most of the group members in this division out of total 983 are accused in at least 2 false cases individually.
<b>CHITTAGONG DIVISION</b>
Total number of cases here is 208 and the total accused group members are 3,316 out of which 91 are women. During the activity year a total of 81 group members were arrested out of which 3 were women. A few of the accused were implicated in

as many as 6 cases individually while on an average at least 2 cases were filed against 2,611 group members.

**5.2 Educational activity:**

Apart from the land issue, we had organised movement for setting up academic institutions also in our locality. *Jotedars* did not want to establish any high school in this area. If there is a secondary level school and children study there, then they will easily understand about the vested people’s exploitation mechanism. That is why they did not want our children to have education. But we have struggled against them and established a school here.

Shafiq

*A landless group leader from Noakhali*

*While commenting on the role of local elites regarding education of poor people.*

Description	Number	Male	Female
Primary School	15	4, 521	3, 015
Junior High School	04	315	182
Night School	06	406	275

Landless groups establish schools at their own initiative using group savings and collecting social subscription. Through such initiative

they have been running educational activities in those activity areas where the government sponsored educational institutions are not available. In addition to this, the group members with the help of local students and educated elders practice reading and writing during groups’ meetings. The number of students in those schools have increased in comparison to that of previous year and a few of the schools now are undergoing registration process.

**5.3 Livestock development activity:**

Description	Plan	Achievement
Vaccination	104,000	33,920
Medical Treatment	7,000	2,146

Because of negligence and corruption of government officials, the grassroots people are being

deprived of all opportunities more so in the coastal belts of the country. Based on specific demand of the landless groups the livestock development activities were undertaken in the coastal regions of Paikgacha and Charjabbar – two remote areas far from the upazila headquarter and beyond reach of any civic amenity and opportunity. With a view to inspire group members in livestock rearing following indigenous methodology, the above activities are being carried out from the Noongola Training Centre in Bogra. However, due to series of attack on the group members and staff in the concerned areas the target could not be achieved as planned. In addition, shortage in supply of vaccines from the concerned government authority also hampered its implementation.

## **5.4 Movements and Struggles:**

*Our movement is not just centred locally rather it's scope is worldwide. We try to transform our local level movements into a nation-wide agitation. In this area, we are active with our movement for our constitutional rights, access to government resources, against repression on women, polygamy, talak (divorce), fatwah, bribery, drug peddling etc. We are trying to turn these movements into national level agitation.*

*Shahajahan Miah  
A landless leader from Noakhali*

With a view to strengthen the process of manipulation and control the rich are squandering the wealth of the majority poor, violating their constitutional and human rights through various actions in the form of injustice, oppression, bribery, corruption, repression on women, fatwa, bad governance and so on. On the other hand the deprived landless people also are waging movements and resistance against the perpetrators through unity and awareness about the causes of their deprivation. Through their rigorous movements and struggles the landless are being successful in some cases or continuing with their struggle rigorously in many cases without any considerable success. It is to be noted that the landless do not fight only for their group members but they are also waging movements for all irrespective of member, non-member identity, paying equal importance and attention. They willingly participate in other movements that crop up spontaneously with the initiative of other groups or neighbouring people.

One important dimension of social mobilisation and awareness raising, if considered from the quality point of view, is the reactions of the mobilised communities towards various issues and incidences in the locality, the trend of their participation in the efforts of resistance, its nature and impacts in the respective localities. Social mobilisation can not be measured quantitatively in numerical members as in case of social mobilisation it is more important to assess the reaction and voice of the people as a whole towards an incident in a particular area. The yardstick for measuring the success of social mobilisation lies in assessing the capacity of the grassroot people in comprehending and reacting to situations that crop up in their day to day life and in their ability to organise themselves against such odds unitedly.

### **5.4.1 Violence against women:**

During the activity year the landless organisation waged a total of 271 movements on different issues i.e. dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical torture, fatwa and so on, the ratio of which is 3% higher than that of previous year. Among the 271 movements the landless could ensure justice in 226 movements, which is 18% higher than previous year. The landless organisation has also participated in 22 movements that were waged by different civil society groups and forces. In comparison to that of previous year the landless organisation was in the fore front in finding out and raising the issues of concern and taking collective and strong initiative for establishing



their legitimate rights through movements on different identified issues during the activity year (See Table 22 for details).

### Terrorist role of police and tortured Rahima Begum

*They mention DC, SP and police as administration. They do not listen to the poor because they are paid by the rich people. They have been tortured by the police in the past, houses have been burnt, because police have been sent by the rich people to control the landless people's movement. They do not want the administration to listen to the voice of the landless people. Recently, the local MP has ordered the police to evict them, and Rahima was severely tortured by police when she was taken to police station being arrested along with her husband in one false case filed by influential vested quarter. But we are also not going back home without seeing the end of our struggle against the violators of law.*

Suraiya

*A landless leader from Paikgacha*

The incident took place in Laskar village of Paikgacha upazilla in Khulna district. On last 2 April 2003 when Rahima Begum's (30) ten years old son Bellal Sarder went to catch fish in the abandoned shrimp *gher* of neighbouring Roish Uddin he was severely tortured by the musclemen in collaboration with the shrimp *gher* owner and he was not found anywhere afterwards. In this context Rahima Begum filed a case with the police station. But the police administration did not take any initiative in this regard in various pretexts.

After about four months Bellal came back home suddenly on 5 July 2003. When many questions concerning Bellal's absconding leaked out Roish Uddin filed a defamation case in the court on 6 July 2003 accusing the landless leader Rahima Begum and her husband Rahamat Sarder. The court ordered the Paikgacha police station to submit a report after fair investigation of the case. The investigation officer of the Paikgacha police station (Sub-Inspector Babar Ali) arrested Rahima Begum and her husband Rahamat Ali Sarder on 8 July 2003 in the name of investigation and inflicted inhuman torture on Rahima. At one point when Rahima became sick police administration got her admitted in the upazila health complex. Following gradual deterioration of her health they admitted Rahima in the Khulna Medical College Hospital. In protest of this illegal and inhuman torture the landless groups of NK organised protest rally, mass gathering in Paikgacha sadar on 10 July 2003 and demanded justice by calling a press conference and submitting memorandum to different levels in administration. When the news of the incident was published in various local and national newspapers and media the incident was

#### **ABUSE OF POWER**

Police can arrest a person on the basis of specific charges against him/her. But as per existing laws police has no authority to physically torture anybody.

condemned by different quarters and groups in the society and moral support towards the landless organisation increased. When mass agitation cropped up in the Paikgacha thana the Upazila Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Additional Superintendent of Police undertook on the spot investigation of the area.

As a result of the investigation the police administration transferred the Officer in Charge of the Paikgacha police station. The court granted bail for arrested Rahima and her husband when they were under treatment and also dismissed the false lawsuits on 17 July 2003 filed against them.

#### **5.4.2 Religious Fundamentalism:**

During the activity year the landless waged a total of 38 movements against the reactionary, fatwa mongering fundamentalist forces the ratio of which is 58% less than that of previous year. But according to the number of movements of the reporting year the ratio of success in obtaining justice is 84%. Last year there were no movements waged by the civic forces but during the activity year 2 protest movements were waged by them in which the landless organisation participated. Also it was observed that although the activities of the religious fundamentalist forces have increased at the grassroots level the ratio of fatwa has decreased compared to that of previous year (See Table 22 for details).

### **Landless organisation in resisting destructive activities of the fundamentalist groups**

*We want a society that is free from any sorts of oppression and fear. We want a society, which is free from terror and fundamentalists.*

*Sajedul  
A landless leader from Gangni*

The fundamentalists are comparatively more active in Gangni thana area in Meherpur district. They often create various obstructions in running regular activities of the landless organisations. Visiting door to door of the women landless group members they urge them to stop the activities of their organisation, ask them not to go out of home and participate in meetings with the male members and so on as all these according to them are offence as per religious norms. By organising religious meeting in different mosques they create pressure on the landless group members to stop singing people's song by both men and women together and performing people's drama. They provide and disseminate various libellous information against Nijera Kori. On 26 March 2003 when the landless organisation undertook a programme on

the occasion of Bangladesh's Independence Day the fundamentalist forces decided to socially boycott the landless group members. In such a context the landless organisation could mobilise mass support through building liaison with other political parties, social and cultural organisations. As a result, the landless organisation could successfully observe the Independence Day along with lively cultural programmes. In the aftermath when the extent of threat from the fundamentalists increased some new group members left the organisation.

On last 18 October 2003 the Noapara landless organisation finalised all the preparations for organising its village council. With a view to resist this village council the fundamentalist groups took initiative to call a religious meeting in the same venue and started campaign for it. The fundamentalists started to misguide even the administration by providing false information. In such a situation the landless organisation also initiated discussion with upazila and police administration concerning the uncomfortable situation. As per decision of the landless organisation hundreds of women and men took their position in the scheduled field early in the morning on 18 October 2003. The numbers of curious viewers also started to increase gradually. Upon sensing this enthusiasm the fundamentalist groups did not come to the field to hold their religious meeting. This incident caused a positive impact in the neighbouring villages.

#### **5.4.3 Resistance against the corruption of local government and administration:**

During the activity year the landless organisation conducted 121 movements for justice, on various issues i.e. corruption of union council, money-based village justice system (shalishes), corruption in health and education sector, rent seeking, false cases against the landless and so on, which is 8% higher than previous year. Out of the 121 movements the landless could ensure justice and prevent corruption in 102 cases, which is 13% higher than that of previous year. Although there were no movements waged by other groups/forces last year but during the activity year the unorganised groups initiated 7 protest movements and the landless organisation participated in those movements (See Table 22 for details).

#### **Protest against the criminalised/corrupt education system**

*The most urgent need of the present time is to have an aware society. Therefore we really need a pro-people education policy.*

*Siddique  
A landless leader from Ramgoti*

Ramgoti thana is a coastal area in Laksmipur district. In most of the schools the school authority has been realising exorbitant examination fees from the students illegally instead of the amount determined by the government.

They take Tk. 10 from the students of class one and class two and Tk. 20 from the students of class three, four and five. As such the poorer communities are unable to pay this exorbitant examination fees. After

**Examination fee approved  
by the government**

For class I & II Tk. 05 only  
For class III, IV & V Tk. 10 only

sensing this corruption the leaders of the landless regional committee visited the local schools and asked the authority about the reason of realising this exorbitant fees. In such situation the teachers got angry and threatened the members of the landless groups. The landless leaders called a representative meeting on 13 May 2003 with a view to analyse the overall situation and decide the course of action. As per decision of the meeting the organised and unorganised poor women and men under the leadership of the landless organisation gheraad (sieged) the upazilla education office, submitted memorandum to the Upazilla Executive Officer (UNO) and organised a mass gathering in the local market. They presented an overall picture of corruption before the audience and became successful in mobilising people's support. Being compelled the upazilla education officer undertook a quick and on the spot investigation. After identifying the evidences against the occurrence the education officer ordered the authorities of the concerned schools to immediately refund the fees realised exorbitantly from the students. The extra fees were refunded to the concerned persons within 2 days. Due to all these incidents the acceptance of the landless organisation have increased among the general masses.

**5.4.4 Establishment of rights in the government khas lands:**

The landless organisation has conducted 260 movements during the activity year on various issues like establishment of rights of the landless on government khas lands and water bodies, eviction of the illegal land usurpers, regaining lands of the marginal farmers from the illegal usurpers and so on which is 6% less than that of previous year. This year the landless organisation gained success in 204 movements out of the total 260. This ratio of success is 78% and 2% less compared to that of previous year. Furthermore, the landless organisation participated in 6 movements waged by the unorganised farmers. However, the unorganised groups could not wage any movement at their own initiative during the previous year (See Table 21 & 22 for details).

## Movement against eviction of indigenous communities and destruction of their tradition

*The presence of police could neither intimidate us nor persuade us to leave. DC called three women of us aside and told separately, if you leave this area willingly then we will build your houses in the “Ashrayan Prokolpo (project)”. “Ashrayan Prokolpo can not provide food for us” we replied, “only death can make us leave”.*

*Rahela*

*A landless woman leader from Mithapukur*

For ages the indigenous communities have been living scattered in many places in Bangladesh. The indigenous people who are living in NK activity areas are associated with landless organisations in those areas. They are also waging collective movements.

### **The area and existence of indigenous people:**

District: Rangpur, Thana: Mithapukur, Union: Durgapur, Village: Binodpur. 60 families of indigenous people have been living here for generations dating back hundreds of years on government owned lands.

### **Past background:**

The landless leader Albert Kerketa told, “at present we have become minority from majority in Durgapur union. Our lands where we had our abodes have become vested property now. As a result the vested land usurpers have been trying to grab these vested properties for years”. Again he said, “due to our rigorous relentless movement the government has declared these vested properties as khas land”. The indigenous communities sought protection of law against insecurity and attack on them by the vested land usurpers.

They received the verdict of the court delivered in their favour. Different development organizations conducted various development activities here, i.e. construction of school, digging ponds etc. for development of these indigenous people.

### **Present context:**

Being defeated in legal fights the land usurpers adopted new tactics in collaboration with the administration. When officially the process of giving permanent registration of 7.19 acres of khas land among the indigenous people was ongoing suddenly the allocation stopped. Instead the administration declared to undertake a housing project there by evicting the dwellers and thus destroying the tradition and cultural heritage of the indigenous people.

**Movement and resistance:**

In protest to the government decision thousands of women and men submitted memorandum to the Upazila administration by collecting mass signature and gheraad (laid siege to) the Upazila administration office. In the protest rally the landless leader Belal said, “We are all human beings. We should have respect for each other. The undertaking of housing project destroying the tradition and heritage, temples, graveyards of forefathers of the indigenous people must stop. Our demand is that; let a ‘project for indigenous people’ be undertaken there instead of a ‘housing project’. As part of the ongoing movement a press conference was held on 9 September 2003 at the press club of Rangpur district with a view to mobilize support from various professional groups. Protest, mass gathering, rally, etc. are ongoing for realizing the demands.

**Result:**

The government has assured to undertake a ‘project for indigenous people’. In the mean time the indigenous community members occupied all the clusters made in the name of the housing project. The process of allocating plot to people of other communities remained suspended. The administration released fish larvae in the local ponds with a promise that the families of indigenous communities will catch fish from these ponds without any precondition.

**5.4.5 Resistance against industrial shrimp aquaculture:**

This year the landless organisation waged a total of 64 movements against industrial shrimp aquaculture, flushing of agricultural lands with saline water, excessive use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides during crops cultivation and so on which is 482% higher than the previous year. It is to be noted that following the new expansion of industrial shrimp farming in the Noakhali district as per decision of the government the number of movements has increased rapidly. Out of the total 64 resistance movements the landless could realise their rights successfully in 54 movements, which is 84% in terms of implementation and 2% higher compared to previous year. Although the unorganised landless members and marginal farmers of the concerned areas could not wage any movement last year but during this activity year they waged 25 such protest movements. In all these movements the landless organisation of NK had actively participated (See Table 22 for details).

**Declaration concerning a shrimp zone:  
40,000 poor women and men under threat of eviction**

*We are resisting shrimp aquaculture as it is destroying our lands and destroying our environment. Salt from the shrimp ponds enter the adjacent*

*cultivable lands carried by winds, which then become polluted. The lands become less suitable for growing crops; there is a loss of production. Excessive salt is like poison. Nature loses its natural power to resist diseases.*

*Another environmental affect is the decrease of fish in the rivers. Because the shrimp fry are caught in the rivers along with fries of many other fish, which are then destroyed, many species of fish have now become rare and the prices increased in the market.*

*Also the shrimp is not for us. It is exported. It is not usually eaten with our normal dishes of regular food. It is rich in cholesterol also. So we prefer fish to shrimp. If we do not resist all the lands in our area will be grasped for shrimp farming gradually. Government is supporting shrimp farmers to destroy us. But we will resist this devastating shrimp.*

*Abul Kalam Mastar  
A landless leader from Noakhali*

Noakhali district is an area of middle coastal belt of the country. The age of habitation in the *chaar* areas is around 25 to 30 years. Some of the inhabitants obtained registration from the government on their occupied lands in the *chaars* while the others are awaiting registration. Since 06 to 07 years shrimp *ghers* have been mushrooming illegally in these *chaars*. Mainly it is the illegal land usurpers who started this tactic of usurping agricultural *khas* lands in the name of shrimp aquaculture, after being confronted by the landless groups in case of acquiring lands illegally in the *chaar* areas. The influential land usurpers chalked out a proposal on 01 October 2002 in collaboration with the corrupt administration in a meeting of the Shrimp Resources Development and Management Committee to declare a total of 11,955.59 acres of agricultural *khas* lands of Noakhali Sadar and Companyganj upazilla a shrimp zone.

