

Land Acquisition Changes Social Conditions of Farmers

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Abstract

In Economics, the word 'land' is used not merely in the sense of the soil or surface of the earth as is ordinarily understood. It stands for all nature, living and lifeless. It includes all natural resources that we can get free from air, water and land. It covers the land surface, whether level or mountainous. It includes oceans, lakes and rivers, mineral deposits, rainfall, water-power, fisheries, forests and numerous other things which nature provides and man uses. The term 'land' thus embraces all that nature has created on the earth, above the earth, and below the earth's surface. Dr. Marshall has therefore defined land thus: "By land is meant not merely land in the strict sense of the word, but whole of the materials and forces which nature gives freely for man's aid in land, water, in air and light and heat."

Introduction

In Economics, the word 'land' is used not merely in the sense of the soil or surface of the earth as is ordinarily understood. It stands for all nature, living and lifeless. It includes all natural resources that we can get free from air, water and land. It covers the land surface, whether level or mountainous. It includes oceans, lakes and rivers, mineral deposits, rainfall, water-power, fisheries, forests and numerous other things which nature provides and man uses. The term 'land' thus embraces all that nature has created on the earth, above the earth, and below the earth's surface. Dr. Marshall has therefore defined land thus: "By land is meant not merely land in the strict sense of the word, but whole of the materials and forces which nature gives freely for man's aid in land, water, in air and light and heat."

The land sustains every aspect of our lives, providing fundamental life-support systems and the foundation of our economy and society. It is the place we stand. And also the place we act. It is where we make decisions that affect not just the land, but also water, oceans, air, and atmosphere, and the life they support. The land is regarded as a valuable resource because it provides a habitat for a diverse range of flora and fauna. Humans use it for a variety of purposes, including agriculture, forestry, mining, construction of houses and roads, and the establishment of industry. Land is a natural resource and of utmost importance. It supports natural vegetation, wildlife, human life, economic activities, and transport and communication systems. It is an asset of a finite magnitude. It is important to use the available land for different purposes with careful planning.

Factors Affecting Productivity of Land:

Different pieces of land differ in quality or productivity. A number of factors affect the productivity of land. Productivity of land mainly depends on the following factors:

Natural Factors:

Natural factors like the soil, climate, rainfall, topography and nature of the coast-line determine whether land produces much or little. A sandy soil and dry climate are sure to make it unproductive. On the other hand, an alluvial soil, a good climate, and timely rainfall are conducive to rich crops.

Human Factor:

Man does not easily surrender to nature. If nature is unkind, he fights her and tries to conquer her. For instance, if rainfall is scanty, he can bring canal water. If soil is poor and deficient in certain properties, it can be improved by the addition of chemical manures. In fact, man plays an important part in remedying the deficiencies of nature and contributing to the productivity of the soil.

Situation Factor:

The situation of land is of great importance. Fertile lands, situated in a remote corner of the country, away from the market, may be left uncultivated. The cost of transporting their produce may be prohibitive. Such land cannot compare with those pieces of land which, though not so rich, are near to market.

Extensive Cultivation:

It is necessary to understand the distinction between extensive and intensive cultivation. In extensive cultivation, the farmer can have as much land as he can manage. The methods of cultivation are generally primitive and unscientific. The yield per acre is comparatively low, but taken in relation to the capital and labour employed, it is large. Virgin lands yield good crops even though much work is not done on them. When they are exhausted, more land is available. Here seeds are just sown and crops harvested when ripe. Such methods were followed in new countries like the U.S.A. and Canada a hundred years back.

Intensive Cultivation:

Intensive cultivation, on the other hand, implies constant cropping from the same area. If more and more capital and labour are applied to the same piece of land, the system of cultivation is known as Intensive. Greater application of labour and capital involves the use of artificial irrigation, deeper ploughing, sowing of improved seeds, use of artificial manures and of modern implements and machinery. In such cases, land yields more per acre. By cultivating it more intensively, the farmer tries to take the utmost out of his land. This method is followed in those countries where land area relatively to population is small.

