IMPACT OF SMALL LAND HOLDINGS ON RURAL ECONOMY IN NANDURBAR DISTRICT

Uttam V. Nile   Bhavsar Sandip S.

Abstract

Land has a fundamental importance in rural India. The incidence of poverty is highly correlated with lack of access to land, although the direction of causality in this relationshipis not clear. Households that depend on agricultural wage labour account for less than a third of allrural households but make up almost half of those living below the poverty line.Many of these households also own some land, but in holdings that are so small or unproductivethat their owners derive a greater share of their livelihoods from their own labor than from theirown land. Land plays a dual role in rural India aside from its value as a productive factor, landownership confers collateral in credit markets, security in the event of natural hazards or lifecontingencies, and social status. The average size of land holdings of small and marginal farmers in the study region is so low that cannot general adequate employment and income for their sustenance. The study presented here is an critical study the small land holdings and its effect on rural economy.

Keywords: Agriculture area, Undulating topography, Land Holdings,Rural economy,

Introdution:-

The Indian agriculture is characterized by millions of marginal and small farmers forming the backbone of its agriculture who face several constraints including landlessness, small land holdings, facing difficulties to operate the high risk of farming and declining agricultural productivity. Small and marginal farmers are generally poor (Mavi and Kaur, 2014) due to low yield from small holdings (Thapa and Gaiha, 2011).

The increase in population, subdivision and fragmentation of land holdings due to breakdown of joint family system encouraging conversion of large and medium group of farmers into group of small and marginal farmers, which result in un –economic land holdings in general and the rainfed areas(Singh, 2012).
However, the future of sustainable agriculture growth and food security in India depends on the performance of small and marginal farmers. Small holdings play important role in raising agricultural development and poverty reduction. Due to undulating slop, low soil fertility, harsh climate and use of traditional implements and farm practices the agriculture not only contributes to overall growth of the economy but also reduces poverty by providing employment and food security to the majority of the population in the country and thus it is the most inclusive growth sectors of the Indian economy (Dev, 2012).

Borah (2010) summaries that among different income sources primary sector which involve agriculture and its allied activities are highest to the total income and is very low due to low returns from this sector.

Serious steps should be taken to create employment avenues for small holders outside agriculture, but within the countryside so that the workforce in small farms gets work and income from rural non farm activities without leaving the farms (Chandel al.,2011).

The lives of small land holding families can be improved only by improving their agricultural fields so that there would be increase in productivity and by promoting non farm rural employment like small scale industries, dairy farming etc. Agriculture contributes to poverty reduction because it provides employment to the poor, who have also generally low skills and education, as well as

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supporting the growth of non agricultural employment in rural areas (Grewal et al., 2012).
Mishra, (1992) concluded that land resources constitute the fundamental base for the human activities. It is most important natural resource of a country like India, where agricultural sector is relatively more prominent than the manufacturing sector. The way and the extent to which the land is utilized sets the pace of a region's economic development.

Husain, (1982) shows that Land is one of the most important resource of any region. When man uses the land it is called land use and its type of distribution panorama is called land use pattern. The land resources have always played a significant role since the largest proportion of the inhabitants of the world live in fertile soil region.

Nandurbar region as a part of Satpura mountain ranges and that of Tapi valley.Tapi valley represents a rich agricultural region. The regional economy is dominated by agriculture and allied activities and is the most important source of employment as well as of revenue. It holds an important place in the economic life of the rural as well as tribal people in the region. Beside that the agriculture plays an important role in supporting the agro-based industries i.e. three sugar mills, two cotton mills and a starch factory in the region. Agro coal producing factory and various food processing factories depend on agricultural produces.

