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DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AMONG LANDLESS HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL PUNJAB

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the distribution pattern of household assets among the general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households in the rural areas of Punjab. The present study reveals that general caste landless households have a better position in comparison to backward caste and scheduled caste landless households in terms of ownership of household assets in rural areas of Punjab. As a symbol of better socio-economic status in the society, the value of all household assets shows an increasing tendency with increase in social status of landless households in the rural areas of Punjab. The distribution pattern of livestock assets reveals that the share of buffaloes and cows is more among the total livestock assets because buffaloes and cows are the main livestock assets which provide nutritional security as well as these poor households sell milk and its products for supplement their household income. The analysis of ownership of assets reveals that the total value of all household assets is the highest among general caste (Rs. 5, 22, 930.60) as compared to backward caste (Rs. 4, 66, 097.25) and lowest among scheduled caste (Rs. 3, 66, 654.96) landless households. Among all the landless households together, the average value of all household assets has been worked out as Rs. 3, 98, 643.62. It is clear from the analysis of distribution pattern of household assets that as a whole buildings and others has the highest share (87.08), followed by household durables (6.48) and productive assets (6.45) in the rural areas of Punjab which reveals their lower socio-economic status in the society.

KEYWORDS

landless, assets, livestock, durables, inequality.

INTRODUCTION

The majority of the rural population in the developing countries is dependent on land as their primary source of income. The landholding pattern is a major determinant of their economic solvency, social power structure and hierarchy. Most of these countries have been experiencing an alarming growth of the landlessness among their rural population over the past few decades. The state has been eradicating poverty and unemployment by raising their standard of living through preventing the concentration of wealth and means of production and distribution in the hands of a few. Landlessness often proves to be both the cause and the manifestation of poverty, insecurity, indebtedness as well as powerlessness of the majority of rural households (Rahman and Mansprasert, 2006).

The minimum basic requirements of food, clothing and shelter are necessary for the survival of mankind. In order to meet out these minimum requirements, income has to be earned either from self-employment or through wage-employment. When an individual, even after his best possible efforts, does not get work on the existing wage rate or even at low wage rate to earn his means of subsistence, he is termed as 'unemployed' as well as 'poor'. Poverty as a concept is closely related to inequality and may also be identified with unemployment. Given the average income level, a higher level of inequality will tend to be associated with a higher level of poverty (Thakur, 1985).

In India, there are historically marginalised and disadvantaged 'social groups' such as the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward castes and there are separate provisions for their welfare in the 'Constitution of India', which form the basis of targeted development policies by the state to raise the socio-economic status of these groups in absolute terms as well as relative to the rest of society. The Constitution directs the state to promote with special care for the educational and economic interests of socially and economically backward groups and protects them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Mutatkar, 2005).

Land is the main productive asset in the rural areas which provides direct employment to the family labour force and contributes a lion's share in the total household income. It has been established by many studies that in the rural areas in general and in the tribal areas in particular, the variations in the levels of living are high due to unequal distribution of productive assets, mainly land (Singh, 2007). It is an accepted fact that asset holding in India has always been highly concentrated. All over the country there is glaring evidence of concentration of wealth. But we have hardly any administrative records or systematically collected data to attempt regular, organized study of wealth distribution (Basu, 1976).

A large number of studies have been conducted on the distribution pattern of household assets among different social groups i. e. general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste households in the rural areas at the national level. But no such detailed and comprehensive study has been conducted in the State of Punjab. A few studies which were conducted at the State level are either related to all socio-economic groups together or cover particular section of the population. This paper deals with the distribution pattern of household assets among the general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households in the rural areas of Punjab.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY

The main objective of the present study is to analyse the levels, pattern and distribution of household assets (productive assets, household durables as well as building and others) among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households in the rural areas of Punjab.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the present empirical investigation, three districts namely Bathinda, Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts were selected purposely. These three districts have been selected randomly on the basis of agro-climatic zones of Punjab. A sample of 588 rural households i.e. 58 general castes, 98 backward caste and 432 scheduled caste landless households were selected with the help of multi-stage random sampling. In order to work out distribution pattern of all household assets, the required information about household assets were collected with the help of a pre-tested schedule by conducting the personal interviews of informants during the year 2012-13.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section deals with per household and per capita levels, pattern and distribution of household assets among the sampled landless households in the rural areas of Punjab.

