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Geographical Appraisal of Land Reform Process in India: Retrospect's and Prospects Scenario for the Countryside's

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Abstract:

India is one of the rapidly developing and emerging economies of the world. There has been recorded continuous decline in the share of agriculture and allied sectors in its gross domestic product which is an expected outcome for a fast-growing and structurally changing economy. Ancient records show that, among the Indo-Aryans, arable land was held by family ownership. The British governed the land from 1750 to 1947. There are number of strategic issues in land governance and development under different plans and policies. Land reforms are connected with the right to life and livelihood of the huge rural population. The negative consequences of urban pull factors results into the upcoming of slums and squatter settlements. A chronological analysis of the past 12 Five Year Plans makes it clear that, since the inception of the Planning Commission, industrialisation has been equated with development. Land reform has remained been the focal point of the country's political and economic agenda. Land reform means the distribution of surplus land to small farmers and landless cultivators. So, the lessons learned from the experiences of India will also help other developing countries and in the global fight against hunger and poverty.

Keywords: Land governance, land reform, land use and land cover, informal settlements, and economic development.

1. Introduction

Land governance is a noteworthy matter of concern in the emerging economies and developing countries of the world like India. In agrarian economies, the land is most important assets of the people as 'to own the land is the highest mark of esteem; to perform manual labour, the lowest' (Myrdal, 1968). Large labour force employed in agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood which accounted for about 58.40 per cent in India. And, the land accounts for more than 50.12 per cent of total assets of rural households. There has been recorded continuous decline in the share of agriculture and allied sectors in its gross domestic product (GDP), from 14.60 per cent in 2009–2010 to 13.90 per cent in 2013–2014, which is an expected outcome for a fast growing and structurally changing economy.

The genesis of the structure of power and authority in rural India can be traced to land over the centuries. There is an ever-changing relationship between land, power and people. Land provides basic necessities like food, clothing and shelter to man. The economists tend to treat land as a special kind of property. There have been found conflicts over land and resources which are at present a marked feature of the economic growth and development. The Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill 2012's compensation provisions, at four times the market rate in rural areas and twice in urban areas (Chakraborty, 2013). This will raise land prices exponentially and will fundamentally impede economic growth and urbanisation.

So, while keeping in view the globalisation and economic development, there is found that India is on one of the fast developing and emerging economies countries of the world. As there has been discerned continuous decline in the share of agriculture and allied sectors in the gross domestic product during the recent times. So, the falling share of agriculture and allied sectors in GDP is an expected outcome in a fast growing and structurally changing economy. In order to keep up the momentum gained during the 11th Plan and achieve the targeted growth rate of 4.00 per cent during the 12th Five Year Plan have focused approaches and schemes.

2. Historical Background

2.1. Land Governance in Indo-Aryan Era

Ancient records as the RigVeda shows that among the Indo-Aryans, arable land was held in individual ownership or family ownership (Muller, 1849). The Land belonged to the person who cleared the forest and woodland and brought the land under cultivation. So, it appears that the principle of private property and private ownership of land has been recognised from ancient times, in India. Throughout the history, during the ancient period 1200 BC – 1200 AD as well as during the recent period 1540 AD – 1750 AD, the

principal unit of land belong to village settlement, in India (U.N., 1973). Since land returns was the main source of state revenue, the village became the agency for collection and unit of revenue assessment.

2.2. *Land Governance in British India*

The British governed over land for long time, which is known as the colonial era, for over the centuries 1750 AD – 1947 AD over the country, India. The Permanent Settlement Regulation (PSR) in 1793 was introduced to record all rights in respect of land and to maintain an up-to-date record of land rights, which was completely failed to implement in the country. At the time of independence, in the country, India, the land tenure systems preserved in three main categories, namely, the Zamindari, the Ryotwari, and the Mahalwari tenures (Mukherjee and Frykenberg, 1979). Each one of these were accounting for about 57.03 per cent, 38.14 per cent and 5.02 per cent of the total privately owned agricultural land.

Successively, in 1879, a Rent Law Commission was set up. The Bengal Tenancy Act. came into existence in 1885, which was subsequently amended in 1898, 1907, 1930, 1938 and 1940. So, none of the amendments or the 1885 Act, proved to be of any relief to the tenants. The Bengal Land Revenue Commission was set up under the chairmanship of Sir Francis Rond in 1939. It was a landmark in the abolition of the Zamindari system, in order to ring the government into direct relation with actual cultivators by acquiring superior interest in agricultural land (Washbrook, 1981).