They accordingly sent the proposal of the meeting to the concerned Ministry for approval. On 06 May 2003 the Ministry of Land declared the proposed 11,599.59 acres of agricultural *khas* lands a shrimp zone. It is to be noted that out of the total land of the shrimp zone 2,039.77 acres of land are registered in the name of the landless group members while a total of 4,109.39 acres are the properties of the Forest Department that were handed over to the department long before. Apart from this the local farmers also have their own lands that fell under the shrimp zone.

*My first right to achieve from the society and state is a place to live in. If I have a permanent and safe place to stay then I would be able to manage food for my family myself. But the society doesn't want to give me this simple right for a safe place to live.*

*Shanur Khatun*

As soon as the declaration was announced the vested land usurpers of the *chaar* areas started their efforts to forcefully occupy the agricultural lands in the name of shrimp aquaculture. However, the landless still could retain their possession on the agricultural *khas* lands in the *chaar* areas under the leadership of the landless organisation.

For a total of 19 days starting from 01 June to 19 June 2003 the landless organisation raised a resistance in south Chaarmajid against the usurping of agricultural lands by the company 'Globe Agrovate' illegally in the name of shrimp aquaculture. The hired goons torched the houses of the landless, tortured their women and children, kidnapped people and filed false cases against them as a technique of easing their land usurping. When the goons again torched the houses of the landless on 18 June 2003 the landless organisation made a shift from their mere protesting to strong resistance against such criminal activities. On 19 June around 3,000 members of the landless organisation besieged the goons by cordoning around the whole *chaar* areas. Although the goons tried to run away breaking the cordons and firing bullets the landless women and men could capture four goons. They handed them over to the police along with their arms. At present the agricultural lands in the *chaars* are under possession of the landless. In the mean time NK has submitted a writ petition in the high court on behalf of the landless demanding cancellation of the unjust declaration about the shrimp zoning. The honourable high court issued an order not to evict the organised landless. The well-wisher lawyers suggest NK that another four writ petitions are required to cancel the government declaration null and void. The preparation is on towards this end. However, the number of false cases against NK staff and group members is on rise.

**5.4.6 Resistance against the attack by the land usurpers and the thugs:**

The landless organisation waged a total of 91 movements this year to resist attack on the landless by the land usurpers and their hired goons, to regain khas lands and vested properties illegally occupied by the land usurper *jotedars*, to evict the illegal land usurpers and hired thugs from the homesteads of the landless, to resist looting of the crops produced by the landless, to protect the homesteads of the landless from being torched by the land usurpers and their goons and so on. This ratio of movement is 65% higher than the previous year. Out of the total movements the landless organisation could successfully establish their rights in 72 movements the ratio of which is 79% in terms of implementation and 6% higher than that of previous year. During last year although the local unorganised landless and marginal farmers could not initiate any movement they waged at least 23 movements this year in which the landless organization had actively participated (See Table 22 for more details).

**Foiling the ploy of illegal occupation:  
Asiya is living in her own land**

*A land grabber has done injustice to me .The person who claimed ownership of my land is a terrorist in this area.*

Asiya



*A landless leader from Rasulpur*

Rasulpur is a village under Debiduar thana in Comilla district. The only source of income and security for the NK group member Asiya is her homestead and a small piece of land. The local land usurper Hasem has been trying to evict Asiya illegally from her land. Due to various harassments and intimidation from Hasem for a long time Asiya was compelled to file a lawsuit against him as per Section 107/117 of the Criminal Procedures. Being agitated due to filing of this case a group of goons led by Hasem attacked Asiya's daughter (16) and tried to violate her. In such circumstance Asiya following the advice of the landless organisation filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act against the concerned goons. In retaliation to this action the land usurpers started to conspire newly to evict Asiya from her land. On last 14 May 2003 when Asiya went to harvest paddy from her own land the land usurper goons attacked her. She was taken to hospital in serious condition. On 17 May 2003 she filed a case against the attackers in the Debiduar police station vide the Case No. GR 59/03. The landless organisation besieged the police station demanding quick arrest of the culprits. In such a situation the police administration was compelled to arrest an accused. The landless organisation also continued to organise meeting, mass gathering in different villages for mobilising public support. As per decision of the landless organisation more than one hundred landless group members planted paddy in the land of Asiya. Initially although the goons tried to attack they finally ran away witnessing a huge gathering of people. On 5 June 2003 when an NK staff Habiba Sultana arrived at Rasulpur village for attending a meeting with the landless group members the goons attacked her. They said that the landless are showing so much of strength and audacity here because of NK's support only. NK staff Habiba filed a case against the culprits in the Devidwar police station the No. of which is GR 73/03. Around one thousand landless women and men undertook various programmes including besiege of Devidwar upazilla administration, submission of memorandum, press conference and so on demanding a complete stop to all kinds of terrorist activities and delivery of justice in favour of the landless in the filed cases. As assured to the landless the Upazilla Executive Officer (UNO) and the officer in charge of police have undertaken an on the spot investigation and assured to arrest the culprits soon. At present a few of the identified criminals of the area have been detained in jail. Criminal activities have become less in the area.

**5.4.7 Resistance against irregularities of NGOs and money lending system:**

The poor of the remote rural areas for meeting their various needs are being trapped in the net of micro credit provided by the NGOs and feudal moneylenders. These moneylenders are making them broke/kaput through various irregularities taking advantage of the unawareness of the poor. If

anyone of them wants to come out of this loan trap the moneylenders sometimes file false cases against them or create pressure to take more loans. During this activity year the landless organisation waged a total of 78 protest movements against the irregularities and criminalised loan system, which is 10% higher than that of previous year. Out of the total 78 movements the landless could establish their demands in 52 movements, which is 67% in terms of the ratio of success. Although the unorganised grassroots poor could not wage any movement last year but during this activity year they waged 14 such movements and the landless organisation participated in all these movements of the unorganised poor (See Table 22 for details).

### Micro-credit programmes of NGOs and the poor women and men

*Many NGOs have come to our country but they don't take any initiative regarding social mobilisation. What Nijera Kori does other NGOs do not.*

*Koilash Chandra Barman  
A landless leader from Khansama*

As the people of Dinajpur district are poor the money-lending business of the local *mahajans* also took an institutional shape there taking advantage of this poverty. 128 poor families of Bhandardaha village of Khansama upazilla have fallen under the trap of such business of the *mahajans*. A NGO raised a total of Tk. 3,200 @ Tk. 25 from 128 families in the pretext of giving them Tk. 6,000 as loan per head for harvesting bittergourd and potato. Afterwards the NGO started dilly-dallying in providing them loan in various pretexts. One day the poor people of the village besieged and kept hostage a staff of that NGO. Upon getting the news the high officials of the NGO rescued him going to the village and with a promise of giving the loan to the poor families. When the landless group members went to that NGO office still they followed the delaying tactic without giving the loan. Under such a context around 500 landless women and men besieged the office of that NGO and kept hostage the staff of that NGO on 24 September 2003. On the other hand some of their representatives submitted a memorandum to the administration demanding quick action against the NGO. Following assurance from the administration the poor people lifted their siege. Following on the spot investigation undertaken by the administration each of a total of 240 landless group members got back their Tk. 25 on 2 October 2003 in presence of officials from the administration. A huge repercussion and public support generated in the

area against all the legal and illegal money-lending vis a vis micro credit business.

## Resistance against the pressure from the moneylenders, undertaking joint economic activities

*When the poor people face crises they borrow money from local mahajans, which is termed locally as 'Dadan'. Later on they are forced to give their land in exchange of the loan if they fail to repay it. In exchange of 1000 taka loan the mahajan has to be given six mounds of paddy/rice. If they cannot give that amount of paddy, then the land has to be given instead. We are fighting to get rid of this exploitation.*

Gopal Chandra

A landless leader from Sandwip

There is Katakhal village under the Sandwip upazilla in the district Chittagong. The village is basically inhabited by the fisher folks. Usually the fisher community take *dadan* (loan) from the local *mahajans* every year during the season of catching Hilsha fish. Due to this loan they get deprived every year from having the due price against their fish. They have to hand over all the fish they catch to the moneylender against their loan. Like the previous years this year too the moneylender *mahajans* created pressure upon the

fisher folks to compel them to take loan from them. But the fisher community raised objection against taking any loan from them as the landless groups (fisher folks) themselves undertook an initiative of catching fish under their joint economic activities, investing their own group savings. On 10 August 2003 when the fishermen were returning home after catching fish a group of hired goons under the leadership of a moneylender named Khalil attacked them. The attackers robbed all the fish they

### **What is *dadan*?**

*Dadan* means taking money in advance from the local moneylender *mahajans* for purchasing production materials just before the agricultural season. There is a condition against receiving this *dadan* that the *dadan* receiver is bound to sell his/her produces to the *dadan* giver only at the rate fixed by the *dadan* provider. In this case the price fixed by the *dadan* provider will be regarded as the right price, no matter whatever the existing market price is during the given period.

caught and 3 fishermen were seriously injured in the attack. In this context around a thousand poor women and men collectively besieged the thana and upazilla administration offices on 12 August 2003 and submitted a memorandum. The local administration assured them of delivering justice towards the poor after impartial investigation. On 15 August 2003 the local administration organised a meeting taking both the parties together. After the discussion it was decided that Khalil Mian will have to pay Tk. 5,000 as penalty for injuring the fishermen and as price of the robbed fish, to the landless group. It was also decided that the fisher folks won't take any loan

from the money lenders if they don't require it and nobody will have the right to pressurise them for taking loan. At present the fishermen are catching fish freely and selling their fish in open markets at due price.

**5.4.8 The landless organisation in demanding fair wages:**

In the remote areas of the country wage deprivation has become an easy strategy to exploit the poor taking advantage of the employment scarcity. Specially it is very easy to exploit the women labourers in terms of wages. During this activity year the landless organisation waged a total of 55 movements for fair and equal wages for both male and female labourers, which is 12% higher than the previous year. Due to these movements the employers were compelled to increase wages in all the 55 cases and therefore the ratio of success has reached 100% this year that is 14% more compared to the previous year. On the other hand the unorganised labourers could wage 2 movements during this year in which the landless organisation had its participation, although these unorganised labourers could not raise any demand for fair wages in the last activity year (See Table 22 for details).

**Perspective: unequal wages, joint movement  
by female and male groups**

*Both women and men agreed to stop the work and demanded equal wage for both women and men in our area. In fact the male members supported our movement, as there were supports from our families. Higher wages for women will mitigate economic crisis in the entire family.*

*Nandarani*

*A landless group leader from Palashbari*

In the northern region of Bangladesh the opportunity for employment is very limited as the poverty situation is very acute. As a result the labourers get compelled to work with the wages much lower than the usual minimum wage level. Also the wages for women are much lower than that of men. There is no scope of bargaining in case of determining wages. The women labourers of Hossainpur union under Palashbari thana of Gaibandha district finally stood against this usual and unjust practice.

In the rice-processing mill of Shibrampur village the wage labourers have been working for years with wages @ Tk. 20 for women and Tk. 40 for men. When women labourers urged the mill owner to increase their wages he straightway refused to do so. In the mean time male labourers working in the mill expressed their solidarity towards the demand of women labourers. In the neighbouring mills also women labourers started demanding an increase in their wages. All the mill owners became united and started a conspiracy together to terminate all the labourers working in their mills. When the landless organisation of NK expressed solidarity towards the just demand of the labourers a huge public support got mobilised in favour of the mill labourers. As per unanimous decision all the mill labourers both women and men started a strike together in all the rice-processing mills under the leadership of the landless organisation. When the mill owners tried to hire labourers from neighbouring villages they failed to do so due to active role

played by the landless organisation of the respective areas against them. After a strike of long 7 days the mill owners were compelled to sit in negotiation table with the leaders of landless organisation. Through this negotiation the wage rate for the women labourers increased to Tk. 30 from the previous amount of Tk. 20 as per demand of agitating labourers and the landless organisation.

### Movement of wage labourers demanding increase in their wages

*After we have formed the somiti we now take the day's wage on the same day. Now I tell the employer that I must get the wage at the end of the day because I have to feed my children at home. Earlier if I worked for thirty taka the employer gave me ten taka and said, "Leave now and come very early in the morning tomorrow." We did accordingly. Buying just one kg rice from the market we returned home. The rice was cooked without any curry and served to the children.*

*Hakim*

*A landless leader from Meherpur*

The district of Kushtia is very famous for its traditional textile industry. In this industry labour of both men and women is essential. The main source of income of the wage labourers in this area is the textile industry. The labourers engaged in the textile industry have been doing the work of weaving one 'than' of *lungi* @ Tk. 80 since January 2003 (one 'than' *lungi* means 04 pieces of *lungies* together).

On last 15 November 2003 the owners suddenly reduced 04 taka wages in each 'than' of *lungies* without consulting the labourers in the pretext of increased price of yarns and decreased price of cloth.

Under the leadership of landless organisation the organised as well as unorganised labourers raised collective movement demanding due wages. With a view to extract public support they undertook a 02-day campaign announcing their programmes in loudspeakers and with performance of street drama etc. in the locality. On 17 November 2003 a mass rally was held with a mammoth gathering of thousands of labourers. They called a strike as per declaration of the gathering demanding the previous minimum wages given to them. After 10 days strike the owners accepted the demand of the labourers.

#### **5.4.9 The landless organisation in many other issues:**

During this activity year the landless organisation waged a total of 203 protest movements against different issues and incidences like gambling, paddling of drugs, consumption of drugs, organising obscene video and *jatra* shows, theft, robbery and so on. Out of the 203 movements the landless could establish their demands in 180 movements, which is 89% in terms of the ratio of success. Although the unorganised grassroots poor could not wage any protest/movements last year on the same issues, but during this activity year

27 such movements were waged spontaneously by them in which the landless organisation participated (See Table 22 for details).

### Protest against the practice of alien culture in the name of art and folklore

*Though, the jatra (folk drama) is integral part of tradition and culture in our society, but now a day it is being inflicted with vulgarity. So this should be stopped and it should be practiced in its original form if we want to save our traditional values and cultural norms.*

*Hafiza Begum  
A landless leader from Rajibpur*

*Jatra* (a typical mixture of folk dance, folk songs and drama organised in rural areas) is a tradition and heritage in Bengali culture. At present its glorious tradition and positive role is being damaged through unethical commercialisation of this unique component of folk culture in Bangladesh. With direct support of influential quarters in Rajibpur upazilla under Kurigram district the vested groups introduced obscene dance and gambling in the locality in the name of *jatra*. In order to procure money to buy tickets for the *jatra* and gambling the youths of the locality started to get involved in various unlawful activities. The poor also got entangled in the loan trap; family feuds were on rise and also the incidents of theft and robbery increased. Many indecent rumours about the women were being murmured in the locality among the public. In such a context the landless organisation called a representative meeting to analyse the situation. As per decision of the meeting the landless group members organised a protest gathering, besieged the office of upazilla executive officer (UNO) and submitted a memorandum to the UNO on 5 January 2004 demanding immediate closure of the ongoing *jatra* and gambling programmes. Following the demand of the landless the UNO after an on the spot visit closed down the *jatra* on 6 January 2004. After the closure of this perverted *jatra* the landless cultural groups undertook a programme of staging mass drama in different market, school and college premises depicting the true essence, historical perspective and evolution of the *jatra* as part of our glorious folk culture as well as the need to preserve *jatra* in its original form.

