

RRDS GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE

BHIMAVARAM-534202, WEST GODAVARI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH



2022-23

Student Study Project

on

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF TENANT FARMERS
IN WEST GODAVARI DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

(A CASE STUDY OF BHIMAVARAM, PALAKODERU AND KALLA MANDALS)

No of Students Enrolled : 10

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Acknowledgement

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. P. Aravind Swamy, Lecturer in Economics, RRDS Government Degree College, Bhimavaram for suggesting us this particular Study Project and helping us in carrying out this task.

We are thankful to Dr. V K J Prasuna, Principal, RRDS Government Degree College, Bhimavaram for giving us permission for this Study Project and also for her valuable suggestions to complete this task.


We are thankful to all our faculty members for their guidance and help in completing this field visit successfully.

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Certificate

This is to certify that the following students from II BA has successfully completed Study project titled “Socio-Economic conditions of Tenant Farmers in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh” under the supervision of Dr. P. Aravind Swamy, Lecturer in Economics, RRDS Government Degree College, Bhimavaram and submitted the report to the Department.

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**SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF TENANT FARMERS IN
WEST GODAVARI DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
(A CASE STUDY OF BHIMAVARAM, PALAKODERU AND KALLA MANDALS)**

1. Introduction

Andhra Pradesh, a state in India, is called farmers' state, the state is largest producer of rice in south India. But the irony is that most of these farmers are merely cultivators who do not own the land that they plough, generally called-TENANT FARMERS. Of the total 1.2 crore farmers at present in the state, 50-55 lakh are tenant farmers. Tenant farmers are those who cultivate crops by taking land on lease. Tenant farming is an agricultural production system in which landowners contribute their land and often a measure of operating capital and management; while tenant farmers contribute their labour along with at times varying amounts of capital and management. Agreements of such lease, even when made orally, are considered as lease contracts. Depending on the contract, tenants can make payments to the owner either of a fixed portion of the product, cash or in a combination. The rights the tenant has over the land and measure of the payment varies across systems (geographically and chronologically). In some systems, the tenant could be evicted at whim i.e., tenancy in will; in others, the landowner and tenant sign a contract for a fixed number of years. As per the AP Tenancy Act of 1956, the tenant farmer must hand over one third of the yield to the land owner-farmer apart from paying the lease amount before taking possession of the land to cultivate.

According to P. Jamalaihah, general secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Tenant Farmers' Association, there are about 33 lakh tenant farmers in the state, but only 5.5 lakh of these farmers have received CCRCs.

2. Reasons for Tenancy

Number of tenant holdings in Andhra Pradesh is about 42.2% of total holdings. The main reasons for tenancy are given below

1. Hope for increased earnings.
2. Sufficient fodder availability and live stock.
3. No need for migration.
4. Loans come by and stakes go up.
5. Food grains for consumption remaining after payment to landowner.

3. Tenancy reforms in Andhra Pradesh: Tenancy reforms came into existence under the provisions of Article 39(b) and (c) of the Constitution of India. The aim is that the cultivators should enjoy the benefits of their hard work.

Some important tenancy reform acts of Andhra Pradesh are:

Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Area) Tenancy Act, 1958

Andhra Pradesh (Telangana Area) Tenancy & Agricultural Lands Act, 1958

Andhra Pradesh (Telangana Area) Abolition of Inam Act, 1958

Hyderabad Tenancy & Agricultural Land Act, 1950

Andhra Pradesh Mahals (Abolition & Conversion into Ryotwari) Regulation, 1960

Andhra Pradesh Lands (Prohibition & Transfers) Act, 1977

Andhra Pradesh Tenants and Riots Protection Act, 1979

Andhra Pradesh (Telangana Area) Estates Land (Abolition of Jagirs) Regulation, 1358F

Hyderabad (Abolition of Jagirs) Regulation, 1358F

Hyderabad Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1950

Andhra Pradesh Crop Cultivators Rights Act, 2019

As a mile stone to protect the rights of tenant farmers an ordinance was given by Government of Andhra Pradesh on 08-06-2011 called as ANDHRA PRADESH LOAN AND ALLIED BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY CARD (PERMITTED CULTIVATORS) ACT, 2011., this was passed as Act on 23-12-2011. By this it is easy to tenant farmers to source Crop Production loan from Banks apart from Crop Insurance benefit and other benefits from Government such as input subsidy in his name, compensation for damage to crop and for matters connected.

The salient features of this Act are given below:

- To provide Loan Eligibility Cards for farmers in permitted cultivation of land.

