

# **Annual Activity Report**

## **2005-2006**

Project Title:  
**Access to Justice and Human Rights**



**Madaripur Legal Aid Association**

## **Annual Report 2005-2006**

**Madaripur Legal Aid Association  
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**September 2006**

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## Preface

Our project encompasses and symbolizes the whole periphery of access to justice and human rights. The underlying idea may be expressed in a three-word phrase - *rights-approach*. We explicitly recognize our clients' human rights of equality before law and equal protection of law. While realizing these rights, since human rights are indivisible, inseparable and interdependent, we do not ignore other human rights of our clients. The only difference is the prioritization certain rights in the implementation of our activities. We adhere to national and international normative human rights legal framework. We derive our obligation and right to intervene into realization of rights from this legal framework. The modes of our intervention are based on human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination. We provide special attention to the particular needs of the vulnerable and marginalized groups like the poor, women, children and the minority groups.

Our justice system does not favour the poor. Numerous factors work as barriers to prevent the rural poor from accessing justice system. They include, among others, unequal power relations in the society, illiteracy, lack of awareness, highly expensive, ineffective and complex legal procedures.

We wish to remove these barriers in order to have a more efficient, fair and accessible system of justice. To meet this end, we want to contribute to build judicial capacity and client capacity. Judicial capacity and client capacity are mutually reinforcing – any attempt to treat them separately is a theoretical and practical impossibility. We aim to build judicial and client capacity by activating the local government based judicial system, influencing policy makers to revise procedural codes and rules, building awareness among the poor, utilizing resources in a cost-effective way and institutionalizing alternative dispute resolution mechanism (*Salish*).

Our task is challenging indeed. This year we met this challenge successfully to accomplish our purpose which will definitely inspire us to venture into the future. This has been possible due to important contributions from various groups of people involved. Let us take this opportunity to thank them all. We express our deep gratitude to our donor partners, government agencies, sister NGOs, staff members and our clients.

**Fazlul Huq**

Secretary

Madaripur Legal Aid Association

Madaripur.

# Chapter I

## Summary

Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA) has passed another successful year in the progressive fulfilment of its main objective to build a just society. This is a continuing process. To make this process more sustainable, the MLAA is dedicated to its endeavour in empowering the disadvantaged people in making the justice system easily accessible. In the last one year, the MLAA undertook designed and calculated activities to make a socially aware justice system directing it to the grassroots, to raise democratic values and to increase the level of participation of the larger population in securing rule of law and human rights. The following paragraphs summarise the output-based activities implemented in the year 2005-2006.

### **Output-1: Justice System of Local Government become more effective**

For local settlement of disputes, the Village Court and the Arbitration Council are within the legal jurisdiction of the Union Parishad (UP). To meet the need refreshers training of the UP representatives, follow-up meetings for activists and local elite as well as upazila officials were conducted. In each of these instances, participation level is increasing day by day. In these training, meetings and workshops, the participants are analyzing the proceedings of the Village Court and the Arbitration Council, exchanging and sharing opinions and experiences, discussing various problems and strategies for their solution.

On the other hand, due to awareness and publicity campaign like courtyard meeting, street drama, 30% people of project area now know about the Village Court and the Arbitration Council. These activities have increased the number of settled disputes by the Village Court and the Arbitration Council. The Village Court has alone settled 3,796 cases of which in 2152 cases parties got compensation and possession of land. The total value of compensation and recovered land is Taka.56, 02, 844.00. The number of the settled cases is 29% higher than the previous year. The Arbitration Council has resolved 2,735 disputes in that 93% beneficiaries are women and in 287 resolved disputes applicants received Taka 3, 45,850.00 as maintenance.

The VC and the AC are becoming more and more effective in local settlement of disputes due to increased awareness of the elected representatives and the local people. Effective VC and AC are increasing the opportunity of the grass root people to have access to justice. Ordinary people are capable of doing their best to change their situation and break the status quo.

### **Output – 2: Access to formal judicial system increased**

The main activity of this component is to provide legal aid to the poor, especially to the women, children and the minority groups to establish their legal rights within the legal and justice system. In the reporting year a total of 1503 cases were conducted which included 936 pending cases from the previous year and 567 newly filed. Among these cases, 495 were settled, only 40 of which went against the clients of the MLAA. The rest of the cases involved imprisonment, fine, compensation and recovery of title of lands. These remedies have ensured punishment for the convicts in one hand; on the other hand many clients have been able to establish their rights with awarded and recovered money and assets. The MLAA conducted these cases on behalf of the disadvantaged, marginalized, destitute women and the poor people, which have enabled the organization to secure their rights.

Within this component monitoring and evaluation is one activity. MLAA undertook field level follow-ups for 68 pending and settled cases. In these follow-ups the MLAA examined various issues like difficulties faced by the clients at various levels of legal proceedings, implementation

of the secured decrees, etc. Having considered these issues, the organization has taken steps to make the different phases of conduct of cases more practical and realistic.

A number of eight meetings were held in three districts with concerned lawyers and their associates, judges and representatives of the law enforcing agencies in order to encourage the concerned personnel to be more compassionate to the poor clients and to secure legal redresses through litigation.

### **Output-3: Advocacy for legislative and policy reform towards access to formal and informal judicial systems for the disadvantaged towards creating an enabling environment for ensuring access to justice.**

To pave the way for the realization of fundamental human rights, the advocacy and network unit of the MLAA is conducting multifaceted advocacy activities from the grassroots level to national policy making level. To secure justice, it is essential to bring the entire population within the access of justice. At the same time to detect various problems in accessing justice and to remove those problems, it is a sine qua non that the concerned departments will be more aware and there will be positive changes and shift in the policy making. As a primary step to reform the AC and the VC, the advocacy unit of the MLAA organized three meetings in three districts within the project area. This was the platform for the concerned personnel to exchange their opinions where specific recommendations to reform the laws regulating the AC and the VC were introduced. To receive these local level information and recommendations in a systematic and organized way, this year the MLAA undertook a study on AC and VC. This study revealed the attitudes of the UP representatives, hopes and aspirations of the ordinary people, problems faced in the local judicial procedures and their limitations and various recommendations to reform laws regulating AC and VC. To elucidate the outcomes of the study, the MLAA organized a national round table meeting where participants unanimously asked for wider changes in the Village Court law in order to establish a proper local justice system.

The MLAA felt the necessity of wider co-ordinated and stronger advocacy activities to remove the complexities of the traditional judicial system and to change the court environment. To this end the MLAA, with other like-minded organizations, held two networking meetings discuss steps and strategies. This year the MLAA has also carried an in depth research on court environment. After sharing and exchanging views on the outcomes of the research at the district level, a national level seminar will be organized.

Above all, the advocacy unit is working continuously to influence policymaking in a planned and organized manner. And it is done by local level advocacy meeting at unions and upazilas, studies and research.

### **Output – 4: Institutionalization of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) ensured through dissemination and replication of Madaripur Model of Mediation (MMM)**

*Salish* is the oldest and the most widely accepted tool for resolution of disputes. To modernize the traditional *Salish* system, the MLAA promotes its own model of mediation, which is famously known as the 'Madaripur Mediation Model'. Within this ongoing programme, the MLAA has resolved 7,986 disputes and has formed CBOs in new area, organized training for CBO committees and held workshops. Special emphasis has been given on participation and empowerment of women, which is evident from 10% increase in women's participation in committees and training workshops. Direct participation of female members in *Salish* has risen to 19.14%. Beside this, 12% female members preside over *Salish* meetings.

The beneficiaries of 7,986 disputes settled by *Salish* have received financial benefit of taka 46469792. Follow-ups reveal that 92% settled disputes have gained perpetuity.

## **Output – 5: Institutional Capacity of MLAA Strengthened**

To increase skills of the workforce at various levels of the organization, the institutional capacity building component organized basic, refresher courses and training workshops. The gender policy of the MLAA has been scrutinized and incorporated gender issues in all types of training and workshop. This has been done to increase gender sensitivity among the activists of the organization at all levels.

The rules and regulations of the organization have been amended to strengthen its infrastructure. Continuous monitoring is essential to ensure transparency in the ongoing activities and for institutional capacity building. To meet this end, the monitoring cell has been brought within a standard monitoring system, which has a computerized monitoring system to collect and analyze data and information. Technical and practical training is provided to assess qualitative achievement from collected and analyzed data and information. As a combined effect of all these efforts, the MLAA is now capable of meeting future challenges in the progressive and qualitative achievements of its goals.

## Chapter II

### The Organization and the Project

#### 2.1. Project Title :

Access to Justice and Human Rights

#### 2.2. Introduction

The Madaripur Legal Aid Association<sup>1</sup> exists as an auxiliary force to help the poor and the disadvantaged in their strife to improve the quality of life. Thus, building a society based on social justice creating access to justice and realization of human rights. And to this end, the organization is providing logistic as well as other support to its stakeholders through various activities which include legal aid to realize legal rights, resolution of disputes at local level, advocacy, human rights awareness and prevention of human rights violations. It is not only about assisting individuals or raising the causes of the aggrieved and oppressed individuals; its main endeavour is to take a concerted effort to establish equality removing all social, economic and political inequalities.

#### 2.3. Goal

Improved quality of life of the disadvantaged people through establishing their human, legal and women rights, for peaceful coexistence.

#### 2.4. Objectives

- To make local and traditional justice system more effective
- To ensure access to formal judicial system for disadvantaged people
- To institutionalize and modernize the traditional mediation system
- To contribute in the establishment of the rule of law and promote human rights culture in Bangladesh by raising awareness
- To pursue advocacy activities for law reform
- To strengthen the institutional capacity of the MLAA

#### 2.5. Justification

The MLAA started its journey with giving legal aid to the poor. Despite the fundamental rights of equality before law and equal protection of law<sup>2</sup>, accessibility of the traditional judicial system is largely uncertain and very complicated. This uncertainty and complicity can be attributed to the social limitations and financial incapability of the poor, highly complex judicial procedures and environment of the court. Against these backdrops, the MLAA undertook, as a compliment to reform traditional *Salish* system and to make the grassroots judicial system within the UP more fluent and effective. From its experience, the MLAA has identified the hostile court environment including certain procedural difficulties as the main reason why the judicial system does not affirmatively contribute to the wellbeing of the ordinary mass.

Local justice system has not been able to do much good for various limitations of the Arbitration Council and the Village Court in delivering justice. The MLAA realizes that these limitations involving substantive and procedural law needs to be addressed by reforming the current legal framework of the VC & AC. To meet this end, the MLAA later undertook advocacy programmes to influence the policy makers.

The rural people consist of 85% of the total population of the country. This vast majority of the people, to a great extent, are illiterate, powerless and unaware of their rights, and consequently, these people are deprived of their human rights including access to justice, participation and other economic and political rights. To establish a society based on justice, it is necessary to bring these deprived people within the access of justice. One of the effective

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<sup>1</sup> Herein after referred to as MLAA.

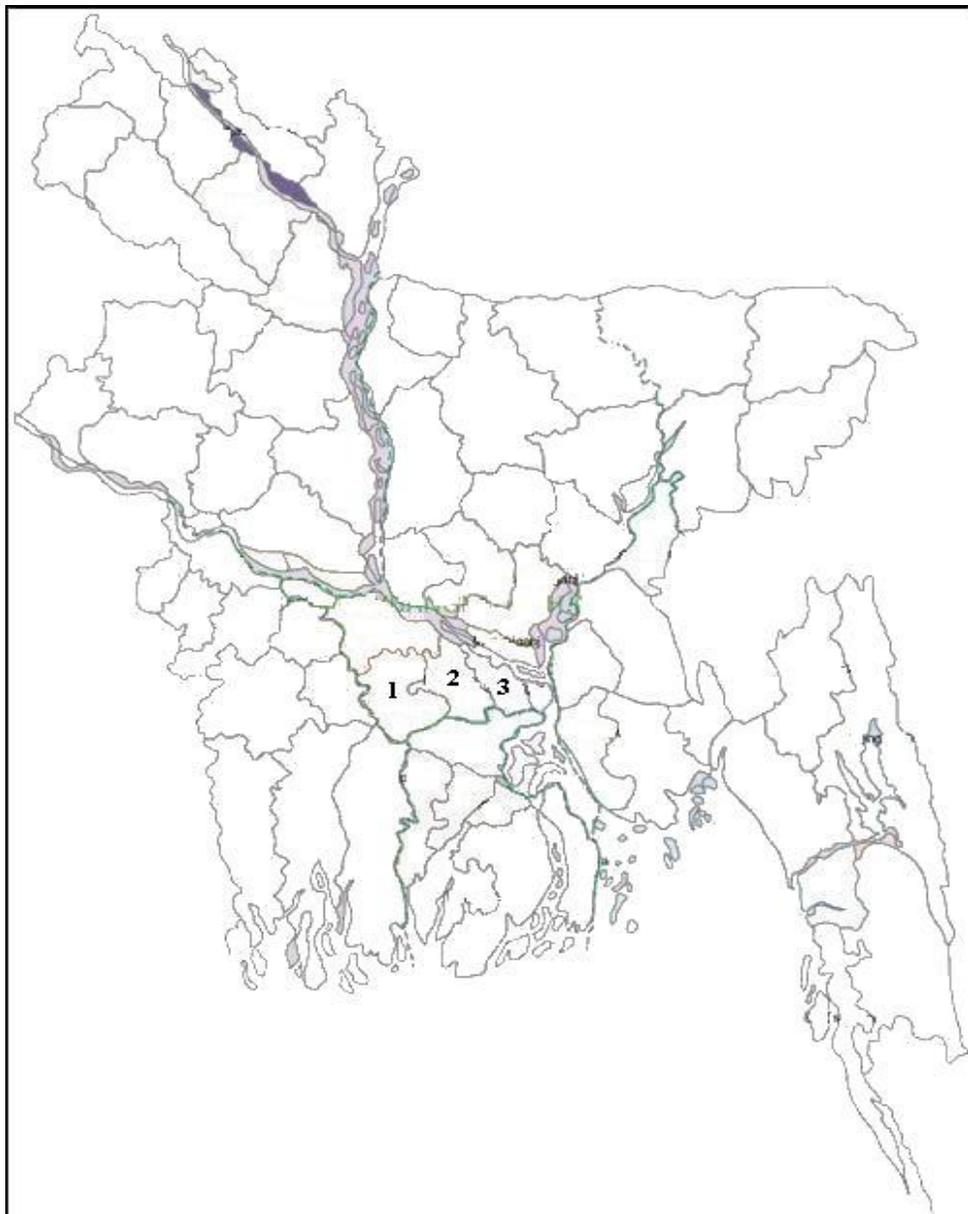
<sup>2</sup> See, Article 27 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

ways of creating more access to justice is the expansion of law and rights related programmes at the grassroots level. Realizing this, the MLAA is committed to its ongoing programmes involving access to justice and human rights. The strife for justice and human rights is a continuing process and the need and the right of the mass to participate in this process justifies MLAA's commitment to its ongoing activities.

