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LAND REFORMS POLICY IN HYDERABAD KARNATAKA REGION: AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT:

Land reforms can pave the way for creating economic holding through redistribution of land to small and marginal farmers. This will facilitate adoption of modern improved farming techniques. It includes reforms or improvements in the land tenure system as well as reforms in other institutions which are related to the land and its utilization such as consolidation of holdings, size of holdings, methods of farming and supply of agricultural credit etc. Access to land in an agriculture based rural economy is important because land is the primary means and instrument of agricultural production. The social distribution of land in a village economy determines the economic position and power relation between different social groups in the villages.



KEYWORDS: Land reforms, methods of farming and supply of agricultural credit.

INTRODUCTION:-

It is important in a village economy to distinguish land that is used for production purpose from land that is not directly used for agricultural production. Land used for income-bearing activities, for example, crop land, plantations and orchards, constitute productive agricultural land, while house-site land, fallow and barren lands are categories of land that are not generally used directly for regular crop production.

Thus the importance of land reforms becomes central to the agrarian structure. Supply of agricultural land being

inflexible, the title to land and its distribution has become a key issue of rural society and polity. The social objectives of land reforms are as important as its economic and political objectives.

Land reform has an angle other than cultivation purpose. The redistribution of land becomes a necessity often for development and manufacturing purposes too. This necessitates a proper land policy, which gives due importance to nature, development and sustainability. Deeper structural reforms will ensure that the exercise of land redistribution actually becomes meaningful, enabling small

farmers to turn their plots into productive assets. When every citizen of the country enjoys the benefits of ownership of land, it can lead to social and economic upliftment.

Land reforms in India usually refer to redistribution of land from the rich to the poor. Land reform is often connected with re-distribution of agricultural land and hence it is related with agrarian reforms too. Land reform includes regulation of ownership, operation, leasing, sales, and inheritance of land (indeed, the redistribution of land itself requires legal changes).

In any country, the basis of all

economic activities is the land. If we examine the history of India, though there are instances of considering land as a private property by individuals who had control over it, the practice of communities like that of tribal's with collective ownership of land stands out. Land like many other gifts of nature, were considered free for all by many communities who didn't bother fixing boundaries for private ownership. But the colonial rule by British saw a dramatic shift in the land ownership pattern of India. Land of many tribal/forest communities were seized by British cultivators and Zamindars, and land tax was widely collected through systems like Zamindari, Ryotwari or Mahalwari.

CONCEPT OF LAND REFORMS:

By the term 'land reforms', we mean reforms of institutional factors related to land. In order to raise the agricultural production and also increase the level of income and standard of living of the cultivators, institutional factors along with technical factors are playing an important role.

The terms of 'land reforms' has two different senses. In a narrow sense, land reforms are concerned with those reforms related to land ownership and land holdings. But in a broad sense, the term 'land reforms' is used to mean those measures of reforms necessary to raise agricultural productivity which include reforms relating to fixation of rent on land, abolition of intermediaries, credit and marketing arrangements etc.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Karnataka consists of four revenue divisions Viz. Mangalore, Belgaum, Gulbarga and Dharwad. North Karnataka is divided into two parts, Mumbai Karnataka and Hyderabad Karnataka. HK Region comprises of six districts, namely Gulbarga, Bidar, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal and Bellary districts. It was previously this region ruled by Hyderabad Nizam and therefore, it was historically backward region as far as developmental index is concerned. Today the term Hyderabad Karnataka is used to describe the backward region in Karnataka State. The reasons for backwardness are dry land farming and low or no distribution of land. Historically, districts of the Hyderabad Karnataka Region had the poorest implementation of land reforms policy and have remained feudal in their socio-economic structure. Therefore, Hyderabad Karnataka would be selected for evaluation of impact of land distribution policy on economic status of SC/ST households in Hyderabad Karnataka region.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of the paper are as follows:

- To examine the implementation of land reforms policy in Hyderabad Karnataka region.
- To study the economic status of Depressed Classes in H.K. Region.
- To know the problems faced by the beneficiaries of Depressed Classes
- To make suggestions for effective implementation of land distribution.

METHODOLOGY:

The present study employs the exploratory and descriptive research. The survey method has been used in this study. It is based on the primary as well as secondary data. The primary data will be collected from depressed Classes through the administering the questionnaire. The secondary data will be collected from published works. The present study will cover a period of six months. The various statistical tools such as ratio, average percentage, co-efficient, correlation and regression will be used for the analysis.

Data Source

Primary Data: The present study is mainly based on primary and secondary data. The primary data are collected from the depressed classes in the Hyderabad Karnataka backward Region. The data are collected by administering an interview schedule to the sample beneficiaries. *Secondary Data:* Secondary data have been gathered from the Government Reports, Books, Journals, Magazines and Research Reports etc.

Techniques of Data Collection: The survey method has been used for data collection from the small SC/ST farmers through direct canvass of the interview schedules. Thus, interview includes face to face meeting with purposive conversation. The discussion with depressed farmers was held to get information regarding the particular objectives of the study. Every farmer in the study region has been contacted and data collected on their problems and prospects.

