

**Annual Activity Report
July 2006-June 2007**

Project Title:
Access to Justice and Human Rights



**Madaripur Legal Aid Association
New Town, Madaripur-7900.**

Preface

A preface is not a part of an annual report. The report itself depicts whole gambit of the activities over the year.

However, the current year is in many ways very significant for our nation. The institutions of local government of Bangladesh have not been given a fare trail in inspite of its huge potential for development. As such, we except change should take place in governance at the grass root level. The matter of non-formal justice at this juncture of crisis in our formal justice sector deserves special attention to revamp human rights for whom these are more precious, It would be incumbent upon the authority not to forget the pledge made in our constitution as regards ‘fundamental human rights and freedoms and respect for the dignity and worth of the human person’.

Be that as it may, our all-out endeavours are dedicated to uphold the dignity and equality of the excluded.

Fazlul Huq
Secretary
Madaripur Legal Aid Association
Madaripur

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Chapter I Summary

The long-term objectives of MLAA is to improve quality of life of the disadvantaged people through enforcement of their human, legal and women rights for peaceful coexistence while immediate objective is to enhance access to justice by empowerment of disadvantaged people. During its journey since 1978 MLAA has continued its efforts to peruse people's empowerment, gender equity, good governance, human rights in particular to make the justice system and service easily accessible and affordable for the indigent. The overall achievements made by MLAA in the year have been inspiring to face challenge of exploitation.

The following paragraphs summarize the component-based activities done in the year 2006-2007.

The Village Court and the Arbitration Council are within the legal jurisdiction of the Union Parishad (UP) for local settlement of disputes. To activate and effective functional of local level judicial system through Union Parishad the component '**Judicial system of local Government**' conducted refreshers training of the UP representatives, follow-up meetings for activists and local elite as well as upazila officials. 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.

In addition to these, 38% people of project area now informed about the Village Court and the Arbitration Council due to conduct awareness and publicity campaign, such as, courtyard meeting, street dramas. So the number of settled disputes by the Village Court and the Arbitration Council has increased than earlier years.

In the reporting period 4647 cases has settled by the Village Court of which 2925 cases parties got compensation and possession of land. The total value of compensation and recovered land is Taka. 2,64,25,192.00. The number of the settled cases is 22.40% higher than the previous year. The Arbitration Council has resolved 2826 disputes in that 94% beneficiaries are women and in 225 resolved disputes applicants received Taka 535600.00 as maintenance.

Due to increased awareness of the elected representatives and the local people The VC and the AC are becoming more and more effective in local settlement of disputes. Effective VC and AC are increasing the opportunity of the grass root people to have access to justice. Most of the ordinary people are capable of doing their best to change their situation and empowered for defending the rights volitions.

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 is the main activity of the component '**Access to formal judicial system**'. In the reporting year a

total of 1617 cases were conducted which included 1008 pending cases from the previous year and 609 newly filed.

Among these cases, 583 were settled, only 28 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 58 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 six 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.

MLAA has been conducting multifaceted advocacy activities from the grassroots level to national policymaking level to pave the way for the realization of fundamental human rights through the **Advocacy and Network unit**. 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 03 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. Last year MLAA had undertaken 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 and findings of the study, the MLAA organized 3 seminars at MLAA working area, 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.

To modernize the traditional, oldest and the most widely accepted salish system, which is a tool for resolution of disputes, the MLAA promotes its own model of mediation, now famously known as the 'Madaripur Mediation Model' through **Institutionalization of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** component.

With in this activity, the MLAA has resolved 8480 disputes, organized training for CBO committees and held workshops. *Special emphasis has been given on participation and empowerment of women, which is evident increased in women's participation in committees and training workshops. Direct participation of female members in Shalish has risen to 19.14 to 22%. Beside this, 12% female members preside over Shalish session.*

The beneficiaries of 8480 disputes settled by Shalish have received financial benefit of taka 6,36,31,711. Follow-ups reveal that 92% settled disputes have gained perpetuity.

To increase skills of the workforce at various levels of the organization, '**the institutional capacity building**' component organized 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.

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 Project

2.1. Project Title:

Access to Justice and Human Rights

2.2. Project Goal

Contribute towards improved quality of life of the disadvantaged people through establishing their human, legal and women rights.

2.3. Project Objective

Increase access to justice to empower disadvantaged people, particularly women.

2.4. Justification

The prevalent justice system in Bangladesh has a number of problems, which makes it inaccessible to the disadvantaged members of the society. Besides being extremely complex, it is based mostly around urban areas, it is gender biased and costly 75% of the population of the country lives in rural areas, with low education, economic deprivation and social stigma. The current justice system is, hence, beyond the reach of the poor and voiceless. Alongside the formal system, there exists the traditional salish which is an ancient informal system of conflict resolution in Bangladesh society. MLAA has been committed to preserve the rights of the voiceless population, particularly women and children since 1978 by doing updated alternative disputes resolution under Madaripur Model of Mediation.

The Arbitration Council (AC) and the Village Court (VC) have been intended to strengthen the local justice system for conflict resolution. No union parishad of Bangladesh (except of the MLAA's project area) has so far succeeded in putting into practice these two institutions of dispensation of grass-root justice in an appropriate manner.

The prevalent justice system has some procedural problems. In addition, the environment of the formal court makes the system inappropriate for the poor population, especially women. The advocacy program has been undertaken with the aim of activating, strengthening and reforming AC and VC in order to restore local level justice system as an alternative to formal courts.

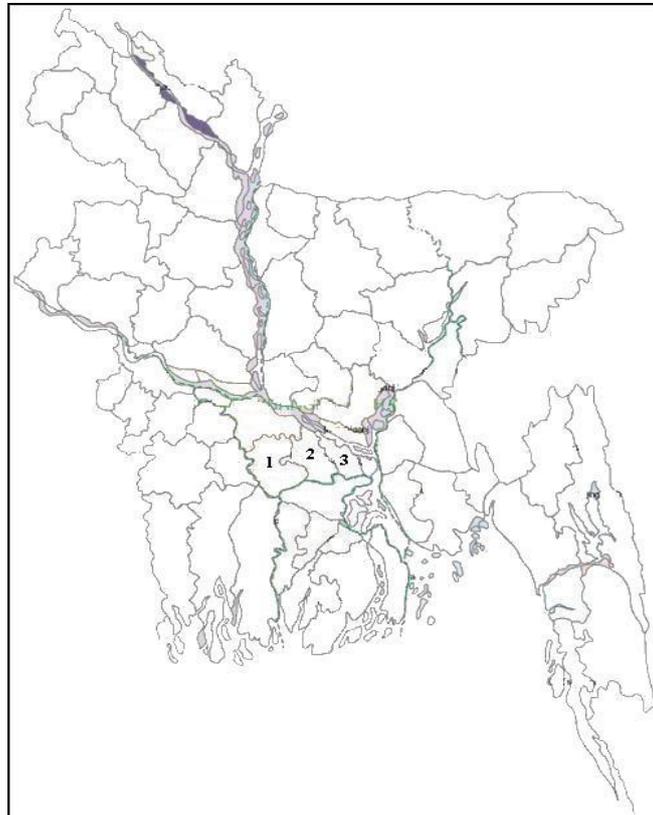
The rural people consist of 85% of the total population of the country. This vast majority of the people, to a great extent, are illiterate, powerless and unaware of their rights, and consequently, these people are deprived of their human rights including access to justice, participation and other economic 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 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.

2.5. 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



2.6. 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 officials and NGO activists.

2.8. Donors

In the reported year, MLAA activities were funded by:

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

Chapter III Output Based Activities

3.1. Justice System of Local Government become more effective

The Union Parishad is entrusted with the power to constitute Village Court and Arbitration Council to resolve certain disputes under the Village Court Act.2006 & the Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961 respectively. Both these importance disputes resolution tools of the Union Parishad are the local government based judicial system of rural Bangladesh, but are not functional and effective for the people due to multiple problems and limitations of UPs. MLAA have taken special programs in its project area to activate VC and AC resulting the UP judicial services popular and effective. Following activities have been implemented by MLAA during 2006-07.

3.1.1 Dispute Resolution through Village Court and Arbitration Council

3.1.1.1. Dispute Resolution through Village Court (VC)

In each Union Parishad MLAA has attested one worker to assist in its Village Court activities.

During the project period under this project MLAA received 5133 applications through village court. Including the pending 347 applications the total number of applications stood 5480. Among these **4647** disputes were resolved, 343 were rejected, case transfer to upper court was 01 and 489 applications were now under process. In this period among the resolved case 3394 were Criminal (76%) and 5-653 were Civil (14%). Among resolved case of VC the percentage of female disputants was (38%). **Table 1 & 2**

Chart 01 : Nature of Disposal Case of VC

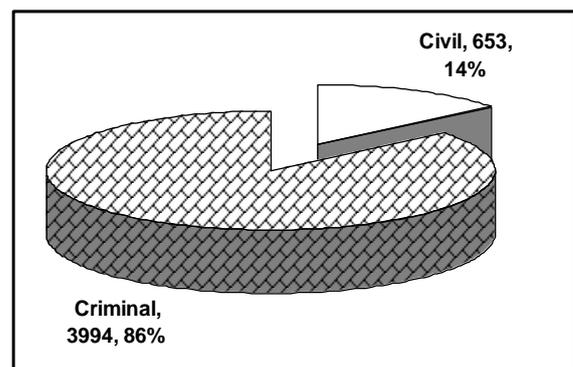
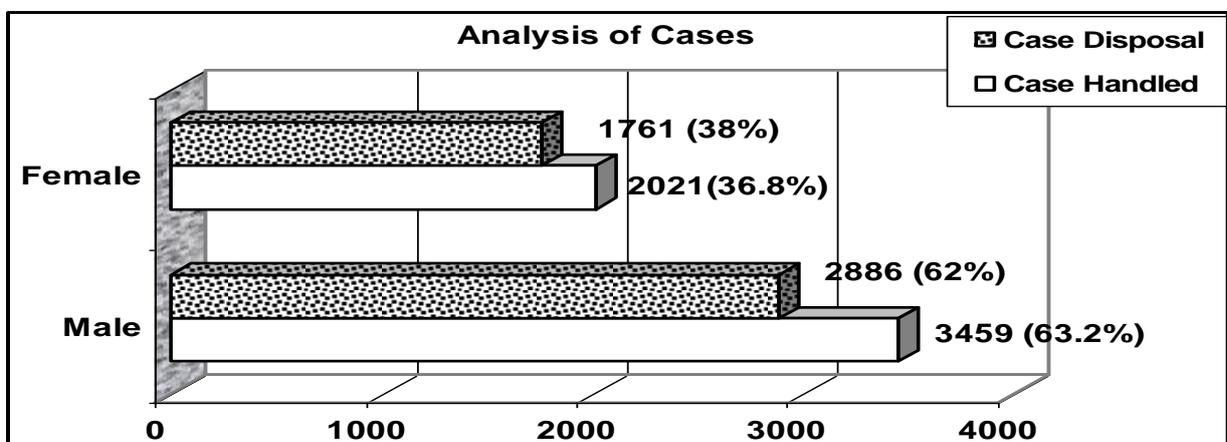


