
Rural Poverty and Small land holdings in Gudibanda

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Abstract

Gudibanda a small town in Chickaballapur district has been selected to study whether small land holdings can remove rural poverty. Five villages were earmarked and 200 samples collected from these villages where simple random sampling was carried out to find if the relation between rural poverty and farmers with small fragmented lands. Most of these small farmers grew vegetables such as brinjals, cowpeas, tomatoes, potatoes and beans. Also commercial flowers such as jasmine, roses, tuberose and yellow chrysanthemums were also cultivated. They earned a very small income of Rs 500 per month for vegetables and around 2000Rs to 2300Rs per month for flower sales that too during the festival months of January to April 2023. Their earnings depended mainly on the market prices that's the selling rate of the main vegetable market in Gudibanda or village fair. They also sold outside their villages in small groups and also tried transporting to Gudibanda main market. Can cultivating all these small vegetable farms bring income and sustain these flower and vegetable cultivators? Water scarcity coupled with lack of rural employment measures like MNREGA were the root cause of their problems. It was also the main reasons for rural urban migration. The main objective was to see if the cultivation of small farms could fetch moderate income for the farmers. The main suggestion was to adopt cooperative farming minus the problem of middlemen, how to solve the problem of selling in vegetable markets and finally to tackle the problem of rural unemployment and water scarcity.

Keywords: rural poverty land reforms act middlemen unemployment fragmented land holdings.

1.Introduction:

Marginal and fragmented land holdings are the bane of far flung rural areas. Most of these lands don't even have rural electrification and even if there are electric lines running through them it is only for around two hours per day. Most of the times these farmers cultivate vegetables and flowers used for commercial purposes. Gudibanda is a small dry town in Chickaballapur district of Karnataka. Two hundred samples were collected from the questionnaire framed. The sampled villages were Aligadirenahalli where 55 samples were collected Ullodu 55 samples Amanibyrasagara 30 samples Hampasandra 30 samples and finally Adinarayanahalli 30 samples. Their main source of water was from rain fed ponds tanks and lakes which was the main reason for water scarcity as Gudibanda was a arid town.

The main aim was to find out why despite having small lands to grow vegetables were these farmers facing poverty?

2.Review of Literature

According to Mat Zin (2011), the case, and generic theories of poverty are highly concerned with poverty. Based on the case theories of poverty, people who cannot uphold themselves and to manage the cost of the fundamental necessities without the help are viewed as living in poverty, for example, drug addicts, older people, handicapped people, and mentally ill persons. As indicated in the generic theories of poverty, macro-economic issues are associated with the poverty, for example, low demand, low national income, and inadequate employment opportunities.

Amartya Sen brings up that "poverty could be an absolute concept in the space of abilities, however, relative in that of characteristics or commodities" (Sen, 1994, p. 10). Moreover, both the absolute and relative poverty are related to fluctuations in conditions, and a similar circumstance emerges, when

status or cultural values alter over time. To cite Paul Streeten, “Absolute deprivation is a function of relative advantage” (Streeten, 1994, p. 19).

3. Research Gap

Can rural poverty be eliminated by these small farmers? How to increase their monthly income and how to prevent rural urban migration.?

4. Objectives

1. To find out if small farmers are able to come out of poverty by growing and selling vegetables.
2. Can small landholdings increase farm income and sustenance by using upgraded agricultural inputs
3. To suggest some measures to remove rural poverty.

5. Data Analysis and Interpretation.

Table -1-Causes for rural poverty and small land holdings.

Sl.no.	Name of sampled village	No. of sampled respondents	1 st cause	2 nd cause	3 rd cause	4 th cause
1	Aligadirenahalli	55	40%	20%	20%	20%
2	Ullodu	55	35%	30%	15%	20%
3	Amani Byrasagara	30	30%	30%	20%	20%
4	Hampasandra	30	30%	30%	20%	20%
5	Adinarayanahalli	30	20%	20%	30%	30%

Field Survey 2023 March

Table Analysis

1. Lack of institutional and credit facilities to boost their farming of vegetables and flowers.
2. Farmers at the mercy of money lenders
3. Lack of access to main vegetable markets.
4. Transportation was costly which led to wilting of flowers and vegetables which were transported at a slow pace from interior villages.

The above mentioned reasons were the main poverty indicators in the sampled villages of Gudibanda.

Table -2 Measures to alleviate rural poverty

Sl.no	Sampled villages	Sampled respondents	1 st cause	2 nd cause	3 rd cause	4 th cause
1	Aligaredihalli	55	30%	20%	20%	30%
2	Ullodu	55	30%	30%	20%	20%
3	Amani Byrasagara	30	30%	30%	20%	20%
4	Hampasandra	30	35%	30%	15%	20%
5	Adinarayanahalli	30	35%	30%	15%	20%

Field survey-2023 March.

Table Analysis

1. Transportation of freshly harvested vegetables from their respective villages to Chickaballapur main market during early mornings.
2. Provision of market facilities such as space to sit and sell, measuring weights, restroom facilities, provision of clean food and water available in the main market itself.
3. Implementation of Soil health card scheme, Neem coated urea, Parampargat Krishi Vikas yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee yojana (PMKSY), National Agricultural Market e-Nam and interest subversion scheme will go a long way in aiding small farmers.

But right now everything is now upbeat specially flowers are selling at higher prices due to temple festivals and January to May being the wedding season besides many festivals being celebrated in this period. But since income is roughly is around 1000Rs to 1200Rs, during this period but its not enough to feed a family size of five or six members for a month. So most of the individuals are ready to work as daily wage labour in the bigger farms. But since the bigger farms are mechanized and use very less labour more often than not these farmers have to go in search of employment to nearby cities like Chickaballapur and Bangalore. This has spawned rural urban migration. Introduction of Jawahar Rozghar Yojana to boost rural employment may provide alternate employment and income to these farmers in Gudibanda Villages.

Limitations

Most of the villagers were not cooperating in giving responses for the questionnaire.

6. Suggestions

The farmers must first find a solution for water resources for cultivation of vegetables and flowers. Depending on rain water alone will not solve their farming problem. With abundant water and effective soil fertilizers it will be easy to cultivate vegetables like beans, tomatoes, coriander, mint, green chillies, ginger, onions, brinjals, cauliflower, cabbage and cowpeas. Selling at high prices and avoiding middlemen in the markets may help these vegetable farmers to earn better profits. Selling at the local markets at bargaining prices will make these vegetable cultivators earnings to cover their production costs.

Conclusion.

It's a well known fact that using mechanized inputs and finding a good water source for irrigation will help farmers harvest healthy and organic vegetables which will earn better incomes for them. This will make them stay in their own villages thus bringing down population pressure in urban areas.

7. References

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