

Annual Report

2007 - 2008



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List of Abbreviations:

ADB-	Asian Development Bank
ADSC-	Alliance for Development Support and Cooperation
ALRD-	Association for Land Reform and Development
ARBAN-	Association for Realisation of Basic Needs
ASIA-	Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aquaculture
BELA-	Bangladesh Environments and Lawyers Association
BLAST-	Bangladesh Legal Aids Services Trust
CBD-	Convention on Biological Diversity
CLP-	Chars Livelihoods programme
DCR-	Duplicate Carbon Receipt
DFIDB-	Department for International Development of Bangladesh
D.Net-	Development Research Network
EED-	Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V.
FPP-	Forest Peoples Programme
GEF-	Global Environment Facility
HDRC-	Human Development Research Centre
ICCO-	Dutch Inter-church Organisation for Development Co-operation
IDS-	Institute of Development Studies
IFI-	International Financial Institution
IG-	Inspector of General of Police
MKSS	Majdur Krishan Shakti Sangothon
MPO-	Monthly Payment Order
OSD-	Officer on Special Duty
PME-	Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
PRA-	Participatory rural appraisal
RAS-	Research and Advisory Services
RTI-	Right to Information
SBCP-	Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation Project
TIB-	Transparency International Bangladesh
TOT-	Training of Trainers
UNO-	Upazilla Nirbahi Officer
UP-	Union Parishad
VGD-	Vulnerable Group Development
VGF-	Vulnerable Group Feeding

Glossary

Adivasi -	Indigenous peoples
Aman-Aush-	paddy crops
Anchal-	Area structure
Char-	Land rising up on the river banks or in the middle of rivers
Khas-	Government property, normally agricultural land, also water bodies
Nirbahi -	Executive (<i>as in officer, or committee</i>)
Parishad-	Committee or council
Shalish-	Alternative Dispute Resolution
Thana -	Police station
Union Parishad -	the lowest tier of local government

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From the 80s Nijera Kori is actively working to empower the deprived, oppressed, poor communities by social mobilisation and self help approach to establish justice, equality and basic rights. Over the years, Nijera Kori organised variety of awareness raising programmes such as people's organisation building and leadership improvement, gender equality and right focused activities. The total number of landless group is 13,355 and total members are 275,782. At present, Nijera Kori has 126 female and 222 male staff's working.

This report covers the period April 2007 to March 2008 which also corresponds as fiscal year of Nijera Kori. Achievement of planned activities were almost 90 % in most of the events like group formation, group meeting, annual group meeting, representative meeting and committee meeting. Except a basic cultural training all trainings were implemented.

In this year, the formation of landless group is 92% against the plan which is highly appreciable. Nijera Kori's new dimension to work with the Adivasi (*indigenous people*) have gathered momentum in the working areas and 18 Adivasi groups have been formed. The rate of planned group meeting is 76%, out of which 53% group meetings were organised by the groups themselves. Planned representative and joint group meetings are 91% and 105%, respectively.

Awareness building and empowerment for women have reached a notable height in Nijera Kori's mobilisation activities and this has enabled women to have a pro-active role to ensure their rights. In 2007-08, 402 female landless members competed with men and were elected in the open posts of landless organisational committees.

Nijera Kori's strategy for this year was consolidation rather than expansion. In March 2008 Nijera Kori's geographical coverage was in 17 districts, covering 40 upazilla and 1,364 villages. 32 villages were newly covered in addition to total 254 and 31 village committees and 2 unions committees were formed in addition to total of 275 villages, 22 unions, 3 upazillas and 31 area committees. Percentage of planned committee meetings as per plan at village level is 92%, union level is 90%, 81% at upazilla level and area level is 97% were successfully held. About 254 landless groups have graduated to second stage and 64 graduated to third stage of group awareness and are capable to plan and manage their activities independently.

In March 2008, the total savings of Nijera Kori landless group members amounted to TK 46,146,360 and they are operating through 4,103 bank accounts. The joint economic activities strengthens collective economic base of landless members. The year saw the inclusion of 786 new groups thus leading to increase of joint economic activities planned and managed by the groups. A total investment of group savings fund was TK 36,013,572 and the group's profit was TK 4,320,925. These activities promote self employment and collective capacity to overcome the vulnerability of the lean agricultural seasons. Taking the advantage of state of emergency landless groups was evicted from khas land and embankment by the law enforcement authorities. As a result they could not continue the joint economic activities. Despite

this awareness building has enabled the groups to protect their rights through raising voice and demands. They are taking their own initiatives where they are challenged by powerful vested interest groups by taking collective actions and legal recourse. In most legal cases the landless are getting court verdict in their favour. During the year 75 cases were settled in the court out of which 53 case verdicts were in their favour and the remaining cases are on appeal in higher court.

To further strengthen awareness building, organisational and leadership skills for the group members, 172 need based training courses were conducted. 4,125 group members totaling 535,434 person days of training inputs, 18 training courses for staff totaling 6,363 person days of training efforts were organised.

Due to empowerment and capacity building, 3,494 landless group members (*female 895, male 2,599*) are now playing the role of judges in various salishes (*Alternative Dispute Resolution*). They successfully stopped 142 salishes when the matter was of criminal nature and needed to be resolved in court out of which 65 cases were filed during the year while others were in process. Apart from 906 Nijera Kori members (*female 166, male 740*) are actively involved in other local bodies (*e.g. school committee, market committee, etc.*) to promote the cause and interest of the marginalised.

One of the objectives of Nijera Kori's activity on social mobilisation is to preserve and promote the culture of the common people upholding the traditions of the society on secularism, tolerance, non-violence, democracy and freedom. Nijera Kori groups actively work to preserve these values among the people through cultural activities. On the above themes, they have performed 556 dramas, 386 people's song (gono sangeet), 12 long march/drama festivals along with hosting/participating in various cultural functions in their vicinity. In the past year, 4 new cultural groups were formed that also includes an Adivasi group which is most significant in the achievement of Nijera Kori.

Throughout the year, Nijera Kori's activities came probably from its advocacy related activities. The organisation was mainly active on causes like rights to khas land of the poor and landless people, promotion and protection of human rights of the disadvantaged and the marginalised including the Adivasi peoples, bringing a halt to industrial shrimp culture related issues.

In the activity year in both district and national level seminars, workshops based on the study report was jointly organised by Nijera Kori, SAMATA, ALRD, D-Net and TIB especially on the land reform, water and abandoned property. As a result, land reform demand was presented at government level. Also Nijera Kori joined along with other organisations in the Alliance on the Enactment and Implementation of the Right to Information (*RTI*) and played a role for raising demand to formulate right to information act.

Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aquaculture (*ASIA*) organised a north-south consultation in Lampung, Indonesia. Through this a "declaration" (*Lampung declaration*) was signed by 42 representatives from both south and north countries. The campaigning extended in consumer countries by joint initiatives of south and north.

Nijera Kori, through their activities has provided legal support to the poor and the disadvantaged. Most of the activities like Khas land were carried out jointly with other like-minded organisations. Nijera Kori got recognition and acceptance as an organisation with its various stakeholders, including the Government of Bangladesh. Due to the landless members demands/protest the government had to carry out investigation and take disciplinary actions. Through the protest and movements took possession of 1,009 acres of Khas land and recovered 220 acres of personal land of marginalised from illegal grabber. In other successful arenas they recovered misappropriated money and prevented irregularities in service sector.

Nijera Kori faced during the year the promulgation of state of emergency leading to a suspension of all constitutional rights, frequent attack by the powerful groups and false cases against group members and staff members. Three times floods and Sidr in the country negatively impacted the economic conditions of the poor. As a result, it hampered the regular activities. The most important fact is that the upazilla convention could not be organised. On the other hand, issues regarding the legal aid activity, verdicts in favour of the landless people decreased during this year as compared to previous year. The landless people felt that though major parties were absent proper justice could not be delivered due to various influence of certain vested quarter on machinery of the state.

Nijera Kori and landless groups learns from its achievements, and it also remains vigilant on its mission for the future. The next year might throw an even more challenging situation for Nijera Kori in the struggle of landless groups to establish the rights of the poor. Nijera Kori and landless groups remain aware of these challenges and will make every effort to confront new challenges together with its allies, friends, stakeholders and the landless partners.

1. A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF NIJERA KORI

1.1 Background:

Nijera Kori, a well-known activist NGO in Bangladesh, was created following the artificial famine of 1974 when many destitute rural women made their way to the cities in search of food and work. An initiative was taken by a group of urban women in support of these migrating women by imparting capacity development in food processing to enable them to earn income. The project gradually resulted in the development of an organisation “Nijera Kori”, which, in English, means, “We do it ourselves”. However in subsequent years the organisation became inactive, but in 1980 a group of development activists joined Nijera Kori to revive it. This group comprised of people who were working in leading NGOs at that time and felt that

consciousness raising of the poor hold the key to resolving the core problems of rural society. These activists, then, joined Nijera Kori, shifting its initial programme of rehabilitating a handful of famine-affected urban destitute to undertaking initiatives to creating a society free from oppression and deprivation through the establishment of the fundamental rights of the people. The organisation based its work at field levels, concentrating on rural social mobilisation and rejecting the increasingly popular service-based approach of NGOs, which they felt would simply create dependency among the target population. Instead, it began to concentrate on addressing the situation that causes poverty and destitution of rural people, rather than making superficial efforts to ameliorate the suffering of those who faced such circumstances. To achieve these objectives, Nijera Kori worked towards making people conscious of their rights by assisting them to build up the collective strength necessary to establish their rights. As per this goal, the target group of Nijera Kori also expanded from its original concentration. Now Nijera Kori defines its target group broadly as those women and men who earn their living mainly through manual labour with emphasis on rural rather than urban areas.

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

1.2 Mission of Nijera Kori:

- Development activities of Nijera Kori are directed for the establishment of rights of the poor.
- Women are an important and integral part of all production processes. In order to break the patriarchal system, Nijera Kori works to change the biased male perception towards women and encourages women to recognise and assert their own position in society.
- Nijera Kori feels that an accountable, democratic environment is absolutely essential for development. Nijera Kori imbibes democratic conduct through participation and accountability in planning, implementation, evaluation and overall management not only with the groups organised but throughout the organisation itself.
- Nijera Kori believes in an environment friendly sustainable development process.

1.3 Objectives of Nijera Kori:

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

1.4 Programme participants of Nijera Kori:

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



1.5 Management process of Nijera Kori: (organogram in annex - B)

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

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

For linking the grassroots, on the other hand, each area office has 3-4 sub-centres, which are made up of female and male field staff. They, through living collectively in a centre in the field, manage the activities of Nijera Kori along with the landless people. The landless groups themselves have their own structure for group activities (See *Figure 1 and Annex D*).

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

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

Nijera Kori has been practicing a comprehensive 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 actively participate, along with the field staff of Nijera Kori. In fact, these meetings constitute the basis of the PME and management system. The information and recommendations generated from these meetings of the landless groups are discussed at various other levels (*i.e. village, union, area and Upazilla committee meetings and conventions etc.*) of the organisation. The opinions and proposals of the landless received through this process are then sent to the sub-centres of Nijera Kori through Nijera Kori field staff, which later are discussed and evaluated at various levels of the organisation as per the organisational structure. Through this process, guidelines for Nijera Kori activities are set, based on which Nijera Kori staff members formulate the plans for the organisation. To help coordinate activities, facilitate interaction between staff and groups and share opinions 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 counselling 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 – F (A) and table -1)

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

Table -1: NK working area

Year	2007	2008
Village	1,353	1,364
Union	172	174
Upazilla	37	40
District	17	17
Division	4	4

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

1.8 Why is Nijera Kori different?

Because of our focus on social mobilisation:

- Nijera Kori believes that the poor are the only experienced and capable force to solve poverty related problem.
- Nijera Kori's strategy is to provide poor and marginalised groups in the society with largely intangible resources, which promote their self-confidence and build their organisational capacity so that they are able to claim their rights through their own collective agency, rather than the agency of others who act on their behalf.

- Nijera Kori's priority is to promote collective empowerment, rather than the empowerment of the individual. However, we recognise the importance of changes at the level of the individual, beginning with the issue of individual consciousness.

Because of our democratic management structure:

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

Because we don't think of development through micro credit:

- What has set Nijera Kori apart from perhaps every other NGO in Bangladesh is that Nijera Kori eschews micro-credit services. At a time when Bangladesh has become famous for its innovations in the arena of micro-credit, Nijera Kori continued with its principle of 'we-don't-lend-credit'.

Because of pro-people role of our staff:

- Nijera Kori 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 Nijera Kori staff. However, Nijera Kori believes that this widens the social and economic distance between its staff and its constituency, thereby jeopardising the relationship on which their interactions are based.
- Nijera Kori staffs are essentially social activists, who live among and interact closely with the poor whom they try to mobilise.
- The role of Nijera Kori staff is less of an information collector' (*as is the case in many development organisations*), and more like that of a 'facilitating agent, as a 'brother' or 'sister'. Their main purpose is to advise and support the landless organisation by skill building that creates bonds of trust between them and the landless groups. This affects the landless organisation by giving the groups within it a stronger sense of unity and a greater set of common goals and values.
- Nijera Kori is characterised by a high frequency of meetings, for both staff and landless groups. It is this frequency of face-to-face meetings, which the

organisation regards as the most important way of promoting closer relationships, establishing trust and ensuring participatory decision-making and accountability.

- Nijera Kori is not a money collecting organisation; rather, its people managed their own savings.

Because we work with the most excluded groups:

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

Because we develop autonomous landless organisation:

- Nijera Kori emphasises on promoting autonomous nature and structure of the landless organisations so that the landless members gradually decrease their dependency on Nijera Kori and finally stand on their own feet.
- Nijera Kori follows a strategy through its inbuilt processes, of encouraging participation and sharing both in physical and financial terms, among the group members in all its activities to inculcate a sense of belonging to the organisation vis-à-vis a feeling of ownership of work and responsibilities which ultimately lead them towards developing an independent autonomous organisation.

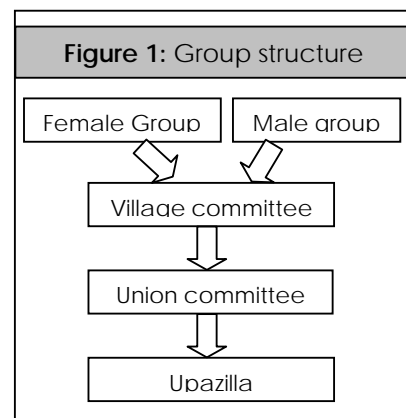
Because of our approach to gender equity:

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

2. LANDLESS ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

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

But the landless members, sometimes, form their own committee at a regional level if the situation demands and when such steps are felt necessary for the movement of the landless people even if this means less than two third of the targeted population are not yet group members. At every level, the committees are formed and their terms renewed through annual group meetings. It may be mentioned that, the landless committee comprises of men and women, with a minimum of 25% mandatory elected women. It is through a process and an environment that the landless groups develop their organisational capacity, become aware of their rights as well as responsibilities and gradually gain the capacity to claim their rights as citizens of the country.

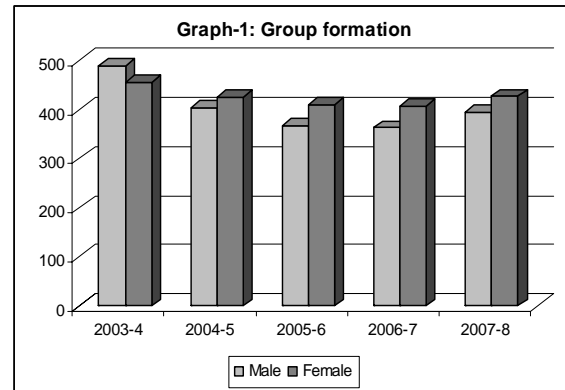


2.1 Landless group formation and members: (detail annex 2 and 3)

Achievement analysis:

In the activity year as per plan the percentage of landless groups formation is 92%, which is 1% more than that of last year. This achievement is significantly positive. In the new groups the rate of increase of members is 88%. It may

be mentioned here that in four areas a total 18 groups (*male 9 and female 9*) were formed with Adivasi male/female. In the graph -1, it revealed that from 2003-2004 to 2005-2006 new group formation has a downward trend but in 2008 activity year there is an upward trend. Another important aspect of graph is that in 2003-2004 female group formation was less than male group formation. But since 2004- 2005 activity years in formation of new



groups the rate of female group formation has increased compared to the male group formation. In a situation where the overall trend was downward, this upward trend in female group formation is a positive achievement. Formation of landless group which forms the base of Njiera Kori activities is a collective process generally one member

from every family is encouraged to form the landless group. All these landless members participate in managing their own affairs in the groups. The other members of these families (*those who are not members of the landless groups*) get indirectly involved in the awareness and organising process by participating in various activities of landless groups by attending cultural programmes, gatherings, discussion meetings, participate in protests and movements.

It is to be noted that 275,782 landless group members belongs to 152,212 families. Each family on an average is composed of 5.4 members. (*Source: Bangladesh statistical year book -2004*). From each family one or two members regularly participate in the activities. As a result, a total of 821,945 individual males and females have become aware of their rights and situations and are indirectly involved in different activities. Therefore awareness raising and mobilisation is spreading among them and building a supportive force.

Above all, due to new group formations the activities of the landless organisation have extended to 11 villages in two unions. Besides, 32 villages have reached coverage. (*Precondition for coverage is that in any village, union or upazilla 75% of the total population must be organised*).

Reasons:

Villages with village committees were able to make plans, evaluate policies, give attention to village coverage, identify the need for strengthening and organising capacity in resisting adversity and were able to give importance to policy follow-up activities by trained members. As a result, new group formation has achieved its target.

Lessons learnt:

By evaluating landless committee meetings, conventions and divisional staff convention has been concluded that there is a need to develop village based plans. In preparing village based plans the subject matter ought to be relevant. In every

activity area it is necessary to gradually adopt a village based plan. Above all, by regularly evaluating the experiences, making policies based on these evaluated experience and re-evaluating them, necessary changes ought to be made.

2.2 Group meeting , representative and joint meeting: (detail annex 4 and 5)

Achievement analysis:

Group meetings are the main foundation for conducting the activities of landless organisation. The group members themselves decide the topic for discussion in the meeting and make necessary decisions. Through these discussions they identify the problems in the society and adopt strategies and develop action plan. In representative meetings and joint meetings men and women participate together. Above all, the members evaluate their own duties, responsibilities and role through self-criticism. As a result, those who were once wary of expressing their opinions and accepted the dictates of society are now more analytical about every subject matter, and can decide for them selves to accept what is right and reject what is wrong. During the year, as per the plan, 76% group meetings were held, which is 1% higher than last year. It may be mentioned here that 53% group meetings were organised by the group members themselves. The rate of organising representative meetings is 91% as per plan and the rate of Joint group meetings is 105%, the meetings focus on evaluating the activities of the village and sub-centres, in identifying problems, in evaluating risks and adopting remedies, in pursuing accountability and transparency and in consolidating themselves. The representative meeting is 21% less than last year and joint meeting is 16% more. Above all, on the basis of total number of groups 84% groups held yearly group meetings; this is 16% more than last year. In yearly group meeting the general members discuss the qualities of the group leaders, their duties, responsibilities, roles and by doing so select the group leaders for the next year. Out of the total of 31,572, the members after evaluating the past leader's performance decide to replace 2,663 (*male 1,133, female 1,530*) by electing men and women which is 8% change in leadership. If this process of electing new leadership is analysed than it becomes obvious that within the group the culture of practicing democracy is flourishing and awareness about duties, responsibilities and accountability is growing. The ordinary members are participating in taking group decisions. At group level the alternative leadership is a positive achievement.



Reasons:

In 2006, after expiry of the term of last elected government and the dysfunctional role of the Chief Adviser political instability acquired a serious dimension. The subsequent taking over of power by military led government in January 2007 declaration of state of emergency, curfew, restriction at dusk and mass scale arrests generated fear among ordinary citizens. As a result spontaneous gathering of people and exchanging views was hampered. Due to this instability, towards the end of last year group meetings were held comparatively less in number. In the activity year, in the beginning, less group meetings were held.

But towards the middle of year, the organisation emphasised the need for holding group meetings. As a result the rate of group meeting in the activity year is more

than last year. But due to government restrictions the number of representative meeting is less. In this situation, the landless organisation, to overcome the crisis and fear took the strategic decision of organising joint meeting with 2-3 neighboring groups. As a result, more joint meetings were held. Above all, towards the end of activity year, emphasis was given to organise yearly group meeting to evaluate the activities and decide the course of action in the present context. As a result more annual group meetings were held.

Lesson learnt:

There is a possibility that the trend of practicing democracy in landless committee meeting, yearly convention and divisional staff convention may become less. Organising gatherings for realising rights and demands and activities for protests and movements have become more difficult. For this reason it is necessary to extend village based strategic plans to more activity areas. To resist any adverse situation, the activities of landless groups, which are the foundation of the organisation, should be consolidated and updated.

2.3 Group workshop: (detail annex table -5)

The landless groups organised workshops to evaluate the activities to identify oragnisational matters, to determine the course of action, to evaluate the local problems, issues and risks that exist and to chalk out the strategy for movement. It may be mentioned that such workshops are usually planned and held under joint economic activities.

Achievements analysis:

In the reporting year, 131 workshops were held. As per plan, the rate of achievement is 93%. This is 5% more than last year. Through these workshops the members evaluated the activities themselves and decided the course of action. Besides it is enhancing the participation and proficiency of the members in targeting the problems/issues and risks and determining the course for resolving them. It may be mentioned that in the workshops held in the activity year emphasis was given to the present unstable situation and dislodgement of landless members by jotdars and the combined forces.

Reasons:

In two major division's activity areas, Modhupur and Char Jabber prompt decisions to organise resistance against administrative harassment, persecution by the police through filing false cases and attacks by the jotdars became the forefront issue. Consequently, the landless organisation, instead of holding workshops, held representative meetings and joint meeting to determine the strategy for taking action. As a result, in these two areas, as per the plan, fewer workshops were held. On the other hand, for taking prompt decisions more representative and joint meetings were held.

Lesson learnt:

It is necessary, in the beginning of the year to chalk out a plan of action in advance in the light of previous experience and to strengthen this process to formulate a village based policy targeting the area's problems/issues, risks and properly asses the situation.

