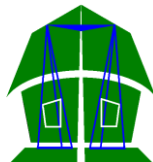


Activity Report

**Name of the project:
Access to Justice and Human Rights**

**Reporting Period:
July 2025 - June 2026**



**Madaripur Legal Aid Association
Madaripur.**

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Introduction:

Since its inception in 1978 Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA) has been working for establishing a just society where rule of law and human rights are upheld. It appeared as the first legal aid providing center in the country with the vision to empower people especially the marginalized poor not only by raising consciousness of their rights but enabling them to exercise these in the court of law and in daily activities. Where access to justice was quite impossible for the vulnerable part of the society, the MLAA came out as reliever for that sect in the project intervention area.

MLAA set out its journey with a noble mission to offer legal aid and easy access to justice. To achieve the goal MLAA has been providing free legal assistance to the poor, activating UP judicial systems (Village Courts & Arbitration Council), replicating Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM) involving community participation to resolve civil and compoundable criminal disputes locally and implement a wide range of awareness and capacity building activity for raising awareness of community people. MLAA strives to ensure access to justice and human rights for all people irrespective of sex, cast, creed, religion, race through informal justice process and formal justice system.

The organization has been undertaking broad-based programs which are legal aid to the poor, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) involving community participation to resolve civil and compoundable criminal disputes locally, activating Village Courts & Arbitration Council, human rights education and implement a wide range of awareness and capacity building activity for raising awareness of community people.

With the assistance of other right based organizations, MLAA prepared itself to initiate advocacy for mass awareness and at the same time to legitimize and reform policies in formal and informal judicial system to stir the sensibility of the policy makers and duty bearers. It has developed its capacity in technical and managerial aspects as well as upgraded and developed different policies, manuals & modules that contribute to strengthen its institutional capacities. Its training cell is well equipped to transfer knowledge and skills to the local community and other stakeholders. MLAA has been

working for implementing its access to justice and human rights program in Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj district and same program has been replicating in other parts of the country through likeminded organizations who received training from MLAA.

1) Progress of the Objective:

“Access to Justice and empowerment of disadvantaged people, particularly women & Children” is the main objective of the organization with a vision to create “A just society where rule of law and human rights is upheld”.

MLAA upholds the philosophy that justice must be easily and equally accessible to every citizen in a society governed by the rule of law. If access to justice is limited to the rich, the poor and disadvantaged segments of the people, particularly women, would not have any stake in the rule of law. MLAA have been complementing to improve quality of life of the disadvantaged people through establishing their human, legal and women rights, for peaceful coexistence. The project strives to extend benefits to the disadvantaged, particularly women in the rural communities to ensure their access to justice and establish human rights.

Through effective implementation of various activities a positive change has been coming out to make justice easily and equally accessible for its target communities through increase accountability of the duty bearers, accessing justice for the poor marginalized and vulnerable people through well functioned local justice systems, establish legal rights of disadvantaged and empower women to raise voice against the rights violations and to functional effective judicial system for protect the human, legal and women rights of the disadvantaged. The overall result of the above initiatives has been contributing for a just society which has been complementing the objective of the project.

The main purpose of the project is to develop and support the major stakeholders to achieve the project objective, mostly on ensuring accessibility for the underprivileged within the formal justice system. At the same time, the organization sets its concentration to the non-formal dispute resolving criterions also. It is to mention that the organization’s thematic and strategic focus is on to resolve disputes through reformed *shalish* at local level and the other UP judicial systems, like activating Village Court (VC) & Arbitration Council (AC), which is an initiative to promote justice at the grass root level. MLAA has been working to policy advocacy and lobbying to create access to the formal and informal justice system for the poor and disadvantaged people specially women. MLAA had keen eyes on its target and achievements. The activities organized were not merely for fulfilling the target. MLAA strived to ensure quality to all of those beside quantity, keeping continuous scrutinizing the achievements against the objective.

About MLAA

Values

MLAA believes in integrity, justice, governance, and accountability in the way it works with oppressed, vulnerable and deprived people. MLAA recognizes respects and upholds equality and equity among women and men.

Vision

A just society where rule of law and human rights is upheld.

Mission

MLAA will strive to ensure access to justice and legal rights for all people irrespective of sex, cast, creed, religion, sexual orientation, race and those affected by HIV/AIDs through the informal justice processes and formal justice system.

