

Scope and Performance of Standing Committees of Union Parishad- A Case Study of Two Upazilas

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Statement of the Candidate

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List of Abbreviations

ADC (G)	Additional Deputy Commissioner
ADP	Annual Development Programme
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DDLG	Deputy Director Local Government
DFID	Department for International Development
DLG	Director Local Government
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
LGRDC	Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperatives
LGSP	Local Governance Support Project
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
PIC	Project Implementation Committee
SDC	SWISS Agency for Development and Cooperation
SMC	School Managing Committee
TR	Test Relief
UDCC	<i>Upazila</i> Development and Coordination Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNO Upazila Nirbahi Officer

UP Union Parishad

VP Village Panchayet

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Abstract

Union Parishad (UP) is the oldest Local Government institution in our country. Over the years, the organisation has changed its structure a number of times in order to make it more people-oriented and responsive to poverty alleviation and rural development initiatives. At present, this thirteen member organisation has the opportunity to form a number of standing Committees for ensuring good governance at the grass roots level. Since initiatives have been started to strengthen our Local Government institutions for the balanced development of the country, a strong UP with the active participation of Standing Committees is urgently needed

Considering the debate regarding the effectiveness of the Standing Committees, the objectives of this study are to examine the scope and performance of Standing Committees and to assess the involvement of female members in the said committees. The study was conducted in 10 *Union Parishads* in two different *Upazilas* of two districts of Bangladesh. Findings of the study indicate that though Standing Committees have a high potential of ensuring transparency and accountability of *Union Parishads*, involving cross section of people in decision making process, reducing the dominance of one-man show of UP Chairmen, ensuring proper utilization of Annual Development Programme and Block Grants, and encouraging female members to perform important responsibilities at the local; the actual scenario is not that much encouraging. The reasons behind the sluggish performance of Standing Committees may be attributed to a number of factors such as lack of initiatives of UP members, lack of pressure from the common people, lack of political pressure, lack of skills required for planning and implementing development programmes at the local level, no specific terms of references of Standing Committees, unwillingness on the part of UP Chairman to delegate authority and even non-existence of Standing Committees or existence only on paper.

Scope and Performance of Standing Committees of Union Parishad- A Case Study of Two Upazilas

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 General Background

Union Parishad¹ is an age old institution in our country. It started its journey as *Chaukidari Panchayet* in 1870 and as Union Committee in 1885 in this part of the world and changed its name and structures a number of times. In independent Bangladesh, through the President's Order NO. 7 of 1972, it was named Union Panchayet and later on, through The President's Order NO. 22 of 1973 it was renamed *Union Parishad*. At present, *Union Parishad*, the lowest tier of the local government consists of a Chairman, nine members and three female members from reserved seats. Article 59 of the Constitution of Bangladesh states that *Union Parishad* has a vital role of maintaining law and order and preparing and implementing of plans relating to public services and economic development (GOB 1996 :46).

The world is changing rapidly and more and more countries are pursuing the path of democracy. In this changing environment marked by democratic control, decentralization of administration, local level participation in planning and "bottom-up" development against the backdrop of the increasing difficulties faced by central governments in implementing development programmes and delivering essential services, the importance of local government hardly need to be overemphasized

¹ Union Parishad means Union Council in English

(Siddiqui 1995). As a result, the role of UP² as a service provider to our rural people is becoming more and more important. William A. Robson (cited in Siddiqui 1995:10) has explained the scenario in the following way-“ Local authorities have greater opportunities today than ever before. If the powers of central government are increasing, so are the powers of the local government.” In fact, the Government of Bangladesh is trying to improve local governance by strengthening The UPs. Under LGSP³ Programme, the Government is providing direct Block Grant to UPs so that the institution can enhance its efficiency and ensure increasing people's participation in development activities. Moreover, *Union Parishad* has a very important role to play in order to fulfill a number of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as poverty reduction, expansion of primary education and health care facilities and protection of environment. Besides, Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) of Bangladesh emphasizes the importance of linking *Union Parishad* to various functional areas such as micro infrastructure, consolidated implementation of safety net programs and promotion of local economy (GOB 2005 :161).

In order to assist the UP and to undertake its functions, provisions have been made to formulate as many as thirteen standing committees. These standing committees are supposed to help the UP in discharging their duties in a transparent and accountable way and to ensure people's participation in decision making process. Ultimately, all these will help to ensure good governance at the local level which is a prerequisite for overall development of the country. Such standing committees have been in operation for quite a long time, but do they work ? This study tries to focus on this question.

² UP stands for Union Parishad . Hereinafter UP and Union Parishad will be used interchangeably.

³ LGSP stands for Local Governance Support Project.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

According to Muttalib and Khan (1982:131), committees are a universal phenomenon of local government in different parts of the world. They exist in some form or other in all forms of local government. A committee is a body to which some task has been referred or committed. In local authorities, the committees are a contrivance for decentralizing various functions of the local council, ensuring wider participation in decision making on the part of the councilors. Committees may be statutory or non-statutory (on the basis of constitution), standing or *ad hoc* (on the basis of periodicity), functional or zonal (on the basis of jurisdiction), vertical or horizontal (depending on mode of operation), executive or consultative (depending on nature of functions).

In Bangladesh, there are provisions for forming Standing Committees in City Corporations, *Zila*⁴ *Parishads* and *Union Parishads*. According to Pourashava Ordinance, 1977, *Pourashavas*⁵ can form committees known as horizontal, vertical and special committees. As per section 38 of UP Ordinance, UPs can formulate Standing Committees (GOB 2002).

The formation of committee system in UP is a mechanism for ensuring transparency, accountability, people's participation, democratization, devolution of power and so on. The members of standing committee can talk to various stakeholders such as government officials of different departments, people belonging to various professions, etc to identify issues, causes of problems and then work towards solutions. For example, the Standing Committee members on health can activate Union Health Officers to get the regular status of Extended

⁴ *Zila* is Bengali word for District

⁵ *Pourashavas* is Bengali word for Municipalities

programme for Immunisation (EPI), to know sanitation behaviour of the locality and sources of safe drinking water. They can visit Union Health Complex and Satellite Clinics and talk to people about the quality of services they are receiving. Similarly, members of Union Education Committee can play a get role to bring change in the quality of education in the union. They can meet school management committee, parents-teachers committee and request them to take part for increasing enrollment rate, reducing drop-out rate, observing teachers attendance, quality of education and so on. On the basis of their meetings with school committee, the standing committee members may sit with the Upazila⁶ Education Officer and try to find ways to solve some of the problems.

But there has been debates regarding their effectiveness whether such bodies running as one-man show or dominated by certain groups. By changing The Local Government (Union Parishad) Ordinance, 1983 in 1997, provision was made for direct election for the female members in three reserved seats of *Union Parishad* (UP). As per existing rules of UPs, women are supposed to be the chairperson of 1/3 permanent committees. The role played by female members as head and member of committee is also need to be assessed. Therefore, the present study focuses on the scope and performance of Standing Committees of UPs to examine their effectiveness.

1.3 Objectives

Therefore, the objectives of this study are:

- a) To examine the scope and performance of UP Standing Committees.
- b) To assess the involvement of female members in different

⁶ The Bengali word for Subdistrict

Standing Committees of UPs.

1.4 Key Questions

In order to reach the objectives, the answers to the following key questions will be sought in this study:

- a) Are the standing committees functioning effectively?
- b) Do all members participate in activities of a committee?
- c) What are the obstacles possibly faced by the members of Standing Committees in discharging their duties?
- d) How can we overcome the obstacles in order to provide better services to common people?

1.5 Justification of the Study

UP members are elected by the people to deliver services. It is said that good governance can be achieved at the grassroots level through a strong UP with the contribution and participation of the local people. UP works as the lowest tier of our local government system and if it does not function properly, good governance cannot be ensured at the local level. Standing committees have a great potential in this respect. Previously though there are studies on Standing Committees of UPs such works did not examine the situation within a multi-dimensional framework which this study proposes to do.

Thus, the aim of the research is to examine the scope and performance of standing committees from various angles. The nature of impediments faced by the members of Standing Committees also need to be assessed so that recommendations can be made in order to mitigate those obstacles.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study was confined to 4 Unions of Gazaria *Upazila* under Munshiganj district and 6 Unions of Ghior *Upazila* under Manikganj district. Chairmen, male and female members of different UPs were interviewed with different sets of structured questionnaire. Apart from them, local people of both men and women were also interviewed with another set of questionnaire as a measure of cross-referencing and validating the findings from the initial survey.

The duration of field study was around two weeks. First, UP Chairman and other representatives and the local people of Gazaria *Upazila* conveyed their opinion through interview. The officials of various Govt. departments working in the *Upazila* also expressed their opinion about standing committees in informal discussions. The whole process was replicated for Ghior *Upazila*. The scope of the study was to get an idea about how in a changing environment UPs can include people in local level planning and implementation process using the instrument of Standing Committees.

1.7 Study Design and Research Methodology

The present study is based on empirical data collected through survey involving structured and unstructured interviews with members of *Union Parishad*, Standing Committees and local people. This study relies on both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected with the help of questionnaire, discussions and personal interviews with the respondents.

Information was collected directly from the members of Standing Committees who are supposed to be the primary respondents.

Others sources of information was *Union Parishad* Chairman, members and some local elite and government officials working in Upazila and Union level. For the purpose of survey, a semi-structured interview schedule was used.

1.7.1 Secondary Data Collection

Various books, journals, periodicals, magazines, news papers and articles through web-sites are consulted to understand the functions of the members of the UP Standing Committees specially the female elected members in case of discharging their duties. A literature review has been done accordingly.

1.7.2 Selection of the *Union Parishads* for Study

Total ten UPs were selected as part of study on the basis of same type of representative characteristics of other parts of Bangladesh. Fieldwork was carried out in 10 *Union Parishads* of two *Upazilas* situated in two extreme parts of Dhaka division. The following criteria was used for selecting the areas- (a) two different geographical location, (b) different level of development, (c) accessibility of the area and d) representative character of the area. To compare regional differences, sample unions of different geographic location was selected.

Gazaria, the fifth largest *Upazila* of Munshiganj district was converted as *Upazila* in 1983. It occupies an area of 131 sq. km. The *Upazila* is bounded on the north by the Meghna *Upazila* of Comilla district, on the south by Matlab North *Upazila* of Chandpur, on the east by the Daudkandi *Upazila* of Comilla and on the west by the Munshiganj Sadar *Upazila* of Munshiganj and Sonargaon *Upazila* of Narayanganj district. This *Upazila* consists of 8 unions, 113 *mouzas* and 120 villages. The total population of the *Upazila* is 1,38,108 of which 69,698 are

males and 68,410 are females. The literacy rate is 53 percent. The density of population in every sq. km. is 1055.

Ghior is the sixth largest *Upazila* of Manikganj district in respect of area. The total area of the upazila is 146 sq. km. It consists of 7 union, 170 *mouza* and 183 villages. The old Dhaleshari river passes through the Upazila. To the north of the *Upazila* lies Daulotpur *Upazila* of Manikganj district, and to the south Shibalaya and Harirumpur *Upazila* of the same district. Manikganj Sadar and Satoria *Upazila* lies to the east and Shibalaya *Upazila* of the same district to the west. The total population of the Upazila is 1,38,479 of which 69,171 are males and 69,308 are females. The literacy rate is 49.66%. The density of population in every sq. km. is 948.81.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

There are a number of limitations of this study. The study was required to be completed within a stipulated time frame with limited resources. Since it was not possible to cover the whole Bangladesh due to time and resource constraints, only two representative *Upazilas* were selected for that purpose. A total of 10 chairman, 90 male member and 30 female member and 20 local people were initially targeted for the purpose of survey. Ultimately, 8 chairmen, 20 females and 30 males and 10 local people were found as respondents during the field survey.

One of the difficulties was the non availability of some of the UP chairman, male and female members. A few UP representatives were to some extent reluctant to express their ideas. Traveling in some parts of the area was time consuming and laborious due to unfavourable weather and bad communication network.

1.9 Structure of the Study

Chapter One covers "Introduction" in which general background, statement of the problem, objectives, key questions, justification of the study, scope of the study, study design and research methodology, secondary data collection, selection of the *Union Parishad* for study, limitation of the study and structure of the paper have been elaborated.

Chapter Two examines the "Legal Basis" where constitutional provisions regarding local government, participation of women and different definition of related terms and functions of *Union Parishad* have been discussed.

Chapter Three presents "Literature Review and Analytical Framework" where several works of related field by several authors have been discussed. Apart from this, in the analytical framework section, factors relating to scope of Standing Committees are elaborated.

Chapter Four examines collected data from the field and analyses the data to obtain necessary information and to find out the involvement of Standing Committees in development activities. This chapter has been titled "Findings from the Study".

Chapter Five is named "Analysis of the Findings" where findings from the field survey are analysed in light of the analytical framework presented in Chapter Three.

Chapter Six is titled "Conclusions and Recommendations" where brief concluding remarks and some recommendations are made.

Chapter 2 : Legal Basis

2.1 Constitutional provisions regarding Local Government

The Constitution of Bangladesh has emphasized the role of local government institutions in an explicit way. A number of articles have indicated the importance of local government institutions. The articles are mentioned below:

Article 9: Promotion of local govt. institutions

The state shall encourage local government institutions composed of representatives of the areas concerned and in such institutions special representation shall be given, as far as possible, to peasants, workers and women (GOB 1996 : 10) .

Article 59: Local Government

(1) Local Government in every administrative unit of the Republic shall be entrusted to bodies, composed of persons elected in accordance with law.

(2) Everybody such as is referred to in clause(1) shall, subject to this Constitution and any other law, perform within the appropriate administrative unit such functions as shall be prescribed by Act of Parliament, which may include functions relating to-

- (a) administration and the work of public officers;
- (b) maintenance of public order;
- (c) preparation and implementation of plans relating to public services and economic development (Ibid : 46).

Article 60: Powers of Local Government Bodies

For the purpose of giving full effect to the provisions of article 59, Parliament shall, by law, confer powers on the local government bodies

referred to in that article, including power to impose taxes for local purposes, to prepare their budgets and to maintain funds (Ibid : 46).

2.2 Constitutional provisions regarding participation of women

Women are half of the total population. For development of Bangladesh, greater participation of women in nation building activities is very much needed. Our Constitution also emphasized the role of women through various following articles.

Article 10: Participation of women in national life

Steps shall be taken to ensure participation of women in all spheres of national life (Ibid p 10).

Article 28: Discrimination on grounds of religion, etc

- (1) The state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- (2) Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the state and of public life.
- (3) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth be subjected to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to access to any place of public entertainment or resort, or admission to any educational institution.
- (4) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making special provision in favour of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of citizens (Ibid : 18) .

Article 29. Equality of opportunity in public employment

- (1) There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in respect of employment or office in the service of the Republic.

