LANDHOLDING PATTERN OF DALITS IN ANDHRA PRADESH AND TELANGANA

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ABSTRACT *In this paper, the various land related issues (pertaining to SC households) in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana will be discussed. Issues like category of land held, extent of land held without titles, extent of landlessness, and the SC households owning land (less than 1 acre, between 1 to 2.5 acres, between 2.5 to 5 acres and more than 5 acres) will be examined in some detail.*

Keywords: *Landholding among Scheduled Castes, extent of land without titles, extent of landlessness and the SC households owning land*

Introduction

The landholding structure in rural India is quite complex since it gas to factor in issues like rights, obligations, customs, and regulations. Through the macro level analysis may be able to provide a broad framework for understanding the problem, it may not be able to incorporate many other complex issues associated with the ownership, control and uses of land by the Scheduled Castes. This is largely due to lack of sufficient and meaningful data on the subject.

Methodology and data sources

The data used in this paper has been collected from secondary sources. The secondary data will include: Land Wing, SERP, Hyderabad. Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Report on SC/ST Landholdings, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of AP.2000-01 and 2005-06. And Report on Agricultural Census of Andhra Pradesh, 1980-81 to 2000-2001, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt of AP, and Agricultural Census, 2011

Landholdings –Category Wise

The major categories of land being held by the SC households in the two states are: (i) Assigned Lands, (ii) Bhoodan Lands, (iii) 'Ceiling-Surplus' Lands, (iv) CJFS Lands, (v) Endowment Lands, (vi) Forest Lands, (vii) Government Lands, (viii) Inam Lands, (ix) Patta Lands, and (x) Wakf Lands. The Table below depicts the landholding (including the average per household) for each of these categories of land.

Table 1: Landholding among Scheduled Castes - category wise in the two states

S. No	Category of land	Land with title		
		SC		
		HH	Extent (in acres)	Average landholding per household (in acres)
Andhra Pradesh				
1	Assigned Lands	126158	238,072.80	1.89
2	Bhoodan Lands	419	872.07	2.08
3	'Ceiling-Surplus' Lands	4550	5,144.25	1.13
4	CJFS Lands	5282	7,740.23	1.47
5	Endowment Lands	459	781.15	1.70
6	Forest Lands	2507	4,765.44	1.90
7	Government Lands	20317	23,697.25	1.17
8	Inam Lands	2751	3,159.31	1.15
9	Patta Lands	264547	566,399.88	2.14
10	Wakf Lands	56	36.75	0.66
Total		4,27,046	8,50,669.12	1.99

Telangana				
1	Assigned Lands	75246	123,263.16	1.64
2	Bhoodan Lands	837	1,269.24	1.52
3	Ceiling Surplus Lands	6432	10,300.33	1.60
4	CJFS Lands	57	50.35	0.88
5	Endowment Lands	52	63.3	1.22
6	Forest Lands	1602	4,507.36	2.81
7	Government Lands	7830	10,316.14	1.32
8	Inam Lands	18397	18,591.08	1.01
9	Patta Lands	309506	679,441.00	2.20
10	Wakf Lands	110	138.06	1.26
Total		4,20,069	8,47,943.06	2.20

Sources: Land Wing, SERP, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States

Andhra Pradesh: In the case of SC households, the largest average landholding was found in the case of Patta Lands (2.14 acres) and Bhoodan Lands (2.08 acres); and the lowest, for Wakf lands (0.66 acre) and Ceiling Surplus Lands (1.13 acres). It is very encouraging to note that the concept of Bhoodan, championed by Vinoba Bhave in the late 1950s, is still very much 'alive'. Incidentally, Bhoodan means a large landowner voluntarily giving up his land so that the same could be allotted to some needy persons.

Telangana: Interestingly, in the case of SC and households, the largest average holdings were found for Forest Lands – 2.81 acres. The average figure for Patta Lands for SCs was 2.20 acres. As regards the lowest landholding, the figures in respect of SC households were 0.88 acre for CIJFS Lands and 1.01 acres for Imam Lands. One cannot fail to notice the fact that even though the concept of Bhoodan originated in Telangana, the quantum of land held under this category by SC households does not figure very high among the categories of landholding.