Till this date, several scholars have attempted to carry out field based investigations and researches to analyze the spatio-temporal dimensions of small land holdings and rural economy from micro level to macro level adopting interdisciplinary approaches. Significant contributions have been made by Mishra and Biswas (1973) on the farmer's preference in the adoption of agricultural innovation. Patel (1974) explain how the changes in land utilization have emerged as the main problem in the tribal areas of India. Nadkarni (1990) find out the ecological problems of agricultural development. Mitra (1977) elucidate development problems of tribal agriculture in India. Shukla (1998) examines the role of electrification in agricultural transformation. Bedi (1982) attempted to study post independence transformation of rural landscape. Vishwakarma (2003) explain transformation of agriculture and its impact in rural development. Patel (1982) listed diffusion of new agricultural technology and the transformation of traditional agrarian relations.

Beside that Mikhrji (1977), Mishra and Shukla (1989), Nicholls (1970), Cousens (1967), Eder (1969), Jain (1993), Barara (1985), Banergy (1964), Bhattacharya (1970), Girase (2000), Raymane (2001), Singh (1971), Shukla (1993), Sohal (2006), Solanki (1987), Singh (2007), Singh (1979) and Thomas (1975) attempted to study on various aspects of agricultural landholding.

STUDY AREA:

Astronomically Nandurbar district extends between 210 0' to 220 03' north latitude and 73047' to 74047' east longitude. Nandurbar district lies in the north western part of Maharashtra. Nandurbar district was created with bifurcation of Dhule district on 1st July, 1998. According to 2011 census Nandurbar district accommodates 16,48,295 people with 69.28 percent of scheduled tribal population, which ranks first in the state with 39 tribal groups being accommodated in various tahasils of the region.

The Nandurbar district with a geographical area of 5034.23 sq.km. hasa amorphous shape. Out of geographical area, about 32 percent of land is under non agricultural usage i.e. forest, land under non-agricultural use, cultivable waste, permanent pasture and miscellaneous trees and groves. About 5 percent land is as current and other fallow and about 58 percent of land is sown. Thus, altogether about 23 percent of land is available in the form of cultivable waste, permanent pastures cropping intensity of the district is 94.29 percent, which is marginally lower than the state average (127.9 percent).

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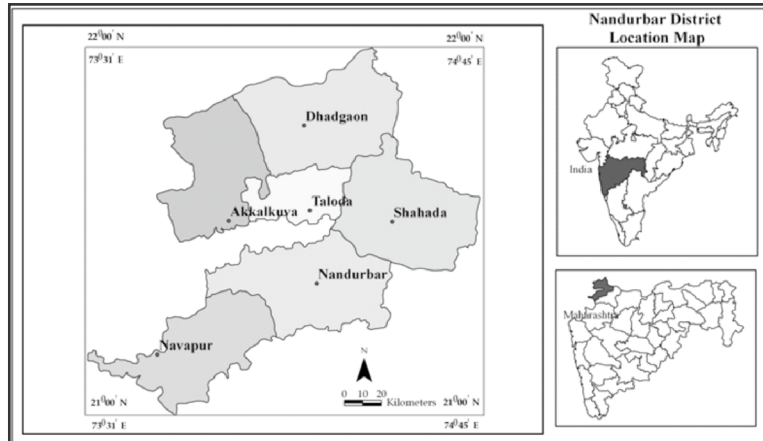
Objectives
1)	To study the spatial distribution of small land holders in the study region.
2)	To find out impact of small land holdings on rural economy in the study region.
3)	To analyze factors affecting on small land holdings.
4)	To gauge the impact of small land holdings on rural economy.

Data base and methodoogy:

The study is based upon the secondary data as well as the primary data through village and household questionnaire designed for the purpose. The geographical study for a specific 22 villages is selected as Sample villages have been selected by stratified area sampling method andfor household respondent's random sampling methods.The collected data has been processed and analyzed by using different quantitative, statistical technique.