- (2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office in the service of the Republic. (Ibid : 18)

2.3 Legal Framework regarding *Union Parishad*

2.3.1 Constitution of *Union Parishad*

According to the Local Government (Union Parishad) Ordinance, 1983 Section 3 and 4, a *Union Parishad* is an administrative unit known by local name having separate jurisdiction and shall be a body corporate, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire and hold property both movable and immovable (GOB 1983 p.3) .

2.3.2 Composition of *Union Parishad*

Moreover, Section 5 of Local Government (Union Parishad) Ordinance states that every *Union Parishad* consists of a Chairman and twelve members including three members exclusively reserved for women. Chairman and members shall be elected by direct election on the basis of adult franchise in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance and the rules (Ibid: 3-4) .

2.3.3 Functions of *Union Parishad*

Section 30 and first schedule of the above Ordinance describes the functions of *Union Parishad* elaborately. According to the section 30 and the schedule, Every *Union Parishad* performs two types of functions: compulsory and optional.

Compulsory Functions :

- (a) Maintenance of law and order and assistance to administration in the maintenance of law and order;

- (b) Adoption of measures for preventing crime, disorder and smuggling;
- (c) Adoption and implementation of development schemes in the field of agriculture, forest, fisheries, livestock, education, health, cottage industries, communication, irrigation and flood protection with a view to increasing economic and social upliftment of people;
- (d) Promotion of family planning ;
- (e) Development of local resources and their use;
- (f) Protection and maintenance of public property, such as roads, bridges, canals, embankments, telephones and electricity lines;
- (g) Review of the development activities of all agencies at the union level and to make recommendations to the *Upazila Nirbahi Officer* in regard to their activities ;
- (h) Motivation and persuasion of the people to install sanitary latrines;
- (i) Registration of births, deaths, blinds, beggars and destitutes;
- (j) Conducting of census of all kinds.

Apart from these, the *Union Parishad* will have to perform the following optional functions :

- (1) Provision and maintenance of public ways and public streets;
- (2) Provision and maintenance of public places, public open spaces, public gardens and public play-grounds.
- (3) Lighting of public ways, public streets and public places.
- (4) Plantation and preservation of trees in general, and plantation and preservation of trees on public ways, public streets and public places in particular.
- (5) Management and maintenance of burning and burial grounds, common meeting places and other common property.
- (6) Provision and maintenance of accommodation for travelers.
- (7) Prevention and regulation of encroachments on public ways, public streets and public places.

- (8) Prevention and abatement of nuisances in public ways, public streets and public places.
- (9) Sanitation, conservancy, and the adoption of other measures for the cleanliness of the union.
- (10) Regulation of the collection, removal and disposal of manure and streets sweepings.
- (11) Regulation of offensive and dangerous trades.
- (12) Regulation of the disposal of carcasses of dead animals.
- (13) Regulation of the slaughter of animals.
- (14) Regulation of the erection and re-erection of buildings in the union.
- (15) Regulation of dangerous buildings and structures.
- (16) Provisions and maintenance of well, water pumps, tanks, ponds and other works for the supply of water.
- (17) Adoption of measures for preventing the contamination of the source of water-supply for drinking.
- (18) Prohibition of the use of the water of wells, ponds and other sources of water-supply suspected to be dangerous to public health.
- (19) Regulation or prohibition of the watering of cattle, bathing or washing at or near wells, ponds or other sources of water reserved for drinking purposes.
- (20) Regulation or prohibition of the steeping of hemp, jute or other plants in or near ponds or other sources of water-supply.
- (21) Regulation or prohibition of dying or tanning of skins within residential areas.
- (22) Regulation or prohibition of the excavation of earth stones or other material within residential areas.
- (23) Regulation or prohibition of the establishment of brick kilns, potteries and other kilns within residential areas.
- (24) Voluntary registration of the sale of cattle and other animals.
- (25) Holding of fairs and shows.
- (26) Celebration of public festivals.

- (27) Provision of relief measures in the event of any fire, flood, hail-storm, earthquake or other natural calamity.
 - (28) Relief for the widows and orphans, and the poor, and persons in distress.
 - (29) Promotion of public games and sports.
 - (30) Industrial and community development; promotion and development of co-operative movement and village industries.
 - (31) Adoption of measures for increased food production.
 - (32) Provision for management of environment.
 - (33) Provision for maintenance and regulation of cattle pounds.
 - (34) Provision of first-aid centres.
 - (35) Provision of libraries and reading rooms.
 - (36) Co-operation with other organization engaged in activities similar to those of the *Union Parishad*.
 - (37) Aid in the promotion of education under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner.
 - (38) Any other measures likely to promote the welfare, health, safety, comfort or convenience of the inhabitants of the union or of visitors.
- (GOB 1983 : 15-16, 36-37)

2.3.4 Constitution of Standing Committees

According to section 38 of The Local Government (Union Parishads) Ordinance, 1983, *Union Parishad* can formulate standing committees for each of these areas :

- (a) Finance and establishment;
- (b) Education and mass education;
- (c) Health, family planning and epidemic control;
- (d) Audit and accounts;
- (e) Agriculture and other development works;
- (f) Social welfare and community centres;
- (g) Cottage industries and co-operatives;

- (h) Law and order;
- (i) Welfare of women and children, sports and culture;
- (j) Fisheries and livestock;
- (k) Conservation of the environment and tree plantation;
- (l) Union public works;
- (m) Rural water supply and sanitation.

A Standing Committee under this section shall consist of such number of members and other co-opted persons as may be determined by the *Union Parishad* concerned. A Standing Committee shall elect one of its members, others than a Co-opted member to be its Chairman and another such member to be its Vice- Chairman; provided that one-fourth of the total number to be its Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee shall, subject to the availability of candidate, be elected from amongst the member elected in the reserved seats. Furthermore, a UP may co-opt a person of either sex who is not a member of the *parishad* but who may, in the opinion of the *Parishad*, possess special qualifications for serving on any of the Standing Committees, however, such a member does not enjoy any voting rights in Standing Committee meetings, but is deemed to be a member thereof for all other purposes (Ibid :8-20).

2.4 Concluding Remarks

Thus, we can see that UPs enjoy substantial legal standing derived from the Constitution of Bangladesh and elaborated later on through specific Ordinance matched in case of UPs.

Chapter 3: Literature Review and Analytical Framework

3.0 Introduction

The committees are emerging as an important component of modern local government system. Both India and UK are well known for their long history of committee system in local government set-up. The status and powers of committees vary not only from country to country and from one set of local authority to another but also from one committee to another, depending on the importance of the functions assigned.

3.1 Standing Committee System in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, provisions for forming standing committees are stated both in The Local Government Ordinance, 1976 and The Local Government (Union Parishad) Ordinance, 1983. So, this concept has been in vogue for around three decades. Though there is no dearth of literature on *Union Parishad*, compared to that not much information is available on the performance of Standing Committees of UPs.

Kamal Siddiqui (Siddiqui 2005:355-356) in his "Local Government in Bangladesh" examines the pros and cons of standing committees elaborately. It has been stated that standing committee has a number of positive attributes. First, the committee system involves a number of outsiders into the functioning of the UP. On the one hand, it involves common people's participation and on the other it ensures transparency and accountability of the *Parishad*. Second, through the

system the members can divide the burden of work among themselves. This division of work leads to specialization of services and development of skills among the committee members. This also allows them to make a more fruitful contribution to the UP. Third, the division of a complex range of work among committees ensure a more detailed and effective coverage of services and responsibilities and permits the full *parishad*, during the limited time of its meeting, to concentrate itself with policy matters without being overwhelmed by too much detail. Fourth, the members can discuss an issue or topic elaborately in an informal manner. Fifth, as the *Union Parishad* full committee meetings are held at regular intervals and a number of agendas are included in the meeting, the deliberations in the standing committee meetings help the full Parishad to take decision in a rather easy way. Siddiqui (2005 :356) also discusses the disadvantages of the committee system. First, the committee system in local government is a very complex affair and there is always a risk that some work, which is not specifically assigned to any one committee, will be overlooked. Second, the council breaks into a number of separate administrative departments and finds it difficult to coordinate one part of its work with the other. Third, the committees cannot appreciate a problem in the context of the full council. Fourth, there is a lack of terms of references as to what committees are supposed to do. Fifth, sometimes committees are constituted just to create an interest for tactical reasons or because of an unwillingness to accept responsibility or to avoid discussions of difficult questions in the full council meetings. Considering the merits and demerits of committee system, Siddiqui argues that the committee system should exist in our local government organization. We agree with the comments of Siddiqui.

United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services conducted a research on our local government system. The title of the study was "Local Government in Bangladesh: An

Agenda for Governance.” They studied on 37 *Union Parishads* and pointed out that in reality only one/two standing committee can work independently. But there is little opportunity for the common people to send their representatives in those committees. According to legal framework, though there is provision for people’s participation and representation, the existing scenario in local government does not encourage those practices (UNDP 1996 :10).

Bishawjit Mallick (Mallick 2004 :69) made critical remarks about the formation of standing committees in *Union Parishad*. According to him, no where in Bangladesh have these standing committees been formed. Even if formed these would be useless since these are basically extension of *Union Parishad* and hence through these there is very little scope for participation of the public in general, and the disadvantaged, in particular.

A.K. M. Jahangir in his book “Field Administration” (Jahangir 2006:147) has evaluated the standing committees in the following way- “Though the committees are formed, there activities are hardly observed. If the committees perform accordingly, the socio-economic status of the inhabitants of union parishad will certainly be improved.”

Dr. Dil Rowshan Zinnat Ara Nazneen (Nazneen 2002:115) has commented that if free thinking persons and representatives of the opposing factions are included in the committees, then the representative nature of the committees would be demonstrated and the scope of participation of the people would be ensured

Since independence, Bangladesh Government has constituted a number of Commissions to propose reforms in local government institutions. These commissions have analysed the structures of various

local government bodies including *Union Parishad* and suggested a number of reforms. Local government Commission for Strengthening of Local Government Institutions (GOB 1997:34) proposed to form committees on each of the following areas:

- (a) law and order;
- (b) health and family planning
- (c) agriculture, irrigation and environment
- (d) education, social welfare, women and child development
- (e) fisheries and livestock
- (f) others

As per the recommendation of this Commission, the number of standing committees should be reduced to 6 instead of 13. They have proposed a new idea regarding inclusion of member secretary in the committees. Senior most officer/employee of different Government, semi-government and autonomous bodies working in the union level would be the member secretary of concerned committees. The ideas of reducing the number of committees and including government officials as member secretary have not been taken into considerations by the successive governments.

Another Local Government Commission, known as Local Government Commission for activating and strengthening Local Government Institutions, formed by the then government in 2003 in their report (2nd chapter) suggested to constitute 10 standing committees of *Union Parishad* instead of existing 13. They have proposed to abolish committees on cottage industries and cooperatives and union public works whereas committees on agriculture and other development works and fisheries and livestock have been suggested to be unified and named as committee on agriculture, fisheries and livestock and other development works. Proposals are also made to rename committee on

health, family planning and epidemic control as committee health, family planning, epidemic control and disaster management and committee on rural water supply and sanitation as sanitation, rural water supply and drainage. Female members would be the chairperson of 40% committees. UP chairman will be the chairperson of only law and order committee whereas in present system the chairman is supposed to preside the finance and establishment committee.

A number of organizations, foreign and local NGOs such as BARD, SDC (SWISS Agency for Development Cooperation), CARE Bangladesh, *Sharique*, Democracy Watch, Khan Foundation, Gender and Development Alliance etc. conducted research on the performance of Standing Committees of *Union Parishad*.

Two officials of BARD, Abdul Karim and Mizanur Rahman, recently conducted a study titled "Governance in Union Parishad of Bangladesh: Problems and Prospective" and found that in most cases, *Union Parishads* do not form these standing committees which is causing problems in managing various activities of the UPs. In some cases standing committees were formed to fulfill the official purpose but were kept non-functioning and inoperative as reported in the Daily Star (2008 : 15-16).

Pascale Aubert, a Swiss student (Aubert 2006) conducted a research on 3 unions of Sunamganj district (Lakmanshree, Fathepur and Bordol Dakshin) and one union each of Sirajganj(Dhangara) and Rajshahi(Haripur) district with assistance from SDC. He found somewhat opposing pictures about the performance of the standing committees in these 3 districts. He found that UP Standing Committee is a very neglected issue in Sunamganj. According to the researcher, most of the standing committees are not functional even if 4 or 5 are formally

formed on paper. Except some chairman or secretaries, hardly anyone knows how many standing committees should exist at the UP level and what their roles should be. Many of them are unaware of or misunderstand standing committees as they confused standing committees with *Gram Sarker*⁷ committees and Project Implementation Committees. Even chairman and secretaries were not all aware of the 13 committees, they were mostly unable to name even the formed committees of their UP or explain what these do (ibid :5). On the otherhand, scenario was markedly improved in 2 unions of Sirajganj and Rajshahi district. There all interviewed people knew about the 13 standing committees but not all committees were formed and active. Most people knew about the activities of the functioning standing committees. In Dhangara Union (Sirajganj) no civil society member was involved in the standing committees so the information flow was not guaranted; furthermore there was no formal reporting of the activities of the committees in regular UP meetings. In Haripur Union (Rajshahi) elite people were involved in the 4 formed committees and all members assisted the regular UP meetings where each committee reported its activities. The researcher commented that the UPs of Sunamganj district never received any kind of local governance training or projects involved capacity building whereas the two unions of Sirajganj and Rajshahi district have received a number of trainings on UP roles and responsibilities, office management, financial management and have been assisted in holding participatory budget and planning meetings for more than 3 years. This has made all the differences (ibid :1, 5).

Another empirical study conducted by *Sharique*, a local NGO in 6 unions each in Rajshahi and Sunamganj district revealed that three union in Rajshahi and one in Sunamganj did not form a single standing

⁷ Village Government (unelected) first introduced in early 1980s

committee. Among the unions, where standing committees were constituted, only in two cases those were formed as per provision. Not a single standing committee in the twelve unions was found effective. The local people in the said unions were very little informed about the existence of standing committees. Only 5.7 percent people in Rajshahi area and 2.09 percent in Sunamganj opined that standing committees were fully functional. On the other hand, 50 percent people in Rajshahi and 58.84 percent in Sunamganj don't know anything about standing committee (*Sharique* 2007 :15).

These two studies revealed information about unsatisfactory performance of standing committees of UP but they did not identify the reasons behind their poor functioning which the present study wants to undertake.

One empirical study of Gender and Development alliance, a local NGO, found that in Tiakhali union under Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali district, only 4 out of minimum 13 committees had been formed in 2003. In fact, those 4 committees were not working well at that time (Tiakhali2002).

CARE Bangladesh, an international NGO worked in four *Upazilas* of Rangpur and Gaibandha districts to enhance the standard of education in primary school with the help of Union education committee. At the end of the project, it was found that the standing committee members were making close contacts with the school authority and the school management committee and the parents took active participation in various school related issues. In fact, the standing committee members in collaboration of SMC, teachers and parents started a library, improved the latrine, installed tube-wells, ceiling fans etc. (CARE Bangladesh 2003).

