



DISTRIBUTION OF LANDHOLDINGS AMONG SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN UNDIVIDED ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the distribution of land holdings pattern and occupational distribution in general and Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes in particular in the state of undivided Andhra Pradesh. Secondary data was used in this paper. It has three parts part one explains about changes in operational holdings pattern in Andhra Pradesh. Part two demonstrates conclude with summary and conclusion.

Introduction:

Dalits comprise scheduled castes and scheduled tribe population. About three-fourths of the SCs live in rural areas where the main source of income is either cultivation of agricultural land (as a self-employed farmer), wage labor or some type of non-farm wage of self-employment. As per 2011 census scheduled castes constitute 16.41 percent of the total population and scheduled tribes constitute 7 percent of total population at Andhra Pradesh state level.

Table-1. The Distribution of Operational Landholdings in undivided Andhra Pradesh during 1970-71 to 2010-11.

Years	Share in Number of Holding					Share in Operated Area				
	Marginal	Small	Semi-medium	Medium	Large	Marginal	Small	Semi-medium	Medium	Large
1970-71	46	18.5	17.4	12.7	4.3	8	11.3	19.2	30.8	30.7
1976-77	46.6	20.3	17.4	12.2	3.4	9.3	12.8	20.8	32.3	24.8
1980-81	51.6	21.6	16	8.8	2.1	13.1	16.8	22.7	27.8	19.5
1985-86	54.1	20.8	15.2	7.98	1.77	14.5	17.3	23.9	27.2	16.9
1990-91	56.1	21.2	14.5	6.93	1.27	16.4	19.5	25.2	26.1	12.8
2000-01	60.9	21.8	12.3	4.4	0.6	21.6	24.7	26.4	19.9	7.5
2005-06	61.6	21.9	12.0	4.0	0.5	22.7	25.8	26.5	19.0	6.1
2010-11	63.9	22.1	10.6	3.02	0.27	26.08	28.8	25.7	15.4	3.8

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), Hyderabad.

Note: 1. Marginal – 0 to 1 hectare; Small – 1 to 2 hectares; Semi-medium – 2 to 4 hectare; Medium – 4 to 10 hectare; and Large – 10 and above hectare; 2.

This table-1 show that their percentage share in total marginal holdings increased to about 61 percent but area operated under their control has increased to only 21.6 percent of the total operated area. On the other hand, the number of medium and large holdings has declined to 5.0 percent of total operational holdings but



controlled nearly 28 percent of total area. If we take large holdings, alone their share is only 0.6 percent of total holdings but controlled nearly 8 percent of the total operated area in 2000-01. This clearly indicates that although the number of medium and large the food grains from the market. They cannot respond as quickly as large farmers' to policy changes. Thus, the size of the land is also an important factor, which influences the changes in the cropping pattern. From the above analysis, it may be concluded that in Andhra Pradesh, net sown area has been declining and on other hand, the land distribution has been skewed. These two factors have strong influencing impact on farmers' choice regarding crops and which ultimately reflects in the cropping pattern changes.

Brief profile of the Dalits in rural Andhra Pradesh:

21.84 percent of SC population and 11.59 percent of ST population live in urban areas as against 66.57 percent of the general population that is more than 78 percent of SC population and about 88.41 percent of ST population lives in rural areas as against 33.43 percent of general population. 55.32 percent of SC population and 42.79 percent of ST population are literates as against 59.77 percent of the general population that is more than 44.68 percent of SC population and about 57.2 percent of ST population are illiterates as against 40.23 percent of general population.

The work participation rate of SCs, defined as the percentage of SC population participating in the work of total scheduled caste population is 51 percent and that of STs is 54 percent as against 46 percent of general population in 2011. This may happen due to the high participation rate among SC (46.7 percent) and ST (50.65 percent) women. It is also to be noted that as per 2011 census 82.18 percent of SC main workers and 79.98 percent of ST main workers depend on primary sector only 58 percent of general workers depend upon the primary sector. More than 64 percent of SC main workers and about 53 percent of ST main workers were reported as agricultural labor as against only 39.96 percent among general workers (Statistical Abstract of Andhra Pradesh, 2013). With the high dependency of SC/ST on agriculture, let us examine the landholding situation and occupational distribution of Dalits at Andhra Pradesh state level

Land Distribution Pattern among Dalits:

Table-2 Percentage Distribution of Operational Holdings and Operated Area among Different Social Groups in Undivided Andhra Pradesh