2.3. *Land Governance in Independent India*

The India became independent country on the 15th August 1947 of the world and adopted their own constitution which came into effect on 26th January 1950 (GoI, 2007). For all round development of the country, the Planning Commission was set up by a resolution of the Government of India in March 1950. The First Five Year Plan was designed and launched in 1951 and thereafter the two subsequent five-year plans were formulated till 1965, when there was a break because of the Indo-Pakistan Conflict. The Fourth Five Year plan was started in 1969. The Eighth Five Year Plan was finally launched in 1992 after the initiation of structural adjustment policies.

During the Eight Five Year Plan, the emphasis was on a growing public sector with massive investments in basic and heavy industries. Whereas, since the launch of the Ninth Five Year Plan in 1997, the emphasis on the public sector has become less pronounced. While keeping this in view, it was assumed that the planning in the country, in general, is that it should increasingly be of an indicative nature. So, since the independence the main emphasis has been on industrialisation of the country, India. Because the agriculture has been treated as a symbol of economic backwardness. Along with the independence, however, the land reforms and agriculture development were paid more attention though the main focus during the plans was on the industrial sector development.

3. Strategic Issues in Land Governance

3.1. *National Land Development Strategies: Plans and Policies*

After independence, for the country's socio-economic development, the government decided to introduce Five Year Plans following the scheme of the erstwhile Soviet Union. The main focus in the First Five Year Plan (1951-56) laid were as, firstly, to address the agriculture development and related economic activities as long-term issues for economic development. Secondly, a land policy, which reduces disparities in wealth and income, eliminates exploitation, provides security for tenants and workers and promises equality of status and opportunity to different sections of the rural population. Thirdly, there was an abolition of intermediary rights as a major programme in land reforms. Fourthly, it was recognised that small and uneconomic holdings were the root cause of many difficulties in agricultural development. Fifthly, there should be an upper limit to the amount of land that an individual may hold (Planning Commission, 1953). In the Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) the main thrust was on to set the stage for immediate and essential development strategies for the next two decades (Planning Commission, 1959). The plan emphasised the establishment of heavy industries as an instrument of rapid industrialisation and for increasing the low savings rate of the economy.

The Third Five Year Plan (1961-66) period brought the issues of food security to the forefront. The Third Plan restated the twin objectives of land reform as, firstly, the removal of impediments to increased agricultural production, arising out of skewed agrarian structure; and secondly, the elimination of exploitation and social injustice in the agrarian system. The Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74) main target was also for the food security in the country. Traditional and small-scale sectors were also important contributors in the economic development. Until now, the plan only reviewed the progress of land reforms and remarked that the laws were not perfect and the implementation was delayed.

In the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79) reflected the change in the policy imperatives. It evolved a concept of "minimum need" and undertook direct anti-poverty programmes (GoI, 1974). The recommendations made by the Task Force on Agrarian Relations were incorporated into it. The subject of land reforms received slightly better treatment under this plan. During the Sixth Five Year Plan, there was slow progress of land reforms which was due to unsatisfactory implementation of land ceiling laws. This was resulted to direct the attention towards eliminating legal bottlenecks and circumvention of ceiling laws.

So, due consideration was given that an effective land reforms programme designed to redistribute surplus land among the landless and farmers with uneconomic holdings. This could make a significant contribution to raising the incomes and productivity of the rural poor masses in order to support in the economic development. During the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), the more emphasis was laid on infrastructure development and the liberalisation of the Indian economy for all round development in different sectors of the economy (GoI, 1974).

During the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) main efforts were at planning for a market-oriented economy. In the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), it was recognised that demand rather than investable resources could become the main constraints to economic growth. In the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), it was conveyed a message that the agricultural sector can no longer be treated as a residual component of the growth. Because the Indian industrial sector has reached maturity and does not need the government's focused attention for promotion. And, secondly, there is an untapped tremendous potential in the agricultural economy of the country.

During the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) the main focus was on 'towards faster and more inclusive growth'. There were many priority areas in the plan as the agriculture, irrigation and water resources, education, health, infrastructure and employment, along with the programs for upliftment of the social groups as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes as minorities, women and children (GoI, 2008). So, it laid main emphasis for the socio-economic development of all sections of the society. The Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) laid main emphasis for the first time since the economic reforms began, the need for industrial policy. In lieu of this, the government has also stressed for foreign direct investment for promotion of manufacturing activities, in order to increase the export market.

So, the sequential study of the past 12 Five Year Plans makes it clear that, the agricultural sector has always been a secondary priority in different plans. It must be noted that a majority of people living in rural areas have remained untouched by the trickle-down effect of industrialisation. Due to land reforms, a middle-level peasantry sharing the characteristics of capitalist farmers emerged, who were largely responsible for the green revolution of the 1970s and the 1980s (Swaminathan, 2010). Whereas, at present, there have been observed the decreasing sizes of farm holdings which is a major challenge to the economic viability in the country, India (Dogra, 2002; Raj, 1971 and 1975).