### 2.6. Activity Area

|            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Districts  | : | 3 (Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur)        |
| Upazilas   | : | 15 (all upazilas of the aforesaid 3 districts) |
| Unions     | : | 191  |
| Area       | : | 3,815 square km                                |
| Households | : | 6, 51,900                                      |
| Population | : | 34, 18,509 (male 50.4%, female 49.6%)          |

**MLAA Project Area**      1. Gopalganj, 2. Madaripur, 3. Shariatpur



## **2.7. Stakeholders**

Primary stakeholders include the disadvantaged rural people, the poor, particularly women and children. Secondary stakeholders are UP representatives (chairman and members), village leaders, panel lawyers and their associates, journalists, government servants and officers and NGO activists.

## **2.8. Donors**

In the reported year, MLAA activities were funded by:

Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka  
Christian Aid, UK  
HRGG-PSU, DANIDA, Dhaka  
NETZ, Germany.

## Chapter III

### Output Based Activities

#### 3.1. Justice System of Local Government become more effective

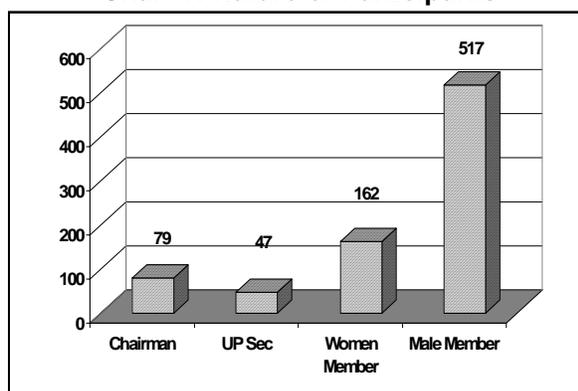
The Union Parishad has the legal jurisdiction to form Village Courts and Arbitration Councils under the Village Court Act, 2006 as updated and the Muslim Family Law Ordinance, 1961 respectively. The village courts are empowered to settle minor local disputes and the Arbitration Councils are formed to settle certain family disputes. Both these important dispute resolution tools of Union Parishad jointly constitute the local government based judicial system of rural Bangladesh. To activate this local government based judicial system, the MLAA undertook the following activities.

##### 3.1.1. Refreshers Training Course for elected UP representatives

These refresher courses are designed to discuss barriers and the problems faced in AC/VC activities for their solution and also to exchange opinions and experiences among the participants. There are certain practical barriers to bring the legal and conceptual framework of the AC/VC into practice.

During the reporting period, MLAA conducted 32 refresher courses, with a total 805 participants, where 166 were female and 639 were male. Among them 79 were UP chairman, 47 were UP Secretaries, 162 women member and rest 517 were male members.

Chart 1: Nature of Participants



#### Village Court and Arbitration Council: Views of UP Chairmen

Shah Md. Rayhan Kabeer is the Chairman of Kendua UP, Madaripur Sadar. While sharing his experience of participation in training of Village Court, he said:

We cannot expect that only enacting laws will fulfil certain objectives. The law regulating the Village Court was enacted in 1976, and since then nothing really happened. It is only since last 2-3 years that the MLAA has been organizing training, workshops and seminars. This has enriched our knowledge and expertise on Village Court. I take part in settlement of disputes through the AC and the VC once a week, i.e., every Saturday and I do it with confidence. On that day the adjacent area becomes lively, busy and populated like a local *hat* or *bazaar*. It is the ordinary people who will reach the ultimate benefits, if the Chairmen and other concerned people could be made aware of the Village Court.

Many other chairmen concurred with Rayhan Kabeer. They include Md. Zahir Uddin Talukdar, Chairman, Rudrakar Union of Shariatpur Sadar; Md. Abul Hossen Molla, Chairman, Islampur Union of Damudya, Shariatpur; Md. Solaiman Biswash, Chairman, Patgati Union of Gopalganj Sadar.

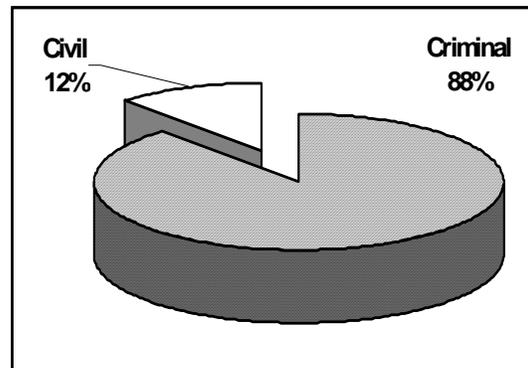
### 3.1.2 Dispute Resolution through Village Court and Arbitration Council

#### 3.1.2.1. Dispute Resolution through Village Court

The MLAA has entrusted one worker for each Union Parishad to assist it in its Village Court activities.

During the reporting period The UPs of project area received 4074 cases through village court. Including the pending 379 cases the total number of cases stood 4453. Among these **3796** cases were resolved, 309 were rejected, one (01) case was transfer to court and 347 cases were now under process. Out of the settled cases, 443 were of civil and 3353 were of criminal nature. 1581 (42%) of the settled cases were filed by women. **Annexure: Table 1 & 2**

**Chart 2: Nature of Disposal Case of VC**



#### **Case study 01: Village Court intervenes – Ankhi gets back her hard-earned cash**

Ankhi Begum is a resident of Chhaogaon union of Vedarganj upazila of Shariatpur district. Ankhi Begum's husband, Abul Sardar, works as a day labourer. Ankhi cultivates her own land and keeps and breeds her own poultry. In this way she made a tiny savings of taka 3,500 in two years. One Khalil Molla, a neighbour of Ankhi, has his own lands. He borrows money during paddy cultivation. Khalil Molla, with the aid of his wife Shahida Begum, borrows Ankhi Begum's savings of taka 3,500 on a condition that he will give her 6 *mans* of paddy. But after harvesting paddy, Khalil Molla does not offer any paddy to Ankhi. The whole thing becomes public and Ankhi Begum's relation with her husband turns strained. Abul Sardar beats Ankhi on several occasions and their marital life reaches a breaking point.

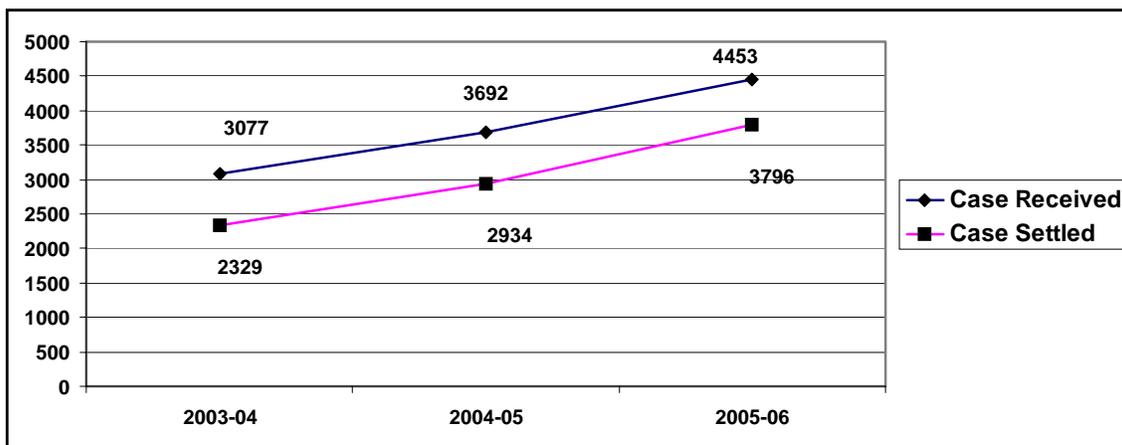
Fortunately, Ankhi Begum was present as a participant at a law awareness meeting (courtyard meetings) of the MLAA where she gets to know about the activities of the Village Court. On 31 March 2006, Ankhi files a case with the VC to recover her money.<sup>3</sup> The VC summons the defendant and notifies both parties to appoint their representatives. Ankhi, the plaintiff, appoints her own representative, but the defendant ignores the notice. The case was heard on 26 April 2006 where the defendant remained absent. After considering evidence and witnesses, the VC delivers judgement in favour of the plaintiff on a 3-0 majority. To execute the judgement the UP Chairman summons the defendant and directs him to repay the money within 7 days.

On 2 May 2006, the defendant deposits taka 3,500 with the UP Chairman and the Chairman, Mr. Kamrul Hasan Bhutto, hands over the money to Ankhi Begum. Thus, Ankhi gets her hard-earned money back and her strained and violent marital life comes to an end – she is now living happily and peacefully with her husband.

<sup>3</sup> Case no. 04/2006.

| Village Court : Views of an applicant and a respondent  |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>An applicant's view</b></p> <p>"I have recovered taka 4500.00 at the expense of taka 5.00", said Taposhi Goldar, aged 38. She lives in Uttarpara village of Satpar Union. She filed a case with the Village Court to recover her money. She got her money back within 35 days. (Case no. 06/2006, dated 15/02/2006, Type: criminal/money)</p> | <p><b>A respondent's view</b></p> <p>"Village Court has given our friendship a chance", said Asal Uddin Sardar of Chitolia Union of Shariatpur Sadar Upazila. Adal Uddin, with the intervention of Village Court, gets back taka 2000.00 from his friend Md. Hossen Hawladar. (Case no. 27/05, dated 29/12/2005, Type: criminal/money)</p> |

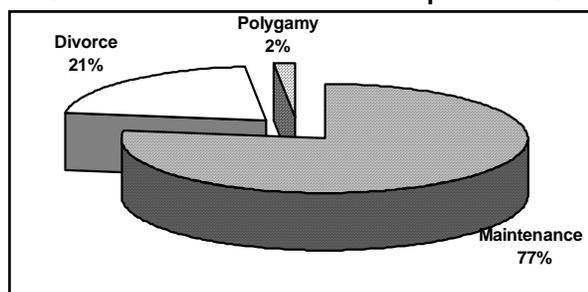
**Chart 3: Trend of VC Case – Case Received & Case Settled**



### 3.1.2.2. Dispute Resolution through Arbitration Council

Under the Muslim Family Law Ordinance, 1961, the Union Parishad has the legal jurisdiction to resolve disputes of second marriage of the husband during the subsistence of first wife, divorce and maintenance by forming Arbitration Council. The MLAA is assisting the UP within its activity area to settle these disputes.

**Chart 4 : Nature of Resolved Disputes of AC**



During the reporting period AC of UP received 2775 applications. Including the pending 287 application the total number of applications stood 3062. Among these 2735 disputes were resolved, 56 were rejected due to non-appearance, 02 cases were transfer to court and 269 are now under process. Women are applicants in 93% of the settled disputes. Among the resolved disputes 2111 were maintenance (77%), 579 were divorce (21%) and other 45 (2%) were polygamy. **Annexure: Table 3 & 4**

#### **Case study 02: One Salma, a pumpkin plant, divorce and the Arbitration Council**

Mechbahadur, aged 30, is a son of Md. Yunus Bayati. He lives in Charchanda Beparikandi village of Vedorganj Union, Shariatpur District. His wife, Salma, aged 26, comes from the same locality. They are cousins. It has been 10 years since they married. The first few years

of their marriage passed happily. Things begun to change when Mechbahadur demanded dowry from Salma. He used to torture her physically and mentally. Their relation becomes strained, they cannot tolerate each other. One day Salma cuts down a pumpkin plant. But this very insignificant incident makes her husband extremely furious. He divorces Salma orally. Salma, with her two children, takes refuge to her mother's house. Mechbahadur wants the oral divorce to be legally effective. He goes to the Marriage Registrar's office and on 2 October 2005, he divorces Salma in writing.

Salma filed an application before the AC. On that the chairman of the AC issued notice for arbitration to both of them. Both appeared and nominated their representatives.

Both Salma and Mechbahadur's representatives attended in the Arbitration Council meeting. The UP chairman tries to resolve the dispute discussing representatives of both parties. He talks to Salma and Mechbahadur and urges them to think about their children, to think about their future. Both Salma and Mechbahadur express their willingness to continue their marital relation and the Arbitration Council reunites them accordingly. On 13 December 2005, with the intervention of the Arbitration Council, Salma reunites with her family full of happiness. During conversation Mechbahadur said that he had been able to reunite with his family due to timely intervention of the Arbitration Council.

**Arbitration Council: Views of a petitioner and a respondent**

**Views of a petitioner**

"Arbitration Council has helped me to regain my lost family. Now I am happy to be with my husband and children", said Selina Begum. She lives in Gobra Union of Gopalganj Sadar Upazila. Her husband forced her out of her house with her children. (Reg. No. 08/05, dated 31.10.2005, type: maintenance)

**Views of a respondent**

"My family was on the verge of ruin. The Arbitration Council has saved it", said Bipul Mia. He was very indifferent to his wife, Alepa. He neither cared for her nor offered her any maintenance. Even he did not provide any treatment for her during illness. Consequently, Alepa divorced her Husband Bipul Mia and the divorce was registered. They live in Rajoir upazila of Madaripur District. (Reg. No. 19/2005, dated 04.12.2005, type: divorce)

**3.1.3. Activating relevant stakeholders to strengthen the local level judicial system**

**3.1.3.1. Follow-up meetings with UP representatives**

The MLAA organized follow-up meetings in every UP. The elected representatives and activists of the UP discuss various AC/VC related issues in these meetings. To enhance the effectiveness of the AC/VC activities, two important issues are considered in these meetings; firstly, various problems faced in the AC/VC activities and secondly, steps to be taken to resolve them.