Main Objective:

Access to Justice increased empowerment of disadvantaged people, particularly women & Children.

Brief Overview of achievement:

Providing legal service through formal and informal and justice sector and restore human rights is the main approach of MLAA. In formal justice sector MLAA provide legal advice, assist poor, especially women and children to get justice in formal courts and refer justice seekers to Govt. Legal Aid offices. As alternative, MLAA has been continuing its efforts to active informal justice sector, such as, enhance mediation system, activate Village Courts, Arbitration Council to resolve dispute locally. Also undertaking advocacy initiatives to reform law and policy in formal and informal judicial system involving key players, such as lawyers, local administration, local government and UP representatives to discuss common problems and develop a common strategy for addressing the issues. Particularly through the advocacy unit of MLAA has been working to reform Conciliation of Disputes (Municipal area) Board Act 2004 to create opportunity to resolve petty disputes of Municipality area. Awareness and capacity building of community people is also an important activity of MLAA.

Through the Free Legal Aid program, a total of 8 cases were pending from previous years in Madaripur. Among these 8 cases almost all are civil cases and it has been taking long time for disposing. So the total number of pending cases is still 8. During the reporting period 4 cases were referred to the DLAC. These cases were tried to resolve through mediation, but was failed to resolve. So these were referred to DLAC for legal action. These cases are under supervision of MLAA.

During the reporting period under the local justice program MLAA facilitated to resolve 158 disputes through mediation. A total of Tk. 29,63,000/- was recovered as maintenance and *Denmohor* (dower), compensation for damage of crops, compensation against injuries and price (approximate) of recovered land.

The Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961 empowers each Union Parishad, Municipality and City Corporation to constitute an Arbitration Council to resolve family disputes relating to divorce, polygamy and maintenance. During the reporting period MLAA received 449 applications in Madaripur and shariatpur Powrashava. Including previous 78 applications total applications stood 527. Out of total applications 455 disputes were resolved and at present 68 disputes are pending.

The 'Conciliation of Disputes (Municipal Area) Board Act-2004' empowered every Powrashava to constitute a 'Conciliation Board' to resolve certain disputes. During the reporting period the 111 applications were received in Madaripur and shariatpur Powrashava. Out of total 111 applications 38 were resolved during the reporting period. At present 73 disputes are pending.

To enhance the capacity of duty bearers MLAA conducted different meetings and workshops for CBO members, activists and College students. Through these meetings participants are encouraged to enhance local disputes resolution system of their own.

In the reporting period MLAA conducted a workshop with local mediators (CBO members) of different wards of Madaripur Powrashava on 8/6/2026. Total 46 mediators from 9 wards were participated in the said workshop.

MLAA arranged a workshop on Mediation for local mediators (CBO members) on 18/6/2026 with a participation of 52 mediators from 5 Union Parishad of Madaripur Sadar Upazilla.

In workshop with college students participants shared about Human and Women Rights and increase them to act as a human rights activist to assist rights victims with the assistance of MLAA. MLAA organized a human rights workshop with 47 college students from 5 colleges as a part of celebration of human rights day on 10 December 2025.

MLAA arranged coordination meetings to create awareness among the staff and stakeholders on local justice system, human rights and gender issues. A total 12 meetings were organized to coordinate the field level activities.

To ensure proper implementation of on-going activities MLAA has a Monitoring cell working with specific responsibility. The cell monitors the performance of the activities done under the projects of MMLAA. It was found that, in the decision making process 86.5% mediation decision made through party's opinion, 10.25 % decision taken by the board which was made by the parties' opinion and 3.25 % decision was imposed. It has also seen that Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM) has been adopted and implemented in maximum mediation sessions. In the mediation session 31.75% women has been taken part as president of those sessions. 91% beneficiaries have been satisfied over the decision taken in the mediation.

Access to Justice and Human Rights

i) Description of project performance

Project Description:

The objective of the project 'Access to Justice and Human Rights' is to increase access to justice to empower disadvantaged people, particularly 'women' and protect human rights for all. To achieve the objective the project has accommodated different activities to open new avenues of access to justice for the poor and vulnerable group.

Through effective implementation of various activities of the project 'Access to Justice and Human Rights' a positive change has been coming out to make justice easily and equally accessible for its target communities through increase accountability of the duty

bearers, accessing justice for the poor marginalized and vulnerable people through well functioned local justice systems, establish legal rights of disadvantaged and empower women to raise voice against the rights violations and to functional effective judicial system for protect the human, legal and women rights of the disadvantaged. The overall result of the above initiatives has been contributing for a just society which has been complementing the objective of the project.