#### **Lessons Learned:**

Compared to previous year the ratio of total number of movements has increased to 22% as well as the ratio of success, which is 26% more than the previous year. It is undoubtedly a positive sign but still emphasis should be given to keep consistency of the movements. Although the ratio of movement raised by the female groups concerning violence against women has increased to 66% compared to previous year, the same raised by male groups has decreased to 8% compared to that of previous year. Therefore, emphasis is necessary to enhance the role of the male groups in supporting

the cases of violence against women as well as to promote a more positive perception of male group members towards women and their problems. Compared to previous year the unorganised grassroots poor could wage this year many movements on different issues of concern reflecting a positive trend towards the solidarity of the poor which in fact is a direct result of the relationship and interaction between the NK landless groups and unorganised poor. Also the unorganised became influenced by the movements waged by the NK landless groups, which needs to be continued and strengthened further. The partnership and reciprocal relations irrespective of organised and unorganised poor must be maintained and increased in future for the greater interest of the poor.

## **6. Actions for Advocacy and Campaigning Activities:**

### **6.1 Role of the landless organisation in issue based advocacy activities:**

The landless organisation use to create pressure on administration and the social organisations on various issues i.e. proper application of the existing laws, undertaking joint initiative for resolving local problems, ensuring reciprocal accountability and so on. During the activity year different meetings/discussion sessions were held with government and non-government institutions/administrations, journalists, lawyers, women activists, teachers and so on sometimes on the initiative of the landless organisation or otherwise by the initiative of local administration on various issues like government khas lands and water bodies, industrial shrimp aquaculture, educational activities, development activities like construction of local roads, culverts, school and health care centres, corruption of local government, health care services, environment and water logging, violence against women, prevention of attacks by the hired criminals during plantation and harvesting of seasonal crops, false cases against the landless and related harassments, activities of the religious fanatics and fatwa mongering clerics, natural disaster and relief & rehabilitation activities, observance of national and international days, law and order situation and so on (See Table 23 for details).

- 227 meetings were held between Deputy Commissioners and the landless out of which 36 meetings were by the initiative of the respective Deputy Commissioners. This ratio of success is 23% more compared to the previous year.
- The landless held 261 meetings with the respective Additional Deputy Commissioners (Revenue) and Assistant Commissioners (Land) out of which 38 meetings were held at the initiative of the local government administration. This ratio of success is 21% more compared to that of previous year.
- 868 meetings were held between the landless and the Upazila Executive Officer (UNO) and others out of which 210 meetings were held at the

initiative of the local administration. In terms of success this ratio is 19% more compared to the previous year.

- A total of 730 meetings were held with the Superintendent of Police, Additional Superintendent of Police, Officer In Charge of the police stations out of which 173 meetings were at the initiative of police administration itself. The ratio of success is 37% more compared to the previous year.
- With the local MPs (Members of Parliament) 359 meetings were held out of which 48 meetings were convened by the MPs themselves. The ratio of success is 21% more compared to that of previous year.
- 204 meetings were held between the landless and various political party leaders and their committees at district and thana level out of which 52 meetings were convened by different political parties.
- With the union councils a total of 2,133 meetings were held out of which the respective union councils convened 680 meetings. The ratio of success is 36% higher than that of previous year.
- 172 meetings were held at district and thana level with the government health officers out of which 43 meetings were convened by the respective officers. The ratio of success is 47% higher than that of previous year.
- 254 meetings were held at district and thana level with the government education officers out of which 60 such meetings were convened by the respective education officers. The ratio of success is 54% higher than that of previous year.
- Out of 465 meetings held at district and thana level with the press clubs 108 meetings were convened by the respective press clubs. The ratio of success is 55% higher than that of previous year.
- 44 meetings were held at district and thana level with the lawyers' associations out of which 2 such meetings were convened by the respective lawyers' associations. The ratio of success is 16% higher than that of previous year.
- A total of 79 meetings were held at district and thana level with the women organisations out of which 18 such meetings were convened by the respective women organisations. The ratio of success is 72% higher than that of previous year.

### **Lessons Learned:**

Despite an increase compared to the previous year in taking initiative of meetings/discussion sessions by the administration, political parties and professional groups besides the landless organisation, for improving reciprocal understanding and accountability, still the landless organisation should continue to pressurize those stakeholders/groups for more positive results. It is also necessary to enhance interaction in terms of information dissemination with the national and international networks and organisations. Issue based workshops should be organised more and the trend of joint participation by the landless representatives and the professional groups in



those workshops should continue which is important for strengthening movement of the landless and keeping the flow of information alive.

## **6.2 Advocacy and campaigning through Issue based Workshops:**

### **6.2.1 ‘Environmental degradation: lives and livelihoods of the poor’**

The workshop titled ‘Environmental Degradation: Lives and Livelihoods of the Poor’ was held on 24 March 2004 in Khulna district. A total of 62 representatives from 10 districts of Khulna division participated in the workshop and the participants include people from different walks of life i.e. service holders, landless people, labourers, environmental activists, journalists, lawyers, teachers and so on. The participants pointed out some issues as core causes of prevailing problems in the area. These are – illegal shrimp aquaculture, tobacco plantation, siltation of rivers, closure of industries, ever-increasing salinity, water logging, and wage deprivation, arsenic contamination and so on. In this context the participants suggested some remedial measures, which in a nutshell is to raise collectively the issue among the grassroots people and make them aware on how and why are they being affected by these activities detrimental to both human society and nature. The only way of preserving bio-diversity and alleviating poverty in the given context is to raise awareness among the grassroots and make them resistant against all such misdeeds.

### **6.2.2 ‘Khas land: perspective Noakhali’**

The above titled workshop was held in Noakhali district on 30 March 2004. A total of 56 persons from different walks of life representing their classes and professions including the landless groups’ representatives participated in the workshop. All the participants agreed on the specific point after elaborate discussion that although it is the obligation of the government, according to the existing laws, to distribute *khas* lands among the landless, in reality these lands are being illegally usurped by the influential elites in the coastal areas as a result of which the landless are being increasingly vulnerable day by day. As remedial measure the participants felt that apart from the legal steps, mobilisation of mass support is an urgent need at the moment, which is possible only through raising the collective voice of the landless in every platforms of people and sectors.

### **6.2.3 ‘Political use of water bodies and *khas* lands, depletion of forests, the lives and livelihoods of the poor’**

The mentioned workshop was held on 27 March 2004 in the Tangail district. A total of 62 persons from different sectors and social strata including the landless groups’ representatives participated in the workshop. The participants identified the illegal usurping of *khas* lands and water bodies using political influence as the central cause of harming the lives and livelihoods of the poor in the area. They stressed on the need of creating collective pressure on the government to compel it to implement its policies on *khas* lands and water bodies.

**Note:** *It is to be noted that at the end of March 2004 all the preparations were complete to organise a 2 daylong workshop titled ‘Violence based Trade: Democracy and Rights of the Poor’ at national level. But due to massive*

*programmes set by the government to celebrate the Independence Day at local and national level the workshop was held on 04-05 April 2004 instead of March 2004.*

### **6.3 Advocacy and campaigning with national and international networks and organisations:**

A number of reports on issues of industrial shrimp, environment, human rights, food security etc. were published at international level with NK's active participation.

- A book titled 'The Blues of a Revolution' highlighting the adverse affects of industrial shrimp aquaculture on agriculture, environment and human rights situations in the shrimp producing countries, was published by the ISANet (Industrial Shrimp Action Network) of which NK is a member and had significant participation in the whole effort. Due to publication of the book it became possible to focus on the real situation relating to industrial shrimp, at regional and international level.
- With active support and participation from NK the UK based Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) conducted an investigation concerning the gross violation of human rights relating to industrial shrimp in Bangladesh and collected relevant information. Based on the findings of the investigation and information collected, two reports titled, 'Smash and Grab' and 'Farming the Sea costing the Earth' were published. Following the publication of these reports a strong debate relating to the issues of industrial shrimp could be generated and mass support against this devastating shrimp mobilised at international level.
- During the activity year NK could obtain membership of FIAN (Food First, Information and Action Network), a Germany based International membership organisation and helped its international Fact Finding Mission to conduct an investigation on the issue of 'Food Security' in Bangladesh. The report based on mission's findings would be published in the coming year.
- In the activity year a publication on NK activities titled 'Working Paper 200, Making Rights Work for the Poor: Nijera Kori and the Construction of Collective Capabilities in Rural Bangladesh' was published by the IDS, University of Sussex.

### **6.4 Advocacy through participation in different seminars and workshops:**

At international level the issues of industrial shrimp, human rights abuses and so on could be raised in various seminars, workshops, colleges on different occasions in which NK had very positive contributory roles.

- 1 staff from NK participated in the 'East Asian Sea Congress 2003' organised by the PEMSEA (Partnership in Environment and Management for the Seas of East Asia) that was held in Malaysia.
- 1 NK staff participated in the 'South Asia Level Planning Meeting On Food Sovereignty' that was organised by IMSE, India in Kolkata.
- 1 staff of NK participated in a seminar titled 'Peace in South Asia' held in Sri Lanka. The seminar was organised by the EED.
- 1 NK staff participated in the North South Shrimp Campaign Meeting held in Malaysia. The meeting was organised by the CAP (Consumers Association of Penang, Malaysia).
- 1 staff from NK participated in a workshop that was organised by the Inter Pares with a view to formulate strategy and guidelines concerning organisation's future activities and how the other stakeholders from outside may get involved with the activities of the organisation.

## 7. Programme Implementation and Accountability:

### 7.1 Planning, monitoring and evaluation:

Usually the monitoring and evaluation of NK activities are of three types. NK activities are monitored and evaluated firstly, by the landless organisation, secondly by the staff of NK and thirdly, by the external experts. The landless organisation usually plan, monitor and evaluate the activities of NK through organising representatives' meeting, workshops, committee meetings, experience sharing visits, group convention, and above all the annual group meetings. The staff of NK organise regular meetings at different levels, hold staff representative meeting, staff convention, conduct field visits (by the staff representatives of different levels), intra-field experience sharing visits and plan, monitor and evaluate the activities of the organisation. Thirdly, the NK activities are monitored and evaluated through the meetings of General Body and Governing Body; the field visits undertaken by the well wishers and representatives of partner organisations, partner meetings and above all by experienced external visitors from time to time. Also these visitors to NK work areas share their views and experiences with the staff at field level.

### 7.2 Participation of the landless organisation in the monitoring and evaluation process:

THE GROUPS: MONITORING AND EVALUATION
<p>On 14 September 2003 the illegal usurpers of khas water bodies in the Mirzabari union under Modhupur thana of Tangail district attacked the leaders of landless organization. 08 landless group members were injured in the attack. Due to constant threat, intimidation and torture by the criminals groups' activities became almost standstill. Under such circumstances, a decision was taken in the groups' representative meeting held on 17 September 2003 to observe cultural and organisational month in the area with a view to reinvigorate the activities of the landless groups. As per decision many teams were formed comprised of 03 members in each team who contacted each of the individual group members visiting each of their houses and holding discussion and meetings with them. In addition to this the cultural groups performed drama everyday in the evening in each village of the union. Wazed Ali, who became injured in the attack said, "we are not alone. We are more in numbers than the criminals. Therefore, they organise their attack not in daylight. But now a days this Mirzabari is completely free from criminals".</p>

- The landless groups could monitor and evaluate organisation's activities regularly and could successfully formulate next year's plan of action through 7,106 annual group meetings.
- The group representatives conducted monitoring and evaluation on NK activities through 1,213 group representative meetings.
- Through organising 2,217 committee meetings at different levels the committee members could monitor and evaluate their activities and analyse the group activity plan of the year.

- Through organising 232 group conventions at different levels the groups could review their previous activities and existing situation based on which they could formulate the activity plan for next year. Through these conventions they could analyse and decide on their roles and responsibilities for the next year.
- Through 115 workshops the group members could review their group level activities, strengths and weaknesses to find out means of overcoming their weaknesses in the organisation.
- In all 04 divisions experience sharing visits of 07 to 10 days duration were held by the landless group members through which they could intensely review their activities, address their problems and weaknesses, formulate next plan of actions of the groups. With their sharing of ideas and experiences they could also learn from each other in context of their practical situations.

### **7.3 The NK staff in planning, monitoring and evaluation process:**

- Through organising weekly sub centre meetings regularly the staff could review their weekly activities and decide their weekly plans on a regular basis as part of implementation process of NK's total yearly plan.
- Through organizing monthly area meetings regularly the staff could analyse their activities of previous months and the risk factors in the ongoing activities and also decide the plan of actions for the coming months. Above all the yearly area plans could be devised regularly in the annual staff meetings of the respective areas.
- Through organising by-monthly divisional council meetings and tri-monthly executive council meetings the staff could analyse NK activities, identify the strengths and weaknesses and risks as well as decide the necessary plan of actions.
- Through organising divisional annual staff conventions all the staff could jointly review NK's divisional activities, identify the strengths and weaknesses as well as devise next year's divisional plans through collective interaction and incorporating modifications recommended by the participating staff in the conventions.
- Through organising central staff convention all the staff could collectively analyse and review the activities of the organization as well as finalise next year's NK activity plan based on their analysis and incorporating the recommendations of the staff.
- During the activity year the staff could review their activities, analyse the probable risks and decide the future course of action through organizing 02 staff representatives' meetings. Furthermore, the matters relating to administration, accounts and existing reporting system etc. were also elaborately discussed in these staff representatives' meetings.

- The above matters were exhaustively discussed and reviewed along with other issues of concern in the meetings of organising and training cells held during the year. It became possible to decide the future plans of action through further review of the risk factors in these meetings.
- At both central and divisional level experience sharing visits by the staff were held during the activity year. Through these visits it became possible to conduct first hand field assessment, review and evaluate organization's overall activities out of which the concerned staff could suggest some guidelines prior to the formulation of next activity plans.
- Apart from review and evaluation of the activities by the staff representatives through the above processes they also could enlighten other staff and group members of the respective areas through sharing the findings of their field visits in the opinion sharing sessions organised each time following the visit.

#### **7.4 Other's participation in the review and evaluation process of NK activities:**

- Throughout the activity year the process of reviewing organisation's activities and identification of the strengths and weaknesses as well as providing recommendations remained operational through the regular meetings of the General Body and the Governing Body that are comprised of well wishers of NK and personalities from different walks of life.
- 2 board members of NK, 9 well wishers from different professional groups and 5 representatives from partner organisations of NK shared their views and experiences with concerned NK staff after visiting field level activities in various work areas of NK.
- During the activity year 2 daylong partner meetings were held through which the partners of NK also could participate in the organization's review process.
- During the activity year DFID contributed on annual review of NK activities. Preparation of conducting mid-term review of NK is underway.

#### **Lessons learned:**

The planning process of each group is not similar and sometimes it may not be adequate. As a result in some cases the plan remains weak. It is indeed very urgent to overcome such weaknesses. In some cases the analysis of risk factors of some particular work areas were weak. Such weaknesses cause difficulty in prompt tackling of the risks. The process of risk analysis through consistent and in-depth sharing among the staff themselves and also with the group members should be made more comprehensive. Efforts of finding out more ways and methodologies to ensure NK's increased participation in implementing activities of the landless groups should be enhanced.

## **8. Other activities:**

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

### **8.1 Research, publication and documentation:**

- Although an initiative was taken to conduct a research on 'Shrimp versus Agriculture: A Comparative Economic Analysis' during the activity year, it could not be carried out, as NK did not find any suitable institution or individual to conduct the research. However, the effort to find out such institute or individual is on. Meanwhile, the preparation for conducting two gender case studies separately by the Christian Aid and the DFID during the activity year has been finalised. In the coming year the case studies will be complete.
- A 20 minutes documentary film titled 'Tahader Kotha (Their Voice)' concerning adverse affects of industrial shrimp, globalisation and the rights of the landless was made and a number of activities were undertaken for its dissemination and publicity during the activity year. Also support was provided under the networking activities of NK for the making of an interview based documentary film titled 'I have brought independence and I achieved independence' during the activity year. The film is based on interviews of people of present time who expressed their views in light of their aspirations regarding the liberation war. The documentary got wide coverage on National TV and other private channels.