During the period July 2005 to June 2006, the MLAA organized 220 follow-up meetings - 91 in the first phase and 129 in the second phase. 4039 participants (514 females and 3525 males) attended the meetings. In 204 meetings concern UP Chairman were present and presided over the meetings, rest 16 meetings were presided by senior UP members.

**A unique experience**

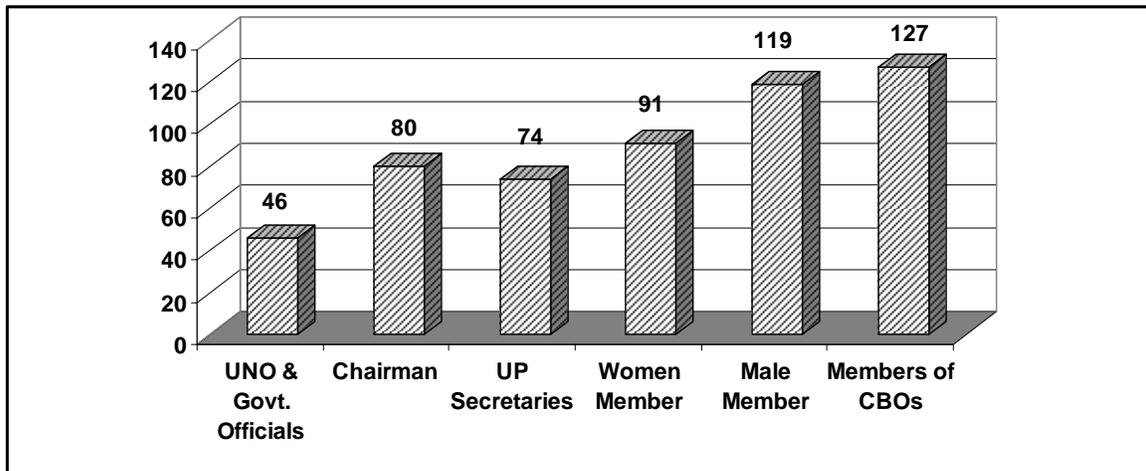
It is 25th August of 2005. The venue is Angaria Union Parishad office of Shariatpur Sadar Upazila. Time is 10 o'clock in the morning. The chairman of the Union Parishad, the secretary, 3 female members, 8 male members, 2 *dafadars* and 8 members of village police are attending a follow-up meeting. The UP Chairman Mr. Md. Abdur Rab Hawladar is presiding over the meeting and the Secretary is conducting it. They discuss the activities of last six months. They also discuss various problems in Village Court activities and in implementing judgements of courts. They decide to send 3 cases to Magistrate's court because of problems of implementing judgements.

**3.1.3.2. Workshop with local GOB officials, UP Rep. and local elites at upazila level**

These workshops are a part of an initiative to enhance active co-operation among the UP, local upazila administration and the MLAA so that they all can play a concerted and effective role in activating the VC and the AC.

In the reported year (July 2005 to June 2006), the MLAA organized 13 workshops in 12 Upazilas. Total 537 participants were present in these workshops of which 132 were females and 405 were males. Participants included 46 government officials (12 UNOs and 34 local government officials), 80 UP chairmen, 91 female members, 119 male members, 74 up secretaries, 06 marriage register, 16 teachers, 16 businessman, 50 social workers, 9 peasants, 23 service holders, one (1) religious leader and 6 postal officials.

**Chart 5 : Nature of Participants of Thana Workshops**



**3.1.3.3. Union meeting with Union level CBO, UP Repr. Social elites**

Union meetings are organized to aware and encourage the local elite including the UP representatives about the VC and the AC.

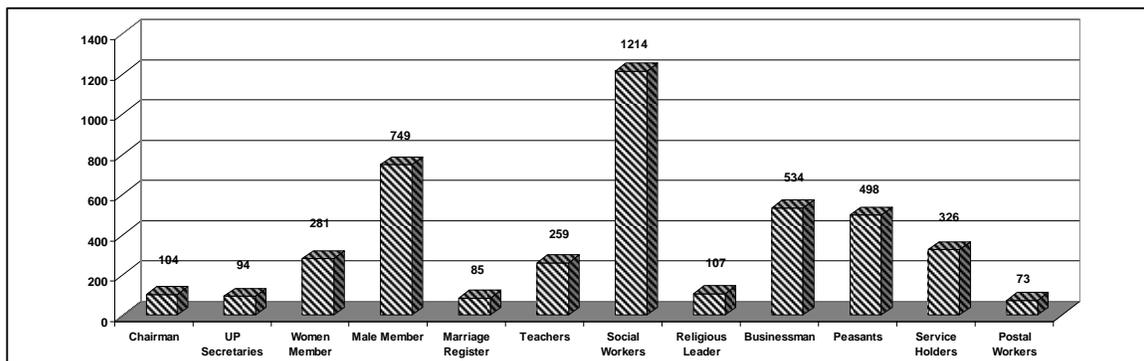
During July 2005 to June 2006, MLAA organized 110 Union level meetings. A total no. of 4324 participants attended in these meetings (1272 were female & 3052 were male).

Among the total participants 104 were UP chairmen, 94 were UP secretaries, 281 were female up members, 749 were male members, 85 were marriage registers, 259 were teachers, 1214 were social workers, religious leader were 107, 534 were small businessmen, 498 were farmer, 326 were service holders and rest 73 were postal workers.

**Expression of a participant**

I am Khaleda Begum of Dakshin Khagchhara village. I am 35 now. Nothing special happened in my past life of 35 years. Things changed suddenly when people from my locality felt that I could be a judge in the VC. I had no knowledge of laws relating to the VC. I have learned a lot from VC meetings, which is helping me to judge confidently. A union meeting was held in Mostafapur Union on 23 October, 2005. 40 participants including the chairman, secretary, 3 female members and 8 male members attended the meeting. I am one of them.

**Chart 6: Nature of Participants of Union Meeting**



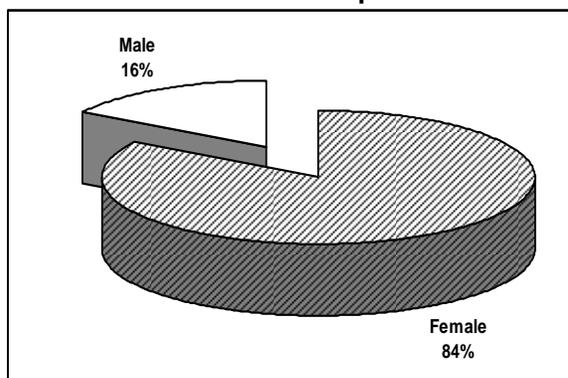
**3.1.3.4. Courtyard Meeting (CM) for women on AC & VC**

Courtyard Meetings are designed to create AC/VC awareness among the rural people, particularly among the women. A module is designed for smooth and skilful co-ordination of the courtyard meetings. The Union level workers of the MLAA work as facilitators in the meetings.

In the reported year, the MLAA organized 4759 Courtyard Meeting – 1969 meetings related to AC and 2790 related to VC. Among the 64,511 participants, 54,083 were females and 10,428 were males..

**Annexure: Table 5**

**Chart 7 : Sex Ratio of Participants in CM**



**3.1.4 Dissemination of information on Village Court and Arbitration Council**

**3.1.4.1. Street Drama (Patha Natak)**

Street dramas are conducted to inform the people at union levels about the benefits of the AC/VC and to increase their awareness. Each drama lasts for one hour and is held at a convenient open place. Approximately 52,500 audiences were present to enjoy 47 street dramas in the reported year.

**Street drama: views of the spectators**

***“Had I not enjoyed the drama, I could not be aware of justice delivered by Village Court.”*** – Mahafuja Khanam (wife of S M Ashraf, lives in Char Govindpur of Khoajpur Union, Madaripur Sadar Upazila.)

***“I have learned about Village Court from the drama. The Village Court tries people for unlawful cutting down of trees and fishing, theft and fraud.”*** – Abu Bakar Siddique (son of Mr. Abdul Mannan, lives in Dhewaji village of Gopalpur Union, Kalkini upazila.)

***“I have learned from the drama that the Union Parishad has the power to judge and mediate.”*** – Maria Jahan (daughter of Mr. Md. Anwar Hossen, lives in Mrijakandi village of Banshkandi Union, Shibchar upazila.)

### 3.1.4.2. Campaign on AC & VC

The main objective of the campaign program is to create awareness and disseminate information about the AC/VC. Campaign activities include rallies with people's participation, distribution of handbills and poster shows. Approximately 29,000 people participated in 122 campaign programmes during the year 2005-2006.

## 3.2 Access to formal judicial system increased

The majority of the poor in our country do not have access to justice. It is not possible to establish justice depriving the major part of population of their legal rights. The main objectives of this output are to provide adequate advice and legal aid for the disadvantage, particularly the women, children and the minority.

### 3.2.1. Free legal aid services

#### 3.2.1.1 Provide court case support

During the period 2005-2006, 1503 cases were handled which included 567 newly filed cases and 936 pending cases from the previous year. Among these 495 cases were disposed of and 1008 are now pending. Details are given in **table 6 & 7**.

#### **Case study 03: Asrab Ali recovers his ancestral land after 11 years**

Asrab Ali Hawladar is a poor man from Khatpara village of Kunia Union. He catches fish from ponds, lake and rivers and sell them in the market and some how manages to run his small family of four members – himself, his wife and two children. His father Hachen Hawladar passed away when Asrab Ali was just 4. Illiterate Asrab Ali had no idea how much land his father had left. During the 1988 field survey, his opponent wrongfully recorded the land of Asrab Ali's father in his own name. He fraudulently informed Asrab Ali that his father had sold out the entire piece of land.

Asrab Ali collects all the records of his ancestral land. Asrab Ali's father Hochen Hawladar and his two uncles, Hamed and Hashem bought that land from Samsuddin Khan in 1941. Asrab Ali's uncles, Hamed and Hashem, died leaving any children. As a result, Asrab Ali becomes the only heir to that property after his father's death.

To establish his right on his ancestral property, Asrab Ali files an application against his opponent Akbar Ali to resolve the dispute through salish. He filed his application on 03.02.1996 with an MLAA salish staff of Kunia Union in Madaripur Sadar Upazila. The salish staff requested both parties to be present on 14 February 1996. But the opponent remained absent and the date was rescheduled and shifted to 23 February 1996. The opponent remained absent on five consecutive occasions. On 19 March 1996, Akbar Ali filed a title suit against Asrab Ali in the Assistant Judge Court of Madaripur.

To contest the case, Asrab Ali seeks legal aid from the MLAA. The MLAA accepts his case and appoints a lawyer. On 20 September 2001, the court delivered judgement against Akbar Ali. Akbar Ali appealed against the judgement. The Madaripur District Court abrogated the judgement and decree of the lower court and send it back for retrial. After two years, on 16 May 2005, judgement was again delivered against Akbar Ali.

Thus, after a long 11 years, Asrab Ali recovers the title of his ancestral land with the help of the MLAA.

### **3.2.1.2. Follow-ups of disposed and pending cases**

Follow-ups are undertaken to examine the extent of implementation of courts' judgements in the disposed cases and also to see the changes in the beneficiaries' domestic, social and economic conditions. A total of 68 cases were followed up. Follow-ups reveal that the beneficiaries in family cases are living happily and peacefully with their husbands and on the other hand in case of separation & divorce they have received compensation for dower and maintenance on the other hand in case of separation and divorce they are utilizing the received compensation for their wellbeing.

During the reporting period MLAA followed up total of 68 court cases, among them 30 were Pending cases and 38 were disposed cases. **Annexure: Table 8**

### **3.2.2. Meeting with lawyers, advocates clerks, judicial and law enforcing agency**

Affiliated lawyers of the MLAA, their associates, judges and members of various law enforcing agencies participate in these meetings. These meetings provide a good opportunity for the participants to exchange their views on legal aid and assistance. The MLAA perceives these meetings as a forum to encourage them in legal aid works.

A total of 14 meetings were organized where 450 participants attended. Among them 6 meeting with Panel lawyers, 6 meeting with lawyers' associates and 2 meetings with judges and members of law enforcing agencies. **Annexure: Table 9**

#### **Some notable outcomes of the meetings**

- Lawyers and their law associates will be more compassionate and sympathetic to clients.
- Lawyers and their associates will always update the clients with the latest situations of the cases and will give them proper directions as to what to do at various stages of the cases.
- Lawyers will work with more enthusiasm and sincerity to redress the clients' grievances and to establish their rights.
- Judges and the members of the law enforcing agencies will work in harmony to establish justice and to stop harassment.

### **3.3. Advocacy for legislative and policy reform towards access to formal and informal judicial systems for the disadvantaged towards creating an enabling environment for ensuring access to justice.**

To establish justice and to make it more accessible to the ordinary people, it is necessary to take reformative measures to remove the legal and practical shortcomings of the local and formal justice system. The MLAA realizes the importance of concerted efforts of like-minded groups in the shaping of national level policies. Therefore, the objective of advocacy and policy influencing is to identify these shortcomings from grassroots level work experience, studies and researches and to share them with like-minded organizations to constitute a unified voice to reform them.

#### **3.3.1. Initiatives towards policy change and reform of AC & VC laws and procedures**

The Village Court and the Arbitration Council jointly constitute the local government judicial system of the Union Parishad. There are certain deficiencies and weaknesses in the legal framework of these two institutions. To remove these shortcomings by reforming the legal framework, the MLAA undertook the following activities.

### **3.3.1.1. Discussion meeting with civil society, local journalists and LEB representatives of UPs**

The MLAA organized three (03) exchanges of opinion meetings in three districts on same topic, i.e. "The Village Court and the Arbitration Council: Scopes and Limitations." The participants discussed the judicial proceedings of the AC/VC, duties and responsibilities of the UP representatives and various opportunities that might ensue from the system. 120 participants (34 females and 86 males) including lawyers, journalists, UP representatives and activists attended the meetings.