2.4 Formation of landless committee, meeting and convention: (annex 6 and 7)

Organisational committees are normally formed at three levels: at the village, union and upazilla level. To form a committee in a village 75% of the people have to be organised. Likewise, at the Union and upazilla levels when 75% of the villages in a Union are organised, this comes under organisational activities. It may be mentioned, that for some reason if it is not possible to form committees at the Union and Upazilla levels, an area committee can be formed at the sub-centre level in order to consolidate organisational activities, ensure accountability and conduct movements/protests. According to these pre-conditions, 7 members committee at the village level, 13 members at the Union level and 21 members at the upazilla level, committees are formed. It may be mentioned that for organisational requirements 11 members' area committee is formed. The organisational committees are democratically elected for a year in the area group convention by a system of open ballot.

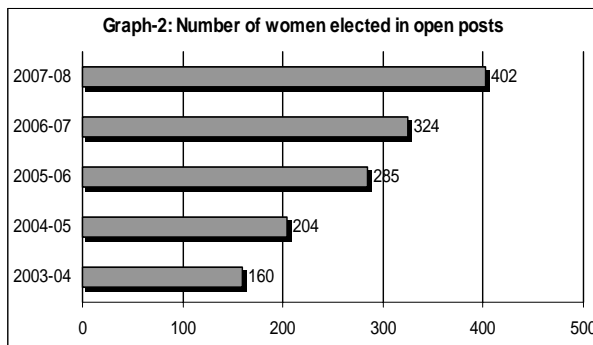


Due to unavoidable circumstances if the election can not be held by the convention to renew the committee, previous committee will continue with the responsibility on ad-hoc basis till new committee is formed through landless convention.

Achievements analysis:

In the year, by evaluating the numerical rate in committee formation, as per plan, it is 60% at village level, 67% at union level and 100% at area level. It may be mentioned that, in the activity year there was no plan to form new committee at the Upazilla level as no new upazilla was planned to be covered. In Ramgati area's Hazirhat sub-centre the landless organisation formed an area committee to give joint leadership for consolidating activities and organising resistance in combating the eviction of landless members from Khas land. In accordance with the plan, 92% meetings were organised by committees at the Village level, 90% at the Union level, 81% at the upazilla level and

97% at the area level. It may be mentioned that in the activity year it was not possible to organise group convention though there was plan to do so. But the landless organisation renewed the upazilla committees by holding extended representative meetings with the participation of representatives from every group. In graph-2, the position of women members, elected in the open posts has been evaluated on a comparative



basis. The rate of increase of women members in open posts is 26% (2007-2008). It may be mentioned that highest increase is 39% in 2005-2006 and lowest increase is 14% in 2006-2007. But in 2007-2008 shows upward trend.

Reasons:

In the reporting year, evaluation of the first half year reveals that formation of village and Union level committees by fulfilling the pre-conditioning was not possible as planned. Besides, there is restriction in holding meetings and mass gatherings due

to the state of emergency. The village, union and area conventions were held in small scale with the consent of the administration as they are far away from the Upazilla sadar. Large scale Upazilla convention with the participation of 10/12 thousand landless members, marching in a procession from the village or union was not possible due to complications with getting administrative permission.

Lesson learnt:

Before planning to form organisational committees it would be realistic to consider the logic behind their formation, make exhaustive evaluation by taking into account financial capability. The pre-condition in forming such a committee is that 75% should be within that area. For this reason, before forming a new group, the strategy to identify the prospective village should formulate.

2.5 Groups saving, bank account: (detail annex 8, 9 & 17)

Group savings is collected to conduct organisational activities of the group and to carry out joint economic activities. While forming the group, on the basis of consensus, the rate for group saving is determined by taking into account the least economic ability of a person. The groups save and collect money from the savings at their own initiative and responsibility. As per the requirement of the group, Nijera Kori staff assists the members in writing the calculation of their savings in the book. The staff members never withdraw money or act as the keeper of the account.

Achievements analysis:

Though groups saving are formed with personal money contributed by the members, they consider the fund in group account as a joint saving and use it accordingly. Groups saving and its operation by the members is a positive economic achievement. For example in the beginning of the year, twice crops were damaged (*Aman-Aush*) by flood. To cope up with this adverse situation, the group decided to withdraw TK 8,580,355 from group saving and distributed the amount equally among the members for agricultural purposes. As a result, the members were spared from taking extra loan or taking money from the money lender in exchange of land or other assets. Besides, the members spent TK 805,180 from the group savings to conduct movements, gatherings, conventions, to fight legal battles and for conducting cultural activities. Above all, the members spent TK 669,241 from their group saving to fund welfare activities of the locality such as repairing culvert, school and roads, for digging canals, for education, medical treatment and for organising dowry free marriage. The multiple utilisation of groups fund has enhanced the sense of the economic security among the members.

Reasons:

During the year, the amount of money distributed from group fund among the members is more than that of last year. To combat crop damage on three occasions due to the natural disasters and to restart agricultural activities the members distributed more money among themselves. As more money was distributed from group saving there was depletion in the fund. Hence, opening of new bank account is less in this year than the previous year.

Lessons learnt:

Distributing more money among the members is not a positive side. But from the point of view of increasing economic capabilities among the members this is

significantly positive trend. But as far as personal savings is concerned, some members are protective and lack the concept of collective economic capability and collective asset. Efforts should be made to develop a collective economic concept.

2.6 Joint economic activities: (detail annex -13)

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

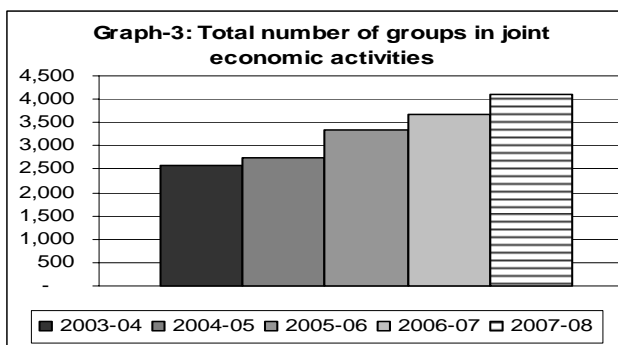


Achievements analysis:

In the reporting year, 786 groups (*male 433 and female 353*) started joint economic activities. On the other hand, among the old groups engaged in economic activities 369 groups have temporarily stopped their activities. In the year, 4,092 members (*male 2,257 and female 1,835*) have profited a total of TK 4,320,925 from their joint economic activities. Moreover, these joint economic activities have been creating job opportunities over the period of over six months for 821 (*male 495 and female 326*) members. The graph-3 reveals total group members engaged in joint economic activities. But in annex table number 13, a detailed numerical data is given.

By analysing the information from graph-3 and the annex an upward trend is noticeable in these joint economic activities.

But the rate is 15% less than last year. On the other hand, by examining the annex we can see that a total of 595 groups have stopped their joint economic activities temporarily. One main reason is, last year, towards the beginning of emergency, large scale dislodgements of landless people took place from



embankment and khas land. This retarded the process. In the year the trend to stop economic activity has decreased by 38%. From this information and graph it can be assessed that gradually joint economic progress and durability is on the rise.

Reasons:

Joint economic activities and expected profits reduced due to three consecutive natural disasters which caused extensive damage to crops and later on resulted in shortage of paddy saplings, fertilizer and acute crisis in supply of seeds. Besides, fish cultivation faced a setback as the ponds and water bodies were submerged and eventually shortage of cattle feed also retarded joint economic activities. Some groups stopped their joint economic activity due to the expiry of lease of the land, for selling their cattle and the failure to find favorable business transaction.

Lessons learnt:

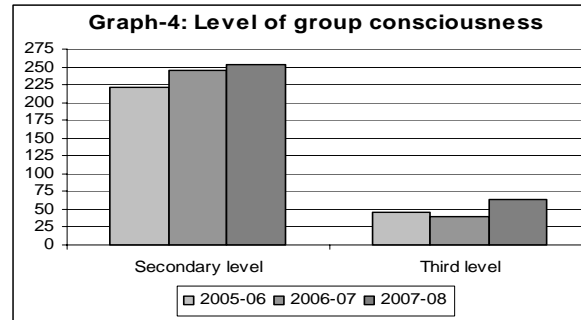
Importance should be given to get the groups more aware to cope and learn to adapt with natural disasters which may become quite frequent due to climate change.

2.7 Group Consciousness: (detail annex -16)

The building of consciousness is a gradual process. When majority members in a group (*more than 50%*) are deemed to have achieved some level of awareness, it is elevated to the next level. The groups are categorised at four levels; primary, secondary and third level. (See Box-1).

Achievements analysis:

In the year total 258 groups (126 male and 128 female groups) passed from primary level to secondary level and total 64 groups (36 male and 28 female groups) passed from secondary level to third level. The rate of achievement in the secondary level, in accordance with the plan, is 78%, which is 3% compared to the previous year. In the third level this is 68% more than last year. In graph-4 the analysis on the basis of the last 3 years reveals that there has been a steady upward movement of the secondary level. However, in 2006-07 the number of members advancing to the third level is less, but percentage-wise the trend is increasing.



Reasons:

In reaching the different stages of conscious levels it appears that total number of group members is not increasing rapidly. Both Nijera Kori and the landless groups consider the process of group awareness levels a cumulative change in the quality of consciousness. Hence, it is important that majority of the members should acquire the same level of consciousness. Due to scarcity in job opportunities and occupation with agricultural activities during harvesting season, there is a lot of migration to different areas and hence they can not attend the group meetings regularly. As a result all members are unable to equally bring about change in their consciousness as they are not participating in regular discussions, which would help them in having a greater understanding and practicing the knowledge acquired in their activities – which is a major factor in the process as perceived by Nijera Kori. In the reporting year, when all the members are present in the locality and when they are less occupied with regards to work, holding more workshops, special discussions and cultural activities is given more priority. As a result of this strategy, the rate of achievement is more this year compared to last year. Hence bearing this in mind, it is important to emphasise on bringing change in secondary and third level to acquire a change in the consciousness level.

Lessons learnt:

The groups and staff members feel that there is need for necessary change which can be achieved by ensuring the process of leveling at group level and staff level through regular reviewing of the experience, problems, weaknesses and identifying them and above all implement the plan of action, keeping in mind national and international issues.

Primary level

Groups at this level concentrate on developing basic awareness, organising members of the same

class and learning to trust and sympathise with members of the same class.
The group gives special emphasis on cultivating a sense of unity amongst the members. It organises regular meetings, ensures regular deposits and withdrawal of savings and undertakes the responsibility of forming and renewing group committees.

Secondary level

At this level the group is able to organise protests against any ongoing injustice. The group is also responsible for ensuring the continuation of the movement for protest if their initial efforts fail. The group members at this level learn from a rational evaluation of the various activities. The members raise awareness amongst the various professional groups in the society by holding discussions with them. The group also sees to the participation of its members at the various levels in the village.
The group specifically takes the initiative to invest its savings in joint cooperative ventures, organise members of the same class, to ensure accountability and to undertake the practice of people's culture.

Third level

At this level the group must be able to: distinguish exploitation and oppression and take necessary steps against them, organise movements by ensuring the support of the local people, take initiative for publicity at the national level, strengthen the organisational activities of the villages, ensure support of the neighbouring villages, expand and enlarge support of the well-wishers, raise the cultural awareness amongst people.
The group should specifically develop a clear conception about exploitation, organise for the group savings to be invested in joint ventures, raise cultural awareness amongst the masses and take responsibility of conducting local committees.

3. TRAINING AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OF NIJERA KORI

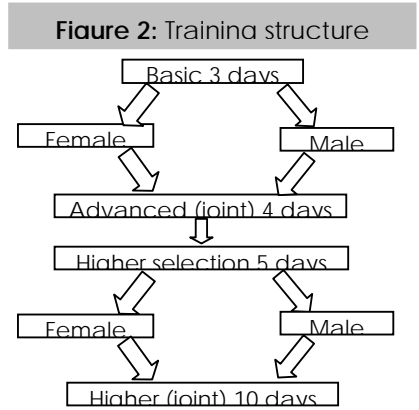
Consciousness raising, leadership development training for group members:

Group trainings are organised with 20-25 members and are divided in four categories: basic, advanced, higher selection and higher. At basic level, female and male members

are provided trainings separately. At the advanced level, trainings are organised with both female and male members together, but at higher advanced level female and male members are separated. At the final level, they both are again grouped together (see Figure – 2). Nijera Kori

follows this particular approach to impart relevant skills to both the female and male members. The objective is to create an environment where both female and male members get an open environment of sharing and mutual learning. This is particularly important for the female members who need such an environment and who might otherwise feel shy about expressing their feelings in the presence of male members. At a later stage, they are mixed together so that they can build mutual trust and understanding which are key elements for their successful empowerment. Alongside the main trainings, separate trainings at basic and advanced level are organised for members who are involved in cultural activities with each session having 20

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



3.1 Group Training:

(detail annex-10)

Achievements analysis:

The trained members are sharing their experiences with other members in group meetings. This is creating awareness among the members in the group meetings regarding the need for subject-wise discussions. In the discussions, the trained members are playing an important role in analysing information and ensuring the participation of other members. The trained members are also actively participating in the

meetings of other groups and taking lead in forming new groups. Statistical evaluation of achievements show that all trainings were held as planned in the table-2. The total rate of participation is 96% for male and 97% for female members. It may be mentioned that, as per the demands of the members two trainings, ‘Land and rights of the women’ and ‘Adivasi and land management ‘, were held in the

Description of Training	P		A	
	N	P	N	P
Basic	77	1,925	77	1,874
Advanced	22	550	22	537
Higher Selection	11	275	11	248
Higher	1	25	1	25
CULTURAL TRAINING				
Basic	8	160	7	134
Advanced	2	40	2	41
Higher	1	20	1	20
OTHER TRAININGS				
Leadership Development	8	200	8	196
Collective Production & Management	8	200	8	194
Right and Access to Information	8	200	8	192
Land Laws & Management Systems	4	100	4	98
Citizen Rights & Constitutional Guarantees	11	275	11	272
Globalisation and Sustainable Development	8	200	8	192
Adivasi and Land Rights	1	25	1	23
Land and Women Rights	2	50	2	50

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

activity year. This has opened the horizon for thinking in a new way about the land rights of women and the Adivasis.

Reasons:

At the representatives meeting of Nijera Kori staff, exhaustive discussion on various impact studies and reports the need for strengthening cultural activities, extending these to every activity area was felt very strongly. For this reason, the staff ought to get more cultural training. As a result, Nijera Kori held higher level cultural trainings for the staff instead of holding basic cultural group training in Dhaka division.

Lessons learnt:

The training team is evolving new tactic in conducting training by regularly discussing the weaknesses detected in research and training reports. The result of this new approach will be discussed later. It was decided in the last council meeting (*held during 2005-2006*) that for extending training activities, one out of every 5 members will participate in training. As a result of more members undergoing training, group discussions are becoming more focused and accountability is increasing. Training pertaining to issues of land laws, citizen's rights and constitutional guarantee were held with the assistance of the other experienced organisations. As a result, Nijera Kori's training group has acquired new techniques and experiences in conducting training.

3.2 Follow-up activities of training: (detail annex-11)

Follow-up training course is a continuous, integral process of training. Firstly, discussions of experiences learnt by the trained members and analysis of subject-wise discussions are held at the group meetings. Secondly, these discussions are shared at field level by the trained members. Thirdly, regular training forum are held and a two-day long workshop is organised with the trained members.

Achievements analysis:

In the reporting year, the rate of holding follow-up training course is 76% at field level, as was planned. The rate of participation is 80%. A follow up workshop was organised with 18 group members for participants of higher training. The rate of holding training forum meeting is 98%, which is 2% more than the previous year.

Reasons:

In the beginning of the year the landless day labours were occupied with sowing seeds and saplings due to the onslaught of two consecutive floods, followed by Sidr. In the middle of the year various disruptions, such as the eviction of landless members in the Noakhali, Dhanbari and Raigang by government and jotdars and eventually the consequent arrests and harassment of members with false cases prevented the holding of follow-up training course at field-level.

Lessons learnt:

The information, history, legal knowledge and various basic concepts gained from trainings have helped the members in acquiring new ideas and ensuring regular exchange of opinions and accountability. The staff thinks that there is a gap between the generated information and the reality of day to day experience of the members. From the research report it is gathered that there is awareness gap between the trained members and the ordinary members. For this reason, at field level it is necessary to gain experience by harmonising the reality of day to day experience of the members and give them confidence through follow-up exercises.

To realise this, it is essential to exchange views regularly between trained members and ordinary members and ensure accountability.

3.3 Training and activities for qualitative enhancement of staff:

From its beginning, Nijera Kori has been making particular efforts on the capacity development of its staff. Self-development is the motto followed in this regard. Various efforts are made; firstly, arranging of special “schooling” sessions in the weekly sub-centre, monthly regional, bi-monthly divisional council and quarterly executive council meetings, secondly, continuous collection and collation of new information and



tools and sharing of these materials with the staff at sub-centre level, and thirdly, organising of various subject-wise cultural training and workshops, fourthly, enabling the staff to participate as observers in all training sessions in order to gain further experience. Furthermore, initiatives are discussed and adopted for the staff development as per the decisions of the annual staff convention of Nijera Kori.

Achievements analysis:

In addition to the qualitative enhancement training of staff, two new strategies were implemented. Firstly, information derived from various research reports was to be discussed with the research team. Secondly, in collecting and evaluating information the PRA method was adopted at field level and strategical proficiency should be achieved. As a result of these two initiatives taken at the beginning of the activity year, and the year long exhaustive discussions among the members, the process of collecting adequate information and its evaluation were executed more rigorously than before and for determining the

Table –3: Staff Development Activities

Descriptions	Plan		Achievement	
	N	M	F	T
Training				
Basic Level	2	22	27	49
Intermediate Level	2	43	19	62
Higher Level	1	22	10	32
Follow up Workshop	1	17	04	21
Adivasi and Land Rights	2	45	20	65
Citizen Rights & Constitutional Guarantees	4	69	29	98
Land and Women Rights	2	40	20	60
Cultural Basic	1	17	12	29
Cultural Higher	1	10	10	20
Workshops				
Political Economy and Globalization	3	42	21	63
ToT	2	24	22	46

N= Number, M= Male, F=Female, T= Total

activity plan of the staff and for achieving qualitative improvement of staff research reports, the specified matters identified as needing attention were given importance. To achieve qualitative enhancement and to make this process more effective the staff themselves decided to organise two gender and two fundamentalism related subjects for schooling on a yearly basis. These projects have been successfully effectuated. On the other hand, contacts were made with ARBAN (*Association for Realisation of Basic Needs*) who translated Paolo Freire in Bangla was requested to reprint the book which was then distributed among the staff. To actualise these initiatives, the methods to bring about strategical improvements of the staff are being implemented. Next year, it is hoped that definite results will be visible. By strategically evaluating the activity year’s index it can be seen that two trainings

were organised at the primary level with newly recruited staffs in the table-3. As per the demand of the staff two secondary and one higher level trainings were organised.

In the year, the staff members have added two new subjects “Land and Women’s Rights”, “Adivasi and Land Management” that they deemed necessary for the training. A total of four trainings were organised on these two subjects with the assistance of ALRD with the assistance of Ain-O-Salish Kendra Total four trainings were organised on “Citizen’s right and Constitutional Guarantee”. To strengthen cultural activities at the field level, two trainings (*one at the basic level and one at the higher level*) were organised. A work shop was organised with the senior staff on “Globalisation and Political economy”. Moreover, to ensure the process of qualitative enhancement of staff a TOT was organised for the training group.

Reasons:

Fundamentalism and gender have been highlighted in various research reports with much emphasis. It has also been pointed out that the subject matter and the method of training ought to be simplified. On the other hand, in various activity areas, with the increase of Adivasi groups, their demand for land has become an important issue. For all these reasons two new subjects “Land and Women’s Rights”, “Adivasi and Land Management” were included in training activity. In order to improve the skills of the trainer, TOT was organised.

Lessons learnt:

To be able to use PRA tools properly, field level workshop is necessary. To evaluate the results of qualitative enhancement training of staff a reviewing of the methodology is needed. Above all, it is necessary to seek the assistance of experienced personalities to increase strategical proficiency in gender and information gathering reporting.

3.4 Cultural activities planned and implemented by groups:

Nijera Kori considers cultural activities an integral part of social mobilisation. The objectives of all cultural activities of Nijera Kori are to fight against injustice, exploitation and repressions of the society in order to allow the poor and the disadvantaged people to be self-dependent and become aware of their dignity. With these aims, cultural groups are formed with 13-20 members, from amongst those who are interested in cultural activities. The members, at an initial stage, sit for 2-3 hours every day among themselves and play a very important role in the mobilisation of public opinion by performing issue-based drama, music and other cultural performances.

Achievements analysis: (detail annex-12)

In the year the landless cultural group highlighted information on movements on various issues and has played an important role in generating support of the people. Besides, people’s songs and people’s drama’s on women’s rights and fundamentalism are being held every month in various activity areas. A total of 52 new people’s dramas were written in cultural group workshop. In these people’s dramas new elements were included focusing on the lives and livelihood of the fishermen, dislodgement and other plights of the landless, wage issues and reasons behind inflation. In these dramas women who are non-members also participated

alongside the female members of the cultural group. In the year 48 new women members participated in dramas performed on open stage.

Statistical evaluation shows that in the activity year, total four new landless cultural groups have been formed. Among these 4 cultural groups, one is formed with the *Adivasis* in Bagtipara activity area. As per the plan, 93% workshops were organised with the members of the cultural group. The rate of holding workshops for improving the proficiency in finding the subject matter for writing plays is 100%. There has been a 90% success in holding regular activities of cultural groups, such as holding meetings, 98% in discussions for forming new groups and 95% in presenting people's dramas. The rate of presenting people's drama and people's songs are 57% and 50% higher than last year.

The landless cultural groups also participate in observing national and international days such as Rokeya day, 14th December, martyr Intellectual day and Liberation day. Besides these national and international days, the landless groups have observed some very important events commemorating their movements and various struggles such as 14th April which is the martyr Kachmati day, 3rd November, the martyr Jainal day that was not allowed by the government to be celebrated and 7th November which is the martyr Korunamoyee day which were observed by holding large congregations and cultural functions. In the activity year a huge rally and assembly was organised for demanding the rights of the landless in Rajshahi division's Mithapukur activity and through this event, the Adivasi-Bengali culture was celebrated.

