Women, land and power in Bangladesh: Jhagrapur revisited
Arens, A.M.J.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
Table of Contents

List of Tables, Boxes, Maps. Plates iii
Glossary vii
Abbreviations ix
Acknowledgements xi

1. Introduction 1
1.1 Why this study? 1
1.2 Women and land rights 2
1.3 Structure-agency and empowerment 3
1.4 Methodology 5
1.5 A village in Bangladesh 8
1.6 Research questions 10
1.7 Structure of this book 11

2. Debates on women, land and agency 13
2.1 Structure and agency 13
2.2 Power relations and women’s agency 16
2.3 The concepts of agency and empowerment 20
2.4 Assessment of women’s agency/empowerment 23
2.5 Women’s land rights and gender equality 30
2.6 Women’s control over land 33
2.7 Land reform 35
2.8 Summary and Conclusion 37

3. Land and economic transformation 39
3.1 Land relations 39
3.2 The (non-)distribution of khas land 41
3.3 Women’s relationship to land 43
3.4 Introduction of the Green Revolution 46
3.5 Gender specific nature of agricultural transformation 47
3.6 Microfinance 51
3.7 Dowry and its consequences 54
3.8 Summary and Conclusion 57

4. Gender ideology and social transformation 59
4.1 Islam in Bangladesh 59
4.2 Islam, moral values and gender ideology 62
4.3 Contradictory developments 64
4.4 Education and gender 67
4.5 Women’s reproductive rights and empowerment 70
4.6 Summary and Conclusion 71

5. Jhagrapur revisited, class and gender 73
5.1 Changes in class relations 73
5.2 Land relations 84
Women, land and power in Bangladesh; Jhagrapur revisited

5.3 Labour relations 89
5.4 The Green Revolution and the position of women 97
5.5 Microfinance and ‘poverty alleviation’ 103
5.6 Impact of global connections 107
5.7 The dowry system and its impact 109
5.8 Summary and Conclusion 115

6. Moral values, gender ideology and power 117
6.1 Islam in Jhagrapur 117
6.2 Global linkages and moral values 121
6.3 Moral values and poverty 128
6.4 Stigmatisation of women 131
6.5 Education 136
6.6 Family Planning 139
6.7 The village power structure 141
6.8 Summary and Conclusion 155

7. Women’s landownership in Jhagrapur 157
7.1 Women and land: three women 157
7.2 Inheritance practices 161
7.3 Women’s inheritance 1975/2007 163
7.4 Factors that play a role in women’s inheritance 168
7.5 Women’s land ownership 2007: the full picture 182
7.6 Women’s control over land 188
7.7 Summary and Conclusion 195

8. Women’s empowerment in the family and the community 197
8.1 Conjugal relations 198
8.2 Domestic relations 208
8.3 Kinship relations 212
8.4 The village power structure 214
8.5 Summary and Conclusion 217

9. Reflecting on women, land and power 219
9.1 Women’s relationship to land 219
9.2 Women’s land ownership and empowerment 223
9.3 Women, land and structural transformation 224
9.4 Perspectives for the future 227
9.5 In Conclusion 230

Bibliography 233
Summary 247
Samenvatting 253