Landownership without Title to the Land

Landownership can be either through a formal arrangement (holding a valid title), or without having the ownership documents in one's physical possession. Table 2 below depicts the situation about 'landowners' not in possession of a valid title to the said land.

Table 2: Scheduled Cates land without title

Sl. No	Category of land	Land without title		
		SC		Average
		Households	Extent(in acres)	
Andhra Pradesh				
1	Assigned Lands	11155	13,503.85	1.21
2	Bhoodan Lands	27	18.59	0.69
3	Ceiling SurplusLands	358	254.42	0.71
4	CJFS Lands	3329	3,864.74	1.16
5	Endowment Lands	158	240.7	1.52
6	Forest Lands	350	620.69	1.77
7	Government Lands	9482	10,518.97	1.11
8	Inam Lands	517	554.42	1.07
9	Patta Lands	21816	26,222.03	1.2
10	Wakf Lands	20	13.25	0.66
	Total	47,212	55,811.66	1.18
Telangana				
1	Assigned Lands	5512	6,112.33	1.1
2	Bhoodan Lands	61	96.03	1.6
3	Ceiling Surplus Lands	424	444.2	1
4	CJFS Lands	17	25	1.5
5	Endowment Lands	58	83.15	1.4
6	Forest Lands	34	99.07	2.9

7	Government Lands	3647	5,785.15	1.6
8	Inam Lands	2456	1,631.03	0.7
9	Patta Lands	23927	28,181.11	1.2
10	Wakf Lands	17	19.17	1.1
	Total	36,153	42,478.03	1.2

Sources: Land Wing, SERP, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States

Andhra Pradesh: The most striking feature noticed regarding average household ownership in respect of Forest Lands was that this was the largest among all the categories of land for SCs (1.77 acres). The second highest average landholding for SC households was in the case of Endowment lands (1.52 acres). The lowest two categories of land, as regards average landholding, were Wakf Lands (0.66 acres) and Inam Lands (1.07 acres).

Telangana: The largest average landholding in the case of SC households was for Forest Lands 2.9 acres. The next high figure was for Bhoodan Lands and Government Lands (1.6 acres each). A very interesting observation that can be made in this regard is that, while Bhoodan land (with Pattas) ranked very low, such a land (without Pattas) figured very high in Telangana. The two lowest average landholdings were Inam Lands (0.7 acre) and Ceiling- Surplus lands (1 acre).

Landlessness SCs

Widespread landlessness among the SCs continues to be a major area of concern, especially in our rural areas, more so when many persons belonging to this social category are engaged in agriculture-related professions. The Table below depicts the state of landlessness in the individual districts of the two states.

Table 3: Landless SC Households in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State

Sl. No	District	% of Landless SC Households
Andhra Pradesh		
1	Anantapur	40
2	Chittoor	46
3	East Godavari	69
4	Guntur	70
5	Kadapa	56
6	Krishna	67
7	Kurnool	40
8	Nellore	42
9	Prakasam	64
10	Srikakulam	50
11	Visakhapatnam	66
12	Vizianagaram	66
13	West Godavari	74
Total		**55**
Telangana		
Sl. No	**District**	**% of Landless SC Households**
1	Adilabad	31
2	Karimnagar	35
3	Khammam	51
4	Mahbubnagar	29
5	Medak	15
6	Nalgonda	36
7	Nizamabad	27
8	Ranga Reddy	19
9	Warangal	36

Total	31

Sources: Land Wing, SERP, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States

Andhra Pradesh: No uniform pattern could be seen in the extent of landlessness among SCs in the two states. For instance, a high incidence of landlessness among SC households (70%) was found in Guntur district, for SC households, closely followed by 69.0% in east Godavari district. The lowest degree of landlessness among SC households was seen in Anantapur and Kurnool (both 40.0%) and Nellore (42.0%). .
Telangana: As already mentioned in the case of Andhra Pradesh, a very high incidence of landlessness among SC households in one district did not necessarily imply the same state of affairs in the other districts too. The highest two instances of landlessness of SC households were found in Khammam (51.0%) and Nalgonda (36.0%), and the lowest, in Medak (15.0%) and Ranga Reddy (19.0%).