Chart No 02 : Gender Analysis of VC Cases



Expression of Applicant and Opponent of a VC Case

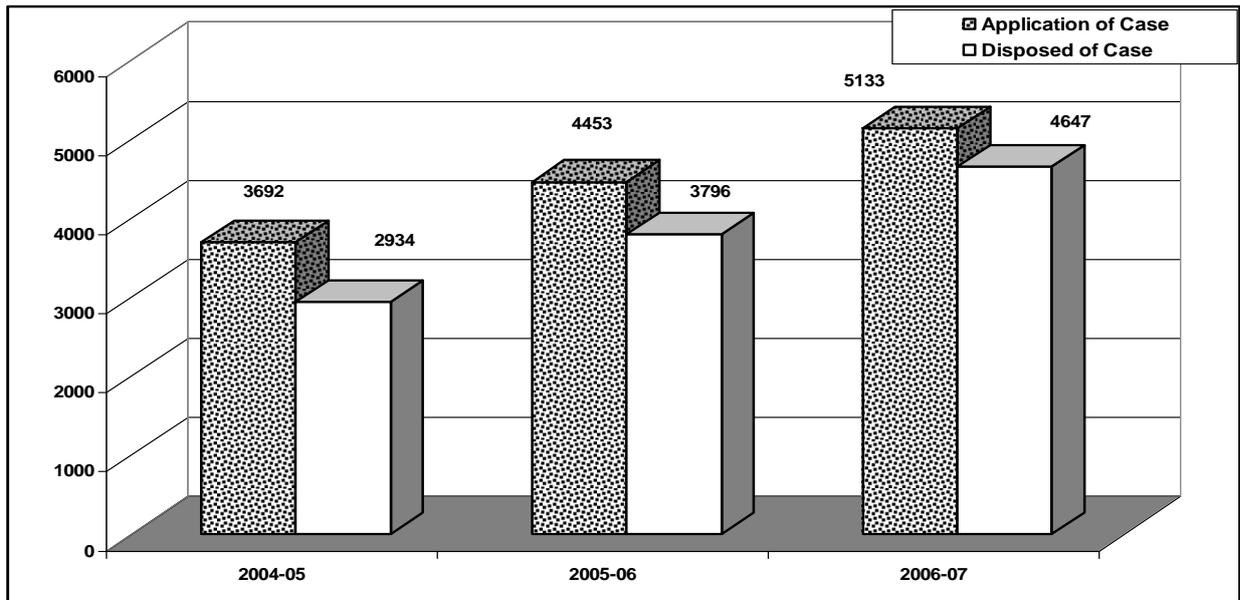
<p>Applicant: I provide Tk. 10,000 as loan with a condition to repay the total amount with interest. But I got nothing. I went door to door for recovering my money, but failed. At last through the Village Court of Union Parishad (UP) I recovered my money. To get justice I have to pay only tk. 5.00 as registration fee. I got justice very quickly and I am happy.</p> <p>Dulufa Begum, D/O A. Mannan Mollik, Village: Santosepur, Union: Chandrapur, Upazilla: Shariatpur Sadar.</p>	<p>Opponent: I have already paid total money to Dulufa. I was in financial problem. But when she files a case in UP against me, I felt myself under a legal binding and I paid total money to her. If VC did not work in UP I may be escaped.</p> <p>Ruma Begum, W/O Babul Sheikh, Village: Santosepur, Union: Chandrapur.</p>
<p>Case No. 04/2007, Date: 17-01-2007, Nature: Money, Upazilla: Shariatpur Sadar</p>	

Immediate Visualize Result of Village Court (VC):

MCAA provided technical assistance to the Union Parishad for activating village court. During the reporting period the UPs disposed 4647 VC Case, which was directly helpful for approximately 10000 families.

Result of Disputes	No. of Disputes	%	Taka
Case Disposed amicably with mutual consensus with both parties	1722	37.06	-
Compensation Recover	2650	57.03	11763022.00
Land Recovered (2498 Decimal)	275	5.91	14662170.00
Total	4647		2,64,25,192.00

Chart No 03: Trend of VC Case – Case Received & Case Settled



Case study 01:

Khalil Matubar get back his Tk. 15,000.00 Through Village Court

Disputants Parties

Khalil Matubar 48 is the son of late Abdul Khalek Matubbar of village - Charbadarpahsa; Union Badarpasha; Upazila; Rajoir under Madaripur district. On the other hand Babul bepari 25 is the son of late Md. Sonamuddin bepari of village Fultala Kashimpur; Union Paikpara; of the same upazilla & district. Khalil Matubar has a relative's home by the side of Babul Bepari's home.

The dispute:

Khalil Matubar and Babul Bepari were jointly in paddy business at Takerhat Bandar (business centre). Babul bepari took loan Tk. 16,800.00 from Khalil Matubar on 25th January 2002 with a condition to repay three mounds of paddy after two months as profit. After taking loan Babul bepari stopped his business at Takerhat Bandar, and started to sell paddy in different huts and market places.

Babul bepari could not maintain his condition of loan due to loss in his business and he did not paid back money and paddy to the Khalil Matubar. Khalil Matubar wanted help of village matubbars but it gave no result. Finding no other way Khalil Matubar came to Badarpasha Union Parishad to file a case in Union Parishad of Badarpasha.

Procedure of Village Court

On 3rd October 2006, Khalil Matubar came to Badarpasha Union Parishad and applied for filling a case against Babul Bepari. Chairman of the Union Parishad Mr. Abul Hossain scrutinized the application and accepted it. On 4th October 2006 Chairman

issued summon and asked both the parties to nominate their representatives as per rule on 16th October 2006.

On 16th October 2006 both the parties came to the Union Parishad and nominated their representatives. Applicant Khalil Matubar nominates Mr. Badsha Matubar (UP representative) and Mr. Mosharaf Akon as his representatives. On the other hand opponent party nominated UP Representative Mr. Yakub Howlader and elite Shorab Munshi of the Union Paikpara of village Maijkandi as his representatives. In the same day Chairman of the Union Parishad formed the village court and took the case in the Village Court and also fixed date for filing written objection by opponent party on 19th October 2006. On the said date opponent party did not file any objection, so the chairman fixed date for hearing on 23rd October 2006.

Village Court Hearing

On the 23rd October 2006 representatives of both parties were present including the chairman of the Village Court. But unfortunately applicant's witness was ill, and next hearing date of hearing was fixed on 15th November 2006. In the hearing date Village Court hearing started with holfnana by the applicant, his witness Nur Hossain Matubar, Md. Shahjahan Matubar, and Tarapado Biswas. Both applicant and opponent party and his witnesses gave their opinions. After discussion Village Court gave decree Tk. 15,000.00 in favor of applicant unanimously and ordered that the opponent would deposit Tk. 15,000.00 on 21st December 2006. The applicant received the money in the same date i.e. 21st December 2006 from the Union Parishad office.

Result of the Dispute

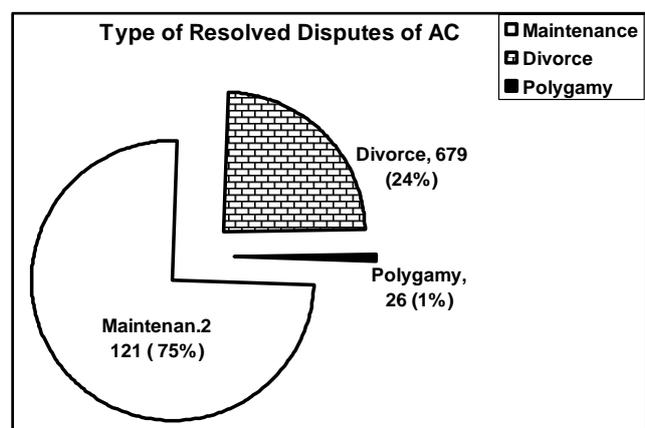
Khalil Matubar again started business by getting money through Village Court. Now his business is running well. Khalil Matubar opinion regarding Village Court was that "in our area Madaripur Legal Aid Association conducted a courtyard meeting and I was informed of the Village Court through that meeting. I got desirable benefit from Village Court. I only spent Tk.5.00 for filling case in the Village Court and I got back my money.

On the other hand opponent party Babul Bepari also happy about Village Court and he gave her opinion in this way- 'Village Court gave us very easy solution that saved our time and money.

3.1.2.2. Dispute Resolution through Arbitration Council (AC)

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 under the Muslim Family Law Ordinance, 1961. The MLAA is

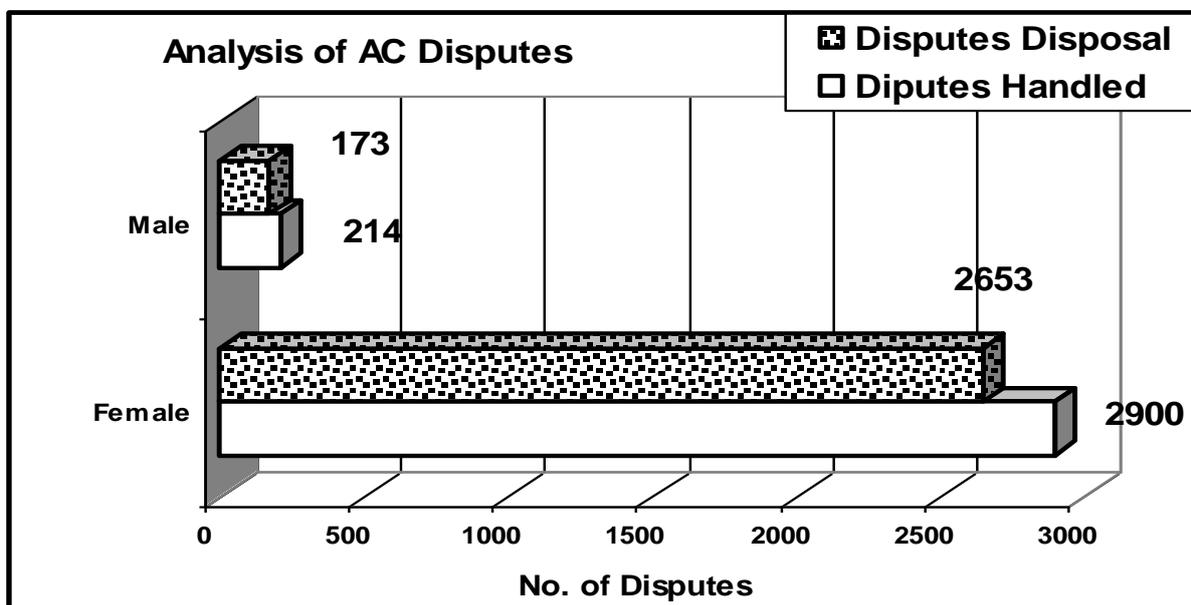
Chart 04: Nature of Resolved Disputes of AC



assisting the UP within its activity area to settle these disputes.