- To provide farmers access to public financial institutions for loan, crop claim insurance, input subsidy etc.
- To claim damages to crop.
- To infuse confidence in permitted enjoyment farming community and to prevent suicides.
- To safe guard the rights of the land owners/pattadar of the land which was given for permitted cultivation.

During 2012-13, till the end of August, an amount of Rs. 116 crore credit is extended to 34,227 non-loanee farmers and an amount of Rs. 205 crore of credit was extended to 96,845 tenant farmers.

4. Need for the study

The inadequate implementation of the land reforms and changes in the rural economy has led to a situation where there is increasing number of tenant farmers. The Bankers' committee estimations show that there are more than 52 lakh tenant farmers in Andhra Pradesh. All these tenancy are based on oral agreements. Government of AP has brought AP Tenancy (Andhra area) Act in 1956 which was amended in 1974 and came into force from 1980.

As per the act,

1. The government has to register all the tenant farmers. Till now this is not implemented. As a result the tenant farmers are not eligible for any government support in the form of credit, subsidies, insurance or crop compensations in case of failure.
2. The government should appoint a special officer who settles the disputes with respect to tenancy.
3. The lease should be 33 % in case of irrigated and 24 % in case of rain feed of the total output
4. The tenant farmer has to bear the costs of cultivation and land lord should bear the taxes. The agreement can be in the form of cash or kind.

But in practice the tenancy costs are very high. In West Godavari district where paddy is predominantly grown, the least amounts to 29-34 bags per acre per season. In Krishna district it ranges from 16-25 bags/acre. Under these circumstances there is a need to study the problems and socio-economic conditions of tenant farmers in west Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh.

5.Statement of the Problem: Of the total 1.2 crore farmers at present in the state, 50-55 lakh are tenant farmers. All these tenancy are based on oral agreements. All the tenant farmers are to be registered as per AP Tenancy (Andhra area) Act in 1956. Till now this is not implemented. As a result the tenant farmers are not eligible for any government support in the form of credit, subsidies, insurance or crop compensations in case of failure. Hence the tenant farmers are suffering from severe hardships in cultivation. Under these circumstances there is a need to study the socio-economic conditions of the tenant farmers in the study area.

6.Objectives

- 1.To know the problems faced by the tenant farmers
2. To know the socio-economic conditions of tenant farmers in the study area.

7.Methodology

The survey on Tenant Farmers was conducted in 5 randomly selected villages from Bhimavaram, Palakoderu and Kalla mandals of West Godavari District. Primary data on various aspects of tenant farming was collected from 154 tenant farmers by using a structured questioner. Research tools like percentages and averages were used in tabulation and analysis of data.

8. Socio-economic conditions of Tenant farmers:

Various aspects of socio-economic conditions of tenant farmers are given here under

8.1. Gender wise distribution of the tenant farmers: Gender wise distribution of the tenant farmers is given in Table-1. The data shows that out of 154 respondents 86.48 per cent are males and 13.51 per cent are females.

Table-1. Gender wise distribution of tenant farmers

Male	FEMALE	Total
133	21	154
86.48%	13.52%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.2. Age wise distribution of the tenant farmers: Age wise distribution of the tenant farmers is given in Table-2. The data shows that out of 154 respondents 5.4 per cent are in the age group of 20-40 years, 67.56 per cent are in the age group of 40-60 years and 27.02 per cent are in the age group of above 60 years. Most of the respondents are in the age group of 40-60 years.

Table-2. Age of the respondent

Up to 20 yrs	20-40 yrs	40-60 yrs	60 above	Total	Total
0	24	90	40	154	154
0.00%	15.58%	58.45%	25.97%	100%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.3. Social status of the tenant farmers: Social status of the tenant farmers is given in table-3. The data shows that 50.65 per cent of the respondents belong to OCs, 31.16 per cent of the respondents belong to BCs per cent and 18.19 per cent belong to Scheduled Casts.

Table-3. Social Status of the respondents

OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
78	48	28	0	154
50.65%	31.16%	18.19%	0.00%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.4. Religion wise distribution of the tenant farmers: Religion wise distribution of the tenant farmers is given in Table-4. The data shows that out of 154 respondents 79.20 per cent belong to Hindu community and 20.80 per cent belong to Christians.

Table-4. Religion wise distribution of the respondents

Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Others	Total
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122	0	32	0	154
79.20%	0.00%	20.80%	0.00%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.5. Educational status of the tenant farmers: Educational status of the tenant farmers is given in Table-5. The data shows that out of 154 respondents 55.01 per cent are educated and 44.80 per cent are illiterates.