The distribution pattern of livestock among landless households in the rural Punjab has been presented in Table 1. The results reveal that as a whole, the share of buffaloes is the highest (68.85), followed by cows (26.73), young stock (3.60) and others (0.82). The percentage value of buffaloes to the total value of livestock has been worked out 75.25, 75.20 and 65.39 among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households respectively whereas, among all the households together, this value is 68.85. The percentage value of buffaloes occupies the major share to the total value of livestock among the landless households because buffaloes are the main milch animals in the rural areas of Punjab.

The percentage value of cows has been worked out 21.81, 20.97 and 29.62 among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households respectively whereas, among all the households together, per household average value of cows has been worked out 26.73. The percentage value of cows is the highest among scheduled caste as compared to general caste and the lowest among backward caste landless households.

TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF LIVESTOCK AMONG LANDLESS HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL PUNJAB (in Rs.)

S.No.	Livestock	General Caste Landless Households	Backward Caste Landless Households	Scheduled Caste Landless Households	All Sampled Landless Households
1	Buffalos	12775.86 (75.52)	11708.16 (75.20)	7121.53 (65.39)	8443.71 (68.85)
2	Cows	3689.66 (21.81)	3265.31 (20.97)	3225.69 (29.62)	3278.06 (26.73)
3	Young stock	450.86 (2.67)	509.18 (3.27)	425.58 (3.91)	442.01 (3.60)
4	Others*	0.00 (0.00)	86.73 (0.56)	117.36 (0.56)	100.68 (0.82)
5	Total	16916.38 (100.00)	15569.39 (100.00)	10890.16 (100.00)	12264.46 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey, 2012-13

*Others include camel/horses/goats etc.

Note: Figures given in parentheses indicate the percentages.

The percentage value of young stock is the highest among scheduled caste as compared to backward caste and lowest among general caste households because these poor households rear young stock for earning additional income. The share of others such as camels, horses and goats is the lowest among these households because only few households have kept these animals in the rural areas of Punjab.

This analysis reveals that the total value of livestock is the highest among general caste (Rs. 16916.38) as compared to backward caste (Rs. 15569.39) and the lowest among scheduled caste (Rs. 10890.16) landless households because general caste and backward caste people have relatively better quality of livestock due to some better socio-economic conditions to some extent as compared to scheduled caste landless households in the rural areas of Punjab. Among all the landless households together, per household average value of total livestock has been worked out Rs.12264.46. It has been observed from the field survey that only few households are rearing livestock because of lack ownership of land and due to use of machinery in their engagement in agricultural activities has decreased in the rural areas.

The distribution pattern of transport vehicles among the landless households in the rural Punjab has been presented in Table 2. The percentage value of scooter/motor cycle has been worked out 60.98, 89.56 and 80.12 among the general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households respectively whereas, among all the households together, this percentage value has come out to be 77.94. The percentage value of scooter/motor cycle occupies the major share in the total value of transport vehicles among the landless households because scooters/motor cycles are considered as the main transport vehicle which are helpful in moving from one place to another place for work within and outside the village in the rural areas of Punjab.

TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF TRANSPORT VEHICLES AMONG LANDLESS HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL PUNJAB (in Rs.)

S.No.	Transport Vehicles	General Caste Landless Households	Backward Caste Landless Households	Scheduled Caste Landless Households	All Sampled Landless Households
1.	Scooter/Motor Cycle	9443.10 (60.98)	7663.27 (89.56)	4682.87 (80.12)	5649.15 (77.94)
2.	Car/jeep	4913.79 (31.73)	510.20 (5.96)	410.88 (7.03)	871.60 (12.03)
3.	Cycle	266.38 (1.72)	382.86 (4.47)	478.13 (8.18)	441.36 (6.09)
4.	Others*	862.07 (5.57)	0.00 (0.00)	410.88 (4.67)	285.71 (3.94)
5.	Total	15485.34 (100.00)	8556.33 (100.00)	5845.02 (100.00)	7247.82 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey, 2012-13

*Others include camel/engine carts and autos/vans etc.

Note: Figures given in parentheses indicate the percentages.

The percentage value of car/jeep has been worked out 31.73, 7.03 and 5.96 among general caste, scheduled caste and backward caste landless households respectively whereas, among all the households together, this percentage value is 12.03. The percentage value of car/jeep is the highest among general caste as compared to scheduled caste and backward caste households. The share of others such as camel/engine carts, autos/vans is the lowest among these households because only few households have these transport vehicles.