DORP, a local NGO has been working in the health sector in six *Upazilas* of Bangladesh since 2006 with the help of an International NGO named, WEMOS. In Kaliakoir, Gazipur they are providing health care facility with the help of *Union Parishad* standing committee on health. It was observed that the committee made local people including women aware about health care facilities (Wemos and its partners busy in Bangladesh 2008).

These two studies by DORP and CARE indicate that if trained and motivated, standing committee members with the help of other stakeholders can make positive impact.

Khan Foundation, a local NGO has been working with female members of *Union Parishad* for quite a long time. According to their observation, female representatives are excluded from the 13 standing committees.

Democracy Watch, a local NGO has started to work through their People's Participation project in order to form standing committees in different parts of the country. So far during 2006-07, the organization has formed 42 standing committees in 13 *Union Parishads* in Dinajpur, Jessore, Nilphamari and Gazipur districts. The committees on health, education, agriculture and law and order have been formed with great enthusiasm and participation of common people. According to the organization, the standing committees on health and education are visiting various organization and institution in the locality and are trying to sort out local problems in an effective way. Similarly, members of agriculture standing committee have met with the farmers and field level agricultural staffs and trying to help the farmers for better yield (Democracy Watch 2007).

3.2 Patron-Client Relationships

Patron-client relationship is a special type of ties between two persons involving a largely instrumental friendship in which an individual of higher socio-economic status (patron) uses his influence and resources to provide protection and/or benefits for a person of lower status (client) who for his part reciprocates by offering support and assistance, including personal services to the patron.

A unique feature of Patron-Client relationship exists in rural Bangladesh. This may happen in case of economic factors such as the scarcity of credit, land, tenancy contracts, employment opportunities (Kochanek 1993). Now-a-days political linkages are also working as a factor in case of patron-client relationships. Two points need to be considered here-(a) providing leadership and entrepreneurship and (b) working as a mediator or broker between the local people and the outside world. This relationship shows how at the local level the power structure restricts participation of not only the common people but also some dominant groups in the society. The strength of Patron-client network makes it difficult to develop horizontal relationships. This network strengthens a system of individual traditional patrimonial leadership based on charisma, patronage and corruption. Here, leaders are expected to be authoritarian both to protect themselves and to manage the endless rivalry and jostling that takes place over minute differences in rank. Authority, therefore, becomes highly personalized in a system based on charismatic leadership.

There is a possibility that the present structure of our UP system bears the resemblance of Patron-Client system. By virtue of his post, the UP Chairman has been vested with substantial authority in different areas. The whole organization relies heavily on him because he

maintains liaison with various Government, Semi-Government and private organizations and all sorts of Government allocations are routed through him. This provides him reasonable amount of authority over all other members. He can use it to mould the UP activities as per his desire and provide more financial resource and other facilities to a small number of members while depriving the majority. As a result, in our UPs a Patron –Client relationship may occur between actors of unequal power and status. Because of this sizeable gap of power and authority, UP members may not find ways to use Standing Committee as a tool to reduce the dominance of UP Chairman.

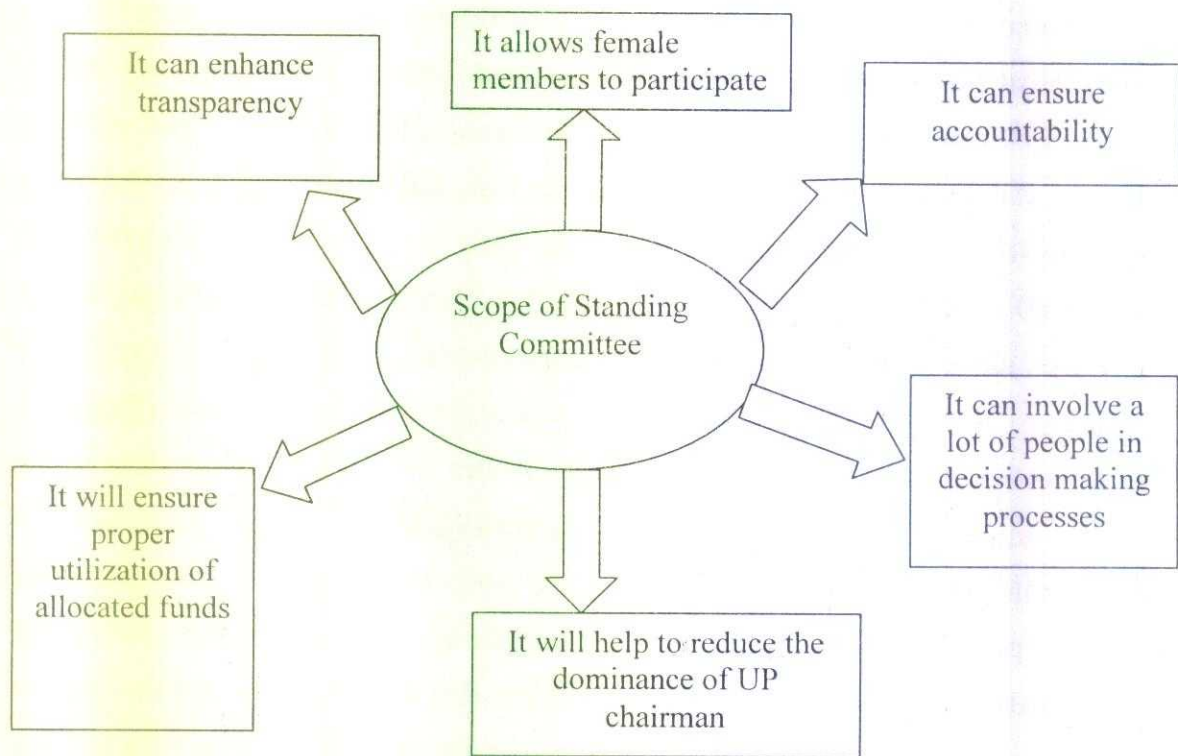
3.3 Committee system in Indian Local Government

The history of the local government system in Bangladesh is in many ways similar to that of India as the local government system have been in existence in one form or another in this subcontinent for centuries. The rural local government bodies in India are collectively known as Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Two, three even four tier systems are in existence in different States in Indian local government system. The Village *Panchayet* (VP) is the lowest tier in their PRI hierarchy while in our case it is *Union Parishad*. An important feature of the PRI is the committee system. This system creates opportunity for detailed discussion and allows councilors to participate in the decision-making process thereby reducing monopolization of power. Though all the states have recognized the need and importance of committee system, there is no uniformity in the number, size and purpose of such committees in the VPs. In VP system, extensive use has been made of committees but the committee system is not free from shortcomings. There is evidence that committee decisions could be manipulated by nepotism and political considerations (Siddiqui 1995 :34-35).

3.4 Analytical Framework

To render service at the grassroots level, there is no alternative to strengthening the local government institutions. A strong local government is more capable in undertaking and implementing development activities at the local level. *Union Parishad*, being the lowest tier of our local government system, has a vital role to play in this respect. At this level, national policies are implemented and various government services are delivered. So far, it has been assigned to perform 10 compulsory and 38 optional tasks. In order to perform these functions, strong and effective committee system is highly needed. The committee system provides the opportunity to work according to democratic norms because it maximizes the involvement of people in different activities and decision-making processes of a local government body. Involving more people will certainly help to reduce the gap between the local people and their UP representatives. Moreover, by involving representatives from different groups helps the *Union Parishad* to ensure transparency and accountability in its affairs. And if transparency and accountability of a *Union Parishad* can be ensured, then there will be an option to create many development opportunities. By activating various committees, proper utilization of allocated funds can be made possible because there is high possibility that funds will be used as per requirement of the locality. All these will help to reduce the dominance of UP chairman. The combination of all these characteristics can help make *Union Parishad* a truly pro-people organization.

Thus the scope of standing committees of UPs can be shown in the following schema:



This study will therefore utilize this schema as an analytical framework for examining whether standing committees are functioning effectively in the UPs of Bangladesh.

Chapter 4: Findings from the Study

4.1 Socio-economic Status of Union Parishad Members

Union Parishad is the lowest tier of our local government system. Existing socio-economic conditions provide the background of the UP representatives. Since Bangladesh is a homogeneous country regarding religion, ethnicity and language, different factors of socio-economic conditions like age, marital status, educational qualification play an important part in selection of leaders at the local level. The study was conducted in Gazaria *Upazila* under Munshiganj District and Ghior *Upazila* under Manikganj District. In Ghazaria *Upazila*, Gazaria, Imampur, Bhabar Char and Bausia Unions were covered while in Ghior *Upazila*, Ghior, Poyla, Sinjhuri, Baliakhora, Barotia and Baniajhuri Unions were surveyed. The total number of respondents included 8 UP Chairman, 20 female members, 30 male members and 10 local people. Discussions were also carried out with the concerned UNOs of both *Upazilas* and other Government officials. The study found the following characteristics of the UP members:

4.1.1 Age of elected UP Chairman and Members

Table 1 : Age of UP Chairman and members

Age Distribution	No. of Chairman	Percentage	No of FM ⁸	Percentage	No of MM ⁹	Percentage
25-34 years	0	0	4	20%	2	7%
35-44 years	1	12.5%	14	70%	9	30%
45-54 years	6	75%	2	10%	15	50%
55-64 years	1	12.5%	0	0	4	13%
65 +	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8		20		30	

⁸ FM means Female member.

⁹ MM means Male member.

There is a variation of age regarding male (including Chairman) and female members. Here, majority of female members are in the age group of 35-44 years, in contrast majority of male members fall in the age group of 45-54 years. However, 13 percent male members are in the age group of 55-64 years, while no women member belongs to that age group. This indicates that may be people want a slightly aged person as their leader, though the median age is higher for male than that of female. It can be explained from the fact that men are participating in UP elections for a long time while women started their political career at Union level in 1997 after the amendment of the Ordinance.

4.1.2 Union Parishad Members by Marital Status

Table 2 : Marital Status of UP Chairman and members

Indicators	No. of Chairman	Percentage	No of FM	Percentage	No of MM	Percentage
Unmarried	0	0	2	10%	30	100%
Married	8	100 %	18	90%	0	0
Widowed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Divorced	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8		20		30	

Marital status plays a major role for participation in politics at the Union level in our country as married people are more acceptable as political leaders in rural Bangladesh due to maturity and stable family life. The two *Upazilas* are no exception to this. Here all male members (including Chairman) and 90 percent of women members are married. Two unmarried female members were found in Ghior *Upazila* and they stated that sometimes marital status created problems for them for working effectively.

4.1.3 Educational Status of Union Parishad members

Table 3 : Educational Status of Union Parishad members

Indicators	No. of Chairman	Percentage	No of FM	Percentage	No of MM	Percentage
Illiterate	0	0	0		0	0
Class I-V	0	0	6	30%	0	0
Class VI-X	0	0	9	45%	12	40%
SSC	2	25%	3	15%	11	37%
HSC	3	37.50%	1	5%	5	17%
Graduation	1	12.50%	0	0	2	6%
Masters	2	25%	1	5%	0	0
Total	8		20		30	

In case of educational qualifications, none has been found to be illiterate. All representatives have received formal education to some extent, which is a positive sign. 30 percent of female members have read up to the primary level and are able to read and write. In case of male members, all have received secondary education with 37 percent obtaining SSC degree¹⁰, while 2 of the male members are graduates. One surprising information is that a female member from Ghior Upazila obtained Masters degree while no male members achieved this feat. This is really an exceptional achievement. In case of UP chairman, 25 percent completed SSC, 60 percent completed graduation and 25 percent achieved Masters degree. The study findings indicate that male members are more educated compared to females. In a country like Bangladesh where the literacy rate is around 62 percent, this type of educational qualification may not be a true representative character of UP representatives, but the study indicates that of late educational

¹⁰ SSC means Secondary School Certificate Examination.

qualification is getting importance to electorates- which have been reflected in this study.

4.1.4 Occupational Status of Union Parishad members

Table 4 : Occupational Status of Union Parishad members

Occupation	No. of Chairman	Percentage	No of FM	Percentage	No of MM	Percentage
Agriculture	2	25%	1	5%	17	57%
Business	6	75%	0	0	11	37%
Service	0	0	1	5%	2	6%
NGO Activist	0	0	1	5%	0	0
Housewife	0	0	17	85%	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8		20		30	

Table 4 reveals that almost all the women member's primary occupation is household work. Only 10 percent female members are involved in service and NGO activities (5% in each sector), while only one female member is engaged in teaching in a secondary school and informed the researcher that she did not find any difficulty to work as UP member. On the contrary, 37 percent male members are involved in business activities and 57 percent in agriculture, while 2 of the male members are engaged in teaching. 75 percent of the Chairmen are involved in business. Thus, the data trend indicates that UP Chairmen are financially stronger compared to male and female members of the UPs which in fact reflects the general scenario in Bangladesh.

4.1.5 Family Size of Members

Almost all the UP representatives are living in family atmosphere and their number of children range from 2 to 7. Most of the members belong to single family's while a few (15%) live in joint families.

4.1.6 Religion of Members

All but four of the respondents are Muslims. These four non-Muslim male members belong to different unions of Ghior Upazila and they opined that they did not face any sort of difficulties in performing duties.

4.2 Participation in Meeting and Social Activities

4.2.1 Attendance in Meetings

Attendance in meeting is not only an important factor for active participation but also a forum to discuss development activities and decision making process and is an indicator of effectiveness of UP committees. In field survey, it was found that 95 percent male members and 90 percent female members regularly attended meetings. However, there is some variation regarding support received by female members from their male counterparts. On the other hand, participation of female members in the meetings has been explained by their male counterparts in different ways.

4.2.2 Support from UP Chairman and other male members

Table 5 : Support from UP Chairman

Support received	Response from FM	Percentage
Maximum Help	12	60 %
Moderate Help	6	30%
No Help	2	10%

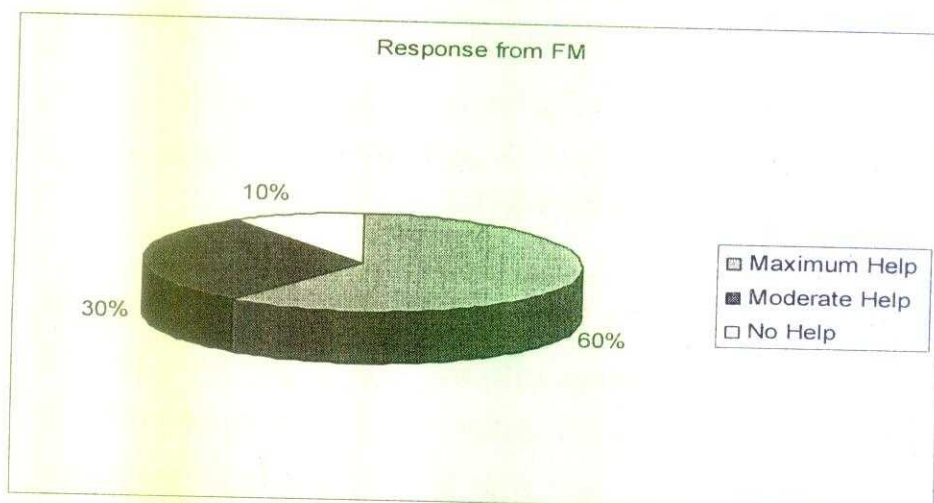


Fig 2 : Support from UP Chairman

In response to the query whether UP chairman helps them in performing their duties, 12 female members (60%) responded that they received maximum help from the UP chairman while 6 of them (30%) stated that the help was of moderate type and the rest 2 (10%) answered in the negative.