Table No. 1.1

NandurbarDistrict : Composition of Households owning Agricultural Land

| S. No.	Sample Villages	Landless Families	Families Owning Land	Size of land holdings (Hectares)				
				Below 1.00	1.00 to 2.00	2.00 to 4.00	4.00 to 6.00	Above 6.00
1.	Amalpada	31.00	69.00	61.50	30.80	7.70	-	-
2.	Ambabari	33.50	66.50	56.00	34.00	10.00	-	-
3.	Chakle	47.40	52.60	60.00	30.00	5.00	5.00	-
4.	Dhanora	60.50	39.50	45.50	32.50	12.50	6.00	4.00
5.	Jugani	45.00	55.00	63.80	36.20	-	-	-
6.	Kataskhai	15.00	85.00	61.20	38.80	-	-	-
7.	Khuntagavan	30.00	70.00	64.50	35.50	-	-	-
8.	Khushgavan	12.00	88.00	55.00	31.50	13.50	-	-
9.	Kukawal	40.50	59.50	8.50	45.0	32.50	8.00	6.00
10.	Lakhapur	38.00	62.00	40.00	25.00	16.00	6.50	2.50
11.	Mahukhadi	35.00	65.00	52.00	42.0	6.00	-	-
12.	Maloni	56.50	43.50	-	28.00	37.50	18.00	16.50
13.	Manmodya	48.00	52.00	44.00	36.00	15.00	4.00	1.00
14.	Mhasawad	61.50	38.50	12.00	15.00	23.50	23.50	26.00
15.	Mundalwad	24.60	75.40	54.80	31.00	14.20	-	-
16.	Nimboni B.K.	58.50	41.50	40.00	25.00	30.00	-	5.00
17.	Patonda	46.40	53.60	-	16.00	50.00	18.50	15.50
18.	Payarvihir	59.00	41.00	62.00	38.0	-	-	-
19.	Pimpale	53.00	47.00	25.50	46.50	28.00	-	-
20.	Rozave plot	16.60	83.40	62.50	37.50	-	-	-
21.	Shehi	47.60	52.40	53.00	30.50	9.50	7.00	-
22.	Tembhe B.K.	26.80	73.20	27.00	29.00	16.50	12.50	15.00
	Total Region	**46.75**	**53.25**	**42.50**	**30.00**	**13.00**	**7.50**	**7.00**

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Source :Based on Household Questionnaire.

   In the study region researcher noticed that the spatial distribution of land holding is uneven. There is found large variation. Table no. 1.1 Clearly shows that 46.75 per cent households in the study region are landless and most of them belong to scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. Highest landless families are concentrating in the Mhasawad sample village with 61.5 per cent, followed by Dhanora, Payrvihir, Nimboni B.K., Maloni, Pimpale, Manmodya, Shehi and Chakle with 60.5, 59.0, 58.5, 56.5, 53.0, 48.0, 47.6 and 47.4 per cent respectively. In eleven sample villages the proportion of landless Families ranges from 11.6 to 46.4 per cent. In Khushgavan and Kataskhai sample villages the proportion of landless families varies from 12.0 and 15.0 per cent only.
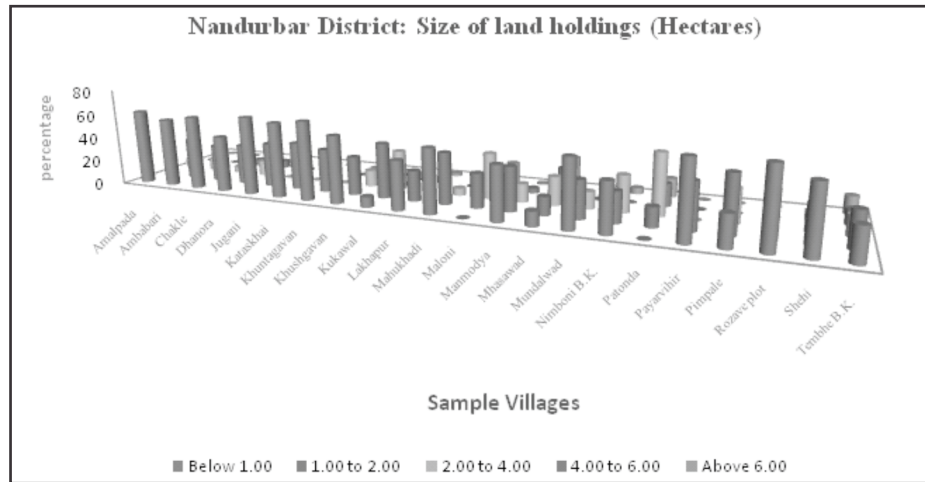
   Generally in tribal villages the proportion of landless families is comparatively low. Most of the families in these villages have a own land. But the land holding is very low. Hence the proportion of marginal farmers is very high. Due to the prevailing tradition gradually agricultural land is fragmented and the proportion of same landholdings is increasing day by day. In Khushgavan, Kataskhai, Rozave plot, Mundalwad and Khuntagavan sample villages the proportion of landless families is comparatively low, but the proportion of landholding less than 1.00 hectares is very high.