During the project period under this project MLAA received 2845 applications. Including the pending 269 applications the total number of applications stood 3114. Among these **2826** disputes were resolved regarding maintenance, divorce & polygamy, 61 applications were dropped or rejected due to non-appearance, case transfer to upper court was 02 and proper document and 225 applications were now under process. In this period among the resolved 2121 disputes were maintenance (75%), 679 were divorce (24%) and other 26 (1%) were polygamy. Among resolved disputes of AC the percentage of female disputants was (94%). **Table 3 & 4**

Chart No 5: Gender Analysis of VC Cases



Expression of Applicant and Opponent of AC Disputes

<p>Applicant:</p> <p>Due to misguide by the family members my husband driven out me from home. I take shelter to my father house with my minor child. My husband never provides any maintenance to us. Moreover he discontinues all kinds of communication to us. The village elders also tried to solve my problems, but he denied. According to advice of Toiabali, I went to UP and submit an application for maintenance. UP solved my problem.</p>	<p>Opponent:</p> <p>My wife filed a complaint to UP. Primarily I ignored the complaint. But al last my guardian request me to go UP. By the assistance of my representative Mr. Alauddin Sikder I got fair and peaceful solution at local level. I got my wife and child back to my home.</p> <p>Masud Daroga, S/O: Md. Hannan Daroga Howlader, Village: West</p>
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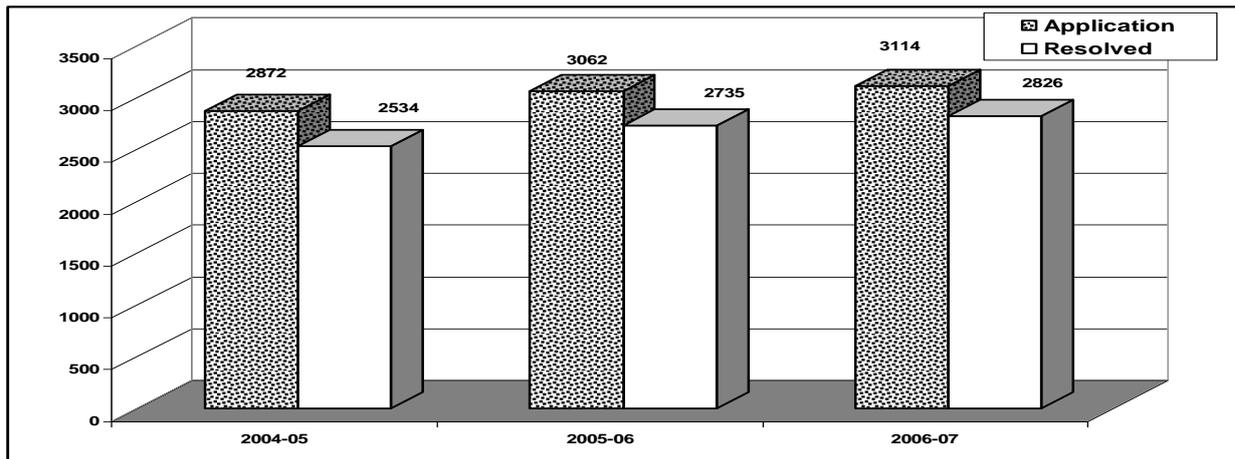
Now I am living happily with my husband and child.	Crokirchar, Union: Sahebrampur, Upazilla: Kalkini
Silpi Begum, D/O: Md. Alim Uddin Howlader, Village: West Crokirchar, Union: Sahebrampur, Upazilla: Kalkini	
Complaint No. 24/2006, Date: 24-05-2006, Nature: Maintenance, Union: Sahebrampur	

Immediate Visualize Result of Arbitration Council:

In 225 (8%) resolved disputes the total amount of tk 5,35,600.00 recovery by Arbitration Council (AC) of Union Parishad in the reporting period. In 1476 (52%) resolved disputes female applicants can restore their family ties with husband. Other 1125 (40%) disputes were settled amicably with the mutual understanding with the both parties.

Result of Disputes	Number	%	Taka Recover
Amicable Settled of Disputes	456	16.14	-
Family ties continued: Husband and wife living together	1482	52.44	-
Divorce Executed with mutual understanding	663	23.46	-
Maintenance Recovered	225	7.96	535600.00
Total	2826		535600.00

Chart-6 : Trend of AC Disputes – Disputes Received & Disputes Resolved



Case study 02:

Arbitration Council saved Ashma's family.

Disputant parties:

Ashma 27 is the daughter of Adam ali Sarder of village Uttar Siddya, Union: Siddya, Upazila: Damuddya under Shariatpur district. They have three sisters and two brothers. Six years back Ashma got married with Nannu Bepari and the marriage was registered. Nannu Bepari is the son of Hatem ali Bepari of village Moisher, Union: Moisher, Upazila: Bhedargong and district Shariatpur.

Five years of conjugal life

Nannu is a van puller, but had a happy conjugal life. In these five years the couple has two sons. Suddenly Nannu get addiction of gambling. He did not give proper maintenance to his wife and sons too. If Ashma asked something he (Nannu) did not reply accordingly and created a gap between husband and wife. Sometimes they quarrelled with each other. Nannu sometimes beat Ashma too.

Beginning of the dispute

On 20th May 2006 Ashma charged her husband and asked about gambling . Without answering the question Nannu became furious and started to beat Asma. He took her sons in his custody and drove away his wife from home. Ashma took shelter in her father's house.

At her father's house Ashma had much feeling for her children. She could not sleep at night and became sick. Nobody took care of her from husband house. After some days Ashma sent somebody to bring her kids. But she failed. Finding no other way Ashma went to the Siddya Union Parishad for demanding maintenance.

Formation of Arbitration Council

On 26th June 2006 Ashma came to the Siddya Union Parishad with her father. She applied to the UP Chairman and accused her husband for not providing maintenance.

The Chairman of the Union Parishad took the application and issued notice to both parties for nominating their representatives. On 17th July 2006 both parties nominated their representatives. Applicant Ashma selected Mr. Ismail Khan as her representative and opponent Nannu selected Rafiqul Islam as his representative. Chairman then formed Arbitration Council consisting three members where he himself was the Chair of the council as per rule and fixed 27th July for hearing the Arbitration Council's Session.

Arbitration Council Session

On the hearing day applicant & opponent both present with their representatives, but due to some urgent administrative job Chairman shifted the date on 9th August 2006 for hearing the session. In the said date Chairman, both parties and their representatives were present. The Arbitrator heard both parties, where Ashma demanded that if Nannu would give-up all his bad habits then she would go back to her husband's house. Nannu agreed upon the condition. So the Arbitration Council took the following decisions:

1. Nannu would provide proper maintenance of his wife and kids.
2. Nannu would provide previous maintenance money's when Asma was at her father's house.
3. Both would live together without creating any untoward situation

Follow-up

On November 28th 2006 MLAA worker followed -up the case and found has been that Ashma is living in her husband's home and they are now happy, her husband is no more addicted to gambling rather he is found towards his family welfare.

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

3.1.3.1. Follow-up meetings with UP representatives

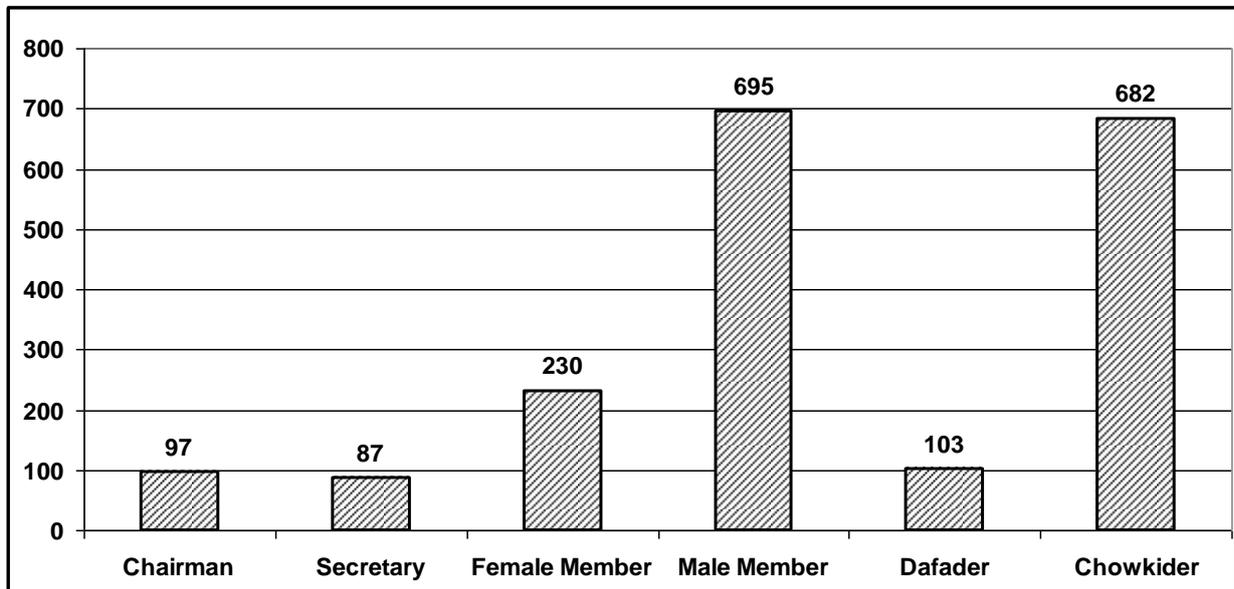
The MLAA organized follow-up meetings in every UP. The elected representatives and activists of the UP discuss various AC/VC related issues in these meetings. To enhance the effectiveness of the AC/VC activities, two important issues are considered in these meetings; firstly, various problems faced in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

An experience of ongoing FM

In 14 August 2006, a follow-up meeting was held in Dhanakanthi Union Parishad, Damuddya, Shariatpur. The meeting presided over by the UP Chair Mr. Abdur Razzak Pintu. A total of 15 Participants including female and male members of UP, Chouwkider were present in the meeting. The chairman said, during the meeting we try to find out our problems and future direction regarding VC & AC. According to discussion we take decision for solving the problems. This meeting also inspire us to make more effective & dynamic the activities of VC & AC.

From July 2006 to June 2007, MLAA organized this meeting with the UP representative for motivate them about VC & AC. In the reporting period 99 meeting were organized at union level. A total number of 1894 participants attended in this meeting. Among them 234 were female & 1660 were male. **Table 5 & 6**

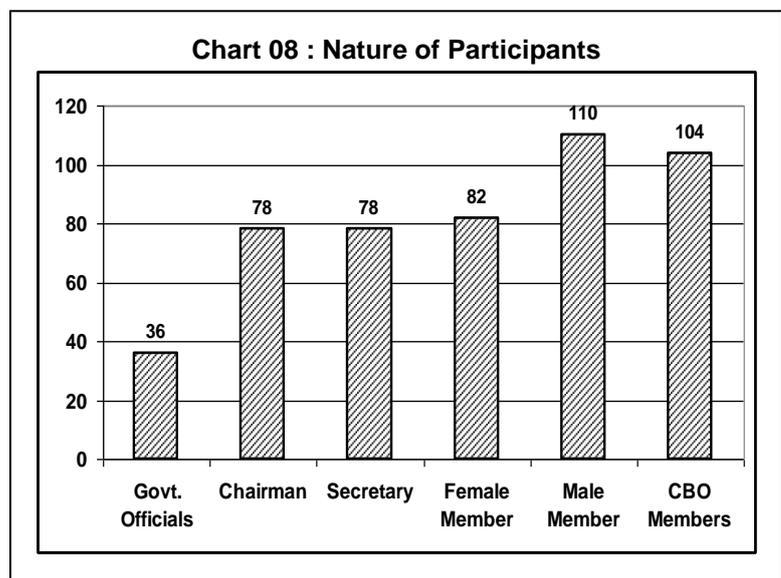
Chart-7 : Nature of Participants of Follow-up Meeting



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.