This activity is an example of concerted effort by the bangali/Adivasi community and the recognition and acceptability of the rights of the Adivasis by the bangalis. Above all, for the first time landless groups observed the Horinath day. This has given an opportunity to present before people local history, from which lessons can be learnt.

3.5 Cultural long march/drama festival:

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

Achievements analysis:

In accordance with the plan, cultural long marches and dramas were organised in all the four divisions. A three day long function featuring a theatre show was organised at national level. It may be mentioned that in the activity year, there was no plan to stage a drama show at a national level. The dramas were staged on issues relating to democratic and constitutional rights, women's right, fundamentalisms, rights to khas land and globalisation. In the activity year, in organising cultural long march, India's MKSS (*Majdur Krishan Shakti Sangathan*) and social audit manual or the tactic of ensuring accountability strategy was adopted. As a result, it was possible to generate various queries among ordinary people, government, non-governments organisations and people's representatives. After staging each drama, a title was selected as per the invitation of the drama group. In most of the dramas, the titles reflected the main themes of



the dramas. From this it can be stated that the dramas staged by the landless groups could appeal to the ordinary people. Besides, two important issues were brought up by the people. The first was the observation that all efforts to uphold democratic rights of the people during emergency were made from, the landless organisation's cultural activities rather than the political parties. Secondly, it was pointed out that no one is asking questions regarding fundamentalism. Even in the midst of this uncertainty the efforts of the landless inspire hope. It shows that they are intrepid and committed.

Reasons:

During the last staff expanded representative meeting in 2007, on the basis of the impact study reports, the need for more cultural activities and their importance were greatly emphasised. In the meeting cultural activities were given importance as integrating and supplementing aspects of organisational activities and it was decided to extend these activities at every level. For this reason more cultural activities were organised. From the past year people felt that drama festival should continue. They feel that people's voice and issues from the grass roots level are coming at the national level. As political activities are banned therefore the people demand regular cultural activity as a way to raise the people's voice and issues. From these learning Nijera Kori organise drama/cultural festival at national level though there was no plan to do so. Due to state of emergency, both national and international days were observed at a field level on a small scale through small gatherings and cultural functions. But with special permission martyr Kachmati, Korunamoyee and Rokeya days were observed extensively with a huge gathering, procession and various cultural activities. Like the previous year ordinary people spontaneously attended the functions of the landless organisation. However, the presence of the political leaders and workers were less than before.

Lessons learnt:

It is necessary to adopt continuous, movement-oriented and relevant cultural activities. Adivasi cultural group's activities should be free from Bengali cultural influence, control and must reflect its own, independent identity. Training and other activities for improving the quality of the staff must be undertaken.

4. MAJOR EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

4.1 Legal Aid activities:

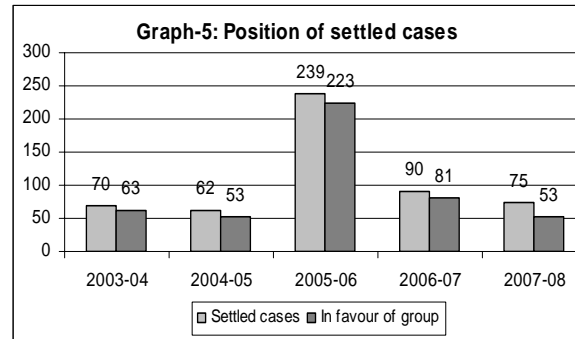
As the movement of the landless organisations for establishing basic rights is getting stronger, the voices and struggles of the disadvantaged people are gaining more and more recognition from the state as well as the society. The increasing success has threatened the local vested groups who systematically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

Achievements analysis:

The landless organisation is mainly engaged in fighting legal battles through legal aid activities. As the powerful land grabber coterie is attempting to dent the process of landless organisation's empowerment by filing false cases, likewise the members are filing cases for their legitimate rights and justice. In the reporting year, numerical estimate reveals 103 new cases, which is 7% less than last year. Out of which 75 were settled, this is 17% less than last year. Of the settled cases, in 53 cases verdict

was given in favour of the landless organisation. In graph-5 evaluation shows maximum settled cases in

favour of organisation is 93%-2005-2006 and lowest 71%, in 2007-2008. Compared to the last five years, in 2007-08 maximum verdicts were against the landless organisation. From this, it can be concluded that for the landless organisation getting legitimate justice is on the decline. Another positive aspect of legal battles fought by landless group is that the local, powerful coterie is trying



to settle various criminal offences in village salish. Due to active role of landless organisation 142 shalishes which were of serious criminal offence (*murder, rape etc*) were disrupted and process was taken to the court. This is 65% more than last year. With the assistance of the landless organisation the offended parties filed 65 cases, which is 48% more than last year. In getting the legitimate justice and establishing rights the role of the landless organisation is definitely a positive side.

Reasons:

In the activity year extensive changes occurred in the judiciary system including frequent transfer of judges and undue influence and control by the present army led government. Thus verdict against landless organisation increased in 2007-08. In Dhaka and Chittagong due to intensive movement for water bodies and khas land, the powerful grabber elite filed less case.

Lessons Learnt:

In future, verdict of cases in favour of landless group may decrease. The landless organisation should be prepared in advance to deal with the situation with open mind. Sometimes it is noticed that the powerful group, with their armed band attack the landless members and they are the first to go to the thana to file case against the members. In countering this situation, if there is any possibility of a serious consequence, it is necessary to inform the thana in writing with people's signatures. In thana Sadar, relation with well wishers- such as lawyers, journalists should be intensified, so that in any event the landless group is able to lodge the first complaint instantly in the thana.

4.2 Educational activities:

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

Box-3:

Actual position of the Educational Institution

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

Achievements analysis:

The landless organisation is conducting their activities by running 30 primary schools, 4 junior high schools and 1 night school. These activities are conducted entirely by group initiative and management. The total number of students in these institutions are 21,342 (*boys 9,793 and girls 11,549*) excluding the students in the

Details	Number of school and students			
	Number	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary school	30	8,552	10,184	18,736
Junior High School	4	1,241	1,365	2,606
Night School	1	45	31	76
Stipend recipients	-	4,929	7,930	12,859

night school. In the activity year, 1,966 students have increased- (*boys 1,069 and girls 897*). It may be mentioned that in the activity year, of these new students 320 students (*boys 153 and girls 167*) have joined by rejecting

madrassa education. Besides, in primary and junior high schools number of girls are slightly more than boy students. This reveals awareness among the member families about rights to education for women, equal rights for men/women and the need for women's education. Above all, in the activity year 1,574 (*boys 703 and girls 871*) from landless group's run schools have qualified to receive stipend.

Besides, the group members with the assistance of students are conducting literacy programme. In the activity year, approximately 10,500 members have become literate. Side by side, with this programme, in educational sector for conducting supportive activities taka 12,361 have been spent from group savings. (*Among group members taka 9,710 and among non-members taka 2,651*).

4.3 Livestock vaccination:

Achievements analysis:

Due to negligence of the government officials engaged in maintaining the well-being of the cattle, people living in remote villages and chars are deprived from getting any treatment and health care for their cattle. In this situation in 2 remote and dislocated upazilla Sadar activity areas-Paikgacha and Charjabber treatment and vaccination of cattle are conducted by group members' management. Besides, to encourage the

Description	Achievement
Vaccination	20,435
Treatment	1,328

group members to rear cattle in traditional method, in Noongola training centre cattle rearing activities are ongoing to set example. In this activity Nijera Kori extends assistance to landless organisation only in keeping liaison with the authority in thana, in obtaining

the vaccination and medicine and distributing them. In the activity year, 5,096 families have benefited from this programme.

4.4 Establishment of people's community watch committees:

Achievements of analysis:

To practice the MKSS (*Majdur Krishan Shakti Sangothon*) social audit manual experience which was gained from the exchange visit from previous year at field level, from last year Nijera Kori has formed subject wise watch sub committee to monitor the activities pertaining to the public at large. In the light of experience earmarked in impact study report, the scope of watch sub committee has been extended by including gender and fundamentalism issues. The watch sub

committees mainly deal with issues of corruption and irregularities and by disseminating information at group level, strengthening movements, ensuring the accountability and responsibility from representatives of government/non-government organisations. This process has enhanced the goodwill, support of the professional groups.

Memorandum has been submitted to improve the environment in the health complex and to hang the list of medicines on the wall. In the mean time, in these schools, the teachers have been adequately influenced to attend classes regularly and to come to school on time. 140 students have been admitted in the school. It may be mentioned that 80 non-functioned tube wells were repaired with the help of the public health service department. Above all, with the information received from the watch sub-committee cultural long marches have been organised to aware the masses about various corruption and irregularities.

Lesson Learnt:

This mode of collecting information about corruption and irregularities and the process by which the local people are being made aware have been greatly acclaimed and accepted by the people. In ensuring accountability, bearing responsibility and in getting government/non-government facilities these committees are playing useful roles. Gradually, these watch sub committees should be extended to other activity areas.

4.5 Follow-up Activities:

Information Centre:

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

4.6 Experience sharing activities:

A eight member Nijera Kori team (*of which four were members from landless group*) went to Yadfon Association activity area in Trang area of Thailand to share and exchange experience between them.

- They gained experience from local communities through hands on experience on how to revive the biodiversity and ecology of devastated and abandoned shrimp farm by understanding the values and use of Nipa palm “golpata” plantation both as an environmental solution as well as increasing economic benefits.
- They also understood and learnt about many uses of Nipa palm of making sugar and various handicrafts along with traditional use of roofing.

5. NETWORKING AND ACTION FOR ADVOCACY AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

Nijera Kori is grass roots based and activist organisation. Thus Nijera Kori is organising the landless men/women with awareness building tools. Above all it is conducting activities for collective empowerment so that they can establish their rights. Accordingly, the landless organisation has been successful in creating massive people's support on various issues through their protracted movement/agitations. As a result, the landless organisation is gradually gaining active support from the local professional groups and personalities in their endeavour to extent pressure on the policy-makers of the government. In this sphere, Nijera Kori is involved in conducting, advocating and campaigning the issues brought forward by the landless organisation on the basis of their requirements. This activity is being conducted in the local, national and the international level.



5.1 Local level:

- In the activity year, the landless organisation has organised 1,373 movements. The topics that need to be mentioned were women's persecution- 468, resisting fundamental activities- 56, to establish rights to local assets- 284 and against local corruption and irregularities- 565.
- The landless organisation was successful in getting their demands in total 1,332 issues. Though the movement/agitation were organised by the landless group on these issues but they were given active support by professionals, political-cultural workers, women's organisation, other development organisation, local club,

rickshaw-bus-truck driver's samity and school students. This is a positive achievement in developing public relation at local level and in building networking.

- In the activity year, on local issues and problems the landless organisation has held 6,206 meetings with the local government administration in the districtas well as local civic bodies. These sharing meetings were held 1,841 times at the initiative of the government administration and on the other hand they were held 4,365 times at the initiative of the landless groups. These opinion sharing meetings are positive aspect in solving local issues and also in collecting information and ensuring accountability and establishing rights.
- In the activity year the landless organisation has participated in 1,520 salish. Of these 806 salish were organised at the initiative of local representatives and the powerful elite. In these salish 3,494 (*male 2,599 and female 895*) landless organisation's leaders were invited as judges. They were-131 by U.P Chairman, 191 by U.P. members, 47 by local teachers, 278 by local powerful persons and 67 by political personalities. On the other hand, in salish organised by the landless organisation 1,159 (*male 834 and female 325*) persons played the role of judges. Above all, in these salish 18,921 persons (*male 12,172 and female 6,749*) were present as observers. Participating in salish is a positive achievements in ensuring justice. (*detail in annex 19*)
- By examining the graphs in the three mentioned topics-movement/agitation, opinion sharing and participating in salish, it is noticed that the trend of movements organised by landless organisation is upward moving. In rural salish participation in 2006-2007 was comparatively less. But in the last four years the trend is upward moving. Above all, issue based opinion sharing between landless organisation, administration and professional groups from 2004 to 2007 is moving both in number and also in initiative taken by the administration. The group members feel the reasons for decline in this tendency in the activity year 2007-2008 are-there is limited scope to practice democratic culture frequent and extensive changes in administration and influences exerted by the powerful groups.

5.2 Activities at District and National level:

- In the activity year, in three activity areas, three workshops were organised at district level. The topics were Adivasi and Land, Commercial tobacco and water bodies and rights of the fishermen by Nijera Kori.
- Five seminars were organised with the assistance of ADSC in Rangpur, Kushtia, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Khulna districts to present primary research findings on commercial tobacco farming and abandoned property.
- One workshop was additionally organised on commercial tobacco farming and its impacts in Kushtia district jointly by Nijera Kori and BELA.
- One workshop was organised at national level on access to khas land and water bodies. Organised jointly by Nijera Kori and ALRD.
- To present research findings on abandoned property organised at national level jointly by Nijera Kori, ALRD, and SAMATA.

- To present the case study findings on Resuscitating the Sundarbans Customary use of Biodiversity and Traditional Cultural Practices in Bangladesh acknowledging local people's perspective who are dependent on Sundarban, The seminars were organised jointly by Nijera Kori, Unnayan Onneshan, BELA and forest people's programme.
- In the activity year in Natore District's Bagatipara Upazila a number of organisation jointly organised a workshop namely "Problems in good governance of land and measures to overcome them". The organisations are: D-Net, SAMATA, ALRD, TIB and Nijera Kori. After presentation of the main paper, two members from landless group discussed their experience. In the workshop, it was possible to make a over-all plan for implementation. Preparations are being made to take similar initiatives in other activities areas.
- With the assistance of EED, in the activity year, Nijera Kori, ALRD, Nari Pragati Sangha and Nagorik Uddag jointly organised a workshop namely "Water and democracy in South Asia". Through this workshop the "right to water" advocacy activities got impetus.
- In the activity year 211 news and 16 reports were published in local and national newspapers on the demands, movement and protests of landless groups on various issues. Total 79 reports were published from information derived landless group organised protests/movements establishing rights on khas land for dislodgement of illegal occupants from khas land and water bodies, resisting commercial shrimp cultivation, repelling looting of harvested crops, acid throwing, hilla marriage, women's persecution, dowry etc. Besides, 70 reports were published on local issues in which the landless group played an active role in making demands, filing cases in thana and reporting General Diary. Above all, in Nijera Kori activity areas 62 reports were published by reporters on various issues. 15 newspapers- such as Dainik Sangbad, Dainik Prothom Alo, Dainik Ittefaq, Dainik Amader Shomoy, Dainik Amar Desh, Dainik Banglabazaar Potrika, Dainik Janakantha, Dainik Somokal, Dainik Manobjomin, Daily Star, Daily News, The Independent, Dainik Jugantor published news and reports. All these published news and reports have revealed the concerted demands of the landless group at national level and is a positive factor in disseminating information and creating public opinion.

5.3 National-International level:

- In the activity year Nijera Kori has participated in 207 workshops, seminars and dialogues arranged by other national and international organisations. Of these, Nijera Kori participated in 9 important international workshops, seminars and dialogues. On issues such as land, land and women, gender, peace, combat and conflict, right to information, environment, water, democracy and climate change etc. In all these workshops and seminars Nijera Kori was able to present grass root level demands.
- Nijera Kori has played an important role in alliance with other organisations in demanding the proposed right to information law's draft. At present Nijera Kori is actively working to establish network to ensure the approval of the proposed laws and its implementation.

- In the activity year, the BBC London conducted Bangladesh by rivers (*Nodi Pothe Bangladesh*) dialogue programme. Nijera Kori participated in two issues relating mainly to climate change and Sidr.
- The general meeting of Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aquaculture (ASIA) Network was held in September 2007, Lampung, Indonesia.
- ASIA organised a south-north consultation in September, 2007 Lampung, Indonesia. On this consultation a “declaration” was signed by 42 representatives from both south-north countries.
- ASIA network has started activities to enhance awareness by revealing the overall picture among the buyers and sellers, importers, persons and organisation from countries of the south to decrease their demands.
- A documentary named “The Price of Prawn” has been made to highlight the real need for making advocacy network.

6. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

6.1 Research activities:

Nijera Kori is a movement oriented organisation. Research is not the main focus of Nijera Kori activities. But Nijera Kori sometimes initiates research in order to supplement the movement of the landless groups and increase their awareness and analysis of the current situation affecting their lives. Sometimes Nijera Kori initiates research on its own and sometimes with other like-minded organizations and occasionally participating in research organised by others.

- In the activity year research activities that need special mention: Though government has nullified abandoned property law in policy but administrative implementation of this black law still persists. At present to investigate the actual nature of this black law and to present this situation to the people. Nijera Kori, SAMATA and ALRD jointly with the assistance of HDRC have completed research on “Deprivation of Hindu Minority in Bangladesh”. They have published the book jointly and have organised seminar at national level to present the facts to the people.
- In the activity year Nijera Kori and ALRD are jointly working on research work “Contractual farming in Bangladesh: Political economy of Commercial Tobacco for Farming”, and Nijera Kori and ADSC are conducting research on “Madrassa education in Bangladesh: Impact on the People” with the assistance of HDRC. Draft report of these two research work have already been made. Final report will be published in the next activity year.
- The need for a factual research on the actual picture of commercial shrimp Cultivation has been felt both by the group members and Nijera Kori for a long time. RAS (*Research and Advisory Services*) has taken the responsibility to conduct research activities on two subjects “A Research Based Study of Brackish Water: Shrimp Cultivation in Coastal Bangladesh and its Consequences”. At present information is being gathered from the field level on a regular basis, with the primary information opinion sharing meetings were held

twice with the members, in the activity year the draft will be prepared. Final report will be published in the next activity year.

- The opinion of the landless members after their long experience is that there is direct link between transfer of land ownership and the changes in the rural power structure. At present the rapidly changing rural socio-economic scenario is an important and deciding matter that need consideration. For this reason the landless organisation has expressed the need to conduct research activities based on deep analysis and relevant information. On the basis of demand and requirement of landless organisation in the activity year Nijera Kori has undertaken research activities on “Transfer of land ownership and changes in the rural structure”. Research organisation Unnayan Onneshan is conducting the research. Draft report has been prepared. In the next activity year final report will be published.

6.2 Participation with other organisations in research activities:

- Nijera Kori and Goldin Institute jointly conducted an action research activity in Rangpur district’s Pairaband activity area on “Improving Microcredit Listening to Recipients”. The report was published.
- Nijera Kori has participated in the research activity conducted by IDS- Sussex University on “Deepening Democracy, Building Citizenship and Participation”. In Bangladesh under the supervision of BRAC Development Institute, BRAC University four types of total eight organisations are involved in this research work. They are Grameen Bank and Asha-only Microcredit, BRAC and Proshika-microcredit and mobilisation, Karmajibi Nari and Bangladesh’s Sramajibi Kendra-organisation basically for ensuring the rights of the labourers, SAMATA and Nijera Kori- awareness and mobilisation oriented organisations.

In the activity year collecting data at field level is complete. Work is ongoing in analysing the data and preparing the report. Nijera Kori feels that in developing the research activities in establishing rights Nijera Kori’s position stand will be obvious.

6.3 What we have learnt from research experiences:

- Improving of strategic perception in data collection and analysis.
- It is imperative to make the training activities more effective.
- There is need for deep deliberation and strategical measures to deal with the issues on fundamentalism and gender.
- Group members are more conscious about their rights but the concern is for future to claim rights, obligation to the community, responsibility, and informed action.

6.4 Publication:

- For conducting local and national level advocacy activities it is imperative to gather information and translate various reports in Bangla. The staff feels that by gathering relevant information and by publishing in Bangla information dissemination among staff and the group will have an easy flow and will enhance process of staff development.
- The impact study report titled “Development as Conscientisation-The Case of Nijera Kori in Bangladesh, published by Nijera Kori.
- Deprivation of Hindu Minority in Bangladesh- Living with Vested Property, jointly published by Nijera Kori, ALRD and SAMATA.

- Deserting the Sundarbans- Local People's Perspective on ADB-GEF-Netherlands Government Funded Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation Project jointly published by Nijera Kori, Unnayan Onneshan, and Forest People's Programme.
- Resuscitating the Sundarbans Customary use of Biodiversity and Traditional Cultural Practices in Bangladesh" jointly published by Nijera Kori, Unnayan Onneshan, BELA and Forest People's Programme.
- In the activity year Nijera Kori and Unnayan Onneshan jointly published in Bangla two IFI bulletin. The topics were "Proposed Local Policy and Energy Security in Bangladesh and Effectiveness in Foreign Aid: Impression of the Concerned Persons". As a result the effectiveness of international grants and aid and its impact on national level

7. PLANNING, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

The planning, monitoring and evaluation of Nijera Kori are ensured in the following three different ways. First; planning is done through detailed discussion and review in the annual group meetings, committee meetings and representatives meetings. The landless groups are closely involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the activities. Second; the staff play a very active role through their respective responsibilities and very importantly, by their participation in the weekly sub-centre meetings, monthly regional meetings, bi-monthly divisional and quarterly executive council and staff representatives meetings. Third; General and Executive Body meetings and field visits of the partners and well-wishers provide important feed back on the activities of the organisation.

7.1 Participation of the groups in the planning, monitoring, evaluation:

- In total 10,524 (*female 4,722, male 5,802*) groups contributed in the review and evaluation of the group activities by holding annual group meetings. At next stage, the same was ensured for the village based planning's through the village committee meetings, or in cases where there are no such committees; this was done at village group representative meetings.
- The group members also actively contributed in the review, planning, monitoring and evaluation of Nijera Kori's activities through 340 village, union, and regional meetings held in the activity year.
- In addition, the 887 representatives' meetings in different working areas, 770 joint group meetings and 131 group workshops immensely contributed in identifying the strength, weakness and risks and the consequently, the necessary steps to be taken.
- Above all, exposure and exchange visits for the group members were organised in the activity year in efforts of reviewing and evaluating the performances/activities of their peers. Members of all the regions participated in their review and which allowed them to become aware of the strength, weakness and risks of their activities. The experiences gained from these visits were very helpful for their future planning.

