



Foundation for
**Agrarian
Studies**



ANNUAL REPORT
2013-2014



Foundation for
**Agrarian
Studies**

The Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) is a charitable trust based in Bangalore, India, and established in 2003.

The major objectives of FAS are to facilitate and sponsor multi-disciplinary theoretical and empirical research in the field of agrarian studies in India and other less-developed countries.

FAS works in association with a wide section of people interested in the agrarian question, including persons associated with academic institutions, social and political activities, members of mass organisations working in the countryside, and other professionals and scholars.





CONTENTS

1

Tenth Anniversary Conference On Agrarian Issues

2

Projects

Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI)

FAS-UNICEF Partnership Project on Child
Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards

Tata Institute of Social Sciences-ActionAid

FAS-ICSSR Partnership Project

3

Library

4

International Collaboration

FAS-Japan Collaboration

FAS-China Collaboration

5

Visitors

6

Publications

7

Journal

Review of Agrarian Studies

8

Personnel



2013-14 was the tenth anniversary year of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies.

Over the past ten years, the Foundation has attempted to facilitate and sponsor multidisciplinary theoretical and empirical enquiry in the field of agrarian studies. This effort has involved different kinds of activities: conducting systematic village-level agro-economic surveys, now covering 22 villages in 9 States, as part of the Project on Agrarian Relations in India; organising conferences and workshops on different aspects of the agrarian question; publishing research reports, papers, and books; publishing the Review of Agrarian Studies, the Foundation's peer-reviewed, online-first and print-later journal; and attempting to link the research of the Foundation to the concerns of the working people in rural India and of organisations working among them.

In 2013-14, some new areas of collaboration and study were begun. These include studies on input use and nitrogen balances in Indian agriculture, on wages in rural India, and on rural-rural and rural-urban migration.

Two activities dominated the work programme of the Foundation this year. The first was the Tenth Anniversary Conference, titled "On Agrarian Issues" and held in Kochi from January 9 to 12, 2014. The second was the intensified effort by the FAS team to organise, clean, and process village-level data collected as part of the Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI). A persistent problem of PARI has been the time lag between data collection and the presentation of village-level results. The FAS team has worked collectively for the past two years to overcome this backlog, and we now look forward to new village surveys in the coming years.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN ISSUES

The Tenth Anniversary Conference of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) was held in Kochi, Kerala, from January 9 to 12, 2014. Over 150 delegates from India and 17 other countries participated in the conference. The conference brought together senior academics, activists from mass organisations in India and abroad, and young scholars working on agrarian issues. There were 23 plenary and parallel sessions in all.

The papers presented at the conference were grouped into three broad themes. The themes and the convenors for each theme were:

- Agrarian Relations and Agrarian Institutions, convened by V. K. Ramachandran and R. Ramakumar
- Farming Systems, Environment and Climate Change, convened by T. Jayaraman and Niladri Sekhar Dhar
- Living Conditions, Social Discrimination and Inequality, convened by Madhura Swaminathan and Aparajita Bakshi

V. K. Ramachandran was the convenor of the conference.

A detailed account of the conference proceedings has been published in the Review of Agrarian Studies, vol. 4, no. 2 (available at www.ras.org.in)

Conference Core Committee and FAS staff:

Aparajita Bakshi, Amalendu Das, Arindam Das, Yasodhara Das, Niladri Sekhar Dhar, Aditi Dixit, Pinki Ghosh, T. Jayaraman, Secki P. Jose, Deepak Kumar, Chiranjit Poddar, V. K. Ramachandran, R. Ramakumar, T. Sivamurugan, Madhura Swaminathan.

Volunteers:

Sandipan Baksi, Ranjini Basu, Tushar Kamble, Saqib Khan, Awanish Kumar, Karan Raut, Bheemeshwar Reddy, Biplob Sarkar, Shamsher Singh, Harshan Teepee, Yacoub Zachariah.

Conference Coordinator:

Deepak Kumar

The Foundation's Tenth Anniversary Conference received financial support from the following donor organisations:

Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, New Delhi
UNICEF, India
TNQ Books, Chennai
Indian Council for Social Science Research, New Delhi

The collaborating institutions which provided both financial and organisational support for the conference were as follows:

Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai

PROJECT ON AGRARIAN RELATIONS IN INDIA

The Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI) was initiated in 2005 with the following objectives:

- To characterise the nature of capitalism and class relations in the countryside;
- To conduct specific studies of the oppression of the Dalit and Scheduled Tribe masses and of women;
- To report on the state of basic village amenities and the access of the rural masses to the facilities of modern life.

The villages studied represent a wide range of different agro-ecological regions in the country. Each year, one or two States are selected and two to four villages surveyed in different agro-ecological regions. We have now conducted surveys in 22 villages in nine states of India.

In the current year, work on PARI concentrated on data entry, cleaning and processing. The cleaning and processing of PARI data is time-consuming. Firstly, data from the household schedules are entered into access database files, specific to each village surveyed. Secondly, the data entered are cleaned, which involves correction of mistakes in data entry and data discrepancies. Also, extreme values are standardised based on average values applicable to a particular village. The PARI team then undertakes careful and detailed calculation of household incomes for every household surveyed in a particular village.

During the last year, data from various rounds continued to be processed. PARI data have been used for various reports and papers. The details of the same are listed below.