Table-5. Educational status of the tenant formers is given in

Educated	Uneducated	Total
85	69	154
55.01%	44.80%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.6. Level of education of the tenant farmers: Level of education of the tenant farmers is given in table-6. The data shows that out of 85 literate farmers 49.42 per cent are educated up to primary level, 44.05 per cent are educated up to secondary level, 3.53 per cent are educated up to intermediate level. None of the sample tenant farmers are graduated.

Table-6. Level of education of the tenant farmers

Primary	Secondary	Intermediate	Degree	Above degree	Total
42	40	3	0	0	85
49.42%	47.05%	3.53%	0.00%	0.00%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.7. Land ownership of the tenant farmers: Details relate to land ownership of the tenant farmers is given in table-7. The data shows that out of 154 sample farmers, 33.11 per cent are land owners and 66.88 per cent have no land.

Table-7. Land ownership of tenant farmers

Land owners	No land	Total
51	103	154
33.11%	66.88%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.8. Extent of land Owned by tenant farmers :Details related to the extent of land owned by the tenant farmers is given in table-8. The data shows that out of 51 land owners 72.54 per cent have land up to 2 acres, 17.64 per cent have up to 4 acres and about 10 per cent have up to 6 acres of land. It is evident from the data that most of the tenant farmers are marginal farmers.

Table-8.Extent of own land

Up to 2 acres	2-4 acres	4-6 acres	Above 6 acres	Total
37	9	5	0	51
72.54%	17.64%	9.80%	0.00%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.9. Extent of leased in land for cultivation: Details related to leased in land by tenant farmers is given in table-9. The data shows that 34.41 per cent of the tenant farmers leased in up to 2 acres of land, 39.61 per cent up to 4 acres, 19.48 per cent up to 6 acres and 6.49 per cent up to 6 acres of land.

Table-9 Extent of leased in land for cultivation

Up to 2 acres	2-4 acres	4-6 acres	Above 6 acres	Total
53	61	30	10	154
34.41%	39.61%	19.48%	6.49%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.10.Reasons for tenant farming : Details related to reasons for tenant farming is given in table-10. The data shows that about 33 per cent of the tenant farmers opting farming as they have no own land, 21.42 per cent are opting for farming as they are not in a position to take up other professions, 31.16 per cent are opting for farming out of their own interest and 14.28 per cent are opting farming for extra income.

Table-10 Reasons for tenant farming

Having no own land	Not able to do other professions	Interest in agriculture	source of extra income	Total
51	33	48	22	154

33.11%	21.42%	31.16%	14.28%	100%
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Source: Field Survey

8.11. Length of tenant farming: Details related to the length of tenant farming is given in table-11. It is evident from the data that 22.72 per cent of the tenant farmers are doing farming for the last 5 years, 23.37 per cent are doing for the last 10 years and about 60 per cent are doing tenant farming for more than 10 years.

Table-11 How long you are doing tenant farming

5 years	10 years	above 10 years	Total
35	36	83	154
22.72%	23.37%	53.89%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.12. Average expenditure for cultivation: Details related to average expenditure of cultivation of one acre of land is given in table-12. It is evident from the table that about 21 per cent of the tenant farmers spending about Rs.20,000 on cultivation of one acre of land, while 51 per cent spend in between Rs. 20,000 to 30,000 and about 28 per cent spend about 40,000 for cultivation.

Table-12 Average expenditure for cultivation of one acre of land holding

Up to 20 thousand	20-30 thousand	30-40 thousand	Above 40 thousand	Total
32	78	44	0	154
20.77%	50.64%	28.57%	0.00	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.13. Rent for cultivation of one acre of land: Details related to rent for cultivation of one acre of land is given in table-13. It is evident from the data that more than 85 per cent of the respondents pay up to Rs. 30,000 as rent for cultivation of one acre of land.

Table-13 Rent for cultivation of one acre of land

Up to 20,000	up to 30,000	more than 30,000	Total
40	93	21	154

25.97%	60.38%	13.63%	100%
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Source: Field Survey

8.14.Average yield from one acre of land: Details related to average yield from one acre of land is given in table- 14. It is evident from the data that about 17 per cent of the respondents are getting average yield up to 20 bags. About 50 per cent are getting up to 30 bags, about 19 per cent are getting about 30-40 bags and about 17 per cent getting more than 40 bags of rice per acre.

