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IMPACT OF LIBERALISATION ON WORKING OF APMC: A CASE STUDY OF DHARWAD DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The price of agricultural products before the WTO agreement in India was lower than the international prices. The prices of international agricultural products have become the lower than the Indian agricultural prices this is resulted in the growing unrest among the farmers in different states and pushed them in to bad condition. The policy of trade liberalization resulted in the falling of prices of farm commodities especially from mid-90s onwards. Due to the lack of remunerative prices for their products the farmers began to dump their products like tomato, onion etc in the fields. Some of the products were thrown on the road in protest.

KEYWORDS

APMC, Dharwad, liberalisation.

INTRODUCTION

The implementation of the liberalization policies focused on the withdrawals of the state from economic sectors also resulted in the abolition of Indian agricultural subsidies that had supported farmers for decades. As a result of economic reforms Indian farmers were pushed into competition with the international market making them extremely vulnerable to price volatility and integrated India in to global market, then Indian farmers desperately forced into the using new highest priced inputs, which incorporated innovative, but expensive, biotechnology and which came with the promise of producing higher yields and providing greater resistance against pests. However, such inputs often fail to live up to these promises, driving farmers into further debt as they failed to produce enough crop to make for rising input costs. These inputs sold by foreign multinational corporations became available only after Indian markets were opened up under economic reforms.

Besides disadvantages of liberalization, there are number of defects found in agricultural sector as well as in working of agricultural marketing viz. inadequate facilities for transport, lack of financial facilities at cheaper rate, lack of information regarding price, lack of grading and standardization, inadequate storage facility, presence of large number of middlemen in the markets and frequent fluctuation of prices. Due to all these factors farmer is not getting justice price for products this has created a situation that forces farmers to commit suicide.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Small and marginal farmers in particular have been the worst suffers from the onslaught of liberalisation in India. Due to liberalisation private sector is strengthening in this regard the problem under investigation, i.e., *Impact of Liberalisation On Working Of APMC: A Case Study Of Dharwad District*, is taken with genuine curiosity of investigating the impact of liberalization on Annigeri APMC of Navalgund Taluk of Dharwad district which had a large number of small farmers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the impact of liberalisation on Indian agricultural sector.
2. To identify the suitable suggestion to face the challenges of liberalisation.

HYPOTHESIS

1. Due to liberalisation agricultural sector is suffering.
2. Due to liberalisation private sector is strengthening at the cost of the farmers
3. Due to liberalisation distress among farmers is increasing.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Malati Phogat., in her book *Globalisation and the farmers: An Impact Assessment* (2010), talks about the recent waves of liberalization, structural adjustment and economic reforms began in India. In case of agricultural sector, the debate has been going on how and in what manners Indian agriculture is affected by these reforms, liberalization and consequent policies. The study has focused the implication of globalization and related policies on agricultural sector. The book tries to identify how globalization affected the society in general and farmers in particular.

K P Singh., in his book *Agricultural Marketing and Rural Development* (2011), narrates about the impact of globalization and liberalization on agriculture and small farmers in developing countries, the global framework affecting rural producers in developing countries, the cause's effects of the green revolution in Punjab and strategy for effective agricultural marketing extension to meet the challenges in 21st century has been discussed in this book.

Mohd. Iqbal Ali and Bhaskar G., in his book *WTO Globalization and Indian Agriculture* (2011), explain about globalization trends of the recent past which have impacted the world economies particularly those of developing countries immensely. Countries worldwide are reshaping their economic and trade policies to meet the challenges of new rules of trade under WTO and intense competition unleashed by the forces of globalization. The changed economic milieu has affected the Indian economy more to be the agricultural sector in several ways.

Narshimha Reddy, D and Srijit Mishra., in their book *Agrarian crisis in India* (2009) highlighted the plight of farmers, since a decade Indian agriculture has been marked by deceleration in growth and distress of farmers. This book brings together detailed analysis of this crisis in all its dimensions.

S. S. Acharya and N. L. Agarwal., in their book *Agricultural Marketing in India* (2009) made an analysis with special emphasis on marketing functions, institutions, efficiency, costs and margins, government efforts in the improvement of agricultural marketing and market research.

Kumar D., in his book *Agriculture under Globalization* (2009) says that 'In a global agricultural economy, small farms will be replaced by large farms, which in turn will be controlled by giant multinational corporations. Small farmers quite simply will not be able to compete in a "free market" global economy especially in low-income countries. Low-income countries that do not spend heavily on research and technology dissemination and do not upgrade their rural infrastructure and reduce transaction costs will experience declining prices for agricultural commodities without any decreases in costs of production have been discussed.

IMPACT OF LIBERALISATION ON AGRICULTURE MARKETING AND FARMERS

The data was collected from farmers and analysed and interpreted by using the statistical tools such as percentages, graphical representation to study the impact of liberalisation on working of APMC's.