### **3.3.1.2. Study on limitations of AC & VC law and procedure**

The underlying objective of the study undertaken in the reported year was to identify the shortcomings in the legal framework of the AC and VC and their procedural deficiencies and to recommend for their reform based on the findings of the study.

### **3.3.1.3. National level round-table conference with journalist & media people**

To disseminate the outcomes of the study on Village Court and Arbitration Council through national printed and electronic media, the MLAA organized a round table conference at National Press Club, Dhaka. 59 representatives (8 females and 51 males) of various institutions and organizations including Union Parishads, various human rights organizations of Dhaka, national dailies and TV channels attended the conference.

### **3.3.1.4 Upazila Advocacy Workshops on Village Court and Arbitration Council**

140 participants (47 females and 93 males) attended 6 upazila advocacy workshops. Participants included UP chairmen, members, local elite, beneficiaries, journalists and representatives of different professions. They discussed weaknesses of legal framework of AC and VC and their procedural deficiencies. They unanimously expressed their opinion in favour of taking reformative measures to remove those shortcomings and weaknesses.

## **3.3.2. Initiatives towards reforming legal procedural complicacy and making court environment congenial**

### **3.3.2.1. Issue based network with other legal aid organisations**

The Training and Resource Centre of the MLAA hosted 2 network meetings where executive heads and representatives from 22 partner and like-minded organizations participated. With 4 females and 46 males, the total number of participants stood at 50. A **Local Justice and Human Rights Network** was established in the presence of the participants who also helped to finalize the policy and rules for the working of the network.

### **3.3.2.2. Research on procedural complicacies and uncongenial environment of court**

The MLAA has already undertaken a research on present district court environment. The MLAA presumes that there are certain procedural difficulties and environmental barriers in the courts of formal judicial system. The MLAA beneficiaries are at the ultimate receiving end of these difficulties. The object of the research is to identify these problems and to pick up the recommendations for their solutions. The findings of the research will be advocated afterwards to influence the policy makers.

### **3.3.2.3. Experience sharing meetings with concerned stakeholders at district levels**

The MLAA organized two (2) meetings in Gopalganj and Shariatpur to share Village Court work experience of its own and its stakeholders and the beneficiaries. 53 participants (12 females and 41 males) from various professions including UP chairmen, members, high government officials of judicial and executive department, lawyers, MLAA activists and journalists attended the meetings.

### **3.3.3. Capacity Building of Woman Leaders (Gender Development)**

#### **3.3.3.1. Workshop on Gender, Human Rights & family laws for Female women leaders**

Illiteracy, lack of proper education, social superstitions and discriminatory attitudes towards women are the main obstacles in realizing equal rights and status for women. Increased awareness of the rural women is a *sine qua non* for the realization of women's rights removing all these obstacles. With this objective, the MLAA organized 109 one-day workshops at union level taking women from all level. A total of 2166 participants attended these workshops including 1939 local women, 183 woman animators and 44 males. Animators were present at 78 workshops and they acted as co-facilitators at 16 workshops.

#### **3.3.3.2 Refresher training on gender and human rights**

Union-based woman animators are trained to give advice to the rural backward women on gender, human rights and legal issues. In the reported year, 263 animators received training in 11 courses.

#### **3.3.3.3 Gender development workshop**

To create more sensitise to gender issues among the leaders of various professions and classes in the project area, the MLAA organized three (3) gender development workshops at upazila level. The title of the workshops was "Gender knowledge and Importance." These workshops were held at Naria, Shariatpur and Vedorganj and were attended by 29 female and 27 male participants. **Annexure: Table 10**

The participants put forward various proposals including:

- Gender related knowledge and issues should be spread widely and systematically to uproot all sorts of discrimination against women
- Gender issues and women rights related topics should be incorporated in national curricula and textbooks.

### **3.3.4. Publications**

#### **3.3.4.1. Publish booklets on Mediation & Law**

The MLAA, to increase awareness of *Salish* and legal issues, also published 5,000 pamphlets and booklets and used as a guidebook in *Salish* related trainings.

#### **3.3.4.2. Bi-Monthly news letter**

The Yugo Chetona is the bimonthly newsletter of the MLAA. In the reported year it published 5 issues and each issue was printed in 1500 copies. Yugo Chetona contains case studies, essays and articles on human rights and legal issues and activities of the MLAA.

#### **Village Court, Advocacy and an achievement**

The Village Court Act, 2006 was published in official gazette on 9 May 2006. With this new enactment, the strong demand to extend the pecuniary jurisdiction Taka 25000.00 of the Village Court has been realized. The advocacy activities of the MLAA have played a vital role in this respect. The MLAA is the first NGO of its kind in Bangladesh to take initiatives to activate the Village Court and the Arbitration Council. Currently, the MLAA is involved in giving direct assistance and co-operation in the AC/VC activities in 22 districts of Bangladesh. The village Court is the symbol of justice at grassroots level and the MLAA, through workshops, seminars and publications, is trying to raise the demand of extending the jurisdiction of the VC. The MLAA is committed to its advocacy programmes to activate the AC and VC, to reform their legal framework and to spread the AC/VC activities all over Bangladesh. The MLAA pledges to continue to do so.

### 3.4. Institutionalization of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) ensured through dissemination and replication of Madaripur Model of Mediation (MMM)

The formal judicial system of our country is highly expensive. The judicial procedure is very complex and lengthy. Due to high expense, complexities and sluggishness, our formal judicial system remains inaccessible to the majority of the rural people, particularly the women. Inaccessibility to the formal judicial system means deprivation of justice and violation of human rights. *Salish*, the oldest and universal method of dispute resolution, has the potential to work as a complement to the formal judicial system. *Salish* has no supplement in establishing legal rights through mutual settlement of disputes. *Salish* is free and it can resolve disputes in the shortest possible time. No other dispute settlement methods can match *Salish* in cost effectiveness and speedy disposal. The MLAA aims to establish social peace by settling multifaceted disputes through *Salish*.

#### 3.4.1. Formation CBO to disseminate MMM

An expert and efficient mediator is an essential part of a successful *Salish*. CBOs can produce mediators from the common people with their spontaneous participation. CBOs are formed with social organizers, NGO activists, teachers, journalists, imams, marriage registrars and public representatives.

Previously, the MLAA formed CBOs at union levels in the project area. In light of union level experience, CBOs were formed at upazila and district levels. 21 ward CBOs have been formed out of 27 wards in three municipalities, namely Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur. They have 498 members (354 males and 144 females). 12 CBOs have been formed in 12 upazilas of Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur district. These 12 CBOs have 514 members (319 males, 195 females).

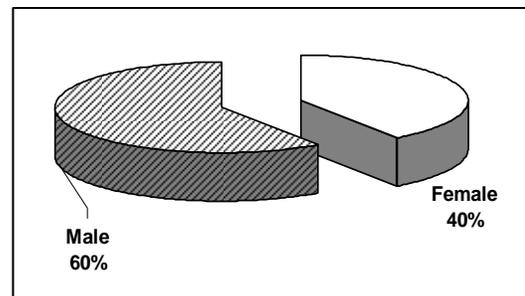
#### 3.4.2. Meeting with CBO Members to disseminate MMM

**Monthly Ward CBO meeting:** 56,892 members (33,947 males and 22,945 females) participated in 4,883 meetings in 100 unions of three districts, namely Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur.

**Quarterly Central CBO meeting:** Central CBO meetings are held once in every three months in every union. 372 of these meetings were held in 100 unions where 4012 members (2375 males and 1637 females) participated.

**Opinion sharing meetings for upazila CBO members:** 12 meetings were organized in 12 upazilas of Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur district. 400 members (252 males and 148 females) attended these meetings. **Annexure: Table 11**

**Chart 8: Sex Ratio of Participants in CBO Meetings**



#### 3.4.3. Capacity Building of CBO to disseminate MMM

##### 3.4.3.1. Refresher training for Union CBO Members on MMM & Laws

885 central CBO members of 100 unions (525 males and 360 females) took part in 34 courses organised in TARC. 98.33% of the targeted participation was achieved in these meetings. These courses were organized in the MLAA training centre and upazila offices. These courses were focussed on necessity, importance and strategies of *Salish*; role, required skills and duties

and responsibilities of the CBO committees, laws and legal aspects of *Salish* and their limitations.

### 3.4.3.2. Workshop for Ward CBO Members on MMM & Laws

206 one day workshops were held in excess to 200 workshops in 200 unions of three districts, 2 workshops in each union. Total 5,836 CBO members (Female 2503 and Male 3333) attended these workshops. Numbers of participants were more 18.72% than targeted. Necessity of *Salish*, law awareness and role and duties of CBOs were the main focus in the workshops.

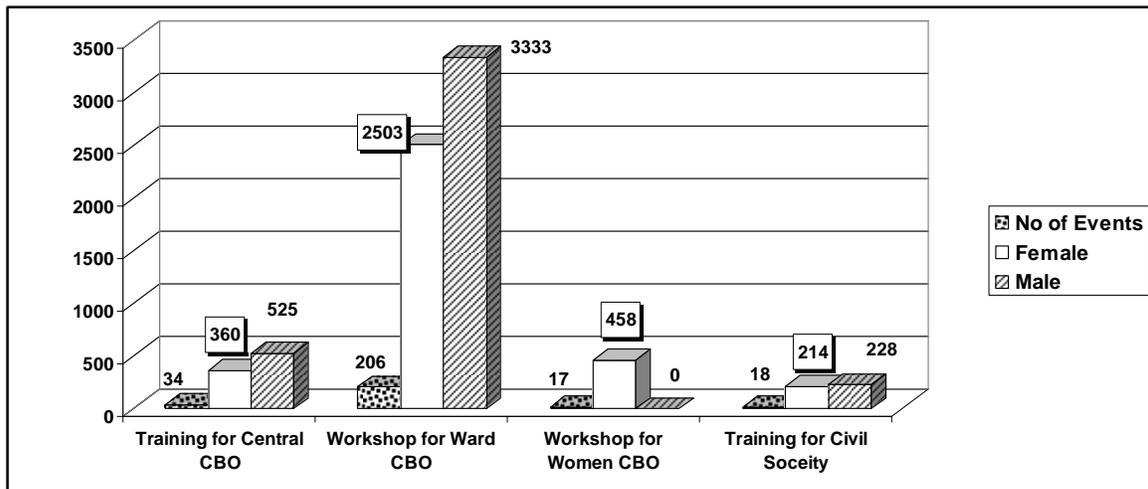
### 3.4.3.3. Workshop for advanced woman members of CBOs on MMM, gender & laws

The initial target of these workshops was to create *Salish*, law and gender related awareness among 500 advanced woman members of CBOs in 100 unions, taking 5 members from each union. The target was missed by a small margin – 458 participants (91.6%) attended in 17 workshops.

### 3.4.3.4. Training for civil society and union ward CBO members on MMM & Laws

18 three-day trainings were organized for ward CBO members of Shariatpur district. Total 442 members (228 males and 214 females) participated in the trainings. The main focus was on *Salish*, law and human rights awareness. **Annexure: Table 12**

**Chart 9: Capacity Building Trainings & Workshops for CBO members**



### 3.4.4. Disputes Resolution through MMM

In the reporting year, 10,695 applications were received including 1458 pending applications for resolution of disputes. With the participation of the CBO members, **7986** disputes were resolved through *Salish*, 557 disputes were sent to district court for filing case and due to absence of the applicants and lack of documentary or oral evidence, 2,176 applications were rejected. Currently 1,434 disputes are pending to be resolved. **Annexure Table 13 & 14**

By settling disputes through *Salish*, the MLAA has recovered taka 464, 69,792 for its beneficiaries in the year 2005-2006. **Annexure Table 15 (a, b & c)**

#### **Case Study 4 : Suma got back taka 80 thousand for dower and maintenance**

Suma searched a secured peaceful shelter to her husband; but it brought a dark episode in her life. Besides, she was pressured to go back with empty hand to father's residence through bearing rumor of madness in her shoulder. Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA) stood beside her in such helpless situation for providing legal assistance. Finally Suma received taka 80,000 for dower and maintenance cost through support of MLAA.

Sarmin Sultana Suma (23 years old), daughter of Molla Sahadat Hossain, is a resident of Khaliya of Jalalabad union of Sadar upazila of Gopalganj district. Suma has one sister and two brothers. Their father is a retired police officer. They are educated and grow up in happiness. Three years ago (in 2003), when Suma was a student of honors 2nd year, she got married with Humayun Kabir, son of Md. Saheb Ali Bhuyan, is a resident of Uttarpara of Gopinathpur union of same upazila. This family is also educated which belongs three sons and three daughters. Kabir, husband of Suma, was a quality control officer of a garments factory in Dhaka and earning enough to lead a peaceful conjugal life. They were going on with better understanding till one year of mutual marriage; but Suma's pregnancy raised conflict.

In due time, Suma gave birth a son; but Kabir demanded money with son. He pressured Suma for borrowing one lac taka from her father as dowry and also tortured physically. Mental and physical abuse made her abnormal which was treated as madness by Kabir's family. This conflict grew up worse to worst situation within very short time and Suma was bound to go back to father's family. In father's residence Suma was passing days out of remedy and husband's care. In the meantime, she knew about Madaripur Legal Aid Association through a CBO member and went to Jalalabad union office of MLAA.

On 14 February 2006, Soma submitted application to MLAA against her husband's oppression and demand of dowry. The worker of MLAA received her application and took initiatives for resolving the conflict. In the first date of Mediation on 25 February 2006, the opposition was absent though the applicant was present. The second date of Mediation was banned for another cause and then 22 April 2006 was selected as final date.

On 22 April 2006, the members of CBO Committees introduced the Session and discussed the conflict in details towards gaining a peaceful resolution. Through open discussion both parties (applicant & opposition) were agreed for their separation. The mediators (CBO members) asked them for rethinking on their decision and declared the next date on 20 May 2006. In scheduled date the session was started with presence of mediators and both parties. Mr. Hemayet Uddin, chairman of Jalalabad union parishad, presided this mediation session and the session reached a final decision. Through a long open discussion with both parties the mediators decided that the opposition will pay taka 80,000 in favour of applicant for dower and maintenance cost. As evidence of win-win resolution of a family conflict, the opposition handed over the declared money to applicant and finally the divorce was held in the meeting.