The major components of the project are: 1) enabling people to access formal courts through free legal aid, 2) empower people to resolve their disputes at the community level through the Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM), 3) empowering local government to activate local justice through the Village Court (VC) and Arbitration Counsel (AC), 4) awareness raising on legal aid and human rights to aware people, particularly women.

Activity Area:

Districts : 3 (Madaripur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur)
Upazilas : 15 (all Upazilas of Madaripur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur districts)

Stakeholders:

The disadvantaged rural people, the poor, particularly women and children are the main stakeholder. Secondary stakeholders are UP representatives (chairmen and members), village leaders, panel lawyers and their associates, journalists, government officials and NGO activists.

Description of the Performance

Advocacy

MLAA's advocacy unit have been taking some initiatives and have been gathering recommendations from grass root level to convey these up to policy level to influence policymakers with an aim to change essential policies on legal issues. To create a positive change in the policy level, the advocacy unit of MLAA has been continuing its advocacy initiatives to reform law and policy in formal and informal judicial system. MLAA facilitates advocacy by inviting key players in the justice system, such as lawyers, local administration, local government and UP representatives, CBO members to discuss common problems and develop a common strategy for addressing the issues. Particularly through the advocacy unit of MLAA has been working to reform Conciliation of Disputes (Municipal area) Board Act 2004, and prepared a new draft of law 'Nagar Adalat' to create opportunity to resolve petty disputes of City Corporations.

Result achieved

MLAA worked with UNDP and other partners to amend Village Court Law of Union Parishad and as a result the pecuniary jurisdiction of Village Court is now tk. 3,00,000/- and also introduced the pre-mediation capacity of Village Courts. MLAA prepared a draft law on Conciliation of Dispute (municipality area) Act-2004 with necessary reform. Now the the pecuniary jurisdiction of Conciliation of Dispute (municipality area) Act-2004 is only tk.25,000/-, which need to be amended. MLAA also prepared a new draft of law 'Nagar Adalat' to create opportunity to resolved petty disputes of City Corporations. MLAA has been working to draw attention of policy makers for amending Arbitration Council Law under local govt. to minimize gaps and limitations identified from different seminars & workshops.

Access to formal and informal justice system

Free Legal Assistance

MLAA provides legal aid services to the disadvantaged, in particular the poor women and children, to establish their rights with positive impact of change their socio-economic status.

MLAA arranges lawyers for its clients from panel of lawyers based on their years of experience, court records and knowledge of law. In addition to providing a lawyer, MLAA engages advocate's clerk who is responsible for liaising between the clients and also assists the lawyer with basic tasks. MLAA also provides transportation facilities (for both the client and witnesses) and assist for collection of necessary documents and medical support if necessary. To enhance services of Govt. Legal Aid, MLAA also referring cases and been assisting DLAC.

At present the project has been assisting justice seekers referring cases to the Govt. Legal Aid offices with an aim to strengthen Govt. Legal Aid and widely accommodate people and inform them with the service of Govt. Legal Aid. During the reporting period, through the Free Legal Aid program of MLAA, a total of 8 cases were pending from previous years in Madaripur. These cases were filed before few years. Among these 8 cases almost all are civil cases and it has been taking long time for disposing. So the total number of pending cases is still 8. During the reporting period 4 cases were referred to the DLAC. These cases were tried to resolve through mediation, but was failed to resolve. So these were referred to DLAC for legal action. These cases are under supervision of MLAA.

Court Case

Duration	Previous Pending	Case field	Total	Case disposed	Present pending	New cases referred to DLAC
July 2021 to June 2022	08	0	08	0	08	04

Disputes resolution through Mediation

MLAA modernized the traditional "Salish" into an unbiased, participatory, and rights sensitive approach to conflict resolution known as the Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM). The MMM enables disputant parties to resolve family conflicts, community disputes, land disputes and minor criminal offences at a nominal cost and with minimal delay. In each Union parishad of Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj districts MLAA formed Community Based Organization (CBO). Members of CBOs were provided training on Mediation technique. MLAA have no direct worker in Union level, but trained CBO members are assisting disputants to resolve disputes. Disputants usually prefer MMM method for CBO members followed the methods, taking technical assistance from MLAA.