7.2 Participation of the staff in the planning, monitoring, evaluation:

- The draft planning of each sub-centre is prepared after thorough review of the group annual planning and the village based planning. Based on the reviews of the strength-weakness and risks at the annual regional meetings, the regional planning was prepared. At later stage, weekly sub-centre meetings, monthly regional meetings, bi-monthly divisional council meetings and quarterly executive

council meetings provide further occasion on the review and reformulation of the planning, monitoring and evaluation process.

- In order to closely review and evaluate the activities, staff exposure visits were organised in each working regions during the activity year. In each of these visits, staff stayed for one week with other fellow staff and they closely shared their experiences for mutual learning and sharing.
- Annual staff meetings were organised in all the four working divisions during the activity year. This gave the staff to review the overall activities of the organisation. Based on feedback from these meetings, the divisional planning's were adjusted and reformulated, when found necessary. Following the same way, Nijera Kori's organisational plan was prepared by collating the plans of the 4 divisions which were produced from the presentation in the annually staff convention.
- The representatives' meetings were organised twice in the activity year to review the activities and to decide on future planning/activities. Very important feedback on the monitoring and evaluation process of Nijera Kori's activities was received from these meetings.

7.3 Participation of others in the review of activities:

- In the activity year to analyse and assess the activities of Nijera Kori General Body meeting was held. The proposed yearly budget was approved on the basis of the quarterly meetings analysis on the progress of activities and deliberation on monetary report. Besides, quarterly budget was approved. In every meeting the members played an important role by citing direction in achieving goal on the basis of analysis.
- In the activity year, two days long partner's meeting was held on 24-25 February 2008. In the meeting representatives of Christian Aid, DFID, EED were present. Besides Manusher Jonno Foundation participated as observers. In the meeting the activities were evaluated exhaustively and the reports of the research activities were discussed elaborately and what needs to be done was considered seriously. On the basis of the discussion opinion sharing meeting was held on 31st March 2008 with the possible future partners.
- In the activity year the final report of the research activity on Nijera Kori's activities qualitative result and its impact is complete. This report has been conducted by HDRC; INCIDIN Bangladesh; IDS, Sussex University and Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam. To make training activities more effective an evaluation work on training activities is complete. This was done with the assistance of Afzalun Nessa Choudhury.

7.4 Special support activities in response to disasters specific legal cases:

From Solidarity fund Nijera Kori assists the members on special situations such as natural calamity, cold wave and in specific legal cases. As a result participation and relationship with group members and other organisations is enhancing.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE /CONSTRUCTION

To conduct the activities, Nijera Kori builds and repairs structures in the activity areas at their own initiative. In building structures, importance is given to requirements of the group members- such as building training centre and area working centre. In building these structures for buying local asset and undertaking repair one committee has been formed in every activity area. The committee is responsible for the repair and construction work. In the activity year information on the construction and repair work is given below.

- In the activity year an office has been constructed in Bagatipara area of Rajshahi Division.
- In the activity year, by buying new land, Khulna Divisional training Centre has been extended. In the extension, provision for accommodation of the trainees was completed.
- In Dhaka Divisional Training Centre extended accommodation building was completed.
- Repair work of wall of Bogra Training Centre was completed.

9. ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

In the activity year, of the appointed staff, 49 persons (*male 22 and female 22*) joined the organisation. Above all, in the activity year total 38 persons (*male 16 and female 22*) have left the organisation. At present, total number of staff is 348 (*male 222 and female 126*). It may be mentioned that of the total staff 111 persons (*male 101 and female 10*) are working as support staff.

In the activity year, Nijera Kori has received a total sum of TK 125,317,241.50 from partner organisations. Expenditure in activity year TK 139,457,333.86. (*annex E. contains financial statement and audited report*).

10. KEY RESULTS AND IMPACTS

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

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

Achievements:

- 1.1.1 *Accrual of collective assets through group savings:*** The group members collected a total of 18,782,073 taka during the year. The cumulative savings of the group members, at present, stands at 46,146,360 taka. Through these savings collection the collective asset is enhancing their economic empowerment.
- 1.1.2 *Increased participation of the members in joint economic activities:*** In total 786 groups (*male 433 and female 353*) have undertaken group based economic activities and have invested a total of 6,944,036 taka from group savings. At present, in total 4,092 groups (*male 2,257 and female 1,835*) are managing group economic activities with investments from their group savings. These activities are empowering the landless members economically and helping them to stand on their own, most importantly without contracting any loan—either from banks or the traditional money lenders at exorbitant rate. The other big beneficial effect is that these activities are serving as catalyst in cementing their community spirit and belief in the cause of joint actions.
- 1.1.3 *Increased livelihood security of the group members:*** The group members have realized a profit of 4,320,925 taka from their joint economic activities. This profit is particularly useful for the poor and landless members and has significantly contributed in increasing their livelihood security.
- 1.1.4 *More employment opportunity for the group members:*** The joint economic activities of the group members have created employment for

17,808 persons for maximum time of the year. Out of this total number, 11,088 were male and 6,720 were female.

- 1.2.1 Increased success for the group members in ensuring higher wage rates:** During the year a total of 23 wages related claims were settled which contributed to a daily wage increase of 10 taka for 4,670 daily labourers.
- 1.3.1 More self-initiative by the group members in solving their financial problems:** The group members, by their own decisions, withdrew TK. 8,580,355 from their savings, principally for investing in their agricultural activities. Other than enabling them to withstand adverse economic situations, this is also a good indication of their increased awareness and empowered status.
- 1.3.2 Increased group solidarity and joint initiatives in solving their familial conflicts:** The group members spent a total of 669,241 taka to pay for health care and as well as for other family needs. They also spent a further 805,180 taka for various other activities. In case of a member facing any eventual problems, the other members are actively extending their hands in support of aggrieved member which indicate their collective capability of confronting adverse situations.
- 1.4.1 Success in evicting illegal occupants:** The group members have been able to recover an area of 219.76 acres of land of the poor and marginalised farmers from illegal occupants. Such success of the landless is testament of their increased empowered status in defiance of the powerful local elites and big land holding owners.
- 1.5.1 Increased participation of the landless in the village salishes (arbitration) as judge:** In total 3,494 (2,599 male and 895 female) group members took part as judge in 1,520 village salishes. It is also noteworthy that in roughly half of these salishes, group members took their seats as judge alongside representatives of local governments, professionals and local elites. This is a very positive outcome, testifying the growing empowerment of the landless peoples.
- 1.5.2 Increased role played by the landless group members in village salishes:** Due to the firm position of the landless group members, 65 cases in salishes which were criminal offences was held in obedience. Victims filed cases in the formal court. In many cases, in village salishes which are usually controlled and commandeered by the local influential people, these salishes increasingly recognised the leadership of the landless member.
- 1.6.1 Increase in the number of students in school:** There are in total 21,342 students (9,793 boys and 11,549 girls) in the schools run by the group members, an increase of 1,966 students (boys 1,069 girls 897) from the previous year. This is mostly as a result of increased awareness of the group members. What is even more remarkable is the bigger number of attendance of girls in schools.
- 1.6.2 More Issue-based Protests:** The group members organised 1,373 such protests, sit-ins to establish their rights and in 1,332 cases, they have been able to achieve their demands. These protests are not only limited within the group members, common people are also participating in most these protests and remarkably, they are also reaping the benefits.

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

Indicator

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

Achievements:

2.2.1 More women in organisational leadership positions: In the various committees at village, union, upazilla and area levels, 402 women representatives have been elected and are providing competent leadership. This is a clear reflection of increased women leadership and their empowerment and sets a positive trend of acceptance by men.

2.2.2 Increased success of the landless on violence against women: The group members organised 468 protests on violence against women. Such protests were even organised outside the working areas of Nijera Kori and many of these protests were organised at the initiatives of the landless people themselves.

2.2.3 More active role of the landless peoples in demanding fair justice and treatment: The landless group members played an active role in 833 *salishes* organised on issues regarding violence against women. The members also stopped 47 *salishes* when it was found that cases tried in these *salishes* actually could not be tried there at all. Such pro-active and joint actions of the members, comprising both male and female, are proving to be very conducive in ensuring fair justice on violence against women.

2.2.4 Legal recourse for fair justice for the women: 47 *salishes* have been stopped. Thanks to the active role of the group members because these *salishes* did not qualify to try such cases. Of these, 35 cases have been filed in formal court. The remaining cases are under process to be filed in court. This was, at the first instance, possible because of the proactive stance of the landless group members.

2.3.1 Women members are enjoying stronger position in group economic activities: During the activity year, the women members collect a total of 10,159,697 taka from their savings. The collection and management of savings by the women members themselves will further strengthen their economic and social empowerment in the community.

2.3.2 Increased participation of the women groups in economic activities: In the activity year, 353 women groups undertook economic activities from their

group savings. Of these 353 groups, 58 groups undertook cattle rearing and 214 groups opted for chicken and duck rearing.

2.3.3 Increased economic empowerment and job opportunities: At present, 1,835 women groups are running joint economic activities from their group savings and have reaped a total profit of 1,584,464 taka. Above all, these activities have created job opportunities for 326 women members round the year.

2.3.4 Increased Access of women members to ownership of khas land: In the activity year, 75 families received ownership of 12.70 acres of khas land in the name of their female head. This success further contributed to the livelihood opportunities of the women headed households.

2.3.5 Establishment of women member's ownership over khas land: 402 women members received ownership of 527.50 acres of khas land during the activity year. Furthermore, 41 male and 3 women members obtained the title (*DCR, in government parlance*) of 1 year tenure for agricultural cultivation of 36.96 acres of land owned by the Water Development Board.

2.4.1 Increased role of the women members in salish: In total, 895 women members played the role of judge in various village *salishes* (*the total number was 3,494, out of which 2,599 are male and 895 are female*). What is most remarkable is that women members played their role with active boldness along side the male members who are often the most influential persons in the community.

2.4.2 More active role as observes of salish: 6,749 women members played the role of observers in various *salishes* and contributed in ensuring fair justice for the victims (*in total 18,921 members participated as observers, out which 12,172 were men, with remaining women*). Their vocal role is increasingly forcing the judges to be accountable to the communities.

2.4.3 Increased participation of women in various informal and formal committees: 129 women members have been elected and are representing in various formal and informal committees relevant to their rights. They are distributed as the following; School Managing Committees – 56 (*all elected*), Bazaar Committee–26 (*all elected*), Union Parishad Project Management Committee–7 (*nominated*), Sluice Gate Management Committee–1 (*elected*), All-party Movement Committee formed with participation of cross sections of representatives from various professional backgrounds to claim the rights of the poor–39 (*all elected*), Furthermore, there are 37 women representatives in various thematic 'observation committees'. What is more commendable is that out of the 20 conveners for these committees, 7 are held by women.

2.5.1 More active role of the male members to stop abuse and violence against women: Of the total 468 issues raised on the question of stopping violence against women, 142 of these were raised by the male members. Of the associations participating in protest on the theme 'violence against women', 30 % of these were male-led. Besides, there was active participation of the men in all protests on the issue of violence against women.

2.6.1 Increased collaboration and solidarity with professional and local associations on violence against women: The activity year saw an important increase in collaborative initiatives with the local professional organisations on the issue of violence against women. These associations included local Press Clubs, Teachers' Associations, Rickshaw pullers, Bus Drivers Associations, Women's Associations, Combined Cultural Alliance, Freedom Fighters Council, etc. For effectively creating a movement for the rights of the women, such collaboration is deemed extremely valuable.

2.6.2 Increased collaboration with the public representatives and human rights organisations on violence against women: For ensuring proper investigation and fair trial of cases related to violence against women, there has been an increase of collaboration with the public representatives and the human rights organisations. This collaboration is particularly strong with the local UP Chairmen, Ward Members, etc. With regard to the human rights organisations, the collaboration included joint initiatives with Ain-O-Salish Kendra, BLAST, ALRD, Kormajibi Nari and National Women's Lawyers Association.

<p>Outcome 3 Locally elected representatives and government officials are more accountable and pro-poor in their actions, as a result of pressure by landless group members</p>
<p>Indicator 3.1 Increased actions against irregularities and corruption in government schemes at local level 3.2 Increased allotment and possession of landless on khas land and water bodies 3.3 Increased eviction of land grabbers 3.4 Increased access of genuinely vulnerable and deprived women and men in various social</p>

and economic safety net measures of the local government (e.g. VGD, VGF, Elders Allowance, Widow Allowance, Female student-stipends etc.)

- 3.5 Majority of the court verdicts ensured in favor of organised landless regarding land and other human rights related cases
- 3.6 Number of meeting between representatives of landless group and local government to discuss issues and concerns of the poor.

Achievements:

- 3.1.1 Observation of corruption and irregularities:** During the activity year, separate watch committees on education, health, right to water, agriculture and land, local government and infrastructure development, violence against women and fundamentalisms were formed. The committee members collect relevant information and share with other landless groups and professional activists at local level. This is significant in advocacy works.
- 3.1.2 Increased role played by the landless peoples in stopping corruption and irregularities at local level:** In the activity year, the landless peoples' organisations held a total of 565 protests against corruption. People from all walks of life participated in these protests of the landless people.
- 3.1.3 Investigation against irregularities/corruption and administrative actions taken against the corrupt government officials:** As a result of the protests of the landless people, the government, after carrying out investigations, have taken administrative action against two Medical Officer (doctor). This has been taken as a good example in all corners of the government and as a result, people are getting regular government services without any hassles.
- 3.2.1 More access of the landless peoples in the allotment of khas lands:** 188 families received allotment of 27.78 acres of khas land and the process has been completed. This is a positive initiative for the livelihood security of the poor and the disadvantaged.
- 3.2.2 Success of the landless peoples in obtaining DCRs on government acquisitioned land:** 41 Male and 3 Female landless families have been able to obtain DCRs (*temporary tenurial rights*) over 36.96 acres of unused land, earlier acquisitioned by the Water Development Board. In the face of the strong demands of the landless people, DCRs of such unused lands are no longer given only to the powerful groups.
- 3.2.3 Inclusion of the landless in the allotment process of khas lands:** As a result of relentless protests and movements of the landless peoples, the name of 228 families have been included in the allotment register of khas lands and for which a considerable number of families were taken out of the register as all such families had lands and were 'affluent'. This has reduced the intrigue played by the local elite to usurp more khas lands and established greater accountability and transparency in the distribution of khas lands.
- 3.3.1 Decrease in the illegal occupation of khas land:** With the help of the landless organisations, 98 families have been able to occupy 219.76 acres of khas land. Such cases, while helping to establish the rights of the landless peoples over khas lands, have also been contributing in reducing illegal occupation of the influential (*zotdars*) over such lands.

- 3.4.1 Recovery of misappropriated funds:** In the activity year, landless people had to take the action for recovery of TK 66,800 from Char livelihood project.
- 3.4.2 Increased inclusion of the landless peoples in government safety net programmes:** In additional 13,356 persons (6,465 male and 6,891 female) have been included in the activity year for VGD, VGF, old age pension, Widow pension and Freedom Fighter's pension. Out of this, 8,780 members of landless organisations (4,212 male and 4,568 female) received their cards at the initiative of Union Councils, whereas 4,576 persons (male 1,846 and female 2,730) received only after protest. It is worth mentioning that in the protest of the landless organisations, the Union Councils were forced to include the above persons. Most remarkably, because of the protests of the landless people, in total the names of 3,145 persons had to be deleted from the list of such programmes. This is a clear indication of growing empowerment of the landless and the marginalised.
- 3.4.3 Formation of committees for investigation of corruption and irregularities:** Because of the protests and movements of the landless people, the government administration was compelled to form 3 investigation teams on accusations related to corruption and mismanagement in health centre, violence against The investigations found the authenticity and rightfulness of the accusations of the landless and out of the 6 investigations, in 5 cases, the investigation officials had to publicly divulge their findings.
- 3.5.1 Strengthened position of the landless in getting fair justice in the court of law:** Of the total 75 cases discharged, verdicts came in favour of the landless organisations in 53 cases, out of which 27 were filed by the landless people themselves. Most importantly, of the 688 cases of legal fights, the landless organisations are running 432 cases themselves. For this, they have spent an amount 365,361 taka from their group savings.
- 3.5.2 Dialogue and advocacy for ensuring transparency and accountability:** In order for solving various local problems, in total 12,412 meetings/dialogues were organised between the representatives of the landless organisations, government officials and local peers groups. 3,682 such meetings/dialogues were held at the initiative of the government, where the remaining 8,730 meetings were convened at the initiative of the landless organisations. The meetings/dialogues were immensely beneficial in ensuring the rights of the poor and the landless.

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

Achievements:

- 4.1.1 Integrating public opinion at local level on land reform:** To build public opinion on the issue of commercial use of agricultural land, the rights of the fishermen on water-bodies, and rescinding abandoned property law activities were organised with the assistance of well-wishes even outside activity areas. On the issue of land reform the spontaneous initiative to extend networking activity is a positive aspect.
- 4.1.2 National level joint initiative on land reform has been consolidated:** On the research and research reports jointly done by SAMATA, ALRD and Nijera Kori, two seminars were organised at national level on Khas land, water bodies and abandoned property. In these seminars Advisors from the present government, other officials and national level personalities were present. As a result, land reform demand was presented at government level.
- 4.1.3 Joint initiative to disseminate information on land administration:** D-Net, SAMATA, ALRD, TIB and Nijera Kori jointly have formed an alliance at local level to disseminate information and build public awareness on the problems in land administration and right to land.
- 4.2.1 Strong international net-work developed against industrial shrimp cultivation:** Asia solidarity against industrial aqua-culture (Asia) organised north-south consultation meeting. In this meeting from north-south total 42 representatives participated.
- 4.2.2 International joint activities against commercial shrimp cultivation has been extended:** In the opinion sharing meeting initiated by Asia solidarity against Industrial Aqua-culture (Asia) unanimous decision was taken by all for the future and on the issue joint activity and “declaration” was published. In the “declaration”, 42 representatives from South and North signed. This is significant evidence in extending net-working activities.
- 4.2.3 Advocacy activities under taken in shrimp consumer countries:** In the consumer countries of the north-south, among the sellers, buyers, importers and individual organisation the harmful side effects of commercial shrimp cultivation are being projected, and activities are in operation with the assistance of well-wisher organisation to reduce the demand for consumption of shrimp.
- 4.3.1 Activating advocacy activities to establish right to water:** Through “Water and democracy” workshop activities were undertaken to start official net-work in the issue.
- 4.4.1 Discussing policy and law relating to water and identifying the short comings:** In the workshop the previous officer-in-charge of water development board discussed the prevailing problems inherent in policy and laws relating to water, the weaknesses in the laws and those sections of laws that are anti-people. On the basis of this a situation has been created where pro-people laws and policies can be made in future.

- 4.4.2 Initiatives on research activities taken so that opinions of the poor can create pressure in the policy making forum:** Various research activities reports that reflect public opinion have been sent to many government and non-government offices and organisations. Especially those on abandoned property, khas land, laws suits related to land, water-logging are being discussed widely.
- 4.4.3 Government initiatives to form new pro-people law:** Keeping in view the long standing demand of the people the government has taken decision to form right to information law. The draft paper on this law has been prepared. To ensure the rights of the poor people and to guarantee it's application a national level net-work has started.
- 4.4.4 Discussing policies, exchanging views of local people's practical experiences:** Through a national workshop on "Resuscitating the Sundarban's Customary use of Biodiversity and Traditional cultural Practices in Bangladesh", demands were made to recognise the knowledge and experience of the local people in the light of the case studies. It may be mentioned that the workshop was attended by the Adviser of the present government's Forest and Environment ministry and other important officers. Their instant recognition of the importance of local people's knowledge is a positive indicator in making future policy.
- 4.5.1 Active participation in discussing and in forming policy:** Nijera Kori participated in 207 national and international level workshops, seminars, dialogue etc. Through these activities the views of the local poor masses, their experiences and demands and in achieving people's support have become more active.
- 4.5.2 Impact on landless group's demands and protests at local level:** 160 news reports on the protests and movements of landless group at local level have been published in 16 local, national news papers. As a result, people's support in favour of the demands of the landless group at local and national level has increased and it is positive aspect in creating pressure on the policy makers.
- 4.5.3 Solidarity and support expressed by the media in issues raised by the landless:** News reporters, at their own initiative published 29 reports in 14 news papers on the issues and demands identified by the landless groups. These reports positively highlighted the demands of the landless groups, assisted in creating public opinion and eventually enhanced pressure.
- 4.5.4 Publication of IFI (International Finance Institution) watch bulletin:** Two bulletins in Bangla and English have been published on "Proposed coal policy and Bangladesh's fuel security" and the "Actual function of foreign aid." As a result, people have been made aware about the present implementation of policies, the actual functions of aid / grants and it's accountability.
- 4.5.5 International public forum issue-based local public opinion was focused:** Nijera Kori presented it's own position in two discussions conducted by BBC London office "Bangladesh by rivers" "Climate change and Sidr", and it was opined that demand for strategic change is possible. It may be mentioned that in these issues termination of commercial shrimp cultivation was highlighted and not Adapting but Mitigation was given importance.

4.5.6 Meeting on United Nation Working Group on Protected Areas (UNWGPA) and conference of Parties– (CBD/COP–9): In the side event of those meetings two case studies on Sundarbans Biodiversity Convention Project (SBCP) and 10c (*Convention on Biological Diversity*) were presented. Besides, the published books were distributed among the participants.

11. ANNEX

A-People's action case study

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

Case study

In the activity year, under the leadership of landless organisation numerous movements/agitations were organised in various activity areas to establish rights of the landless on land and to combat irregularities in land management. The issues on which the landless organisation organised movements in various activity areas were mainly for establishing rights on the khas land, demanding for enlisting the names of genuine landless people in land management process and repelling looting of harvested crops from khas land cultivated by the landless members. Besides, movements were also organised in areas where irregularities take place during land survey.

Case study-1

Landless organisation in resisting women's persecution

During the activity year in every activity area landless organisation has been successful in organising protests against the persecution of women. This included protests against dowry, rape, murder, divorce, hilla marriage, acid throwing, child marriage, the failure to pay maintenance allowance and issuing fatwa.