### **3.5. Institutional Capacity of MLAA Strengthened**

Institutional capacity building is a continuing process which is achieved through enhancement of organizational skill and expertise to adapt to changing needs of time and circumstances. To increase its capacity, the MLAA has already established human resource development, training, monitoring and evaluation and management units. At the same time the MLAA seeks to establish an environment based on the principle of non-discrimination where all of its activists and beneficiaries will have equal opportunities and equal share in the benefits of development irrespective of gender identity. To meet this end, the MLAA has taken initiatives to make gender policy and strategies for their implementation to make all of its programmes more gender sensitive.

### **3.5.1. Human resource development (HRD) department**

The MLAA has a dedicated workforce of 350 staff members. For increased co-ordination among all the activities including 5 outputs, organizational discipline and control, regulation and development of the workforce, the MLAA has established a human resource development department.

The MLAA wants to develop and enrich each of its activists with essential skills and expertise and as a primary step; the MLAA has made rules for human resource development and has updated the existing rules related to its workforce. In addition to this, two of its workers have been specially trained for smooth and skilful execution of the activities of human resource department.

### **3.5.2. Strengthening of Training Cell & Staff Development**

Various specialized training modules have been developed to:

- disseminate gender knowledge among the officials, activists and beneficiaries of the organization at all levels;
- increase gender sensitivity;
- enhance capacity of the training cell; and
- increase qualitative outputs of various trainings.

#### **3.5.2.1. Modules on VC& AC and Mediation**

The MLAA has prepared two training modules to maintain the momentum of dispute resolution at local level and to ensure compliance to required procedures in this respect. One training module deals with dispute resolution through *Salish* and other deals with VC and AC.

#### **3.5.2.2. Modules on Gender**

Two specialized gender-training modules have been developed. The first module deals with gender and human rights workshops organized to disseminate gender related knowledge among the beneficiaries and to spread gender related issues in the grassroots level. The second module is about gender and leadership development training designed to enhance woman leadership development.

#### **3.5.2.3. Gender Policy**

In the meantime, MLAA prepare a GENDER POLICY to aware and sensitize gender aspects in management and program level within the organization. MLAA formed gender open group, gender task force and assigning a gender focal person to implement the policy in all stairs in the organization.

### **3.5.3. Staff development**

The MLAA believes that a skilled, expert, and trained workforce is the prime mover of any development organization. Integration of human rights in development activities has turned our path more challenging and complex. To meet these challenges, the MLAA trains its activists on a continuous basis through its staff development department and through other organizations, who provides training on the subject. **Annexure Table 16**

#### **3.5.3.1 Refresher Training on VC, AC and family laws**

These training are for the Union workers who are assisting the UPs for activating VC & AC with the view to increase the practical knowledge and skills on Village Court and Arbitration Council. During the reporting period MLAA conducted 03 refresher courses where 106 staff members were participated. Among them 70 were female and 36 were male.

#### **3.5.3.2. Refreshers' Training on MMM & Law**

The main objective of these training is to improve the practical knowledge and skills of CBO members and active involvement of them in Mediation. During the reporting period, MLAA organized 03 refresher courses with participation of 83 mediation workers. Among them 39 were female and 44 were male.

### **3.5.3.3. Project development workshops for supervisors**

MLAA organized 02 Project development workshops for better implementation of the project. In these workshops participants discussed about constraints, possible solutions and prepare monthly & yearly work plan, reporting procedures etc. In these workshops, 24 supervisors and 7 staff of respective project were participated.

### **3.5.3.4. Training on Gender Development**

To aware and sensitize staff members on Gender, MLAA organized 02 gender training (01 Basic course & 01 refresher course) facilitated by BRAC. After receiving the training, participants are enthusiastic to disseminate the concept of gender in field level through various awareness raising activities. . The duration of basic courses was for 11 days and refresher course was for 5 days. Total participants of the above courses was 45, among them 22 were female and 23 were male.

### **3.5.3.5. Project Management Workshop**

MLAA organized a workshop on project management with a view to identify the problems of various projects & future direction of activities. The duration of this workshop was 02 days and 25 senior staff members attended the workshop.

### **3.5.3.6. External and Internal Training for staff**

In the year 2005-2006, the MLAA sent two (2) of its staffs to neighbouring country India to participate in a workshop on documentation. This has enriched their knowledge and skill on documentation process and reporting. This was a unique opportunity for them and also for the MLAA to acquire experience in the context of a changing need.

In the same year, 32 MLAA staff members have received training on various issues from various NGOs of Bangladesh. Such NGOs include Ain O *Salish* Kendra, CCDB, Centre for Tax, IDSL-CARE, Red Crescent Society, BIM and SEHD. The trainings and workshops they attended were mainly on advocacy, research and documentation, local capacity for peace building, Income tax law, VAT, human resource development and staff management, office management and administration, gender and development, first aid, communication skill, writing reports and project proposals.

### **3.5.3.7. Exposure visits of LG initiative NGO's**

Tours were undertaken to share experiences with other like-minded NGOs. They help the participants to enhance their knowledge and proficiency on project activities. Two teams of female staffs took part in two tours. One team consisting 2 members of staff and 5 female UP members toured Manab Unnayan Kendra in Meherpur. The other team consisted 1 (one) staff member and 5 female CBO members. They toured Dipti in Jessore.

## **3.5.4. Strengthening Monitoring & Evaluation Cell**

Monitoring and evaluation is an important aspect of institutional capacity building of the MLAA. The monitoring and evaluation cell works to scrutinize the justification of the ongoing activities and to evaluate the activities already completed.

### **3.5.4.1. Development of monitoring and evaluation process**

The monitoring and evaluation process has been enhanced with the help of specialists to improve the accuracy of the monitoring and evaluation cell. The cell is now ready to meet the changing demands of time and more efficient in its works.

### **3.5.4.2. Issue-based reports**

Monitoring is an ongoing process of scrutinizing and evaluating the progress and achievements of the project outputs. The management authority, with the help of recognized method, can identify the strengths and weaknesses of a certain activity and then take required measures accordingly to keep the functional pace.

The monitoring and evaluation cell of the MLAA is working relentlessly to monitor the implementation process of various goals and objectives of all activities. By doing this, the cell is contributing to maintain the momentum of activities and also to achieve qualitative results. The cell evaluates the progress of the on going activities and prepares issue-based reports analyzing their overall impacts. These issue-based reports draw an analytical picture of various activities, which then help to determine the nature of later activities. During the period 2005-2006, the cell analyzed and evaluated the activities of 4 outputs and prepared 4 issue-based reports accordingly.

**R-1. Issue: Effectiveness of Knowledge & skills of UP representatives on Arbitration Council & Village Court (Indicator: Knowledge and skills of 50% of trained UP representatives enhanced on Arbitration Council (AC) and Village Court (VC).**

The cell monitored and evaluated Knowledge and Skills of UP representatives and finds that UP representatives are gaining Knowledge and Skills on judicial services.

The cell followed random sampling methodology in all stages of selecting UPs and stakeholders. The cell selected 40 UPs and interviewed 106 UP representatives & secretaries who received refresher training and cell finds that:

Knowledge on Village Court (VC) of UP representatives good-29%, medium-46%, weak-25%. Skill on Village Court (VC) of UP representatives good-20%, medium-40%, weak-40%. Knowledge on Arbitration Council (AC) of UP representatives good-25%, medium-34%, weak-41%. Skill on Arbitration council (AC) of UP representatives good-15%, medium 27%, weak-58%.

It is also find that, 20% UP's Representatives can follow the procedure and methods for resolved disputes of VC & AC with the help of MLAA worker.

**R-2. Issue: All Cases with legal merits among the disadvantaged family addressed.**

The cell find that, 95% Cases with legal merits among the disadvantaged family addressed, It has been seen in the record and in field level follows up of the cases shows that cases were taken from the disadvantaged marginalized segments of the society and covered the marginalized areas too, Level of involvement of relevant stakeholders (Judicial and Law Enforcing Agencies, Panel Lawyers, Advocates & Clerks) increased in formal judicial system.

**R-3. Issue: Extent of information on the study findings among the key stake holders**

MLAA has conducted a study to identify the complicacies and limitations of AC and VC.

M & E cell observed the study process and find the following:

ToR of the study gives clean instruction to design the study process. Study team formed and they handle quantitative data collection and analysis techniques, Study objectives are specifically mentioned in the study design and got approval from the concerned authority. Study design reflects qualitative aspects. Methodology mentioned with design is relevant to the qualitative issues in depth.

Initiative for reforming existing legal system and procedures of the judicial system:

MLAA also has initiated for conduct research to identify the Procedural Complicacy and Uncongenial Court Environment in Formal Judicial System at District level, which are making access to justice difficult for poor people, particularly women and finalizing the recommendation through sharing with different stakeholders and concerned governmental agencies for raising-up the issues at national policy level.

**R-4. Issue: Level of participation of CBO members in mediation process, especially women members in shalish activities as well as effectiveness of CBO.**

To prepare issue based report the cell monitored 94 Unions & 15 Thana. M&E cell assessed 300 resolved disputes and find that level of active participation of male CBO members in mediation process 34%, level of active participation of female CBO members in mediation process 6.33%, level of active participation of female & male CBO members in mediation process 40.33% and women CBO members presided over shalish sessions very good in 11.83%.

M&E cell monitored 11 live CBO meeting and 42 ward CBO meeting in 49 UPs and find that women CBO members participation in CBO meetings very good in 4%, women CBO members participation in CBO meetings medium in 32%, women CBO members participation in CBO meetings weak in 15.67%. Among assessed 53 CBO meetings cell find that women CBO members presided 24% meetings and made positive role.

**Planned activities not achieve & reasons**

| Output/Results   | Activities                            | Yr. Target | Achievements | Deviation | %   |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-----|
| Output/Results:1 | Mediation through Arbitration Council | 3600       | 2735         | 865       | 24% |
| Output/Results:2 | Support to Court Cases                | 700        | 567          | 133       | 19% |

**Reasons:**

- Disputes relating polygamy and divorce have been decreasing due to awareness rising which is under jurisdiction of AC.
- Mediation, VC & AC of UP are becoming more popular. So most of the disputes are resolving in local level. On the other hand filing of a case in court depends on merit and necessary document. We don't encourage clients for litigation due to lengthy procedure and uncongenial environment of court.

**Unplanned Achievements**

At various stages of implementation of our activities, we found it necessary to organize certain workshops and trainings. These activities are unplanned but required to meet sudden very relevant demands that justified such activities.

Awareness workshops and training for CBO members (Output – 4)

| Activity   | Participants        | Duration | Number of Events | Females | Males | Total |
|--|---------------------|----------|------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Training on Mediation and Law  | Upazila CBO members | 1 day    | 15               | 200     | 346   | 546   |
| Training on Mediation and Law  | Upazila CBO members | 3 days   | 2                | 23      | 34    | 57    |
| Workshop on law related to birth registration, child marriage, marriage and divorce registration and dowry prohibition | Marriage registrars | 1 day    | 1                | 00      | 28    | 28    |

Training for MLAA staffs (Output – 5)

| Activity                                     | Participants                                | Duration | Number of Events | Females | Males | Total |
|--|---|----------|------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Training on Mediation and Law (Basic Course) | New union level <i>Salish</i> staff of MLAA | 4 days   | 1                | 10      | 17    | 27    |

Training Assistance to other NGO Staffs (Output – 5)

| Inviting NGO                         | Course Title              | Duration                   | Venue   | Number of Participants | Type of participants                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| Gandhi Ashram Trust, Noakhali        | Training on legal rights  | 3 days (23-25 July 2005)   | BRDB Training Centre, Noakhali                        | 28                     | Senior staffs of Gandhi Ashram Trust and UP Chairmen |
| Nagarik Udyog, Dhaka                 | Paralegal Training        | 6 days (26 Nov-1 Dec 2005) | MLAA training centre                                  | 30                     | Staffs of Nagarik Udyog                              |
| Swabalambi Unnayan Samiti, Netrakona | Training on Village Court | 3 days (5-7 Dec 2005)      | Training Centre, Swabalambi Unnayan Samiti, Netrakona | 22                     | Staffs of Swabalambi Unnayan Samiti                  |

## **Chapter IV**

### **Result Analysis**

#### **4.1. Justice System of Local Government become more effective**

##### **4.1.1. Chairmen, secretaries and male and female elected members of the UP have shown more enthusiasm, wisdom, expertise and willingness in resolving disputes through the VC and the AC.**

- Various trainings have assisted the UP representatives to enrich their knowledge and increase their skills. This has boosted their confidence, which is evident from their increased participation in the AC and VC activities.
- The attendance rate of the Chairmen and the secretaries in the VC related follow-up meetings has increased.
- Number of settled disputes by both the AC and the VC is on the rise.
- The UPs are spending more time in settling disputes.
- In the settled disputes by the AC & VC there is evidence of increase propensity to have substantive and procedural rules been fully followed.

##### **4.1.2. Increased co-operation among local administration and other stakeholders in the AC/VC activities.**

- Upazila level workshops conducted for government officials helped to increase their participation in VC/AC activities. The DC & UNOs also inspect and supervise VC activities at field levels and scrutinise documents.
- The DC & ADC often worked as a resource person in the trainings organized by the MLLA. The UNOs acted as facilitators in 12 Upazila workshops out of 13.

##### **4.1.3. People are directly benefited by dispute resolution through the AC/VC.**

- The rural poor are receiving speedy redress at minimum effort and expense.
- The poor are utilizing resources saved in this way for the betterment of their well-being.
- The scopes and types of redresses are expanding. They include, among others, recovery of cash, compensation, recovery of title and possession of lands, restitution of marital rights and status, entitlement to dower, maintenance, divorce, etc.
- Spontaneous participation of the parties is helping to maintain social harmony and peaceful coexistence putting an end to long or short run rivalry and enmity.