During the reporting period under the local justice program MLAA facilitated to resolve 158 disputes through mediation. A total of Tk. 29,63,000/- was recovered as maintenance and *Denmohor* (dower), recovery of money, compensation for damage of crops, compensation against injuries and price (approximate) of recovered land. In dispute resolution systems (mediation), 90% applicants, were directly benefited most of them are women.

Mediation

Duration	Previous Pending	Application received	Total	Mediation done	Ref. to court through DLAC	Dropped	Total	Present pending
Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	33	173	206	158	04	10	172	34

Application received (Nature wise)

Family matter	Torture (Minor)	Second Marriage	Dowry	Social Dispute	Financial Dispute	Land Dispute	Miscellanies	Total
65	5	00	86	00	05	05	06	172

Mediation done (Nature wise)

Family matter	Torture (Minor)	Second Marriage	Dowry	Social Dispute	Financial Dispute	Land Dispute	Misc.	Total	Remarks
56	05	01	79	00	06	05	06	158	

Benefit of resolved disputes through Mediation

Result of Disputes		Amount in Taka
Total Disputes Resolved	158	
No, of Beneficiaries	1147	
Marriage Continued	111	
Divorce executed	24	
Recovered of Maintenance & Denmohor / Divorce Executed including.		27,43,000/-
Compensation Recovered		2,20,000/-
Land Recovered		
Money Recover in replace of Land		
Total		29,63,000/-

Dispute Resolve by Arbitration Council of Pourashava

The Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961 empowers each Union Parishad, Municipality and City Corporation to constitute an Arbitration Council to resolve family disputes relating to divorce, polygamy and maintenance.

During the reporting period MLAA received 449 applications in Madaripur and shariatpur Powrashava. Including previous 78 applications total applications stood 527. Out of total applications 455 disputes were resolved and at present 68 disputes are pending.

Previous Pending		Application Received		Total		Resolve		Reject		Total		Remaining	
F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
67	11	135	28	434	93	374	81	03	01	377	82	57	11
78		163		527		455		04		459		68	

Dispute Resolve by Conciliation Board of Pourashava

The 'Conciliation of Disputes (Municipal Area) Board Act-2004' empowered every Powrashava to constitute a 'Conciliation Board' to resolve certain disputes. The Conciliation Board consists of five members which includes the Mayor and two persons nominated by each disputing party, one of whom should be an elected Councilor of the concerned Pourashava. The Mayor of the Pourashava acts as the Chairman and four other members act as member of the Board. The project will assist 14 Pourashavas (Municipalities) to activate Conciliation Board under 'Conciliation of Disputes (Municipal Area) Board Act-2004'.

During the reporting period the 111 applications were received in Madaripur and shariatpur Powrashava. Out of total 111 applications 38 were resolved during the reporting period. At present 73 disputes are pending.

Previous Pending		Application Received		Total		Resolve		Reject		Total		Remaining	
1		2		3		4		5		6 (4+5)		7	
F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
00	00	38	73	73	73	18	20	00	00	09	12	09	05
00		111		111		38		00		38		73	

Capacity Building

Access to Justice for all is the main focus of MLAA. To contribute for providing assistance to access to justice, awareness of all agencies of justice providers including justice seekers is essential. Capacity building is a continuous process, which is achieved through enhancement of organizational skills and expertise and the ability to adapt to changing needs of time and circumstances. MLAA conducts training for its

own staffs. Similarly, it organizes trainings and workshops for the advanced community people, CBOs, UP Chairmen and members, UP Secretaries, Paralegals, Panel Lawyers, Court staffs, Judges and police authorities. The above individuals are brought under various types of trainings so that the community people may enjoy a positive result regarding their rights issues get justice. Other organizations frequently request MLAA to provide them with training.

MLAA formed Community Based Organizations (CBO) at Unions from the rural civil society members of the community which include UP representatives, teachers, women health workers, religious leaders, social activists, NGO workers, women group leaders and other social leaders from the wards and unions. There are two fold of CBO committee: ward level CBO and central level CBO. MLAA has been keeping regular conduct and follow-up with CBO members who are the main working force in the community.

To enhance the capacity of duty bearers MLAA conducted different meetings and workshops for CBO members, activists and College students. Through these meetings participants are encouraged to enhance local disputes resolution system of their own.