### **8.2 Participation of the general body and the governing body:**

Overall activities of NK are being implemented through a participatory and collective accountability process with participation of the staff, general body and the governing body of NK. General body meets once a year while the governing body meets in every three months. During the activity year all meetings of the general body and the governing body were held regularly. Regular review and monitoring of activities by the above bodies as well as the recommendations they provide play a very crucial role in implementing the activities rightly.

### **8.3 Meeting with partner organizations:**

During the activity year 02 partners meeting were held in Dhaka in September 2003 and March 2004 respectively as per decision taken in last year's partners meeting. As per previous decision only 03 partners i.e. the Christian Aid, DFID and the Swallows participated in the meeting organized by NK. But in the meeting of March 2004 all partners have participated including EED, ICCO and Inter Pares.

#### **8.4 Construction of Hajong Mata Rashimoni Memorial Monument:**

From the very beginning NK was involved with the local initiative of constructing the Hajongmata Rashimoni Memorial Monument in Susong Durgapur to preserve the fond memories of Hajongmata Rashimoni, a valiant woman leader from the Hajong community who sacrificed her life in resisting the British misrule and protecting rights of the peasants. Her role in the anti-British movement inspired thousands to wage a struggle for protecting the crops and lands of the peasants from illegal usurping by the British and local jaiminders in Durgapur region. This anti-British peasant movement is known as 'Tonko' movement in history of the subcontinent and its valiant leader Hajongmata Rashimoni was martyred on 31 January 1946 in an encounter with the British soldiers.

The common conviction for preserving the fond memories of Hajongmata Rashimoni and the glorious traditions of struggle of the Hajong community to educate and inspire the future generations brought NK and the local people together to construct the memorial monument under joint initiative. NK has also participated actively in the inauguration of the monument that was organised in a befitting manner by the local people.

#### **9. Follow up of activities:**

##### **9.1 Participation of the landless union council members in the development process**

The landless group members that were elected in different union councils last year are discharging their duties and responsibilities well in close consultation with the local people. Although sometimes the elected group members individually are facing obstacles in playing their extensive role in the union councils, but due to their positive actions the other council members are gradually recognizing the strength and importance of the landless organization. In most of the cases the elected women landless members are successfully complying with their duties and responsibilities in the committees that were formed within the union councils to conduct various development activities. They are raising various pro-poor demands in the union councils. Through this process the landless group members are gradually being able to establish their leadership in the society.

##### **9.2 Information cell:**

In order to strengthen the advocacy and lobbying activities 02 information cells were established in Khulna and Noakhali during the previous year. Information on impacts of industrial shrimp, related human rights violations, degradation of environment including Sundarban bio-diversity and so on is being collected and disseminated by the information cell in Khulna. Similarly the information cell in Noakhali is dealing with the issues of water logging, land use, environmental degradation, land grabbing and other issues pertinent to lives of the local poor. Based on the information collected the two cells organized 02 district level workshops with participation of landless community and other representatives from different professional groups during the activity year.



**9.3 Training on 'development, democracy, society and culture':**

Following request of the Swallows-Sweden NK conducted 02 trainings on the above subject at Thana Para Swallows Development Society (TSDS), Rajshahi. The trainings were conducted for 03 categories of participants such as 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 inspire them to instill the values of participatory democracy in their day-to-day life, in the family and the organisation.

**9.4 Participation in 'stakeholder committees' of MoHFW:**

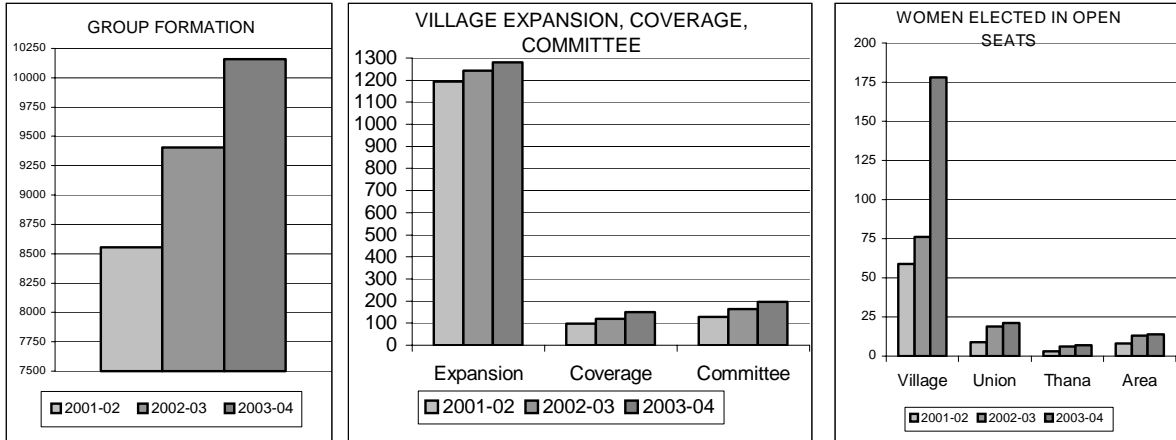
To support the initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Nijera Kori has joined in its 12 stakeholder committees since 1999. The committees are operational in four divisions of NK out of which 04 at thana level (in Modhupur, Bagatipara, Dumuria and Sudharam thana) and remaining 08 at union level. These committees are participating in implementation of the government run HPSP programmes, monitoring the health services, identifying problems, collecting relevant information and disseminating these among the people. This process of participation and sharing is ongoing despite a general lull in the programme itself and inertia on the part of the Health Ministry.

**9.5 Construction of training centre and area-office:**

Although the construction work of Chandina training centre began in the previous year the work could not be completed within March 2003 but was completed in present activity year. On the other hand the construction work of the Gaibandha area office (Saghata) has began this year as planned and will be complete in the next fiscal year. Each of these construction works is being implemented under the supervision of separate construction committees.

**Result 01**

Social mobilisation with poor men and women in NK work 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 increased participation of women in the committees.
- 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 Organizations at thana and higher levels noticed.

**Results:**

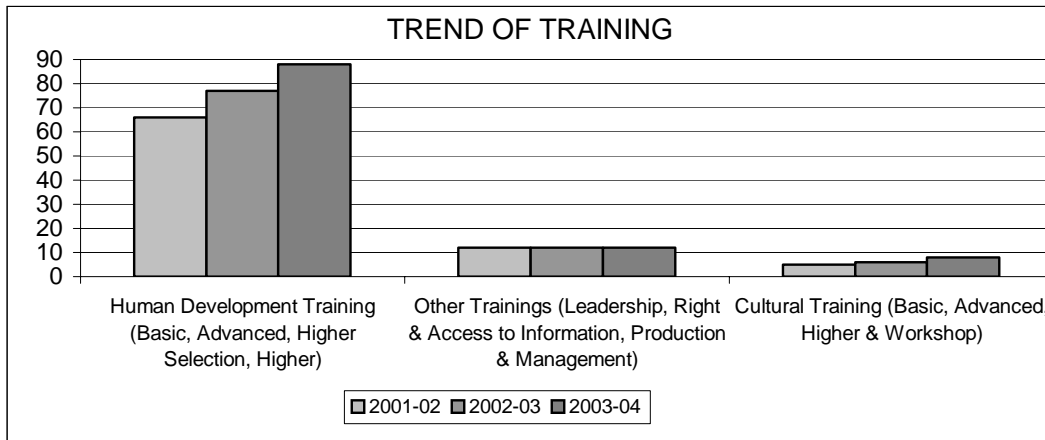
- During the year new group formation activities have expanded in 52 villages and 01 union.

As a result of new group formation 31 villages could be brought under village coverage, which indicates the attaining of gradual organisational strength and appreciable consolidation of activities towards achieving the organisational goal.

- Through the new group formation process a total of 18,168 new landless women and men (male 9,519 and female 8,649) could be connected with the groups' organisational activities.
- The landless group members could achieve 31% against the plan in case of group meetings. Though slow, this achievement reflects groups' ability in attaining self-reliance in conducting the organisational activities.
- Through regular organisation of group conventions the process of organising the unorganised members, raising collective demands, more consolidation of the existing organised groups, ensuring accountability and development of group leadership as well as activity planning and evaluation is being strengthened in the concerned NK work areas.
- Through forming new committees at village, union, thana and area levels the groups could consolidate their activities and develop a structural shape and system in those new areas in conducting organisational activities.
- A total of 160 women group members were elected in different organisational committees, i.e. village committee, union, thanas and area committees through contesting in the open seats against their male counterparts. It is a significant indication towards development of women leadership, women empowerment and clear recognition of collective leadership and role of both men and women.
- For a total of 128 groups of both women and men the level of consciousness could be promoted from primary level to secondary level. As a result the participation of more conscious group members in resolving local conflicts, identifying the mistakes and remedial measures relating to organisational activities is being ensured in the NK work areas.

**Result 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.

**Results:**

- In most cases the group members are in a consistent process of enriching their knowledge and level of consciousness through regular discussion and review of the issues of concern in their group meetings.
- The group members are participating in the trainings regularly through which they are being able to identify the social, economic, political and cultural disparities and the reasons of deprivation of their rights. As a consequence of receiving trainings they are disseminating their training experiences and learning among the wider grassroots audience through continuous sharing at group level. As a result their rational outlook towards analysing an issue is being increased in contrary to their previous blind allegiance or faith to anything.
- Through the organisational activities a reciprocally complimentary relationship between the organised male and female group members is being established. The participation of women group members in decision-making processes of family is gradually increasing and more so in social domains i.e. local village *shalishes*. Above all, the active support and positive role of male group members in the ongoing movements/struggles against the repression on women is being ensured.

- In the government service sector particularly the health and education, participation of NK group members has increased.
- Those who were previously dependant on traditional medical treatment provided by the village quacks are receiving scientific medical treatment in the hospitals at present. As a result the additional expenses relating to improper treatment provided by the village quacks has decreased for the families who are receiving government medical facilities free of cost.
- Children of most of the group members are willing to receive education from the schools. In the areas where government schools are not in existence the group members are being able to establish schools on their own initiatives with support from their well-wishers. Previously the group members considered the completion of primary level schooling the highest level of education, but at present their children are receiving junior high school to secondary level education. It is to be noted that in case of receiving education the number of female students has increased significantly compared to previous years.
- Group members are being able to learn and increase their conceptual clarity on the existing laws, constitution, prevailing justice delivery and administrative systems of the country through conducting various cases filed against them by the vested quarters.

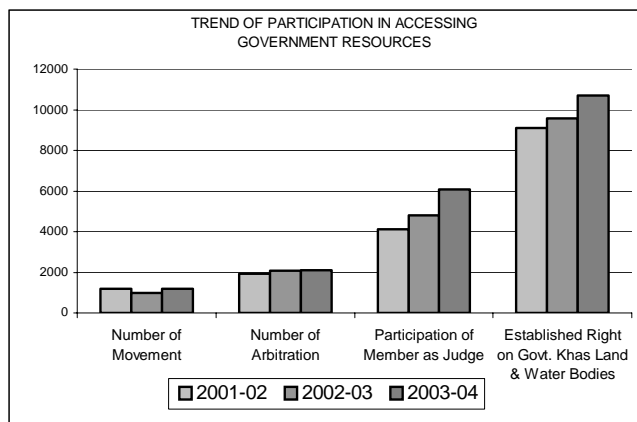
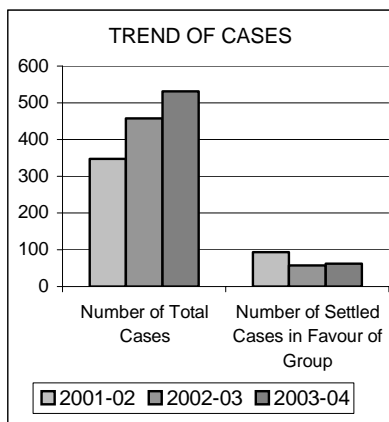
**Result 03**

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 salishes 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.

**Results:**

**Protest abuses and protect rights**

- During the activity year the landless organisation could organise a total of 1,181 movements on various issues, i.e. repression on women, dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, kidnapping, corruption of local government, obstruction during sowing and harvesting, torching houses, fair wages and so on. Out of the total number of movements the landless could establish their legitimate rights by winning in 977 movements resisting the prevailing injustices (details in Table 22 and case studies in Annex).

- At present a total of 204 movements are underway relating to establishment of rights of the landless. Albeit the landless organisation participated in 128 movements/struggles waged by different professional and civil society groups (details in Table 22 and case studies in Annex).
- A total of 6,064 landless group leaders (male 4,662, female 1,402) participated in a total of 2,115 village *shalishes* as judges and out of the total *shalishes* judgements were delivered in 1,946 *shalishes* in favour of the grassroots people. Through all these measures the scope of achieving justice by the deprived communities is being widened. As a result, most of the oppressed poor in the NK work areas are coming to the landless leaders for justice instead of approaching the union council members and other influential quarters. In the NK work areas a congenial environment of ensuring accountability and transparency in the village justice delivery system is emerging as the outcome of NK groups' participation. On the other hand the unnecessary expenses and harassments of the rural poor for seeking justice in the court have decreased considerably as the disputes are being resolved locally with participation of the landless group members.
- If any oppression or injustice takes place in the NK working areas, even in case of non-NK members, the landless organisation orchestrates protest and resistance against it. Through such actions the organisation is being able to mobilise mass support and spearhead the process of attaining recognition and respect by the people in and outside the NK work areas.
- The landless organisation could organise many public gatherings, protest meetings and processions, press conference etc. in NK work areas to press their demands for justice and establishment of their rights. As a result mass resistance and hatred against the offenders, criminals and other vested quarters is generally on rise in many of the NK work areas.

**Increase security and access to resources:**

- During the activity year the landless organisation waged a total of 324 movements for establishing rights of the landless on *khas* lands and water bodies and resisting illegal shrimp farming out of which they were successful in 258 cases. A total of 66 movements are still ongoing. In addition to this the landless organisation actively participated in 31 movements that cropped up locally. Through all these movements access of the landless to the government resources has increased. As such, a total of 886 group members could obtain registration in 1,268.94 acres of lands and establish their entitlement/possession in 1,086.96 acres of cultivable *khas* lands through which at least 1,557 landless families could ensure their shelter and food security. In addition to this the landless could establish their rights on 1.12 acres of *khas* water bodies (details in Table 20 and case studies in Annex).

- Through a total of 31 movements/struggles 87.77 acres of individually owned lands of the marginal farmers could be regained from the illegal usurpers and redistributed back among them. As a result shelter, food and security could be ensured for at least 299 families and these families were duly saved from unnecessary harassment and loss of money in conducting court cases for their land possessions.
- Due to continuous movements of the landless organisation for increase of wages in the NK work areas, the daily wages of the organised and unorganised wage labourers have increased. This success has created certain amount of solvency in the concerned areas and has succeeded in enabling the affected labourer families to improve their standards to some extent with the increased wage.
- In response to the writ petition filed in the High Court by NK against the government declaration of shrimp zone covering the coastal *chaar* areas of Noakhali district, the government had to submit written assurance before the honourable judges promising not to evict the organised landless group members of NK without their proper rehabilitation. Due to the judgement of the honourable court favouring the landless it became evident that the government is now obliged to officially recognise the landless organisation and ensure all sorts of protection to its members. On the other hand the other non-NK *chaar* dwellers also started getting organised to collectively place their demand to the government for shelter, rights to food and security.
- Through rigorous movement/struggle the landless organisation could regain 400 acres of lands that were illegally occupied by the usurpers for shrimp cultivation in Sahas and Surkhali union under Dumuriya and Batiaghata thana respectively. It is to be noted that at the fag end of this movement the marginal landowners also participated in it. As a result around 2,200 families could regain their shelters and security for safe agricultural production. Being inspired by this movement the marginal farmers of other areas also, who are victim of illegal occupation by shrimp farmers, are taking initiative to join the movements of the landless organisation.