Data Analysis:

The data collected was then coded, tabulated and analyzed. Cross tabulation of details obtained as well as multivariate tabular analysis have been performed in the study. Land reforms being a multi faceted phenomenon, involves many variables which affect the productivity status of households in HKR. These variables may be correlated to each other. The interrelationships among various factors are analyzed with the help of tabular analysis.

Period of the Study:

The present research study covers the period from March 2018 to September, 2018. At all India level the study period was from 1973-2018. However, uniform study period is not followed, mainly due to date constraints. For the indepth analysis of the working of the land reforms act in Hyderabad Karnataka Region survey period has been chosen from March 2018 to September 2018 for Gulbarga and Yadagir.

Coverage of the Study:

The present study is concentrating on the land reforms in Yadgir and Gulbarga districts of the Hyderabad Karnataka Region, covering 129 beneficiaries of Yadgir district and 129 beneficiaries of Gulbarga district. The sample size is determined on the basis of the total number of (Tahsildar Report) beneficiaries of land reforms in Hyderabad Karnataka Region. The study covers 258 beneficiaries out of 23994 beneficiaries.

Analysis and Discussion:

Present paper examines the conditions of life of Dalit households with respect to selected economic variables 2018 year in selected villages in Hyderabad Karnataka region. This paper deals with the economic situation of Dalit households in the study villages with respect to six major variables: 1) Education level, Occupation status, Annual Income, Annual Expenditure, Cost of cultivation, year of cultivating land, Cropping pattern, size of land holdings etc.,

Economic Factors:

Economic status is an important factor for the beneficiaries in the study region. If economic condition is good, the beneficiaries perform better and if economic condition is not good, the beneficiaries do not perform well. The utilization of existing resources is possible only in better economic condition. If not utilizing the resources in the society there will be no progress and no development. Hence, economic factors are very important for analyzing and understanding the beneficiary economic statuses. Economic factors like income, expenditure, acres of land, money spent, size and nature of land.

Table-1
Educational Status of Beneficiaries

Sl.No	Status of Education	Number of Beneficiaries	Percentage
1	Primary	28	10.9
2	Secondary	34	13.2
3	Illiterate	174	67.4
4	Literate	22	8.5
5	Total	258	100.0

Source: Field Survey

The table-1, depicts the educational status of land reforms Sc/ST beneficiaries. 67.4 percent of beneficiaries, family members were illiterate, 10.9 percent of family members had completed primary education and only 13.2 percent of family members had completed secondary education in study region. The education is distant dream for the rural people. The majority people are illiterate in the digital India.

Table-2
Occupational Status of Beneficiaries

Sl.No	Status of Occupation	Number of Beneficiaries	Percentage
1	Self Employed	34	13.2
2	Daily wage Earner	162	62.8
3	Annual wage Earner	32	12.4
4	Contractual wage Earner	30	11.6
5	Total	258	100.0

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows the occupational status of SC/ST beneficiaries in the study area. For example, 62.8 percent of beneficiaries were the daily wage earners. 13.2 percent of beneficiaries were self employed and only 11.6 percent of beneficiaries were contractual wage earners. All the sample beneficiaries were engaged in informal activities. There is no security for their work. The denial of 'equal wage for equal work' is still distant dream for the workers.

Table-3
Annual Income of Beneficiaries

Sl.No	Annual Income	Number of Beneficiaries	Percentage
1	20000-40000	36	14.0
2	40000-60000	146	56.6
3	60000-80000	42	16.3
4	80000 & above	34	13.2
5	Total	258	100.0

Source: Field Survey

It can be observed from the above table the annual income of farmer beneficiaries in study area. There are 56.6 percent of beneficiaries who belong to income group of Rs. 40,000-60,000 range. And 16.3 percent of beneficiaries are under below income range of Rs. 60,000-80,000. Majority of beneficiaries come under low income group (LIG). Therefore, the Government will be implementing the policy of Universal Basic Income (UBI) to poverty ridden people.

Table-4
Annual Expenditure of Beneficiaries

Sl.No	Annual Expenditure	Number of Beneficiaries	Percentage
1	10000-20000	38	14.7
2	20000-30000	152	58.9
3	30000-40000	38	14.7
4	40000 & Above	30	11.6
5	Total	258	100.0

Source: Field Survey

As given in Table-4, there are 58.9 percent of sample beneficiaries who belong to the expenditure group of Rs. 20,000-30,000, and 14.7 percent of beneficiaries belong to the expenditure range of Rs. 30,000-40,000. Sample beneficiaries have no savings and only expenditure.

Table-5
How many Years of Cultivating land as farmers

Sl.No	Years of Cultivating	Number of Farmers	Percentage
1	15-20	40	15.5
2	20-25	162	62.8
3	25-30	38	14.7
4	30 & Above	18	7.0
5	Total	258	100.0

Source: Field Survey

The above table-5, displays information about how many years the farmers have been cultivating land. There are 62.8 percent of sample beneficiaries who are cultivating since 20 to 25 years. But 7.0 percent of sample farmers are cultivating since 30 years and above.