The absolute and relative value of cycle is the highest among scheduled caste as compared to backward caste and the lowest among general caste households because these poor households have cycles as the main transport vehicles due to their lower income levels. This analysis reveals that the total value of transport vehicles is the highest among general caste (Rs. 15485.34) as compared to backward caste (Rs. 8556.33) and the lowest among scheduled caste (Rs. 5845.02)

landless households because majority of them have old/ second hand type of transport vehicles in the rural areas of Punjab. Among all the landless households together, the average value of total transport vehicles has been worked out Rs.7247.82.

The distribution pattern of all household assets (productive assets, household durables as well as building and others) among landless households in the rural areas has been presented in Table 3. The absolute value of livestock, shop articles, transport vehicles and others is the highest among general caste followed by backward caste and scheduled caste landless households whereas the value of household industries equipments is the highest among backward caste followed by scheduled caste and the lowest among general caste landless households in the rural areas of Punjab.

The percentage value of productive assets shows a decreasing tendency with decrease in social status, i.e., 8.70, 6.93 and 5.88 among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households respectively whereas among all landless household together, this value comes out to be 6.45. The absolute value of productive assets is the highest among general caste (Rs. 45, 529.31) as compared to backward caste (Rs. 32, 260.41) and lowest among scheduled caste (Rs. 21, 549.09) landless households whereas among all the landless households together, this value is Rs. 25, 699.71. The share of these productive assets in the total household assets is quite low for all the categories of landless households as a whole, which is responsible for low levels of living.

TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF ALL HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AMONG LANDLESS HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL PUNJAB (in Rs.)

S. No.	Household Assets	General Caste Landless Households	Backward Caste Landless Households	Scheduled Caste Landless Households	All Sampled Landless Households
1.	**Productive Assets**				
a.	Livestock	16916.38 (3.23)	15569.39 (3.34)	10890.16 (2.97)	12264.46 (3.08)
b.	Transport vehicles	15485.34 (2.96)	8556.33 (1.84)	5792.94 (1.58)	7209.56 (1.81)
c.	Shop articles	12086.21 (2.31)	5989.80 (1.29)	3777.78 (1.03)	4965.99 (1.25)
d.	Household industries	446.38 (0.09)	1586.73 (0.34)	681.83 (0.19)	809.42 (0.20)
e.	Others*	595.00 (0.11)	558.16 (0.12)	406.38 (0.11)	450.29 (0.11)
f.	Sub-total (a to e)	45529.31 (8.70)	32260.41 (6.93)	21549.09 (5.88)	25699.71 (6.45)
2.	**Household Durables**				
a.	Furnishing articles	9859.31 (1.89)	7959.59 (1.71)	6620.53 (1.81)	7163.18 (1.80)
b.	Electrical appliances	10045.00 (1.92)	9311.33 (2.00)	8023.61 (2.19)	8437.62 (2.12)
c.	Utensils	3858.62 (0.74)	3623.47 (0.78)	3303.94 (0.90)	3411.90 (0.86)
d.	Bedding and clothing	5284.48 (1.01)	5066.33 (1.09)	4917.48 (1.34)	4978.49 (1.25)
e.	Other Assets**	2662.07 (0.51)	2415.31 (0.52)	1536.55 (0.42)	1794.03 (0.45)
f.	Sub-total (a to e)	31709.48 (6.07)	28376.03 (6.10)	24402.11 (6.66)	25785.22 (6.47)
3.	**Buildings and Others*** **	445691.81 (85.23)	405460.81 (87.00)	320703.77 (87.47)	347158.70 (87.08)
4.	**Grand total (1+2+3)**	**522930.60 (100.00)**	**466097.25 (100.00)**	**366654.96 (100.00)**	**398643.62 (100.00)**

Source: Field Survey, 2012-13

*Others include agricultural implements like sickles, axes, Khurpies, spades and fodder cutter etc.

**Others include mobiles and gas cylinders etc.

***Others include cowshed, farm building and stores etc.

Note: Figures given in parentheses indicate the percentages.