**Improve accountability and operation of government services:**

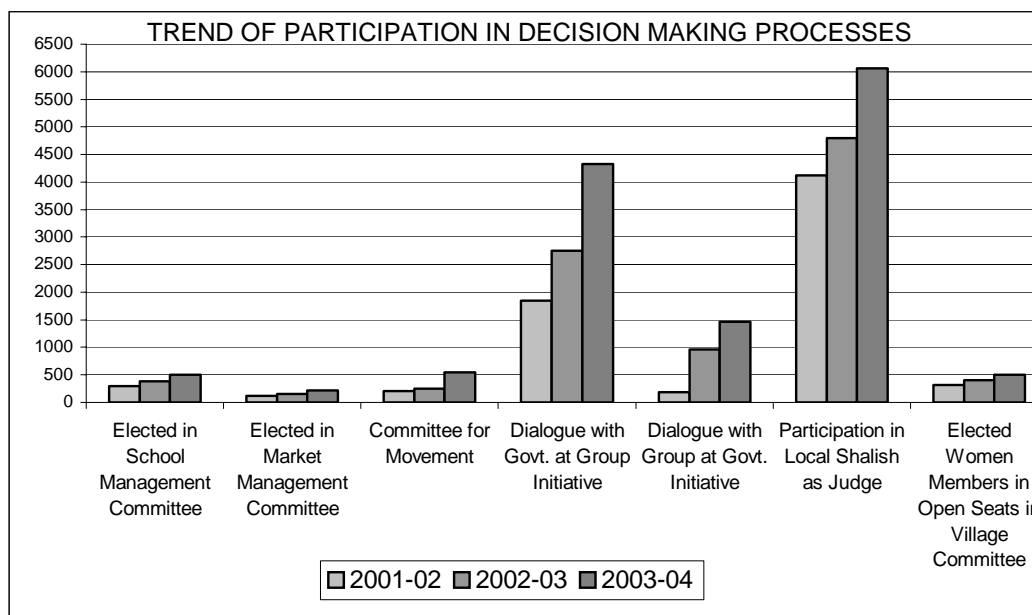
- Compared to previous year the ratio of filing false cases against the landless group members has decreased to 23% during the activity year.
- Compared to previous year the verdicts of the court delivered in favour of the landless have increased 09% during the activity year. As a result the untoward harassments to the group members have also decreased (details in Table 15 in Annex).



- Due to commendable activities of the Health Watch Committees the grassroots are also in the knowledge of the various information on the health service sector. As a result the grassroots are raising a variety of demands for obtaining health services in the concerned work areas of NK. Therefore, compared to past now the health officials and other staff are being compelled to provide answers to many questions of the local people. Even clarification meetings are held between the health officials and the local people off and on. It is to be noted here that, during the activity year a total of 64 such meetings were held at the initiative of government health officials while at groups' initiative that number is 140.
- The landless leaders are conducting activities in education sector also, like collection of relevant information regularly, regular interaction and review on the prevailing education services in the area among the group members and so on. They are also protesting against any type of corruption and resolving disputes in this regard. As a result, the concerned authorities at different levels are becoming accountable gradually to their higher authorities and in some cases the local administration also is being accountable directly to the local people.
- An international fact finding mission of FIAN collected information at field level on food security and rights of the poor in NK work areas. It is assumed that NK's cooperation in this regard will play very constructive role for wider cooperation and mutual accountability between different stakeholders in future in protecting the rights of the poor.

**Result 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.

**Results:**

- Before the elections at different levels the organised group members are initiating open discussions with the like-minded opponent contestants for nominating a capable and appropriate candidate. Through this process they are electing the right candidate by exercising their franchise rightly after thorough review and scrutiny of the election promises given by the concerned candidates. In some places the landless members are contesting on behalf of their organisation and in some cases they are supporting their well wishers as contestants in the elections.

- The landless members who have been elected in the union councils last year are efficiently participating in various activities of the respective union councils. Most of the elected women members are discharging their responsibilities efficiently in different committees formed by the councils for activity implementation. Most of the elected landless members are being able to gain acceptance and respect in the union council and have effective influence over the other union council members. It is to be noted here that during the activity year a total of 158 landless members (male 117, female 41) were nominated by the 61 union councils (after being elected) to conduct various important duties and responsibilities in different union council committees.
- During the activity year a total of 500 landless members (male 430, female 70) were elected in 172 school management committees. As a result the landless members are being able to participate in management of education and related decision-making processes at local level as well as playing very effective role in spreading education in the respective areas.
- In the activity year a total of 218 landless members (male 210, female 8) were elected in a total of 103-market management committees through which these members are playing very effective role in improving the management of local markets and in increasing their partnership in the markets and related operations.
- During the activity year the government in 05 sugarcane-purchasing centres nominated a total of 05 members from male groups. Due to this nomination the landless members are being able to ensure fair prices for the marginal sugarcane farmers and are playing active role in influencing the government decision-making processes to take pro-poor decisions.
- A total of 59 social committees were formed jointly by the landless and various other professional and civil society groups to conduct movement/struggle on various issues of concern. Total members of these committees are 548 out of which 399 are male and 149 are female. Through these joint efforts the landless are being able to mobilise collective capabilities of people from various walks of life for supporting their causes as well as mobilising much pressure on the establishments and vested interest groups.
- A total of 502 female group members (112 in open seats and 390 in reserved seats) were elected in the village committees among the total of 1,365 village committee members elected during the activity year.

- During the activity year a total of 5,796 joint discussion meetings (1,468 meetings at the initiative of government and other professional groups, 4,328 meetings at the initiative of the landless organisation) were held on various issues. The issues include 'government khas lands and water bodies, industrial shrimp aquaculture, food for work and food for education, local development activities, local level corruption, health, environment, water logging, repression on women, intimidation, harassment, false cases and attack on the landless, fundamentalism, law and order situation, observance of national and international days and so on. Through all these activities the interests of the landless could be upheld (details in Table 23 in Annex).
- The landless group members could establish a total of 59 joint movement-conducting committees in collaboration with members of various professional groups for intensifying different movements/struggles on various issues. Through such initiatives of the landless groups the reciprocal relationship between the landless and other professional and civil society groups is being widened and strengthened for further cooperation and solidarity (details in Table 18 in Annex).

**Result 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 organizations as well as participation of other organizations in campaigns of NK increased.

**Results:**

- The participation of local and national level journalists, teachers, lawyers, members of various other professional and civil society groups is being ensured in different protest gatherings, conferences and activities organised by the landless through which the local issues are being raised at national level and at the same time drawing attention of the policy makers through various discussion and review processes. In some cases the issues and activities of the landless groups could generate strong debate at national level due to participation of various stakeholders.
- During the activity year a total of 18 staff participated in the World Social Forum held in Mumbai, India through which exchange of NK views and experiences could be possible through close interaction and information sharing with different stakeholders of the forum.
- NK participated in the East Asian Seas Congress 2003 organised by the PEMSEA in which a workshop on industrial shrimp was held and reports comprised of experiences of some countries including Bangladesh and the Philippines were presented. This participation had helped NK gather information on concurrent shrimp related activities in the international arena, on roles of different stakeholders and actors at regional and international levels that enriched NK's knowledge base on the issue significantly.
- NK has also participated in the 'South Asia Level Planning Meeting On Food Sovereignty' held in India, which was organised by the IMSE, India. NK contributed significantly in formulation of plan, policies and strategies to help ensure food security of the people in South Asia, through its participation in the meeting.
- NK has participated in a seminar titled 'Peace in South Asia' held in Sri Lanka, which was organised by the EED. NK could present its experiences in the seminar and contribute significantly in framing the strategy of working together and sharing experiences that was adopted by the participants from different countries of the region.
- With joint initiative of NK and BELA a writ petition could be filed against the government's declaration of shrimp zoning in the coastal regions of Noakhali district, which became a very sensational case of the year in Bangladesh.

- NK, BELA, Ain O Shalish Kendra, ALRD, ARBAN and Samata in many rural areas of the country are conducting many other issue-based activities concerning the rights of the rural poor jointly.
- The Working Paper 200 written by Prof. Naila Kabeer on Nijera Kori was published by the IDS, University of Sussex. The Bengali translation of the book and its publication is under process. This publication could help disseminate the information on NK activities internationally.
- The EJF report that was prepared with NK's help on adverse effects of industrial shrimp on environment titled 'Farming the Sea, Costing the Earth' was published during the year. Publication of this report generated a huge debate at regional and international level on the issues of industrial shrimp and related human rights violations, which is still ongoing.
- The FIAN International Fact Finding Mission on food security and land rights has successfully completed its visit to Bangladesh for which NK helped the mission significantly. Preparation of report of the Mission is under process now. NK anticipates that the local issues relating to rights and concerns of the landless people will be highlighted with due emphasis in the report.
- The preparatory activities for conducting a gender case study in NK by the Christian Aid have been over. The study will take place in the coming year.
- In the district level workshops organised by NK the professional groups i.e. teachers, journalists, lawyers, development activists, service holders, human rights activists, women activists and so on participated enthusiastically together with the landless group members. Through these workshops and collective participation the scope of minimising the physical and psychological distance between the landless and other professional groups and scope of undertaking collective initiative in future for the poor has been created. Most interestingly, the clear concept and analytical ability of the landless group members on the concerned issues and subjects, demonstrated in the workshops, attracted huge recognition from the participants in contrary to their previous status of non-recognition and indignity, which in turn widened the scope of mutual solidarity.
- During the activity year Mr. Pelle Amberntsson, a previous Swallows volunteer to NK participated in many discussion sessions on adverse impacts of industrial shrimp that were organised by different colleges in Sweden. In addition to this he has also participated in the seminar 'Focus on World Trade' and presented a paper on industrial shrimp. In all these sessions he described NK's view and experiences on the issue, which is assumed to have contributed enough in disseminating relevant information and mobilising mass support and opinion against industrial shrimp in the consumer countries of the west.
- NK has participated in the North South Shrimp Campaigning meeting organised by CAP in Malaysia. The meeting could create a congenial environment for chalking out the strategies for campaigning against the industrial shrimp in north and south jointly.

Trend of important changes at different levels as identified by the NK staff through different internal review processes

*We want a society where everyone will enjoy equal rights. Some will get food and others will not; I do not want such a society.*

*Bhulu Rani*

*A landless leader from Noakhali*

**1. Changes in family:**

*Through the training and group activities of the landless organisation I have learned how to participate in every decision making in my family life.*

*Amena Khatun*

*A landless leader from Rayganj*

- At present the landless women and men are capable of thinking more comprehensively compared to their previous trend of dealing not so seriously with various concerns of their future generation, i.e. education, health, employment, social status and so on. Now a days they are aware about the tactics how the poor are being deprived from their right to education. Therefore, the landless are taking initiative to ensure access to proper education for their children.
- They are undertaking serious family initiative for providing medical treatment particularly to women and children when they become sick.
- In case of household chores the male members of the landless families are cooperating with their female counterparts.
- The cases of family conflicts like controlling and torturing wife by the husband etc. have decreased to a great extent. A healthy relationship based on mutual respect and cooperation between husband and wife is an increasing instance in the landless families in NK work areas.

**2. Changes in greater social perspective:**

*The rich do not reckon us as human being. They do not give us enough food even if we work in their house whole day. We cannot mix with them freely as they sit on chairs giving orders and treating us as servants. They expect us to serve them throughout our life. After our whole day's work they will say, "You have ploughed only this small area of the whole land, so you won't get the whole amount of the wage!" They are not satisfied even when we are compelled to work from sunrise to sunset. They always want to pay less. They even don't want that we educate our children. They are afraid that we will become more conscious if we are educated. They want our children to work in their house day and night like we do.*

*Sukumari Sarker*

*A valiant women landless leader from Bagatipara*

- The trend of recognising the landless people as dignified human being, although they were previously considered as poor, illiterate, hapless and so on, is increasing in the society.
- The once unorganised, scattered and weak landless community is increasingly being recognised as united social force today through the activities of the landless organisation.

### 3. Changes at organisational level:

*If a problem arises, I try to solve it on my own. If I cannot do it, then my organisation's members sit together and try to resolve it. Chairman, members of the union councils also sit together with us and try to find solutions to problems. Our union council 'member' is a landless leader. Although the council chairman is not a landless member, yet he is not against us. Generally everyone cooperates whenever a problem arises here. Our last shelter is the landless organisation of Nijera Kori.*

*Khoibar Hossain  
A landless leader from Pirgonj*

- Due to organisational activities the landless women and men acquired indomitable courage and zeal in confronting various crises. Previously they used to approach the local influential quarters for seeking remedy or solving the crises they face in their day-to-day lives. But now days they are being able to solve those problems by themselves defying any outside interference.

### 4. Changes in the grassroots voice:

*Those people, who usually never spoke, now could give speeches in big meetings, processions or conferences. Where we have always seen ministers and MP's are the ones who always stand on the stage and deliver speeches, a landless is standing in that place now and giving his speech. This is how we expanded the activities of our landless organisation in the surrounding villages as well. In fact, I don't have formal education. Therefore, when anybody talked to me or asked something about the social problems I felt frightened previously. May be I shall not be able to talk relevantly. At present I am a landless leader and can talk well than before. Many people are coming to us now for solving their problems. I think I could talk more in a more organized way if I were educated.*

*Ali  
A landless leader from Gala, Tangail*

- The landless that once were considered as foolish, fearful in talking with people today are interacting and dealing with people from all social strata confidently and with conviction.
- Those who once were considered voiceless are making their voices heard today against all sorts of social injustice, oppression, corruption and so on with their rational analysis and arguments.



Thousands of landless people today are demanding fulfilment of their legitimate rights in all platforms ranging from mass gathering to court and administration.

- The individual voices are transforming into collective voice and flourishing consistently.
- Those who were once ignored at all levels by the society are discussing various national and international issues today at different levels in the society. Today they are raising questions, replying to questions in public relating to various issues of concerns, of national and international importance.

#### 5. Changes in the status and men women relationship:

*Women also have rights to speak. Before I could not move around after sunset. But now a days we have broken this taboo. Now I can go anywhere even in the night and talk freely as I like. In the constitution we do have rights of having food, clothing, housing and to go around freely. Some of the rights we have achieved. Before we were not allowed to sit together and talk with even our known male persons. Now things have changed. We are discussing many things together and organizing movements jointly with the male members. Here many women wear burkha but I do not. Why should I wear burkha when I am working? I have to work as a farm labourer or do physical work like other male labourers. Can we do this wearing a burkha? Now male members also accept this reality.*

*Rahela Begum*

*A woman landless leader from Pairaband, Rangpur*

- Gradually women are coming out of their family, social and religious barriers and prejudices.
- The incidences of women repression i.e. polygamy, child marriage, divorce and so on have decreased in NK work areas.
- Women also are being engaged in various economic activities outside their household with their male counterparts in NK work areas. As a result income of women is increasing and economic liberty is being widened for them. In some areas joint labour forces of women and men have been formed. As such the division and disparity between women and men in terms of labour is decreasing.
- Not only the women but also men are actively participating in the programmes organised by the landless groups against the activities of repression on women.
- In many cases bargaining is on concerning wage disparity and deprivation. Women and men are protesting jointly against this unjust practice.
- In the decision making processes of families the participation of women members is increasing.

- The trend of mutually respectful and complementary relationship between women and men is flourishing gradually.
- Women and men are participating in any discussion together in any place, practicing songs and drama and in many cases presenting their works in open stages in the rural areas, which was a taboo in the conservative village society before.

#### 6. Changes in economic status:

*In our area here, there is at least 200 acres of open water bodies. From here, we can get the supply of fish for all of us for the whole year. Poor people catch fish from here and maintain their family expenses.*

*Debashish  
A landless leader from Pirgonj*

- The landless community could be involved with free, non-traditional alternative professions going beyond the influence of their traditional professions that were practiced by them generations after generations.
- Apart from various joint economic activities it is the mobility of the landless community in all spheres of life in the society that enhanced their aspiration to become self-reliant. This social mobility is being transformed into economic mobility. As a result, the landless women at their own initiative are being able to run different economic activities like homestead gardening, poultry, livestock rearing and so on.
- Beside male counterparts the women also are playing active role in improving the economic condition of their families through different economic activities like small business, contractual works of varied nature and so on.