Table 6 : Support from Male members of UP

Support received	Response from FM	Percentage
Maximum Help	14	70%
Moderate Help	4	20%
No Help	2	10%

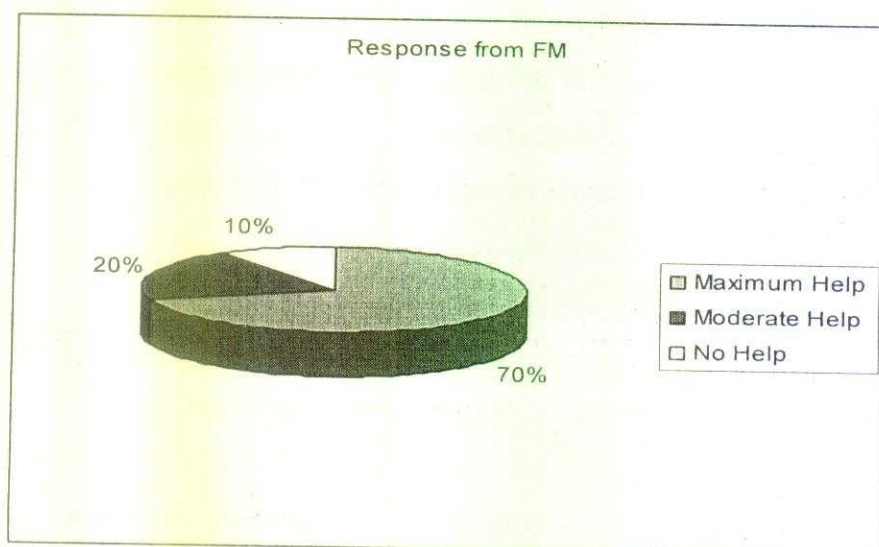


Fig. 3 : Support from UP Members

In case of UP male members, 70 percent female members replied that they received maximum help while 20 percent answered that the help was of moderate type. 10 percent female members commented that they did not receive any sort of help. From the previous two tables and figures, it is found that both the Chairman and male members on an average try to help their female counterparts which is a positive indicator regarding acceptability of female UP members in UPs.

4.2.3 Performance of Female members in Meetings

In Bangladesh nomination system for female representatives continued until 1997 when provision was made for direct election for women members. The elected female members are getting acquainted with the procedures of different meetings and other activities of UP. However, respondents of both the group (Chairman and male members) stated that on the average female members are not capable to influence the decisions of the UP, to raise their issues, to debate on various matters related to their locality, etc. This indicates the still weak position of women in our society as women UP members are yet to have impact on overall activities of UP.

4.3 Participation in Development Activities

Every year development activities is carried out in Union level in the form of KABIKHA¹¹, TR¹², KABITA¹³, etc. The objective of these projects is to construct and repair of earthen roads, development of

¹¹ KABIKHA has been introduced by Government to construct and repair of earthen roads, educational institutions, etc as well as to ensure employment generation for poor people in the dry season (especially from November to April). The other motive is to provide rice/wheat to poor people during the said time period and control price fluctuation .

¹² TR was introduced to repair earthen roads, plant trees, earth filling of playground of educational institutions etc. The other motives are same as KABIKHA.

¹³ KABITA is as like as KABIKHA except in case of wheat/rice cash money is given to people.

mosque, temple, *madrasha*¹⁴, school grounds, supply of furniture to educational institutions, distribution of sanitary latrines and so on. Through these activities employment is also generated in rural areas which help to reduce poverty.

Table 7 : Participation of Female members

Level of Participation	Response from FM	Percentage
Satisfactory Participation	4	20%
Unsatisfactory Participation	16	80%

Table 8: Participation of Male members

Level of Participation	Response from MM	Percentage
Satisfactory Participation	10	33%
Unsatisfactory Participation	20	67%

The female and male members of both the *Upazilas* are associated with these projects as chairman or member of PIC¹⁵. From Table 7 it is observed that women members (80%) were given less importance in implementing development activities. When they were asked reasons for this, the female members commented that they were assigned to furnish projects with smaller amounts. Overwhelming number of male members (67%) also narrated the same sort of experience while a few of them (23%) expressed their satisfaction in engagement of development activities. Some of the male members commented that sometimes there is delay in receiving project money from the UP Chairman. From Table 7 and 8, it appears that UP

¹⁴ Muslim Religious schools

¹⁵ PIC stands for Project Implementation Committee-which undertakes development activities in the UPs.

Chairmen of the selected Unions create a coterie with a few members and in the process control the development activities of the Unions. This indicates that local power structures still dominate the activities of UPs.

4.4 Member of Standing Committees

4.4.1 : Involvement of Female and Male Members in Standing Committees

The following two tables indicate the involvement of UP members in different Standing Committees of UPs. Need less to say, involvement of members in the Committee indicate the extent of their participation in UP activities and ultimately the effectiveness of these bodies.

Table 9 : Involvement of Female Members in Standing Committees

Committees	Number of FM	Percentage
Finance	0	0
Education	3	15%
Health, family planning	2	10%
Audit and accounts	0	0
Agriculture	1	5%
Social welfare	1	5%
Cottage industries	0	0
Law and order	1	5%
Welfare of women	3	15%
Fisheries	0	0
Tree plantation	2	10%
Union public works	0	0
Sanitation.	1	5%
Non participation in any Committee	6	30%
Total	20	100%

Table 10 : Involvement of Male members in Standing Committees

Committee	Number of MM	Percentage
Finance and establishment	2	7%
Education and mass education	4	13%
Health, family planning	3	10%
Audit and accounts	1	3%
Agriculture	7	24%
Social welfare	1	3%
Cottage industries	0	0%
Law and order	5	17%
Welfare of women and children	0	0%
Fisheries and livestock	1	3%
Tree plantation;	1	3%
Union public works	0	0%
Rural water supply and sanitation.	3	10%
Non participation in any Committee	2	7%
Total	30	100%

From the Table Nos. 9 and 10 it appears that higher percentage of female members (30%) compared to male members (7 %) do not take part in any activities of Standing Committee. The six female members who have not been included in any committee informed that they were elected as UP representatives for the first time. Their

educational background is low (upto primary level) compared to other female members and financially they are also in a weak position. As a result, they possess low level of understanding about the activities of UP. All these factors have worked for their non-inclusion in any committee. The two non included male members are also elected for the first time. They have political conflict with the UP Chairman and according to them that is the reason for their non inclusion in any committee. Highest percentage of female members (15%) belong to education and women welfare committees, while highest percentage of male members (24%) belong to agriculture committee. Female members are included mainly in those committees which deal with human resource development while they have not been made members in committees dealing with financial matters. On the other hand, male members are more or less equally distributed in almost all the committees.

4.4.2 : Performance of Standing Committees

The respondents when asked about the performance of the Standing Committees, they were asked to reveal their responses in terms of satisfactory, moderately satisfactory and unsatisfactory-which are indicated in the table below:

Table 11: Performance of SC according to UP Chairman and members

Category	Satisfactory	Percentage	Moderately Satisfactory	Percentage	Unsatisfactory	Percentage	Total
UP Chairman	1	16%	5	84%	0	0%	6
Male member	2	7%	10	33%	18	60%	30
Female member	1	5%	5	25%	14	70%	20

Though 70 percent of female and 93 percent of male members are included in various standing committees, regarding performances of standing committees almost same type of reactions have been made by both groups of respondents. Only 5 percent female and 7 percent male members consider the performance of the committees satisfactory. On the other hand, the majority of female (70%) and male (60%) members opined that the performance of the committees were unsatisfactory. Interestingly, the opinions made by the UP Chairmen are quite opposite to that of UP members. 16 percent Chairman consider the committees to be performing satisfactorily, while 84 percent held the view that the performance is moderately satisfactory.

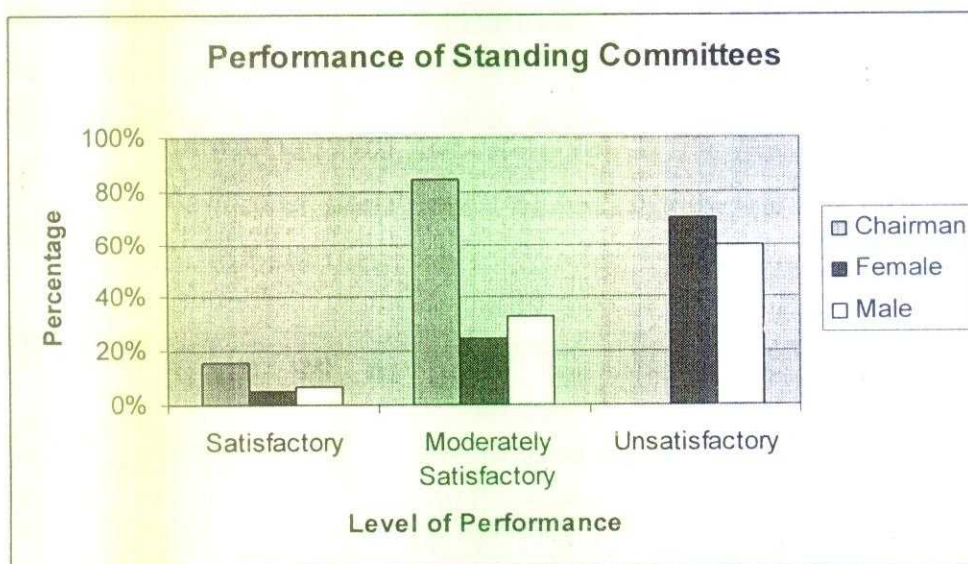


Fig 4 : Performance of Standing Committees

4.3.3 : Performance of Standing Committees evaluated by Local Elites

As local elites bear powerful role at the rural level, some of them were asked to evaluate the performance of Standing Committees of UPs of their own locality and the results obtained are given below:

Table 12 : Performance of Standing Committees according to Local elite

Profession	Satisfactory	Percentage	Moderately Satisfactory	Percentage	Unsatisfactory	Percentage	Total
Govt employees working in Union Level	0	16%	1	84%	2	0%	3
School Teacher	0	7%	1	33%	4	60%	5
NGO activists	0	5%	0	25%	2	70%	2

The 10 local elite respondents belong to various professions such as Govt. employees (Union Sub-Assistant Land Officer, Union Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer), School teachers (Primary and Secondary) and NGO activists. Interestingly, none of them replied that the performance of Standing Committees is satisfactory. Only 2 consider the performance as moderately satisfactory, while the rest termed it as unsatisfactory. Out of the 10 respondents, a retired school teacher who is also a co-opted member of a standing committee, commented that his committee members never invited him to attend meetings or any other activities related with the committee. The Union Sub-Assistant Agricultural officer said that during the time of high demand for fertilizer

and seeds, he has not observed activities of the members of Agriculture Standing Committee, although the UP Chairman and some members passed a very busy time during that period.

4.4 Concluding Remarks

A number of positive factors such as better educational status compared to many areas in Bangladesh, stable marital status, reasonable degree of cooperation between UP Chairman and members have been observed in the field survey. These plus points are supposed to help running the Standing Committees smoothly. But the data obtained from the survey does not support this assumption since overwhelming majority of male and female members and local elites consider the performance of Standing Committees as unsatisfactory.

Chapter 5: Analysis of the Findings

Introduction

The two *Upazilas* which have been surveyed during the study represents a little bit different socio-economic aspects compared to average *Upazilas* of our country. Here, all the female members of UP have read upto primary level, and male members studied upto secondary level. All the UP chairmen have at least completed SSC. One of the female members of Ghior *Upazila* have completed Masters in Political Science- which is a rare feat considering the scenario of the whole country. Moreover, the two *Upazilas* do not reflect the extreme poverty areas of the country. Although, the female members informed that on an average they receive support from their male counterparts in discharging the functions of *Union Parishad*, but the performance of Standing Committees do not reflect these positive attributes that much.

The study found that 6 out of 20 female and 2 out of 30 male members have not been included in any Standing Committees. This is not consistent with the UP Ordinance of 1983 which clearly states that every member must be included in any committee. Moreover, emphasis has been provided for inclusion of female representatives as committee members but in spite of these legal provisions, it has been found that 30 percent female members have been excluded from Standing Committees.

5.1 Successful Examples

Regarding performance of Standing Committees only 1 female and 2 male members expressed their satisfaction. The female member, who hails from Ghior *Upazila*, is the Chairperson of Education Committee. She along with her committee members visit primary schools

every week and sometimes ask the students about their lessons. They have met several times with the school teachers, members of SMC¹⁶, members of Parent-Teachers Association. This committee with the help of different stake-holders has become successful in making the parents and guardians realize that there is no substitute of primary education and they (the committee members) are trying to raise the standard of primary education with the help of all concerned quarter. There is another good example of 2 male members who belong to Health and Sanitation Committees. The members of Health Committee visit Union Health Complex every now and then, talk to the patients coming there for getting treatment and even met with the *Upazila* Health and Family Planning Officer to discuss about the standard of the clinic. The other male member belongs to Sanitation Committee. There is a campaign going on all over the country to bring the whole of Bangladesh under sanitation coverage by the year 2010. District and *Upazila* administration are pursuing a number of steps in order to fulfill the goal. This Sanitation Committee is also working to increase sanitation coverage within the Union and working as a bridge between Govt. officials at the *Upazila* level and the local people who are yet to install sanitation facilities at their residence. According to this member, the common people have now realized the importance of sanitation.

The success of these three Standing Committees has different reasons. The Standing Committee on Education is headed by a female member who herself is a school teacher and also possesses a Masters Degree. Her high qualification and personal involvement in education motivated herself as well as other committee members to work in a spirited way. The Chair person of Health Committee has been elected twice in the UP. Two of his family members died lack of treatment a

¹⁶ SMC stands for School Managing Committee

couple of years ago. This motivated him to do something regarding health care facilities of the Union. So when selected as a member of Health Committee, he tried all his best to ensure better health facilities for the rural people. Sanitation campaign under the guidance of Local Government Division of Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRDC) is going on all over the country in full swing. The members of Standing Committee on Sanitation stated that they are getting help from the *Upazila* level Sanitation Committee to enhance the coverage within a short time. In a nutshell, it can be commented that the success of these Standing Committees is a not a regular phenomena and the factors behind their performance is rather unique and cannot be a generalized one in the prevailing scenario in the overall context of UPs in Bangladesh.