Category	1976-77		1980-81		1990-91		1995-96		2000-01		2005-06		2010-11	
	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area
S.C	13.4	6.9	12.6	6.9	12.73	7.48	12.12	7.42	11.85	7.86	11.80	7.84	11.05	7.69
S.T	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.88	7.23	7.11	7.56	7.47	8.23	7.69	8.36	8.04	8.36
Others	80.3	86.9	81.0	86.8	80.39	85.29	80.77	85.02	80.66	83.91	80.49	83.80	80.91	83.95
Total	100	100	100	100	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Various issues of Report on SC/ST Land Holdings



Table-2 depicts the percentage distribution operational holdings and operated area among different social groups in undivided Andhra Pradesh. In 1976-77 the SC operational holdings constitute 13.4 percent but control only 6.9 percent of operated area while STs constitutes 6.3 percent of operational holdings but control 6.4 percent of operated area. In the case of others 80.3 percent of operational holdings but control more than 86 percent of operated area. During 1990-91 SC operational holdings slightly decline to 12.73 percent but they control 7.48 percent of operated area while STs constitutes 6.88 percent of operational holdings but control more than 7 percent of operated area. With reference to others 83.39 percent of operational holdings and area under their control 85.29 percent out of the total operated area. With regarding SC operational holdings registered 11.85 percent but controlled only 7.86 percent of operated area while STs constituted 7.47 percent of operational holdings but controlled 8.23 percent of operated area. In the case of others 80.66 percent of operational holdings but controlled more than 83.91 percent of operated area in 2000-01. By 2010-11 SC operational holdings constitutes 7.80 percent of total operational holdings but control 7.69 percent of operated area. While ST constitutes 8.04 percent of operational holdings and 8.36 percent of the area under their control. On other hand, 80.91 percent of operational holdings but 83.95 percent area controlled by others.

Table-3. Percentage Distribution of Operational Holdings and Area Operated By Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh

Size Group	1976-77		1980-81		1990-91		1995-96		2000-01		2005-06		2010-11	
	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area
Marginal	64.8	22.3	67.7	27.6	70.67	31.98	73.46	37.15	73.84	36.45	74.59	38.32	76.20	41.44
Small	19.0	23.1	18.9	26.2	18.43	28.28	17.75	29.74	17.64	29.53	17.42	30.21	17.00	31.10
Semi-medium	11.5	26.0	10.2	25.2	8.70	24.40	7.39	22.51	6.98	21.33	6.63	20.90	5.74	19.03
Medium	4.1	21.5	2.9	15.2	2.03	12.38	1.32	8.82	1.42	9.36	1.27	8.64	0.99	7.04
Large	0.6	7.1	0.3	5.5	0.17	2.96	0.08	1.78	0.12	3.33	0.09	1.93	0.06	1.38
All Groups	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Various issues of Report on SC/ST Land Holdings

It could be seen from the table-3 that most of the SC holdings are marginal and small in undivided Andhra Pradesh from 1976-77 to 2010-11. During 1976-77 SC marginal holdings constitutes 64.8 percent but the area under their control 22.3 percent of the total operated area while small holdings constitute 19.0 percent of operational holdings area under their control 23.1 percent. Marginal and Small holdings of SC constituted 83 percent of operational holdings but control nearly 46 percent total operated area by them (SC). SC semi-medium operational holdings constitute 11.5 percent of total operational holdings but control 26 percent of the total operated area. On other hand medium and large together constitute 4.7 percent of total operational holdings but the area under their control 28.6 percent of the total operated area.

By 1990-91, SC marginal and small operational holdings together accounted for 89.1 percent of total operational holdings and area under their control 60.26



percent of total operated area While SC semi-medium operational holdings constitute 11.5 percent and area control 24.40 percent of the total operated area. On other hand medium and large operational holdings constitutes 2.20 percent and area under their control 15 percent of the total operated area during the same period.

In 2000-01 SC marginal holdings constitutes 73.84 percent but the area under their control 36.45 percent of the total operated area while small holdings constitute 17.64 percent of operational holdings area under their control 17.42 percent. Marginal and Small holdings of SC constituted 91.48 percent of operational holdings but control nearly 65.98 percent total operated area by them (SC). SC semi-medium operational holdings constitute 6.98 percent of total operational holdings but control 21.33 percent of the total operated area. On other hand medium and large together constitute 1.54 percent of total operational holdings but the area under their control 12.69 percent of the total operated area. During 2010-11, 76.20 percent of marginal SC operational holdings control only 41.44 percent of operated area while 17.00 percent of small operational holdings control 31.10 percent of operated area. Semi-medium operational holdings constitute 5.74 percent but control 19.04 percent of operated area on the other hand medium and large holdings constitutes 1.05 percent of operational holdings but the area under their control is only 8.4 percent of the total operated area.