1. EDUCATION STATUS OF FARMERS

TABLE - 1

Education	Land Holdings						Total
	1 Acres	2 Acres	3 Acres	4 Acres	10 Acres	<10Acres	
Primary	6 (60.0)	8 (38.1)	9 (40.9)	11 (32.4)	8 (30.8)	11 (29.7)	53 (35.3)
High School	3 (30.0)	-	8 (36.34)	11 (32.4)	7 (26.9)	18 (48.7)	47 (31.3)
Illiterate	1 (10.00)	9 (42.9)	4 (18.20)	8 (23.50)	7 (26.9)	4 (10.8)	33 (22.0)
Degree	-	-	1 (4.5)	3 (8.8)	3 (11.50)	2 (5.4)	9 (6.0)
Post-graduate	-	1 (4.7)	-	-	-	-	1 (0.7)
Others	-	3 (14.3)	-	1 (2.9)	1 (3.9)	2 (5.4)	7 (4.7)
Total	10(100.0)	21(100.0)	22(100.0)	34(100.0)	26(100.0)	37(100.0)	150(100.0)

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages of the total farmers in the respective category.

The level of education is an important factor in adoption of new technologies in farming business. Hence the education level of farmers was worked out and presented in the table-1 it is revealed from the table that 35.3 percent farmers were educated primary level, 31.3 percent farmers High School level, 22.0 percent illiterate, 6.0 percent farmers degree level, 4.7 percent intermediate level and 0.7 percent means only one farmers educated post graduate level.

It is clear from above discussion that the higher proportion of farmer's educated primary and High school level and illiterate is higher in number. In the era of liberalisation farmers has to compete with global goods, maintaining standardisation, adopting new technologies, but due to lack of education farmers facing difficulties in understanding and adopting changed situation.

2. RESPONSE OF FARMERS ON KNOWN ABOUT LIBERALISATION

TABLE - 2

Village	Yes/No	Land Holdings						Total
		1 Acres	2 Acres	3 Acres	4 Acres	10 Acres	<10Acres	
Annigeri	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No	8(80.0)	2(9.5)	7(31.8)	5(14.7)	1(3.8)	7(18.9)	30(20.0)
Navalgund	Yes	-	1(4.8)	-	-	-	-	1(0.7)
	No	1(10.0)	6(28.5)	2(9.1)	6(17.7)	4(15.4)	10(27.0)	29(19.3)
Shisvinalli	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No	-	2(9.5)	4(18.2)	12(35.3)	6(23.1)	6(16.2)	30(20.0)
Hebbal	Yes	-	-	-	1(2.9)	-	-	1(0.7)
	No	1(10.0)	7(33.3)	4(18.2)	4(11.8)	11(42.3)	2(5.4)	29(19.3)
Morab	Yes	-	-	-	1(2.9)	-	-	1(0.7)
	No	-	3(14.3)	5(22.7)	5(14.7)	4(15.4)	12(32.4)	29(19.3)
Total	Yes	-	1(4.8)	-	2(5.9)	-	-	3(2.0)
	No	10(100.0)	20(95.2)	22(100.0)	32(94.1)	26(100.0)	37(100.0)	147(98.0)
Total		10(100.0)	21(100.0)	22(100.0)	34(100.0)	26(100.0)	37(100.0)	150(100.0)

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages of the total farmers in the respective category.

The knowledge of farmers on liberalisation process was assessed and presented in table -2. This is revealed from the table that highest proportion of farmers that is out of 150 farmers 147 farmers who responded on negative on the knowledge regarding liberalisation. It shows that farmer's failure in facing challenges of liberalisation in agriculture sector. Due to liberalisation multinational company's products like American corn, Pizza Huts, K.F.C etc. Scattered all over the nation and Indians showing interests towards these products and this is caused regress for rural agriculture industry.

3. RESPONSE OF FARMERS ON GETTING INFORMATION OF PRICE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

TABLE - 3

Education	Land Holdings						Total
	1 Acres	2 Acres	3 Acres	4 Acres	10 Acres	<10Acres	
News papers	9 (90.0)	11 (52.4)	18 (81.8)	24 (70.6)	18 (69.2)	33 (89.2)	113 (75.3)
Others	1 (10.0)	9(42.8)	4 (18.2)	9 (26.5)	8 (30.8)	4 (10.8)	35 (23.3)
Internet	-	1(4.8)	-	-	-	-	1 (0.7)
SMS	-	-	-	1(2.9)	-	-	1 (0.7)
T.V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Radio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10(100.0)	21(100.0)	22(100.0)	34(100.0)	26(100.0)	37(100.0)	150(100.0)

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages of the total farmers in the respective category.