The household durables include furnishing articles, electrical appliances, utensils, beddings and clothing and other assets such as mobiles and gas/ cylinder, etc. The absolute value of all household durables is the highest among general caste (Rs. 31, 709.48) as compared to backward caste (Rs. 28, 376.03) and lowest among scheduled caste (Rs. 24, 402.11) landless households and among all the landless households together, the average value of household durables has been worked out Rs. 25, 785.22. It has been observed from the field study that general caste households have better quality and larger number of household durable items due to higher level of income as compared to backward caste and scheduled caste landless households those have inferior quality as well as lesser number of durable items. The percentage value of household durables has been worked out 6.07, 6.10 and 6.66 among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste households respectively whereas, among all the households together, this value has come out to be 6.47. This table further highlighted that scheduled caste households possess the lowest share of other durables such as mobile and gas cylinder due to their lower levels of income as compared to the backward caste and general caste landless households.

The results of the study further highlight that the percentage value of buildings and others occupies the major share in the total value of household assets among the landless households because it is the most valuable asset. The percentage value of buildings and others has been worked out to be 85.23, 87.00 and 87.47 among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households respectively whereas, among all the households together, this value has been worked out 87.08.

The analysis of ownership of assets reveals that the total value of all household assets is the highest among general caste (Rs. 5, 22, 930.60) as compared to backward caste (Rs. 4, 66, 097.25) and lowest among scheduled caste (Rs. 3, 66, 654.96) landless households. As a symbol of better socio-economic status in the society, the value of all household assets shows an increasing tendency with increase in social status of landless households in the rural areas of Punjab. Among all the landless households together, the average value of all household assets has been worked out as Rs. 3, 98, 643.62. It is clear from the analysis of distribution pattern of household assets that as a whole buildings and others has the highest share (87.08), followed by household durables (6.48) and productive assets (6.45) in the rural areas of Punjab which reveals their lower socio-economic status in the society.

The data pertaining to the distribution of per capita value of assets of landless households in rural Punjab is given in Table 4. The table shows that as a whole, the average per capita all household assets is Rs. 84, 530.27 in which productive assets, household durables and building and others constitute Rs. 5, 449.49, Rs. 5, 467.62 and Rs. 73, 613.17 respectively. However, there are considerable variations in the per capita value of assets among different categories of the landless households. The per capita value of productive assets is worked out the highest (Rs. 9, 853.36) among general caste, followed by backward caste (Rs. 6, 600.25) and scheduled caste (Rs. 4, 594.87) households.

TABLE 4: PER CAPITA VALUE OF ALL HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AMONG LANDLESS HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL PUNJAB (in Rs.)

S. No.	Household Assets	General Caste Landless Households	Backward Caste Landless Households	Scheduled Caste Landless Households	All Sampled Landless Households
1.	**Productive Assets**				
a.	Livestock	3661.01	3189.39	2322.09	2600.61
b.	Transport vehicles	3351.31	1750.56	1235.22	1528.75
c.	Shop articles	2615.67	1225.47	805.53	1053.01
d.	Household industries	96.60	324.63	145.38	171.63
e.	Others*	128.77	114.20	86.65	95.48
f.	Sub-total (a to e)	9853.36	6600.25	4594.87	5449.49
2.	**Household Durables**				
a.	Furnishing articles	2133.73	1628.48	1411.68	1518.91
b.	Electrical appliances	2173.92	1905.03	1710.86	1789.15
c.	Utensils	835.07	741.34	704.49	723.48
d.	Bedding and clothing	1143.66	1036.53	1048.54	1055.66
e.	Other Assets**	576.11	494.15	327.64	380.41
f.	Sub-total (a to e)	6862.49	5805.53	5203.21	5467.62
3.	**Buildings and Others*** **	96455.69	82954.41	68383.03	73613.17
4.	**Grand total (1+2+3)**	**113171.54**	**95360.19**	**78181.12**	**84530.27**

Source: Field Survey, 2012-13

*Others include agricultural implements like sickles, axes, Khurpies, spades and fodder cutter etc.

**Others include mobiles and gas cylinders etc.

***Others include cowshed, farm building and stores etc.

The per capita value of household durables has been the highest (Rs. 6, 862.49) among general caste, as compared to backward caste (Rs. 5, 805.53) and scheduled caste (Rs. 5, 203.21) households. The per capita value of building and others has been worked out the highest (Rs. 96, 455.69) among general caste, followed by backward caste (Rs. 82, 954.41) and scheduled caste (Rs. 68, 383.03) households.

The table further reveals that per capita value of all the assets is the highest (Rs. 1, 13, 171.54) among general caste, as compared to backward caste (Rs. 95, 360.19) and scheduled caste (Rs. 78, 181.12) households due to that reason general caste landless households have maintained relatively better standard of living than other social groups in the rural areas of Punjab.