Size-wise Land Distribution among SCs across Districts in AP and Telangana

The extent of land held could give one an idea of the degree of prosperity of that particular household. A smaller land holding may not be very remunerative, while the large one may help the household to obtain a larger agricultural yield, as well as grow multiple crops. The Table below depicts the percentages of landholdings of the SC households in the districts of both the states.

Table 4: Size-wise Land Distribution among SCs across Districts in AP and Telangana during 2016

District	% of households owning less than 1 acre of Land	% of households owning 1 to 2.5 acres of Land	% of households owning 2.5 to 5 acres of land	% of households owning more than 5 acres of land
Andhra Pradesh				
Anantapur	8.16	15.39	29.93	41.83
Chittoor	18.45	12.97	8.23	4.74
East Godavari	2.58	1.82	0.5	0.43
Guntur	4.94	3.57	1.6	0.98
Kadapa	5.53	9.27	8	4
Krishna	9.67	5.48	1.37	0.69
Kurnool	15.89	27.86	32.76	33.51
Nellore	11.02	8.07	5.51	5.59
Prakasam	6.4	6.21	7.75	5.43
Srikakulam	4.98	1.16	0.41	0.66
Visakhapatnam	2.45	2.28	0.91	0.37
Vizianagaram	3.92	1.77	0.63	0.31
West Godavari	5.99	4.14	2.4	1.46
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Telangana				
Adilabad	5.73	9.28	20.43	25.54
Karimnagar	19.54	15.25	8.54	4.86
Khammam	5.27	3.82	2.14	2.22
Mahbubnagar	12.79	20.14	27.9	29.12
Medak	18.49	16.47	12.31	16.63
Nalgonda	12.11	10.81	9.02	7.78
Nizamabad	10.63	9.23	5.46	3.01
Ranga Reddy	4.52	6.08	8.88	7.02
Warangal	10.93	8.91	5.31	3.82
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Sources: Land Wing, SERP, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States

Andhra Pradesh: The most striking fact about SC households in the state is that in nine of the 13 districts, the maximum proportion of households owned less than 1 acre of land. Also, the least number of such households were holding more than 5 acres of land. Anantapur and Kurnool were the only exceptions to this 'trend,' since 41.83% and 33.51% respectively of SC households were found to own more than 5 acres of land.

Telangana: The trend of SC households in most of the districts holding less than 1 acre of land was found in this state as well. Adilabad district was the sole exception in this regard, since the largest proportion of SC households (25.54%) were found to be holding more than 5 acres of land. The relatively high proportion (29.12%) of SC households in Mahbubnagar) owning more than 5 acres of land was another significant fact that needs to be highlighted.

Operational holdings and operated area by different Social groups in Andhra Pradesh

The degree of agricultural yield can, to a large extent, be influenced by the type of landholding – marginal, small, semi-medium, medium or large – of the particular household. Table 5 below depicts the details in this regard in the two states during the periods 1976-77, 1980-81, 1986-87, 1990-91, 1995-96, 2000-01 and 2005-06. This would also provide an idea about any significant variations in this regard during the periods under study.

Table 5: Operational holdings and operated area by different Social groups in Andhra Pradesh

(Nos. in lakh, Area in lakh Hect)