During the project period MLAA organized 12 thana workshop for secondary stakeholders of this project. A total number of 488 participants attended in these workshops. Among them 118 were female & 370 were male. **Table 7 & 8**



Upazilla Workshop: an Opinion & expression of UNOs

The Project organized 12 workshops in 12 Upazilla in the working area of MLAA. In these workshops 11 UNOs were present and they conducted the session as resource persons.

UNO of Gopalganj Sadar: The Upazilla workshops of Gopalganj Sadar that were held in Upazilla Auditorium on 11 April 2007. Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan, UNO of Gopalganj Sadar said that, the work of Village Court is a very significant and necessary event to disseminate the information of VC. Poor peoples directly benefited by VC & AC. He advised to the UP representatives to perform the VC & AC activities without any biasness and unexpected pressure for establishing the legal rights as well as access to justice of the peoples. He also expressed that, if the UP representatives' work sincerely they become more popular and will get more support from people.

UNO of Kalkini: The Upazilla workshops of Kalkini were held in Upazilla Officers Club Auditorium on 22 April 2007. Md. Mezbah Uddinn, UNO of Kalkini said that, MLAA has been doing a remarkable and admirable activity for poor people to establish their legal rights through activating VC & AC. He informed, UP is responsible to implement the VC & AC, so UP secretaries should take responsibilities to keep all sorts of documents and registers. He also showed interest to visit the UPs to monitor the performance of the judicial system.

3.1.3.3. Union meeting

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

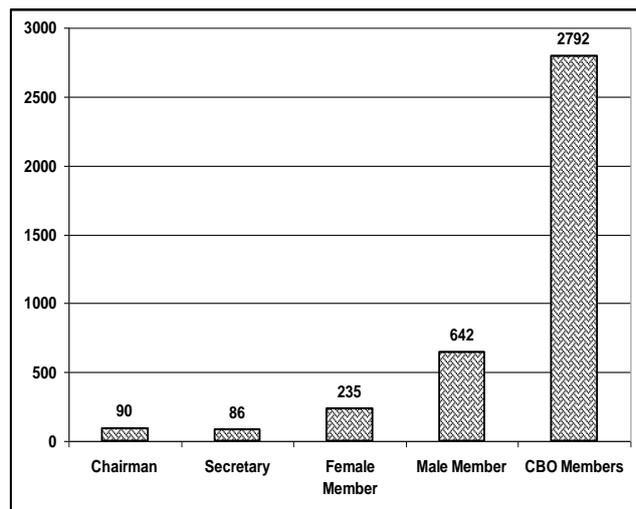
During July 2006 to June 2007, MLAA organized 97 Union level meetings for UP representatives, CBO Members & village elites. A total of 3845 participants attended in these meetings. Among them 1300 were female & 2545 were male.

Expression of a participant

'The discussion of this meeting helped us to resolve the disputes of VC & AC, because we have to perform the judicial responsibilities according to the law. This meeting also a platform of UP, where we have the opportunities to express our opinion freely regarding VC & AC, so that we can identify our limitations on VC & AC.

Md. A Matin Madbar, Member of Darul Aman UP of Damuddya, Shariatpur.

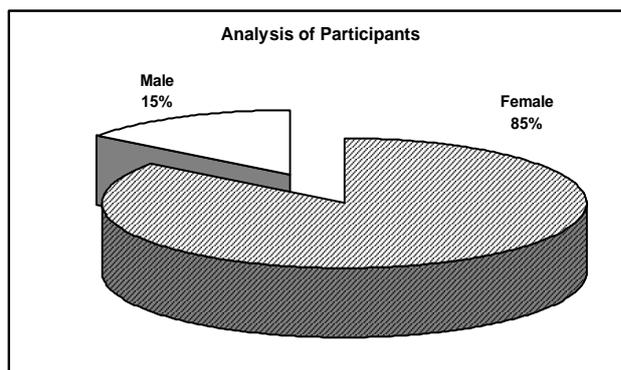
Chart 09 : Nature of Participants



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

Courtyard meetings (CMs) are the part of awareness raising of this project, as because, awareness is the prerequisite for making any activities more fruitful and effective. This non-formal meeting is a way to disseminate information of Village Court (VC), Arbitration Council (AC) among household members who are mostly village women.

Chart 10: Sex Ratio of Participants in CM



Following the module of MLAA the Union workers of MLAA facilitated 6464 courtyard meetings with the participants of 88308 household members. Among them 75404 (85%) were female and 12904 (15%) were male. **Table 9**

3.1.4 Dissemination of information on Village Court and Arbitration Council

3.1.4.1. Street Drama (Patha Natak)

The project arranges street dramas at union level to focus the activities of AC & VC. Even the drama show is an effective method to disseminate the information of AC & VC to the mass. MLAA arranged 50 shows at different Unions of its working area where approximately 65800 people watched dramas.

No. of Thana	No of Shows	Peoples watched / approximately
12 Thana	50 Shows	65800

Street Drama: views of the audience

- I got information about VC through the drama. I informed about the formation of VC, polygamy etc. But it is necessary to disseminate information's at grass root level, so that peoples could become more aware and take the opportunity and benefit to resolve their disputes through VC. **Md. Anowar Hossain Chokder, S/O. Motaleb Chokder, UP Member, Village: Hazirhowla, Union: Ghatmajhi, Madaripur Sadar.**
- Due to awareness on VC & AC the number of applications increased. We knew the jurisdiction of VC & AC by observing the drama show. I surprised that so many peoples watched the drama whenever I have seen. I really enjoyed it. **Md. Babul Matubbar, S/O Sultan Matubbar, Village: Mabarar Knadi, Ward No-02, Union: Char Census, Upazilla: Bherderganj.**
- Petty disputes can resolve through Village Court by our Union parishad up to Tk 25000, I knew it by watching drama. I think most of the peoples still unaware about VC & AC. MLAA should take more awareness activities about VC. **Abul Kalam Azad, S/O Islam Khalifa, Village: Bakharer Kandi, Union: Matbarerchar, Upazilla: Shibchar.**

3.1.4.2. Campaign on AC & VC

The project arranged different awareness campaigns through rally, hand bill distribution, poster demonstration among the communities at Union level for dissemination of VC & AC concept.

No. of Thana	No. of Campaigning	Peoples involved /approximately
12 Thana	98 Campaigning	42500

3.1.5.) Publication:

MLAA feels it is very essential to disseminate information on VC & AC and encourage people for getting justice through VC & AC. Due to this MLAA has developed training and teaching materials for the people.

Posters of VC & AC: The aim to publish these materials is to disseminate basic or key information to the masses about VC & AC. These materials are used at training, workshops, meeting, campaigning and also wider dissemination of VC & AC concept. In the reporting period MLAA published 7 types of posters. The total number of posters is 20000 copies.

Publication of Case Study: The project published the 50 cases for disseminating the information of successes and learning stories among the stakeholders on VC, AC, and Mediation and free legal aid. **Table 10**

3.2 Access to formal judicial system increased

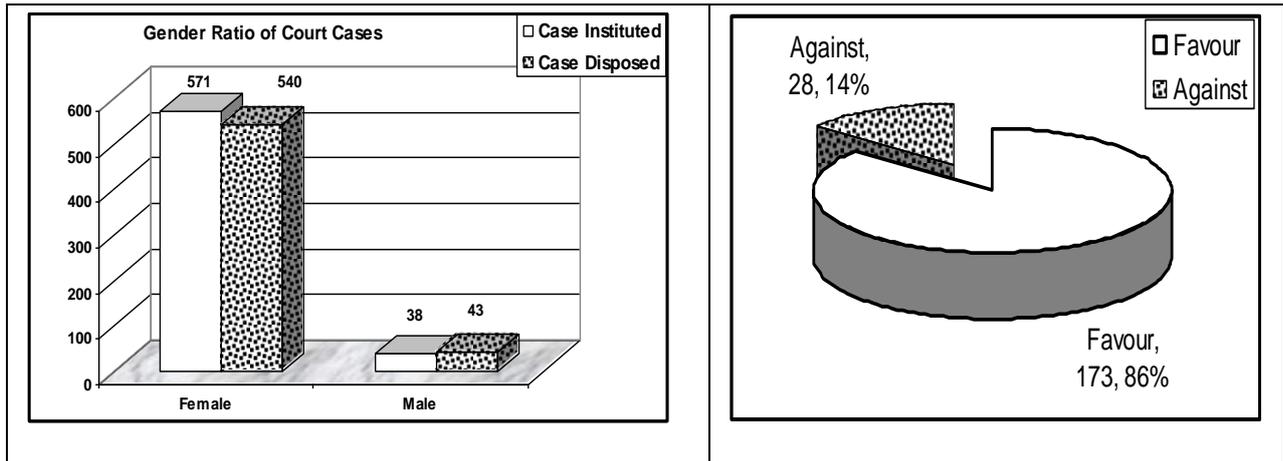
Most of the people, particular rural people are denied to get justice from our formal judicial system, which is very complex and time consuming. Moreover environment of the formal court is not congenial to the poor, especially to the women. Considering these unfavourable sceneries MLAA initiated legal Aid support since its inception (1978) and the main objectives of this program is to provide adequate advice and legal aid free of cost for the poor. Following are the legal aid activities done in the year 2006-07.

3.2.1. Free legal aid services

3.2.1.1 Provide court case support

During the period 2006-2007, 1617 cases were handled which included 609 newly filed cases and 1008 pending cases from the previous year. Among these 583 cases were disposed of and 1034 are now pending. Details are given in **table 11 & 12**

Chart 11 & 12 : Analysis of Court Cases	



Case study 03:

Kakali Begum got Tk. 95,000/= as dower

Kakali Begum was the youngest daughter of Md. Razzak sek, village- Kuthibari, Upazilla- Rajoir under Madaripur district. Her mother died when she was 11. Her father again married. So she has grown up in her step mother’s care. Kakali Begum has got affairs with Md. Rasel shipaee S/O. Md. Moslem shipaee, of village Purbo Sharmongal, Upazilla- Rajoir under Madaripur district.

In the mean time Kakali Begum’s father died. Kakali Begum one day left the house with Md. Rasel shipaee and took shelter in a cousin’s house of village- Moniramkandi Upazilla- Mokshedpur under Gopalganj district, where Kakali Begum got married with Md. Rasel shipaee on 15/11/2006.

Within a few days both the families knew the news of their marriage and they became angry with the issue. By this time Md. Rasel shipaee started a phone shop business in Vanga Thana and tried to maintain there married life.

Md. Rasel shipaee’s father decided to send Md. Rasel shipaee to Italy. So, Md. Rasel shipaee and their family demanded Tk. 2,00,000/= to Kakali Begum as dowry and started torture to Kakali Begum. She then left the house of her husband and takes shelter to Ms. salma Begum’s house one of her relative. Ms. salma Begum took Kakali Begum to Rajoir P.S. but they did n’t take her complaint.

On 25/02 /07 Ms. salma Begum took Kakali Begum to Joint forces office in Madaripur district. They heard the issue and send them to Madaripur legal Aid Association (MLAA). After filling the application, MLAA tried to resolve the matter through mediation, but the opponent party did not came. So, MLAA file a case on 26/02/07 in dowry prohibition Act. bearing case No. C.R.-30/07.