It might seem that as the farmer has a large area at his disposal in extensive cultivation, cultivation must be on a large scale. In the same way, intensive cultivation seems to imply a small farm. The farmer is supposed to be trying to get the utmost out of a small piece of land by applying more and more labour and capital to the same piece of land. The difference between extensive and intensive cultivation is one of method rather than of the size of the farm. In advanced countries like Canada, the U.S.A. and Australia, and even in Russia where land is nationalized, the farms are very big, sometimes extending over miles. But the methods of cultivation are intensive. Large amounts of capital are invested in the land. The soil is thoroughly ploughed by tractors; the seed is most carefully selected; irrigation facilities are ample; and manuring is heavy. Agriculture is carried on in a scientific manner. It is, in short, intensive cultivation. In

countries like India, however, the holdings are very small, but cropping is very poor. Our method of cultivation is extensive. This is one of the important cause's of the backwardness of Indian agriculture. After the attainment of independence, and especially since we started the process of five-Year plans in 1950-51, intensive cultivation has been given great importance. The recent adoption of new agricultural technology involving the use of high-yielding varieties of seeds use to chemical fertilizers, irrigation by tube-wells, use of pesticides and double or treble cropping indicates the trend towards intensive cultivation. This is necessary for increasing our agricultural production to achieve self-sufficiency in both food for our people and raw materials for our expanding industries. Good results have been achieved. This is known as 'Green Revolution'.

Impact of Land Acquisition:

Land acquisition is the power of the union or a state government in India to acquire private land for the purpose of industrialization, development of infrastructural facilities or urbanization of the private land, and to compensate the affected land owners for their rehabilitation and resettlement. This paper explains impact of land acquisition act on our economy through;

Infrastructure development, land prices, entrepreneurships, urbanization and impact on real estate. Family whose land and other immovable properties have been acquired face many problems. Land less peoples also faces many problems due to land acquisition. These land acquisition act is Harmful for farmers and their family. We find out the solution of this problem which is harmful not now but in coming period also. Agriculture is the main occupation in India. Two-third of population is dependent on agriculture directly or indirectly. It is not merely a source of livelihood but a way of life. In Economics, agriculture means cultivation of crops along with animal husbandry, poultry, dairy farming, fishing and even forestry. Agriculture is not merely a source of livelihood but a way of life. It is the main source of food, fodder and fuel. It is the basic foundation of economic development.

Land Acquisition Literally means acquiring of land some public purpose by the Government agency as authorized by the law from the individual landowners after paying some compensation in lieu of losses occurred to landowner due to surrendering of their land to the concerned Government. Acquisition of land by the government for public purpose or for the companies is governed by the Land Acquisition Act, 1984; Appropriate Government would mean the central Government if the purpose for acquisition is Union and for other purpose it is the State Government. It is not necessary that all the acquisition has to be initiated by the government alone. Local authorities, societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and Co-Operative Societies establish under the Co-operative Societies Act can also acquire the land for developmental activities though the government.

Objective of the Study

To evaluate the farmers social conditions due to land acquisition. To analysis the social conditions of farmers, social factors consumption goods, housing, food, medical treatment, education of children and others have been taken.

Research Methodology

The study is based on primary data as well as secondary data. The present study was conducted in Jhajjar district of Haryana. This district was randomly selected on basis of land acquisition. This district land acquired for the purpose of Kundli– Manesar–Palwal (KMP) Expressway in Haryana. The sample size of the study is 200 farmers from Jhajjar districts. From these 200 farmers, the sample has been divided on

the basis of land holding in hectares. Primary data was based on field survey of sampled area. The data has been collected on the basis of structured questionnaire. The questionnaire contained questions related to the impact of land acquisition on social condition of farmers. To analyze the data statistical tools such as diagram, tabulation, and percentage were used. Secondary data have also been collected from the newspapers, advertisements, journals, articles, Haryana Statistical Abstract, Government reports and Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) etc.