Table-14. Average yield from one acre of land

Up to 20 bags	20-30 bags	30-40 bags	Above 40 bags	Total
26	72	30	26	154
16.88%	46.75%	19.48%	16.88%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.15.Average income from one acre of land: Details related to average income from one acre of land is given in table-15. It is evident from the data that about 35 per cent of the respondent tenant farmers are getting about Rs. 20,000 income from one acre of land, 41 per cent are getting in between Rs. 20,000 -30,000 and 23 per cent are getting in between Rs.30,000-40,000 average income from one acre of land.

Table-15 Average income from one acre of land

Up to 20,000	20,000-30,000	30,000-40,000	Above 40,000	Total
54	64	36	0	154
35.06%	41.55%	23.37%	0.00	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.16.Average surplus income after deducting agricultural expenses: Details related to average surplus income after deducting agricultural expenses is given in table-16. The data shows that majority of the respondents' surplus income is less than Rs. 10,000. And about 57 per cent are getting less than Rs. 30,000 as average surplus income.

Table-16 Average surplus income after deducting agricultural expenses

Up to 10,000	10,000-20,000	20,000-30,000	Above 30,000	Total
65	55	34	0	154
42.20%	35.71%	22.07%	0.00%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.17.Average loss from one acre of land: It is evident from the data (Table-17) that out of 154 respondents 35 respondents opined that they are incurring losses. Out of these 35 tenant farmers about 60 per cent are incurring losses to the tune of Rs.10,000 per acre, 33 per cent are incurring to the tune of Rs. 15,000 and 3 per cent are incurring losses to the tune of Rs.15,000 -20,000 per acre.

Table-17 In case of incurring losses, average loss from one acre of land

Up to 10,000	10,000-15,000	15,000-20,000	Above 20,000	Total
22	12	3	0	35
59.45%	32.43%	8.10%	0.00%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.18.Agricultural Loans : Information related to agricultural loans taken by the sample tenant farmers is given in table-18. The data shows that out of 154 tenant farmers 136 farmers (88.31 per cent) are taking loans for cultivation.

8.19.Source of loan: It is evident from the data (Table-19) that 23.37 per cent per cent of the respondents are getting loans from institutional sources, 34.14 per cent are getting from non-institutional sources and 42.20 per cent are getting from both institutional and non-institutional sources.

Table-19 Source of loan

Institutional Source	Non institutional	Both	Total
36	53	65	154
23.37%	34.41%	42.20%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.20.Average Loan taken by the farmers: It is evident from the table-20 that 41.55 per cent of the farmers are taking loans up to Rs.15,000, 34 per cent are taking up to Rs.20,000 and about 24 per cent taking loans more than Rs.20,000.

Table-20 Average Loan taken

Up to 15,000	15,000-20.000	Above 20,000	Total
64	53	37	154
41.55%	34.41%	24.02%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.21. Debt waiver schemes of Government: Information related to the farmers covered under debt waiver scheme is given in table-21. It is evident from the data that about 64 per cent of the tenant farmers in the study area are not covered under debt waiver scheme.

Table-21 Covered under debt waiver schemes of Government

Yes	No	Total
55	99	154
35.71%	64.28%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.22. Mechanisation of agriculture: Information related to mechanisation of agriculture adapted by tenant farmers is given in table-22. It is evident from the data that 96 per cent of the respondents are using various types of machines in agricultural activities.

Table-22 Adopting mechanisation of agriculture

Yes	No	Total
148	6	154
96.10%	3.89%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.23. Organic Farming: Details related to organic farming adapted by tenant farmers is given in table-23. It is evident from the data that very few farmers i.e. only 3.24 per cent are opted for organic farming.

Table-23 Doing organic farming

Yes	No	Total
5	149	154
3.24%	96.75%	100%

Source: Field Survey

8.24. Other sources of income: Data related to other sources of income is given in table-24. It is evident from the data that about 44 per cent of sample tenant farmers are having some of income from other than agricultural sources.

Table-24 Other sources of income along with agriculture

Yes	No	Total
67	87	154
43.50%	56.49%	100%

Source: Field Survey

9. Problems faced in agriculture as perceived by the sample tenant farmers

1. low price for agricultural product
2. Unfavourable climatic conditions
3. Low yielding
4. high rate of rent
5. Low quality fertilisers
6. Lack of tenant cards
7. Increasing cultivation cost
8. Not in a position to wait until getting remunerative prices

10. Major findings

The following were the findings from the Survey.