Farmers getting information regarding price presented in table-3. This is revealed from the table that 75.3 percent farmers are getting in information regarding price of agricultural products through news papers, 23.3 percent through traders, middleman and villagers and 0.7 percent farmers through internet and SMS. It shows that because of illiteracy farmers depended on others and no one farmers get information through T.V and Radio. Due to liberalization many private T.V channels emerged and all these channels disseminating commercial programmes and not programmes in the interests of farmers.

4. FARMERS RESPONSE ON BETTER PRICE IN APMC

TABLE - 4

Village	Yes/ No	Land Holdings						
		1 Acres	2 Acres	3 Acres	4 Acres	10 Acres	<10Acres	Total
Annigeri	Yes	-	-	1(4.5)	1(2.9)	-	2(5.4)	4(2.7)
	No	8(80.0)	2(9.5)	6(27.3)	4(11.8)	1(3.8)	5(13.5)	26(17.3)
Navalgund	Yes	-	1(4.8)	-	1(2.9)	1(3.8)	2(5.4)	5(3.3)
	No	1(10.0)	6(28.5)	2(9.1)	5(14.7)	3(11.5)	8(21.6)	25(16.7)
Shisvinalli	Yes	-	-	1(4.5)	2(5.9)	3(11.5)	2(5.4)	8(5.3)
	No	-	2(9.5)	3(13.6)	10(29.4)	3(11.5)	4(10.8)	22(14.7)
Hebbal	Yes	-	1(4.8)	1(4.5)	1(2.9)	1(3.8)	1(2.7)	5(3.3)
	No	1(10.0)	6(28.5)	3(13.6)	4(11.8)	10(38.4)	1(2.7)	25(16.7)
Morab	Yes	-	-	-	2(5.9)	1(3.8)	4(10.8)	7(4.7)
	No	-	3(14.3)	5(22.7)	4(11.8)	3(11.5)	8(21.6)	23(15.3)
Total	Yes	-	2(9.5)	3(13.6)	7(20.6)	6(23.1)	11(29.7)	29(19.3)
	No	10(100.0)	29(90.5)	19(86.4)	27(79.4)	20(76.9)	26(70.3)	121(80.7)
	Total	10(100.0)	21(100.0)	22(100.0)	34(100.0)	26(100.0)	37(100.0)	150(100.0)

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages of the total farmers in the respective category.

Farmers getting better price in APMC's is worked out and presented in the table-4 it is revealed from the table that 80.7 percent farmers are not getting better price, 19.3 percent farmers not getting better price. Big land holders responded that they are getting better price whereas small holding farmers are not. It is found out that big land holder and those who have big land holders, storage of agriculture goods and transportation facility are beneficiary, without having these facilities that farmers are in loss. Now situation is created that who's having above facility they can survive in agriculture business.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. During the field work it is found that due to illiteracy of farmers, the multinational companies are exploiting the farmers and the APMCs which were supposed to safeguard the interest of the farmer's community has failed in its duties.
2. The agricultural produce is not sold in APMCs, the agricultural business people go to the fields and purchase the goods. Here the farmer has no choice to bargain or to ask for prices.
3. Due to urgent financial needs the farmers are selling their produce immediately even when the prices are low.
4. Due to liberalisation farmers are moving towards growing commercial crops and this has created surplus growth and the prices are going down.
5. Though there are APMC markets, the middleman and licensed private traders are dominating and the exploitation is on the increase.
6. Due to usage of chemical fertilisers the fertility of land is declining.
7. The financial liability of farmers is increasing due to non availability of prices and the APMC support; this has sometimes led to farmer's suicide.
8. Due to liberalisation the online trading and electronic commerce has increased and this is not supportive to farmers.
9. It is surprising and shocking to know that many of the farmers do not know about the liberalisation concept. They say that it is not at their reach it is the top people activity and they are least concerned about it.

SUGGESTIONS

1. It is necessary to develop the standard and scope of basic services like roads, modern means of communication, storage facilities.
2. The regulated markets authorities and government may like steps to improve the awareness among farmers about regulated market.
3. Adequate arrangements of agricultural produce on support price, if the price falls below the level.
4. Agriculture technology must reach to farmers, irrespective of size of land holdings.
5. Proper training should be given to the farmers by agricultural assistants regarding use of pesticides and fertilizers.
6. Primary agricultural produce marketing co-operatives must open their branches in the rural areas and have to purchase produce of farmers at a reasonable price.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of findings of the study some variable suggestions were given. Due to liberalization policy role of government in managing markets is on the decline worldwide. In the countries in the world, market operation is conducted by corporate sector. So farmer's welfare point of view sincere implementation of welfare schemes by government and favourable response to these governmental efforts on the part of the farmers undoubtedly bring golden days for farmers.

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