In the reporting period MLAA conducted a workshop with local mediators (CBO members) of different wards of Madaripur Powrashava on 8/6/2026. Total 46 mediators, who are Ex-Councilors, local elites, political leaders, social workers, women leaders from 9 wards were participated in the said workshop. Out of them 8 were female and 38 were male.

MLAA arranged a workshop on Mediation for local mediators (CBO members) on 18/6/2026 with a participation of 52 mediators from 5 Union Parishad of Madaripur Sadar Upazilla. Participants are Ex-Chairmen, Members, local elites, political leaders, social workers, women leaders etc.

MLAA organized a human rights workshop with 47 college students from 5 colleges as a part of celebration of human rights day on 10 December 2025. In workshop with college students participants shared about Human and Women Rights and increase them to act as a human rights activist to assist rights victims with the assistance of MLAA.

MLAA arranged coordination meetings to create awareness among the staff and stakeholders on local justice system, human rights and gender issues. A total 12 meetings were organized to coordinate the field level activities.

In the reporting period MLAA organized 12 central meetings and 36 coordination meetings at district & upazilla level.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring provides feedback to the program and its management. The monitoring cell of MLAA has taken significant steps to monitor and assess project progress in relation to the indicators set in the project log frame. It conducts sample survey to assess project progress and identifies issues related to project context and factors. MLAA applies various techniques for survey and analysis. It was found that, in the decision making process 86.5% mediation decision made through party's opinion, 10.25 % decision taken by the board which was made by the parties' opinion and 3.25 % decision was imposed. It has also seen that Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM) has

been adopted and implemented in maximum mediation sessions. In the mediation session 31.75% women has been taken part as president of those sessions. 91% beneficiaries have been satisfied over the decision taken in the mediation.

ii) Key achievements

- Previously MLAA formed Community Based organization (CBO) in almost all Union Parishad of Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalgang districts and established network with community people who are taking assistance of MLAA to resolve disputes through mediation locally.
- Workshop with the members of the Community based organization (CBO) has created an opportunity to continue the relationship with CBO members, inform the activities of the project and also inspire CBO members about their role in the society. Besides, they got an advantage to know each other.
- Number of applications and the number of disposals in Powrashavas and Union parishads are increasing. People are resolving their disputes without wasting money and facing harassment. Women and poor communities are particularly benefited.
- Identified the limitations of the law of Conciliation of Disputes (Municipal Area) Board Act 2004 and take recommendations in order to modernize the Conciliation of Disputes (Municipal Area) Board Act 2004.
- The capacity of the members of the Community Based organization (CBO) enhanced through workshops.
- People are benefited and have been availing access to justice through different informal justice systems (Mediation, Village Court and Arbitration Council) without cost and harassment.
- Formation of Arbitration Council (Shalishi parishad) has been increasing in the Municipality and Union Parishad, especially proper documentation process has been followed.

iii) Lesson learned

- Equity and equality of women still is a social taboos though women are taking social space than earlier and in dispute resolution process they (women) involving themselves as a part of raising voice.
- New VC Law was in acted in 2006 & amended in 2024. UP representatives and relevant people who seem to be nominated at panel members are yet to be aware on some procedure, so it created time for resolve disputes.
- Proper and frequent monitoring from Government side to oversee the activities of Village Court needs to be increased.
- Due to the lengthy process of the existing laws, Complex legal framework and overall absence of congenial court environment for the poor and women in particular delayed in disposing cases.
- A long time is needed to see the reflection of local level advocacy at the national level.
- Different stakeholders requested to take drastic steps to amend and increase the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Conciliation of Dispute (Municipal Area) Board Act 2004.
- Need a structural systems & procedures for better working relationship between GO & NGOs.

- Joint collaboration with local govt. authorities, police administration and Community Based Organization (CBO) members to identify the problems and challenges of the dispute resolution process,
- Most of the stakeholders are willingly providing their support to enhance local justice system, particularly to expand mediation system.

iv) Impact

It is difficult to assess the multidimensional impact of the activities of a right-based organization on the target group such as in their economic, social, political and cultural rights. The economic impacts on the beneficiaries were discussed earlier. However, discussing the socio- cultural impacts of the project is far more difficult as there are multiple indicators and the experts in the field have not formally used the applications of these indicators.