S. No	Years	Nos/Area	Type of landholding					
			Marginal	Small	Semi-medium	Medium	Large	All groups
1	1976-77	Nos	28.69 (46.6)	22.52 (20.3)	10.72 (17.4)	7.53 (12.2)	2.09 (3.4)	61.55 (100)
		Area	13.36 (9.3)	18.36 (12.8)	29.93 (20.8)	46.47 (32.3	35.68 (24.8)	143.8 (100)
2	1980-81	Nos	38.04 (51.6)	15.91 (21.6)	11.74 (16.0)	6.46 (8.8)	1.55 (2.10)	73.7 (100)
		Area	18.86 (13.1)	24.12 (16.8	32.61 (22.7)	39.79 (27.8)	27.95 (19.5)	143.33 (100
3	1986-87	Nos	44.6 (54.1)	17.14 (20.8)	12.54 (15.2)	6.57 (7.98)	1.46 (1.77)	82.3 (100)
		Area	20.54 (14.5)	24.54 (17.3)	33.91 (23.9)	38.65 (27.2)	23.94 (16.9)	141.5 (100)
4	1990-91	Nos	52.6 (56.1)	19.72 (21.2)	13.45 (14.5)	6.44 (6.93)	1.18 (1.27)	92.9 (100)
		Area	23.69 (16.4)	28.26 (19.5)	36.4 (25.2)	37.77 (26.1)	18.48 (12.8)	144.6 (100)
5	1995-96	Nos	63.0 (59.4)	22.62 (21.3)	13.95 (13.1)	5.63 (5.3)	0.83 (0.8)	106.3 (100)
		Area	29.04 (20.04)	32.29 (22.5)	37.36 (26.0)	32.31 (22.5)	12.73 (8.85)	143.7 (100)
6	2000-01	Nos	70.2 (60.9)	25.2 (21.8)	14.2 (12.3)	5.0 (4.4)	0.7 (0.6)	115.3 (100)
		Area	31.0 (21.6)	35.6 (24.7)	37.9 (26.4)	28.5 (19.9)	10.8 (7.5)	143.9 (100)
7	2005-06	Nos	78.14 (61.58)	78.14 (61.58)	14.44 (4.04)	4.87 (4.04)	0.56 (0.5)	120.4 (100)
		Area	32.87 (22.68)	37.30 (25.74)	38.35 (26.46)	27.59 (19.04)	8.78 (6.05)	144.8 (100)

Source: Report on Agricultural Census of Andhra Pradesh, 2001, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt of AP.

Note: Figure in parentheses indicates percentages.

It could be seen that even though marginal holdings constituted 46.6% of the total operational holdings, these accounted for only 9.3% of total operated area in 1976-77. In a similar manner, while small

holdings constituted 20.3% of the total holdings, these formed only 12.8% of total operated area. Marginal and small holdings together constituted nearly 67% of total holdings, but accounted for only 29.6% of the operated area in 1976-77. On the other hand, medium and large holdings together constituted about 15% of total operational holdings, but controlled more than 57% of the total operated area during the same period. This indicates that the distribution of land was skewed in 1976-77.

By 2005-06, there was a tremendous increase in the number of marginal holdings. Their percentage share in the total holdings increased to about 61.5%, but the area operated under their control increased to only 22.68% of the total operated area. On the other hand, the number of medium and large holdings declined to 5.43% of total operational holdings, but constituted nearly 25.09% of the total area. If we take large holdings alone, their share was only 0.5% of the total holdings, but constituted nearly 6.5% of the total operated area in 2005-06. This clearly indicates that, although the number of medium and large holdings declined, the area under their control had not been declined proportionately. On the other hand, the number of marginal holdings increased from 46.6% to 61.58%, but the operated area under their control was only 22.68% of the total operated area in 2005-06. This implies that, in the post-independence period, inequalities in the distribution of land had increased, despite land reforms. The increase in the number of marginal holdings may be attributed to the population explosion and also to redistribution of small tracts of surplus land and waste land to the weaker sections. However, medium and large farmers were generally able to retain large size of holdings as land reforms were not properly implemented. More than this, during the post-independence period, land had generally been passed to owner-cultivator classes - but not to the landless poor.

Percentage distribution and operated area of land of the different social groups

A significant area of interest is the distribution – both in terms of number of households and the total area – of land among the different social groups. Table 10 depicts the situation during the periods 1976-77, 1980-81, 1986-87, 1990-91, 1995-96, 2000-01 and 2005-06.