1. 100% of tenancy is informal. Of the 154 tenant farmers taking lands on lease, not even one lease agreement has been recorded in the revenue records.
2. Out of 154 sample tenant farmers 86.48 per cent are males and 13.51 per cent are females.
3. Majority of the sample tenant farmers (67.56 per cent) are in the age group of 40-60 years.
4. About 50.65 per cent of the respondents belong to OCs, 31.16 per cent of the respondents belong to BCs per cent and 18.19 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes.
5. About 95 per cent of the respondents are educated up to secondary level.
6. Out of 154 sample farmers, 33.11 per cent are land owners and 66.88 per cent have no land.

7. Most of the tenant farmers (72.54 per cent) are marginal farmers having land up to 2 acres.
8. About 54 per cent of the tenant farmers are doing farming for the last 15 years.
9. Most of the respondents are doing farming as they are not able to do other type of works.
10. More than 85 per cent of the respondents pay up to Rs. 30,000 as rent for cultivation of one acre of land.
11. About 17 per cent of the respondents are getting average yield up to 20 bags. About 50 per cent are getting up to 30 bags, about 19 per cent are getting about 30-40 bags and about 17 per cent getting more than 40 bags of rice per acre.
12. about 35 per cent of the respondent tenant farmers are getting about Rs. 20,000 income from one acre of land, 41 per cent are getting in between Rs. 20,000 -30,000 and 23 per cent are getting in between Rs.30,000-40,000 average income from one acre of land.
13. Majority of the respondents' surplus income is less than Rs. 10,000.
14. Out of the tenant farmers incurring losses about 60 per cent are incurring losses to the tune of Rs.10,000 per acre, 33 per cent are incurring to the tune of Rs. 15,000 and 3 per cent are incurring losses to the tune of Rs.15,000 -20,000 per acre.
15. About 23.37 per cent per cent of the respondents are getting loans from institutional sources, 34.14 per cent are getting from non-institutional sources and 42.20 per cent are getting from both institutional and non-institutional sources.
16. About 41.55 per cent of the farmers are taking loans up to Rs.15,000, 34 per cent are taking up to Rs.20,000 and about 24 per cent taking loans more than Rs.20,000.
17. About 64 per cent of the tenant farmers in the study area are not covered under debt waiver scheme.
18. About 96 per cent of the respondents are using various types of machines in agricultural activities.
19. It is evident that very few farmers i.e. only 3.24 per cent are opted for organic farming.

11.Suggestions to overcome the problems of tenant farmers

1. By providing security of tenure and ownership rights to tenants and sharecroppers and by regulating rent payable by them to the landowner.
2. By consolidation of landholdings and thereby bringing about rearrangements of land for better productivity.

3. Tenancy reforms like conversion of tenants into ownership; and preventing the fragmentation of holdings by prescribing a standard area below which no fragmentation will be allowed by transfer, partition or settlement.

4. Loopholes in existing laws should be plugged so as to secure complete tenurial and ownership rights on under-tenants and sharecroppers.

5. All tenants including sharecroppers should be identified, their right should be recorded and permanent heritable rights should be conferred on them before consolidation operations are started.

6. The tenants (whether occupancy or non-occupancy) dispossessed by force or by fraud or by any other illegal means from their land must be restored to their possession as expeditiously as possible.

7. Special drives should be launched to identify informal tenants/ sharecroppers in all the districts who should be immediately conferred occupancy tenant/ownership status. In this drive, the local Peasant Organizations/Agricultural Labour Organizations/Voluntary Organizations/Kisan Sabhas and other activist groups should be actively associated.

12. Conclusion

By the field survey I found the problems of tenant farmers closely, how they are cheated by the landowners. By proper implementation of laws and reforms only the problems faced by tenant farmers will be over. Agricultural practices should be modernized, mechanization should be allowed and financing to tenant farmers should be done without delay. There should be cordial atmosphere between the landowner and the tenant then only every one lives with peace.

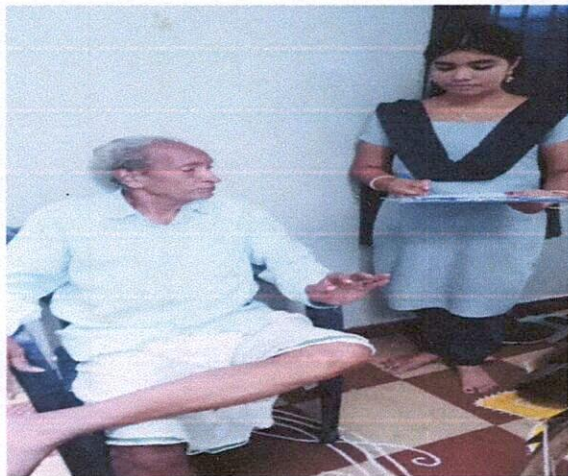
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Photo Graphs



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