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Land Selling Scenario of Person Leaving Agriculture in Nayagarh District of Odisha

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Aim: Land being the most important consideration in the social status in the rural areas, selling of them is considered as bad signs in India. Many times, it is observed that farmers were compelled to sell their lands due to many reasons. Depeasantisation is one of them. In the current paper the land selling scenario of the Depeasantised persons is analysed.

Study Design and Place of Study: An Ex-post-Facto study has been conducted in Nayagarh District of Odisha, which is one of the peri-urban districts of the Capital city of Odisha.

Methodology: A total of 280 number of Depeasantised persons were selected randomly from 5 blocks out of 8 blocks of the district for the study. A structured interview schedule was prepared for collecting the data from the respondents. With proper statistical tools the data was analysed and interpreted for the result. The proportion of respondents sold land, category of farmers who sold land, the reason of land selling, and the persons to whom the land sold was found out during the investigation.

Result: Almost half of the depeasantised persons have sold their lands, all of them have sold a portion of their lands only. More than 85 percent of the respondents belonged to the marginal farmer category who had sold their lands. Debt repayment was the primary factor for selling of land in the study area. Most of the depeasantised persons more than 60 percent had sold their lands to landlords and other moneyed persons.

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Conclusion: To safeguard the interest of the farmers and to prevent the land selling of the small and marginal farmers government should have more focused approach to solve this issue.

Keywords: Category of farmers; depeasantisation; land selling; reason of land sell; social status.

1. INTRODUCTION

Land not only poses as the most important factor of Agriculture but also acts as a vital consideration for social status in the rural India. Oleksandr Reznik [1] opined that land possession in the post-communist society along with marks the social stratification along with the indication of social status of individual in the society. The land owners in the society enjoy a special position in the society. Shigeto Kawano in his literature indicates that how land possession is very important in South East Asian countries and the land loss in the form of land selling is considered as degradation in the social status. Nidhi Nath Srinivas says that the need of money for family requirement is the main reason in India which compels farmers to sell their lands. She further adds that distress sell, urgent need to cater the unavoidable expenses put the farmers in stress and they are forced to sell their lands. Sukhpal Singh and Shruti Bhogal [2] reported that high debt burden was a reason which forced appreciable portion of their respondents to sell their land; as a result, they left farming. They noted that land sell is the one of the factors of the depeasantisation in their study. Depeasantisation in the study has been operationalised as the erosion of agrarian way of living. Which means when a person earlier associated to agriculture leaves agriculture as livelihood and adopts other livelihood methods it is called as depeasantisation [3,4].

In the current study it has also been observed that appreciable hand holding was lost due to land selling in the study area due to the process of depeasantisation in the study area. Some respondents have sold prior leaving agriculture and some have sold after leaving farming. But appreciable proportion of depeasantised persons have sold their land in the study area during the time of the study. In the further details it was also analysed in the study that which category of farmers have sold land, what are the reasons behind their land selling, and whom the land sold to.

2. METHODOLOGY

An Ex-post-Facto study has been conducted in Nayagarh District of Odisha. When the

researcher has no control over the process and it has already been occurred it is known as Ex-Post-Facto Research Design. Being an important agricultural important district of the state study of Depeasantisation is very important and as a peri-urban district value of land is very high in the district. Nayagarh being an agricultural important district of the state, agricultural studies are very important. Further being a peri-urban District of the capital city Bhubaneswar, appreciable number of cases of Depeasantisation and land selling was observed in the recent days. The land sold scenario was very concerning aspect to study. For this a total of 280 number of Depeasantised persons were selected randomly from 5 blocks out of 8 blocks of the district for the study. A structured interview schedule was prepared for collecting the data from the respondents. After data was collected statistical tools like average, mean, standard deviation, frequency and percentage was used for interpretation of the result.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After analysing the data collected from interviewing the respondents with the help of the schedule, following observations were noted and presented.

3.1 Land Sold Scenario of the Depeasantised Persons

Data was collected by asking the respondents in the study area were the respondents sold their land in the process of depeasantisation. The number of respondents obtained were calculated for the total percentage of respondents sold their land. The frequency and percentage hence obtained were put in the table below and the pie-chart is obtained.