3.2. Land and Agrarian Reforms

The main objective of land reform implementation is to provide social justice to the people particularly the cultivators, land owners, landless labourers and rural populations (Bandopadhyay, 1986; Besley and Burgess, 2000; Das, 2008; Joshi, 2011; Uma, 2011; and World Bank, 2009). The main directives of land reforms are as the abolition of intermediaries; the land tenancy reform; the ceiling on land holdings and distribution of surplus land to landless holdings and labourers; the agricultural land reorganisation; the organisation of cooperative farms; and the land record improvement and systemisation.

3.3. Abolition of Intermediaries

During the colonial era, the British Administration governed over land, so there were existed the three categories of land tenure system, as the Zamindari, the Mahalwari, and the Ryotwari (Mukherjee and Frykenberg, 1979; and Rao, 1972). Accordingly, the Zamindari Abolition Acts. were resolved and approved in different parts i.e. the state governments of the country, India, during 1948 and 1955. As a result, there were about more than 2.60 lakhs of the Zamindars whose services were abolished throughout the country, India. In spite of this, there are several ambiguities in the Zamindari Abolition Act. which hindered in land transfer to the actual cultivators and the landless agricultural labourers. Likewise, the intermediaries are yet to be completely abolished through stricter enforcement of the law of land, in certain parts of the country, India (Prasad, 2014; Scaria, 2010; Singh, 2011; Sinha, 1976; Swamy, 2011; Thakur, 2013; Trivedi, 2013; and Mathew, 2011). For instance, there is still existed the ambiguities reforms implementation as the Water Rights in Bhagalpur (Bihar), Jotdari in Meghalaya, Communized in Goa and Devasthan Enam in Maharashtra states of country, India.

3.4. Land Tenancy Reforms

Since independence, the number of measures were taken to remove the land tenancy under the land tenancy reforms process in the country, India (Appu, 1975; and Banerjee, et.al., 2002). So, there are about more than 11.50 million cultivators who have been given tenancy rights over land. For instance, firstly, the all tenants have been given full security of tenure, without giving the owners the right of personal cultivation of land. Secondly, the owner have been assumed the right to resume a limited area subject to a minimum area is left with the tenant. And, thirdly, the limit has been employed on the size of land with a land owner may resume, but the tenant is not permitted to hold minimum area of cultivation in all cases (FAO, 2007; Goswami and Bezboruoh, 2013; Nandkarni, 1976; and Vyas, 1970).

3.5. Rent Control Reforms

The agricultural land rent was nearly 50 per cent of the agricultural produce, at the time of independence. It was really very high for the cultivators. In order to provide respite from land rent, the legislation was endorsed in the country, India (GoI, 2013). The nature of land rate are found varying in different states of the country. Like, the rate of land rent is 20 to 30 per cent in the Andhra Pradesh State, about 33 per cent in the Punjab and the Haryana States, respectively; and 33 to 40 per cent in the Tamil Nadu State (GoI, 2013). However, the planning commission for the first time under the Fourth Five Year Plan, the rent payment in form of agricultural produce was abolished fully. So, the land rent payment is to be made in cash by the tenant.

3.6. Ceiling of Landholdings

With the implementation of the land reform programs, a certain specified limit of land belongs to the landlord and the rest would be taken over by the state government. The ceiling on land holdings is an effective measure for redistribution of recovered excess land (Raj, 1975; and Sanyal, 1988). This would also assistance for achieving the goals of social justice among people and all social groups

of the society (Sharma, 1994). There is found varying land ceiling limits in terms of irrigated and dry lands among different states of the country, India

The Land ceiling legislations enforced into two phases as before 1972 and after 1972. Such institutional reforms since mid-1960s have shown profound implications on agrarian economy in general and landholdings in particular. The Kerala and the West Bengal States are the successful role models of tenancy reforms where rigorous implementation of tenancy legislation took place and it resulted into removal of inequalities in distribution of land and rural poverty (Appu, 1975; Banerjee et. al., 2002). In view of the prevailing socio-politico-economic settings the ceiling laws neither politically expedite nor administratively easy to implement for lowering land ceilings (Akella and Nielson, 2005).

3.7. Consolidation of landholdings

The land consolidation is an important landmark under the land reforms program of the country, India. The main objective set was to increase agricultural efficiency and production. The program awkwardly was not implemented all over the country, India (Mehrotra, 2014; and Rao, 1974). Because, the cultivators are emotionally attached with their ancestral land, so unwilling to take advantage of consolidation of holding. For instance, those possessed good quality land avoid the program to get inferior and poor quality of land. The process of consolidation is cumbersome and the government procedure is time consuming and slow as well as several officers are often corrupt (Meena, 2011). So, the land consolidation program resulted into greater disappointment in the country, with an exception of the green revolution belt States as the Punjab, the Haryana and the western Uttar Pradesh and to some extent in the Orissa state. It was the land consolidation, which helped in the spread of new agricultural technology in the Punjab State.