Area:

Village Barpakhia (*Uttarpara*), upazila Delduar, under Tangail district

Description:

Shanta, aged 22, daughter of a poor farmer from Bashail Upazilla was married in December 2006 to Gani Mia, aged 25, an affluent man from Barpakhia village. Since the wedding, Gani Mia had been demanding dowry from his father-in-law. But as the poor father-in-law could not meet his demands, Gani Mia started to physically torture his wife Shanta. Not only did Gani Mia beat Shanta but at times his mother and sister assisted him in the beating. On the night of 5th December, 2007, Gani Mia beat Shanta up severely. Shanta eventually lost consciousness. When the situation deteriorated further Gani Mia's mother and sisters admitted the unconscious Shanta

to Delduar hospital, Shanta died almost immediately after. Gani Mia and his family members attempted to evade any responsibilities of the murder by announcing that Shanta committed suicide by taking poison.

Role of landless organisation:

When the landless organisation heard about the incident, they demanded a post-mortem and started a movement to procure support of the people in demanding police

intervention in the case. They announced that if immediate actions were not taken regarding the matter more aggressive steps would be undertaken. Meanwhile public opinion was also building up strongly in favour of the movement. As a result the police carried out a post-mortem of the body.

Later on, Shanta's father filed a case in the Delduar Upazilla invoking family law on women's and children's persecution with

the assistance of landless organisation. Eight people including Gani Mia, his mother and sisters were accused in the case filed, which bears the case number 20/2007, 31.03.07. However, all of the accused individuals have absconded and cannot be found. The landless organisation is persistently organising processions and agitations to continue putting pressure on the authorities search for the accused.

Result:

Because of landless organisation the murderers could not cover up the murder of Shanta. The post-mortem gave the evidence of foul play. People in the locality were organised and made aware about the murder case and they were motivated to protest against the murder. Thus their participation in the movement was ensured through the initiative of the landless organisation.

BOX-1: Resisting women's persecution: Procured maintenance allowance:

Pakerhat is a village in Dinjpur district's Angarpara union. In 2005 landless member Habibur Rahman's sister Hosna from Tangua village in Angarpara union was married. Soon after, her husband and in-laws started inflicting mental and physical torture on Hosna for dowry. At one stage she was thrown out of the house for failure to give dowry. At which point she went back to her father's house. Though efforts were made from Hosna's family to reach reconciliation, the in-laws refused to accept Hosna without payment of dowry. In this situation, her brother and other relatives made arrangement for divorce to protect Hosna from physical persecution. But her husband declared that in this case, no maintenance allowance and "denmohar" would be given. In this situation, after consultation with people from various groups public opinion was created and in December 2007 a "Salish" was called. In this salish people from both families were present along with the Kazi and other eminent personalities of the locality. The decision given in the salish ordered the husband to grant divorce and give Hosna a maintenance allowance and "denmohar".

Result: *Due to the initiative of the landless organisation Hosna was given TK. 30,000 as maintenance allowance and "denmohar".*

Case study-2

The police was compelled to take rapist medical officer to jail

Area:

Village Charramij, upazila Ramgoti, under Lakshmipur district

Place of incidence:

Charramij health and family welfare centre.

Description:

Bibi Kulsum, aged 30, from Charmehas village was living in dire poverty with her husband and her three children. In the hope of earning some money Kulsum went to the Al-Mamun government hospital to avail ligation operation. Subsequently when an infection developed, Kulsum went to the Charramij health and family clinic center along with her neighbor Khodeja to receive treatment. She narrated her physical condition to health center's Deputy Assistant Medical officer Md. Hafiz Sarwar. The medical officer, after due examination, prescribed medicine and asked her to come for follow up treatment. On 28 January 2008, Kulsum went alone to Charramij health and family welfare center for her appointment. Medical officer Md. Hafiz Sarwar took Kulsum to his room in second floor of the complex, falsely telling her that it was the chamber of a female doctor and afterwards raped her.

On that same day Kulsum related the incident to landless organisation's leader Mumena Begum. The landless organisation called a meeting on 28th January and decided to launch a movement on this issue and chalked out a plan of action. Subsequent to the meeting, discussions were held with various professional groups to create public awareness and build solidarity. Next day, on 29th January, the landless group organised a protest procession comprising about five hundred participants demanding punishment for Charramij health and family welfare center's Deputy Medical officer Md. Hafiz Sarwar. After the procession they organised a sit-in-strike within the compound of the health centre and barricaded the office of Md. Hafiz Sarwar. They declared that until he was arrested, the strike and barricade would continue. In this situation, the police arrested Md. Hafiz Sarwar and sent him to jail as per the demand of the landless organisation. A case was filed under women and children's persecution law, the number of which is case no. 08/08. The landless organisation discussed the matter with the local media. As a result, news on this incident was published in both local and national newspapers.

Result:

As a result of procession and sit-in-strike it was possible to arrest the culprit, send him to jail and file a case. At the same time police was compelled to make a charge sheet. At present the rapist Md. Hafiz Sarwar is in jail and has been suspended by the concerned authority.

BOX-2: Protest against rape of a child

Shudharm Sarker lives in Paikgacha's Banda area's Rahnagar village in Khulna. Both he and his wife are professional "kirtan singers". They often have to leave their ten-year-old handicapped daughter Tripti Sarker at home and go to various places for singing assignments. In this situation, their next-door neighbor Anukul Sarker, a distant relative and a grocery shop owner, associated with a powerful political party entered the house and raped the handicapped child Tripti. He threatened Tripti by saying that if she revealed the incident she and her parents would be killed. Eventually on March 2nd 2008, when her parents returned home Tripti told her parents what had transpired despite the warning.

Tripti's parents went to the two UP members one of whom is a woman. These UP members are known to be influential due to their connections with BNP and Jamaat which are two of the prominent political parties in Bangladesh. They gave assurance to Tripti's parents that necessary action would be taken. At the same time, they warned Tripti's parents that they should not make the matter public. The UP members started the process of suppressing the matter by announcing that the "rape incidence" has been settled. Frustrated with their lack of success in obtaining justice, Tripti's parents related the incidence to the landless organisation. The organisation discussed the matter in a meeting and decided to organise a movement to demand justice. Accordingly, the landless organisation informed various professional groups about the rape, generated public opinion and organised the local people. On 26th March 2008 the local people barricaded Anukul Sarker's house, but he was not there. So, the local people locked the

grocery shop that he owned. Tripti's parents' with the assistance of landless organization, attempted to file case in the thana. However, the Dumuria thana authority, influenced by the politically powerful opponent group, refused to take the case. Later on, on 10th March 2008, Tripti's parents, with the assistance of landless organisation filed a case in Khulna women and children persecution special court. The case number is 93/2008. The court ordered the officer-in-charge of Dumuria thana to present the victim's statement and medical report to the court. In accordance with this court order, the officer-in-charge of Dumuria thana took Tripti's statement and examined the medical report after getting her medically tested. The organisation continued the protest and processions to give pressure in order to ensure that the due process of justice is followed. As a result, on 24th March 2008 the medical report was submitted. As per the court order an investigation was to be carried out on 8th July 2008 regarding this case and the report was submitted to the court by 31st July 2008.

Result:

Because of the steps by the landless organisation the incident of rape of a minor was unable to be suppressed; the case was filed in court and the process for getting justice was ensured.

Case study-3

Resisting corruption and irregularities in different sector

Background:

Due to irregularities, corruption parochialism, discrimination of local government and prevalence of unwarranted influence of the powerful class the poor masses are deprived from getting legitimate rights and privileges. In the activity year the landless organisations have organised various movements and agitations against these irregularities and corruption in many activity areas.

Important subject matters:

Few instances of widespread prevalence of irregularities and corruptions in school management, building complexes, appointing teachers, allotting stipends in distributing paddy-seeds and fertilizer, distributing VGF and VGD cards and some cases of misappropriating wages of the laborers, demanding illegal toll in bazaar and taking bribe for giving legitimate privileges are high lighted here.

Area:

Upazila Madhupur under Tangail district.

Previous situation:

In the rural areas of Bangladesh the poor, marginalised masses, especially women and children, are deprived from getting any medical treatment. At union level, the government has introduced emergency health-service package by building community clinics to render health service.

For a long time, these clinics were overwhelmingly mismanaged as a result of which there is some confusion as to whether they should be closed or remain in operation. On the other hand, transferring the management of these clinics to non-government agencies is also under consideration. As a result, the nearest place where the poor and marginalised people can go is the Upazilla health complex.

Modhupur Upazila Health complex-Centre point of irregularities & corruption:

In 2004 Dr. Rezaul Karim was appointed as the doctor-in-charge of the Upazila health complex. Since his arrival, corruption and irregularities among the other officials of the health-complex increased as he himself indulged in corrupt practices by demanding extra money from the patients, abusing the patients using vulgar language if they failed to give extra money, forcing them to seek treatment in the private chambers instead of admitting the patients in the health complex and selling medicine at unreasonable prices. Since 2005, articles were regularly published in various local and national news papers; some editorials were also published regarding this situation.

Box- 3: Strike organised to recover embezzled fund

Char livelihood project: Since 2002 char livelihood projects were being operated in various districts of southern Bengal. The purpose of these projects was to bring economic solvency to the poor by creating opportunities. Baguarchar village is situated in Kurigram's district's Ronmari Upazilla's Bandorer Union. The executive officer of char livelihood project formed a project administration committee for digging earth, comprising of local NGO representatives and members of the Union Parishad. One UP member, selected by Union parishad became the chairman of the committee by virtue of his office.

Job opportunities and livelihood of the day laborers: The livelihood of the day laborers depends on the job opportunities provided by the project committee. When road digging activity was installed in Bandorer char Union's Baguarchar village the project chairman demanded money to provide job and from March 2007 recruited 24 laborers by taking Tk. 200 from each laborers as bribe. Three groups, with 55 laborers in each group, started digging earth in accordance with the policy of the project. Each laborer should get TK 80 for digging 12 feet (3x4x1) earth. But the project chairman, instead of paying TK 80 each paid TK 60 to each laborer by threatening them that if they objected, their jobs would be terminated. Besides, the chairman was also misappropriating money by making them dig 15-16 feet earth and paying them only for 12 feet.

Irregularity was stopped and embezzled money was recovered: On March 21 2007 the landless organisation members discussed about the prevailing situation .In the meeting they decided to organise protest and start a movement to stop the irregularities and embezzlement of money. Accordingly, the leaders of the landless organisation met the chairman and made their demands. But the chairman denied that there was misappropriation of funds and instead hired local terrorist to give threats to the landless members. In this situation the landless organisation collected signatures from

According to the local people and the information published in the papers it was alleged that Dr. Rezaul Karim was a drug addict. Instead of giving G-pathedrine freely to the patients Dr. Rezaul used to take it regularly and is allegedly continuing his addiction. As a

employed laborers. On 27th March 2007 they organised a march, with nearly hundred of people, to the executive officer of the char livelihood project and demanded the expulsion of the project chairman and return of the embezzled fund. When still no action was taken, the laborers stopped digging earth from April 1 2007 under the leadership of the landless organisation. The project chairman tried to resume the work by bringing in laborers from adjoining areas. But due to the resistance of the landless organisation the chairman's attempt failed. In this situation, the officials of the char livelihood project sat for a discussion with the landless organisation. During this discussion the irregularities and corruption of the chairman were exposed and officials were convinced about the truth.

Result: Total taka 66,800, that was embezzled and taken as bribe, was returned. The project director expelled the project chairman and appointed members Sohrab Hossain and Razia Khatun jointly as project chairmen.

result many patients suffered severely due to maltreatment. It may be mentioned here that due to a faulty operation and wrong treatment, Asia Begum (*age 21, of Village Tekipara, Union Jalchatra, Upazilla Modhupur*) died on 21st April 2007. Another patient Rokeya Begum, age 24, was also a victim of wrong diagnosis and maltreatment. Her mother Hasna Begum said, "After my grand child was born Rokeya Begum's condition deteriorated and we admitted her in Mymensingh Medical hospital, the doctors declared that the patient's esophagus was seriously severed in the previous operation and hence it was impossible to revive the patient from impending death. Rokeya Begum died on 19th May".

The relatives of the deceased appealed to the health ministry, director general of health and other related offices. Since 2005 various local and national news papers were publishing news about the addiction of Dr. Rezaul Karim. As a result of which in 2005 the administration transferred him to Pabna Mental hospital in the post of RM. But Dr. Rezaul appealed writ petition in high court and the transfer was rescinded. As the verdict of the higher court was in his favor, Dr. Rezaul Karim became more aggressive and corrupt. Doctors and staff started behaving like hoodlums.

On 25 August 2007 landless member Shahid Ali and Tara Mia were injured by armed band of water–body grabbers. The landless members brought the injured to Modhupur Upazilla health complex in serious condition.

But under the direction of Dr. Rezaul Karim, the other doctors, instead of admitting them in the health complex gave preliminary treatment and discharged them. After returning home the conditions of the patients deteriorated and they were brought back to the health complex. The landless members demanded that the patients be admitted in the hospital. But Dr. Rezaul Karim, instead of admitting them in the hospital and giving them treatment asked the staff to throw them out forcibly. In this situation Nijera Kori staff Abdul Halim went to the office room of Dr. Rezaul Karim for discussion. But Dr. Rezaul Karim .instead of talking to him incited some hospital staff to attack Abdul Halim physically. They not only assaulted Abdul Halim but also snatched forcibly Nijera Kori owned motor-bike which he used to ride and locked the bike in a room in the hospital.

Box – 4: Allotted stipend money recovered from Aminul Haque Community primary school in Noakhali district’s chars Aminul Haque.

The executive committee and the teachers of the school deliberately paid TK 50 less of the allotted stipend money to the students. In this situation the landless organisation in Aminul Hauque village motivated the parents of the students and after discussing with them decided to organise a movement to protest this irregularity. Afterwards the parents and leaders of the landless organisation met the teachers and members of the executive committee and apprised them that if they did not stop these irregularity higher authorities would be informed about the matter. Realising the seriousness of the situation, the school executive committee and the teachers gave their word that henceforth the full amount of the allotted stipend money would be given to the students.

Results: Due to the steps taken by the landless organisation irregularity in Aminul Haque Community school was stopped and from November 8, 2007 the students were getting the full amount of the stipend money.

Mass movement led by landless organisation:

Immediately after the assault the landless members gathered in the hospital ground where the crowd was quickly becoming agitated. In order to keep the situation under control, the members of the landless organisation sat for discussion with the Upazilla Nirbahi officer (UNO). After listening in detail the U.N.O suggested to the leaders of the landless organisation to file a case against Dr. Rezaul Karim in the thana.

When they went to the thana to file the case, the officer-in-charge of thana told them that Dr. Rezaul Karim had already sent a complaint to Modhupur thana alleging attack and damage of property in Modhupur Upazilla health complex. In such a situation it would not be possible to accept any other case before enquiry is made. As a result the landless people decided to organise a mass movement.

In the morning of August 26, police recovered the motor bike from the hospital and returned it to Nijera Kori office. At the same time the landless people barricaded U.N.O office and health complex on August 26, 2007 and sat there in protest. This protest incited spontaneous support from people of different walks of life such as teachers, reporters, press-club lawyers association, school/college students' cultural organisations, bus/traffic and rickshaw van samity and bazaar committee. The landless organisation, reinforced with mass support, decided to continue with the movement until demands were met. They staged an event where people's drama and songs were performed in the Upazila sadar every evening. At the same time mass signatures were collected for a memorandum.

Box- 5: Becoming familiar with corruption since school days:

District Modhupur, Upazilla Gangni, Union kathuli, village Garabaria . In 1863, with the initiative of a few enlightened persons the Garabaria high school was established .The school which was once famous is now in the grip of corruption and irregularity and hence has lost its previous glory.

To appoint an assistant teacher the school authority published an advertisement on 1st March 2008. They received six applications. After examining and reviewing the applications, two applicants were selected for the final appointment. Later on, efforts were made to appoint the third applicant not on the basis of his qualifications but as a result of a one lakh taka settlement with the senior teachers of the school in exchange of the appointment. It may be mentioned here that in 2007 landless member Samoresh Molla from adjoining Sanglapur village was elected in the school management committee. In a management committee meeting on 21 March, 2008 Samoresh Molla objected to this venture of appointing a less capable man. He boycotted the meeting and refused to sign the working paper.

In the evening during a meeting with the landless organisation the corruption in appointing the teacher was discussed. Consequently, a group of landless leaders met the U.N.O and officials of education department on 12 March, 2008 and discussed the matter with them and gave a written complaint. For appointing the teacher, the management committee again demanded to call meeting. On the other hand, the students, expressing their solidarity with the landless organisation's movement against the corruption, and boycotted headmaster's class from March 2, 2008.

In this situation, the headmaster was compelled to call a meeting of school management committee on 25 March, 2008. In the meantime the landless organisation met the other members of the managements committee and sought their support to stop the corruption. On 25 March during a meeting of the management committee nearly 400 hundred people held hand and organised a sit-in strike.

Result: In the school management committee's meeting, after much deliberation, most of the members supported Samoresh Molla and rejected the head master. In accordance with the previous decision the most eligible person was appointed on his merit.

Hundreds of people gave signatures every day. On August 27, 2007, the landless organisation, gave a memorandum containing nearly thousands signatures to the health and family welfare ministry. Copies of the memorandum were given to other divisions of the administration. In the meantime news about the movements and protests of the landless organisations were published in various local and national news papers. As a result the civil surgeon of Tangail gave a word of honor to the landless organisation that an enquiry will be made on this matter. On November 12, 2007 Dhaka division director, health ministry made an enquiry about the complaint lodged by the Modhupur Upazilla landless organisation. After the enquiry, he admitted in front of thousands of people that “the complaint was valid “He promised to take necessary action very soon.

Box- 6: District Noakhali Upazilla Shubarna char:

Thanarhat bazar. In the beginning of agricultural season. The care taker government decided to distribute fertilizer among the farmers at legitimate price. Through Chrawapda Union Parishad the government enlisted the farmers of the locality and for distribution of allotted families. As per announcement, on 21 September, 2007 the local farmers went Thanarhat bazar’s dealer for buying fertilizer.

Charwapda Union Parishad’s member Md. Zaher in connivance with fertilizer dealer charged TK 350/per sack of fertilizer instead of 300 fixed by the government. In this situation the landless members from Dhanershish and Char Baishakhi mouja protested against this unlawful hike in price. At one stage the UP member Zahir instigated his armed band to attack the landless members. In the face of resistance by the landless the armed band fled. . They barricaded UP member Zher and the fertilizer dealer. At the same time the landless leaders apprised the local officials of the agriculture department about the situation. At this news the U.N.O, local agricultural officials came in person to Thanarhat bazar with police force. As the truth of the incidence was exposed, the U.N.O expressed his regret.

Result: The U.N.O expelled member Zaher instantly from his responsibility of distribution and in an open election among the landless member Shahjahan was elected in the distribution committee.

Result:

On 14 August, 2007 health and family welfare ministry made Rezaul Karim OSD. Now people have free access to health services.

Case study-4
***Taking hold of Khas Land for Shrimp Cultivation:
Struggle of landless marginalised men and women***

Background:

Most of the rural people are farmers. Land is still considered the basic foundation of rural power structure. In the last two decades the number of landless people has doubled. This is the main reason why landless marginalized farmers are becoming powerless.

In Noakhali and Lakkhipur district, new char areas have been emerging on the Meghna River from the seventies. In the eighties people from various places rendered homeless due to river erosion started settlement in these char areas. But unfortunately in these areas everything is controlled by the land-grabber jotdars. In the nineties, to establish these char areas as khas land the urban elite such as industrialists and political power players aligned with the jotdars.

The landless organisation, to establish its legitimate right on khas land organised various protests and movements in various activity areas. The areas where movements were organised are Charjabbar, Ramgati, Pairabnad and Shaghata.

Area:

Village Charmajid and Charbagya mouja, Upazilla Shubarnachar under Noakhali District.

Past Background:

In the eighties some landless families started settlement in Noakhali district's Shubarnachar Upazilla's Charmajid and Charbagiya mouja. In the new char areas after relentless struggle against precarious environment, bracing the attack of the jotdar sponsored "lathials" (*band of attackers armed with lethal sticks*), coping with salinity and tide and dealing with various insecurities, the landless families made the char areas fit for cultivation. Year after year, with arduous physical labour and sacrifice these families established their settlements in these char areas.

Legal position:

From the beginning of nineties, the landless families obtained land from the government under a land administration yearly arrangement and started cultivation. During the period of 1994-95 the government started khas land settlement activities among the landless families in these two chars. Under the programme of khas land distribution for the landless, the government enlisted 955 families. Eventually, following an appeal from the selected landless families land settlements a Land administration file was made. In this way administrative land settlement process for the landless was progressing.

Legal Complexities:

In 1989-90, government started khas land distribution process among outsiders on the muktijodha quota, by excluding the families settled in the khas lands of Charmajid and Charbagiya mouja for the last 15- 20 years, as well as those selected landless families initially enlisted by the authority. To rectify this legal complication created by the administration, the landless members had appealed to the higher officials in the administration several times. But the administration continued to distribute land amongst outsider muktijodha violating the khas land distribution policy and government's enlisted landless members list. Hence legal complications were created by the land administration which in term complicated the process as to who would occupy the land.

New Strategy to occupy land illegally for Shrimp cultivation:

On 25 March 2003 land ministry, influenced by the party in power and also to serve their own interest declared 11.95559 acres of agricultural land in Noakhali district's Shudharam upazilla's char areas as shrimp 'zone'. It may be mentioned that arable khas land, forest

division's land, agricultural khas land distributed in landless member's name and, above all, individually owned land are all included in the government declared shrimp zone. During declaration of shrimp zone the government did not take into consideration the issues of land, compensation law, suitability of land (*whether it is fit for agriculture*). Furthermore, the administration did not follow any legal

Box - 7: Irregularities in Khas land Distribution

In Chargia and Charbahiya about 955 families had made settlement and were living in the area for some time. Cultivation of the khas land was the sole means of their livelihood. During 1990-91 khas land was being allotted to non-local muktijodha people by excluding the enlisted landless members. These non-local muktijodhas regularly hired armed bands to attack the landless members to dislodge them. Every year with the assistance of police force and their hired armed bands they plundered the harvested crops of the landless members. Furthermore, they filed 17/18 false cases against the organisation. The allegations were mostly against the landless people who were settled. The landless organisations, despite all the harassments and persecutions, have been organising a movement demanding the nullification of land settlement in the name of non-local muktijodhas. They also demanded that an investigation be made before allocating land to genuine landless members. In the meantime with the arrival of the present caretaker government there was a revival of the process of retrieving khas land. Though steps were taken to retrieve land from industrialists and shrimp cultivators, nothing has come of it as yet. On the other hand, on 20th March, 2007 the district administration announced on a loudspeaker that the settled landless members in Charmajid and Charbagaiya should vacate their settlements. As per directive, the combined forces, in order to retrieve the land, demarcated the area on 21st March. At the same time, the combined forces declared that within 30th March, 2007, the landless members should wind up their settlements and that if they do not vacate the land within the time allotted, action would be taken to dislodge them.