   42.5 per cent landholders in the region belong to the category of marginal farmers and most of the cases the size of their landholdings is less than 1.00 hectares. 30.0 per cent landholders belong to category of small farmers and the size of landholdings varies from 1.00 to 2.00 hectares. About 13.0 per cent landholders belong to the category of lower medium farmers with the landholdings of 2.00 to 4.00 hectares, while 7.5 per cent landholders belong to upper medium farmers category having landholdings of above 6.00 hectares. It has been recorded that among the 22 sample villages not a single family belongs to scheduled caste and/or scheduled tribes owns the agricultural land 6.00 hectares or more.

Nandurbar District : Composition of Households owning Agricultural Land
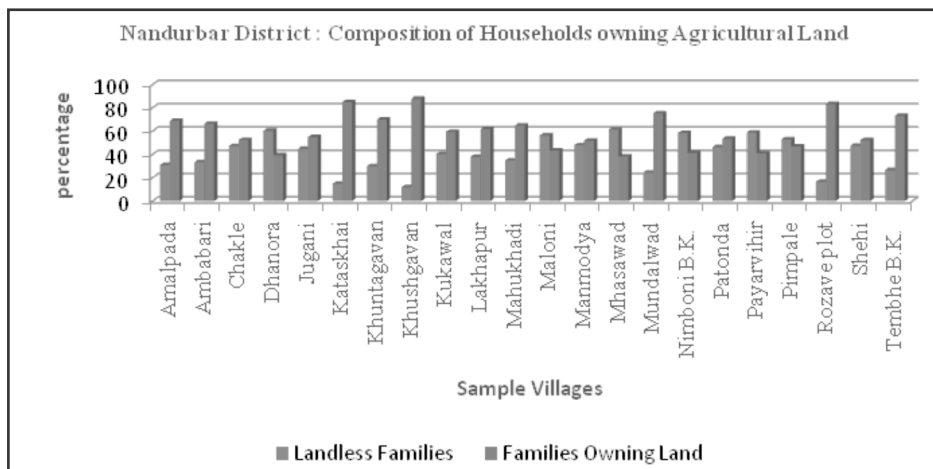
   The landholdings with 4.00 to 6.00 hectares account for about 61.0 per cent farmers mainly belong to OBC category. Only 20.5 per cent families of this (landholding) group belongs to general category. While 14.5 per cent families belong to scheduled caste category and only 4.00 per cent families belongs to category of scheduled tribes.

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Nandurbar District: Size of land holdings (Hectares)

■ Below 1.00   ■ 1.00 to 2.00   ■ 2.00 to 4.00   ■ 4.00 to 6.00   ■ Above 6.00

Khuntagavan sample village ranks first with 64.5 per cent and landowns belongs to marginal farmers category with below 1.00 hectares, followed by Jugani, Rozave plot, Payarvihir, Amalpada, Kataskhai and Chakle villages with 63.8, 62.5, 62.0, 61.5, 61.2 and 60.0 per cent respectively. In about 50.0 per cent sample villages the proportion of marginal farmers varies from 25.5 to 56.0 per cent. While in Kukawal and Mhasawad villages the proportion of marginal farmers is 8.5 and 12.0 per cent. While in Maloni and Mhasawad sample villages not single households belongs to the category of marginal farmers.