3.8. Computerised Land Records

A provision was centrally initiated and economically supported for computerisation of land records and allied information in 1988-89 in the country, India. Such information processing is known as the Land Information System (LIS). This system has been proposed and implemented in around 593 districts and 640 districts during 2001 and 2011, respectively, in the country, India (Kumar, 2011; and Nayan, 2013). Only those districts have been left out of the process where there is no land records available previously for the land parcels of the holders in the country, India.

3.9. Security of Land Holdings Tenure

The Ceiling on holdings signifies a statutory limit on the amount of land which an individual may hold. In the First Five Year Plan, despite concern for agricultural growth, not much attention was paid to the issue of fixing the ceiling on holdings. The Fifth Five Year Plan observed that laws imposing ceiling on agricultural holdings were enacted in all the States except in the Haryana and the Punjab States. The results achieved were meagre due to high ceiling levels, a large number of exemptions from law, malafide transfers and partition and poor implementation (Planning Commission, 1974-79). The Sixth Five Year Plan largely reiterated the above and recommended vigorous enforcement of ceiling legislations. So, the effective land reforms programme was designed to redistribute surplus land among the landless and farmers with uneconomic holdings, could make a significant contribution to raising the income and productivity of the rural poor people's development (Herrera and Passano, 2006).

3.10. Forced Evictions and Relocation

The Forced evictions are often associated with physical and psychological injuries to the poor people. Among them, the largely affected are the women, children, persons already living in extreme poverty, indigenous peoples, minorities and other marginalised groups. In lieu of this, the High Court of Delhi clearly state that the denial of the benefit of the rehabilitation to the petitioners violates their right to shelter guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India (GoI, 2007). Besides this, since the June 2005, there were between 30,000 and 50,000 people who have been fled to the Khammam and the Warrangal districts of the Andhra Pradesh State. For instance, the forest department on April 5, 2008, destroyed homes and displaced indigenous persons residing in Kothooru village in order to forcibly evict them in the State.

Whereas, in case of the Chhattisgarh State, there is escalating tensions between Naxalites, an armed Maoist group, and a state-supported vigilante group called Salwa Judum. So, both the Chhattisgarh and the Andhra Pradesh States government's described the Salwa Judum as a "spontaneous uprising against Naxal abuses". In this context, there arises an urgent need that the government should develop a comprehensive national policy for internally displaced persons in consultation with displaced persons, governmental, non-governmental, and inter-governmental organizations, and in accordance with the United Nations (UN) guiding principles on internal displacement and rehabilitation of the people (Mukherjee, 2011; and Ramesh, 2011).

3.11. Women's Land and Property Rights

The Gender based data in the Agriculture Censuses have been collected since 1995-96 on the recommendations of Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, New Delhi. Since then the percentage share of female operational holders has increased from 10.83 thousand holdings in 2000-01 to 12.78 thousand holdings in 2010-11 with the corresponding operated area of 9.33 thousand hectares to 10.34 thousand hectares, respectively, in the country, India. So, the increase in percentage of female operational holders during different Agriculture Censuses indicates participation of more and more women in operation and management of agricultural holdings in the country, India. Within its overall mandate, goals and objectives, the effort is to ensure that women also contribute effectively to agricultural productivity and production (FAO, 2002; Nathan, 2014; and Saxena, 2011).

4. Land Use and Land Cover

For the country as whole, the Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) mapping have already been completed on the scale of 1: 2,50,000 using multi-temporal Resourcesat-1 AWiFS remote sensing satellite imagery (NNRMS, 2009). Additionally, the surface water bodies and the snow and glaciers geographical mapping for entire country have also been generated. As a result, there were number of major and medium irrigation commands which accounted for 429 and 1,272, respectively. So, altogether there were about 1,701 major and medium irrigation commands which covered to about 88895.620 thousand hectares. In other words, it is accounted for about 27.04 per cent of the geographical area of the country, India.

4.1. Natural Vegetation Cover

The Vegetation type map provides information on spatial extent and distribution of single species dominated the vegetation formations. The vegetation type maps also provide basic inputs for identification of tree species and their habitats. The vegetation type's map will also serve as a primary database for all types of ecological studies and would also serve as a benchmark for further studies (NNRMS, 2009).