Review Literature

Patel, M. L. (1974) the author stated in his book “Changing Land Problems of Tribal India” discusses the land alienation in India before and after independence. He revealed that the British government alienated the tribes from land on a large scale to exploit these resource-rich regions. When India got freedom, different types of acts and policies were begun, by the central and state government to check the alienation and restoration of land to landless people. The author observed that the results of different rehabilitation policies were not satisfactory to the farmers.

Thukral, EnakshiGanguly (1992) examined in his book “Big Dams, Displaced People: Rivers of Sorrow Rivers of Change” discussed different studies of the project that affected people of major dams in India. The author stated that the majority of the displaced belong to the poorer and weaker section, especially tribal. The authors tried to find out what happened to the ousters of the major dams like Hirakud, Nagarjunasagar, Ukai, Pong, Baliraja and other dams in different states. But no specific and efficient national policy was there for the rehabilitation of these established people and when the policy was formulated no effort was made to rehabilitate them. The authors critically analyzed the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 and the Rehabilitation and resettlement policies of different States and the Centre.

Draze, Jean et. al. (1997) in their book “The Dam and The Nation: Displacement and Resettlement in the Narmada Valley” focused on the anti-dam movements and rehabilitation policy regarding the Sardar Sarovar Project spreading in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The evolution, history and struggle of Narmada Bachao Andolan and ARCH Vahini, the results of the study were authenticated with case studies of 2 villages namely Anjanvara and Manali. They explained issues related to the project and the impact of protests on rehabilitation and resettlement policies as well as tried to demonstrate the issues of tribal identity, quality of rehabilitation and resettlement package and human rights.

Satya narayana, G. (1999) had analyzed “Development: Displacement and Rehabilitation” analyzed the socio-economic, demographic and psychological impact of land acquisition of Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project. The aim of study is to identify those families that were affected by land acquisition and to examine their socio-economic conditions. The study found that after displacement, the landholding size has come down from four acres to less than one acre on an average per household due to land acquisition. The family disintegrated jumped after a sharp increase in the number of nuclear families and visible disparity in income and land. There was big jump in the income of upper caste people. The author further observed that most of the lower castes and classes still believe in witchcraft and sorcery as the cause of their ill-health and prefer traditional treatment for their diseases.

Jha, Praveen K. (2002) had described five volumes on “Land Reforms in India: Issues of Equity in Rural Madhya Pradesh, Vol. VII”. These volumes contained almost all the aspects of land acquisition. That is people’s experiences, compensation, movements, problems, land reforms, rehabilitation, forest policies and significance of land acquisition in tribal Madhya Pradesh.

Mohanty, B. (2005) analyzed the involuntary displacement of people in general and tribals in particular. He revealed that the tribals are displaced by a number of development projects like dams, mines, industries etc. Among these the dams are the biggest agent of displacement. He also discussed the adverse impact of displacement and deplorable arrangement of rehabilitation and resettlement. The author concluded that the state is not taking the tribal problems seriously. Moreover, the miserable condition of rehabilitation colonies added salt to their injuries.

P. Ajay (2007) has been studied that the land acquisition is the current issue in India. The land is acquired for the public purpose and compulsory land acquisition creates the problem so the study suggests that the non-compulsory land acquisition framework should be made. The delay in the land acquisition is the protests of the development. The framework of land acquisition by the private companies is not working in India and government policy is against to these type groups. The land is acquired for the public purpose and it is necessary for the development but the land acquisition should not be compulsory. The land owners have to the right to protest the land acquisition, so land should be acquired with the permission of the land owners not acquired forcibly by the government.