It is evident from the above table and graph that out of the 280 respondents (Depeasantised persons in the study area) 129 respondents had sold their lands at the time of data collection which accounted for 46.08 percent of the total respondents. The other 151 respondents (53.92%) had not sold their lands in the study area even though they had got depeasantised.

Table 1. Land sold scenario of the depeasantised persons

Land sell status	Frequency	Percentage
No sale	151	53.92
Sold land	129	46.08
Total	280	100

3.2 Amount of Land Sold

After knowing the number of respondents sold their land it was determined that how many of the respondents had sold their whole land amount and how many have sold their partial land. After the analysis of the complete or partial land sold the average land sold was calculated. Then the result was put in the following table.

From the above table it is clear that out of the 129 depeasantised person who have sold land in the study area had sold only a portion of their land holding. No respondents have sold whole of their lands. That means 100 percent of the respondents had partial land sold scenario in the study area. It was further analysed that the

average land selling by the depeasantised persons in the study area 1.3 Acres.

Now it is a big question before the researcher that who were those farmers who had sold their land. It was necessary to know the category of farmer who sold their land during the process of depeasantisation in the study area.

3.3 Category of Farmers Sold their Land

The land selling in the study area was compared with the amount of land possession of the respondents. It shows how many of marginal, small, medium, large farmers have sold their land. The results were presented in the table and graphas following.

It was clear form the above table and graph that out of the total 129 depeasantised respondents from the study area most of the respondents (85.27%) belonged to marginal category. A small portion (14.73%) of respondents were belong to the small farmers' category. None of the respondents who sold their lands belonged to semi-medium, medium and large category.

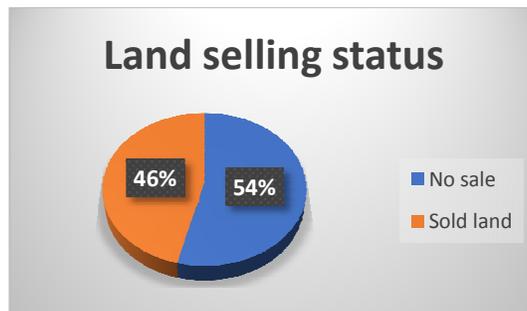


Fig. 1. Pie chart showing land selling status

Table 2. land sold ratio

Land sold	Frequency	Percentage	Average land sold (in Acre)
Partial land sold	129	100	1.3
Complete land sold	0	0	-

N=129

Table 3. Category of farmers sold their land

Type of farmer sold land	Frequency	Percentage
Marginal	110	85.27
Small	19	14.73
Semi-medium	0	0.00
Medium	0	0.00
Large	0	0.00
Total	129	100.00

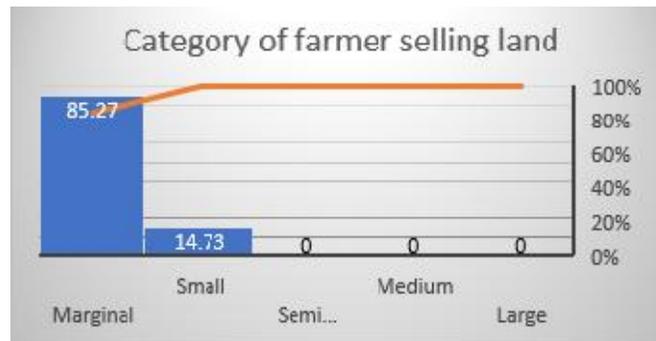


Fig. 2. Farmer selling land

Table 4. Reason for land sold

Land selling Reason	Frequency	Percentage
Health need	18	13.9
Social need	39	30.3
Debt repayment	64	49.6
Urgent money requirement	8	6.2
Total	129	100