Table 6: Percentage distribution and operated area of land of the Scheduled Castes

S. No	Years	Nos/Area	SC
1	1976-77	Nos	13.4
		Area	6.9
2	1980-81	Nos	12.6
		Area	6.9
3	1986-87	Nos	12.2
		Area	6.8
4	1990-91	Nos	12.73
		Area	7.48
5	1995-96	Nos	12.12
		Area	7.42
6	2000-01	Nos	11.85
		Area	7.86
7	2005-06	Nos	11.85
		Area	7.84
8	2010-11	Nos	11.05
		Area	7.69

Source: Report on Agricultural Census of Andhra Pradesh, 1980-81 to 2000-2001, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt of AP.

It can be seen that, in 1976-77, SC households had about 13.4% of the total land holdings, but controlled only 6.9% of the area. By 2005-06, the SC land holdings declined to about 11.85% and their share of the area controlled by them slightly increased to 7.84%. The declining trend was also seen in the year 2010-11 in both the parameters.

Percentage distribution of operational holdings and area operated by Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh

The next area of interest is the distribution of landholding pattern – marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large - among the SC landholders. The Table below presents the situation in this regard during the periods 1976-77, 1980-81, 1986-87, 1990-91, 1995-96, 2000-01 and 2005-06.

Table 7: Percentage distribution of operational holdings and area operated by Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh

S. No	Years	Nos/Area	Type of landholding					
			Marginal	Small	Semi-medium	Medium	Large	All groups
1	1976-77	Nos	64.8	19.0	11.5	4.1	0.6	100
		Area	22.3	23.1	26	21.5	7.1	100
2	1980-81	Nos	67.7	18.9	10.2	2.9	0.3	100
		Area	27.6	26.2	25.2	15.2	5.5	100
3	1986-87	Nos	70.1	18.0	9.1	2.5	0.3	100
		Area	30.4	26.4	24.5	14.6	4.1	100
4	1990-91	Nos	70.67	18.43	8.43	2.03	0.17	100
		Area	31.98	28.28	24.40	12.38	2.96	100
5	1995-96	Nos	73.46	17.75	7.39	1.32	0.08	100
		Area	37.15	29.74	22.51	8.82	1.78	100
6	2000-01	Nos	75.88	17.63	6.95	1.39	0.15	100
		Area	36.45	29.56	21.27	9.36	3.36	100
7	2005-06	Nos	74.59	17.42	6.63	1.27	0.09	100
		Area	38.32	30.21	20.9	8.64	1.93	100
8	2010-11	Nos	76.2	17	5.74	0.99	0.06	100
		Area	41.44	31.1	19.03	7.04	1.38	100

Source: 1. Report on SC/ST Land Holdings, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt of AP
2. Agricultural Census, 2011

It can be seen that most of the SCs landowners have been small and marginal farmers. In 1976-77, small and marginal holdings of SCs constituted 83% (controlling nearly 46% of the total operated area). In 2005-06, their percentage increased to about 91.5% (controlling nearly 68% of the total operated area). In 2010-11, the percentage rose to 93.2% (controlling 72.5% of the total operated area) On the other hand, medium and large holdings declined from 4.7% (controlling nearly 29% of the total operated area) in 1976-77 to 1.36% (controlling nearly 10.59% of the total operated area) in 2005-06. In 2010-11, the corresponding figures were: 1.05% and 8.42% respectively. One cannot help take note of the almost steady decline in the figures for medium and large landholdings for SC households in the 34 years period.

Conclusions

This chapter discussed issues like the category of land held, extent of land held without titles, extent of landlessness, and the SC households owning land (less than 1 acre, between 1 to 2.5 acres, between 2.5 to 5 acres and more than 5 acres). The salient points that emerged were as under:

Category of land held: No uniform pattern was noticeable in the two states in the holding pattern of SC landowners, either within the state, or in relation to their counterparts in the other state. Still, it could be concluded that Assigned Lands and Forest Lands were held by a significantly number of SC households in both the states.

Extent of land held without titles: Forest Lands and Assigned Lands were found to be to be held by a highly significant number of SC households in both the states.

Average extent of landholding by the SC households in the two states: A very intriguing position could be seen in respect of SC households in the two states. In both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, most SC households in the majority of the districts were found to be holding less than one acre of land.