4.2. Water logging & Soil Salinity

The perennial and seasonal waterlogged areas have also been mapped using satellite imagery for the country, India. The Land not available for cultivation due to waterlogging within major and medium irrigation commands in the country is accounted for about 1,719.279 thousand hectares which comprises about 1.93 per cent of the commands. The perennial waterlogging covers about 173.145 thousand hectares. Whereas, the seasonal waterlogging covers about 1,546.134 thousand hectares. So, the total waterlogged area within major and medium commands was also mapped. The Salt affected areas are lying in different states in the country within major and medium irrigation commands. The Total salt affected area in the country as per the analysis is accounted for about 1,034.541 thousand hectares which comprises about 1.16 per cent of the commands. So, it constituted about 0.31 per cent of the geographical area of the country, India (GoI, 1976; and NNRMS, 2009).

4.3. Land Utilisation: 1950-51 to 2010-11

There was about 328.7 million hectares of geographical area or the land cover existed since 1950-51 till 2010-11, in the country, India. The net sown area is accounted for about 46.00 per cent of the total reporting area of the country during the year 2010-11 which has increased from 41.80 per cent in 1950-51. Whereas, the world average is about 32.00 per cent in the year 2010-11. The forests cover was increased from 14.20 per cent in 1950-51 to about 22.90 per cent in 2010-11. The Barren and unculturable land was decreased from 13.40 to 5.60 per cent during 1950-51 to 2010-11, respectively (MoA, 2012).

Whereas, during 1950-51, the gross cropped area was about 131.89 million hectares, out of which 13.15 million hectares or about 9.97 per cent, as sown more than once and the cropping intensity was 111.10. Over the period of about 20 years, in 1970-71 period the gross cropped area was increased to about 165.79 million hectares out of which 25.52 million hectares or 15.39 per cent, was sown more than once and the cropping intensity was 118.20. Over another 30 years period, during 2010-11 the gross cropped area was increased to about 197.32 million hectares, out of which 55.76 million hectares or about 28.26 per cent, as sown more than once and the cropping intensity was further increased to about 139.00 (MoA, 2012).

5. Agricultural Development

5.1. Progress and Growth

In 1950-51, the yield per hectare was about 522 kgs. per hectare which was continuously increased over the periods. The agricultural highest output of 2,079 kgs. per hectare was achieved in 2010-11. There was about 124.75 million hectares of area under cultivation in 1981-82 and the total output was accounted for only 1,032 kgs. per hectare. It may also be remembered that the average holding in India was about 1.33 hectares in 2000-01. So, the small farms ensure to have a direct impact on poverty. It is important to see on whose field the production takes place rather than how much the production has increased. The production by poor farmers will contribute the most towards decreasing hunger and malnutrition (Bhalla, 1977). So, it is evident that more equal distribution of land to small farmers is viable. And, the broad support base of redistribution should significantly raise productivity and improve the livelihood of the poorest peasant in the country, India.

Accordingly, the agriculture of any region is generally influenced by the number of factors such as the physical, institutional, infrastructural and technological. All these factors are individually or collectively responsible for the cropping patterns, level of agricultural development and agricultural productivity in an area or region (Swaminathan, 2010). The institutional factors include the land tenancy, land tenure and land ownership. So, all these factors have laid impacts on the performance on field size, field patterns, farming type, crop land use, crop association and productivity of crops.

5.2. Operational Land Holdings

The average size of agricultural holding in India is about 1.16 hectares. There is about 35.50 per cent of the land which is held by the marginal and small holdings with areas between less than 1 hectare and between 1.0 to 2.0 hectares, respectively. Both these holdings were together accounted for about 66.97 per cent of the land holdings in the country, India. Whereas, the semi-medium holdings

accounted for about 23.59 per cent of the land with holdings of 2.0 to 4.0 hectares. So, the marginal and small land holding are not seems to be viable economically (Sanyal, 1988; and Sathe, 2011).

5.3. Operational Land Holdings: 2000-01 & 2005-06

As compared to 2005-06, the percentage increase in number of operational holdings in 2010-11 was found varying in different States of the country, India, such as the highest was in case of Goa (47.71 per cent) followed by Madhya Pradesh (12.19 per cent), Rajasthan (11.35 per cent), Bihar (10.47 per cent), Daman & Diu (9.60 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (9.39 per cent), Chhattisgarh (8.26 per cent), Odisha (7.14 per cent), Puducherry (5.56 per cent), Nagaland (5.41 per cent), Jammu & Kashmir (5.20 per cent) and so on. Nevertheless, the operated area showed declining trend in most of the States in the country, India (Moa, 2012).

5.4. Operational Land Holdings: 2010-11

In the country as a whole, out of 35 States and Union Territories (UTs), there was found that 13 States, namely, the Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal altogether were accounted for about 91.00 per cent of the number of operational holdings along with the share of about 88.03 per cent operated area in 2010-11 (MoA, 2012).