MLAA has also been advocating for reformation and new enactment identifying limitations and short-fall of laws focused the issues at national level in collaboration with other likeminded organizations. As a result of the relentless MLAA awareness campaign and advocacy initiatives in collaboration with other organizations, there was an expansion of pecuniary jurisdiction of the VC, and the shalish gaining institutional form through the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act 2003, which now mandates an option of settling civil disputes through mediation. In 2006 MLAA organized a national seminar on 'Village Courts (VC): its viability & limitation' at Press Club, Dhaka to draw the attention of policy makers towards necessary reforms for overcoming obstacles. As a part of that initiative Bangladesh government revised the Village Courts Ordinance 1976 and enacted Village Court Act in 2006 and the financial jurisdiction of the courts was increased from Tk.5000 to Tk.25000. Afterward financial jurisdiction was increased Tk.3,00,00 according to the amended act in 2024.

MLAA has been working to reform Conciliation of Disputes (Municipal area) Board Act 2004, which will be placed in policy level to reform the law with an aim to increase its pecuniary jurisdiction and other identified issues. MLAA prepared a new draft of law 'Nagar Adalat' to create opportunity to resolve petty disputes of City Corporations to resolve petty disputes of City Corporations. MLAA has been working to draw policy makers for amending Arbitration Council Law under local govt. to minimize gaps and limitations identified from different seminars & workshops and necessary recommendations will be placed to the policy makers to overcome these gaps.

Tackling issues of poverty reduction, gender equality and women's empowerment: Through MLAA's work both women's awareness of their own rights and the attitude towards women during participation in the social activities has changed for the better. Women are better placed to raise their voices in defending their rights and dignity, through increased participation in the local justice systems, strong and consistent participation in CBOs, and in AC/VC related activities.

Domestic violence is the most pervasive violation of rights of women and children. Due to MLAA's intervention, incidents of domestic violence have decreased considerably. Poor people, particular women, feel safer and secure as they are able to access justice at formal courts.

Through the courts, justice seekers receive their economic and property entitlements without costs, and gain redress in dowry, divorce and polygamy related cases. MLAA

also refer cases to Govt. Legal Aid office and collaborating DLACs to improve their services, particularly in Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj districts.

Measuring Mediation Successes: Mediation avoids the negative impacts of litigation in cases of minor disputes and utilizes participatory roles to solve problems, which ensures social harmony and enhanced confidence of the parties. Resources and time saved by rural people through mediation are utilized to better their economic conditions.

Use of mediation services has reduced the levels of fatwabaji deterring local religious fundamentals from administering their own brand of justice. In fact, MLAA has succeeded in penetrating the corrupt and imbalanced rural power dynamics through facilitating spontaneous participation of the rural people.

As a result of various trainings and workshops, LPG members of Powrashavas, CBO members and UP representatives of Union Parishads are confident in carrying out their duties and obligations efficiently, rural people have increased awareness of local justice systems, and the Judicial authority, Upazila and District-level administration are cooperative towards MLAA's service. The rural locals, particularly the poor sections, prefer to appear before UP for getting legal redress on minor disputes with minimum efforts, time and expenses.

v) Challenges

- People are not fully confident to take service of Govt. legal aid, so legal aid for the poor and distressed are still a challenge.
- Due to judicial limitation of the Dispute Resolution (Municipality area) Act-2004 is Tk 25,000 So, there was a limited scope of practice to resolve disputes under this law at Powrashava and are not yet fully curious to activate this law.
- No elected representatives are in Pawrashavas and most of the Union parishad, so there is no practice on Dispute Resolution (Municipality area) Act-2004 in Pawrashavas to resolve dispute and practice of Village Courts in well manner.
- Some local mediators are not following actual norms of mediation. Still there is prevailing political influence, religious misinterpretations, discourage of women participation, tendency to impose decision by the social elites which sometimes hampering to enjoy rights.

Conclusion

The Access to Justice Project proved a valuable and effective initiative to protect human rights and provide legal assistance to the poor, helpless, and marginalized communities in three districts of southern Bangladesh. Particularly MLAA emphasised to local justice system and still encouraging people and local govt. institutions to resolve disputes through ARD (Mediation).

Previously MLAA directly worked with DLAC in district level and assisted DLAC for quickly gained support of service receivers and Legal Aid officials. This opportunity is not continuing in Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalgang districts, but MLAA continuing its support to DLAC from own resource.

Despite this setback, MLAA has been establishing important networks and awareness within all stakeholders to ensure access justice and protection of legal rights of vulnerable communities.