Table-4 Average size of the holdings operated by Scheduled Castes (in hectares)

Size groups	1976-77	1980-81	1986-87	1990-91	1995-96	2000-01	2005-06	2010-11
Marginal	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.41	0.41
Small	1.45	1.46	1.40	1.40	1.39	1.39	1.38	1.38
Semi-medium	2.69	2.62	2.56	2.56	2.53	2.54	2.52	2.51
Medium	6.21	5.66	5.59	5.58	5.53	5.47	5.44	5.36
Large	14.65	16.48	14.41	16.00	19.00	21.88	16.49	16.50
All groups	1.19	1.06	0.95	0.91	0.83	0.83	0.80	0.76

Source: Various issues of Report on SC/ST Land Holdings

The average size of holdings operated by SC is presented table-4, in the case of marginal operated by SCs continued to be the same trend between 1976-77 to 2010-11, that is 0.41 percent. It is interesting to note that small average operational holdings decline from 1.45 percent in 1976-77 to 1.38 percent in 2010-11 while in the case of semi-medium similar trend as observed. Another important observation from above table is that average size of operational holdings showed to be continued similar trend between 1976-77 and 2010-11. From above table, one can conclude that average size of marginal, small and semi-medium holdings seems to be the decaling trend but large holdings average size increasing trend between these years.



Table-5. Percentage distribution of operational holdings and area operated by scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh

Group Size	1976-77		1980-81		1990-91		1995-96		2000-01		2005-06		2010-11	
	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area	Nos	Area
Marginal	38.2	8.5	43.8	11.7	47.83	14.36	51.59	17.94	53.71	18.86	55.29	20.45	58.99	24.31
Small	21.0	13.3	23.1	17.2	24.80	21.65	25.33	24.84	25.07	25.75	25.01	26.94	24.87	29.54
Semi-medium	24.2	27.2	21.6	30.0	18.90	30.70	16.98	31.0	15.68	30.05	14.79	29.69	12.60	27.79
Medium	14.3	35.5	10.2	31.0	7.67	26.49	5.70	21.90	5.11	20.66	4.58	19.28	3.29	15.27
Large	2.3	15.5	1.30	10.1	0.80	6.80	0.40	4.32	0.43	4.68	0.33	3.63	0.25	3.09
All Group	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Various issues of Report on SC/ST Land holdings

It could be seen from the table-5 that most of the ST holdings are marginal and small in undivided Andhra Pradesh from 1976-77 to 2010-11. During 1976-77 SC marginal holdings constitutes 38.2 percent but the area under their control 8.5 percent of the total operated area while small holdings constitute 21.0 percent of operational holdings area under their control 13.3 percent. Marginal and Small holdings of ST constituted 59.2 percent of operational holdings but control nearly 13.3 percent total operated area by them (ST). ST semi-medium operational holdings constitute 24.2 percent of total operational holdings but control 27.2 percent of the total operated area. On other hand medium and large together constitute 16.6 percent of total operational holdings but the area under their control 51 percent of the total operated area.

By 1990-91, ST marginal and small operational holdings together accounted for 72.64 percent of total operational holdings and area under their control 36.01 percent of total operated area While ST semi-medium operational holdings constitute 18.90 percent and area control 30.70 percent of the total operated area. On other hand medium and large operational holdings constitutes 8.47 percent and area under their control 26.89 percent of the total operated area during the same period.

In 2000-01 ST marginal holdings constitutes 53.71 percent but the area under their control 18.86 percent of the total operated area while small holdings constitute 25.07 percent of operational holdings area under their control 25.75 percent. Marginal and Small holdings of ST constituted 78.78 percent of operational holdings but control nearly 44.61 percent total operated area by them (ST). ST semi-medium operational holdings constitute 15.68 percent of total operational holdings but control 30.05 percent of the total operated area. On other hand medium and large together constitutes 5.54 percent of total operational holdings but the area under their control 25.34 percent of the total operated area.

During 2010-11, 58.99 percent of marginal ST operational holdings control only 24.31 percent of operated area while 24.87 percent of small operational holdings control 29.54 percent of operated area. Semi-medium operational holdings constitute



12.60 percent but control 27.79 percent of operated area on other hand medium and large holdings constitute 3.54 percent of operational holdings but the area under their control 3.09 percent of the total operated area.