5.2 Unsatisfactory Performance

Apart from 3 members mentioned earlier, none of the other UP members termed the performance of Standing Committees up to the mark. Most of the members replied that committees are formed to fulfill the requirements set by the authorities but no further action has been taken regarding Standing Committee. They termed these committees as committees only on paper. When asked about the inclusion of co-opted members as part of ensuring people's participation, some of these female and male members replied that they are not completely aware about the whole process of Standing Committees. About the emphasis on special role which is supposed to be played by the female member as per the circular of Local Government Division, the female members informed that neither the UP Secretary nor the UP Chairman informed them about this. This implies on the one hand that UP members are very little aware about the formation and necessity of Standing Committees and on the other the female members do not try to

know the rules and regulations needed for smooth functioning of UP and heavily depend on UP Secretary for official purpose.

5.3 Comments of UP Chairmen

According to the UP Chairmen, the performance of Standing Committees is satisfactory or moderately satisfactory. They stated that these committees are formed as per Government circular. When any emergency occurs, the concerned standing committee starts working on that issue, try to involve the local elites and common people to get their opinion and suggest UP Chairman to resolve the issue. Asked whether the committee members perform regularly on matters related to their committees, the UP Chairmen replied that it would take time to follow the whole process. Regarding inclusion of co opted members, some Chairmen made interesting comments. They said that in case of PIC, some members are selected who have political affiliation. A group of these members do not actively take part in implementing the task, rather they create disturbance in various ways which ultimately hampers the quality of work. The UP chairman who does not belong to the ruling party faces this problem off and on. Taking lesson from this experience, the Chairman insisted his UP colleagues to include very limited ones as co opted member otherwise those associated with local political parties would have a claim to be included as co opted members. This clearly indicates that the culture of including local people as co-opt member has not developed in the Standing Committees of UP. Rather citing problems of including a section of members who have political patronage, some UP Chairmen want to obstruct the whole process of inclusion of co-opt members in Standing Committees which ultimately hampers transparency and accountability of the organization.

5.4 Comparison with the Analytical Framework

A schema developed as analytical framework in Chapter 3 shows that Standing Committees have a number a positive characteristics which if materialized will ensure good governance at the local level and thereby fulfill the hopes of the vast majority of rural people. In this section, those attributes will be compared with the data gathered from field survey.

When a cross section of people are involved in different activities of UP, there is a strong possibility that transparency of the organisation would be increased. Local people can know how development works are carried out with a specific budget; why in spite of all good wishes sometimes the budget constraints hamper development activities in some areas of UP; how the UP Chairman and members are pursuing for more allocations; whether they have tried to convince the concerned Minister; local MPs, Government officials of different level; how they are trying to get help from the NGOs and private sector and so on. From our study, it is has been observed that local people are not very much concerned with the activities of Standing Committee. Even, the member who is related with the Standing Committee has little idea about the activities of that Committee. From this, it can be said that the transparency factor is not active in our Standing Committee system of UP.

UP members are elected for 5 years. After that, they have to go back to their electorates for election of another term and the process continues. During the tenure, if they keep people informed about their activities, it increases their accountability. Standing Committee is an important tool in this respect. During interview with the UP members, most of them said that Standing Committees are formed on paper and do

not work in reality. From this it can be inferred that Standing Committee members do not meet with the common people. Hence, the accountability factor is also largely inactive incase of Standing Committees of UPs.

The half of our total population is female. The Government has introduced various steps including Stipend programme to increase female literacy rate. Similarly provision has been made for direct election of women members in UPs. Clear instruction has also been made to include female members in Standing Committees in order to build their leadership quality. But findings from the study indicate that 30 percent female members are not included in Standing Committees and majority of them consider the performance of Standing Committees as unsatisfactory. It is thus quite clear Standing Committees have not been able to create adequate scope for female members to participate and to develop their leadership capabilities.

Since UPs are supposed to form at least 13 Standing Committees on different sectors and have the authority to include co opt members, the process has scope for involvement of local elites regarding decision making. From transparency perspective, it was observed that local elites are not related with the activities of Standing Committees and hence involvement of lot of people in decision making process does not transpire into reality.

A common trend of our elected representatives is to spend government funds in those localities where their supporters and followers reside in large numbers though there may be better options to utilize public money. This has been found the same to some extent in case for *Union Parishad* Standing Committees. At least if the committees work effectively they can work as a counter veiling force in this respect. However, as according to majority of members, Standing Committees are

not functioning properly, there is less likelihood that allocated funds are being used proportionately to the requirement of whole UP.

UP Chairmen enjoy higher status and authority compared to other members. As a result, sometimes the institution becomes like a one man show. By using Standing Committees effectively, this dominance of UP Chairman can be reduced. But if Standing Committees do not function properly like the surveyed Unions, the dominance of UP Chairmen remains unaffected and local participation is hampered.

The information gathered in this study from the interviews and conversations with UP members, local elites and Government employees, indicates that the scope of work of UP Standing Committees as identified in the schematic framework which has been developed in Chapter 3 does not match with the reality of existing conditions of the surveyed UPs of this study.

In fact these findings match very much with some of the previous observations as discussed in Chapter 3 of literature review section. Apart from that, from the findings it was observed that UP Chairmen sometimes create a coterie with a small group of members which undermines the whole purpose of the Committees. According to a UNDP study (UNDP 1996) participatory decision making and democratic leadership are minimal at best and severely lacking in most local Government units in Bangladesh. This is also applicable in our UPs. Thus, *patron-client* relationships also work as an obstacle to reduce the scope of Standing Committees. Thus this study thus further raises the need to develop another schema for pointing out the causes of ineffectiveness of Standing Committees-which is discussed in following section.

5.5 Causes of Ineffectiveness

This is the era of democracy. More and more countries are pursuing the path of democracy. Democracy requires the practice of various virtues in all spheres of our political, social and all other sectors. UP, being our grass root level local Government institution has a tremendous scope to boast democratic practices at the ground level through Standing Committees. In spite of good opportunities, the institution has so far not being able to utilize the potentialities of the said committees. The schema shown below highlights the reasons of non-performance of Standing Committees of the UPs.

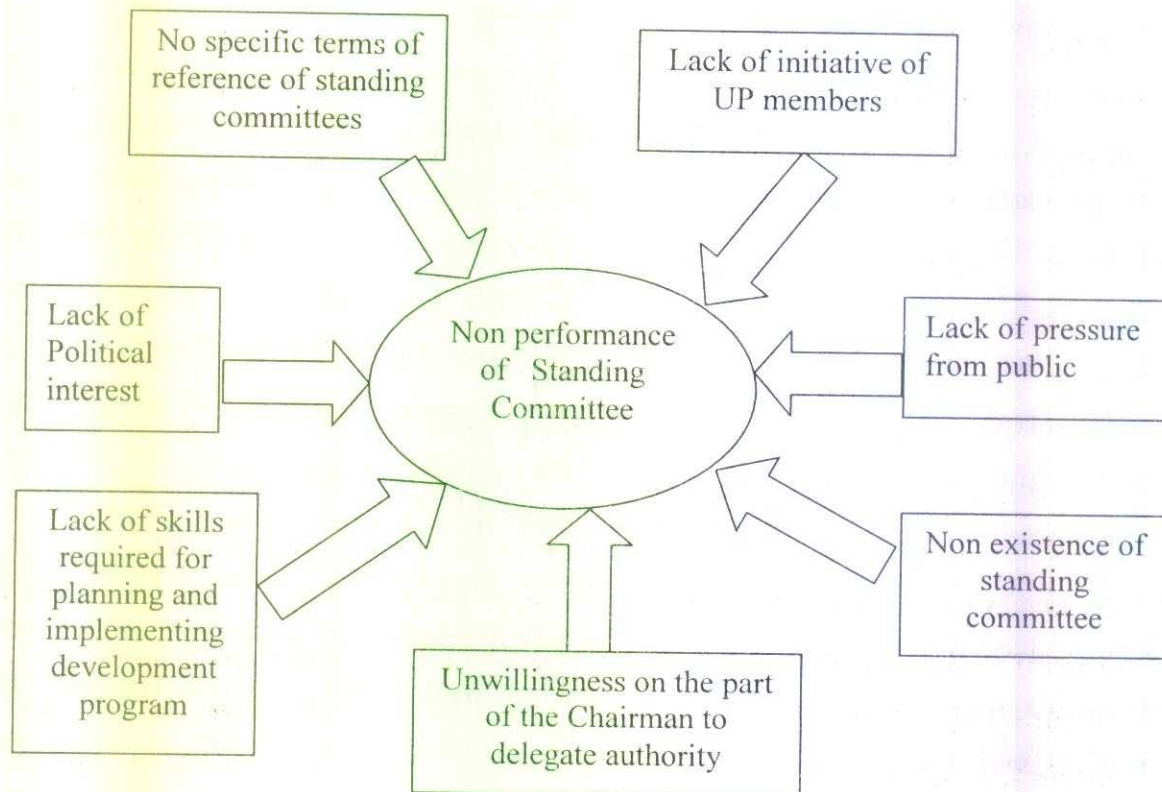


Fig 5 : Causes of Ineffectiveness of Standing Committees

With the help of 13 Standing Committees, *Union Parishad* is supposed to perform 10 compulsory and 38 optional works. But the problem is there are no specific terms of references for the Standing Committees. (Ahmed *et al.* 2003: 88, 92) As a result, sometimes the activities of one Standing Committee overlap with the other. Moreover, a UP is divided into 9 wards. These 9 wards are represented by 9 male and 3 female members. On the other hand, a Standing Committee is constituted by 3 to 5 members. When one Standing Committee members start working on agriculture, sanitation, primary education or other issues in a ward, it can create misunderstanding with the elected members of that ward if none of them are included in the said committee. Because, it is a common attitude of our elected representatives not to allow others to perform in such a way within his jurisdiction which he considers may reduce his popularity among the voters.

Another probable reason is lack of awareness of members, specially female members to form Standing Committees. As per rule, female members are supposed to be the chairperson of a number of committees. When a female member becomes the chairperson of education and mass education or women and children welfare or other committees, on the one hand her capability to cope with different situation increases and on the other hand, it has a demonstrative effect on people especially on women in the locality. The reality is that the three female members seldom put pressure on the Chairman to form the committees. Seema Akhter (cited in Sultana 1998) pointed out that since each member has a chance to become chairperson of a committee, 3 female members are supposed to be the chairperson of 3 Standing Committees. Apart from this, these 3 members would also be involved in 3 other Standing Committees. This provides a great opportunity for the female members to work. But many female members are not at all aware

of the Standing Committees as revealed from this study. The current UP members when elected in 2003 underwent a training conducted by District and *Upazila* level Government officials. In the training, apart from other issues related with UPs, functions, duties and responsibilities of the organization was also discussed. Even then, things did not change! This study indicates that a large number of members have forgotten the concept of Standing Committee. As a result in many cases, Standing Committees are not formed.

Union Parishad is the nearest organization of our rural people. The UP representatives are the next door neighbours of the rural people. The people can meet their representatives anytime during day and night. The UP office is also situated in their area. In spite of all these factors, not even the elite people of the local areas are aware of these committees, let alone the common people! So things have not changed inspite of the provision of Standing Committees in UPs.

In the last fifteen years, democratically elected government ruled the country. Like the previous era, there was also no political pressure to activate these standing committees and make them as tools for leadership creation, democratic practice, etc. According to Robinson (Cited in Hossain 2007), this sort of predatory democracy wants to preserve the existing power structure. So, the end result has been no effective political pressure to form Standing Committees in order to change the power structure of UP.

Another problem is most of the UP members don't have adequate knowledge about *Union Parishad*, its operation, mandate, sources of power, budget formulation, links with the central government etc. They lack skills required for planning and implementing development programs because they are not educated and not trained in the art of

planning. The words planning, implementing, monitoring are so confusing to them that sometimes they leave this sort of job to the Chairman, other more educated members and UP Secretary. As a result though constituted, some of the committees do not perform because of lack of capabilities of the members.

In spite of so many advantages of committee system, Chairmen of *Union Parishads* are not interested to form various committees. One of the reasons behind this non performance of the committees is that there is a resistance from UP Chairmen to hand over authority to committee members. Here, the attitude of UP members (especially the Chairman) is against devolution of power. In an article published in *The Daily Star* (2005) it has been stated that in the absence of Standing Committees under the *Union Parishads*, the Chairman enjoys all the rights to use the money allocated for the UPs. In third world countries like Bangladesh, authoritative leadership is more often found in different spheres of local government. Maybe, many of our UP Chairmen also do not try to come out of this trend- as the over all political scenario is largely authoritarian, top-down rather than democratic. So if effective democracy is absent in the larger political area, how can it be nourished at the local level?

The end result of all these factors is non-performance of Standing Committees in many UPs of Bangladesh.

5.6 Concluding Remarks:

Thus, we find that in spite of having a number of positive attributes of Standing Committees to ensure good governance at the grass root level, our UPs are not in a position to practice those characteristics in a fruitful way. In fact, without practicing the norms of

accountability, transparency, people's participation in decision making process, a strong and effective UP cannot be established at the local level. In absence of a strong and effective UP, it is extremely difficult to ensure good governance at the local level. At the same time, a weak functioning UP hampers the balanced development of the whole Union and ultimately the rural people do not receive the desired level of service from this grass root level local government organisation.

Chapter 6: Conclusion and Recommendations

6.0 Introduction

Since its independence in 1971, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in a number of areas which include food production, rural infrastructure, primary education, child immunisation, family planning, drinking water provision and so on. All of these achievements helped to reduce poverty (Rahman 2002:113). However, the net rate of poverty reduction in the 1990s appears to be stuck at around one percentage point every year (Rahman 2000). This rate is not enough to reduce poverty in Bangladesh as well as to achieve MDGs within the stipulated time. Thus, scaling up of poverty reduction is a major challenge for Bangladesh. Since poverty is wide spread in rural areas compared to urban areas (GOB 2006), the engagement of rural local government institutions on a broader scale is urgently needed to address this major developmental problem.

Union Parishad, the lowest tier of our local government system is already engaged with lot of development activities, safety net programmes, disaster management activities and so on every year. Through Local Governance Support Project (LGSP), UPs are receiving direct grants from the Government and by 2011 all 4,498 UPs of the country will be covered by the project. Moreover, different types of development programmes are going on in different parts of the country, where UPs are directly involved. For example, DFID is funding the 'Char Livelihood Programme' in a number of char based UPs of the country. All these indicate that the scope and functions of UP are increasing day by day and through better matching of public services to local preferences these institutions can enhance their allocation and service delivery.

efficiency. In this changing environment, the need for capacity building of our UPs is highly needed and this regard the Standing Committees of UPs can play catalyst roles.