Demand of the landless: On 27th March the landless members organised a meeting and demanded that the administration should take necessary actions to re-settle the members adequately. They submitted a memorandum with mass signatures to the authority demanding that without compensations they would not surrender the khas land and their homesteads. As a result of demands from thousands of landless people the district administration and commander of the joint forces were compelled to sit for discussions with the landless members of Charmajid on 8th April and with the landless members of Charbagiya on 26th May. At the meeting landless males and females demanded their legitimate right to be resettled by being allotted 1.50 acres of khas land to each family.

Result: In Charmajid mouja 400 landless families have got their documents along with the 1.50 acres of land allotted to each family. In Charbagiya re-settlement process has been suspended for the time being but the landless members are currently residing in their own land.

procedures. As a result it not only created legal complexities but also opened avenues for the powerful coterie to grab land illegally in the name shrimp cultivation.

Forcible illegal occupation:

Since 1997-98 politically powerful coterie along with industrialists in collusion with administration are illegally occupying agricultural land in char areas by evicting landless members. It may be mentioned that only in char zia mouja 25-30 thousands landless families were living for the past 25-20 years by erecting their own settlement. For these landless families agriculture was the main source of livelihood. In 2001 by evicting the landless families from charzia mouja about 600 acres of land was taken by Maitri Agro fisheries. Consequently, by evicting the landless members with armed band these projects were attempting to expand their activities. In 2004 the hired armed band of shrimp cultivators attacked the landless families and one innocent landless member was killed. The landless members have filed a case in the thana and the case is still pending in court.

Box - 8: Morsheda and landless organisation

Landless leader Morsheda, aged 29, of mouja Charzia was injured on 23rd January 2008 while resisting illegal forcible occupation of land for shrimp cultivation. While undergoing treatment in the hospital Morsheda says, "We did not have an organisation, we were not united, we never responded to anybody's call. The jotdars took advantage of this situation and established shrimp farms. Now we are members of a landless organisation. Landless members are like brothers and sisters, unity means strength. Now we shall establish our rights. They will be compelled to allot khas land to the landless".

Landless organisation in resisting illegal occupation:

In August 2007 during harvesting season Maitri Agro fisheries hired armed thugs to evict 70 landless families with the assistance of police administration and illegally occupied 10 acres of agricultural land. On 21 January 2008, a landless representative meeting was called to discuss the overall situation. In the meeting decisions were made as to the strategies to be implemented and the steps to be taken for organizing a resistance. In the morning of 23rd January 2008 about 5 hundred landless people brought out a procession protesting the illegal occupation of land and proceeded towards charzia. At this point the armed band hired by the land-grabbing shrimp cultivators suddenly attacked the procession. However, the armed band was compelled to flee in the face of a combined resistance by the landless male/female members. Unfortunately, 15 landless members were injured by the armed thugs. The successful resistance of this attack gave momentum to the movement against illegal khas land occupation.

The role of hospital authority:

Landless leader Shipi Begaum, aged 28, of Charzia village says, "Hospital, police are all jotdar's henchmen. We have visited the hospital before but we are made to sit in the verandas. Nobody admits landless brothers and sisters in the hospital. But the doctors are providing medicines to the armed goons." Though injured landless members came to the hospital and waited for hours, the duty doctor refused to admit them claiming that the injuries were minor. As this became known landless members from other char areas flocked and gathered in the hospital ground. Demanding better treatments the landless members barricaded the hospital and called a strike. After laying siege for two hours the doctor were compelled to treat

the landless patients and after initial treatment 4 seriously injured members (*fractured limbs*) were sent to Noakhali Sadar hospital.

Harassment and role of Thana, police:

Immediately after the incident on 23 January 2008 the illegal shrimp farm owners filed a false case against 3 Nijera Kori staff and the landless organisation in the police thana. The case number is GR100/108. After making necessary

arrangements for the treatment of the injured members, the landless leaders came to the Char Jabbar police thana to file a case against the armed attack. But the officer-in-charge of the upazilla refused to accept the case and even threatened to arrest the landless leaders. The biased attitude of the police administration and threat given became known to the landless organisation instantly. Thousands of landless people from the Char areas gathered in front of Char Jabbar Thana in protest. At the same time the landless leaders decided to fight legally in the court. They filed a petition case at the district magistrate's court. The magistrate court gave directive to Charjabbar upazilla to enlist the incident as FIR and take legal action. Moreover, the magistrate visited the wounded people in the hospital and after reading about the incident from the

newspapers he proclaimed the whole episode as worrisome and sent a copy of his directive to the home ministry, I.G.P Police and the police super in Noakhali. But so far nothing resulted from this directive.

Investigation in person and the role of administration:

As the court directive was not carried out, the landless organisation in order to put pressure on the administration, attempted to get the support of the professional groups, reporters, various human rights organisations, women's organisations and

Box - 9: Black laws-land rights of the minority groups

District Khulna, upazilla Dumuria, Kusharlola Taltola mouja of Bhandarpara union. Prabhat Mandol was living with his family and relations in this mouja where his family has been living for generations. Atiqur Rahman, a politically powerful person of the locality, in collusion with the administration, listed the 6.49 acre of land as abandoned property. Since 1998, the powerful land grabber's coterie has been giving death threats to Prabhat Mondal. They have also obtained yearly DCR and therefore, have been forcibly occupying the area. With the help of the landless organisation, Prabhat Mondal filed a case in Khulna court in 2006 against the illegal declaration of the status of his property.

In 2006 the court sent a notice to Dumuria Upazilla land administration to show just cause for the declaration and issued order against the yearly DCR. In this situation, under the leadership of landless organisation, nearly hundred landless people cultivated rice in Prabhat Mondal's land. On the other hand, politically powerful Atiqur Rahman started holding talks with the administration in an attempt to get yearly DCR. The landless organisation, on August 20, 2007 presented a memorandum and mass signatures together with a copy of the court's verdict to the U.N.O demanding suspension of yearly DCR. In response to the memorandum, U.N.O invited the landless organisation and the villagers to his office on 23rd September. After hearing from the landless, the U.N.O. said that he would let them know his decision at a later date. But instead of making his decision known, the U.N.O secretly granted yearly DCR to land grabber Atiqur Rahman. The landless organisation has been organising meetings, gatherings, protests, barricading of the office of the Upazilla administration and collecting mass signatures for sending to the higher authorities. In response to this situation.

Result: Under the leadership of the organisation 6.41 acres of land that was occupied for the last ten years illegally by land grabbers has been retrieved. The landless organisation has taken the responsibility to ensure that Prabhat Mondal and his relatives can cultivate their land without facing any obstacles.

cultural organisations in Noakhali. As a result news regarding this situation was published and professional groups started exerting pressure on the administration. The leaders of landless organisation also collected about 4 thousand signatures and presented the signatures together with a copy of memorandum to the district magistrate. At the same time the landless organisation formed a human chain in front of the district administrative building to compel the district magistrate to take necessary actions to resolve the problem. As a result, the district administration agreed to sit with landless organisation for discussion. On 2nd March 2008 they held a meeting in which the district administration was biased in favour of the land grabbers and directed the landless members to vacate their settlements and leave quickly. At this point, the landless leaders boycotted the meeting.

In the meantime, the land grabbers, in collusion with administration, were activating the process of possessing the area of the shrimp farms. On 5th March Maitri Agro fisheries Ltd. started surveying the area with local surveyor and Kanongo. However, the protest undertaken by thousands of landless people forced the surveyors to suspend their work. On 7th March 2008 additional district administrator, (*revenue*) U.N.O assistant commissioner (*land*), land survey officer (*Kanongo*) Charjabbar Officer-in-charge came to investigate the area. After investigation the administration sat for discussion with the landless members of Charzia. In the discussion a temporary settlement was suggested but was rejected by the landless members who demanded that the khas land be allotted to landless members. On 8th March 2008 the land grabber shrimp farm owners came to Chargia with armed terrorists with the assistance of police administration. When this news spread, thousands of landless members gathered instantly and organised a procession to resist the attack. The terrorists could not withstand the resistance and fled and took refuge in the office of Agro-Fisheries Ltd. In order to maintain law and order, the landless members, barricaded the Agro-Fisheries office to prevent the terrorists from escaping. When the administration was informed the police delayed taking any immediate action. Next evening when the police came, the landless members handed the terrorists to the authority. From then on, Chargia came under the jurisdiction of landless members.

The landless organisation has formed a “Khas land retrieving Committee” in every mouja in order to consolidate the movement for dislodging illegal occupation of khas land in char areas. These committees, under the leadership of the Upazilla landless committee have taken the initiative to motivate the unorganised people in the char areas to participate in the movements and protests. In the char areas there are a lot of people gathering during the day time, and processions and protests take place. At night people’s songs are sang and people’s dramas are staged in the school ground and bazars. Landless organisation made a list of the names of the land grabbers and their hench man and made it public. As a result the hench man of the land grabber shrimp farm owners begged pardon to the landless members in front of the gathering and expressed their support for the cause of the landless members. On 18th March 2008 the process of dislodging the farms started and about 4 thousands landless members succeeded in dislodging the Baitus Darbar Sharif agro-fisheries in the presence of the upazilla committee. Various other illegal occupations are also in the process of dislodgment.

Result:

By dislodging illegal occupiers who have held the land for ten years, the landless organisation retrieved 400 acres of khas land. In the presence of upazilla committee the landless members were able to build settlement for 550 families in 400 acres of land.

Case study-5

Landless organisation's relentless struggle against the paradoxes in leasing policy and its implementation

Background:

Rural agricultural economy is mainly based on open rivers, water bodies, haors and beels (*extensive swamps and marshes*). There was a time when diverse rural production generated essentially from these sources. Our traditional agriculture and the lives and livelihood of the poor people depended on access to these water-bodies and rivers. These sources were freely available to both men and women. But due to powerful water-body grabbers, who are illegally grabbing the water bodies,

the poor masses are being deprived from having access to these sources and as a result the source of their livelihood is in great jeopardy. Traditionally the rural masses depended greatly on these water bodies for their source of nutrition which was derived mainly from fish from these water bodies. But now as they are deprived from having access to these sources they are gradually becoming susceptible to malnutrition.

Area:

Village Ambaria, Mirza Bari Union's Upazilla Madhupur under Tangail district.

Previous observation (situation):

The tail end of the Bangshi River stretches down to Mirzabari Union. The local people have used this common property (*asset*) as their hereditary right to use for catching fish, irrigating their land, decomposing the jute, washing and bathing their cattle, for rearing poultry and drawing its water for their daily chores. Previously the inhabitants of both the banks crossed the river by boat. But out of necessity they built a bamboo culvert over the main river at their own initiative. In 1989-1999 the government built a permanent bridge over the river responding to the demand of the local people. One side of this bridge is part of the Bangshi River and the other side is part of the Ceaogang River.

Legal status:

The part of Bangshi River which is known as the Chheogang or the Ceaogang River has been used by the local people as their hereditary right to khas water body for generations. According to the local people, during 1989-1999 the government drew the design and built a bridge over Bangshi, thereby, categorizing it as a river. During various surveys conducted by the land ministry, such as the Cadastral survey, the Modified Record of Rights survey and finally the Revisional operation survey, Bangshi River's Ceaogang portion was recorded as an open river in the government document. According to the government land survey information, Ambaria Mouja's 495 No. shows that 18 75 acres area of the Ceaogang water body has been recorded in NO 1 Khatian as khas water body.

Change of ownership:

Illegal, unitarian, forcible ownership opposing free access:

On the basis of government policy and legal frame the fishermen (*usually the Hindu minority community is associated with fishing and traditionally they are the forbearers of this occupation*) formed the Ambaria fishermen co-operative Samity Ltd. with the Slogan "jal jar jola tar". In 1972 this co-operative Samity was registered in accordance with the government law. Initially the fishermen co-operative Samity

Box – 10: "Illegal grabbing of leadership and sharing the benefit amongst Kinsfolk"

In 1972 Ambaria fishermen co-operative Samity Lt. was established. The fishing community of Chheogang established the Samity. But due to the prevalence of undemocratic government rule, over time religion based politics and terrorism flourished. As a result the minority community became victims of deprivation and persecution. They suffered from lack of security. Taking advantage of this situation, in 1995 the local leaders from the party-in-power formed the

Ambaria Fishermen co-operative Samity Lt. excluding the genuine fishermen from the minority community and started to extent their leadership and control over the Samity. These unscrupulous people, in order to promote and guard their self-interest always side with the party in power and safeguard their hold. At present all the 25 members of the Samity are related to each other and they are in control of the Samity. No objection was ever raised from the government registration office about the illegal membership of individuals belonging to the same family.

At present, Abdul Hakim is holding the post of secretary of this Samity and his three other brothers are giving leadership. Besides, the remaining members are either cousins and uncles or some other relative. By profession they are either engaged in some office job or are in business. None of them are fishermen by occupation. It is a glaring instance where a powerful family has illegally occupied a khas water-body and is reaping the benefit by sharing and dividing the profit amongst themselves.

fished from the water-body by taking lease from Union Parishad and the fishing community benefited from it year after year. Though the fishing community took the lease and cultivated and fished from the water body, the open water-body was freely used by the entire local population. This free use by the local population was never objected by the fishing community. No conflict

ever arose regarding the use of the water-body. Landless groups leader Keshab Chandra Das (43) from Ambaria village relates “Since liberation lease was taken for this river. Previously lease was taken by genuine fishermen. They sold fish in the market by fishing in the water-body. The villagers also caught fish in the water-body for eating. But now-a-days fish is being cultivated commercially. Instead of genuine fishermen, rich and powerful business men are cultivating fish in the water-body “. He further elaborates, “Since commercial cultivation of fish has started none of us are using the river. If we go to the river hired goons attack us. The business men file cases against us on flimsy allegations. Because they understand only business, profit is their main concern. This is our main problem.”

In 1995 few local leaders from the party in power forcibly excluded the genuine fishermen through intimidation and over took leadership of Ambaria Fishermen co-operative Samity. From 1997 by establishing contact with administration these water-body grabbers illegally took lease in Samity’s name from district administration for commercial fish cultivation. It may be mentioned here that though they have taken lease they do not cultivate fish, nor do they catch fish or are directly involved in the fishing business. Instead these powerful groups act as middlemen and sell the lease to big business men in Dhaka at a huge profit. But this practice is completely against law. It may be mentioned here that the local water-body grabbers, by using the name of the Samity act as hired guards for the third party business men.

This practice of transferring the lease illegally from one hand to another together with illegally guarding the water body is depriving the ordinary poor people from using the river.

Irregularity in issuing lease:

In 2005 government legally cancelled the issuance of lease of water-bodies, which amount to less than 20 acres in area.

Box – 11: “Government rules and policies for leasing water-body”

But the water-body grabbers, by establishing link with the administration took lease of open water body Chheogang (*which according to government cover only 18.75 acres record*) by making a false document in which the area was shown as 22 acres. In 1995 the water-body grabbers used the false documents and took lease for one year from the district administration and continued the process of taking lease illegally. It may be mentioned that these illegal lease holders sell the lease to others for profit which is grossly in violation of existing laws.

1. September 4, 1995 land ministry section -7 No/Bhu:/M:/7 bibidho 11/95/576 gazette notification states, to ensure the interest of the fishing community and to provide them livelihood the government has taken decision to nullify the leasing system of river, canal, bee and water-bodies.
2. 11 December 2005 date Bhu: /M: /Sha-7/bibidho 12/2005 in 814 (13) No sharok government declares that water-body measuring more than 20 acres in area will be given lease only by the district administrator.
3. The lease holders should essentially be genuine fishermen.

Above all, the grabbing of Ambaria Fisher men co-operative Samity through intimidation and force and taking lease in the Samity's name by depriving the genuine fishing community is in total violation of government policy.

Landless oragnisation's role in establishing rights on water-bodies:

The landless organisation has been in operating in Ambaria for nearly for 13 years. Since 2006 the landless organisation is demanding the cancellation of illegal lease of the water-body. They have not only demanded the cancellation but have also collected all the relevant records of the water-body. In 2007 the illegal lease holders started their clandestine activities. A number of times they attempted to grab the water-body by constructing bamboo partition under the bridge with the assistance of hired goons.

Every time their attempt was thwarted by the combined resistance of the landless organisation. In this situation the water-body grabbers sent the hired goons to the houses of the members of the landless organisation and threatened them with dire consequences. They also harassed the members by filing false cases. On 11 July 2007 the water-body grabbers with the assistance of hired goons and local tofshilder attempted to construct a bamboo wall under the bridge. When the landless members heard this news about 3 hundred landless males and females instantly united and resisted the illegal attempt. On the face of powerful resistance by the members the tofshilder was forced to initiate a meeting with the leaders of the landless organisation. After the meeting the tofshilder publicly declared Chheogang water-body as 'Open khas water-body'.

The landless organisation further demanded that Union Parishad should investigate the matter by visiting the place and declare the legal position of the water-body. As a result, on 11 September 2007 a team representing Union Parishad visited the place. After investigation Mirzabari Union Chairman publicly declared, “18 .75 acre Chheogang water body is part of the Bangshi river and khas”. At the same time on September 2007 the members of landless organisation went to the office of the district administration and handed over a memorandum with about a thousand signatures together with all the documents containing the legal status, policy, land survey record and other evidences relating to open water-bodies. Copies of these documents were also given to different sections of the relevant ministry.

On 15 October 2007 the U.N.O initiated a meeting with leaders of the landless organisation regarding the memorandum.

After examining the demands and the evidences he promised to proceed according to legal frame work. But on 22 August 2007

Assistant Commissioner (*land*) went with the police to inauguration Chheogang water-body for fish cultivation organised by the water-body grabbers. In this situation about 5

hundred landless men and women demanded the nullification of the illegal lease, termination of fish cultivation and declaration of the water-body as open asset. The assistant commissioner (*land*) by flouting the declaration made by the administration reaffirmed that the lease will be given for the water-body. As a result the landless men and women declared an instant sit-in-strike and announced to continue with the sit-in strike until the illegal lease was cancelled.

Box - 12: Equal access for all –Katakhal Beel

Kata Khali is situated in Gaibandha district’s Shaghata Upazila’s Kamal Para union. This beel, spreading over 21 acres was being used by about 2000-2005 families as hereditary open water body. Especially about 700 fishermen from the area derived their livelihood from this water body. In order to grab this beel illegally the local powerful coterie with the connivance of the administration formed a co-operative society called Jubo Unnayan Samity. Local leaders from the party in power by forming clandestine alliance with the administration took lease of 7 acres out of 21 acres of the water body with out making any definite demarcation. Though the illegal occupiers had taken lease of only 7 acres but they forcibly took possession of the entire water-body. Intimidated by the belligerent security guards installed by the illegal occupiers the local male/females stopped using the water –body. From 2005 the landless groups have been organising protests/ movements to cancel the illegal lease of Katakhal beel. Demanding cancellation of the lease the landless organisation handed memorandum together with mass- signatures to district-upazila administrations. This movement gradually started getting stronger through press-conference in which cancellation of the lease was high-lighted. With the co-operation and participation of local people the landless organisation presented memorandum to the upazilla administration on 16 April 2007 and more than a thousands men/women organised a sit-in-protest. In response to this demand the U.N.O declared an on the spot survey of the situation. On April 10 2007 the district administrator and U.N.O visited the spot in person. In the investigation lease of 7 acres of beel from 21 acres was proved illegal

Result: The district administration was declared the lease null and void on 3rd May 2007. 700 fishermen families are now earning their livelihood from this beel. Besides about 900 families are now using the beel for irrigation, fishing, rearing duck, etc.

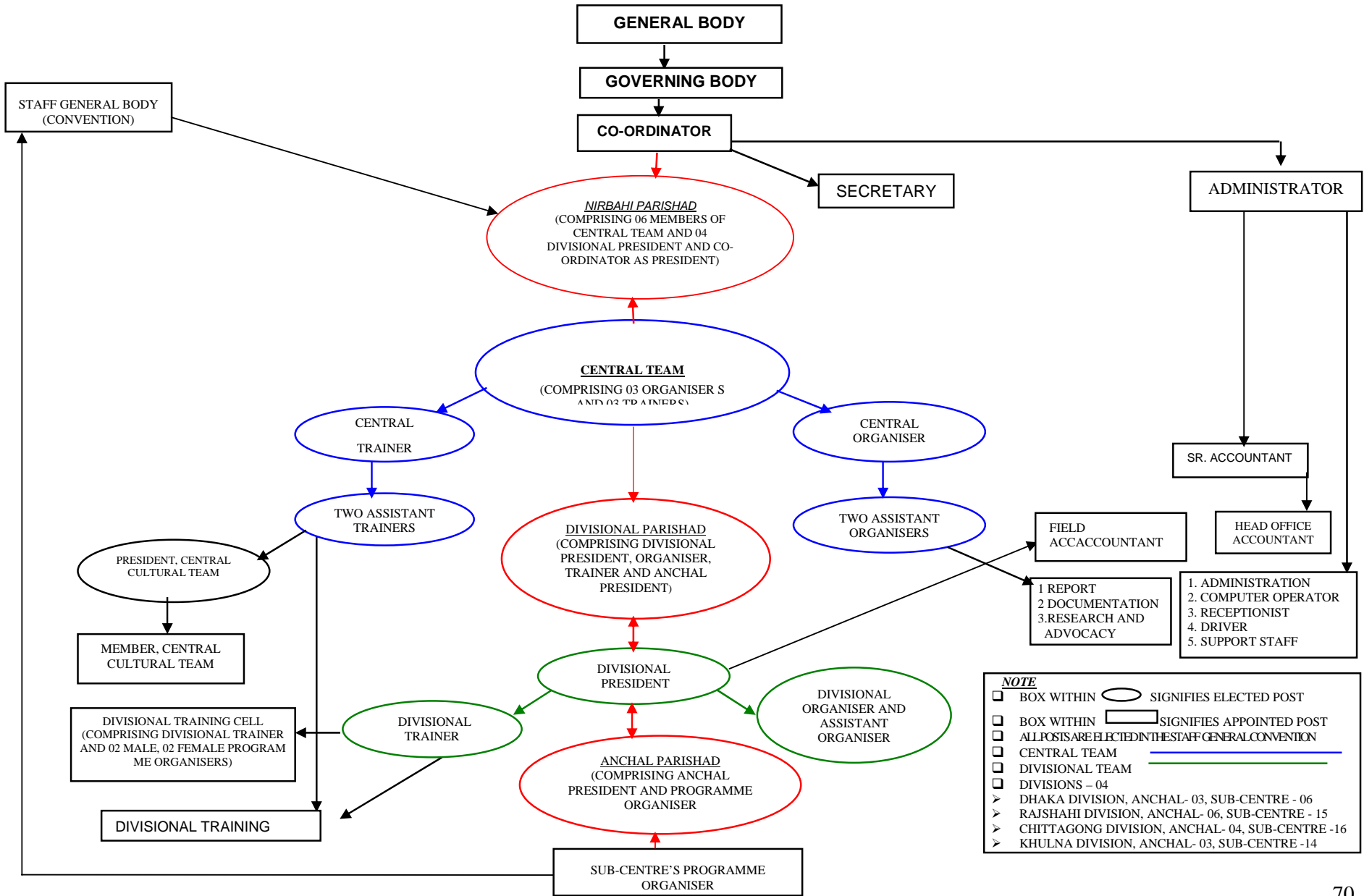
Two hours after the start of the sit-in strike the assistant commissioner (*land*) promised that after proper investigating, a decision regarding the water-body will be announced. On 7 February 2008, the U.N.O's' assistant commissioner (*land*) came in person to investigate the matter.