Table-6 Average size of the holdings operated by scheduled tribes (in hectares)

Size groups	1976-77	1980-81	1986-87	1990-91	1995-96	2000-01	2005-06	2010-11
Marginal	0.52	0.51	0.49	0.49	0.50	0.48	0.48	0.49
Small	1.47	1.42	1.44	1.43	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.40
Semi-medium	2.62	2.65	2.62	2.66	2.63	2.63	2.63	2.60
Medium	5.82	5.77	5.70	5.65	5.53	5.55	5.51	5.47
Large	15.62	14.49	14.47	13.72	15.67	15.07	14.33	14.53
All groups	2.33	1.91	1.80	1.64	1.44	1.37	1.31	1.18

Source: Various issues of Report on SC/ST land Holdings

The average size of holdings operated by ST is presented table-6, in the case of marginal operated by STs continued to be the same trend between 1976-77 to 2010-11, the marginal operational holdings slightly declined from 0.52 percent to 0.48 percent and average operated area is also declined from 0.51 percent to 0.49 percent between 1976-77 and 2010-11. It is interesting to note that small average operational holdings decline from 1.47 percent in 1976-77 to 1.41 percent in 2010-11 while in the case of the semi-medium similar trend as observed. Another important observation from above table is that average size of operational holdings showed to be continued similar trend between 1976-77 and 2010-11. From above table, one can conclude that average size of marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large holdings seems to be the decaling trend.

Conclusion:

From this analysis on the distribution of operational landholdings and operated area among different size groups and different social groups in Andhra Pradesh. The following observation can be drawn. The state of Andhra Pradesh constitutes 52.40 percent of the geographical area is under landholding of various size of belongs to various social groups. The introduction of land reforms changed the distribution of landholding in Andhra Pradesh during last five decades. In 1970-71 one fifth of the operational holdings, the area is controlled by two-thirds of the total number of holdings. On the other hand, large and medium landholdings accounted for more than one-fifth of the total operational area owned by and controlled by only one-sixth of total land holdings showing positive distributions of land holdings in favor of large and medium size landholders. Between 1970-71 and 1975-76 the number of small and marginal holdings increased indicating fragmentations of land holdings on one hand and the medium and large holdings of the area controlled by them also increased on the other hand. By 1980-81 the share of marginal holdings to total operational holdings increased by 54.1 per cent while area controlled by them increased by 13.1 per cent showing that the impact of surpluses land distributions of land and forest land to schedule tribes. Similarly, trends continued at the slower pace during 1985-86 and the percent of marginal holdings to total holdings increased by



54.1 per cent and that of the area of marginal holdings to total operational holdings increased by 14.5 per cent.

In 1990-91 a little more than one-fifth of the total holdings were small landholdings that were holding very little less than one-fifth of the area of the total operational holding in the state. In 1995-96 small size operational holdings area controlled by a larger number of landholding in Andhra Pradesh. In 2001-02 the number of smallholdings and semi- medium holdings belongs with their propositions of total operational holdings along with the area under their controlled. Further, the share of large and medium operational land holdings and area under these holdings decline. In Andhra Pradesh, during 1976-2011 the estimated average size of area of each landholding for scheduled caste decline from 1.19hectares to 0.41 registered during the same period, for the marginal holdings it showed same trend in this period, for the small holdings it declined from 1.45 to .38, form semi-medium landholder it declined from 2.69 to 2.51, for medium landholders it declined from 6.21 to 5.36, for large landholder it declined from 15.62 to 14.76. On the other hand, scheduled tribes, during same period In Andhra Pradesh during 1976-2010 the number of marginal holdings increased by 63.94 per cent, the small holding increased by 22.15 per cent and semi- medium landholdings increased by 10.62 per cent. On other hand, the number of the medium landholding declined by 3.02 per cent and the large landholding by 0.27 per cent. This indicates the redistributions of landholding from medium and large landholding to small and marginal landholders. During 1996-2001 the share of the number of operational landholdings to total landholdings belongs to Schedule Castes decreased from 12 percent. More than 7 per cent of the operated area of total landholding in the state belongs to scheduled tribes in 1995-96 and it increased to 8.82 percent in 2001-02. The percent of number of landholdings belongs to other social groups to all land holdings in the state remained more or less the same around 80 per cent indicating a marginal shift in the landholdings owned by other social groups to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The shares of scheduled castes marginal, small and medium size landholdings to total scheduled caste land holders and area controlled by them remained more or less the same.

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