There was about 138.35 million operational holdings in the country, in which the highest one belonged to Uttar Pradesh State (23.33 million) followed by Bihar (16.19 million), Maharashtra (13.70 million), Andhra Pradesh (13.18 million), Madhya Pradesh (8.87 million), Tamil Nadu (8.12 million), Karnataka (7.83 million), West Bengal (7.12 million), Rajasthan (6.89 million), Kerala (6.83 million) and so on along with the lowest of only 714 operational holdings in the union territory of Chandigarh.

6. Informal Settlements

6.1. Slums and Squatter Settlements

The informal settlements takes into account to those residential areas where dwellings are in any respect unfit for human habitation by reasons of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangements and designs of the buildings. In addition to this, the slums are also characterised by the faulty arrangement of streets, lack of ventilation, light, sanitation facilities or any combination of these factors which are detrimental to safety, health and morals of the people. By and large, the slum is an urban phenomena. The large cities and towns acts as beacons for the rural population by providing the higher standard of living and offer opportunities to people not available in rural areas. By virtue of this, the large scale migration from rural to urban areas takes place. For the first time in 2001 Census, the slum areas were earmarked across the country, India, particularly, in cities and towns having population of 50,000 or above in 1991 Census. Subsequently, the slum data was get rid off or the towns with 20,000 to 49,999 population in 2001 and statutory towns having population less than 50,000 in 1991 but reported more than 50,000 population in 2001 and were not considered for carving slum in the earlier censuses.

6.2. Urban Slum's Population: 2001 and 2011

The negative consequences of urban pull factors results into the upcoming of slums and squatter settlements. The Slums are an urban phenomenon, resulting from large-scale rural to urban migration. There were about 52.37 million slum dwellers in 2001. This number was increased to about 65.49 million by 2011. So, there was about 25.01 per cent decadal growth during 2001-11 of slum population in the country, India. The slum population was about 18.30 per cent in 2001. Whereas, the slum population was marginally declined to about 17.40 per cent in 2011.

6.3. Number of Statutory and Slum Reported Towns

The Slums have been earmarked in all the statutory towns irrespective of their population size based on the same definition as in 2001. There are three types of slums which have been defined in census, namely, the Notified Slums, the Recognized Slums and the Identified Slums. There were number of criteria adopted for defining the slums as, firstly, the all notified areas in a town or city notified as 'slum' by State, union territories administration or local government under any act including a 'slum act' may be considered as notified slums.

Besides this, secondly, while taking into account to all areas recognised as 'slum' by State, union territories administration or local government, housing and slum boards, which may have not been formally notified as slum under any act may be considered as recognized slums. And, thirdly, a compact area of at least 300 population or about 60 to 70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities. So, such areas should be identified personally by the charge officer and also inspected by an officer nominated by Directorate of Census Operations. This fact must be duly recorded in the charge register. So, such areas may be considered as the identified slums in the urban areas.

7. Land Administration

A good land administration system is based on which the data and information about land ownership, land valuation, and land use forms can lead to better land management. The land administration with the help of technology can make assignment of property rights more judiciously in a way that bridges the gap between rich and poor. The cadastre is a parcel-based and up-to-date land

information system, consisting of as, firstly, the record of rights on ownership in land; and, secondly, the graphical representation (plan or map) of the land parcels linked to other records describing the nature of the rights (Williamson, 2010). The British Colonial Rulers established the Survey of India in 1767, initiated land surveys with a sole purpose to bring ease in the collection of land revenues from estates throughout the country, India. Such centralised approach of land surveying was decentralised in 1904, in view of the fact that the states being made solely responsible for the cadastral surveying.

The Economic planning in India is done every five years and it was identified that for the first time that planning focused on land reforms during the second five year plan (Ahluwalia, 2002). Rural development programs are closely tied to land reforms and it was advocated in many plans that a proper land record is a necessity for realisation of land reforms at the ground level (Fan and Gulati, 2006). During the 7th Five Year Plan, it was decided that "... the land records form the base for all land reforms measures and, therefore, regular periodical updating of land records is essential in all States. The Country, India is strongly catching up towards calling itself a developed nation. The accurate information of the land and natural resources requires spatial data infrastructure to address the needs of the nation (Fan, et. al., 1999 and 2000). The Rural Development Ministry of the Government of India on August 21, 2008 called for a system for proper upkeep of land records in the country through a program called National Land Records Modernisation Program (NLRMP).