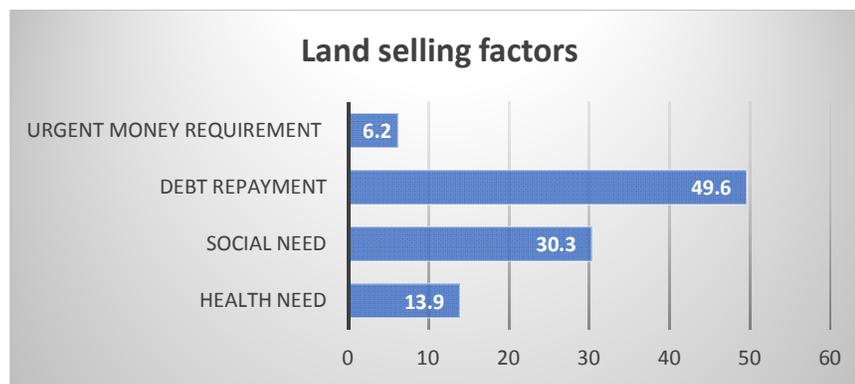


Fig. 3. Land selling factors

This clearly indicates that the farmers who sold their land was due to resource constraints. To study the reason for the land sold the researcher has given efforts to analyse the factors responsible for land selling of the respondents.

3.4 Reason for Land Sold

To study the factors responsible for the land selling in the study area, the respondents were asked open ended questions and the response was noted. All the reasons pronounced by the respondents listed and analysed and presented in the following table and graph.

From the above analysis it is very much evident that most of the depeasantised person (49.6%) in

the study area sold their land to have money for their debt repayment followed by 30.3 percent of respondents sold their land to meet their social need like marriage, deaths, education of their children, etc. 13.9 percentage of the respondent sold their land in the study area to meet the health need of them and their family members and only 6.2 percent sold to meet urgent money need of their families. For this result we can conclude that debt repayment may be one of the most important factors for depeasantisation in the study area.

After knowing the factor responsible for the land sold in the study area, the researcher was very much interested to study the persons to whom the land was sold by the depeasantised persons.



Fig. 4. Land selling ratio

Table 5. Land frequency

Land sold to	Frequency	Percentage
Other farmer	37	28.7
Landlord	44	34.1
Moneyed person	43	33.3
Builders	5	3.9
Total	129	100

3.5 Whom Land was sold

It was very much necessary to know the persons to whom the land in the study area were sold. So, in the interview schedule an open-ended question was put asking the respondents to whom they had sold their land to. The response obtained hence was listed and analysed in the following manner.

Above table and graph reveal that majority of the respondents (34.1%) sold their land to landlords. It may be due the fact that the primary reason of land selling in the study area was debt repayment. A total of 33.3 percent of the depeasantised persons had sold their land to other monied persons. Same debt repayment might be the reason for this factor. Following to it 28.7 percentage of respondents had sold their land to other farmers and only 3.9 percent had sold their lands to builders.

4. CONCLUSION

Farmers are the backbone of agrarian economy like India. The erosion of number of farmers in the society is not a good sign for the growth and development of the nation. Hence,

depeasantisation is not in the favour of agrarian economy. Father, when depeasantised person when the sell their land it indicates that the person who have left agriculture as their way of livelihood are unwilling to return to agriculture in the days to come. In the current study mostly half of the depeasantised persons (46.08%) sold their lands. Though all the persons sold a portion of their lands but most of them (85.3%) belong to marginal category, who don't have the purchasing power of lands. That means once they lost their land means they lost it permanently. Most of them have sold it to either landlords or to moneyed persons from whom it is very difficult to get back their lands. This reveals that the depeasantisation in the study area is permanent in nature. If an agrarian economy will lose these farming community from the society, it is very difficult for that economy to sustain and achieve food security. So, the society and our government have to be very careful for this conversion. More plan and policies should be developed for safeguard the interest of the farming community so that the forced land sell can be prevented. To solve this issue new plan and policies must be introduced in favour of the existing farming communities so that they will be benefited out of agricultural occupation. More focus should be given towards farmers' income

so that the urgent money need can be catered. If financial assistance is readily available to farmers they will be less interested to sell their lands.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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