In this study, one of our objectives was to find out how the scope of UP match/differ with its performance. Since female members have been directly elected in the UP in the last two UP elections, we also tried to assess their involvement in the Standing Committees. In order to address these objectives, the effectiveness of the performance of Standing Committees and the degree of involvement of UP members were also discussed. Moreover, the hindrances faced by the members of Standing Committees were also pointed out. From the findings of the study, it has been observed that in spite of high potential of and scope of ensuring transparency and accountability of UPs, involving cross section of people in decision making process, reducing the dominance of one-man show of UP Chairman, ensuring proper utilization of ADP and Block Grants, encouraging female members to perform important responsibilities through Standing Committees; the UPs are still lagging behind to a great extent in these areas. The reasons behind the sluggish performance of Standing Committees may be attributed to a number of factors such as lack of initiatives of UP members; lack of pressure from the common people, lack of political pressure; lack of skills required for planning and implementing development programmes; no specific terms of references of Standing Committees; unwillingness on the part of UP Chairman to delegate authority and non existence of Standing Committees or existence only on paper. In this context, the scenario does not augur well for fostering local governance and needless to say has subsequent effect on the overall governance of the country. At a time when the new *Upazila Parishad* Ordinance has been approved and The *Union Parishad* Ordinance is going to be modified, a strong UP is the need of the time. In

order to strengthen the Standing Committees and thereby the UP, some recommendations can be taken into considerations.

6.1 Recommendations

The current UP members are trained just after their assumption of office by the District and *Upazila* level officials. In the training, various aspects of UP including the duties and responsibilities of UP members of are discussed at length. They are even supplied with a booklet about the important aspects of UP. But when interviewed, most of the members were not spontaneous in clearly articulating about the formation, functions and types of Standing Committees. Some of them have totally forgotten the concept of Standing Committee. It indicates that only one training in 5 years is not enough for the members to get acquainted about UP activities. Rather every alternate year, training is needed for UP representatives so that they can enhance their knowledge and build up capacity to run their organizations. At the same time, the methodology of training can be changed, as only lecture-based one way training sometimes fail to attract the attention of UP members. Rather, more participatory training methods would help to instill the functions and other important elements of UP into the minds of the members.

The Standing Committees are formed to address specific areas such as agriculture, fisheries, livestock, sanitation, family planning, social welfare etc. There are no specific terms of reference and conditions of these Committees. It may happen that when members of one Standing Committee want to work in a Ward where no members of that Ward are included in that committee and in that case a jurisdictional problem may arise. So, for effective functioning of Standing Committees specific terms of reference and conditions are urgently needed.

The UP members are paid honoraria by the Government but that amount is not a handsome one. As members of Standing Committee, UP and co-opted members need to visit various development activities, Government establishments etc, however no financial allocation is reserved for this. With insufficient honoraria, the members of Committees normally will not find interest to visit the sites. To inspire the Committee members to work efficiently, financial allocation for each committee needs to be provided-which would act as incentives.

The UP members are heavily dependent on UP Secretary for official purpose. In fact, UP Secretary is burdened with a number of meetings, sending various information to *Upazila* and District administration and other official duties. Normally, the Secretary writes resolution of all sorts of meetings. If meetings of 13 Standing Committees are held regularly, the responsibility of writing the resolutions fall on the Secretary, since most UP members are not accustomed with writing proceedings of meetings. In order to face this sort of situation, existing laws should be rectified to employ additional employees in the UPs. It has been reported in the daily newspaper *Samokal* (2008:16) that in the proposed UP Ordinance, additional posts of Administrative Officer, Accountant cum Operator and Sub-Assistant Engineer will be created in the UP. If implemented this proposal will reduce the burden of UP Secretary and he/she will find reasonable time to assist UP members in matters related to Standing Committees.

The UNO is assigned with the responsibility of preparing performance reports of UP office every year. In that report a nominal mark is allocated regarding formation of Standing Committees and holding of meetings of the Committee. In order to activate the performance of Standing Committees, provision should be made to

include examples of specific tasks performed by Standing Committee and more marks may be allocated for the Committee performance.

Officials of District Administration such as DC, ADC (General) and DDLG have the authority to inspect UP offices. Due to preoccupation of different types of tasks, sometimes it becomes difficult for DC and ADC (General) to make thorough inspection. On the other hand, DDLG, who is a senior scale officer of DC Office, has to perform other tasks regularly such they were working as fulltime Magistrate till October, 2008 as well as officer-in-charge of a number of sections. As a result, the inspection of officials of DC office is not always comprehensive and the performance of Standing Committees remains unattended to a large extent. Since criminal judiciary has been assigned with the Judicial Magistrates, DDLG (an Executive Magistrate) now has more time to monitor the activities of UP closely. In his inspection, DDLG should monitor and evaluate the performance of Standing Committees in detail and discuss with the co opted UP members and local elite about improving its performance.

The UPs submit resolutions of their monthly meetings to UNO office, however, proceedings of Standing Committees are not sent there. Arrangements will have to be made so that resolutions of various Standing Committees should be regularly submitted to UNO office and DDLG on monthly basis. Moreover, in UDCC meetings, the performance of Standing Committees of various Unions may be discussed in every two months.

Surprisingly, the local people and even the elites are not aware about the existence of Standing Committees, whereas this may be a very useful instrument to provide better service delivery at the local level. On the other hand, they know quite well about PICs because they

directly observe those Committees perform. As such, print media like daily and weekly newspapers may publish reports about Standing Committees to make common people aware about its necessity and importance. *Upazila Parishads* may also arrange campaigns in various UPs about the usefulness of the Committee system.

Standing Committees are the heart of Parliamentary form of democracy. The concerned Committees can direct Government officials of concerned Ministries to appear before the Committee with required documents. However, UP Standing Committees have no such authority. An arrangement may be made so that the concerned Committees can regularly meet with Union level Government officials every two months and can inform the *Upazila* level officials about the outcome of the meetings.

At the Divisional level, to supervise the local Government institutions including UP, an officer of Deputy Secretary level of the government has been posted as DLG. Surprisingly, not much activity of DLG is visible in case of inspecting UPs. Since DLG has the scope and authority to thoroughly visit UPs and inquire about the performance of Standing Committees. If he visits frequently, this will create pressure on UPs to perform within the rules and activate their Standing Committees accordingly. The DLG can report to the Government through Divisional Commissioner about the performance of Standing Committees and make suggestions to improve the performance.

From the data of this study, it was found that educational qualification of the members has started to get importance to the voters. Even both female and male UP members have stated that a minimum educational qualification should be made compulsory for UP representatives. In order to understand the activities of UP, to interpret

various laws and regulations and so on, educational qualification can work as an added advantage. Therefore, setting a minimum educational qualification standard is a policy matter, but considering its far reaching effects the concerned authorities can think about taking such a step.

Standing Committees are an important tool for local people to get involved with the activities of UP and to express their opinion about the performance of the institution. But very few people are aware about the scope of inclusion of the common people in Standing Committees. Our civil society organizations who usually talk about people's participation in different areas of state matters are not very vocal in this respect. It is only very recently 'Democracy Watch' and some other NGOs have initiated programmes to involve people in the activities of UP through Standing Committees. More and more pressure from civil society organizations in this respect will inspire common people to get involve with the activities of UP.

6.2 Concluding Remarks

A strong local government is the cherished goal of our citizen. So far, we have not been able to achieve much success in this regard specially providing quality service to the people concerned. A key challenge for us is the construction of new relationship between ordinary people and grass root level local government institutions. In order to achieve that, UP the lowest tier of our local government system needs to be strengthened. When we consider the image of *Union Parishad*, the whole institution does not come instantly into our mind. Rather, the all powerful UP Chairman symbolizes UP in most cases. To come out of this scenario and to infuse new ideas in this nearly 130 year old institution, proper and effective implementation of Standing Committee system is the

need of the time. To strengthen democracy at the grass roots level, there is no alternative but to substantially improve the performance of Standing Committees of UPs.

6.3 Need for Further Research

This study did not take into consideration the various geographical locations of UPs of the country such UPs located in hilly, riverine, *hoar* areas. Such differences in location could have resulted in different findings. Moreover, financial aspects and revenue sources of *Union Parishad* have not been covered in this study. To properly understand the performance of UP Standing Committees, these aspects need to be researched elaborately. Hopefully, they would be covered in future research initiatives in this area.

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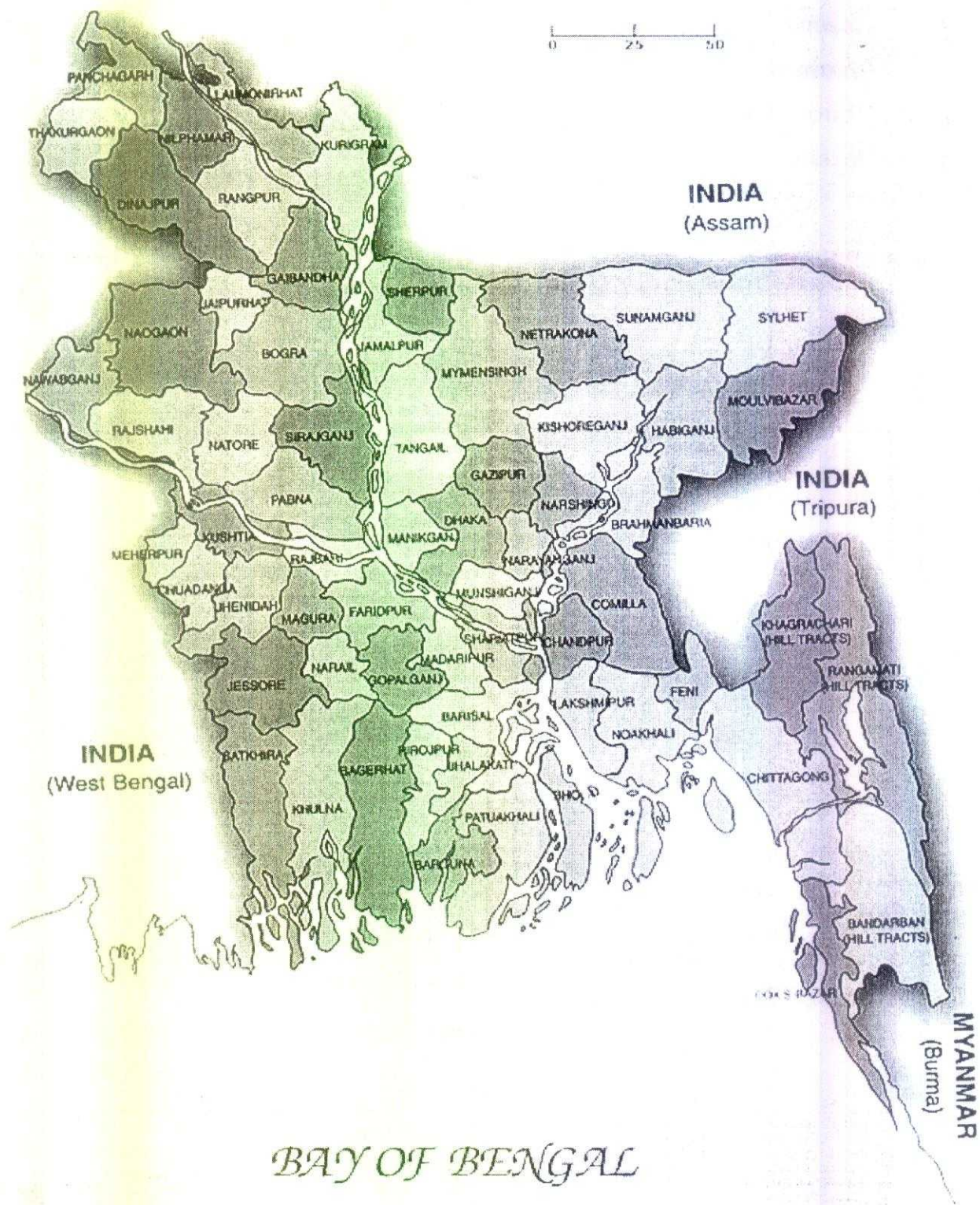
Union Parishads under Gazaria Upazila

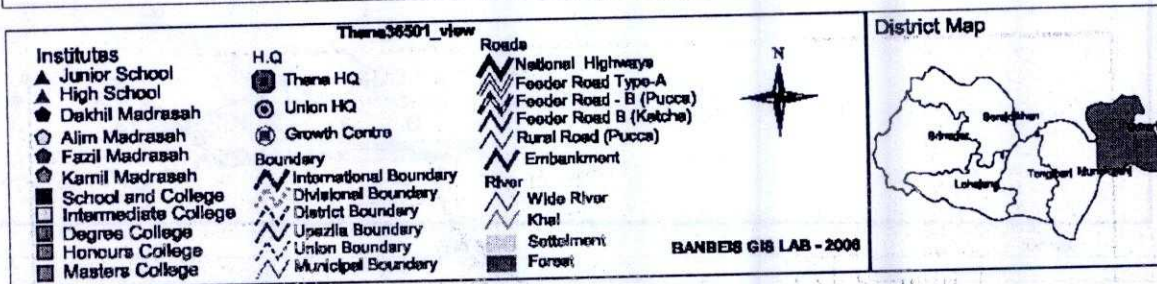
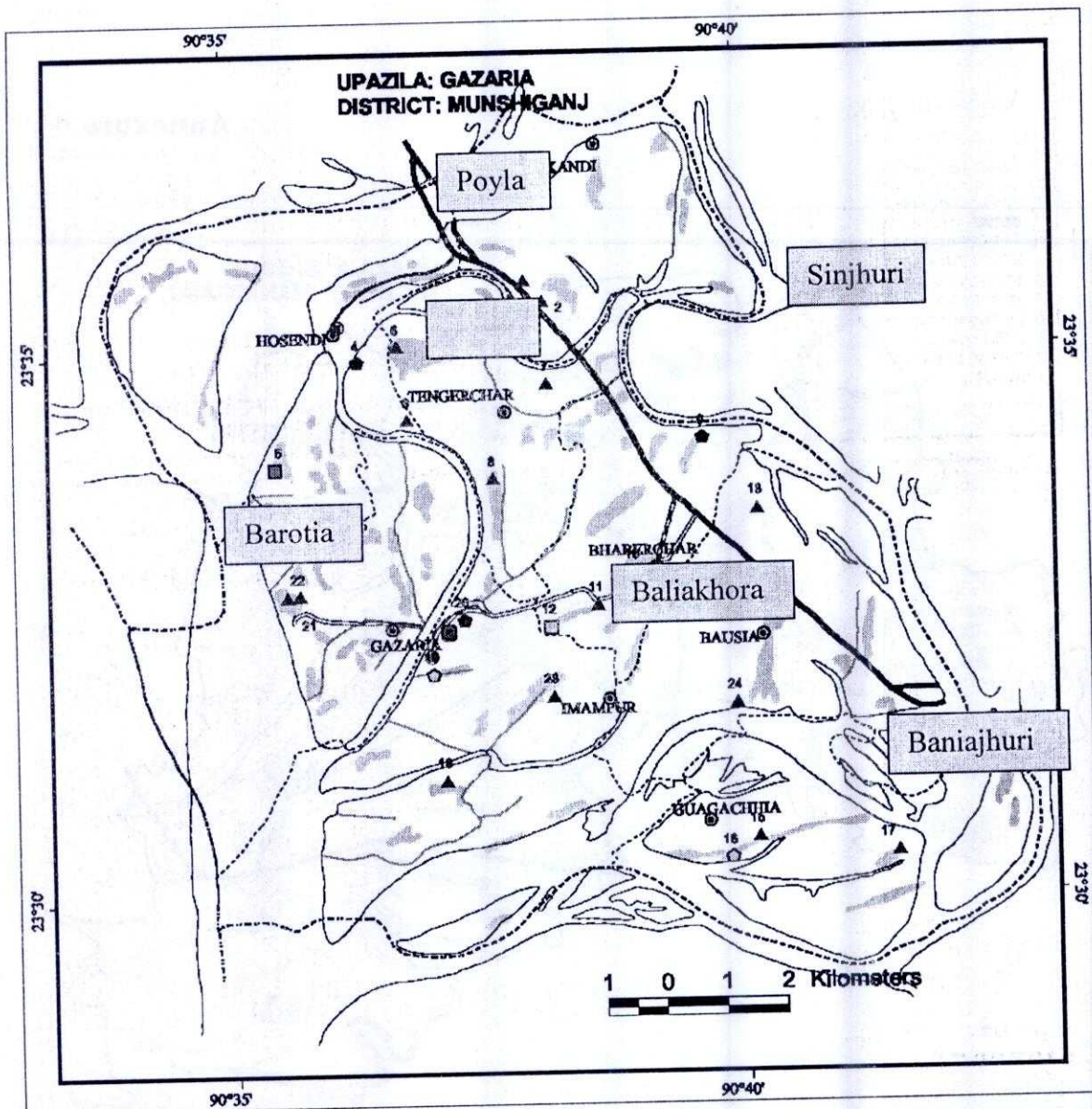
1. Gazaria UP
2. Imampur UP
3. Bhaber Char UP
4. Bausia UP