Table-6
Size of Land got under the Land Reforms Act

Sl.No	Acres of Land Under LRA	Number of Farmers	Percentage
1	2-4	42	16.3
2	4-6	138	53.5
3	6-8	48	18.6
4	8 & Above	30	11.6
5	Total	258	100.0

Source: Field Survey

It can be seen from the above table-6, the size of the land farmers got under the land reforms act. There are 53.5 percent of beneficiaries who got land of 4-6 acres under the land reforms Act. And 16.3 percent families have got land of 2-4 acres. The majority beneficiaries are small and marginal farmers in study region.

Table-7
Money Spent for Getting the Land

Sl.No	Money spent for getting Land (In Rs.)	Number of Farmers	Percentage
1	2000-4000	156	60.5
2	4000-6000	38	14.7
3	6000-8000	28	10.9
4	8000 & Above	36	14.0
5	Total	258	100.0

Source: Field Survey

It can be seen from the above table how money was spent for getting the land under the land reforms act. There are 60.5 percent of sample beneficiaries who have spent amount of Rs. 2000-40,000 for getting the land and 14.7 percent of beneficiaries who have spent the amount of Rs. 4000-6000 for getting the land from the government.

Table-8
Types of Cropping Pattern

Sl.No	Cropping Pattern	Number of Farmers	Percentage
1	Food Crop	124	48.1
2	Commercial Crop	94	36.4
3	Others Crop	40	15.5
4	Total	258	100.0

Source: Field Survey

It can be seen from the above table the types of cropping patterns practiced in study region. There are 48.1 percent of beneficiaries who grow food crops and 36.4 percent of beneficiaries who grow commercial crop. The majority of beneficiary farmers grow crops for their consumption purpose only.

Table-9
Cost of Cultivation for Land (Per Acre in Rs.)

Sl.No	Cost (Per acre in Rs.)	Cropping Pattern	No. of Farmers	Percentage
1	10000-15000	Dry Land	74	28.7
2	15000-20000	Wet Land	160	62.0
3	20000-30000	Others(Both)	24	09.3
4		Total	258	100.0

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows the cost of cultivation for land. There are 62 percent of beneficiaries who said the cost of cultivation of wet land was high but 28.7 percent of beneficiaries said cost of cultivation was low. There is wide variation of cost of cultivation of land in study region.

RESULTS:

- 67.4 percent of sample beneficiaries' family members were illiterate. The educational level of SC/STs in this region is very low.
- 56.6 percent of SC/ST beneficiaries come under the income group of Rs. 40,000-60,000 per annum. The income of beneficiaries is below subsistence level.
- 64.3 percent of SC/ST sample beneficiaries have got land under the tenancy act.
- 53.5 percent of beneficiaries have got only 4-6 acres of land under the land reforms act. Majority of SC/ST farmers are small and marginal farmers in the study region.
- 47.3 percent of beneficiaries have dry land where only single crop is grown.
- 59.7 percent of beneficiaries have got land under the land reforms act which is low fertile and uncultivable.

The Problems:

Poverty alleviation programme being one of the main goals of our planning process has been implemented in a bewildering variety of ways. Both centre and the state governments have been active in taking up the cause of poor in enabling them to lead a minimum standard of living. There have been general as well a specific schemes formulated in this respect. An attempt has been made to address the problems of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes with special and due care as they have been historically – socially and economically – the worst affected sections of the Indian society. Therefore, ever since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan, these sections have been given special consideration in empowerment and poverty alleviation programmes. The President of constituent assembly, Dr.Rajendra Prasad has declared that, 'to all we give the assurance that it will be our endeavour to end poverty and eradicate the economic inequality that exists in the Indian society.

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Land reform is one of the powerful revolution in India after the independence for upliftment of marginal farmers. Its works are also considered essential as they provide social justice to millions of cultivators. The land policy that changes tenurial relations in favour of the actual tiller means that the cultivator/small farmer is assured of getting the fruits of his labour and equality of income and wealth. Furthermore, the consolidation of scattered holdings will help to raise the income of the cultivator. Land reforms continue to be main development strategy to deal with the problems of growth and equity. The possession of land gives status, stability and determines their standard of living and reduces the economic inequality in rural areas in the Karnataka. Land is the base of Karnataka economy. The close link between poverty and landlessness has been continuously discussed in Karnataka political arena since formation of State, with rural land reforms being placed high in the policy agenda.

Tenancy reforms in Karnataka have not been a substantive in the skewed land distribution pattern in the State, and the surplus area distribution to the landless has been rather small. Further reforms are needed, especially with regard to updating the records of rights to determine landholding pattern and identifying surplus lands. In this paper, I have tried to describe and analyze how public action helped to advance the economic security of Dalit agricultural farmers in HKR. Specifically, the paper examines economic changes in the villages of Hyderabad Karnataka.

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