On the other hand Md. Rasel shipaee’s father arranged to send Md. Rasel shipaee abroad secretly. By this time court gave warrant and police arrested Md. Rasel shipaee from Dhaka. Md. Rasel shipaee’s father then went to Kakali Begum. He also came to Madaripur legal Aid Association and requested for a solution through mediation. On

4/3/07 both parties came with their relatives and decided to discontinue their conjugal life providing Tk. 95,000/= to Kakali Begum as dower and maintenance. Kakali Begum deposited tk. 95,000/= in bank as fixed deposit and has been leaving in her brother's house at khulna happily.

3.2.1.2. Follow-ups of disposed and pending cases

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 follow-ups of court cases are undertaken. A total of 58 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 58 court cases, among them 14 were Pending cases and 44 were disposed cases: **Table 13**

Findings of follow-up of 44 disposed cases:

- In 17 cases, beneficiaries continued their family life and now living with their husband peacefully.
- In 16 cases beneficiaries discontinued their family life and become separated with mutual understanding and in this respect the wives got Tk. 463000.00 as their maintenance and dower money.
- In 2 cases applicants were taken possession of 22 decimal of land on compromise.
- In 9 cases applicants never continued their suits due to replacement of home and in absence before the court.

Client Opinion of an disposed Case	Client Opinion of an disposed Case
<p>I regained my land with the assistance of MLAA. I am very grateful to MLAA. Though it takes a long time to get a verdict from the court, but without assistance of MLAA it was not possible to fight in the court of my own. Now I cultivate my land and living with my family members.</p> <p>Kartik Chandra Halder, Village: Betgram, Union: Nabogram, Upazilla : Kalkini.</p>	<p>I was not in a position to survive. MLAA helped me to operate the court case against my husband. Finally I got the judgment in favour of me. I received Tk. 30000 as maintenance by the order of court. Now I sent my son to college for study.</p> <p>Haowa Begum, Village: Baro Khalpar, Union: Mostafapur: Upazilla : Madaripur Sadar.</p>
Title Suit No: 7/94, Date: 29-01-94,	Misc Case No: 80/95, Nature:

Nature: Partition Suit, Court Name : Assistant Judge Court, Kalkini, Disposal Date : 11-01-2007	Maintenance, Court Name : 1st Class Magistrate Court, Madaripur, Disposal Date : 25-04-2007
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Immediate Visualize Result of Court Case:

- In 19 criminal cases, court declared 22 years and 2 months imprisonment and Tk 26255 as compensation.
- The court provided decree for Tk. 92,48,157.00 in 94 family cases in favour of MLAA clients.
- Tk. 38,70,200.00 received by the applicants of court case as maintenance and dower money in 128 cases on compromise.
- Tk. 2,62,000.00 recovered as compensation in 09 criminal cases on compromise.
- In 16 land cases, verdict came favour of MLAA clients for 12.20 acres of land, equivalent of Tk. 16,60,000.00

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

MLAA have the panel of lawyers to operate the cases in court in favour of poor clients. Including affiliated lawyers of the MLAA, their associates, judges and members of various law enforcing agencies MLAA arrange these meetings to share and seek support to operate cases in favour of poor clients. 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 to act in favour of poor.

A total of 13 meetings were organized where 439 participants attended. Among them 6 meeting with Panel lawyers, 6 meeting with lawyers' associates and 1 meeting was with judges and members of law enforcing agencies. **Annexure: Table 14**

Some notable outcomes of the meetings

- Lawyers and their law associates are becoming more compassionate and sympathetic to clients.
- Clients are comparatively getting proper directions as to what to do at various stages of the cases and are getting updated information of the cases.
- To establish justice and to stop harassment Judges and the members of the law enforcing agencies are encouraged to provide support.

3.3. Advocacy for legislative and policy reform towards access to formal and informal judicial systems for the disadvantaged.

For supporting and protecting the disadvantage people MLAA is carrying out advocacy and lobbying at the policy level for reforming the negative aspects of existing legal system and procedures of the judicial system as an obligation and responsibilities.

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) discussion 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. 117 participants (24 females and 73 males) including lawyers, journalists, UP representatives and activists attended the meetings. **Table 15**

3.3.1.2. District Level Seminar on findings of the study:

To disseminate the outcomes of the study on Village Court and Arbitration Council the MLAA organized 03 Seminar at Gopalganj, Madaripur & Shariatpur District on same topic, i.e. "The Village Court and the Arbitration Council: Expect and Result". 134 representatives (21 females and 113 males) of various institutions and organizations including Union Parishads, national and local dailies and TV channels attended the seminar. **Table 16.**

3.3.1.3 Upazila Advocacy Workshops on Village Court and Arbitration Council

22 participants (08 females and 14 males) attended one 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. **Table 17**

3.3.2. Initiatives towards reforming legal procedural complicity and making court environment congenial

3.3.2.1. Meeting with Network Organization

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 40 males, the total number of participants stood at 44. 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. **Table: 18.**

3.3.2.2. Research on procedural complicacies and uncongenial environment of court

The MLAA already completed a research report on present district court environment on ‘A Court campus venue of harassments’ Conducted by Professor. Shahidul Haque.

The MLAA has already undertaken a research on present district court environment and the organization 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 on research findings

To disseminate the outcomes of the research on Court Campus the MLAA organized 01 Sharing meeting at Shariatpur District. 40 representatives (2 females and 38 males) of various institutions and organizations including The representative of District level law enforcing agencies like District commissioner, Police Super, Assistant commissioner, Lawyer, Reporter of national and local dailies and TV channels attended the meeting.

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.

The MLAA organized 81 one-day workshops at union level taking women from all level. A total of 1614 participants attended these workshops including 1474 local women, 140 woman animators. Animators were present at 67 workshops and 53 of them acted as co-facilitators at 42 workshops. **Table: 19.**

3.3.3.2 Gender development workshop

To create more sensitise to gender issues among the leaders of various professions in the project area, the MLAA organized three one gender development workshops at upazila level. The title of the workshops was "Gender knowledge and Importance." There were 02 Male and 16 Female MLAA staff received the workshop.

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.

3.3.3.3 Human Rights Workshops

The contents of these courses are designed to raise awareness among college students themselves and at the same time neighbouring inhabitants of the belonging localities regarding Fundamental Rights, Human Rights etc. College students in the working area are the participants of these workshops. Discussions, group works, Group presentation, views sharing sessions are taken on the concepts of Human Rights, Fundamental Rights, Gender concept, how to protect the rights, the identification where rights are commonly been violated, being student their duties and responsibilities in case of right violation, etc.

The MLAA organized 10 (Ten) one-day workshops to aware the students on Human Rights and Gender. 416 participants attended on the said workshop. There were 199 Male and 217 Female. **Table: 20.**

3.3.3.4 Observation of International Human Rights Day

To highlight the theme of different International Human Rights Declaration and to disseminate the basic idea of Human Rights MLAA observe the different Human Rights days declared by UN.

Observation of Child Rights day: The MLAA organized Rally, Discussion Meeting, Video show and different competition on the issue of Child Rights. 120 participants were attended and joy the program. 45 Male student and 65 Male students and 10 teachers also presents there.

Observation of Human Rights day: MLAA organized Rally, Discussion Meeting and different competition on the issue of Human Rights. 120 participants were attended and joy the program. 52 Male student and 55 Male students and 11 teachers also presents from 10 institutions.

Observation of Women's day: 143 (67 Male and 76 female) Participants were attended raised their voice to established women rights. in. MLAA organized Rally, Discussion Meeting, round-table meetings and different competition on the issue of Human Rights. **Table 21**

3.3.4. Publications

3.3.4.1. Bi-Monthly newsletter

The Yugo Chetona is the bi-monthly newsletter of the MLAA. In the reported period it published 6 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.

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

In comparison with other legal system mediation can address different compoundable disputes with minimum cost and maximum satisfaction corresponding with the existing socio-political and cultural context. To institutionalize the mediation as an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) MLAA has developed Madaripur Model of Mediation as a modern and professional approach to traditional salishee. MMM has been largely effective in securing access to equitable justice to the poor and disadvantage people, particularly women. Virtually MLAA aims to establish social peace by settling multifaceted disputes through salishee.

3.4.1. Meeting with CBO Members to disseminate MMM

Monthly Ward CBO meeting: 57497 members (32582 males and 22915 females) participated in 5207 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. 391 of these meetings were held in 100 unions where 4299 members (2571 males and 1728 females) participated.

Opinion sharing meetings for upazila CBO members: 20 meetings were organized in 15 upazilas of Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur district. 707 members (445 males and 262 females) attended these meetings. **Annexure: Table 22**

3.4.2. Capacity Building of CBO to disseminate MMM

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

269 central CBO members of 100 unions (121 males and 148 females) took part in 10 courses organised in TARC. These courses were organized in the MLAA training centre. 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

100 one-day workshops were held in 100 unions of three districts, 1 workshop in each union. Total 4918 CBO members (Female 2127 and Male 2792) attended these

workshops. Necessity of *Salish*, law awareness and role and duties of CBOs were the main focus in the workshops.

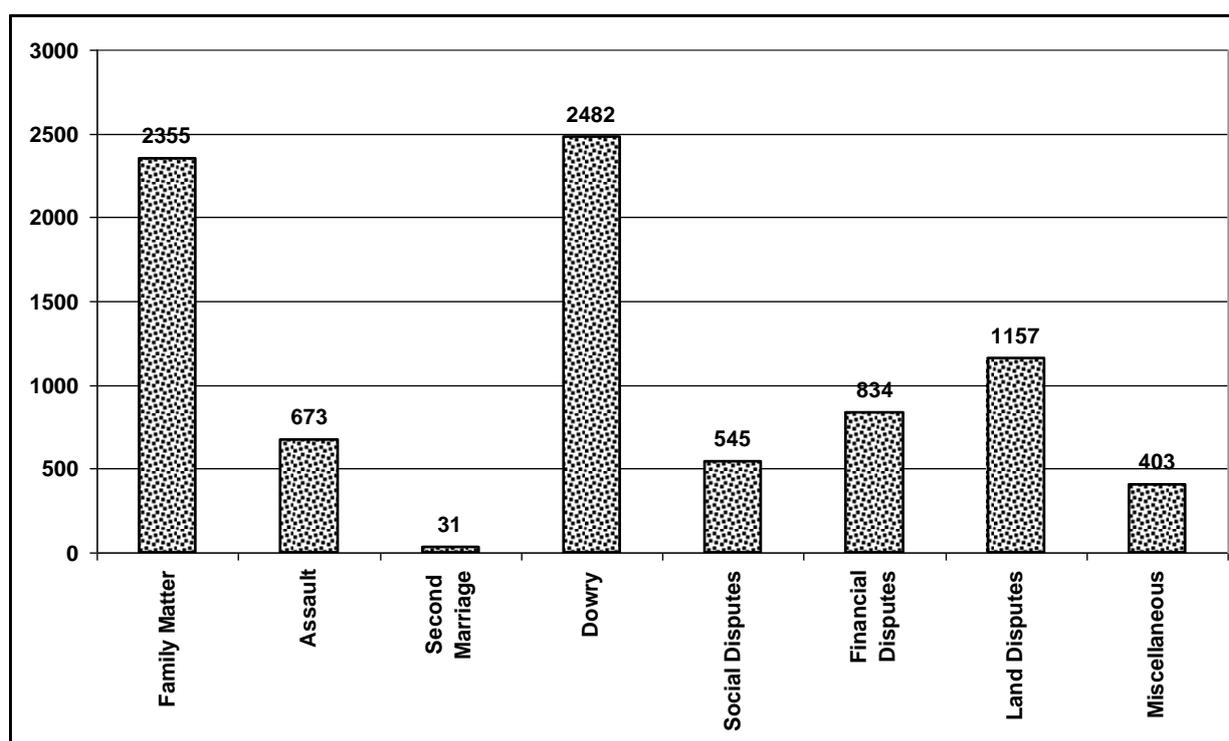
3.4.3.3. Workshop for advanced woman members of CBOs on MMM, gender & laws