Union Parishads under Ghior Upazila

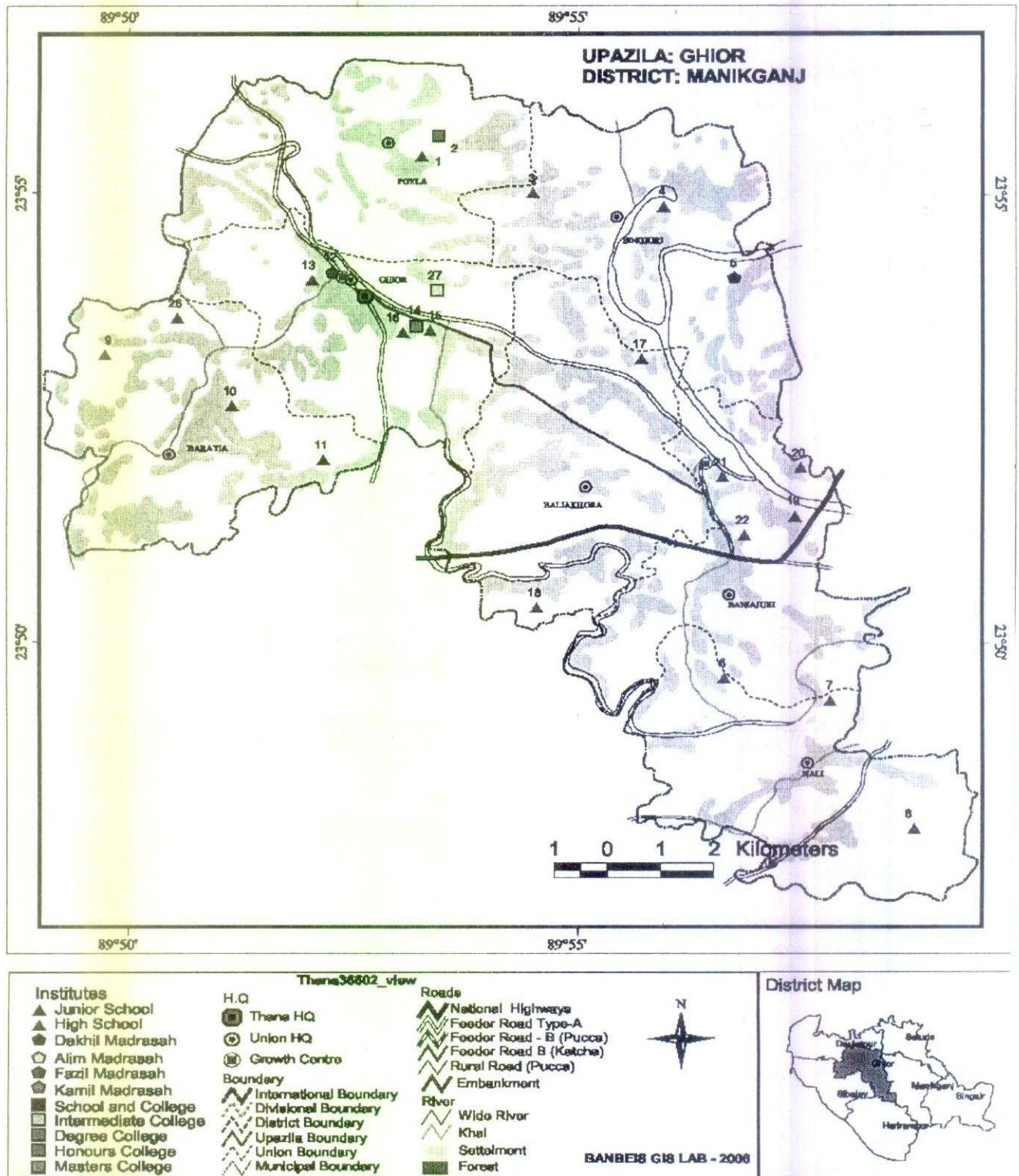
1. Ghior UP
2. Poyla UP
3. Sinjhuri UP
4. Baliakhora UP
5. Barotia UP
6. Baniajhuri UP

Annexure 2





Annexure 4



Questionnaire for Female UP members

(মহিলা সদস্যদের জন্য প্রশ্নমালা)

01. Union----- Upazila----- District-----
 (ইউনিয়ন----- উপজেলা----- জেলা-----
 -----)

02. Age:-----years-----month
 (বয়স----- বছর ----- মাস)

03. Educational Qualification(শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা)

- (a) Illiterate(নিরক্ষর) (b) Class I-V(প্রথম-পঞ্চম শ্রেণী) (c) Class VI-X(ষষ্ঠ-দশম শ্রেণী)
 (d) SSC(মাধ্যমিক) (e) HSC (উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক) (f) Bachelor (স্নাতক) (g) Masters
 (স্নাতকোত্তর)

04. Are you married/unmarried? (আপনি কি বিবাহিত/ অবিবাহিত)

05. Occupation (পেশা)

- (a) Agriculture(কৃষি) (b) Small trade (ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসা) (c) Govt. Service (সরকারী চাকুরী)
 (d) Private Service(বেসরকারী চাকুরী) (e) Village doctor (পল্লী চিকিৎসক) (f) Others (অন্যান্য)

06. Number of children (সন্তান সংখ্যা)

- (a) Male(পুরুষ) ----- (b) Female(মহিলা) -----

07. Have you been elected first time? (আপনি কি প্রথমবার নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No (না)

08. If no, when were you elected first time? (উত্তর না হলে প্রথম কবে নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন)

09. Were any of your family members previously elected in this UP?

(আপনার পরিবারের কোন সদস্য কি পূর্বে এই ইউপির সদস্য নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

10. What is the distance of your house from the UP office?

(ইউপি অফিস থেকে আপনার বাসস্থানের দূরত্ব কত)

11. Is there any fix meeting date for the UP?

(ইউপির সভার কোন নির্ধারিত তারিখ আছে কি)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

12. Do you attend the general meeting regularly?

(আপনি সাধারণ সভায় নিয়মিত অংশগ্রহণ করেন কি)

(a) Yes (হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

13. If no, what are the reasons?

(উত্তর না হলে কারণ কি)

(a) Notice is not served to you timely. (নোটিশ যথাসময়ে জারী করা হয় না)

(b) Due to family pressure you do not find time to attend meetings.

(পারিবারিক সমস্যার কারণে সভায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ হয় না)

© Due to inconvenience you cannot attend meeting at night.

(অসুবিধার কারণে রাতে সভায় অংশগ্রহণ করা হয় না)

(d) Others (অন্যান্য)

14. In the meeting who get more importance ? (সভায় কাদের গুরুত্ব বেশী)

(a) Male members (পুরুষ সদস্য)

(b) Female members (মহিলা সদস্য)

© Equal opportunity (সমান সুযোগ)

15. If male members get more preference, what is the reason?

(পুরুষ সদস্যরা অধিক গুরুত্ব পেলে কারণ কি)

(a) Male members are closely linked with the Chairman

(পুরুষ সদস্যরা চেয়ারম্যানের সাথে নিবিড়ভাবে সম্পৃক্ত)

(b) Male members are always available

(পুরুষ সদস্যদের সর্বদা পাওয়া যায়)

© Male members know the UP functions better than female members

(পুরুষ সদস্যরা ইউপি'র কাজ মহিলা সদস্যদের থেকে ভাল জানেন)

(d) Others (অন্যান্য)

16. What kind of problems do you face in attending the meeting?

(সভায় অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে কি অসুবিধার সম্মুখীন হন)

(a) Non-cooperation from Chairman/Member/UP secretary

(চেয়ারম্যান/ পুরুষ সদস্য/ইউপি সচিবের অসহযোগিতা)

(b) Not providing due importance as per Govt. circular

(সরকারী সার্কুলার অনুসারে অনুসারে যথাযত গুরুত্ব প্রদান না করা)

© Not given enough opportunity to discuss issues/problems

(কোন বিষয়/সমস্যা আলোচনার ক্ষেত্রে যথেষ্ট সুযোগ না পাওয়া)

(d) Others (অন্যান্য)

17. Do you participate in development activities?

(আপনি কি উন্নয়নমূলক কার্যক্রমে অংশগ্রহণ করেন)

(a) Yes (হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

18. If yes, what is the level of participation?

(উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে অংশগ্রহণের মাত্রা কি রকম)

- (a) Satisfactory level of Participation (সম্মেয়াজনক অংশগ্রহণ)
 (b) Unsatisfactory level of Participation (অসম্মেয়াজনক অংশগ্রহণ)

19. Do you know how many Standing Committees are there in the Union Parishad?

(আপনি কি জানেন ইউপিতে কয়টি স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটি আছে)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

20. If yes, have all the Standing Committees been formed in your Union Parishad ?

(উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে আপনার ইউপিতে সব স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটি গঠিত হয়েছে কি)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না) (c) Partially(আংশিকভাবে)

21. If no, what is the reason of non-formation of Standing Committees ?

(উত্তর না হলে স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটি গঠিত না হওয়ার কারণ কি)

(a) Lack of initiative of UP chairman
 (ইউপি চেয়ারম্যানের উদ্যোগের অভাব)

(b) Lack of consciousness of UP members
 (ইউপি সদস্যদের সচেতনতার অভাব)

© Unwillingness on the part of UP chairman to delegate authority
 (ইউপি চেয়ারম্যানের কর্তৃত্ব হস্তান্তরে অনীহা)

22. Are you the chairperson of any Standing Committee?

(আপনি কি কোন স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সভাপতি)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

23. Are you the member of any Standing Committee?

(আপনি কি কোন স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্য)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

24. Is there any co-opted member associated with the standing Committees you are involved with?

(আপনি যে স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটিতে সংযুক্ত সেখানে কোন কোঅপ্ট সদস্য আছেন কি)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

25. Do you convene/attend the Standing Committee meeting regularly?

(আপনি কি নিয়মিত স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সভা আহবান/সভায় অংশগ্রহণ করেন)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

26. Are the resolutions of the meetings sent to the UP chairman ?

(সভার কার্যবিবরণী কি ইউপি চেয়ারম্যানের নিকট প্রেরণ করা হয়)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

27. As Standing Committee member do you visit any govt. office?
(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্য হিসেবে আপনি কি সরকারী দপ্তর পরিদর্শন করেন)

(a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

28. As Standing Committee member do you meet the concerned govt. officials?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্য হিসেবে আপনি কি সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারী কর্মকর্তাদের সাথে সাক্ষাৎ করেন)

(a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

29. Through Standing Committee have you been able to solve any problem in your locality?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির মাধ্যমে আপনি কি এলাকার কোন সমস্যা সমাধান করতে পেরেছেন)

(a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

30. If yes, please specify

(উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে সুনির্দিষ্ট করে বলুন)

31. What are the problems you face while working in the Standing Committee?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটিতে কাজ করার ক্ষেত্রে আপনি কি কি অসুবিধার সম্মুখীন হন)

(a) Unwillingness on the part of UP chairman to delegate authority
(ইউপি চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক কর্তৃত্ব হস্তান্তর অস্বীকার)

(b) Lack of consciousness of Standing Committee members
(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্যদের সচেতনতার অভাব)

© Lack of skills required for planning and implementing development programme

(উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন ও বাস্তবায়নে দক্ষতার অভাব)

(d) Lack of co-operation from Govt. officials.
(সরকারী কর্মকর্তাদের সহযোগিতার অভাব)

(e) No specific terms of reference of Standing Committees.
(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সুনির্দিষ্ট কার্য পরিধি না থাকা)

(f) Others(অন্যান্য)

32. Do you discuss with the chairman unresolved problems?

(আপনি কি অসমীমাংসিত সমস্যা নিয়ে ইউপি চেয়ারম্যানের সাথে আলোচনা করেন)

33. Do you need any sort of training for working effectively as Standing Committee members?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্য হিসেবে দক্ষতার সাথে কাজ করার জন্য আপনার কোন প্রশিক্ষণের প্রয়োজন আছে কি)

(a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

34. If Yes, what sort of training do you need?

(উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে কি ধরনের প্রশিক্ষণ প্রয়োজন)

- (a) Office Management/administration
(অফিস ব্যবস্থাপনা/প্রশাসন)
- (b) Project identification and project management
(প্রকল্প চিহ্নিতকরণ এবং প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপনা)
- © Financial rules and procedures
(আর্থিক বিধি এবং বিধান)
- (d) Judicial rules and procedures
(বিচারিক বিধি এবং বিধান)
- (e) Others (অন্যান্য)

35. How can Standing Committees be made more effective?
(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটিগুলো কিভাবে অধিকতর কার্যকরী করা যায়)

Annexure 6

Questionnaire for Male UP Members

(পুরুষ সদস্যদের জন্য প্রশ্নমালা)

01. Union----- Upazila----- District-----

(ইউনিয়ন----- উপজেলা----- জেলা -----)

02. Age:-----years-----month

(বয়স----- বছর ----- মাস)

03. Educational Qualification(শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা)

(a) Illiterate (নিরক্ষর) (b) Class I-V (প্রথম-পঞ্চম শ্রেণী) (c) Class VI-X (ষষ্ঠ-দশম শ্রেণী)
(d) SSC (মাধ্যমিক) (e) HSC (উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক) (f) Bachelor (স্নাতক) (g) Masters (স্নাতকোত্তর)