#### 7. Changed trend of participation in social system:

*We are very active in claiming and realising our constitutional rights. In order to achieve these rights we have to become stronger. In our area the leaders of the landless groups are executing the local shalishes at present, which was not the case before. I am the president of No. 03 Onnesha Mahila Samity and also a member of the regional landless committee. If any conflict takes place, all of us sit together and resolve it. Our present union council member is from a landless group as well. If we try we can achieve many other things also. Even the present union council Chairman has to listen to us.*

*Maleka Begum  
A woman landless leader from Noakhali*

- The landless poor have established in many cases alternative justice delivery system through exemplary village *shalishes* in contrary to the existing money oriented justice delivery system that is controlled by the influential quarters. Sometimes they are participating in these village *shalishes* together with the influential quarters in the rural areas.

- The concerned authorities/officials of various government and non-governmental organisations are consulting the landless women and men for learning from their experiences and incorporating their opinions in case of formulating various policies.
- The participation of landless women and men has become inevitable in various committees developed through different social initiatives.
- The participation of landless people is increasing in different social activities, such as, reconstruction of road, culverts, construction of schools, organisation of village fares, festivals and so on.

#### **8. Participation in institutional structures:**

After my involvement with the groups, I started becoming aware of many issues that concern the lives of the poor. In 1983, we had no organisation. Therefore we could not unite ourselves although we encountered lots of harassments and intimidations from the local elites at that time. We did not have any strategy to organise people and unite them for waging a movement for our rights. Now we have organisation and therefore are able to contest in many institutional bodies during election. We have learnt how to provide leadership from the landless organisation.

Nurul Islam

A landless leader from Gangni

- The landless members including women are contesting today in the election of union council, municipality, school and market management committee, Health Watch Committee and so on which was beyond imagination in the past. In many cases the landless members are being elected also.
- Usually the government authorities used to form the committees for managing sugarcane purchasing centres in concerned areas with the rich people. Due to organisational strength and pressure the government at present is nominating the landless as members to the committees for managing sugarcane purchasing centres.

#### **9. Changes in relationship with people of different class and professions:**

*Previously, we could not protest at all even when there were lots of injustice and oppression in our locality. We were afraid of the chairmen, village leaders and members. We couldn't even identify any reason to protest. After all they are our village leaders, we used to honour them. We all used to think that arguing with the chairmen meant committing an offence. But things have reversed. Now we can talk to the chairmen. The members of the landless organization gained that courage. Not only the chairmen, today we are facing upazila administration, TNO, police station and what not. Previously we didn't know the TNO. Now we discuss with the TNO, AC (land) off and on*

*and in case of any injustice we protest, besiege the administration offices and bring out processions. Previously we had no chance even to see their faces. Now we can sit beside them on the same dais and discuss on many issues of concern. I believe that through our struggles/movements we would be able to change this society.*

*Jahanara Begum  
A landless leader from Dumuriya*

- The landless group members are constantly interacting with representatives of people from different class and professions in the society on different issues. As a result the capacity of bargaining and network building among the landless is being enhanced.
- Due to relationship with the people of different class and professions the landless are being able to raise their issues and problems before different stakeholders and professional groups. This is enabling them to mobilise mass support in their favour and in many cases they were successful in ensuring direct support and participation of these professional groups in their movements/struggles for rights.

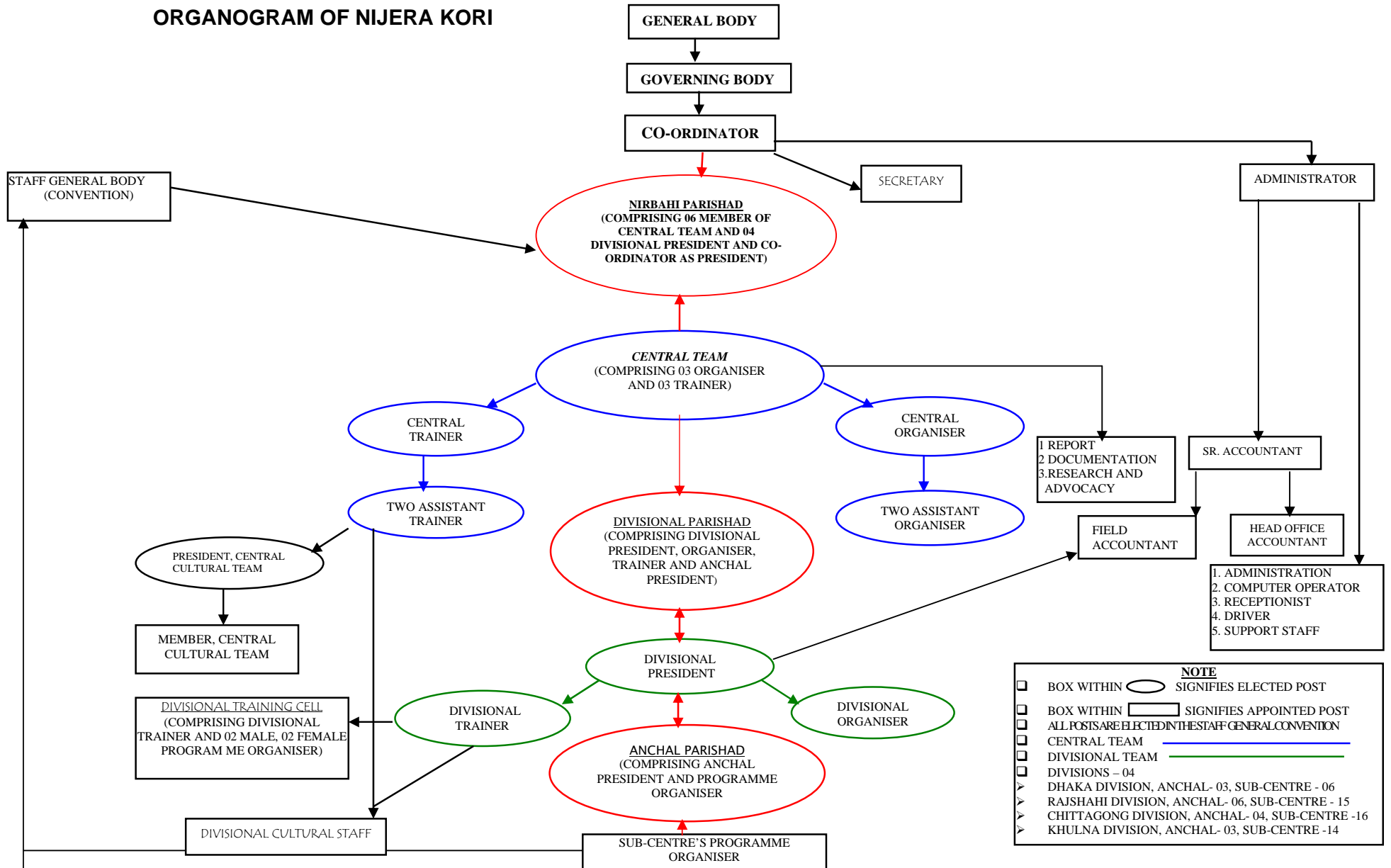
#### **10. Participation of landless organisation in national movements:**

*I want to change this society and establish a society free from exploitation. About 80% people are poor. The progressive organisations has similar manifesto, with that of Nijera Kori. That is why we also have relation with the progressive movements. They are also organising various movements for the poor. That is why the way we follow the activities and principles of Nijera Kori in the same manner we support the movements of the progressive groups to ensure the greater interest of the poor.*

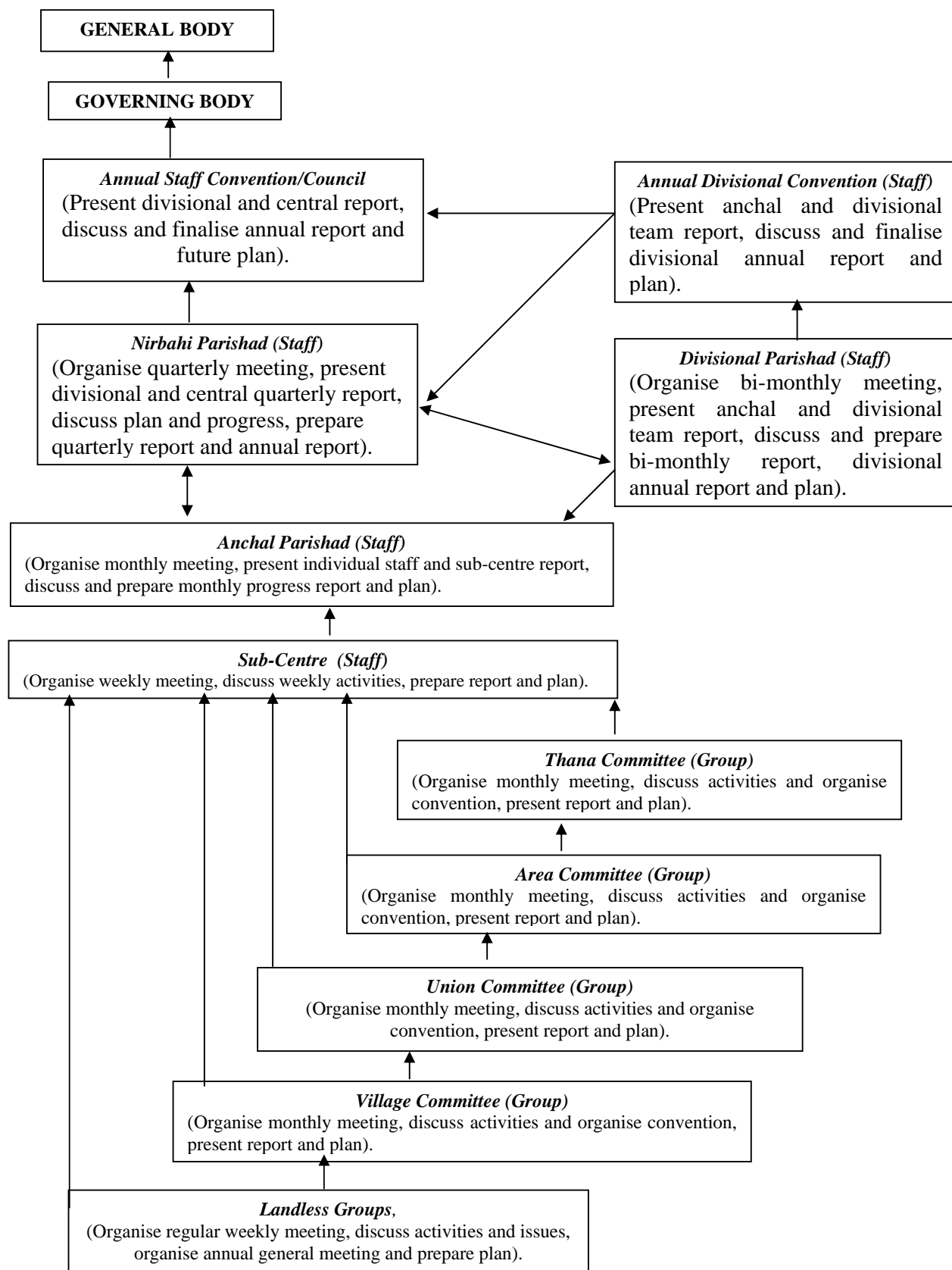
*Shahjahan  
A landless leader form Noakhali*

- The landless organisations are intensifying their movements/struggles based on local issues in one hand and also developing an in-depth understanding of issues of national interests on the other through their movements/struggles. As a result the landless group members are being able to orchestrate their protests against the activities and issues of national interest in some cases and also participating actively in various national movements. Through such participation the network of the landless organisation has expanded to wider domains of activities and the scope of enhancing skill of negotiation and networking of the landless members has also increased.

