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## IMPACT OF LAND ACQUISITION ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF FARMERS

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### ABSTRACT

Recently land acquisition becomes a burnt issue among academics, social activists, planners, politicians and common people. On the basis of primary data, this paper analyses the impact of land acquisition on the social conditions of the farmers in Rohtak district of Haryana state. The impact of land acquisition identified and included changes in occupational pattern, basic facilities of life, source of drinking water, domestic violence, alcoholism and use of cash compensation money for domestic consumption. The study is based on primary as well as secondary data. For the collection of primary data, we have adopted interview schedule and observations as major techniques. The sample size consists of 140 farmers from the Bohar village of Rohtak district. The secondary data have been collected from Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) Office of Rohtak district, census of India 2011. The study revealed a significant change in social conditions of the farmers.

### KEYWORDS

Land Acquisition, Social Conditions, Households.

### INTRODUCTION

India is basically rural in nature. 68.82 per cent of the total population still lives in rural areas (census 2011). The main occupation in villages is agriculture with animal husbandry. In a low income labor surplus economy land is an important factor as it provides livelihood to the majority of rural and poor population. A majority of households drive their livelihood from agriculture directly and indirectly. In recent years, one social issue that has become a cause of debate among academics, social activists, planners and common people is the acquisition of land for industrial or infrastructure projects in India. Development projects are perceived as symbols of national progress. If properly executed, they have the potential to facilitate generation of employment opportunities, formation of new skills, increases in income and consumption levels and improvement of infrastructure facilities.<sup>1</sup> Land Acquisition means the acquisition of land for some public purpose by a government agency from individual landowners, as authorised by the law, after paying a government-fixed compensation to cover losses incurred by landowners from surrendering their land to the concerned government agency.<sup>2</sup> The laws of acquisition and requisition of property can be enacted by the both Central and the State government, and this subject is included in the Indian Constitution under the concurrent list of the Seventh Schedule. The basic land acquisition law in India is the Central Land Acquisition Act, 1894. The act is basically meant to acquire land for Public Purpose and for Companies. According to Ordinance XL of 1935 Land Acquisition (Public Purpose), Article 31(2) state that land can be acquired for the public purpose by the government. In public purpose we can include the town-panning, employment generation, increasing the tourism, culture promotion, building infrastructure and land used by defense forces for their operations and many other uses which directly linked up with general interest or profits. With timely amendments in Land Acquisition Act 1894, after India's independence this Act was adopted as 'The Indian Independence Order, 1948' by the government. Before adopting the act by Indian govt. in 1948 there has been made many amendments in Land Acquisition Act, 1894 by British government. and after independence also made by Indian government. This acquisition put up the many significant changes on the farmers in specially, social conditions of the farmers. These social impacts are undoubtedly wide and far-reaching. There are a large number of studies on the socio-economic impacts of acquisition of agriculture land, but related to Haryana are very few. There is a wide scope for many more studies. So, we decided to observe the social impact of acquisition of agricultural land on farmers. For this purpose, we chose Bohar village of Rohtak district of Haryana.

### OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER

The main objective the paper is to examine the impact of land acquisition on social conditions of farmers and to analyze the domestic use of compensation money by the farmers.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To fulfill the objective, the study is based on the primary data as well as secondary data. The acquisition of land has been done in all districts of Haryana state but, we chose only one district i.e. Rohtak to see its impact on social conditions of the farmers. Therefore Bohar village in Rohtak district was selected for the field survey. For this study, a sample of 140 households has been selected randomly from the 290 house-holds of the Bohar Village, whose land was acquired for the HUDA (Haryana Urban Development Authority)'s residential sector-31 in year 2009. Secondary data have also been collected from the HUDA (Haryana Urban Development Authority) Office of Rohtak district. For the collection of data, we have adopted interview schedule and observations as major techniques. To analyze the data collected from field survey, simple statistical tools as tabulation and percentage method etc. are used.

### RESULTS

TABLE-1: OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN (N=140)

Type of Work	No. of HH before acquisition	Percentage	No. of HH after acquisition	Percentage
Agriculture	75	53.57	20	14.29
Govt. Job	31	22.14	32	22.86
Private Job	11	7.86	19	13.57
Business	9	6.43	28	20
Unemployed	0	0	9	6.42
Agriculture & Other	14	10	32	22.86

Source: Field Survey

\* **Agriculture & Other** include those people who perform agriculture with other activity like agriculture and govt. job, agriculture and private job and agriculture and business.

Occupational pattern of affected households is presented in table 1. It is seen from the table that 53.57 per cent households were involved in agriculture sector before acquisition but after acquisition percentage of agriculture sector in occupational pattern is on decrease and it make only 14.29 per cent. In the same way,

<sup>1</sup> S. Parasuraman, Development Projects, Displacement and Outcomes for Displaced Two Case Studies: EPW, Vol. 31, No. 24 (Jun. 15, 1996), pp. 1529-1532.