During investigation a survey was also conducted to determine the area of the water-body. The assistant commissioner (*land*) and the tofshilder announced that the area of the water-body was 22 acres instead of 18.75 acres. In this situation thousands of landless men /women demanded that the survey should be stopped because it was biased. Due to the pressure by the landless members, the survey was halted. At the same time the process of nullifying the illegal lease is also in abeyance. At present landless organisation is making preparation to file a case for nullifying the lease.

Result:

Due to the protests and movements organised by the landless organisation the 18.75 acre Chheogang water-body is still open to the general masses for use. Under the leadership and management of the landless organisation the local people are using the Chheogang water-body for catching fish, irrigation, bathing cattle and for daily house-hold chores. As a result, during monsoon nearly 5 hundred families catch fish in this water-body which not only provide them their daily dietary requirement but the surplus fish is sold in the market for an average daily earning of about 100 taka. This achievement is not merely an assurance of the existence of life and livelihood but is a positive step towards establishing the rights of the deprived people and ensuring their access to public asset.

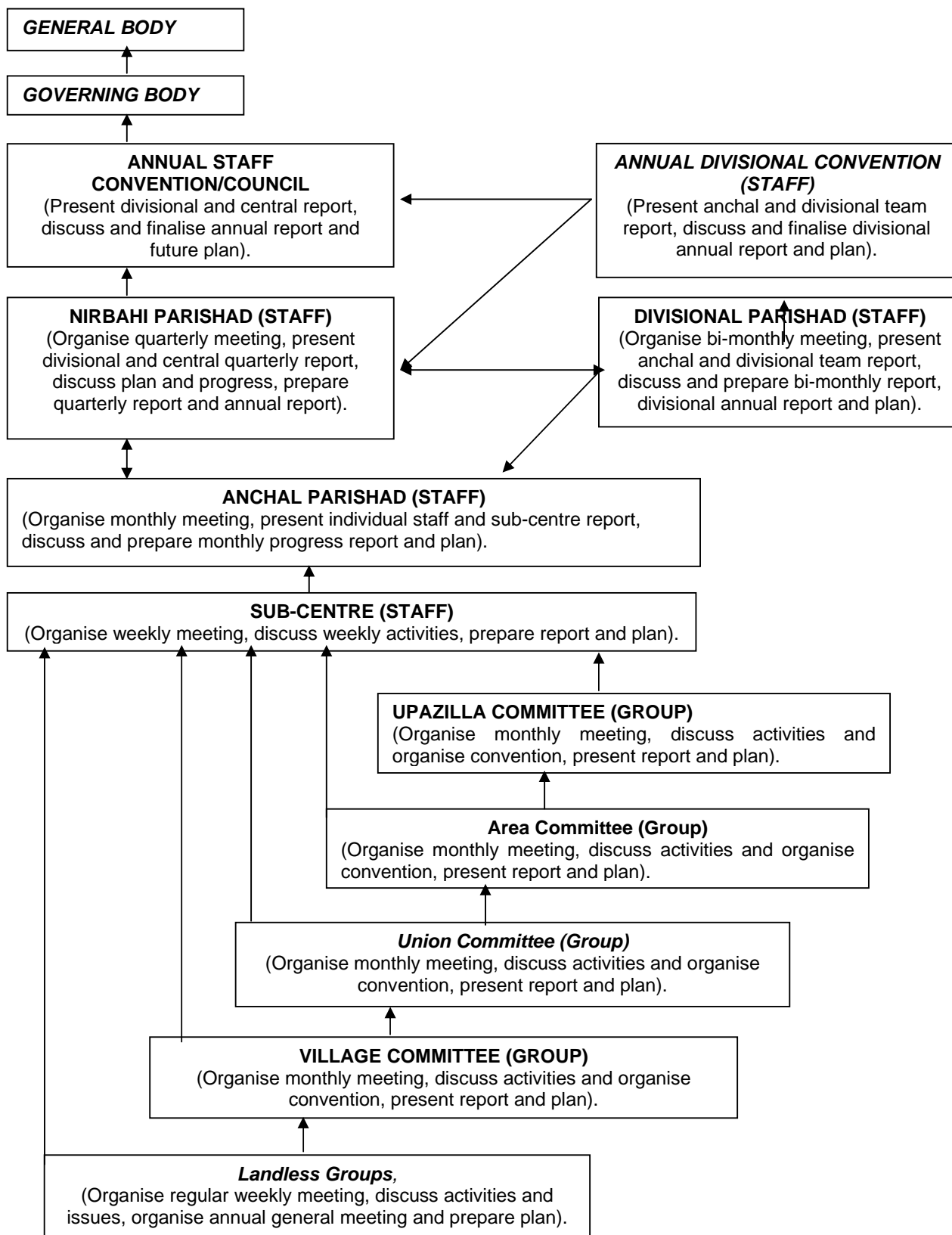
ORGANOGRAM OF NIJERA KORI

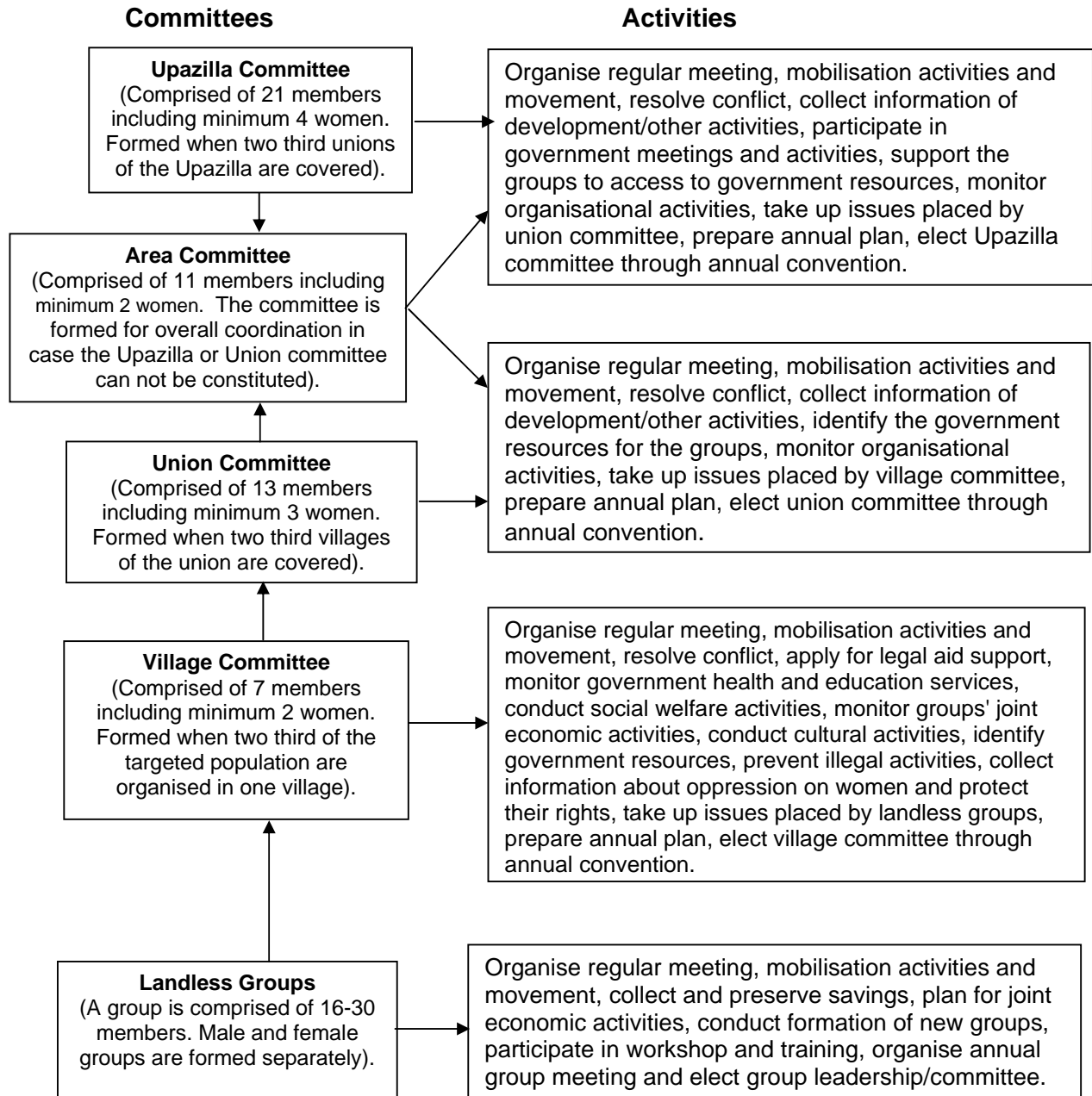


NOTE

- BOX WITHIN SIGNIFIES ELECTED POST
- BOX WITHIN SIGNIFIES APPOINTED POST
- ALL POSTS ARE ELECTED IN THE STAFF GENERAL CONVENTION
- CENTRAL TEAM —————
- DIVISIONAL TEAM —————
- DIVISIONS - 04
- DHAKA DIVISION, ANCHAL- 03, SUB-CENTRE - 06
- RAJSHAHI DIVISION, ANCHAL- 06, SUB-CENTRE - 15
- CHITTAGONG DIVISION, ANCHAL- 04, SUB-CENTRE -16
- KHULNA DIVISION, ANCHAL- 03, SUB-CENTRE -14

Planning and Monitoring Structure





**NIJERA KORI
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008**

RECEIPTS:	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Opening Balance:		
Project Funds	24,395,640.98	
Other Funds	2,252,968.95	
Development Fund	<u>10,261,179.84</u>	36,909,789.77
Grants From:		
Christian Aid	6,720,000.00	
D.F.I.D	99,617,962.81	
E.E.D	11,228,126.52	
I.C.C.O.	5,814,000.00	
Interpares	250,000.00	
The Swallows	1,000,000.00	
SSNC - Fund	<u>687,152.17</u>	125,317,241.50
Exchange Gain	-	3,254,446.44
Other Receipts	-	952,512.66
Advance Realised	-	21,170.00
Other Funds	-	10,726,443.95
	Taka	177,181,604.32
PAYMENTS:		
Civil Construction		7,461,739.00
Other Material Inputs		1,131,248.00
Personnel		59,177,934.00
Training Expenses		14,443,356.00
Seminar, Meeting, and Conference		14,386,321.00
Training & Sub Centre Accommodation		4,240,736.00
Office Equipment		1,394,876.00
Tube Well		8,295.00
Vehicles		5,966,350.00
Traveling and Daily Allowances		4,272,729.00
Contingency		7,842,142.00
Others		19,131,607.86
Closing Balance:		
Development Fund		20,807,714.79
Other Funds	3,406,560.61	
Project Funds	<u>13,509,995.06</u>	16,916,555.67
	Taka	177,181,604.32

**Dated, Dhaka
June 30, 2008**




S.K. BARUA & CO.
Chartered Accountants

ANNEX-F (B)

TABLE – 01: Geographical Location of Programmes of Nijera Kori

Sl. No	Division	District	Upazilla	Area	Sub-centre	Expansion in 2007-08		Total up to March 2008		Village Coverage		
						Union	Village	Union	Village	Up to March 2007	New Coverage in 2007-08	Up to March 2008
01.	Chittagong	Comilla	Chandina Daudkandi Debidwar Muradnagar Matlab	Comilla	05	--	--	29	136	23	02	25
		Chandpur										
		Noakhali	Sudharam Companigonj Kabirhat Subarnachar	Charjabbar	05	01	01	09	45	02	03	05
		Lakshmipur	Ramgoti	Ramgoti	03	--	--	06	28	03	--	03
	Chittagong	Sandwip	Sandwip	Sandwip	04	--	--	14	34	--	--	--
	01	05	11	04	17	01	01	58	243	28	05	33
02.	Dhaka	Tangail	Mirzapur Delduar Tangail Sadar	Tangail	04	--	02	11	80	23	02	24
			Madhupur Dhanbari	Madhupur	02	--	03	12	125	16	01	17
		Sherpur	Sribardi	Sribardi	01	01	--	03	21	--	--	--
	01	02	06	03	07	01	05	26	226	39	03	42
03.	Khulna	Kushtia	Kumarkhali khoksa	Kumarkhali	02	--	--	07	51	10	01	11
		Meherpur	Meherpur Sadar Gangni	Gangni	04	--	01	07	48	16	--	16
		Khulna	Paikgacha Dumuria Batiaghata Dakope	Paikgacha	09	--	--	17	166	33	02	35
	01	03	08	03	15	--	01	31	265	59	03	62
04.	Rajshahi	Sirajgonj	Raygonj	Noongola	03	--	--	05	82	09	02	11
		Bogra	Bogra Sadar									
		Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar Mithapukur	Rangpur	02	--	01	09	77	17	02	19
		Dinajpur	Khanshama	Dinajpur	01	--	--	04	22	03	--	03
		Kurigram	Rowmari Rajibpur	Rowmari	02	--	02	08	95	17	02	19
		Gaibandha	Palashbari Saghata Sadullapur Gobindagonj Pirgonj	Gaibandha	04	--	01	23	191	53	09	62
Natore	Bagatipara Lalpur Natore Sadar	Bagatipara	03	--	--	10	163	29	06	35		
	01	07	15	06	15	--	04	59	630	128	21	149
T	04	17	40	16	54	02	11	174	1,364	254	32	286

T=Total

LIST OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2005-2007

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

TABLE – 02 (Group Formation)

Division	Up to March 2007			Plan			Implementation			Total up to March 2008		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	2,148	2,489	4,637	168	185	353	149	180	329	2,297	2,669	4,966
Dhaka	683	798	1,481	47	37	84	41	33	74	724	831	1,555
Khulna	857	1,269	2,126	61	61	122	47	57	104	904	1,326	2,230
Chittagong	2,017	2,273	4,290	172	161	333	158	156	314	2,175	2,429	4,604
Total	5,705	6,829	12,534	448	444	892	395	426	821	6,100	7,255	13,355

TABLE – 03 (Group Member)

Division	Up to March 2007			Plan			Implementation			Total up to March 2008		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	46,136	48,865	95,001	3,360	3,700	7,060	2,825	3,469	6,294	48,961	52,334	101,295
Dhaka	14,859	15,783	30,642	940	740	1,680	781	609	1,390	15,640	16,392	32,032
Khulna	19,775	26,686	46,461	1,220	1,220	2,440	845	1,000	1,845	20,620	27,686	48,306
Chittagong	43,641	44,289	87,930	3,440	3,220	6,660	3,144	3,075	6,219	46,785	47,364	94,149
Total	124,411	135,623	260,034	8,960	8,880	17,840	7,595	8,153	15,748	132,006	143,776	275,782

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

Division	Plan for Group Meeting			Implementation of Group Meeting Attended By Staff			Implementation of Group Meeting Attended By Only Group			Total implementation of Group Meeting By (Group and Staff)			Implementation of Annual Group Meeting		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	51,491	55,494	106,985	10,851	20,746	31,597	28,976	22,992	51,968	39,827	43,738	83,565	1,930	2,277	4,207
Dhaka	20,877	20,900	41,777	4,438	6,915	11,353	11,697	8,356	20,053	16,135	15,271	31,406	412	426	838
Khulna	21,591	33,159	54,750	8,230	16,029	24,259	7,399	7,295	14,694	15,629	23,324	38,953	637	983	1,620
Chittagong	33,634	36,659	70,293	13,284	18,445	31,729	11,990	11,532	23,522	25,274	29,977	55,251	1,743	2,116	3,859
Total	127,593	146,212	273,805	36,803	62,135	98,938	60,062	50,175	110,237	96,865	112,310	209,175	4,722	5,802	10,524

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

Division	Workshop				Representative Meeting		Joint Group Meeting	
	Plan		Implementation		Plan	Implementation	Plan	Implementation
	Number	Participant	Number	Participant				
Rajshahi	33	825	33	982	276	251	443	388
Dhaka	27	675	23	681	97	100	49	85
Khulna	17	425	19	459	249	160	189	229
Chittagong	64	1,600	56	1,431	354	376	51	68
Total	141	3,525	131	3,553	976	887	732	770

TABLE – 06 (Formation of Structural Committee)

Division	Total up to March 2007				Plan				Implementation				Total up to March 2008			
	Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee			
	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area
Rajshahi	127	11	1	3	32	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	149	11	1	3
Dhaka	37	6	1	3	7	2	-	-	5	1	-	-	42	7	1	3
Khulna	52	3	-	12	7	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	55	3	-	12
Chittagong	59	2	1	13	6	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	60	3	1	14
Total	275	22	3	31	52	3	-	1	31	2	-	1	306	24	3	32

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	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area	Village	Union	Upazilla	Area
Rajshahi	1,556	132	12	36	1,495	130	12	36	159	11	1	3	149	10	-	3
Dhaka	451	74	12	36	385	55	11	32	44	8	1	3	42	1	-	2
Khulna	631	36	-	144	548	31	-	136	59	3	-	12	49	2	-	11
Chittagong	714	25	12	156	653	25	6	156	65	3	1	14	56	3	-	12
Total	3,352	267	36	372	3,081	241	29	360	327	25	3	32	296	16	-	28

TABLE – 08 (Group Saving)

Division	Total up to March 2007			Plan			Implementation			Distribution			Total up to March 2008		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rajshahi	3,582,169	5,868,766	9,450,935	2,914,144	3,463,830	6,377,974	3,034,435	3,356,562	6,390,997	1,947,701	1,667,674	3,615,375	4,668,903	7,557,654	12,226,557
Dhaka	1,986,619	1,815,212	3,801,831	1,132,981	1,069,818	2,202,799	905,152	850,810	1,755,962	785,429	358,099	1,143,528	2,106,342	2,307,923	4,414,265
Khulna	2,536,687	5,730,977	8,267,664	1,612,297	3,131,949	4,744,246	1,221,702	2,381,777	3,603,479	1,027,500	1,589,021	2,616,521	2,730,889	6,523,733	9,254,622
Chittagong	5,834,086	8,590,126	14,424,212	4,370,897	4,222,271	8,593,168	3,461,087	3,570,548	7,031,635	689,776	515,155	1,204,931	8,605,397	11,645,519	20,250,916
Total	13,939,561	22,005,081	35,944,642	10,030,319	11,887,868	21,918,187	8,622,376	10,159,697	18,782,073	4,450,406	4,129,949	8,580,355	18,111,531	28,034,829	46,146,360

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

Division	Bank Account									Position of Group Saving			
	Total up to March 2007			New Increases in 2007-08			Total up to March 08			Total up to March 2008			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Bank	Cash	Investment	Total
Rajshahi	379	691	1,070	26	42	68	405	733	1,138	1,350,544	1,850,478	9,025,535	12,226,557
Dhaka	279	406	685	46	33	79	325	439	764	331,763	459,213	3,623,289	4,414,265
Khulna	200	606	806	12	43	55	212	649	861	952,241	652,785	7,649,596	9,254,622
Chittagong	502	822	1,324	3	13	16	505	835	1,340	2,539,192	1,996,572	15,715,152	20,250,916
Total	1,360	2,525	3,885	87	131	218	1,447	2,656	4,103	5,173,740	4,959,048	36,013,572	46,146,360

TABLE – 10-A (Training)