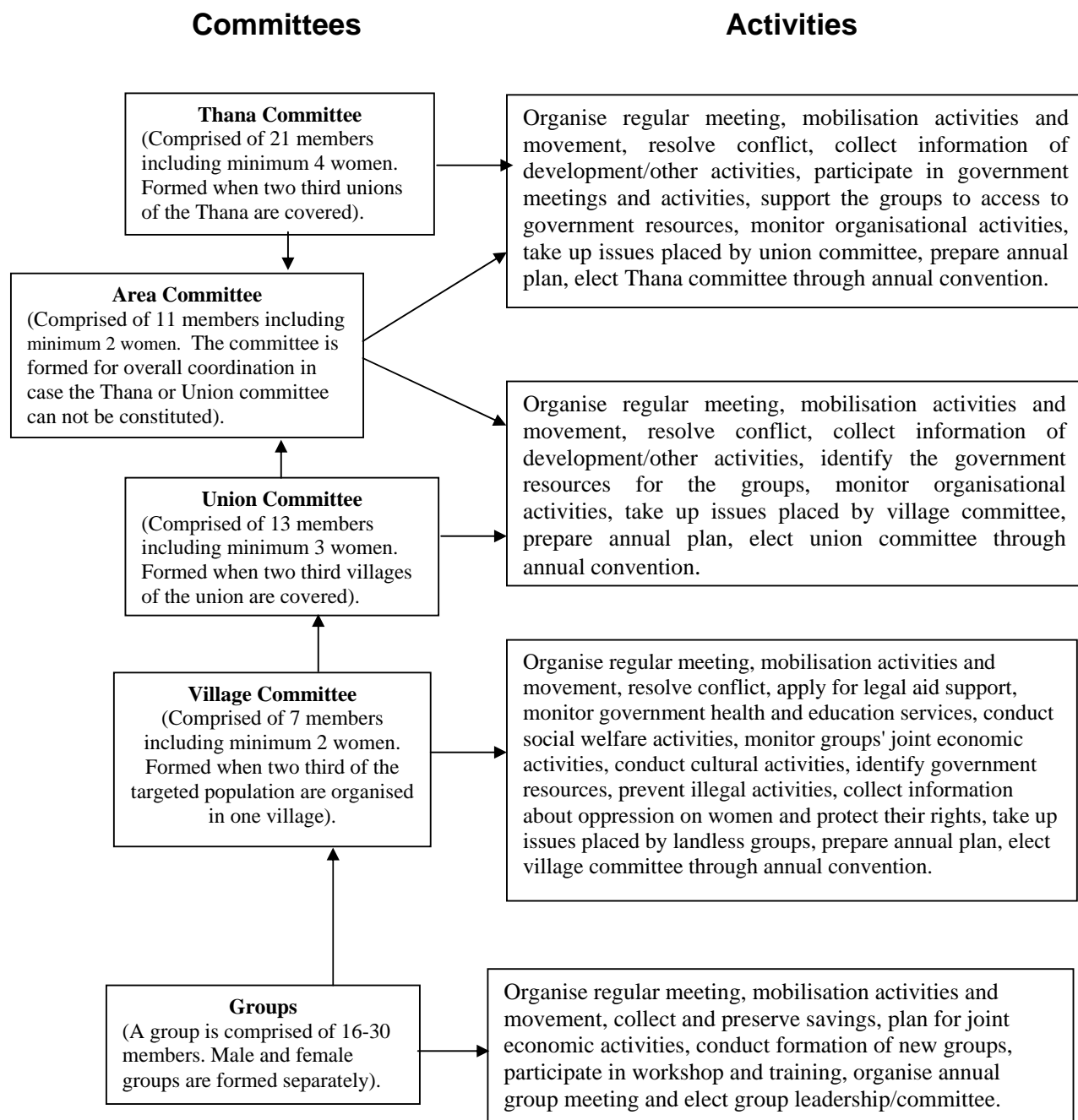
**ORGANOGRAM OF NIJERA KORI**



## PLANNING, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING SYSTEM



**FLOW CHART: LANDLESS ORGANISATION OF NK**



NIJERA KORI

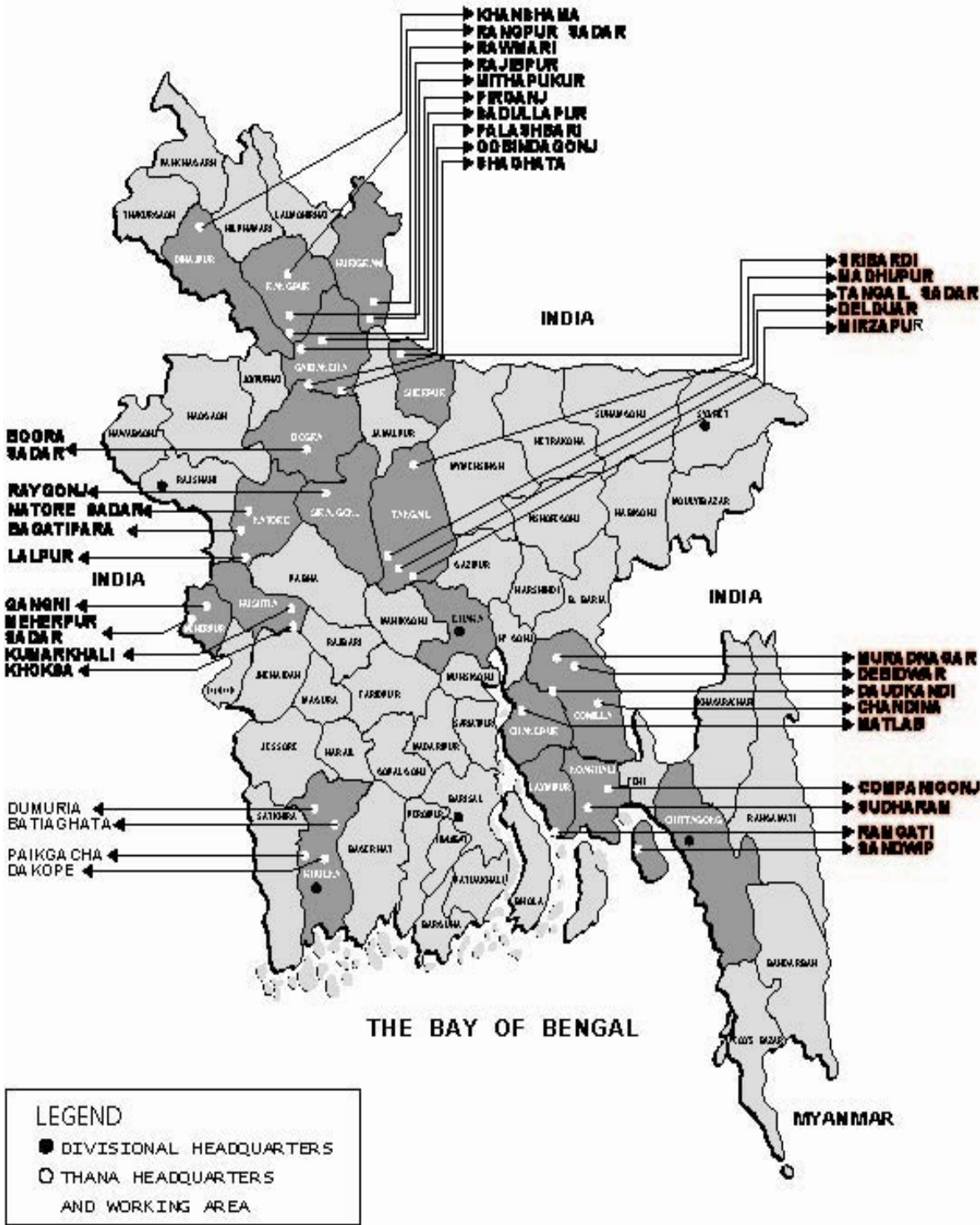
ANNEX-D

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
SOCIAL MOBILISATION, VOICE AND DEMOCRACY  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2004

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Balance - 01.04.2003		8,245,070.18
 <b><u>FUND RECEIVED FROM:</u></b>		
D.F.I.D	45,529,693.00	
Christian Aid	6,732,292.00	
E.E.D	9,299,127.07	
I.C.C.O.	6,043,994.21	
Interpares	220,914.00	
The Swallows in Sweden	<u>1,232,070.82</u>	69,058,091.10
Fund Received from Christian Aid for WSF	1,336,223.75	
Less: Transferred to WSF Account	<u>947,000.00</u>	389,223.75
Collection - Repairs and Renovation		1,345,170.50
Other Receipts		530,291.88
Advance		31,175.54
	<b>Taka</b>	<b>79,599,022.95</b>
 <b><u>PAYMENTS:</u></b>		
Civil Construction		2,666,799.70
Other Material Inputs		452,600.00
Personnel		32,660,916.00
Training Expenses		5,338,966.00
Seminar, Meeting, Workshop & Conference		4,509,616.80
Office Accommodation		2,554,690.00
Office Equipment		310,535.00
Vehicles		3,310,995.00
Travelling and Daily Allowances		3,406,487.92
Contingency		4,255,012.35
Others		5,707,505.92
Loan to Hajong Mata Rashimoni Memorial Trust		400,000.00
Closing Balance - 31.03.2004		14,024,898.26
	<b>Taka</b>	<b>79,599,022.95</b>



# WORKING AREA NIJERA KORI



## ANNEX –E-B

TABLE – 01: Geographical Location of Programmes of Nijera Kori

Sl. No	Division	District	Thana	Area	Sub-centre	Expansion in 2004		Total up to March 2004		Village Coverage		
						Union	Village	Union	Village	March 2003	New Coverage	March 2004
01.	Chittagong	Comilla	Chandina Daudkandi	Comilla	05	--	08	29	136	20	02	22
			Debidwar Muradnagar Matlab									
		Chandpur	Sudharam Companigonj	Charjabbar	05	--	--	08	41	02	--	02
		Lakshmpur	Ramgoti	Ramgoti	02	--	02	06	28	02	--	02
		Chittagong	Sandwip	Sandwip	04	--	--	14	34	--	--	--
	<b>01</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>26</b>
02.	Dhaka	Tangail	Mirzapur Delduar	Tangail	03	--	03	11	77	14	03	17
			Tangail Sadar									
		Madhupur	Madhupur	02	--	03	11	110	10	03	13	
		Sherpur	Sribardi	Sribardi	01	--	08	02	17	--	--	--
	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>30</b>
03.	Khulna	Kushtia	Kumarkhali khoksa	Kumarkhali	02	--	02	07	49	03	03	06
			Meherpur Sadar	Gangni	03	--	--	07	43	12	03	15
		Khulna	Paikgacha Dumuria Batiaghata Dakope	Paikgacha	09	--	04	17	165	20	02	22
	<b>01</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>43</b>
04.	Rajshahi	Sirajgonj Bogra	Raygonj Bogra Sadar	Noongola	03	--	03	05	76	07	--	07
			Rangpur Sadar Mithapukur	Rangpur	02	01	04	09	68	06	03	09
		Dinajpur	Khanshama	Dinajpur	01	--	--	04	21	01	01	02
		Kurigram	Rowmari Rajibpur	Rowmari	02	--	03	07	83	09	01	10
		Gaibandha	Palashbari Saghata Sadullapur Gobindagonj Pirgonj	Gaibandha	04	--	03	23	188	07	04	11
		Natore	Bagatipara Lalpur Natore Sadar	Bagatipara	03	--	09	10	146	07	06	13
	<b>01</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1,282</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>151</b>

Note: A total of 12 villages (slums), 6 wards, 2 thanas and 1 district have been deleted from the statistics.

## ANNEX - F

### 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

**ANNEX – TABLES NOS 2-23**

**TABLE – 02 (Group Formation)**

Division	UP TO MARCH 2003			Plan			Implementation			Decrease			Total up to March 2004		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	1,474	1,744	3,218	153	153	306	208	191	399	--	--	--	1,682	1,935	3,617
Dhaka	603	767	1,370	104	104	208	56	47	103	<b>75</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>188</b>	584	701	1,285
Khulna	660	992	1,652	101	101	202	59	89	148	--	--	--	719	1,081	1,800
Chittagong	1,420	1,743	3,163	196	196	392	165	128	293	--	--	--	1,585	1,871	3,456
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,157</b>	<b>5,246</b>	<b>9,403</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>4,570</b>	<b>5,588</b>	<b>10,158</b>

*Note: Due to withdrawal of activities from the Dhaka city areas a total of 188 groups (male 75 and female 113) were deducted from the statistics.*

**TABLE – 03 (Group Member)**

Division	Up to March 2003			Plan			Implementation			Total up to March 2004		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	32,912	34,647	67,559	3,060	3,620	6,680	4,128	3,625	7,753	37,040	38,272	75,312
Dhaka	11,915	13,101	25,016	2,080	2,540	4,620	1,086	851	1,937	13,001	13,952	26,953
Khulna	15,847	21,080	36,927	2,020	2,180	4,200	1,191	1,804	2,995	17,038	22,884	39,922
Chittagong	31,966	34,054	66,020	3,920	3,540	7,460	3,114	2,369	5,483	35,080	36,423	71,503
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,640</b>	<b>102,882</b>	<b>195,522</b>	<b>11,080</b>	<b>11,880</b>	<b>22,960</b>	<b>9,519</b>	<b>8,649</b>	<b>18,168</b>	<b>102,159</b>	<b>111,531</b>	<b>213,690</b>

*Note: Due to withdrawal of activities from the Dhaka city areas a total of 3,785 members (male 1,414 and female 2,371) were deducted from the statistics.*

**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	36,108	43,836	79,944	17,883	24,650	42,533	11,525	8,521	20,046	29,408	33,171	62,579	1,225	1,676	2,901
Dhaka	16,704	28,752	45,456	7,215	9,707	16,922	7,976	6,650	14,626	15,191	16,357	31,548	315	430	745
Khulna	17,964	25,188	43,152	10,063	17,879	27,942	3,967	3,674	7,641	14,030	21,553	35,583	487	808	1,295
Chittagong	34,656	41,256	75,912	17,284	20,413	37,697	6,171	6,719	12,890	23,455	27,132	50,587	1,083	1,582	2,665
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,432</b>	<b>139,032</b>	<b>244,464</b>	<b>52,445</b>	<b>72,649</b>	<b>125,094</b>	<b>29,639</b>	<b>25,564</b>	<b>55,203</b>	<b>82,084</b>	<b>98,213</b>	<b>180,297</b>	<b>3,110</b>	<b>4,496</b>	<b>7,606</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	28	700	30	747	361	105	277
Dhaka	17	425	15	374	121	453	108
Khulna	31	775	18	441	215	352	303
Chittagong	37	925	52	1,290	401	303	136
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>2,825</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>2,852</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>824</b>

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

Division	Total up to March 2003				Plan				Implementation				Total up to March 2004			
	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	56	10	01	05	15	08	--	04	19	--	--	--	75	10	01	05
Dhaka	24	05	01	03	08	03	--	02	06	01	--	--	30	06	01	03
Khulna	27	03	--	04	13	04	01	03	07	--	--	01	34	03	--	05
Chittagong	56	01	--	12	12	05	--	03	--	--	01	01	56	01	01	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>26</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	775	120	06	60	682	116	07	24	48	13	01	07	73	09	01	05
Dhaka	298	52	10	34	223	45	11	33	27	08	01	04	30	06	01	03
Khulna	388	36	--	48	266	20	--	48	38	08	01	12	30	03	--	04
Chittagong	708	04	06	144	593	02	05	142	60	10	01	14	52	01	01	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>1,764</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>25</b>

**TABLE – 08 (Group Saving)**

Division	Total up to March 2003			Plan			Implementation			Distribution			Total up to March 2004		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	4,544,007	5,237,081	9,781,088	746,376	873,432	1,619,808	898,708	965,543	1,864,251	881,064	892,392	1,773,456	4,561,651	5,310,232	9,871,883
Dhaka	3,164,249	2,285,374	5,449,623	287,112	352,368	639,480	474,651	468,489	943,140	350,300	430,200	780,500	3,288,600	2,323,663	5,612,263
Khulna	3,002,904	5,883,080	8,885,984	330,888	439,848	770,736	653,700	1,116,683	1,770,383	584,920	986,574	1,571,494	3,071,684	6,013,189	9,084,873
Chittagong	5,949,445	8,183,978	14,133,423	693,960	730,632	1,424,592	1,052,359	927,904	1,980,263	817,200	1,103,821	1,921,021	6,184,604	8,008,061	14,192,665
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,660,605</b>	<b>21,589,513</b>	<b>38,250,118</b>	<b>2,058,336</b>	<b>2,396,280</b>	<b>4,454,616</b>	<b>3,079,418</b>	<b>3,478,619</b>	<b>6,558,037</b>	<b>2,633,484</b>	<b>3,412,987</b>	<b>6,046,471</b>	<b>17,106,539</b>	<b>21,655,145</b>	<b>38,761,684</b>

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

Division	Bank Account						Position of Group Saving					
	Total up to March 2003			New Increases in 2003-2004			Total up to March 2004			Total up to March 2004		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Bank	Cash	Investment
Rajshahi	232	474	706	54	71	125	286	545	831	357,092	3,598,991	5,915,800
Dhaka	137	217	354	46	66	112	183	283	466	907,808	2,206,955	2,497,500
Khulna	130	337	467	34	114	148	164	451	615	1,423,666	6,460,657	1,200,550
Chittagong	410	676	1,086	29	40	69	439	716	1,155	4,394,663	2,221,770	7,576,232
<b>Total</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>1,704</b>	<b>2,613</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>3,067</b>	<b>7,083,229</b>	<b>14,488,373</b>	<b>17,190,082</b>

**TABLE – 10 (Training)**

Subject	Rajshahi						Dhaka						Khulna						Chittagong						Total					
	No	Participant			No	Participant			No	Participant			No	Participant			No	Participant			No	Participant								
		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T										
<b>HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING</b>																														
<b>Basic</b>																														
<b>Up to March 2003</b>		<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>										
Plan	18	225	225	450	14	175	175	350	12	150	150	300	16	200	200	400	60	750	750	1,500										
Implementation	18	217	219	436	14	162	154	316	12	139	145	284	16	204	170	374	60	722	688	1,410										
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>		<b>2,306</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>4,554</b>		<b>998</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>2,210</b>		<b>1,271</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>2,497</b>		<b>2,144</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>4,441</b>		<b>6,719</b>	<b>6,983</b>	<b>13,702</b>										
<b>Advanced</b>																														
<b>Up to March 2003</b>		<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>										
Plan	6	85	65	150	2	25	25	50	4	60	40	100	4	55	45	100	16	225	175	400										
Implementation	6	79	65	144	2	23	22	45	4	49	49	98	4	49	49	98	16	200	185	385										
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>		<b>741</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>1,528</b>		<b>376</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>801</b>		<b>514</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>1,016</b>		<b>514</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>1,210</b>		<b>2,145</b>	<b>2,410</b>	<b>4,555</b>										
<b>Higher Selection</b>																														
<b>Up to March 2003</b>		<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>										
Plan	3	25	50	75	2	25	25	50	2	25	25	50	3	50	25	75	10	125	125	250										
Implementation	3	23	47	70	2	21	19	40	2	23	21	44	3	45	24	69	10	112	111	223										
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>		<b>227</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>422</b>		<b>121</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>233</b>		<b>149</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>271</b>		<b>167</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>340</b>		<b>664</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>1,266</b>										
<b>Higher</b>																														
<b>Up to March 2003</b>		<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	--	07	06	13	--	05	04	09	--	07	07	14	--	07	07	14	2	26	24	50										
Implementation	--	07	06	13	--	03	04	07	--	08	06	14	--	07	07	14	2	25	23	48										
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>115</b>										
<b>OTHER TRAINING</b>																														
<b>Production &amp; Management</b>																														
<b>Up to March 2003</b>		<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>										
Plan	1	09	16	25	1	08	17	25	1	11	14	25	1	11	14	25	4	39	61	100										
Implementation	1	13	10	23	1	09	09	18	1	18	06	24	1	14	11	25	4	54	36	90										
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>71</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>55</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>72</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>77</b>		<b>179</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>275</b>										
<b>Leadership Development</b>																														
<b>Up to March 2003</b>		<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>										
Plan	1	12	13	25	1	12	13	25	1	12	13	25	1	12	13	25	4	48	52	100										
Implementation	1	15	08	23	1	09	09	18	1	18	07	25	1	11	15	26	4	53	39	92										
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>71</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>58</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>71</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>76</b>		<b>174</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>276</b>										
<b>Right &amp; Access to Information</b>																														
<b>Up to March 2003</b>		<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>										
Plan	1	12	13	25	1	12	13	25	1	12	13	25	1	12	13	25	4	48	52	100										
Implementation	1	11	10	21	1	10	10	20	1	13	10	23	1	16	09	25	4	50	39	89										
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>62</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>48</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>71</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>74</b>		<b>164</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>272</b>										