7.1. Land Dispute and Conflicts

Whenever possible a number of poor families should be provided land in a continuous stretch and encouraged to work in close cooperation and use local inputs. The voluntary and peoples' organisations should initiate a movement by uniting small farmers for this purpose. The rich urban families and corporations must be discouraged from holding land (Bending, 2010; and Baraun and Dick, 2009). The economies of scale, especially in the case of high value crops are available not at the production level, but at the processing stage. So, such economics can be enjoyed by the farmers through contract farming well within the ceiling area of their holdings.

On the other hand, if the ceiling area is relaxed or removed, it will eliminate a large number of people from their holdings for whom there will not be any alternate means of livelihood. There will be a danger of land speculation and acquisition to avoid tax liabilities. The land reforms are connected with the right to life and livelihood of a huge rural population of the country, India. The government is under an obligation to protect the land rights (Chakravorty, 2013). So long as this population is tied to the soil, they will cultivate and increase production and growth. The moment these cultivators are overthrown from land will pick-up weapons of war. India is the largest democracy in the world, where a majority of them are farmers. So, the country must protect the democratic rights of the farmers by exploring alternatives strategies to protect their man and land relationship (Chaturvedi, et. al., 2011).

8. International Cooperation in Land Governance

The Agriculture Census of India (ACI) is regularly conducted in the country, India, since 1950-51, by following the broad guidelines of decennial World Census of Agriculture (WCA) evolved by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (Palmer, et. al., 2009). It is conducted at an interval of five years and data is collected in three distinct phases. The operational holding has been taken as statistical unit at micro-level for data collection as this is the ultimate unit for taking agriculture related decisions. India is a member of multilateral groupings and associations such as IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa), BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations, and BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectorial Economic & Technical Co-operation) etc. More recently, the 6th Meeting of Joint Working Group of the IBSA was held in New Delhi on 10th May, 2013.

9. Features of Land Governance

Land governance is about the policies, processes and institutions by which land, property and natural resources are managed. This includes decisions on access to land, land rights, land use, and land development. The land governance is basically about determining and implementing sustainable land policies and establishing a strong relationship between people and land. The land governance for the 21st Century theme focused on adapting and improving the approaches to land governance. In addition to this, there will be more sensitive and supportive of the new challenges and to make stakeholders fully aware of the incentives to adopt the paradigm shift (David, et. al., 2009). The good land governance must not only control and manage the effective use of physical space on the one hand, but must also be holistic in nature in order to ensure sound economic and social development on the other hand. The effective and democratised land governance is at the heart of delivering the global vision of our future (FAO, 2007). However, the route to this vision is rapidly changing as a series of new environmental, economic and social challenges pervade and impact every aspect of our lives. The land professionals have a vital role to play and we must understand and respond quickly to this on-going change for good land governance (Sampats, 2014).

9.1. Lessons Learned from Land Governance

9.1.1. National Policy and Planning

It is noteworthy to mention that there was enough attention paid for land governance and land reforms during the different plan periods for economic development since the independence of the country, India. The planning process has been laying emphasis on the agricultural infrastructure development facilities as the irrigation, roads, transport, credit facilities, markets, warehousing, cold storage facilities, electrification and so on (Pal, 2008).

9.1.2. Forests Cover and Land Ceiling

It is important to mention that the demand and acquisition of land for urbanisation and industrialisation has already been risen which consumed to the cultivable and forests cover lands. Furthermore, there is a need for implementing the “ceiling” on agricultural holdings in order to protect the fragile ecosystem and forests covers in the different parts of the country, India.

9.1.3. Economic Development under Five Year Plans

The chronological analysis of the past 12 Five Year Plans makes it clear that since the inception of planning commission, industrialisation was equated with development in India. It must be noted that a majority of the people in India belong to rural areas, deriving their livelihood from agriculture. The agriculture sector is pivotal to development activity and includes associated activities like agro-forestry, animal husbandry and so on. On the other hand, the stagnation in agricultural growth would mean increasing unemployment and underemployment, threatening all development efforts (Chakraborty, 2016). So, it is acknowledged that the growth does not always originate from the modern, organised sector of the economy.

9.1.4. National Agriculture Policy and Development Strategy

The National Agriculture Policy seeks to actualise the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture on the one hand and then strengthen to the rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development on the other. So, the agriculture development strategy should therefore focuses on, firstly, the increase in the value added per hectare, more so on the small and marginal holdings; secondly, the improvement in productivity of inputs, especially purchased inputs such as fertilisers, water, electricity; thirdly, the prevention of the degradation of land and water resources; and fourthly, the encouragement to the farmers’ self-help institutions at the grass root level in the country, India.