Subject	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Khulna			Chittagong			Total							
	N	Participant		N	Participant		N	Participant		N	Participant		N	Participant						
		M	F		T	M		F	T		M	F		T	M	F	T			
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING																				
Basic																				
Up to March 2007		3,056	3,019	6,075		1,450	1,689	3,139		1,743	1,721	3,464		2,775	3,035	5,810		9,024	9,464	18,488
Plan	24	300	300	600	13	175	150	325	18	225	225	450	22	275	275	550	77	975	950	1,925
Implementation	24	293	293	586	13	167	145	312	18	220	217	437	22	262	277	539	77	942	932	1,874
Total up to March 2008		3,349	3,312	6,661		1,617	1,834	3,451		1,963	1,938	3,901		3,037	3,312	6,349		9,966	10,396	20,362
Advance																				
Up to March 2007		994	1,021	2,015		473	515	988		666	650	1,316		695	875	1,570		2,828	3,061	5,889
Plan	7	98	77	175	4	52	48	100	5	64	61	125	6	75	75	150	22	289	261	550
Implementation	7	89	85	174	4	50	45	95	5	63	55	118	6	72	78	150	22	274	263	537
Total up to March 2008		1,083	1,106	2,189		523	560	1,083		729	705	1,434		767	953	1,720		3,102	3,324	6,426
Higher Selection																				
Up to March 2007		348	309	657		177	185	362		255	230	485		297	321	618		1,077	1,045	2,122
Plan	3	50	25	75	2	25	25	50	3	50	25	75	3	25	50	75	11	150	125	275
Implementation	3	47	24	71	2	20	23	43	3	48	24	72	3	16	46	62	11	131	117	248
Total up to March 2008		395	333	728		197	208	405		303	254	557		313	367	680		1,208	1,162	2,370
Hight																				
Up to March 2007		43	25	68		20	23	43		39	22	61		36	28	64		138	98	236
Plan		5	3	8	-	2	2	4		3	3	6		3	4	7	1	13	12	25
Implementation		5	3	8	-	2	2	4		3	3	6		3	4	7	1	13	12	25
Total up to March 2008		48	28	76		22	25	47		42	25	67		39	32	71		151	110	261
OTHER TRAINING																				
Production & Management																				
Up to March 2007		117	69	186		69	53	122		111	78	189		109	89	198		406	289	695
Plan	2	28	22	50	2	26	24	50	2	26	24	50	2	25	25	50	8	105	95	200
Implementation	2	26	24	50	2	24	23	47	2	24	25	49	2	24	24	48	8	98	96	194
Total up to March 2008		143	93	236		93	76	169		135	103	238		133	113	246		504	385	889
Leadership Development																				
Up to March 2007		115	77	192		90	69	159		111	79	190		104	89	193		420	314	734
Plan	2	28	22	50	2	26	24	50	2	25	25	50	2	24	26	50	8	103	97	200
Implementation	2	26	24	50	2	21	27	48	2	23	25	48	2	22	28	50	8	92	104	196
Total up to March 2008		141	101	242		111	96	207		134	104	238		126	117	243		512	418	930
Right & Access to Information																				
Up to March 2007		93	68	161		68	64	132		102	64	166		94	76	170		357	272	629
Plan	2	28	22	50	2	26	24	50	2	25	25	50	2	26	24	50	8	105	95	200
Implementation	2	24	25	49	2	25	18	43	2	25	24	49	2	29	22	51	8	103	89	192
Total up to March 2008		117	93	210		93	82	175		127	88	215		123	98	221		460	361	821

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

TABLE – 10-B (Training)

Subject	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Khulna			Chittagong			Total							
	N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant						
		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T		M	F	T				
Globalisation & Sustainable																				
Up to March 2007		519	272	791		115	94	209		662	658	1,320		506	341	847		1,802	1,365	3,167
Plan	2	28	22	50	2	26	24	50	2	25	25	50	2	25	25	50	8	104	96	200
Implementation	2	24	22	46	2	26	21	47	2	31	18	49	2	26	24	50	8	107	85	192
Total up to March 2008		543	294	837		141	115	256		693	676	1,369		532	365	897		1,909	1,450	3,359
Citizen Rights & Constitutional Guarantees																				
Up to March 2007		454	411	865		248	225	473		587	490	1,077		428	485	913		1,717	1,611	3,328
Plan	2	28	22	50	2	26	24	50	4	56	44	100	3	38	37	75	11	148	127	275
Implementation	2	26	22	48	2	26	23	49	4	58	42	100	3	42	33	75	11	152	120	272
Total up to March 2008		480	433	913		274	248	522		645	532	1,177		470	518	988		1,869	1,731	3,600
Land Law & Management System																				
Up to March 2007		40	30	70		52	43	95		79	67	146		68	51	119		239	191	430
Plan	1	14	11	25	1	13	12	25	1	13	12	25	1	12	13	25	4	52	48	100
Implementation	1	14	11	25	1	13	9	22	1	18	7	25	1	12	14	26	4	57	41	98
Total up to March 2008		54	41	95		65	52	117		97	74	171		80	65	145		296	232	528
Adivasi & Land Rights																				
Up to March 2007		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-
Plan	1	14	11	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	11	25
Implementation	1	12	11	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	11	23
Total up to March 2008		12	11	23		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		12	11	23
Land & Women Rights																				
Up to March 2007		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-
Plan	-	8	8	16	-	5	5	10	-	5	5	10	-	7	7	14	2	25	25	50
Implementation	-	8	8	16	-	5	5	10	-	5	5	10	-	7	7	14	2	25	25	50
Total up to March 2008		8	8	16		5	5	10		5	5	10		7	7	14		25	25	50
Cultural (Basic)																				
Up to March 2007		179	17	196		156	32	188		142	28	170		114	36	150		591	113	704
Plan	2	28	12	40	3	42	18	60	1	12	8	20	2	24	16	40	8	106	54	160
Implementation	2	27	10	37	2	25	13	38	1	10	11	21	2	24	14	38	7	86	48	134
Total up to March 2008		206	27	233		181	45	226		152	39	191		138	50	188		677	161	838
Cultural (Advance)																				
Up to March 2007		42	8	50		36	12	48		32	15	47		29	13	42		139	48	187
Plan	-	6	4	10	-	6	4	10	-	6	4	10	-	6	4	10	2	24	16	40
Implementation	-	8	1	9	-	7	4	11	-	9	1	10	-	7	4	11	2	31	10	41
Total up to March 2008		50	9	59		43	16	59		41	16	57		36	17	53		170	58	228
Cultural (Higher)																				
Up to March 2007		17	4	21		13	5	18		12	6	18		11	3	14		53	18	71
Plan	-	3	2	5	-	3	2	5	-	3	2	5	-	3	2	5	1	12	8	20
Implementation	-	3	2	5	-	3	2	5	-	3	2	5	-	3	2	5	1	12	8	20
Total up to March 2008		20	6	26		16	7	23		15	8	23		14	5	19		65	26	91

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

TABLE - 11 (Refresher Training and Training Forum)

Division	Refresher Training				Workshop For Higher Trainees				Forum		Forum Meetings	
	Plan		Implementation		Plan		Implementation		Up to March 2007	Up to March 2008	Plan	Implementation
	No.	Participant	No.	Participant	No.	Participant	No.	Participant				
Rajshahi	48	1,200	35	944	-	10	-	9	16	16	192	186
Dhaka	22	550	16	447	-	5	-	5	5	5	60	49
Khulna	21	525	15	388	-	6	-	6	12	12	144	152
Chittagong	50	1,250	41	1,047	-	9	-	9	9	9	108	108
Total	141	3,525	107	2,826	1	30	1	29	42	42	504	495

TABLE – 12 (Cultural Activity)

Division	Cultural Group		Cultural Workshop				Drama Based Workshop				Cultural Activity									
	Up to March 2007	Up to March 2008	Plan		Implementation		Plan		Implementation		Plan					Implementation				
			N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	Meeting	Discussion	Drama	Drama Festival/ Padajatra	People Song	Meeting	Discussion	Drama	Drama Festival/ Padajatra	People Song
	Rajshahi	20	21	7	140	7	130	1	10	1	10	256	39	227	2	122	211	37	181	2
Dhaka	15	15	5	116	5	120	1	10	1	10	157	24	110	3	83	150	20	110	3	71
Khulna	15	17	6	120	6	116	1	10	1	10	180	18	120	3	74	174	20	146	3	85
Chittagong	9	10	9	162	7	135	1	10	1	10	116	16	128	4	119	106	14	119	4	111
Total	59	63	27	538	25	501	4	40	4	40	709	97	585	12	398	641	91	556	12	386

N = No of Workshop, P = Participants

TABLE – 13 (Joint Economic Activity)

Description		Agriculture	Fishery	Livestock	Rickshaw/Van	Shallow/Crasher	Small Business	Total
Up to March 2007								
Group	Male	722	155	312	118	4	719	2,030
	Female	566	22	145	10	1	901	1,645
	Total	1,288	177	457	128	5	1,620	3,675
Member	Male	14,783	3,821	6,872	2,165	127	13,410	41,178
	Female	10,299	369	2,887	172	18	16,556	30,301
	Total	25,082	4,190	9,759	2,337	145	29,966	71,479
Employment	Male	5,563	1,625	111	342	55	2,988	10,684
	Female	796	378	557	-	102	4,681	6,514
Quantity		1,015	392	827	306	9	-	-
Investment in TK		15,091,192	4,520,768	4,505,870	1,011,979	163,286	6,831,543	32,124,638
Increase in April 2007-March 2008								
Group	Male	105	15	100	12	-	201	433
	Female	75	4	58	2	-	214	353
	Total	180	19	158	14	-	415	786
Member	Male	2,098	241	1,861	257	-	3,833	8,290
	Female	1,461	62	1,116	38	-	4,036	6,713
	Total	3,559	303	2,977	295	-	7,869	15,003
Employment	Male	204	52	87	16	-	136	495
	Female	135	7	35	1	-	148	326
Quantity		128.75	26.86	126	20	-	-	-
Investment in TK		2,244,705	144,500	1,573,229	132,925	-	2,848,677	6,944,036
Decrease in April 2007-March 2008								
Group	Male	39	8	32	9	-	118	206
	Female	37	4	12	2	1	107	163
	Total	76	12	44	11	1	225	369
Member	Male	774	156	670	190	40	2,457	4,287
	Female	723	80	167	40	18	2,220	3,248
	Total	1,497	236	837	230	58	4,677	7,535
Employment	Male	7	2	20	18	15	29	91
	Female	3	-	4	-	102	11	120
Quantity		16.12	1.40	44	48	5	-	-
Investment in TK		1,044,682	56,800	494,400	389,500	103,286	966,434	3,055,102
Total up to March 2008								
Group	Male	788	162	380	121	4	802	2,257
	Female	604	22	191	10	-	1,008	1,835
	Total	1,392	184	571	131	4	1,810	4,092
Member	Male	16,107	3,906	8,063	2,232	87	14,786	45,181
	Female	11,037	351	3,836	170	-	18,372	33,766
	Total	27,144	4,257	11,899	2,402	87	33,158	78,947
Employment	Male	5,760	1,675	178	340	40	3,095	11,088
	Female	928	385	588	1	-	4,818	6,720
	Total	6,688	2,060	766	341	40	7,913	17,808
Quantity		1,127.84	416.97	909	278	4	-	-
Investment in TK		16,291,215	4,608,468	5,584,699	755,404	60,000	8,713,786	36,013,572
Profit in cash (2007-08)	Male	1,028,484	739,400	286,000	64,260	13,350	604,967	2,736,461
	Female	495,214	30,880	73,001	1,720	-	983,649	1,584,464
	Total	1,523,698	770,280	359,001	65,980	13,350	1,588,616	4,320,925

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

Description	VGF/VGD Allowances	Elder Allowances	Widow Allowances	Freedom Fighter Allowances	Relife and Others Allowances	Total
Rajshahi	8,752	2,849	1,784	133	7,196	20,714
Dhaka	306	364	341	74	30	1,115
Khulna	2,298	785	434	132	2,620	6,269
Chittagong	1,407	1,958	1,600	202	508	5,675
Total	12,763	5,956	4,159	541	10,354	33,773

TABLE – 15 (Legal Aid Activity)

Division	Cases up to March 2007	New Cases	Total Cases	Cases Settled	Result		Cases on Appeal	Remaining Total Cases	Nijera Kori Run Cases	Group Run Cases
					Favour	Against				
Rajshahi	126	23	149	22	18	4	1	128	38	90
Dhaka	115	29	144	30	19	11	0	114	42	72
Khulna	136	16	152	8	5	3	3	147	48	99
Chittagong	271	37	308	15	12	3	8	301	127	174
Total	648	103	751	75	53	22	12	688	255	433

TABLE – 16 (Level of Group Consciousness)

Description	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Khulna			Chittagong			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Secondary Level															
Up to March 2007	300	244	544	77	65	142	201	163	364	302	276	578	880	748	1628
Plan	72	60	132	38	33	71	26	24	50	39	36	75	175	153	328
Implementation	48	49	97	23	22	45	21	22	43	34	35	69	126	128	254
Total up to March 2008	348	293	641	100	87	187	222	185	407	336	311	647	1006	876	1882
Third Level															
Up to March 2007	31	26	57	2	0	2	29	21	50	32	18	50	94	65	159
Plan	25	17	42	6	2	8	9	5	14	9	9	18	49	33	82
Implementation	16	15	31	5	2	7	7	3	10	8	8	16	36	28	64
Total up to March 2008	47	41	88	7	2	9	36	24	60	40	26	66	130	93	223

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	Within Group (TK)	Outside Group (TK)	Total (TK)	By Group Member	Among Group	Outside of Group	Total
Village Convention	2,767	296	80,377	-	80,377	771	Grassroots people		
Union Convention	1,390	16	16,935	-	16,935	114	Grassroots people		
Thana Convension by Representative Meeting	657	3	7,725	-	7,725	90	Grassroots people		
Regional Convention	2,250	28	40,944	-	40,944	107	Grassroots people		
Workshop	2,500	131	42,827	-	42,827	412	Grassroots people		
Refresher Training	2,165	107	44,002	-	44,002	244	Grassroots people		
Social Movement/Struggle	504	671	40,290	-	40,290	580	Grassroots people		
Cultural Programme	2,034	142	51,850	-	51,850	617	Grassroots people		
Observance of National/International Day	4,786	196	99,789	-	99,789	1,169	Grassroots people		
Conducting Case	2,093	407	365,361	-	365,361	226	703	68	771
Assistance to Family of arrested Member	177	19	15,080	-	15,080	26	38	3	41
Sub Total	21,323	2,016	805,180	-	805,180	4,356	741	71	812
Medical Support	3,096	394	232,628	40,717	273,345	574	212	182	394
School Repairing	25	1	900	-	900	14	100	82	182
Educational Support	168	47	9,710	2,651	12,361	45	29	18	47
Marriage without Dowry	113	32	21,790	550	22,340	16	17	15	32
Contribution in Marriage	278	63	105,930	22,140	128,070	285	41	22	63
Bridge Repairing/ Construction	328	29	36,490	-	36,490	482	2,378	1,150	3,528
Road Repairing/ Reconstruction	368	36	64,390	-	64,390	1,287	3,074	2,093	5,167
Dredging of Canal	175	16	12,635	-	12,635	636	1,020	210	1,230
Repairing of house	303	88	29,450	1,320	30,770	302	47	41	88
Tree Plantation	66	8	3,775	-	3,775	53	200	50	250
Burial	470	77	51,120	33,045	84,165	170	52	25	77
Sub Total	5,390	791	568,818	100,423	669,241	3,864	7,170	3,888	11,058
Total	26,713	2,807	1,373,998	100,423	1,474,421	8,220	8,521	4,399	12,920

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

<i>Description</i>	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
Union Parishad Up To March 2008	14	12	16	28	6	5	4	9	12	10	9	19	25	21	14	35	57	48	43	91
School Management Committee till March 2007	81	98	11	109	12	23	3	26	58	54	28	82	88	277	27	304	239	452	69	521
School Management Committee till March 2008	107	97	19	116	19	24	4	28	49	51	24	75	70	101	9	110	245	273	56	329
Market Committee till March 2007	30	53	0	53	6	12	0	12	31	56	0	56	41	125	5	130	108	246	5	251
Market Committee till March 2008	38	68	21	89	6	12	0	12	24	49	2	51	42	90	3	93	110	219	26	245
Sugarcane Purchase Committee till March 2007	2	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	4
Nominated till March 2008	2	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	4
Project Management Committee (U.P) till March 2007	4	5	1	6	8	8	2	10	6	6	1	7	12	24	25	49	30	43	29	72
Nominated till March 2008	10	10	2	12	8	8	2	10	6	6	1	7	5	4	2	6	29	28	7	35
Sluice Gate Management Committee till March 2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	16	0	16	4	11	1	12	17	27	1	28
Sluice Gate Management Committee till March 2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	16	0	16	4	11	1	12	17	27	1	28
Social Movement Committee till March 2007	11	16	12	28	6	50	0	50	3	30	20	50	81	86	64	150	101	182	96	278
Social Movement Committee till March 2008	13	18	14	32	17	52	0	52	2	20	11	31	10	36	14	50	42	126	39	165
Watch Sub Committee till March 2007	5	13	12	25	5	15	10	25	5	19	6	25	5	16	9	25	20	63	37	100
Watch Sub Committee till March 2008	5	13	12	25	5	15	10	25	5	19	6	25	5	16	9	25	20	63	37	100

M= Male, F= Female, T= Total

TABLE – 19 (Participation in Local Salish)

Description		Women against: dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, kidnapping, physical assault, fundamentalism & religious indictment	Illegal Possession of Property from the Landless	Fundamentalism	Issue of Injustice & oppression	Total	
Total Salish of Current Year 2007-08		833	183	8	496	1,520	
Member attended the Salish	Male	8,123	2,352	122	1,575	12,172	
	Female	4,826	974	49	900	6,749	
Nature of Participation in Salish	Salish at Self-initiative of Landless Leader Nijera Kori	By Female Leader	79	-	-	33	112
		Jointly by Female & Male Leader	345	58	2	289	694
	Salish under Joint Leadership of Landless and Village Authority	UP Chairman	68	33	1	29	131
		UP Member	109	29	3	50	191
		Teacher	23	10	1	13	47
		Local Matbar	169	37	1	71	278
		Political Persons	40	16	-	11	67
Landless Leader as Judge/Mediator	Male	1,383	481	19	716	2,599	
	Female	560	110	5	220	895	
	Total	1,943	591	24	936	3,494	
Landless Leader as Judge/Mediator In Internal Group Salish	Male	464	76	-	294	834	
	Female	214	12	-	99	325	
	Total	678	88	-	393	1,159	
Result	No of settled Salish	786	174	8	410	1,378	
	No of unsettled Salish	47	9	-	86	142	
No of Court Cases on Unsettled Salish		35	3	-	27	65	

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

Subject	Khas Land (Acre)								Water Body (Acre)					
	Land Registered		Land Leased		Land Owned		DCR		Water Body Leased		Water Body Owned		Water Body Open	
	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land
Up to March 2007	21,670	21,043.58	345	108.30	45,552	25,740.18	8	5.18	881	344.25	2,768	726.99	9,000	1,238.02
Increase in April 2007-March 2008	188	27.78	-	-	807	1,009.08	44	36.96	-	-	320	20.84	750	49.56
Total March 2008	21,858	21,071.36	345	108.30	46,359	26,749.26	52	42.14	881	344.25	3,088	747.83	9,750	1,287.58

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

Description	No of Movement for Reclaiming Illegally Occupied Land	Won in the Movement for Own Land and Quantity of Regained Land		No of Movement against Commercial Shrimp	Won in the Movement against Commercial Shrimp and Quantity of Regained Land			Beneficiary Family	No of Present Movement
		No.	Amount of Land (Acre)		No.	Amount of Land (Acre)	Amount of Water Bodies (Acre)		
Last Year	173	156	32.42	37	30	236	900	10,200	24
Current Year	40	39	219.76	38	37	42	30.81	721	2

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

Issue of Social Movement /Struggle	Issue raised by organisation of Women / Men	On going Movement in 2006-07		Total No of Movement in Current Year	Division wise Movement/ Struggle in 2007-2008					Total No of Movement in Current Year & running for last year	No of Movement Won			On going Movement till date
		Women / Men	Total		Rajs	Dha	Khu	Chit	Total		in running for last year	In Current Year	Total	
Violence against women: dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical assault, kidnapping, fundamentalism and religious indictment	Women	17	26	442	145	18	32	114	309	468	15	306	321	5
	Men	9			57	4	17	55	133		9	133	142	-
Fundamentalism	Women	2	4	52	18	4	1	6	29	56	2	29	31	-
	Men	2			11	5	1	6	23		1	23	24	1
Establishment of rights on local resources: establishment of rights on khas land, water bodies, regaining possession of disposed land Environmental Issues: resisting commercial shrimp aquaculture, creating public support against excessive use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides. Resistance to action and oppression of reactionary groups: resisting eviction of lands less from land, looting of ripe paddy, burning the houses, physical assault	Women	5	40	244	26	8	5	36	75	284	5	75	80	-
	Men	35			48	30	24	67	169		29	166	195	9
Resistance against 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 transaction of money and false cases. Resisting illegalities and irregularities of micro credit Movement for due wage. Movement against others	Women	22	46	519	121	14	14	83	232	565	12	229	241	13
	Men	24			138	7	27	115	287		15	283	298	13
Grand Total	Women	46	116	1,257	310	44	52	239	645	1,373	34	639	673	18
	Men	70			254	46	69	243	612		54	605	659	23
	Total	116	116	1,257	564	90	121	482	1,257		88	1,244	1,332	41

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 & Harassment	Fundamentalism	Natural Calamity & Relief	National/ International Day	Law & Order situation
Deputy Commissioner	By govt:	18	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	3
	By group	94	4	3	4	-	1	-	1	6	9	-	6	5	9
Land Administration	By govt:	121	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	4
	By group	337	3	-	-	8	-	1	-	14	12	-	-	-	12
Upazilla Administration	By govt:	83	3	17	10	12	10	1	9	4	5	-	24	32	30
	By group	306	9	45	23	42	15	3	31	18	34	2	27	64	55
Police Administration	By govt:	60	5	-	7	49	-	-	66	37	138	-	7	14	136
	By group	121	31	3	1	77	-	-	120	72	213	2	2	29	146
Parliament Member	By member	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	3
	By group	3	-	-	4	1	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	3	2
Political Party	By Party	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	By group	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	5	4
Union Council	By council	110	10	35	37	43	14	3	44	28	35	1	51	34	60
	By group	374	21	58	87	79	32	10	113	47	100	4	115	124	136
Health Administration	By govt:	-	-	3	-	-	125	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	5
	By group	-	-	4	5	-	302	-	8	-	-	-	12	7	1
Press Club	By club:	39	2	4	-	3	3	1	12	5	8	-	3	10	9
	By group	55	9	4	8	13	8	-	37	3	26	3	6	40	20
Bar Council	By council	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	4	9	1	-	2	1
	By group	68	-	-	-	3	-	-	19	7	58	5	-	8	11
Women Organisation	By org:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	By group	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-
Education Administration	By govt:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
	By group	-	-	178	1	-	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	51	4
Grand Total	By govt:/ others	440	20	188	57	112	152	5	136	78	200	2	92	108	251
	By group	1,370	77	295	134	224	368	16	330	170	456	16	168	341	400
	Total	1,810	97	483	191	336	520	21	466	248	656	18	260	449	651