The data showing the value of assets according to the different ranges among the landless households in the rural areas of Punjab is presented in Table 5. The table clearly depicts that the inequalities in the ownership of assets among landless households in the rural Punjab. The table shows that 57.31 per cent of the total households are concentrated in the assets group of up to 4 lakh, whereas the concentration of assets in these houses is 39.28 per cent. The distribution of assets in various sampled households across different social groups reveals that 3.06 and 12.96 per cent among backward caste and scheduled caste households are in the assets range of up to 2 lakh, whereas 8.62, 4.08 and 0.46 per cent households are in the assets range of up to 10 and above among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste households respectively. This analysis points out that a majority of the households have assets in the range of 2 lakh to 4 lakh, i.e., 25.86, 46.94 and 50.23 per cent among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste households respectively whereas they enjoy only 16.77, 30.45 and 40.60 per cent of the total household assets respectively.

TABLE 5: DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT ASSETS RANGES (Per cent)

Assets Ranges (in Rs.)	General Caste Landless Households		Backward Caste Landless Households		Scheduled Caste Landless Households		All Sampled Landless Households	
	HH	Assets	HH	Assets	HH	Assets	HH	Assets
Up to 2 lakh	0.00	0.00	3.06	0.96	12.96	5.26	10.03	3.74
2 lakh -4 lakh	25.86	16.77	46.94	30.45	50.23	40.60	47.28	35.54
4 lakh -6 lakh	56.90	51.87	26.53	26.96	30.09	40.31	32.14	39.20
6 lakh -8 lakh	3.45	4.51	10.20	15.05	4.63	8.59	5.44	9.32
8 lakh -10 lakh	5.17	8.70	9.18	17.29	1.62	3.98	3.23	7.18
10 lakh &above	8.62	18.15	4.08	9.29	0.46	1.27	1.87	5.02
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2012-13

The data pertaining to the distribution of per capita assets according to different ranges of per capita value of assets among the landless households has been presented in Table 6. The table reveals that 2.16 per cent of the total persons have assets range less than Rs. 30000 who own only 0.48 per cent of total assets. The percentage of persons in this range is the highest (2.67) among scheduled caste, followed by backward caste (1.25). This analysis further points out that majority, i.e., 83.15 per cent of persons of the landless households in Punjab falls in the per capita range of assets of only Rs. 30000-120000.

TABLE 6: DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT ASSETS RANGES (Per cent)

Assets (in Rs.)	General Caste Landless Households		Backward Caste Landless Households		Scheduled Caste Landless Households		All Sampled Landless Households	
	Persons	Assets	Persons	Assets	Persons	Assets	Persons	Assets
Up to 30	0.00	0.00	1.25	0.22	2.67	0.65	2.16	0.48
30-60	6.34	2.32	24.43	11.72	32.72	16.53	28.74	13.73
60-90	33.21	16.88	34.66	23.89	35.64	31.50	35.23	28.13
90-120	33.58	27.69	15.66	19.11	18.11	24.31	19.18	23.80
120-150	7.46	9.61	6.05	9.42	7.11	13.90	6.96	12.49
150 & above	19.40	43.50	17.95	35.64	3.75	13.12	7.72	21.36
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2012-13

The percentage of persons in this range is the highest (86.47) among scheduled caste, followed by backward caste (74.75) and general caste (73.13) households. It is clear from the table that 7.72 per cent of persons of the landless households fall in the range of assets Rs. 150 000 and above and enjoys 21.36 per cent of the total assets whereas in this range, the percentage of persons is the highest (19.40) among general caste as compared to backward caste (17.95) and scheduled caste (3.75) households. Thus, the table illustrates that there is unequal distribution of assets across different social groups of landless households in rural Punjab which points towards the uneven access to various necessities of life.

The data pertaining to the distribution of household assets among landless households in rural Punjab is presented in Table 7. The table reveals that the bottom 10 per cent of the landless households in Punjab have only 3.74 per cent of the total assets whereas the top 10 per cent share in the total assets is 20.74 per cent which reveals a glaring disparity in the distribution of assets. This is 5.55 times more the assets of the bottom 10 per cent of landless households.