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 – 487 participants (97.4%) attended in 22 workshops. **Table: 23**

3.4.4. Disputes Resolution through MMM

In the reporting year, 12328 applications were received including 1434 pending applications for resolution of disputes. With the participation of the CBO members, **8480** disputes were resolved through *Salish*, 602 disputes were sent to district court for filing case and due to absence of the applicants and lack of documentary or oral evidence and 1911 applications were rejected. Currently 1335 disputes are pending to be resolved. **Annexure Table 24 & 25**

Chart 13: Nature of Resolved Disputes



By settling disputes through *Shalish*, the MLAA has recovered taka 6,36,31,711 for its beneficiaries in the year 2006-2007. **Annexure Table 26**

3.4.5. Follow-up Result of Resolved Disputes

Nature	No. of Resolved	Agreement followed	Agreement not	Reasons of break of mediation
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	Disputes		followed	
Family Matter	943	877	66	Not provide maintenance, break communication, divorce executed, case instituted.
Dowry	1074	984	90	Again demand dowry, torture again, never follow the decision of agreement, break communication, divorce executed.
Land	297	285	12	Opponet file case, both parties break the decision of agreement.
Social Disputes	186	181	05	Both parties break the decision of agreement.
Assaults	215	212	03	Both parties break the decision of agreement.
Financial Disputes	178	178	00	--
Second Marriage	09	08	01	Both parties break the decision of agreement.
Miscellaneous	98	97	01	Applicants break the decision of agreement.
Total	3000	2822	178	
%	42.96	94.07	5.93	

The union workers follow-up 3000 (36%) mediation among the resolved disputes, according the result the findings shows that in 2822 (94%) disputes parties follow the decision of agreement and in 178 (06%) disputes parties never follow the decision of agreement.

Case Study- 04:

Now Taka 1,65,500/= is the only consolation of Baby's life.

Disputant Parties

Fayzur Nahar Bebi (21) is the daughter of MD. Humayun Molla of village Bashabari. Union- Gopinathpur; under sadar upazilla of district – Gopalganj. Baby has got two brothers. Her father leaves in Soudi Arab. Though they are financialy solvent but not educated, so the family of Bebi arranged her marriage when she was in class eight.

Bebi got married with Awal Gazi (28) second son of Shafi Gazi of village Dholaitala, UP- Kotakhali, Upazilla – Lohagara under Narail District. Awal Gazi B.A. is the only educated person in their family. He works at a clinic in Khulna.

The dispute

Bebi and Awal Gazi passed two years of married life, but they have got no child. One day Bebi felt fever and she let know the matter to her husband. Bebi's husband brought Bebi to khulna at his clinic. In the blood examination it was reported that Bebi has B-

virus in her body. Awal Gazi did not try to arrange treatment for Bebi, rather he backed home and discussed the issue with his family. Awal Gazi started ill-treatment with Bebi and told to bring Tk- 50,000/= from her father's house and later drove her from the house. Bebi could not go to her father's house because she was very much ashamed of the issue, rather she took shelter to a nearest relative house, where she had come to know about Madaripur Legal Aid Association.

On 9th August 2006 she came to Zalalabad Union Mediation worker of MLAA. Union Mediation worker heard the situation of Bebi and filled up primary application form, register it in the registered, then fixed date 18/08/06 for peaceful solution of her problem and issued request letter to the opponent party.

The mediation session

On the Given date both party presented themselves and the Shalish session started where Zalalabad Union Parishad's Chairman Himu Bish took the chair. CBO members A.K.M. Bahalul, Tulu Begum, Anzuara Begum, Anowar Hossain including other 10 to 12 persons was present. They discussed about the dispute and finally the opponent told that he would not take Bebi back. So, both agreed for divorce and it was decided that the applicant will get Tk. 1,65,500/= as dower and maintenance.

In this stage opponent party wanted time for paying money, so date fixed for paying money is 25/08/2006. On the said date full payment was made and divorce was registered as per law.

Follow-up

In the follow-up it was known that Bebi buys some cultivated land and tried to self-sufficient in the life.

3.5. Institutional Capacity of MLAA Strengthened

MLAA has taken special program and care to develop the institutional capacity of its staff at all levels. These include establishment of HRD, Advocacy units and strengthens training, M&E and management unit and gender policy. These also include the development of staff in the area of local justice, research methodology and English language. However institutional capacity building is a continuing process, which is achieved through enhancement of organizational skill and expertise to adapt changing needs of time and circumstances. Following are the detail activities implemented during the year 2006-2007.

Strengthening of Training Cell & Staff Development

3.5.1.1. Project development workshops for supervisors

MLAA organized 01 Project development workshops for better implementation of the project. In these workshops participants discussed about constraints, possible solutions and prepared monthly & yearly work plan, reporting procedures etc. In this workshop, 21 supervisors of respective project were area participated.

3.5.1.2. External and Internal Training for MLAA staff

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, MLAA trains its activists on a continuous basis through its staff development department and through other organizations, who provides training on the subject.

In the year 2006-2007, MLAA sent 12 staffs to participate different types of training and workshops. These training have enriched their knowledge and skill in their work and that was unique opportunity for them and also for the MLAA to acquire experience in the context of a changing need. Among them 2 were male and 10 were female.

Annexure Table 27

3.5.2. Strengthening Monitoring & Evaluation Cell

Effectiveness of any initiative largely depends on proper monitoring and evaluation. Regular monitoring is essential for the innovative activities that MLAA has been doing. MLAA has already developed an effective M & E system, which is essential for the organization as well as for meeting the various needs of the different stallholders. According to the existing M &E system MLAA also developed appropriate tools and techniques for process and impact monitoring in order to assess the quantity and quality of the programme.

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.

3.5.2.1. Issue-based reports

The Cell monitored the project implementation process and collected data on the same and submitted periodical reports. The data is collecting on the current status of Village Court system in resolving disputes, which would show the knowledge an attitude of the UP representatives and community. The target groups were UP representatives, household male and female members and rural civil society embers. During the reporting period Cell monitored the different program activities and summaries the findings which are given bellow:

Output-01:

Now 80 to 90 % Unions are doing the job and keep the documentation properly among them about 25% UP is successfully following the proper rules and procedures.

In the period of 2006-2007 M&E cell got the result about Knowledge & Skills of trained UP representatives enhanced from the various way of assessment i.e. live village court session observations, Assessment in the Thana meeting and FGD with villagers, meeting with UP representatives FGD with union workers and beneficiaries of AC and VC and the result is given bellow-

- VC Knowledge good 47%; VC Knowledge medium 39% and VC Knowledge weak 13%.
- VC skills good 23%; VC skills medium 32% and VC skills weak 45%.
- AC Knowledge good 46%; AC Knowledge medium 34% and AC Knowledge weak 20%.
- AC skills good 16 %; AC skills medium 32% and AC skills weak 52%.

On the other hand M&E cell finds that by the third year of project period; General mass awareness level reached through MLAA intervention about village court is 47% and awareness level of general mass reached through MLAA intervention about arbitration council is 40%

25% percentage UPs in the project areas resolved disputes through AC and VC by following proper procedures and methods. MLAA also activating UPs judicial system in collaboration with partner's organization for getting wider access to justice of rural people.

Output-02:

Free legal Aid service is the primary activity of MLAA, though its dependency on formal judicial system of the country has lead MLAA to take initiatives in other sources of establishing rights with a short possible time for ensuring rights of the venerable segments of the society especially women and children. So MLAA provides Legal aid to its clients those who can not afford court expenses for establishing rights.

In the year 2006-2007 a total 583 cases settled through court; out of which court verdict come in favour of our client is 29.67%, Against our client is 4.80% , court compromise is 30.18%, out of court compromise is 17.32% and default cases is 18.01%.

In analyzing the court verdict cases the cell find that the result are not very much fluctuating, rather it is all the same. Though we have seen large numbers of cases are defaulted in the third year, but in the field assessment it was found that in 40% cases parties locally compromise and did not appear in the court. In other findings it was also seen that among the follow up of 20 default cases 35% beneficiaries left for Dhaka in search of job. Now we can assume their vulnerability and helplessness. So, MLAA intervention for settling dispute locally by using ADR has a great opportunity for women in particular as well as free legal Aid services can also be run side by side. Its impact cannot be ignored for ensuring and establishing rights through formal justice system.

Output-03:

M&E Cell assess the achievement of project purpose and having impact on the stakeholder particularly the advocacy issue how far extended their activity in disseminating the study findings to key stakeholders. So, the cell taken up the issue "To what extent the study findings disseminated among the key stakeholders" and they have the capacity to raise their voices in reforming AC/ VC law and procedures for greater access to justice.

The cell find that the above activities of project has been leads to gearing up the reform to some extent i.e. in those activities Problem of AC, VC activities have been identified

and showing guideline to resolve them has been outlined. M&E Cell also observed that the project is trying to reach its objectives and disseminate the study findings to key stakeholders in the following way-

- In the study findings 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 and to remove those limitations.
- In the research findings it has chalk out very serious environmental problem of District Courts. The researchers also recommended to resolve them have been outlined and discussions were done with relevant stakeholders.
- 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 coordinated effort to influence the policy makers.
- Gender concept is dissemination 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 courtyard meeting (74%), Community Based Organization meeting (15%), and 40% also act as co-facilitators in gender workshops. Their participation in the workshop has been creating opportunity to disseminate the concept of gender, sensitize the gender aspect and also changing the attitude of the participants of rural level.

Output-04:

Madaripur Legal Aid Association vigorously deals with alternative dispute resolution process and practiced for institutionalization of ADR and evolves a system of ADR which is popularly known as Madaripur mediation model. The very characteristics of MMM is that shalish / Mediation is a process where third party settlers / Shalishkars / Mediators / CBO members/ ADR Committees help people in settling their disputes. CBO members are neutral, they have been trained by MLAA regarding existing law of the land, they have been informed about compoundable disputes, Human rights and Gender issues.

The following are the picture of year wise women participation –

- In the year 2006- 2007 the cell follows up 309 Nos. shalish and find that in 137 Nos. CBO female members were present; the percentage is 44.33%.

The year wise comparative picture of CBO female member's role playing is given below–

- In the year 2006- 2007 CBO female members' role playing in shalish session was good and the percentage is 19%.
- In the year 2006- 2007 CBO female members played role is on an average 57%.
- In the year 2006- 2007, CBO female members played role is weak 24.08%.