9.1.5. National Agriculture Policy Impacts on Land Reforms

A number of measures have been taken under the national agriculture policy for the land reform in the country, as firstly, the consolidation of holdings all over the country on the pattern of the North-Western States. Secondly, the redistribution of ceiling surplus lands and wastelands among the landless farmers, unemployed youth, with initial start-up capital. Thirdly, the tenancy reforms to recognise the rights of the tenants and sharecroppers. Fourthly, the development of base markets for increasing the size of the holdings by making legal provision for giving private land on lease for cultivation and agribusiness. Fifthly, the updating and improvement of land records, computerisation and issue of land pass books to the farmer. And, Sixthly, the recognition of women’s rights in land in the country, India (GoI, 2013).

9.1.6. Land Reforms Target Areas during Second Phase

The target area for the second phase reform is clearly the agricultural sector. The weaknesses of Indian agriculture sector are as, firstly, the preponderance of low value agriculture; secondly, the low cost-benefit ratio; thirdly, the inefficient use of natural resources; and fourthly, the deterioration in self-help institutions.

9.1.7. Land Tenure and Land Governance Systems

The land tenure and governance systems must ensure to have their effects on the agriculture development through systemisation of the processes such as (a) the growth of land holdings beyond the ceiling was contained to a large extent;(b) the system of absentee landlordism weakened; (c) the convergence of ownership and management took place; and (d) the “uniform” land system should emerged throughout the country, India.

10. Present Land Reforms: Issues and Challenges

There is lot of debates regarding the various issues and challenges dealing with present land reforms in the country, India. The Land reform means the distribution of surplus land to small farmers and landless cultivators, accrued as a result of the implementation of the ceiling on agricultural holdings (Mander, 2013; and Nathan, 2002). Land reforms have been major instruments of social transformation, especially in an economy based on feudal and semi-feudal production relationships (Danlwata, 1971). The main objective of land reform programme is not only to increase agricultural production, but also to build an egalitarian social order as contemplated under the Constitution of India. The Land and land reform issues are the focal point of the political and economic agenda of the country (Mehta, 2011). This also lays a sound foundation for variable growth, to enable India to compete in the global market (Dalta, 2009).A land reform policy is fundamentally a politico-economic issue and in most cases it is the result of a peoples’ movement. Land reform generally reflects public policy of land redistribution for the benefit of the landless, the tenants and the small farmers.

11. Conclusions and Suggestions

The population of the country, India is accounted for about 1.21 billion in 2011. In India, there have been implemented a series of economic reforms in the past two and half decades which was began in the early 1990s. Such reforms have led to speedy economic growth ranging between 8 to 9 per cent per annum during the recent times. It was also started by liberalising and reforming the manufacturing sector. So, there was observed the most rapid poverty reduction which occurred from late 1960s and continued up to the late 1980s. Most of the reforms were actually stimulated by macro imbalances and thus started with macroeconomic and non-

agricultural reforms. The country's economy is still based on agriculture in which about 58.40 per cent of the population is directly involved. And, the agriculture and allied sectors of the economy together contributed about 18.21 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of country during 2010-11. So, the marginal and landless farmers will require a strong social protection system through well-targeted social security and employment policies in the country, India.

The country's agriculture is characterised by the predominance of small farms that is below two hectares which has implications for rural employment. The owners of holdings above two hectares was accounted for less than 20 per cent of total landholdings on the one hand and by and large, it was accounted for over 60 per cent of cultivated area on the other hand. So, these holdings often lack the incentive to practice labor-intensive cultivation, in general. In this context, the reforms are required to optimise land use and eliminate distortions such as concealed tenancy in land markets. It is important to mention that the policymakers must reassure the higher investments in the research in order to boost the yields as well as to expand the cultivation. There are large export potential for the crops produced which may laid the positive impacts on smallholders. There are still more than 300 million rural poor in country, based on the international standard of one dollar a day. In this respect, there was an extensive participation of the panchayats and the civil society at various stages in the formulation and implementation of the various development programmes for the local needs of the rural people.

Consequently, the economic growth prospects of the country increasingly depends on imports of energy, for which future scenarios are uncertain. So, the economic growth must be based on higher efficiency in existing resources utilisation. This will require to invest in science and new technologies to harness energy and water, optimise the economic structures for allocative efficiency, and reform the fiscal, financial, banking, and insurance systems. There is also need to pursue more pro-poor growth, which is not only development objective in itself, but also a precondition for economic growth in the long-term. There is a need to address the weaknesses, in order to achieve the national goals and fulfil the aspirations of the people. The lessons learned from the experiences of the country, India will also help other developing countries and in the global combat against hunger and poverty. So, the long-term solution is to lessen the dependence of rural population on land by the expansion of non-agricultural activities. Nevertheless, the grass root level transformation in rural society is principally possible through the agricultural development in which the agrarian reforms have the superior role in the fundamental development of the country, India.

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