##### **4.1.4. Better protection of women's rights.**

- The number of female applicants has increased significantly in both VC and AC. The number of settled disputes and cases has also increased.
- The decisions of the AC and the VC prevented families from splitting up and helped women to reunite with their husbands and children.
- Recovery of dower, maintenance and marital rights and status has helped the women to empower themselves within the household. Now they are able to take their own decisions or share their views within the household along with their husbands.
- Effective protection and restitution of marital rights is giving the women social security and stability.

##### **4.1.5. Increased awareness of the rural poor about AC/VC**

- The awareness rate of the ordinary people about the VC and the AC has increased significantly.
- As a direct consequence of increased awareness, total number of applicants in both the AC and the VC has increased considerably.
- Local elite and CBO members are participating in the VC proceedings as representatives and adjudicators.

## **4.2. Access to formal judicial system increased**

### **4.2.1. The beneficiaries are getting justice in criminal cases**

- 289 criminal cases were resolved – 219 verdicts (76%) went in favour of the beneficiaries, 37 cases were rejected and 33 verdicts went against the beneficiaries. This is an indication of accuracy in assessing merits of the cases.
- In 27 cases, 22 accused beneficiaries were released.
- In 66 dowry prohibition cases, the beneficiaries received 25,92,000 taka for consideration of dissolution their marriages. In 99 cases marital relationship of the beneficiaries remained intact.

### **4.2.2. The beneficiaries are getting justice in family cases**

- 157 family cases were disposed of – the beneficiaries won in the trail in 134 cases (85%), 23 cases (15%) lost.
- In 76 cases, taka 34, 33,425 has been decreed in favour of the beneficiaries. 31 beneficiaries in 31 cases received 8, 38,000 taka as compensation on compromise and they terminated their marriages. In 27 cases the couples continued their marital relationship on compromise.

### **4.2.3. The beneficiaries are recovered their land in land cases**

- 22 land cases were resolved – judgements in 15 cases went in favour of the beneficiaries, 7 cases were rejected or went against the beneficiaries.
- In 14 cases, the beneficiaries recovered possession of land on decree. The approximate value of the recovered land is taka 39, 90,000.

### **4.2.4. The beneficiaries realized their rights in appeals**

- Total 27 appeals were settled – in 26 cases the beneficiaries won the appeals and only one incident the case was sent to the lower court for re-adjudication.
- Out of 7 family cases, the beneficiaries won 6 and one case was sent to lower court for retrial.

### **4.2.5. Relevant stakeholders are more sensitive to the needs of the beneficiaries**

- As a result of opinion sharing meetings in three districts, the lawyers and their clerks, judges and members of the law enforcing agencies are compassionate and sensitive to the needs of the beneficiaries.
- They pledged to speed up actions like trail, issuing and execution of warrants, summoning, etc.

## **4.3. Advocacy for legislative and policy reform towards access to formal and informal judicial systems for the disadvantaged towards creating an enabling environment for ensuring access to justice.**

### **4.3.1. Problems of AC/VC activities have been identified and action to resolve them has been outlined:**

Various problems in the implementation of AC/VC activities have been identified and action to resolve them has been outlined. The participants in opinion sharing meetings, round table meetings and advocacy workshops expressed their concerns on various legal, procedural and infrastructural limitations of AC/VC. The participants, in the light of their experience, emphasized on expansion of VC jurisdiction and government funding and supervision.

### **4.3.2. Limitations of the laws and proceeding of AC/VC:**

Certain limitations of the laws relating to AC/VC and their proceedings have been identified by studies. Advocacy initiatives are underway to influence the policy makers to remove these limitations.

**4.3.3. The network was formed with like-minded organizations:** A body of rules has been finalized for the management of activities of local judicial system of UP. These rules are a result of consensus of the like-minded groups to work together for the realization of justice and human rights. This network will help to take concerted and co-ordinated effort to influence the policy makers.

**4.3.4. Gender concept is disseminating through women empowerment :**

Female animators of MLAA are trained on gender issues and have been assisting to implement MLAA's activity in rural level. In 10% cases of village court, parties nominate animators as panel judge out of five members. Animators also attend the trial session of village court, arbitration council and also participate the mediation session.

They also participated in courtyard meeting (74%), CBO meetings (15%), and also act as co-facilitators in gender workshops. Their participation in the workshop have been creating opportunity to disseminate the concept of gender, sensitise the gender aspect and also changing the attitude of the participants in rural level.

**4.4. Institutionalization of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) ensured through dissemination and replication of Madaripur Model of Mediation (MMM)**

**4.4.1. CBO members are organized and aware:** Union, upazila and district level CBO members are now organized and aware of their responsibilities. They are assisting to settling disputes with enthusiasm. They are directly participating in *Salish* session. In CBO meetings they have ample opportunity to share their views on importance of CBOs, their role in *Salish* and various local problems. CBO members have enriched their knowledge and skill on *Salish* processes and strategies through workshops and trainings.

**4.4.2. Women CBO members are active in mediation:** Female CBO members are playing active roles in *Salish*. 7,986 disputes were settled through *Salish* where 30,364 CBO members participated. Among them 7238 were females. In 1228 settled disputes, woman CBO members presided over the mediation session.

**4.4.3. The decisions of Mediation session was effectively implemented:** 2465 settled disputes were followed up which revealed that 2262 decisions of resolutions (91.76%) were effectively implemented and 203 resolutions (8.23%) were not. This trend indicates the overall perpetuity of the resolutions.

**4.4.4. Mediation restores or continued the family ties:** MLAA resolved 4310 disputes related to family matter, second marriage and dowry with the active participation of CBO members. Among the resolved disputes, in 3095 disputes wife and husband continued their family life amicably.

**4.4.5. Child rescued and sent back to his/her mother:** The CBO members of mediation project of MLAA mediated some disputes on guardianship and help applicants to get their child through mediation. The numbers of rescued children were 32.

**4.4.6.** In the year 2005-2006, *Salish* has recovered taka 464, 69,792 for the beneficiaries.

| Dower and maintenance | Compensation   | Cash for land  | Value of recovered land | Total recovered money |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 126,80,550 taka       | 77,44,946 taka | 11,01,066 taka | 249,43,230 taka         | 464,69,792 taka       |

#### **4.5. Institutional Capacity of MLAA Strengthened**

- 4.5.1. Increased the skill and expertise of the MLAA staffs:** Multifaceted trainings undertaken by the human resource development division has increased the skill and expertise of the MLAA staffs. Each member of staff is working with efficiency and confidence in his/her own department. The human resource division has been enhanced and as a direct consequence of this enhancement, specific rules and procedures are followed in defining strategies, planning and implementing activities.
- 4.5.2. New policy and rules were adopted:** New internal rules have been adopted to strengthen organizational infrastructure. The MLAA activities are now conducted more smoothly.
- 4.5.3. Strengthened the monitoring cell:** The strengthened monitoring cell is working with specific strategies to scrutinize the implementation of the main goals and objectives of the organization.
- 4.5.4. Gender policy has been adopted:** Gender policy has been adopted and all other rules and regulations of the organization are being made consistent to gender policy.

## Chapter V

### Impact Analysis

A rights-based intervention has different types of impacts on the stakeholders such as economic, social, political and cultural. We have discussed the economic impacts in the previous chapter. Here, we shall discuss social, political and cultural impacts in brief. Measuring social, cultural and political impact is no easy task. Obviously there are various indicators and applications of these indicators have not been formally used by the experts in the field of rights based intervention.

Local government based judicial system of rural Bangladesh was ineffective due to lack of legal knowledge, resources and technical skill and expertise. MLAA undertook various activities which among others, increased people's knowledge about AC/VC and their confidence on the local judicial system. As a result, the number of settled disputes through AC/VC has increased considerably. NGOs from different parts of Bangladesh are learning from the MLAA experience. As such, UPs in our area of operation become important centres for grassroots justice.

The combined effect of AC/VC, legal aid and *Salish* is far reaching. The very significant impact of these activities can be felt from the decrease of disputes in the project area. The weak, the oppressed and the marginalized are getting justice and the same is working as a deterrent for the recalcitrant. The rights of the child and the woman in rural Bangladesh are mostly violated as a result of domestic violence. Due to MLAA intervention, incidents of domestic violence have decreased considerably. Numbers of litigations in our courts are also in the decrease.

The *taboos* cannot rule the women in the project area anymore. They are aware of their rights and they can raise their voice to defend their rights. Strong and consistent participation of women in CBOs, in AC/VC related activities not only empowered them but also empowered the masses. The MLAA is supporting families to unite, preventing them from being split and thus protecting family as a basic unit of the society. In rural Bangladesh, protection of the women means protection of vulnerable members of the household.

Incidents of dowry, divorce, torture, polygamy are redressed speedily and efficiently. The poor people are recovering their movable and immovable property at no cost. They are sending their children to school, receiving medical treatment, condition of their lives are improving.

*Salish* has taken over *fatwabaji* deterring the local religious fundamentals. In fact, the MLAA has succeeded in penetrating the corrupt and imbalanced rural power dynamics through spontaneous participation of the rural people.

Gender sensitivities have been incorporated in all activities and agenda of various programmes in our organisation. As a result at all level of our activities relation between the man and woman has improved which to a great extent helped remove gender disparity.

The MLAA activities have its impact on policy makers. The relentless MLAA awareness campaign and advocacy along with other organizations saw an expansion of pecuniary jurisdiction of the village court.<sup>4</sup> On the other hand, *Salish* is on its way to gain institutional form. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2003<sup>5</sup> is recognition for *Salish* at national level. By this amendment in the matter of civil disputes option for settling the same through mediation has been included.

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<sup>4</sup> The pecuniary jurisdiction of the Village Court has been raised from 5,000 taka to 25,000 taka.

<sup>5</sup> Act No. IV of 2003, See Bangladesh Gazette Extraordinary, dated 27th February 2003.

## Chapter VI

### a) Problem faced

In our intervention we experienced various problems at different implementation stages of our activities. For example:

- The local elected representatives never exercised the AC/VC related activities before. This is because there was no initiative on the part of state government to activate the laws regarding AC/VC. As a result there is a lack of commitment among the elected representatives to participate in the AC/VC activities.
- There are numerous procedural difficulties in the VC proceedings.
- Government's effort and follow-ups for a speedy local justice system is insufficient.
- Complex legal framework, sluggish judicial proceedings and overall court environment do not favour the poor
- Advocacy is an ongoing process. We may have to wait a long time to see the reflection of local level advocacy at the national level.
- The majority of the population is still not aware of law and their rights.
- NGO affairs Bureau is sluggish and counter-productive.

### b) Suggested action to meet the problem

To meet these problems:

- The local justice system activities must be kept going providing effective support from the government.
- Elected representatives of the local government should be given incentive to participate in local justice system.
- There must be an authority to supervise the local justice system activities of the UP. The UP will be accountable to this authority for non-compliance.
- Legal framework and procedures of the local justice system must be amended and reformed.
- A mass awareness campaign needs to be undertaken to aware people about the benefits of the local justice system.
- There should be enhanced co-ordination between GO-NGO.

## Conclusion

For MLAA, creating opportunities for the rural poor to access the justice system is one of the means whereby they can empower themselves to participate in the development process and reap the benefits of development. The MLAA is engaged in the challenging work of securing an easily accessible justice system for the rural poor. More accessible justice system connotes better protection of human rights and better human rights protection means more empowerment for and better participation by the poor in their struggle to change their conditions of lives. The MLAA will continue to face the future challenges of alleviating poverty through better access to justice based on human rights.



## Details of Tables

**Table: 01**

### Details Statement of Village Court Cases

| Thana / District | Previous Pending |            | Cases Received |             | Total       |             | Case Resolved |             | Rejected   |            | Recommend For Case |          | Total       |             | Present Pending |            |
|------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
|                  | F                | M          | F              | M           | F           | M           | F             | M           | F          | M          | F                  | M        | F           | M           | F               | M          |
| Madaripur        | 60               | 114        | 714            | 1105        | 774         | 1219        | 655           | 991         | 50         | 116        | 0                  | 1        | 705         | 1108        | 69              | 111        |
| Shariatpur       | 59               | 63         | 697            | 906         | 756         | 969         | 679           | 821         | 41         | 81         | 0                  | 0        | 720         | 902         | 36              | 67         |
| Gopajganj        | 30               | 53         | 247            | 405         | 277         | 458         | 247           | 403         | 9          | 12         | 0                  | 0        | 256         | 415         | 21              | 43         |
| <b>Sub-total</b> | <b>149</b>       | <b>230</b> | <b>1658</b>    | <b>2416</b> | <b>1807</b> | <b>2646</b> | <b>1581</b>   | <b>2215</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>209</b> | <b>0</b>           | <b>1</b> | <b>1681</b> | <b>2425</b> | <b>126</b>      | <b>221</b> |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>379</b>       |            | <b>4074</b>    |             | <b>4453</b> |             | <b>3796</b>   |             | <b>309</b> |            | <b>1</b>           |          | <b>4106</b> |             | <b>347</b>      |            |

**Table: 02**

### Statement of Disposal Cases of Village Court: Nature-wise

| District     | Name of Thana   | No. of Case Resolved | Type of Disputes |            |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
|              |                 |                      | Criminal         | Civil      |
| Madaripur    | 4 Thana         | 1646                 | 1503             | 143        |
| Shariatpur   | 6 Thana         | 1500                 | 1233             | 267        |
| Gopalganj    | 2 Thana         | 650                  | 617              | 33         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>12 Thana</b> | <b>3796</b>          | <b>3353</b>      | <b>443</b> |