- The Cell assesses that “To what extent the decisions of the agreement, made by the parties, abided” The cell finds that in the year 2006- 2007 among the 309 resolved disputes, 255 decisions of agreements implemented accordingly i.e. 82.53%.

Planned activities not achieve & reasons

Output/ Results	Activities	Yr. Target	Achievements	Deviation	%
Output -1	Disputes Resolution through Arbitration Council (AC)	3200 Disputes	2826 Disputes	374	11.68 %
	Follow-UP Meetings	100 Meetings 2500 Persons	99 Meetings 1894 Persons	01 Meeting 606 Persons	1% 24.24 %
Output -2	Court Case	700 Cases	609 Case	91 Cases	13%
	Follow-up of Cases	70 Cases	58 Cases	12 Cases	17.14 %
	Sharing Meeting with Judicial Officials and law enforcing agency	3 Meetings 75 Persons	1 Meetings 34 Persons	2 Meetings 41 Persons	66.66 % 54.66 %
Output -3	Sharing Meeting on Finding of Research with concerned stakeholders	3 Meeting 75 Persons	1 Meeting 40 Persons	2 Meeting 35 Persons	66.66 46.66
	National Seminar for changing procedural complicacy and uncongenial court environment	1 Seminar 50 Persons	Nil	1 Seminar 50 Persons	100%
	Workshops on Gender, Human Rights & Family Laws	100 Workshops 2000 Persons	81 Workshops 1614 Persons	19 Workshops 386 Persons	19% 19.3%
Output -4	Meeting with Active CBO Members	25 Workshops 500 Persons	22 Workshops 487 Persons	03 Workshops 13 Persons	12% 2.6%
Output -5	Project Development Workshop for Supervisors	2 Workshops 40 Persons	1 Workshop 21 Persons	1 Workshop 19 Persons	50% 47.5%

Reasons:

- Disputes relating polygamy and divorce have been decreasing due to awareness rising which is under jurisdiction of AC.

- Mediation, VC & AC of UP is 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.
- In case of court cases target was to institute 700 cases, but cases were instituted 609. The reason is that, filling a case in the court depends on merits of cases, proper paper & documents. Generally we don't encourage clients for litigation.
- In fact, study and research was schedule to be done with in the 1st year of the project period. But it was finished in 2nd year. So, it was not possible to arrange national seminars in time. In addition to that, due to political unrest situation was not favourable to organise seminar.

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.

Flipchart on Human Rights & Gender (Output – 3)

Activity	Type of Flipchart	No. of Copies
Flipchart on Human Rights & Gender	7 Types (Human Rights-4 and Genders-3)	10 Sets (70 Copies)

Street Drama on Women Rights	No of Show: 01 / Peoples watched 1200 approximately
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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 2006)	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 2006)	MLAA training centre	30	Staffs of Nagarik Udyog
Swabalambi Unnayan Samiti, Netrakona	Training on Village Court	3 days (5-7 Dec 2006)	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

Demand and supply of UP judiciary services has been increased:

- Various trainings and workshops have helped 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. Now they realize and believe that it's a statutory responsibility of Union Parishad.
- UP representative have adequate knowledge (47%) and skill (23%) regarding VC & AC. So that they involved their time and synergy for resolving VC & AC disputes.
- The attendance rate of the Chairmen and the secretaries in the VC related follow-up meetings have increased. Among 99 meeting chairman were preside-over in 97 meeting.
- Number of settled disputes by both the AC and the VC is on the rise. VC cases resolved 29.37% more in comparison to 1st year and in 3rd year 22.41% more in comparison to 2nd year.
- The UPs are spending more time in settling disputes. At present each union conducted Village Court session minimum 1 day per week.
- In the settled disputes by the AC & VC there is evidence of increase propensity to have substantive and procedural rules been fully followed (in 25% case) by the assistance of MLAA staff.
- UPs help the rural poor for providing quick remedy through VC & AC. In the reporting period UPs recovered an equivalent of Tk 2,64,25,192.00 as compensation and value of land.
- 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.

Local administration and other stakeholders have extended cooperation to make VC and AC effective:

- 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 MLAA. The UNOs acted as facilitators in 11 Upazila workshops out of 12.
- The UNOs also act as a Certificate Officer for implementing the judgement or decree of VC of different union parishad

Women's rights are protected and their empowerment has become visible:

- The number of female applicants has increased significantly in both VC and AC. The number of settled disputes and cases has also increased.
- 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.
- In the reporting period UPs recovered Tk. 5,35,600.00 as maintenance for the wives.
- UPs restored the family ties, so that wives are now jointly living with their husband and child.
- In 52.23% disputes of AC, decisions prevented families from splitting up and helped women to reunite with their husbands and children.
- Effective protection and restitution of marital rights is giving the women social security and stability.

Awareness of rural people's on VC & AC has increased:

- 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.
- Involvement of peoples in awareness rising activity (courtyard meeting, street drama, campaigning, union meeting, upazilla workshops) is increasing.

4.2. Access to formal judicial system increased

Poor people are under justice:

- 294 criminal cases were resolved – 230 verdicts (78%) went in favour of the beneficiaries, 43 cases were rejected and 21 verdicts went against the beneficiaries. This is an indication of accuracy in assessing merits of the cases.
- In 19 cases, 22 accused beneficiaries were released.
- In 77 dowry prohibition cases, the beneficiaries received Tk. 17,65,000.00 taka for consideration of dissolution their marriages. In 117 cases marital relationship of the beneficiaries remained intact.
- In 09 criminal cases the beneficiaries received Tk. 2,62,000 as compensation on compromise.

- Total 29 appeals were settled of which 16 cases the beneficiaries won the appeals and in 5 appeal case verdicts went against the beneficiaries.
- In one case the couple continued their marriage on compromise.

Women are getting proper justice in family cases:

- 240 family cases were disposed of – the beneficiaries won in the trail in 180 cases (75%), 60 cases (25%) lost.
- In 93 cases, taka 91,93157 has been decreed in favour of the beneficiaries. 58 beneficiaries in 58 cases received taka 21,04,600.00 as compensation on compromise and they terminated their marriages. In 18 cases the couples continued their marital relationship on compromise.

Recovery of land has increased with due justice:

- 27 land cases were resolved – judgements in 23 cases went in favour of the beneficiaries, 4 cases were rejected or went against the beneficiaries.
- In 19 cases, the beneficiaries recovered possession of land (12.20 acres) on decree. The approximate value of the recovered land is taka 16,60,000.00.
- In 94 decimals land, approximate value is tk. 2,88,000.00 recovered in 4 cases on compromise.

Stakeholders are found sincere and sensitive to the problems.

- 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.

Identification of problems in VC & AC has been done and action has been outlined for solution:

- Various problems in the implementation of AC, VC activities have been identified and action to resolve them has been outlined. The participants in opinion discussion meeting, seminar and advocacy workshops expressed their concerns on various legal, procedural and infrastructure limitations of AC/VC. The participants, in the light of their experience, emphasized on expansion of VC jurisdiction and government finding and supervision.
- 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.

Problems in the formal court have been identified for environmental improvement:

- From the research finding and sharing meeting various problem and barriers were identified to get counselling and justice through District court. It should need to remove by concern people through Advocacy.

Network among the relevant stakeholders have come into shape:

- 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 coordinated effort to influence the policy makers.

Gender concept is dissemination 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 courtyard meeting (74%), Community Based Organization meeting (15%), and 40% also act as co-facilitators in gender workshops.
- Their participation in the workshop has been creating opportunity to disseminate the concept of gender, sensitize the gender aspect and also changing the attitude of the participants of rural level.

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

CBO members are well organized and sincere to their responsibilities:

- 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 meetings, workshops and trainings.
- Ward & union level women CBO members are now organized and aware of their responsibilities. Women CBO members directly help to organized ward and union CBO meeting.
- In 5207 ward CBO meetings, women CBO members presided over in 2339 (45%) meetings. In 391 Central CBO meeting, women CBO members presided over in 121 (31%) meetings

Women CBO members are found actively participating:

- Female CBO members are playing active roles in *Salish*. 8480 disputes were settled through *Salish* where 26359 CBO members participated. Among them 7495 were females. In 1026 settled disputes, woman CBO members presided over the mediation session.

The decisions of Mediation session were effectively implemented:

- In 3000 settled disputes were followed up which revealed that 2822 decisions of resolutions (94.07%) were effectively implemented and 178 resolutions (5.93%) were not. This trend indicates the overall perpetuity of the resolutions.
- **Family ties have been regained and continued.**

MLAA resolved 4866 disputes related to family matter, second marriage and dowry with the active participation of CBO members. Among the resolved disputes, in 3832 disputes (78.75%) wife and husband continued their family life amicably.

Children have got their parents and back to their family:

- 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 29.

MLAA help to poor people for recover money and land in aspect to develop their socio-economic condition:

- In the year 2006-2007, *Shalish* has recovered taka **6,36,31,711.00** for the beneficiaries.

Maintenance & Dower Recover	Compensation Recover	Money recover instead of Land	Land Recover (122 acres 30 decimal)	Total Taka
1,91,29,050.00	84,03,561.00	3,44,39,750.00	16,59,350.00	6,36,31,711.00

4.5. Institutional Capacity of MLAA Strengthened

Skill and expertise of the MLAA staff has been developed:

- 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.

M & E cell has widened its activities effectively:

- The strengthened monitoring cell is working with specific strategies to scrutinize the implementation of the main goals and objectives of the organization.

Chapter V Impact Analysis

Due to the absence of relevant indicators it is difficult to assess multidimensional impact (economic, social, political and cultural) of the activities of a right-based organization on the target group. However attempt has been made for impact analysis of MLAA's activities in various aspects:

a) Judicial system of Union Parishad

- Dysfunctional organs – the Village Court and Arbitration Council of the UP become serviceable for getting access to justice in the rural society
- Negative impact of litigation for minor disputes is being avoided and as a result social harmony remains undisturbed.
- Chairmen and UP members have got a responsible function to act as judge to preserve social order and justice.
- Local judicial system does resolve knotty social issues at the minimum time and expenses.
- Minor disputes and family matters are resolved congenially but with a legal authority
- Upazila and district administration extend cooperation towards UP judicial service
- Women empowerment has become visible as they get access to justice in the family matter particularly in the Arbitration Council.

b) Legal aid under formal judicial system

- Poor people and poor women in particular are now safe and secure as they could access justice at formal court.
- Rural society becomes alert and cautious to commit any injustice and wrong to the poor particularly women.
- In case of local mediation fails legal aid is provided in the court; so social justice could be established.
- Rural society knows--where to go and when to go for free legal assistance for litigation.

c) Advocacy and policy influence

- The limitations of the VC and AC are being identified in order to make them more effective.
- The advocacy and policy influence unit ensures identification of problems to translate them into local and national policy for redress of the problems.
- By this program MLAA staff has been able to effectively assist the UP in conducting the local justice providing training on VC & AC. Hence people's trust in the Up justice system is steadily improving.
- The various training programs and workshops have helped to improve skill and efficiency of the staff in their respective areas.
- Due to intensive training on mediation and relevant laws field staff have been able to properly carry out their designated duties and obligations.
- Gender policy has helped the women staff for their safety and security in their jobs and duties.

d) Alternative disputes resolution (Mediation)

- Salish or mediation is a vehicle for social justice so it is—'of the people, by the people and for the people.'
- Disputes settled in the community so social amity gains over enmity.
- Community leadership on conflict management guarantees no class domination.
- Women are allowed to express their voice, so rights, gender dignity are upheld in the society
- People's participatory role to solve the problems are ensured, so confidence enhanced.
- Touts and fatwabaj losses ground in handing community disputes.