TABLE 7: DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AMONG LANDLESS HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL PUNJAB

Cumulative Percentage of Persons	Cumulative Percentage of Per Household Assets of Landless Households			
	General Caste Landless Households	Backward Caste Landless Households	Scheduled Caste Landless Households	All Sampled Landless Households
10	6.16	4.35	3.71	3.74
20	12.99	10.13	9.37	9.40
30	19.42	15.95	16.12	15.85
40	27.73	23.26	23.66	23.51
50	36.69	31.41	32.45	32.25
60	45.93	40.52	42.62	42.04
70	55.68	51.01	53.45	52.94
80	64.79	62.65	66.40	65.08
90	78.77	78.87	80.98	79.26
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Gini-coeffient	**0.2037**	**0.2637**	**0.2425**	**0.2519**

Source: Field Survey, 2012-13

Almost a similar position lies among the different social groups in rural Punjab. The bottom 10 per cent among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households claim 6.16, 4.35 and 3.71 per cent respectively whereas the top 10 per cent among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households claim 21.23, 21.13 and 19.02 per cent respectively. This analysis shows that the concentration of household assets is greater among backward caste in comparison to scheduled caste and general caste landless households. The value of Gini coefficients among all the sampled households together is 0.2519 which indicates a skewed distribution of household assets. The value of Gini coefficient is the highest (0.2637) among backward caste, followed by scheduled caste (0.2425) and the lowest (0.2425) among general caste landless households in rural Punjab. This shows glaring inequalities in the ownership of household assets among the landless households in Punjab.

The distribution of per capita household assets among landless households in rural Punjab is presented in Table 8. The table reveals that the bottom 10 per cent of the landless households in Punjab have only 4.14 per cent of the total per capita assets whereas the top 10 per cent share 21.64 per cent in the total per capita assets is per cent which reveals a glaring disparity in the distribution of assets. This is 5.23 times more the per capita assets of the bottom 10 per cent of landless households.

TABLE 8: DISTRIBUTION OF PER CAPITA ASSETS AMONG LANDLESS HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL PUNJAB

Cumulative Percentage of Persons	Cumulative Percentage of Per Capita Assets of Landless Households			
	General Caste Landless Households	Backward Caste Landless Households	Scheduled Caste Landless Households	All Sampled Landless Households
10	4.96	4.54	4.12	4.14
20	11.02	10.13	9.96	9.86
30	16.74	15.89	16.85	16.30
40	24.40	23.33	24.40	23.77
50	32.68	31.48	32.94	32.17
60	41.96	40.65	42.41	41.50
70	52.38	51.39	52.98	52.00
80	63.27	62.92	65.32	63.91
90	77.71	79.48	79.61	78.36
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Gini-coeffient	**0.2498**	**0.2604**	**0.2428**	**0.2560**

Source: Field Survey, 2012-13

Almost a similar position lies among the different social groups in rural Punjab. The bottom 10 per cent among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households claim 4.96, 4.54 and 4.12 per cent respectively whereas the top 10 per cent among general caste, backward caste and scheduled caste landless households claim 22.29, 20.52 and 20.39 per cent respectively. This analysis shows that the concentration of per capita household assets is greater among backward caste in comparison to general caste and scheduled caste landless households. The value of Gini coefficients among all the sampled households together is 0.2560 which indicates a skewed distribution of per capita household assets. The value of Gini coefficient is the highest (0.2604) among backward caste, followed by general caste (0.2498) and the lowest (0.2428) among scheduled caste landless households in rural Punjab. This shows glaring inequalities in the ownership of per capita household assets among the landless households in Punjab.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In nutshell, the distribution pattern of household assets among the landless households highlighted that the general caste landless households have a better position in comparison to backward caste and scheduled caste landless households in terms of ownership of household assets in rural areas of Punjab. The distribution pattern of livestock assets among the landless households reveals that the share of buffaloes and cows is more among the total livestock assets because buffaloes and cows are the main livestock assets which provide nutritional security as well as these poor households sell milk and its products for supplement their household income. The distribution pattern of transport vehicle shows that the percentage value of scooter/motor cycle occupies the major share in the total value of transport vehicles among the landless households because scooters/motor cycles are considered as the main transport vehicle which are helpful in moving from one place to another place for work within and outside the village in the rural areas of Punjab. The results of the study highlighted that the value of buildings and others occupies the major share in the total value of household assets among the landless households because it is the most valuable asset. The concentration of household assets is greater among backward caste in comparison to scheduled caste and general caste landless households. Therefore, in order to raise their socio-economic status, Govt. should provide productive assets like land and livestock to these poor households for generating gainful employment opportunities as well as for raising their household income.

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