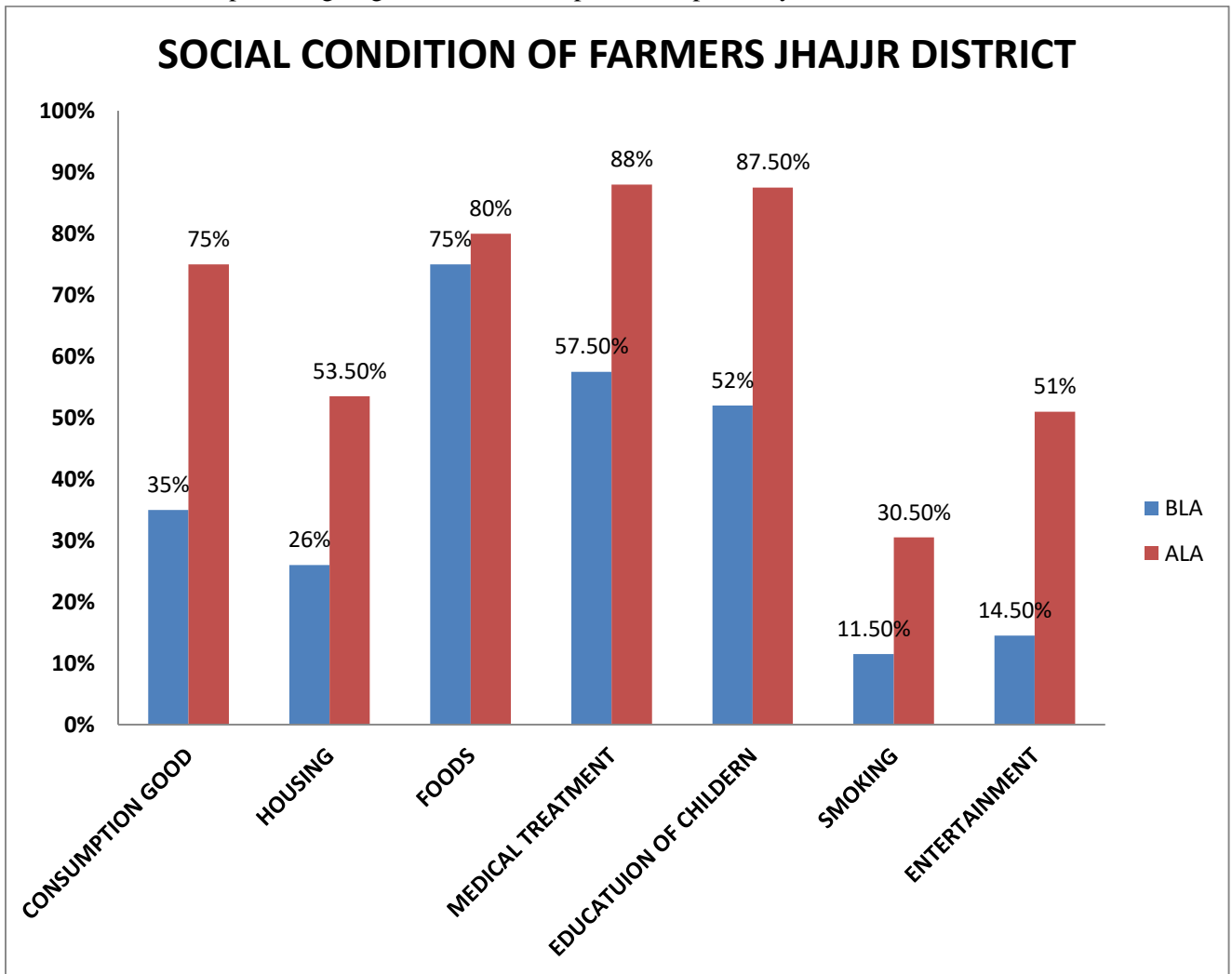
Prachvuthy (2011) elaborated the impacts of economic land concessions on the livelihoods of local communities in the northeast of Cambodia. Indigenous people had more negative than positive perceptions about concessions, 92 per cent of respondents had the view that these concessions had harmed their traditional livelihood and this concession had not brought any great economic benefit to their family members and community and that in fact. Only 20 percent respondents said that they were consulted and more than half of respondents were not satisfied with compensation amount. Only one-third jobs of companies were given to indigenous people, the other two thirds to in-migrant workers, who were challenging the indigenous way of life. Villagers employed on plantation were not happy with the wages or the working conditions of the concession Companies. Most respondents claimed they had lost land and forest for non-timber forest product to companies. These companies were also polluting water by using chemical pesticides. Due to loss of forest, climate had changed and rainfall had become more irregular. The economic benefits of concessions were in question because the companies were paying very low rental fee as compared to the local rental fee. But the Government officials identified positive economic impacts from concessions. Local people were unhappy with these concessions, as result their participation in development programming was decreased. With lack of natural resources and land, now it had become difficult to maintain livelihood.