Pimpale sample village occupies first place with 46.5 per cent landowners belong to the category of small farmers with 1.00 to 2.00 hectares, followed by Kukawal, Mahukhadi, Kataskhai, Payravihir, Rozave Plot, Jugani and Manmodya with 45.0, 42.0, 38.8, 38.0, 37.50, 36.2 and 36.0 per cent respectively. While in twelve sample villages the proportion of small farmers ranges from 25.0 to 35.5 per cent. While in the remaining two sample villages Mhasawad and Patonda the proportion is 15.0 and 16.0 per cent respectively.

About 13.0 per cent landowners belong to the category of lower medium farmers with the landholdings of 2.00 to 4.00 hectrares. Highest proportion of this group is concentrated in Patonda with 50.0 per cent followed by Maloni, Kukawal, Nimboni B.K., Pimpale and Mhasawad with 37.5, 32.5, 30.0, 28.0 and 23.5 per cent respectively. In about 50.0 per cent sample villages the proportion of this group ranges from 5.0 to 16.5 per cent. While in Jugani, Kataskhai, Khuntagavan, Payarvihir and Rozave Plot villages not a single family belongs to this group as most of these are economically backward and are known for tribal dominance.

7.5 per cent landowners belong to upper medium category of farmers with the landholdings of 4.00 to 6.00 hectares. Mhasawad ranks first with 23.5 per cent farmers belong to this category followed by Patonda, Maloni and Tembhe B.K. villages with 18.5, 18.0 and 12.5 per cent respectively. While Kukawal, Shehi, Lakhapur, Dhanora, Chakle and Manmodya villages with 8.0, 7.0, 6.5, 6.0, 5.0 and 4.0 per cent respectively. In twelve sample villages not a single family was found from this group.

Only 7.0 per cent belongs to the category of big farmers with the landholdings of above 6.00 hectares. Mhasawad sample village ranks first with 26.0 per cent of total landowners holders are big farmers followed by Maloni, Patonda and Tembhe B.K. villages with 16.5, 15.5 and 15.0 per cent respectively, while in Kukawal, Nimboni B.K., Dhanora, Lakhapur and Manmodya villages the share of

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households of 6.0, 5.0, 4.0, 2.5 and 1.0 per cent respectively. In remaining thirteen villages not a single family of this group was found. Mhasawad, Maloni, Patonda and Tembhe B.K. sample villages most of the respondents are economicallydeveloped that is why hence the ratio of big farmers is high. On the other hand in the economicallybackward villages the proportion of the big farmers is practically zero. The average size of land holdings of small and marginal farmers in the study region is so low that cannot generate adequate employment and income for their sustenance. In addition to this, farmers also use only traditional technology having local, low yielding plant varieties and low value subsistence agriculture which further enhances the problem. Although these have undertaken other farm and non farm activities like horticulture, handloom, industry, animal husbandry, etc due to their poor financial conditions have not improved agriculture. The small land holders suffer from pathetic economic condition.

Small farmers suffer from adoption of innovative technologies, inadequate access to physical inputs and credit, disguised unemployment, food and nutritional security, price risk and low income. The small size farmer not suitable and profitable for advanced technology and for adoption of modern tools. As a result their livelihood security is at stake and ultimately they suffer from poverty. Since most of their income source is related to primary sector and that too from marginal land holdings so they suffer from poor annual income. Hence farmers are inclined towards suicide.

Conclusions

The researcher found that there is close relationship between small land holdings and pathetic economic condition in the Nandurbar district. Northern part of the district occupies the satpura mountain ranges. In the satpura ranges 90.00 percent population belonging from tribal communities. In these tribal villages the proportion of small landholders below than 1.00 hectare is very. About 61 to 64.50 percent farmers owned the land holdings below 1.00 hectare. Due to the parental land ownership, fragmentation of joint families, fast growing population and economic loss in agriculture the land holding rapidly declined. The small place of agricultural land is not profitable for cultivation and income. Hence the small land holding is adversely affected on rural economy in the study region.

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