04. Are you married/unmarried? (আপনি কি বিবাহিত/ অবিবাহিত)

05. Occupation (পেশা)

(a) Agriculture(কৃষি) (b) Small trade (ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসা) (c) Govt. Service (সরকারী চাকুরী)
(d) Private Service(বেসরকারী চাকুরী) (e) Village doctor (পল্লী চিকিৎসক) (f) Others((অন্যান্য)

06. Number of children (সন্তান সংখ্যা)

(a) Male(পুরুষ) ----- (b) Female(মহিলা) -----

07. Have you been elected first time? (আপনি কি প্রথমবার নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

08. If No, when were you elected first time? (উত্তর না হলে প্রথম কবে নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন)

09. Is there any fix meeting date for the UP? (ইউপির সভার কোন নির্ধারিত তারিখ আছে কি)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

10. Do you attend the general meeting regularly?

(আপনি সাধারণ সভায় নিয়মিত অংশগ্রহণ করেন কি)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

11. In the meeting who get more importance ? (সভায় কাদের গুরুত্ব বেশী)

- (a) Male members (পুরুষ সদস্য) (b) Female members (মহিলা সদস্য)
 (c) Equal opportunity (সমান সুযোগ)

12. If male members get more preference, what is the reason?
 (পুরুষ সদস্যরা অধিক গুরুত্ব পেলে কারণ কি)

- (a) Male members are closely linked with the Chairman
 (পুরুষ সদস্যরা চেয়ারম্যানের সাথে নিবিড়ভাবে সম্পৃক্ত)
 (b) Male members are always available
 (পুরুষ সদস্যদের সর্বদা পাওয়া যায়)
 (c) Male members know the UP functions better than female members
 (পুরুষ সদস্যরা ইউপির কাজ মহিলা সদস্যদের থেকে ভাল জানেন)
 (d) Others (অন্যান্য)

13. Do you participate in development activities?
 (আপনি কি উন্নয়নমূলক কার্যে অংশগ্রহণ করেন)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

14. If yes, what is the level of participation?
 (উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে অংশগ্রহণের মাত্রা কি রকম)

- (a) Satisfactory level of Participation
 (সন্তোষজনক অংশগ্রহণ)
 (b) Unsatisfactory level of Participation
 (অসন্তোষজনক অংশগ্রহণ)

15. Do you know how many Standing Committees are there in the Union Parishad?
 (আপনি কি জানেন ইউপিতে কয়টি স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটি আছে)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

16. If yes, have all the Standing Committees been formed in your Union Parishad ?
 (উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে আপনার ইউপিতে সব স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটি গঠিত হয়েছে কি)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না) (c) Partially(আংশিকভাবে)

17. If no, what is the reason of non-formation of Standing Committees ?
 (উত্তর না হলে স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটি গঠিত না হওয়ার কারণ কি)

- (a) Lack of initiative of UP chairman.
 (ইউপি চেয়ারম্যানের উদ্যোগের অভাব)
 (b) Lack of consciousness of UP members.
 (ইউপি সদস্যদের সচেতনতার অভাব)
 (c) Unwillingness on the part of UP chairman to delegate authority.
 (ইউপি চেয়ারম্যানের কর্তৃত্ব হস্তান্তর করে অনীহা)

18. Are you the chairperson of any Standing Committee?

(আপনি কি কোন স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সভাপতি)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

19. Are you the member of any Standing Committee?

(আপনি কি কোন স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্য)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

20. Is there any co-opted members associated with the Standing Committees you involved?

(আপনি যে স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটিতে সংযুক্ত সেখানে কোন কোঅপ্ট সদস্য আছেন কি)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No

21. Do you convene/attend the Standing Committee meetings regularly?

(আপনি কি নিয়মিত স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সভা আহবান/সভায় অংশগ্রহণ করেন)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

22. Are the resolutions of the meeting sent to the UP chairman ?

(সভার কার্যবিবরণী কি ইউপি চেয়ারম্যানের নিকট প্রেরণ করা হয়)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

23. As Standing Committee members do you visit any govt. office?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্য হিসেবে আপনি কি সরকারী দপ্তর পরিদর্শন করেন)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

24. As Standing Committee members do you meet the concerned govt. officials?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্য হিসেবে আপনি কি সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারী কর্মকর্তাদের সাথে সাক্ষাৎ করেন)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

25. Through Standing Committee have you been able to solve any problem?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির মাধ্যমে আপনি কি এলাকার কোন সমস্যা সমাধান করতে পেরেছেন)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

26. If yes, please specify

(উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে সুনির্দিষ্ট করে বলুন)

27. What are the problems you face while working in the Standing Committee?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটিতে কাজ করার ক্ষেত্রে আপনি কি কি অসুবিধার সম্মুখীন হন)

- (a) Unwillingness on the part of UP chairman to delegate authority

(ইউপি চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক কর্তৃত্ব হস্তান্তরে অনীহা)

- (b) Lack of consciousness of Standing Committee members

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্যদের সচেতনতার অভাব)

(c) Lack of skills required for planning and implementing development programme

(উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন ও বাস্তবায়নে দক্ষতার অভাব)

(d) Lack of co-operation from Govt. officials

(সরকারী কর্মকর্তাদের সহযোগিতার অভাব)

(e) No specific terms of reference of Standing Committees

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সুনির্দিষ্ট কার্য পরিধি নাই)

(e) Others (অন্যান্য)

28. Do you discuss with the chairman unresolved problems?

(আপনি কি অমীমাংসিত সমস্যা নিয়ে ইউপি চেয়ারম্যানের সাথে আলোচনা করেন)

29. Do you need any sort of training for working effectively as Standing Committee members?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্য হিসেবে দক্ষতার সাথে কাজ করার জন্য আপনার কোন প্রশিক্ষণের প্রয়োজন আছে কি)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

30. If Yes, what sort of training do you need?

(উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে কি ধরনের প্রশিক্ষণ প্রয়োজন)

(a) Office Management/administration

(অফিস ব্যবস্থাপনা/প্রশাসন)

(b) Project identification and project management

(প্রকল্প প্রণয়ন এবং প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপনা)

(c) Financial rules and procedures

(আর্থিক বিধি এবং বিধান)

(d) Judicial rules and procedures

(বিচারিক বিধি এবং বিধান)

(e) Others (অন্যান্য)

31. How can Standing Committees be made from effective?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটিগুলো কিভাবে অধিকতর কার্যকরী করা যায়)

Annexure 7

Questionnaire for UP Chairman

(ইউপি চেয়ারম্যানের জন্য প্রশ্নমালা)

01. Union----- Upazila----- District-----
(ইউনিয়ন----- উপজেলা----- জেলা --
-----)

02. Age:-----years-----month
(বয়স----- বছর ----- মাস)

03. Educational Qualification(শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা)

(a) Illiterate (নিরক্ষর) (b) Class I-V (প্রথম-পঞ্চম শ্রেণী) (c) Class VI-X (ষষ্ঠ-দশম শ্রেণী) (d) SSC(মাধ্যমিক) (e) HSC(উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক) (f) Bachelor (স্নাতক) (g) Masters (স্নাতকোত্তর)

04. Are you married/unmarried? (আপনি কি বিবাহিত/ অবিবাহিত)

05. Occupation (পেশা)

(a) Agriculture(কৃষি) (b) Small trade (ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসা) (c) Govt. Service (সরকারী চাকুরী) (d) Private Service(বেসরকারী চাকুরী) (e) Village doctor (পল্লী চিকিৎসক) (f) Other (অন্যান্য)

06. Number of children (সন্তান সংখ্যা)

(a) Male(পুরুষ) ----- (b) Female(মহিলা) -----

07. Have you been elected first time? (আপনি কি প্রথমবার নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

08. If no, when were you elected first time? (উত্তর না হলে প্রথম কবে নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন)

09. Is there any fix meeting date for the UP? (ইউপির সভার কোন নির্ধারিত তারিখ আছে কি)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

10. Do all members (male/female) attend the general meeting regularly?

(সকল ইউপি পুরুষ/মহিলা সদস্য কি সাধারণ সভায় অংশগ্রহণ করেন)

(a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

11. In the meeting who get more importance? (সভায় কাদের গুরুত্ব বেশী)

- (a) Male members(পুরুষ সদস্য) (b) Female members(মহিলা সদস্য)
(c) Equal opportunity(সমান সুযোগ)

12. If male members get more preference, what is the reason?

(পুরুষ সদস্যরা অধিক গুরুত্ব পেলে কারণ কি)

- (a) Male members are closely linked with you
(পুরুষ সদস্যরা আপনার সাথে নিবিড়ভাবে সম্পৃক্ত)
(b) Male members are always available
(পুরুষ সদস্যদের সর্বদা পাওয়া যায়)
(c) Male members know the UP functions better than female members
(পুরুষ সদস্যরা ইউপির কাজ মহিলা সদস্যদের থেকে ভাল জানেন)
(d) Others(অন্যান্য)

13. Do you know how many Standing Committees are there in the Union Parishad?

(আপনি কি জানেন ইউপিতে কয়টি স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটি আছে)

- (a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

14. If Yes, have all the Standing Committees been formed in your Union Parishad ?

(উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে আপনার ইউপিতে সকল স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটি গঠিত হয়েছে কি)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না) (c) Partially(আংশিকভাবে)

15. If No, what is the reason of non-formation of Standing Committees ?

(উত্তর না হলে স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটি গঠিত না হওয়ার কারণ কি)

- (a) Lack of initiative on your part(আপনার উদ্যোগের অভাব)
(b) Lack of consciousness of UP members(ইউপি সদস্যদের সচেতনতার অভাব)
(c) Unwillingness on your part to delegate authority(আপনার কর্তৃত্ব হস্তান্তর করে অনীহা)
(d) Others(অন্যান্য)

16. Are you the chairperson of any Standing Committee?

(আপনি কি কোন স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সভাপতি)

- (a) Yes (b) No(না)

17. Are you the member of any Standing Committee?

(আপনি কি কোন স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্য)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

18. Is there any co-opted members associated with the Standing Committees you involved?

(আপনি যে স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটিতে সংযুক্ত সেখানে কোন কোঅপ্ট সদস্য আছেন কি)

- (a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

19. Are the Standing Committee meetings held regularly?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সভা নিয়মিত অনুষ্ঠিত হয় কি)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

20. Do they send resoution of the meeting to you?

(সভার কার্যবিবরণী কি আপনার নিকট প্রেরণ করা হয় কি)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

21. Do the Standing Committee members visit any govt. office?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্যরা কি সরকারী দপ্তর পরিদর্শন করেন)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

22. Do standing committee members meet the concerned govt. officials?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্যরা কি সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারী কর্মকর্তাদের সাথে সাক্ষাৎ করেন)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

23. Do you discuss the problems referred by standing committees in UP general meeting?

(আপনি কি স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্যদের প্রেরণকৃত সমস্যা ইউপি সাধারণ সভায় আলোচনা করেন)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

(c) No such problem is referred(এরূপ কোন সমস্যা প্রেরণ করা হয় না)

24. Do you discuss the unresolved problems referred by the Standing Committees at the UDCC meting?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটি কতক প্রেরণকৃত অমীমাংসিত সমস্যা উপজেলা উন্নয়ন ও সমন্বয় কমিটির সভায় আপনি আলোচনা করেন কিনা)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

25. Do you and the members need any sort of training forworking effectively as standing committee members?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্য হিসেবে দক্ষতার সাথে কাজ করার জন্য আপনার এবং আপনার সদস্যদেরকোন প্রশিক্ষণের প্রয়োজন আছে কি)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

26. If Yes, what sort of training do you need?

উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে কি ধরনের প্রশিক্ষণ প্রয়োজন)

(a) Office Management/administration

(অফিস ব্যবস্থাপনা/প্রশাসন)

(b) Project identification and project management

(প্রকল্প চিহ্নিতকরণ এবং প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপনা)

(c) Financial rules and procedures

(আর্থিক বিধি এবং বিধান)

(d) Judicial rules and procedures

(বিচারিক বিধি এবং বিধান)

(e) Others(অন্যান্য)

27. How can Standing Committees be made from effective?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটিগুলো কিভাবে অধিকতর কার্যকরী করা যায়)

Annexure 8

Questionnaire for Local People

(সাধারণ জনগণের জন্য প্রশ্নমালা)

01. Union----- Upazila----- District-----
(ইউনিয়ন----- উপজেলা----- জেলা -----)

02. Age:-----years-----month
(বয়স----- বছর ----- মাস)

03. Educational Qualification(শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা)

(a) Illiterate (নিরক্ষর) (b) Class I-V (প্রথম-পঞ্চম শ্রেণী) (c) Class VI-X (ষষ্ঠ - দশম শ্রেণী) (d) SSC(মাধ্যমিক) (e) HSC(উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক) (f) Bachelor (স্নাতক) (h) Masters(স্নাতকোত্তর)

04. Occupation (পেশা)

(a) Agriculture(কৃষি) (b) Small trade (ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসা) (c) Govt. Service (সরকারী চাকুরী) (d) Private Service(বেসরকারী চাকুরী) (e) Village doctor (পল্লী চিকিৎসক) (f) Others(অন্যান্য)

05. Do you know the UP chairman, concerned male and female members of your locality?

(আপনি কি আপনার এলাকার ইউপি চেয়ারম্যান, পুরুষ ও মহিলা সদস্যদের চিনেন)

(a) All of them(সকলকে) (b) Some of them(কাউকে কাউকে) (c) Not at all(কাউকেই না)

06. Are you aware about the activities of Union Parishad?

(আপনি কি ইউপির কর্মকাণ্ড সম্পর্কে জানেন)

(a) Yes (হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

07. Do you know about Standing Committees in the Union Parishad?

(আপনি কি ইউপির স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটি সম্পর্কে জানেন)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

08. If yes, do you know the number of Standing Committees?

(উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে আপনি কি ইউপির স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সংখ্যা জানেন)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ) (b) No(না)

09. Do you know anybody who is working as co-opted member of Standing Committees?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটিতে কোঅপ্ট সদস্য হিসেবে সংযুক্ত আছেন এমন কাউকে চিনেন কি)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

10. If yes, in what committee?

(উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে কোন কমিটিতে সংযুক্ত আছেন)

11. Have you observed the activities of Standing Committees in your area?

(আপনি কি আপনার এলাকায় স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির কার্য ম সম্পর্কে অবহিত)

(a) Yes (হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

12. If yes, Please specify.

(উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে সুনির্দিষ্ট করে বলুন)

13. Do the Standing Committee members talk with the common people on particular issue?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটির সদস্যরা কোন নির্দিষ্ট বিষয়ে সাধারণ জনগণের সাথে কথা বলেন কি)

(a) Yes(হ্যাঁ)

(b) No(না)

14. How can Standing Committees be made more participatory and accountable?

(স্ট্যান্ডিং কমিটিগুলো কিভাবে অধিকতর অংশগ্রহণমূলক ও জবাবদিহিমূলক কার্যকরী করা যায়)