Chapter VI

a) Problem faced

Problems of different nature have been faced at different stages of activity performance and these are as follows:

- Delay in disposing the cases due to the lengthy process of the existing laws.
- Complex legal framework and overall court environment do not favour the poor and women in particular.
- UP representatives are not so much committed to the concept of social justice and do not envisage this area to be their obligatory duties due to passive role of the govt.
- Elected representatives of the local govt. should be given manpower and financial incentives to participate in local justice.
- Lack of awareness about essential laws and human rights in general
- Advocacy is an ongoing process. A long time is needed to see the reflection of local level advocacy at the national level.
- Lack of proper initiatives and cooperation from the govt. officials to encourage local justice.
- Absence of a proper democratic culture.

b) Suggested action to meet the problem

- More initiatives should be taken to reform laws in order to make legal system less costly and easily accessible.
- Congenial relation should be built improved between NGOs and Govt. bodies
- Democratic norms and culture should be developed
- Training facilities needed to be increased for UP representatives on local justice.
- People's awareness on laws and human rights should be increased in rural society
- Sensitize the people and public representatives for ensuring implementation of function of Village Court and Arbitration Council.
- Should set-up full-fledged documentation, publication and research cell.

Conclusion

Madaripur Legal Aid Association, by its activities during the year 2006-2007, has undertaken the commitment to make justice and human rights available to the rural poor particularly women who are usually excluded from accessing their rights. Despite several limitations the organization has been running its programs steadily and smoothly. All the more, it has continued to broaden its objectives and expand its areas of operation through extending support to the partner organizations.

To conclude, establish a just society prerequisites effective implementation of the rights of the people. MLAA is treading towards establishing such a society where every citizen, irrespective of any impediments should be able to exercise their justice and rights and live a safe, sound and dignified live.



Details of Tables

Table-1 : 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	69	111	841	1428	910	1539	789	1265	45	117	0	0	834	1382	76	157
Shariatpur	36	67	747	1215	783	1282	694	1063	46	107	1	0	741	1170	42	112
Gopajganj	21	43	307	595	328	638	278	558	13	15	0	0	291	573	37	65
Sub-total	126	221	1895	3238	2021	3459	1761	2886	104	239	1	0	1866	3125	155	334
Total	347		5133		5480		4647		343		01		4991		489	

Table-2: 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	2054	1867	187
Shariatpur	6 Thana	1757	1391	366
Gopalganj	2 Thana	836	736	100
TOTAL	12 Thana	4647	3994	653

Table-3: 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	109	11	115	85	126	96	114	8	79	23	5	0	0	117	1	84	93	12
Shariatpur	101	14	110	85	120	99	111	6	79	20	3	2	0	113	8	82	71	17
Gopalganj	33	1	394	18	427	19	389	15	9	1	0	0	398	16	29	3		
Sub-total	243	26	265	188	290	214	265	3	173	52	9	2	0	270	7	182	193	32
Total	269		2845		3114		2826		61		2		2889		225			

Table-4: 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	1227	874	335	18
Shariatpur	6 Thana	1195	905	286	4
Gopalganj	2 Thana	404	342	58	4
TOTAL	12 Thana	2826	2121	679	26

Table-5 & 6 : Statement of Follow-up Meeting

Duration	No. of Meeting	Female	Male	Total
July 2006 to June 2007	99	234	1660	1894

Chairman	Secretary	Female Member	Male Member	Davader	Choukider	Total
97	87	230	695	103	682	1894

Table-7 & 8 : Statement of Upazilla Workshops

No. of District	No. of Workshop	Female	Male	Total
3 District / 12 Thanas	12	118	370	488

UNO	Govt officials chairman	UP secretary	Female member	Male member	Marriage registers	Teachers	Social worker	Religious leader	Business men	Farmer	Service holder	Postal worker	Total
11	25	78	82	110	5	17	33	10	12	5	17	5	488

Table-9 : Statement of Legal Awareness Meetings

District	No. of Meetings	Participants		
		Female	Male	Total
Madaripur	2835	32795	4968	37763
Shariapur	2652	30749	4300	35049
Gopalganj	977	11860	3636	15496
TOTAL	6464	75404	12904	88308

Table-10 : Statement of Publication

Publication	Copies
Posters on VC & AC	20000
Book on Case Study	1000

Table-11 : Details Statement of Court Cases

Pending from 2005-06	1008
Case Institutes in 2006-07	609
Total Case	1617
Court Verdict in favour of MLAA beneficiaries	173
Court Verdict against of MLAA beneficiaries	28
Compromise in Court / Cases mediated	277
Cases quashed/rejected	105
Total Disposal of Cases	583
Present Pending	1034

Table-12 : Male-female distribution of filed and settled cases in Court

Type	Cases filed				Cases settled			
	Male	Female	Total	%	Male	Female	Total	%
Criminal	22	349	371	61	21	273	294	50
Family	0	192	192	31	0	240	240	41
Land	12	11	23	4	17	10	27	5
Appeals	4	19	23	4	5	17	22	4
Total	38	571	609	-	43	540	583	-

Table-13 : Statement of Disposed and pending Cases

Types of Cases	Madaripur	Shariatpur	Gopalganj	Total
Pending Cases	8	6	-	14

Disposed Cases	25	8	11	44
Total	33	14	11	58

Table-14 : Statement of Sharing Meeting

Types of Meeting	No. of Meetings	Female	Male	Total
Meeting with Panel Lawyers	06	7	146	153
Meeting with Lawyers-Clark	06	4	248	252
Meeting with Law Enforcing agency and Judges	01	1	33	34
Total	13	12	427	439

Table 15 : Discussion meeting with civil society, local journalists LEB's and representatives of Union Parishads

Area	Participant		
	Female	Male	Total
Madaripur	10	28	38
Gopalganj	8	36	44
Shariatpur	6	29	35
Grand Total	24	93	117

Table 16: District Level Seminar on findings of the study:

Area	Participant		
	Female	Male	Total
Madaripur	5	40	45
Gopalganj	11	33	44
Shariatpur	5	40	45
Grand Total	21	113	134

Table 17: Upazila Advocacy Workshops on Village Court and Arbitration Council

No of Workshops	Female	Male	Total	Venue
01	8	14	22	MLAA office, Shariatpur

Table 18: Meeting with Network Organization

No of Meeting	Female	Male	Total	No of org	Venue
02	04	40	44	22	TARC, MLAA

Table 19 : Workshop on Gender, Human Rights & family laws for Female women leaders

No of workshop	local women	Animators	Total	Venue
81	1474	140	1614	Union level

Table 20: Workshop on Human Rights:

HR Workshop	Female	Male	Total	Venue
10	217	199	416	Student level

Table 21 : Observation of International Human Rights Day :

Day	Name of events	Institution	Female	Male	Total	Venue
Child Rights Day	Rally, Discussions, Video show, competition	10	72	48	120	H/O, TARC
Human Rights Day	Rally, Discussions, competition	10	64	56	120	H/O, TARC
Women Rights Dat	Rally, Discussions, Round-table meeting	06	76	67	143	H/O, TARC

Table 22 : Meeting with CBO Members

Type of Meeting	Yearly Target (2006-2007)	Participants				(%)
		NOM	Femal e	Male	Total	
Ward CBO Meeting	5400 Meetings 81000 Persons	5207	24915	32582	57497	96.42 70.98
Union CBO Meeting	400 Meetings 6000 Persons	391	1728	2571	4299	97.75 71.65
Thana CBO Meeting	21 Meetings 840 Persons	20	262	445	707	95.23 84.16
Total		5618	26905	35598	62503	

Table 23 : Capacity Building training and workshops for CBO Members on MMM & Laws

Type of Training / Workshops	Yearly Target (2006-2007)	Participants				(%)
		Event s	Femal e	Male	Total	
3 Days Training for Central CBO Members	10 Courses 300 Persons	10	148	121	269	100

Day-long Workshops for Ward CBO Members	100 Workshops 5000 Persons	100	2127	2791	4918	100
Day-long Workshops for Advanced women CBO Members	25 Workshops 500 Persons	22	487	00	487	88
Total		132	2762	2912	5674	

Table 24: Analysis of Applications

	Previous Pending		Application Received		Total		Mediation Done		Rejected		Recom. For Case		Total		Present Pending	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
3 Districts (Thana & Unions)	733	701	636	453	709	523	482	365	104	87	549	53	641	457	680	655
Total	1434		10894		12328		8480		1911		602		10993		1335	

Table 25: Disputes Resolved- Nature wise

Office / Type	Family Matter	Assault	Second Marriage	Dowry	Social Disputes	Financial Matter	Land	Misc.	Total
Thana	559	58	09	619	17	121	79	35	1497
Union	1796	615	22	1863	528	713	1078	368	6983
Total	2355	673	31	2482	545	834	1157	403	8480
%	27.78	7.93	0.36	29.26	6.42	9.84	13.65	4.76	-

Table 26 : Direct Visual Benefit from Mediation

Maintenance & Dower Recover	Compensation Recover	Money recover instead of Land	Land Recover (122 acres 30 decimal)	Total Taka
1,91,29,050.00	84,03,561.00	3,44,39,750.00	16,59,350.00	6,36,31,711.00

Table 27: List of Staffs, received training from different organization.

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Training Title	Duration	Venue	Host Organization
1.	Jadob	Accountant	Training on Tax &	4 days	Dhaka	ICMA

	Chakraborty		Vat			Dhaka
2.	Abul Kalam Azad	Sr.Asstt. Coordinator	Training on VAT	7 days	Dhaka	CTTA, Dhaka
3.	Kazi Masuma	Trainer	TOT on Peace Initiative	2 days	Dhaka	CCDB, HOPE
4.	Dalia Akter	Field Organizer	TOT on Peace Initiative	2 days	Dhaka	CCDB, HOPE
5.	Kazi Masuma	Trainer	Workshop on Peace Initiative	2 days	Dhaka	CCDB, HOPE
6.	Zinat Naznin	Monitoring Officer	Workshop on Peace Initiative	2 days	Dhaka	CCDB, HOPE
7.	Sayera Parveen	Trainer	Certificate Course on Family & Social Counselling	43 days	Calcutta, India	Legal Aid Services West Bengal (LASWEB), India
8.	Naznin Akter	Field Organizer	Certificate Course on Family & Social Counselling	43 days	Kolkata	Do
9.	Sonia Sultana	Field Organizer	Certificate Course on Family & Social Counselling	43 days	Kolkata	Do
10.	Ruma Begum	Field Organizer	Certificate Course on Family & Social Counselling	43 days	Kolkata	Do
11.	Zinat Naznin	Monitoring Officer	Certificate Course on Family & Social Counselling	43 days	Kolkata	Do
12.	Anowara Begum	Asstt. Coordinator	Certificate Course on Family & Social Counselling	43 days	Kolkata	Do