**Table: 03**

### Details Statement of Disputes of Arbitration Council

| Thana / District | Previous Pending |           | Application Received |            | Total       |            | Mediation Done (AC) |            | Rejected  |           | Recommend For Case |          | Total       |            | Present Pending |           |
|------------------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|----------|-------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|
|                  | F                | M         | F                    | M          | F           | M          | F                   | M          | F         | M         | F                  | M        | F           | M          | F               | M         |
| Madaripur        | 117              | 9         | 1087                 | 90         | 1204        | 99         | 1074                | 85         | 19        | 3         | 2                  | 0        | 1095        | 88         | 109             | 11        |
| Shariatpur       | 96               | 18        | 1111                 | 94         | 1207        | 112        | 1083                | 92         | 23        | 6         | 0                  | 0        | 1106        | 98         | 101             | 14        |
| Gopajganj        | 41               | 6         | 380                  | 13         | 421         | 19         | 385                 | 16         | 3         | 2         | 0                  | 0        | 388         | 18         | 33              | 1         |
| <b>Sub-total</b> | <b>254</b>       | <b>33</b> | <b>2578</b>          | <b>197</b> | <b>2832</b> | <b>230</b> | <b>2542</b>         | <b>193</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>2</b>           | <b>0</b> | <b>2589</b> | <b>204</b> | <b>243</b>      | <b>26</b> |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>287</b>       |           | <b>2775</b>          |            | <b>3062</b> |            | <b>2735</b>         |            | <b>56</b> |           | <b>2</b>           |          | <b>2793</b> |            | <b>269</b>      |           |

**Table: 04**

### Statement of Resolved disputes of Arbitration Council: Nature-wise

| District     | Name of Thana   | No. of Disputes Resolution | Type of Disputes |            |           |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|
|              |                 |                            | Maintenance      | Divorce    | Polygamy  |
| Madaripur    | 4 Thana         | 1159                       | 833              | 304        | 22        |
| Shariatpur   | 6 Thana         | 1175                       | 922              | 237        | 16        |
| Gopalganj    | 2 Thana         | 401                        | 356              | 38         | 07        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>12 Thana</b> | <b>2735</b>                | <b>2111</b>      | <b>579</b> | <b>45</b> |

**Table: 05**

### Statement of Courtyard Meeting on VC & AC

| District     | No. of Meetings | Participants |              |              |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|              |                 | Female       | Male         | Total        |
| Madaripur    | 2133            | 24013        | 4805         | 28818        |
| Shariapur    | 1951            | 22657        | 3467         | 26124        |
| Gopalganj    | 675             | 7413         | 2156         | 9569         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>4759</b>     | <b>54083</b> | <b>10428</b> | <b>64511</b> |

**Table: 06****Details Statement of Court Cases**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Pending from 2004-05                          | 936         |
| Case Instituted in 2005-06                    | 567         |
| <b>Total Case</b>                             | <b>1503</b> |
| Court Verdict in favour of MLAA beneficiaries | 164         |
| Court Verdict against of MLAA beneficiaries   | 40          |
| Compromise in Court / Cases mediated          | 230         |
| Cases quashed/rejected                        | 61          |
| <b>Total Disposal of Cases</b>                | <b>495</b>  |
| Present Pending                               | 1008        |

**Table: 07****Male-female distribution of filed and settled cases in Court**

| Type     | Cases filed |        |       |        | Cases settled |        |       |        |
|----------|-------------|--------|-------|--------|---------------|--------|-------|--------|
|          | Male        | Female | Total | %      | Male          | Female | Total | %      |
| Criminal | 19          | 312    | 331   | 68.37% | 17            | 272    | 289   | 58.30% |
| Family   | -           | 175    | 175   | 30.87% | -             | 157    | 157   | 31.71% |
| Land     | 21          | 11     | 32    | 5.65%  | 14            | 08     | 22    | 4.44%  |
| Appeals  | 03          | 26     | 29    | 5.11%  | 06            | 21     | 27    | 5.45%  |
| Total    | 43          | 524    | 567   | 100%   | 37            | 458    | 495   | 100%   |

**Table: 08****Statement of Follow-up of Court Cases**

| Districts  | Pending cases | Disposed cases |
|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Madaripur  | 15            | 21             |
| Shariatpur | 10            | 09             |
| Gopalganj  | 05            | 08             |
| Total      | 30            | 38             |

**Table: 09****Statement of Meeting with Panel lawyers, lawyer's associates and judicial & members of law enforcing agencies**

| Meeting Title   | Number of meetings | Male Participants | Female Participants | Total |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Meeting with Panel lawyers                                | 6                  | 140               | 10                  | 150   |
| Meeting with lawyers associates                           | 6                  | 228               | 12                  | 240   |
| Meeting with judges and members of law enforcing agencies | 2                  | 57                | 3                   | 60    |
| Total   | 14                 | 425               | 25                  | 450   |

**Table: 10****Statement of Training and Workshops for Capacity Building of Women Leaders**

|    | Title of Events  | Target                              | Achievements                        | Female | Male | Total |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|------|-------|
| 1) | Workshop on Gender, Human Rights & Family Law              | 100 Workshops<br>2000 Participants  | 109 Workshops<br>2166 Participants  | 2122   | 44   | 2166  |
| 2) | Training on Gender, Human Rights & Family Law for Animator | 10 Ref. Courses<br>278 Participants | 11 Ref. Courses<br>263 Participants | 263    | 000  | 263   |
| 3) | Gender Development Workshop                                | 5 Workshops<br>100 Participants     | 3 Workshops<br>56 Participants      | 29     | 27   | 56    |

**Table: 11****Statement of Meetings with CBO Members**

| Events                          | No. of Meetings | Participants        | Female       | Male         | Total        |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Meeting with Ward CBOs          | 4883            | Ward CBO Members    | 22945        | 33947        | 56892        |
| Meeting with Union Central CBOs | 372             | Central CBO Members | 1637         | 2375         | 4012         |
| Meeting with Thana CBOs         | 12              | Central CBO Members | 148          | 252          | 400          |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>5267</b>     |                     | <b>24730</b> | <b>36574</b> | <b>61304</b> |

**Table: 12****Statement of Skill enhancement workshops and training for CBO Members**

| Events  | Duration | No. of Events | Female | Male | Total |
|---|----------|---------------|--------|------|-------|
| Training for Central CBO Members on Mediation and Law         | 3 Days   | 34            | 360    | 525  | 885   |
| Workshops for Ward CBO Members on Mediation and Law           | Day-long | 206           | 2503   | 3333 | 5836  |
| Workshops for Female CBO Members on Gender, Mediation and Law | Day-long | 17            | 458    | 00   | 458   |
| Training for Civil Society Members on Mediation and Law       | 3 Days   | 18            | 214    | 228  | 442   |

**Table: 13****Statement of Application and disputes resolved**

| Previous Pending |      | Application Received |      | Total  |      | Disputes Resolved |      | Rejected / File up |      | Send for Court Case |      | Total  |      | Present Pending |      |
|------------------|------|----------------------|------|--------|------|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|---------------------|------|--------|------|-----------------|------|
| Female           | Male | Female               | Male | Female | Male | Female            | Male | Female             | Male | Female              | Male | Female | Male | Female          | Male |
| 747              | 711  | 6172                 | 4523 | 6919   | 5234 | 4590              | 3396 | 493                | 64   | 1104                | 1072 | 6187   | 4532 | 732             | 702  |
| 1458             |      | 10695                |      | 12153  |      | 7986              |      | 557                |      | 2176                |      | 10719  |      | 1434            |      |

**Table: 14****Statement of Nature wise disputes resolved through Mediation**

| Nature       | Family Disputes | Assult     | Second Marriage | Dowry       | Social Disputes | Financial Disputes | Land Disputes | Misc       | Total       |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Upazilla     | 451             | 71         | 15              | 651         | 31              | 152                | 75            | 45         | 1491        |
| Unions       | 1472            | 743        | 21              | 1700        | 517             | 906                | 863           | 273        | 6495        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1923</b>     | <b>814</b> | <b>36</b>       | <b>2351</b> | <b>548</b>      | <b>1058</b>        | <b>938</b>    | <b>318</b> | <b>7986</b> |
| %            | 24.07           | 10.19      | 0.45            | 29.43       | 6.86            | 13.24              | 11.74         | 3.98       |             |

**Table: 15****Money Recovery Statement of Disputes Resolution through Mediation**

a) Money Recovery from Family related Disputes

| Nature          | disputes resolved | No. of Beneficiaries | Family life restore / Continued | Divorce                        |                       |                  |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
|                 |                   |                      |                                 | Recover Maintenance & Denmohor |                       | Amicable Settled |
|                 |                   |                      |                                 | No                             | Taka                  |                  |
| Family Disputes | 1923              | 16119                | 1484                            | 346                            | 4757000               | 93               |
| Second Marriage | 36                | 285                  | 32                              | 03                             | 146000                | 01               |
| Dowry           | 2351              | 17872                | 1579                            | 707                            | 7777550               | 65               |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>4310</b>       | <b>34276</b>         | <b>3095</b>                     | <b>1056</b>                    | <b>1,26,80,550.00</b> | <b>159</b>       |

b) Money Recovery from Social Disputes

| Nature             | disputes resolved | No. of Beneficiaries | Amicable Settled | Taka Recovered as Compensation |                |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
|                    |                   |                      |                  | No                             | Taka           |
| Assult             | 814               | 6858                 | 619              | 195                            | 625470.00      |
| Financial Disputes | 1058              | 8391                 | 257              | 801                            | 6217822.00     |
| Social Disputes    | 548               | 4711                 | 440              | 108                            | 252720.00      |
| Misc               | 318               | 2884                 | 203              | 115                            | 648934.00      |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>2737</b>       | <b>22844</b>         | <b>1518</b>      | <b>1219</b>                    | <b>7744946</b> |

c) Money Recovery from Land Disputes

| Nature | disputes resolved | No. of Beneficiaries | Amicable Settled | Land Recover in Decimal |                  |                   | Taka Recover |               |                  |
|--------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
|        |                   |                      |                  | No of Dis.              | Quantity of Land | Approximate Value | No of Dis.   | Money Recover | Quantity of Land |
| Land   | 939               | 3008                 | 355              | 513                     | 10516.5          | 24943230/-        | 71           | 1101066       | 847              |

**Table: 16****Statement of Training & Staff Development**

| Training & Workshop Title   | No. of Events | Duration | Participants  | Female | Male | Total |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|--------|------|-------|
| Refresher Course on VC & AC | 3             | 3 Days   | Union Workers | 70     | 36   | 106   |
| Refresher Course on         | 3             | 3 Days   | Union         | 39     | 44   | 83    |

|  |    |           |                                      |     |     |     |
|--|----|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Mediation & Law  |    |           | Workers                              |     |     |     |
| Project Development Workshops  | 2  | 2 Days    | Project Supervisors                  | 00  | 33  | 33  |
| TOT on Gender  | 2  | 11/5 Days | MLAA Staff                           | 22  | 23  | 45  |
| Project Management Workshops   | 1  | 2 Days    | MLAA Staff                           | 04  | 21  | 25  |
| Documentation Workshops at INDIA   | 1  | 6 Days    | MLAA Staff                           | 0   | 2   | 2   |
| Exchange Visit   | 1  | 5 Days    | UP Women Members & Women CBO Members | 12  | 1   | 13  |
| advocacy, research and documentation, Income tax law & VAT, HRD & management, office management & administration, gender development, first aid, communication skill, writing reports and writing project proposals. | 13 | -         | MLAA Staff                           | 16  | 16  | 32  |
| Total  |    |           |                                      | 163 | 176 | 339 |

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## Information of other project of MLAA

### a) Brief Project Report on Creating opportunities to Justice at grass root level and Human Rights Education : Annex-A

**Reporting period:** August 2005-June 2006.

**Name of the projects:** 'Creating opportunities to Justice at grass root level and Human Rights Education.'

**Objective:**

The objective of the project is to create an opportunity & ensure easy access to justice for the poor especially, women and children and aware school & college students on Child rights and human rights.

**The specific objectives of the projects are as follows:**

- To disseminate and replicate the Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM) in other areas of Bangladesh through partner NGOs.
- To make the UP judicial system (Village Court) effective & dynamic.
- To raise awareness on human rights among the students.

**Working area:**

The project has two components:

- I. 1<sup>st</sup> component of the project is Creating access to Justice at Rural Level located at 08 districts (Meherpur, Jhenidah, Jessore, Rajbari, Sirajgonj, Thakurgaon, Gaibandha and Dinajpur) other than MLAA's active area, covering 45 unions through 09 partner NGOs.
- II. 2<sup>nd</sup> component of the project is Providing Human Rights Education to 20 educational institutions of Madaripur, Shariatpur & Gopalganj districts of MLAA's working area.

**Target group:**

Rural disadvantaged poor, especially women & children and students and guardians of different educational institutions.

**Donor:** Manusher Jonno Foundation.

**Performance:**

#### 1st Component: Creating access to Justice at Rural Level

##### 1. Reformation of Committee:

**a) Central Committee:** 45 Central Committees reconstituted consisting of 630 members. Among them 140 (22.22%) are female & 490 (77.78%) are male.

**b) Ward Committee:** 450 Ward Committees reconstituted consisting of 4455 members. Among them 1620 (36.36%) are female & 2835 (63.64%) are male

**2. Training of field Staff & Supervisors:** A total of 53 field staff & supervisors of partner NGOs attended, of them 47 (88.68%) were female and 08 (11.32%) were male.

**3. Workshops on UP Chairman:** A total of 42 UP Chairmen participated from the PNGOs working area, of them 01 (02.38%) were female and 41 (97.62%) were male.

**4. One day Workshop with Committee members:** A total number of 2214 participants attended at 45 workshops, out of them 883 (39.88%) were female & 1331 (60.12%) were male.

## **5. Dispute Resolution:**

a) 1784 disputes were resolved through mediation. Among them 893 (50.06%) disputants were female & 891 (49.94%) were male.

b) 745 disputes were resolved through Village Court. Of which 262 (35.17%) disputants were female & 483 (64.83%) were male.

**6. Uthan Baithak (Courtyard Meeting) :** A total number of 49974 general public attended in 2911 Uthan Baithaks. Out of them, 45414 (90.88%) were female & 4560 (9.12%) were male.

**7. Meeting with the member of Ward (Salish) Committee:** A total number of 14987 participants attended in 1601 Ward Committee Meeting. Among them, 5372 (35.84%) were female & 9615 (64.16%) were male.

**8. Meeting with the member of Central Committee (UP Representative) :** A total number of 3141 participants attended in 173 Central Committee Meeting, of them 529 (16.84%) were female & 2612 (83.16%) were male.