Mosquera; Dr. Valderrama I. (2015) author discussed that some developing countries made the policy in favor of foreign investors because foreign investors want the certainty in investment. The author shows the condition foreign investors determined by regulatory framework. The paper focused on 17 countries of Africa. The author observed that facilities to the foreign investors must be given but it is the duty of the government to protect the rights of the land owners and fair compensation should be given. The land was acquired for foreign investors. The government should regulate the land acquisition policy in favor of

foreign investors as well as the land owners. The government of these 17 countries has made the policy of land acquisition in the favor of foreign investors. The farmers and land owners have not positively affected to the government’s policy. The foreign investors were required the land with the help of government on very cheap rate. The farmers have not got good compensation but the investors have got more benefits from the land. The government of these countries has taken the land only as floor rate that was determined by the government. The land owners have not got the compensation according to the market value of the land.

Social Conditions Changes Due To Land Acquisition

The data analyses shows the spent on personal purposes like consumer durables it has been observed that the percentage figures of the respondents has been changed from 35 to 75.5 percent, before and after the land acquisition periods respectively. In case of luxurious items before and after land acquisition situation which indicate their percentage figures as 07 and 11percent respectively.



Spending on construction of houses indicate its changing position from 5.5 to 39.5 percent, during before and after land acquisition periods. In case of renovate houses, it has been observed that the percentage figure were 20.5 and 14 percent respectively.

On food items which include milk products vegetables and fruits, include its changing position of milk product show a declining trend from 47.5 to 20 percent; indicate a negative growth of 27.5 percent before and after land acquisition periods. In case of fruits consumption the corresponding figures indicate 9 to 36 percent respectively, shows a growth of 25 percent. As far as spending on medical service is concerned, it has been observed that the situation of before and after land acquisition made considerable difference. However, the tendency of showing their patients to the government dispensaries has been declined by minus 23.5 percent. Quarrel situation indicate that the 45.5 percent of the respondent used to treat themselves from the government hospitals and subsequently the percentage has been reached up to 22 percent, by the farmers.

In case of change in treatment of diet related problem, that indicates 2.5 to 14.5 percent among the farmers. The corresponding figures of pre and post land acquisition periods have been changed from 52 to 87.5 percent for utilizing the money for promoting the education among the children. Similarly, the smoking habits have been change from 11 to 30.5 percent. Lastly, spending on entertainment shows their proportion from 14.5 to 51 percent. In this context, there have been considerable numbers of the farmers, who have spent this money on constructing their new houses, purchasing the food items and taking the good treatment for their parents and family members. It has been observed that the most of the farmers indicate their positive growth in almost items, except few which indicate decline trends, in accordance with social changes, which have been taken place after land acquisition periods, in the study areas.

Conclusion:

The land is regarded as a valuable resource because it provides a habitat for a diverse range of flora and fauna. Humans use it for a variety of purposes, including agriculture, forestry, mining, construction of houses and roads, and the establishment of industry. Land is a natural resource and of utmost importance. It supports natural vegetation, wildlife, human life, economic activities, and transport and communication systems. It is an asset of a finite magnitude. It is important to use the available land for different purposes with careful planning. When land acquired by different sectors then there is huge change in the social condition of farmers. The government should make a provision to provide jobs and source of income to those who have lost their permanent source of livelihood due to acquisition. The government should modify the policy because most of the land losers were not satisfied with the compensation as private companies were providing multiple amounts for the same land at the same time.

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