<sup>2</sup> [http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Land\\_Acquisition-Act\\_1894](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_Acquisition-Act_1894)



22.14 per cent households were engaged in Govt. jobs before acquisition and after acquisition this share increases to 22.86 per cent. Only 7.86 per cent households were involved in private jobs before acquisition for their livelihood but after acquisition 13.57 per cent households made their future in private sector. Business sector is most prosperous and risky field so, only 6.43 per cent households were busy in self-business, after acquisition 20 per cent households moved towards business sector. Before acquisition 10 per cent households were such as they are involved in both agriculture and some other occupation but after acquisition there are 22.86 per cent households which are included in agriculture and other occupation, the reason behind this increase is that households have very small no. of land holdings with them which make them difficult to give it on lease so they have only option left with them is to cultivate those land holdings themselves but income generated from cultivated land is not sufficient to support their families that's why they have to engage in some other occupation such as govt. job, private job and business along with agriculture.

TABLE-2: DISTRIBUTION OF HH BY BASIC FACILITIES (N=140)

Basic Facilities	No. of HH before acquisition	Percentage	No. of HH after acquisition	Percentage
Electricity	140	100	140	100
Separate Kitchen	67	47.86	73	52.14
Latrine	68	48.57	72	51.43
Both Kitchen & Latrine	62	44.28	78	55.72

Source: Field Survey

Table no. 2 represents the basic facilities in the houses of the households in the village. All the houses in the area are electrified. There are major deficiencies in basic facilities like, separate kitchen, latrine etc. before acquisition. There were only 47.86 per cent households who use the separate kitchen in their houses before acquisition while 48.57 per cent households make their separate kitchen with the help of compensation money after acquisition. Similar situation is in the latrine condition, only 48.57 per cent household's used the proper toilet facility in their houses before acquisition and 51.43 per cent afford this facility after acquisition. There are only 44.28 per cent households who used the both separate kitchen and latrine facility before acquisition while 55.72 per cent households make it easy after acquisition from compensation money.

TABLE-3 SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER OF HH (N=140)

Source	No. of HH before acquisition	Percentage	No. of HH	Percentage
Well	05	3.5	0	0
Hand Pump	40	28.57	16	11.43
Pipe Water	80	57.15	41	29.28
RO/Filter Water	15	10.78	83	59.29

Source: Field Survey

Table-3 shows the distribution of households by source of drinking water. There were only 3.5 per cent households who used the well water for drinking before acquisition, 28.57 per cent uses the hand-pump water, 57.15 per cent used the pipe-water and only 10.78 per cent households used the filter/ RO water for drinking before acquisition. There comes a major change after acquisition in source of water among the households. There is not even a single family who uses the well water for drinking purpose while hand-pump water for drinking are used by 11.43 per cent households. Only 29.28 per cent household's uses the pipe-water for drinking and 59.29 per cent family's uses the filter/RO water for drinking after acquisition.

TABLE-4 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ALCOHOLISM (N=140)

Social Problem	No. of HH before acquisition	Percentage	No. of HH after acquisition	Percentage
Domestic Violence	24	17.14	63	45
Alcoholism	41	29.28	89	63.57

Source: Field Survey

If we talk about domestic violence and alcoholism among the surveyed households, then these additions are on increase in the society after acquisition. Before acquisition, only 17.14 per cent households were affected from the domestic violence and 29.28 per cent from alcoholism problem. After acquisition, this ratio becomes 45 and 63.57 per cent respectively. Land acquisition showed an adverse effect on the society and culture in terms of domestic violence and alcoholism.

TABLE-5 USE OF COMPENSATION FOR DOMESTICS CONSUMPTION (N=140)

Use of cash Compensation	No. of HH	Percentage
Built House	53	37.85
Repair House	25	17.86
Marriage	42	30
Daily consumption	20	14.29

Source: Field Survey

Table-5 shows the use of compensation money for the domestic use after acquisition of land. 37.85 per cent households use their compensation money to built new houses while 17.86 per cent households use the money for repairing their old houses. 30 per cent household's uses their compensation money for marriage of their children and relatives, at the same time 14.29 per cent households uses compensation money of acquired land for daily consumption. This table reveals that most of the amount is used for either for building of new house or for marriage purpose.

## CONCLUSION

The social conditions have totally changed with land acquisition as we have both positive and negative changes. The basic facilities like separate kitchen, latrine, safe drinking water and building new houses have significantly increased after land acquisition. There is negative impact of land acquisition also, like domestic violence, alcoholism and unemployment have increased. The study reveals that most of the farmers use their compensation money on building of new house and daily consumption as well as on marriages of their children.

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