**9. Advocacy Meeting:** 09 such types of meeting were held in 09 partner organization's area. A total number of 360 participants attended, out of them 125 (34.72%) were female & 235 (65.28%) were male.

**10. Video Show:** 85 video shows were held in 9 partner organization's area. A total number of 6208 participants attended. Out of them 3859 (62.16%) were female & 2349 (37.84%) were male.

**11. Monitoring:** During the reporting period activities of 09 partner organizations were monitored 35 times in different quarters by MLAA officials.

## **2nd Component: Providing Human Rights Education**

**1. Selection of educational institutions for H.R. Cell:** 13 schools and 7 colleges were selected in Madaripur, Sariatpur and Gopalganj Districts for H.R. Cell. Out of 20 institutions 06 are female institutions.

**2. Formation of Human Rights Cell :** Having 06 members including - 1 head master / principle, 2 selected teachers, 1 governing body member and 2 students at each cell. Total cell members are-120, among them male- 85 (71%) and female-35(29%).

**3. TOT (Training of Trainers) :** 2 TOT Courses were organized with 38 teachers who are working as facilitators. Among them 27 (71%) were male and 11(29%) were female.

**4. Observance of various international day:** MLAA observed the different international days, such as, International Child Rights day, Human Rights day and Women's day. On the occasion of this days MLAA arranged 3 Rally & discussion session, 1 documentary film show, 1 drama & 1 round table boithak. A total number of 312 students & teachers were attended there. Among them 229 were female & 83 were male.

**5. Combined Workshops on Human Rights:** 05 Workshops were held at TARC of MLAA with 218 Students from 20 schools and colleges. Among the participants, 92 (42.20%) were male and 126 (57.80%) were female.

**6. Human Rights Cell Members meeting:** 20 Meetings were held at concerned schools and colleges. Total Participants were-286, of them male-185 (65%) & female-101 (35%)

**7. Monthly on spot workshops at school:** 150 Human Rights Workshops were held at 07 colleges. Total participants-1890, of them male-1151 (60.90%) and femal-739 (39.10 %)

**8. Monthly spot workshops at colleges:** 284 Child Rights Workshops were held at 13 schools. Total participants-3462 of them male-956 (27.61%) and female-2506 (72.29%)

**09. Orientation Workshop on H.R.Cell member:** 3 Workshops were held at TARC, MLAA with 96 H.R. Cell members of different schools & colleges. Among them 63 (65.63%) were male & 33 (34.37%) were female.

**10. MLAA staff meeting:** 1 meeting was held at TARC, MLAA with 09 Thana Union worker of MLAA working area. Among them 05 (55.56%) were male & 04 (44.44%) were female.

**11. Views Sharing meeting:** 20 meetings were held at different schools & colleges with 816 local elite persons. Of them 570 (69.85%) were male & 246 (30.15%) were female.

**12. Local Competition :** 12 competitions were organized by MLAA at different schools & colleges about different rights issues. A total number of 96 students participated there. Out of them 55 (57.29%) were male & 41 (42.71%) were female.

**13. Monitoring:** The project personnel has monitored the project activities and prepared reports accordingly & the project personnel also periodically visited the educational institute for smooth operation of the project activities and achieve the goal.

### **Conclusion:**

This report focuses on the performance of third year's activities of the total 3 year's project period. The immediate result of the project is found satisfactory as the anticipated output is almost achieved. The partners are successfully replicating the model of MLAA and followed the guideline of the project. In a nutshell the outcome of the project is furnished below:

- a) The UP elected representatives are trained and motivated to use AC & VC to resolve the dispute
- b) The community members are enthusiastic for rendering their voluntary services to resolve the dispute at local level.
- c) The local administration and other stakeholders are cooperative regarding activating the local level justice.
- d) The women are made aware about family law and they know where to go for dispute resolution.
- e) The human rights cell of the school and college are interested to implement this program at their own initiatives.
- f) The students are eager to learn the concept and referring disputes to MLAA for resolving the same

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## **b. Brief Project Report on Access to Justice and Good Governance : Annex-B**

**Reporting Period:** October 2005- June 2006

**Project name:** 'Access to Justice and Good Governance'

### **Objectives**

- a) Empowerment of village communities especially women by supporting them to resolve disputes through Mediation
- b) Increase awareness of the rural people especially women and other significant stakeholder of the society for participating in the mediation & UP judicial process to resolve the dispute
- c) Enhance the capacity of the UP elected bodies to perform their adjudicative duties (Arbitration council -AC and Village Court -VC) to resolve selected disputes for the poor especially the women
- d) MLAA improved mediation techniques and lessons learned is replicated in other part of Bangladesh through local NGOs
- e) Eliminate the gender inequality and social bias in mediation process and UP judicial system.
- f) Build the capacity of the local NGOs to replicate the Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM) and the AC & VC experience.

### **Location of the Project:**

The project covering 10 districts other than MLAA's activity area, where partner organization selected (5 unions in one project area covering) 50 Unions in 10 Upazilla of 10 districts under 6 Divisions.

Division : 06    District : 10    Partners : 10    Union : 50

| Sl.                | Division   | district    | Name of the PNGOs                             | Union         |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|---|---------------|
| 1                  | Dhaka      | Manikgonj   | Gono Kallain Trust (GKT)                      | 5             |
| 2                  |            | Rajbari     | Voluntary Paribar Kallayan Association (VPKA) | 5             |
| 3                  | Khulna     | Chuadanga   | SERAC   | 5             |
| 4                  |            | Khulna      | Jarato Jubo Shanga                            | 5             |
| 5                  | Chittagong | Cox Bazar   | Integrated social development efforts (ISDE)  | 5             |
| 6                  |            | Chittagong  | Bangladesh Institute of Theater o Arts (BITA) | 5             |
| 7                  | Sylhet     | Sunamjang   | Supla Development Society (SRDS)              | 5             |
| 8                  | Rajsahi    | Kurigram    | Solidarity                                    | 5             |
| 9                  | Barishal   | Barguna     | Sangram                                       | 5             |
| 10                 |            | Potua khali | Women Empowerment Foundation (WEF)            | 5             |
| <b>10 Partners</b> |            |             |   | <b>50 UPs</b> |

### **Target Beneficiary:**

- The beneficiaries of the project are from different social groups. The main target groups are women especially divorced, widow, oppressed, minorities, landless, vulnerable & marginalized groups. The above beneficiary groups will get direct benefit form this project.
- Elected representatives of Union Parishad, Imam of Mosques and cultural activists are also the stakeholder of the project.

**Donor:** British High Commission, Dhaka.

### **Performance in brief:**

#### **1. Orientation and workshop on Action plan:**

The objectives of the workshop are to share and disseminate the project implementation plan with the chief of the PNGOs. 20 participants from the partner NGOs participated in this workshop.

## **2. Training to field workers and supervisor:**

MLAA arranged training Program for the Supervisors and Field workers to provide them legal and procedural knowledge of Village Courts, techniques of mediation and responsibilities of ADR Assistant. Total participants were 60 among them 10 were supervisor and 50 were field workers. Out of them 48 were female and 12 were male.

## **3. Training for UP Elected Chairman ( 3 days ) :**

During the reporting period MLAA organized training for the UP elected Chairman on Village Court. Total 27 Chairmen were present among them 02 were female and 25 were male.

## **4. Formation of CBO**

Under this project 405 Word CBO and 50 Central CBO were formed. Members of Word CBO and Central CBOs are 6087 & 678 respectively. The category of the CBO members is women leader, UP representatives, social workers, teachers, Community leaders, NGO workers and, religious leader. Every central and word committee consist on 15 members in average.

## **5. Training for UP Representative and Secretary (Local level, 3 days training):**

During the reporting period, MLAA organized training for the UP elected representatives and secretary on Village Court, especially process, procedure and law of the same and Mediation. Total 294 participants attended the training. Among them 128 were female and 166 were male.

## **6. Advocacy & Awareness Workshop for CBO Member. (Day-long):**

During the reporting period MLAA organized 50 advocacy and awareness workshops at the Union level where CBO members especially women member were participated. Total participants of the workshops were 2402, of them 983 were female and 1419 were male. The purpose of the workshop was to provide knowledge on the law & procedure of VC and Mediation.

## **7. Monthly Word CBO Meeting:**

During the reporting period PNGOs field workers conducted 583 Ward levels CBO meeting. Consisting female 3165 participants and 4364 male participants' total participants were 7529. In the meeting the discussion topics were UP judiciary services, gender, women rights, and also related family laws especially marriage, divorce, polygamy and maintenance.

## **8) Central CBO Meeting:**

During the reporting period Field workers conducted 79 Central CBO meeting where total 887 members were participated. Out of them female participants were 323 and male participants were 564. The discussion topics were UP judiciary services, gender, women rights, and also related family laws especially marriage, divorce, polygamy and maintenance.

## **9) Publications:**

In order to create awareness among the mass in the project area MLAA printed 30000 copies of leaflets, 10000 posters, 10000 brochure and 4000 booklets on law and human rights.

## **10) Dispute Resolve through Mediation:**

During the reporting period field workers received 871 applications from 50 unions. Out these 660 disputes were resolved through mediation, 29 were rejected and remaining 182 are pending.

## **11) Dispute Resolve through Village Court (VC):**

During the reporting period field workers received 384 cases for resolving through village court. Out of 384 cases, 218 were resolved, 30 were rejected and 134 are now pending.

## **12) Workshop for local Elites (Upazilla level)**

During the reporting period MLAA organized 2 regional workshops at the Upazilla level where participants were from local elite CBO members, women UP members, imam and marriage register and Govt. officials. Total participants of the workshops were 69 out of them 27 were

female and 42 were male. The purpose of the workshop was to create network & build-up relationship among the stakeholders.

**Out come of the project:**

To raised awareness of the stakeholders especially women, CBO members, imam, local elites on legal knowledge of UP judicial service, techniques of mediation & family laws MLAA arranged various types of training & workshops. The project has been playing a vital role to ensure local level justice. UP Representatives are trained and performing their adjudicative duties in respect of resolving disputes through VC and Mediation. In fine, the multidimensional activities of the project is being opening an avenue to increase access to justice in local level through empowering disadvantaged group, especially women.

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## **c. Brief Report on Community Justice through Community Policing : Annex - C**

**Reporting Period:** October 05-June 06

### **Objective**

The major objective of community policing is to establish an active partnership between the police and the community through which crime, service delivery can jointly be analyzed and appropriate solutions can be designed & implemented.

### **The specific objectives:**

- to establish Police-Community partnerships for creating a problem solving approach.
- to establish an active partnership between the police and the community through which prevention of crime, service delivery can be designed and implemented.
- to create an atmosphere in which community partners are willing and able to co-operate with the police to make social harmony.
- to replicate the model on an expanded scale to the other parts of the country.

### **Project Area**

Madaripur Sadar Than: 5(Five) unions of Madaripur sadar thana (will be 5 units)

Madaripur Pourashava: 5(five) wards of Madaripur Pourashava (will be 5 units)

Total (5+5) =10 units.

**Donor:** The Asia Foundation, Dhaka

### **Performance**

#### **1. Formation of Community Policing Forum (CPF):**

MLAA has formed 10 CPF committees in 10 areas along with one central CPF committee in Pourashava including male and female representation with the integration of various occupational and professionals, local elected bodies (LEBs), civil society, community leaders, VDP member (Choukidar & Dafadar), and police officer. The number of total CPF member is around 500.

#### **2. Community Policing Information Center (CPIC):**

MLAA has set up Community Policing Information Center (CPIC) in different working areas to involve people with the Community Justice system through CPF members. This CPIC is the central and focal point for each unit. 10 CPIC are established in 10 areas.

#### **3. Meeting with CPF member, Local people and Police:**

MLAA has conducted 16 Meeting with local CPF member, police & local people to share ideas on community policing and identify problems & possible solution on Community policing activities.

#### **4. Training/Workshop for CPF Member:**

To disseminate the basic ideas on Community Policing and share the project implementation methods, 18 Day-long workshops with CPF members were conducted.

#### **5. CPF monthly meeting:**

MLAA conducted 31 CPF Monthly meeting in different working areas to facilitate the regular activities and to disseminate up-date information to the CPF members

#### **6. Community Awareness rising:**

**Publication:** To spread out the Program information among the local people and awareness rising 10,000 leaflets, 10,000 brochure and 13,000 sticker and 5000 poster were printed and distributed among mass.

**7. Meeting with local police / Monthly thana police meeting:**

To disseminate and identified problem and ensuring police participation in various activities, monthly thana police meeting with local police officers were conducted. In the reporting period 18 meeting were arranged.

**8. Advocacy Meeting:**

**i) Meeting with Police Officers:**

3 meeting were conducted with Police Super, ASP Circle and thana Police officer for building cooperation and participation in Community Policing Activities.

**ii). Meeting with local Govt. Bodies:**

MLAA has conducted 1(one) meeting with local govt. officials to share the ideas on Community Policing .The participants were district administration, police department (police super and other), representatives of ansar and different representatives of local authorities.

**9. Crime Reducing Program- Campaign:**

CPF members & Police jointly operate these campaign to solve the identified local problem/crime.7 Crime Reducing/ Problem solving campaign were conducted at different areas.

**10. Staff Meeting:**

To analyze program activities, finalize the operation plan, identify field problems & obstacles and to provide necessary supports to address the problem 25 meeting was conducted with MLAA staff members.

**11. Workshop for School & College Students:** Workshops were conducted with School & College students to aware them and to motivate them to cooperate with the activities of the community policing. 15 Workshops were conducted in different institutions.

**12. Rally:** MLAA has conducted 1(one) rally with participation of CPF member, school-college students and Teacher, MLAA staff and Police officers for awareness rising on community policing.

**Outcome:**

The project has already conducted different activities, such as, formation of CPF, workshop and meetings with CPF and shared experiences with the community. It seems that due to shortage of man power and traditional attitude police are yet to be motivated. But still there are some positive impact in the society through this activity.

Many people are informed and knewn about the community policing and are coming to address their problem. Some identified problem in some model areas has decreased, such as, gambling, drug addition, teasing school & college female students etc. People are demanding for expansion of COP activities in deferent surrounding areas.

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