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

**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>Globalization &amp; Sustainable</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2003</b>		271	91	362		--	--	--		416	444	860		235	77	312		922	612	1,534
Plan	6	75	75	150		--	--	--	6	75	75	150	2	25	25	50	14	175	175	350
Implementation	8	120	79	199		--	--	--	5	64	61	125	3	25	45	70	16	209	185	394
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>		<b>391</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>561</b>		<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>		<b>480</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>985</b>		<b>260</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>382</b>		<b>1,131</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>1,928</b>
<b>Paralegal</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2003</b>		134	151	285		72	60	132		357	300	657		115	134	249		678	645	1,323
Plan	12	150	150	300	4	60	40	100	6	75	75	150	8	85	115	200	30	370	380	750
Implementation	12	183	136	319	4	46	56	102	6	75	70	145	8	74	127	201	30	378	389	767
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>		<b>317</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>604</b>		<b>118</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>234</b>		<b>432</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>802</b>		<b>189</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>450</b>		<b>1,056</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>2,090</b>
<b>Cultural (Basic)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2003</b>		49	--	49		75	-	75		76	14	90		48	-	48		248	14	262
Plan	1	16	04	20	1	12	08	20	1	20	--	20	1	10	10	20	4	58	22	80
Implementation	1	16	04	20	1	11	07	18	1	20	--	20	1	10	10	20	4	57	21	78
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>69</b>		<b>86</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>93</b>		<b>96</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>110</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>68</b>		<b>305</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>340</b>
<b>Cultural (Advance)</b>																				
<b>Up to March 2003</b>		10	--	10		08	--	08		10	--	10		06	--	06		34	--	34
Plan	--	06	--	06	--	06	--	06	--	04	--	04	--	04	--	04	1	20	--	20
Implementation	--	08	03	11	--	06	02	08	--	06	03	09	--	07	04	11	2	27	12	39
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>73</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 2003	Up to March 2004	Plan	Implementation
	Number	Participant	Number	Participant				
Rajshahi	21	525	37	904	16	16	246	184
Dhaka	10	250	10	234	04	04	198	31
Khulna	20	500	19	445	09	12	246	135
Chittagong	28	700	38	918	09	09	312	144
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>2,501</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>494</b>

**TABLE – 12 (Cultural Activity)**

Division	Cultural Group		Cultural Activity									
	Up to March 2003	Up to March 2004	Plan					Implementation				
			Meeting	Discussion	Drama	Padajatra	People Song	Meeting	Discussion	Drama	Padajatra	People Song
Rajshahi	18	19	216	38	79	01	53	223	38	167	02	50
Dhaka	12	13	144	26	52	01	35	130	31	71	--	43
Khulna	11	13	168	30	67	01	76	140	19	113	02	65
Chittagong	06	07	114	20	46	01	134	164	13	113	01	128
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>286</b>

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

Description		Agri-Culture	Fishery	Livestock	Rickshaw/Van	Shallow/Crasher	Small Business	Total
<b>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	10,789	1,827	2,655	1,535	185	7,603	24,594
	Female	7,995	546	1,520	160	--	10,528	20,749
	<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		<b>7,721,861</b>	<b>1,234,894</b>	<b>910,998</b>	<b>867,867</b>	<b>98,500</b>	<b>2,954,880</b>	<b>13,789,000</b>
<b>Increase in April 2003- March 2004</b>								
Group	Male	169	25	92	50	1	120	457
	Female	157	5	38	8	0	136	344
	<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>801</b>
Member	Male	3,176	470	1745	911	16	2,252	8,570
	Female	3,040	90	754	136	0	2,987	7,007
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,216</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>2499</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5,239</b>	<b>15,577</b>
Quantity		109.33	9.66	197	110	3	--	--
Investment in taka		<b>2,750,413</b>	<b>460,295</b>	<b>855,699</b>	<b>405,346</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>1,071,834</b>	<b>5,560,587</b>
<b>Decrease in April 2003- March 2004</b>								
Group	Male	72	18	31	16	1	52	190
	Female	84	2	21	2	0	74	183
	<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>373</b>
Member	Male	1,415	434	490	333	30	1,258	3,960
	Female	1,524	48	368	44	0	1,672	3,656
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,939</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2,930</b>	<b>7,616</b>
Quantity		30.62	8.49	81	38	1	--	--
Investment in taka		<b>1,068,050</b>	<b>199,228</b>	<b>413,165</b>	<b>159,816</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>309,246</b>	<b>2,159,505</b>
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>								
Group	Male	604	112	183	121	6	422	1,448
	Female	451	27	91	14	0	540	1,123
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>2,571</b>
Member	Male	12,550	1,863	3,910	2,113	171	8,597	29,204
	Female	9,511	588	1,906	252	0	11,843	24,100
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22,061</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>5,816</b>	<b>2,365</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>20440</b>	<b>53,304</b>
Quantity		507.36	153.18	407	281	18	--	--
Investment in taka		<b>9,404,224</b>	<b>1,495,961</b>	<b>1,353,532</b>	<b>1,113,397</b>	<b>105,500</b>	<b>3,717,468</b>	<b>17,190,082</b>
<b>Profit in cash</b>		<b>1,063,970</b>	<b>460,960</b>	<b>123,120</b>	<b>129,875</b>	<b>10,270</b>	<b>274,701</b>	<b>2,062,896</b>

**TABLE – 14 (Vaccination and Treatment Programme)**

Description	Poultry Vaccine		Livestock Vaccine		Livestock Treatment	
	Plan	Implementation	Plan	Implementation	Plan	Implementation
Rajshahi	50,000	11,200	25,000	10,741	3,000	1,450
Khulna	12,000	--	4,500	--	2,500	--
Chittagong	7,500	10,297	5,000	3,082	1,500	910
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,500</b>	<b>21,497</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>13,823</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>2,360</b>

**TABLE – 15 (Legal Aid Activity)**

Division	Cases up to March 2003	New Cases	Total Cases	Cases Settled	Result		Cases on Appeal	Remaining Total Cases	NK run Cases	Group run cases
					Favour	Against				
Rajshahi	92	14	106	08	06	02	02	100	15	85
Dhaka	79	21	100	13	09	04	04	91	43	48
Khulna	112	33	145	24	24	--	--	121	113	08
Chittagong	174	69	243	25	24	01	01	219	58	161
<b>Total</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>302</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 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>
Plan	38	25	63	26	17	43	31	27	58	36	24	60	131	93	224
Implementation	25	22	47	13	08	21	12	16	28	14	18	32	64	64	128
<b>Total up to March 2004</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>973</b>
<b>Final Level</b>															
<b>Up to March 2003</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<b>03</b>	--	<b>03</b>	<b>03</b>	--	<b>03</b>
Plan	14	08	22	08	05	13	13	09	22	14	09	23	49	31	80
Implementation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Total up to March 2004</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	2,582	185	65,970		65,970	444			
Union Convention	81 9	16	10,616		10,616	62			
Thana Convention	1,724	02	41,395		41,395	80			
Regional Convention	2,525	23	38,210		38,210	135			
Social Movement/Struggle	583	20	14,543		14,543	212	Grassroots People		
Cultural Programme	390	4	99,000		99,000	185	Grassroots People		
Observance of National/International Day	2,262	104	44,560		44,560	424	Grassroots People		
Conducting Case	564	73	124,320		124,320	171	154	--	154
Help to Family of arrested Member	262	23	30,590		30,590	--	31	--	31
Medical Support	557	144	57,460	6,760	64,220	144	113	31	144
School Repairing	39	4	21,303		21,303	44	230	260	490
Educational Support	163	30	8,289	350	8,639	--	29	01	30
Marriage without Dowry	457	57	44,135	5,680	49,815	207	48	8	56
Bridge Repairing/Construction	127	18	6,810		6,810	643	424	130	554
Road Repairing/Reconstruction	67	11	5,349		5,349	810	390	200	590
Dragging of Cannel	18	1	--	--	--	22	38	22	60
Household Repairing	104	16	9,465	150	9,615	155	20	1	21
Tree Plantation	251	225	1,780		1,780	80	200	25	225
Burial	70	14	4,100	600	4,700	152	12	2	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,564</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>627,895</b>	<b>13,540</b>	<b>641,435</b>	<b>3,970</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>2,369</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 2003</b>	60	58	05	63	09	16	02	18	38	53	18	71	72	211	24	235	179	338	49	387	
Left out after Expiry of Term	60	58	05	63	09	16	02	18	38	53	18	71	72	211	24	235	179	338	49	387	
Contested in School Committee during 2003-2004	70	78	08	86	10	18	04	22	47	80	28	108	73	280	43	323	200	456	83	539	
Elected in School Committee till March 2004	51	75	03	78	09	16	02	18	39	68	24	92	73	271	41	312	172	430	70	500	
<b>Market Committee till March 2003</b>	44	65	01	66	03	07	0	07	15	19	02	21	41	56	05	61	103	147	08	155	
Left out after Expiry of Term	44	65	01	66	03	07	0	07	15	19	02	21	41	56	05	61	103	147	08	155	
Contested in Market Committee in 2003-2004	50	71	01	72	03	08	0	08	17	28	03	31	41	125	07	132	111	232	11	243	
Elected in Market Committee till March 2004	44	65	01	66	03	07	0	07	15	20	02	22	41	118	05	123	103	210	08	218	
<b>Sugarcane Purchase Committee till March 2003</b>	05	05	0	05	0	0	0	0	01	02	0	02	0	0	0	0	06	07	0	07	
Left out after Expiry of Term	05	05	0	05	0	0	0	0	01	02	0	02	0	0	0	0	06	07	0	07	
Nominated till March 2004	05	05	0	05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	05	05	0	05	
<b>Project Management Committee (U.P) till March 2003</b>	14	17	05	22	08	07	02	09	06	04	04	08	31	66	10	76	59	94	21	115	
Left out after Expiry of Project	14	17	05	22	08	07	02	09	06	04	04	08	31	66	10	76	59	94	21	115	
Nominated till March 2004	14	18	05	23	08	07	02	09	07	08	06	14	32	84	28	112	61	117	41	158	
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	
Social Movement Committee till March 2004	17	26	30	56	07	61	05	66	04	48	28	76	31	264	86	350	59	399	149	548	
Health Watch Committee till March 2004																					
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)	451	469	6,705	2,765	92	285	92	1,049	455	1,504	435	34	21
Illegal Possession of Property from the Landless	235	248	5,576	1,605	34	173	41	556	98	654	198	50	10
Fundamentalism	20	32	1,506	666	01	21	10	108	18	126	31	01	05
Family Feud	805	705	7,609	2,656	246	407	52	1,433	401	1,834	680	25	12
Issue of Injustice and Oppression	194	219	2,975	1,217	02	111	106	433	142	575	202	17	04
Theft, Burglary and Hijacking	21	64	918	257	04	41	19	239	60	299	59	05	0
Local Corruption	85	108	2,359	994	04	84	20	340	91	431	80	28	06
Social Conflict	261	270	3,609	1,604	35	181	54	504	137	641	261	09	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,072</b>	<b>2,115</b>	<b>31,257</b>	<b>11,764</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>4,662</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>6,064</b>	<b>1,946</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>72</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 2003</b>	<b>7,100</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>
Increase in April 2003 - March 2004	886	1,268.94	--	--	1,557	1,086.96	25	0.66	38	0.46
<b>Total March 2004</b>	<b>7,986</b>	<b>8,825.96</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>108.30</b>	<b>3,631</b>	<b>2,562.67</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>106.20</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>337.23</b>

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

Description	No of Movement for Reclamation of Illegally Occupied Land	Win in the Movement for Khas Land and Quantity of Regained Land		No of Movement against Commercial Shrimp	Win in the Movement against Commercial Shrimp and Quantity of Regained Land		No of Present Movement	Beneficiary Family
		No.	Amount of Land (Acre)		No.	Amount of Land (Acre)		
Last Year	219	196	136.32	--	--	--	43	353
<b>Current Year</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>87.77</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>899</b>

**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
			Rajshahi	Dhaka	Khulna	Chittagong	Total				
Violence against women: dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical assault, kidnapping, fundamentalism and religious indictment	263	Women	44	13	33	54	144	271	124	20	22
		Men	34	14	39	40	127		102	25	
Fundamentalism	66	Women	11	01	01	02	15	38	13	02	02
		Men	04	06	04	09	23		19	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.	112	Women	05	05	22	13	45	121	36	09	07
		Men	21	06	26	23	76		66	10	
Establishment of rights on local resources: establishment of rights on khas land, water bodies, regaining possession of disposed land	276	Women	06	03	22	55	86	260	56	30	06
		Men	18	02	24	130	174		148	26	
Environmental Issues: resisting commercial shrimp aquaculture, creating public support against excessive use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides.	11	Women	0	0	25	10	35	64	30	05	25
		Men	0	0	25	04	29		24	05	
Resistance to action and oppression of reactionary groups: resisting eviction of lands less from land, looting away ripe paddy, burning the houses, physical assault.	55	Women	02	02	10	13	27	91	19	08	23
		Men	07	05	30	22	64		53	11	
Resisting illegalities and irregularities of micro credit	71	Women	13	07	20	05	45	78	27	18	14
		Men	06	05	19	03	33		25	08	
Movement for due wage	49	Women	01	0	07	09	17	55	17	0	02
		Men	02	02	08	26	38		38	0	
Movement against others	65	Women	01	05	17	35	58	203	50	08	27
		Men	10	07	18	110	145		130	15	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>968</b>	Women	<b>83</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>128</b>
		Men	<b>102</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>709</b>		<b>605</b>	<b>104</b>	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>1,181</b>		<b>977</b>	<b>204</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	False Cases & Harasment	Fundame-ntalism	Natural Climate & Relief	National/ Interna-tional Day	Law & Order situa-tion
Deputy Commissioner	By govt:	06	03	01	0	02	01	04	03	01	12		01	01	01
	By group	17	05	06	03	23	06	19	42	09	45		06	02	08
Land Administration	By govt:	06	15		02			10		03				02	
	By group	106	26		16			37		14	19			05	
Upazilla Administration	By govt:	28	15	37	17	22	12	10	11	18	09	04	08	10	09
	By group	185	28	19	49	52	24	41	39	36	92	19	25	13	36
Police Administration	By govt:	23	12	03		14		05	21	11	22	15		03	44
	By group	31	33			64		26	97	57	88	64		04	93
Parliament Member	By member	09	08	06	04	02	03	03	03	02	03	01	01	01	02
	By group	62	20	18	34	42	15	18	17	09	16	11	09	11	29
Political Party	By Party	16				09		08	03	04	04	02		06	
	By group					34		28	28	12	08	13			29
Union (parishad) Council	By council	48	42	191	48	94	30	24	50	21	25	27	34	05	41
	By group	229	85	193	180	125	60	49	126	69	116	44	25	27	125
Health Administration	By govt:	15	05		0	06	15							02	
	By group			01	0	45	32		16				35		
Education Administration	By govt:			49		11									
	By group	23		93		66								12	
Press Club	By club:	21	03	08	22	15	03	05	15	02	06		02	01	05
	By group	64	02	27	49	33	03	24	42	31	40		21	16	05
Bar Council	By council									01	01				
	By group		08					02	03	03	16			05	05
Women Organisation	By org:								18						
	By group							09	51						01
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	By govt:/ others	172	103	295	93	175	64	69	124	63	82	49	46	31	102
	By group	717	207	357	331	484	140	253	461	240	440	151	121	95	331
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>433</b>