

"TENANCY AND TENANT FARMING IN SIND."

THESIS

SUBMITTED BY

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TO

THE UNIVERSITY OF BOMBAY.

for

....M.Sc....(Agricultural Economics.)Degree.

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1946.

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S Y N O P S I S.

Problem:- "Tenancy and Tenant Farming in Sind."

Problem stated:- There are two types of Tenants in Sind, (a) Maurasi (hereditary) tenants and (b) Tenants-at-will. The former class is practically negligible and enjoys as much security of tenure as owners and particularly now no case of eviction or harrassment can be found after passing the Jagirdari act which makes the Jagirdar entitled only to the amount equal to the land revenue prevalent in that locality.

The other class that is Tenants-at-will can be and are evicted at any time. The only provision for them is section 84 of Land Revenue Code 1879, where by they are expected to be given a notice of three months in writing by landlord before the end of one cultivating season - 31st March. But this is seldom practised. However there is a local custom where if a tenant-at-will or Hari as he is locally called is evicted in the middle of a cultivating season when his crop is standing, for any alleged misbehaviour, he gets the award by "Amins" (Arbitrators) which is much less than the actual. He never gets any thing for the preparation of the land if evicted.

Mostly Hari does not get same land for cultivation when the rotation comes so that he may not claim any occupancy rights latter.

Excepting very rare cases there are no written agreements, and in case any dispute goes to a court the award is invariably in favour of Zamindar.

(ii)

Problem Study:- 70% of the land in Barrage zone and 50% in the non-Barrage zone is held by 15 and 5% of Khatedars respectively. It is being cultivated by Haris. - Tenants-at-will.

Rent is paid invariably in kind called Batai system of rent which depends upon the mode of irrigation. Over and above the batai Zamindar gets abwabs (Perquisites) which vary from place to place and with individual Zamindars. Harvesting charges are borne half to half and marketing charges proportionately but generally the crop is disposed through Zamindar to the local Bania or Dalal on the spot.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

Sind is situated in the extreme N.W. of Bombay Presidency. Its area is about 48.13 thousands sq: miles and has 4.5 millions of population. The density is 94. Maximum height is 7000' above sea level. Rainfall is scanty and irregular, average being 6" per year. There are three agricultural seasons - Kharif, Rabi and Adhao (Half way.)

The middle part has indo-gangetic type of soil, eastern part is sandy while the western is hilly.

Irrigation sources are - Government canals, private canals, wells and misl:. About 90% of the area depends upon Government canals. 90% of wells are in Sukker and Karachi districts, only.

Main Kharif crops are Cotton, Rice and Millets while main Rabi crops are Wheat and Pulses.

(iv)

Results:- Wide spread expansion of cotton cultivation and irrigated wheat. Area under Jowar and Bajri have declined considerably, while the rice cultivation has practically remained the same.

CHAPTER III.

METHOD OF STUDY.

Difficulties of Field Work:-

- (a) Absentee Zamindars
- (b) No proper records.
- (c) Illiterate Haris.
- (d) Kind payment of Labour.
- (e) No previous work done on the subject.

Procedure of Work:-

Representative tracts and availability of facts.

Questionnaires:-

- (A) (i) Irrigation System. (ii) Hari's share.
(iii) Abwabs. (iv) Grass share. (v) Seed supplied by.
(vi) Artizans paid by. (vii) Land Revenue.
(viii) Harvesting and Marketing charges.
- (B) For Economic position.
(i) Family. (ii) Area Cultivated. (iii) Share.
(iv) Abwabs. (v) Net Share. (vi) Rate prevalent.
(vii) Quantity disposed. (viii) Farm Expenditure.
(ix) Farm Income. (x) Subsidiary income source.
- (C) (i) Time lived with present Zamindar.
(ii) Why previous Zamindar was left.
(iii) Complaints against present Zamindars.
- (D) Live stock and Implements.

(v)

CHAPTER IV.

TENURES.

(A) All the cultivation operations are conducted and supervised by Zamindar or his agent. Zamindar is to supply Land, Water, Pay Land Revenue and local cesses. While all the labour - man as well as bullock is supplied or arranged by Hari. In case Hari comes new to the Zamindar through Kamdar or some other Hari he gets Takavi which generally does not exceed Rs. 100/-. Invariably Hari has to use the seed supplied by Zamindar but the cost is borne by Hari. For all that he gets remuneration in kind which again depends upon the mode of irrigation. For flow and flood he gets 1/2 of the produce and for lift cultivation he gets 2/3rd. More than 1/2 the grass is taken by Hari, and other is sold to him. Over and above the share of produce Zamindar gets abwabs which vary from place to place and even with individual Zamindars. It varies from 6% to about 17% of the Net Farm Income of Hari.

(B) Expenses of cultivation fall under the following kinds:-

(i) Picking or reaping - Rs. 1/4/- per mound in case of Cotton and 1/12th of Harvested produce in case of grain, borne half to half by Zamindar and Hari.

(ii) Weeding - Hari has to pay for it or do it himself.

(iii) Manure - Not used in case used then half to half.

(iv) Karia clearance - Hari's job.

(vi)

(v) Remuneration of Kamdar, Karawo, Wahi etc., and general expenses from the common heap or from Hari's share depending upon usage in the locality. Amount and quantity varies with individual Zamindar.

CHAPTER V.

ECONOMIC POSITION OF FAMILIES
UNDER SURVEY. (1943-44).

Income per acre in Nawabshah District. (Central Sind) where Cotton is the main Kharif crop is about Rs. 50/- per acre. While in upper Sind (Dadu) there is Rs. 36 per acre. In upper Sind (Larkana) (Dadu) when Rice is the main kharif crop the income is about Rs. 22/- per acre. In all the cases Rabi crop being wheat. Larkana wheat and Gram.

In non-Barrage area income varies from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 15/- unless a subsidiary crop is raised which is very rare. Here Haris keep sufficient Milk Cattle and from that they get the other income. In Barrage area abwabs are from 6 to 7% of the Farm income while in Non-Barrage area it is from 12 to 17% of Farm income. The increased percentage is due to less Farm income.

CHAPTER VI.

TENANCY IN SIND.

After the receipt of 'Bombay Tenancy Act' in April 1940 a draft Bill was drawn up in 1942 following the lines of Bombay Act, and discussions continued by the Committee appointed by the Government upto June 1943. Majority of the Committee Members were in favour of Bill.

(vii)

Zamindars are against giving any occupancy rights
- views - Derth of Labour - large holdings - class welfare
- Rotation of lands.

Hari representative in favour - views. Forced and
free labour (Chher) at present - Eviction - Harrassment - No
scope for permanent improvement.

Reforms:- Procedure suggested.

CHAPTER VII.

CROP PLANNING.

Adjustment of Crops.

Even distribution of Labour. Men and Bullock.

CHAPTER VIII.

CONCLUSIONS.

Organization of Factors of production.

Necessity of Legislation and propaganda.

VII