Theses

The Foundation for Agrarian Studies supports various doctoral and pre-doctoral level theses by providing data from the PARI archive. Any student from an Indian or foreign university is eligible to apply for the use of PARI data for research. The final selection depends on a review of their research proposal and personal interviews.

Completed Ph.D. Theses based on PARI data and submitted in 2013-14

ANUPAM SARKAR, Mechanisation in Contemporary Indian Agriculture: Nature of Ownership and Use

Abstract

This thesis is a study of recent trends and progress in agricultural mechanisation in India. Taken together

with other aspects of new agricultural technologies – including new biological inputs, the use of electricity,

and support from different types of modern infrastructure – mechanisation has a positive effect on agricultural development and progress. While by its very nature mechanisation helps provide an alternative to forms of physical drudgery, mechanisation contributes – crucially – to improvements in the productivity of labour and land. An examination of agricultural mechanisation thus has implications for the economy as a whole, and for rural development policy in India.

The specific objectives of this thesis are to examine the growth of agricultural mechanisation over time and across regions, States and farm households; to examine the use of machinery in agriculture; to identify factors associated with the specific pattern of agricultural mechanisation across India; to study the impact of agricultural mechanisation on farm income; and to describe and evaluate the available secondary data sources on mechanisation of agriculture in India.

The data for this thesis comes from secondary and primary sources. The thesis covers all major sources

NILADRI SEKHAR DHAR, *Employment and Earnings of Labour Households in Rural India: A Study on Andhra Pradesh*

Abstract

This thesis is an analysis of employment and earnings among rural manual worker households in a specific agrarian setting. Employment and earnings are examined in the context of issues of the supply of labour, labour absorption in agriculture, and the prevalence of different types of contracts between employers and employees in rural labour markets. The thesis also attempts an examination of the major source of official data on the employment of rural workers, the Rural Labour Enquiry, and of other

of official secondary statistical data on agricultural mechanisation. It also uses data on mechanisation in three villages, thus attempting to locate the use of machines in the socio-economic structure of villages in different agro-ecological regions. The data shows that there has been substantial accumulation of private capital in the form of agricultural machinery (data on tractor production and sale after liberalisation show further accumulation and recession). The data also indicates an extraordinarily high level of concentration of ownership of agricultural machinery among large landholders. The use of machines in cultivation, however, has spread to all sections of farmers. This disjuncture between concentrated ownership and dispersed use is bridged by the rental market. Our study of machine use in general and rental markets in particular – by means of examination of secondary and primary data – shows that the cost of machine labour in the total cost of cultivation has risen sharply, and that, among small and medium farmers, the high cost of machine-time can be a serious obstacle to raising output and household incomes.

sources of secondary data on the subject.

Primary data were obtained from three villages of Andhra Pradesh; Ananthavaram, situated in Guntur district, in the Krishna-Godavari zone; Bukkacherla, Anantapur district, situated in the scarce rainfall zone of Rayalaseema. Kothapalle village, Karimnagar district, is part of the North Telangana agro-ecological zone. The survey was organised by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies of which I was a

part. The survey was conducted in two rounds: a census-type survey of households was conducted in December 2005 and a sample survey was conducted in May 2006 to collect data on employment and income. In each village, households were divided into different strata on the basis of the extent of land ownership. A circular systematic sample with a random start was then drawn. For Ananthavaram village, I have used material from a survey of 1974 to examine certain aspects of change.

In this thesis, the first theme addresses the definition of a class of hired manual workers (or related categories) in official statistics and as a result of the investigation of survey data. The second theme relates, broadly speaking, to issues concerned with the supply of labour. It deals with the size and composition (caste and gender-wise) of the class of hired manual workers. Further, the thesis uses primary data to attempt a preliminary answer to the question: where did the class of hired manual workers come from? It does so by tabulating the occupations of the fathers of the heads of hired manual worker households. The data used in this section of this thesis are secondary data, cross-sectional primary data, and

inter-temporal village-level data for one of the three villages. The third theme is concerned with aspects of labour absorption in agriculture and patterns of employment. It deals, more specifically, with seasonality, the part played by hired labour in the labour process as a whole, and with issues of the gender division of labour in employment. The data used in this part of the thesis are mainly cross-sectional primary data, with comparisons being drawn with results from other village studies, and comparison, in the case of one of my study villages, with labour absorption in village-level rice cultivation in 1974. The fourth theme deals with the number of days of employment actually available to workers, using primary cross-sectional data, official sources of secondary data, and data from the survey of 1974 in one village. The fifth theme deals with wage forms and wage rates in agriculture and with gender differentials in wages. While the conclusions here are based largely on our cross-sectional village-level data, I have also used contemporary Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) data to make international comparisons. The sixth theme, also based mainly on our primary data-set, deals with the earnings and incomes of hired manual worker households.

Completed M.Phil. Thesis based on PARI data and submitted in 2013-14

RANJINI BASU, Land Reforms and Changing Land Tenural System: A Study in Cooch Behar District of West Bengal

Abstract

This is a study on the changing tenurial systems in the district of Cooch Behar, in West Bengal. The thesis located land reforms and the struggle for land reforms as a central factor in changing tenurial system of the region. The study provides a picture of the land tenurial system existing in the princely Cooch

Behar state. It also draws on the history of the movement for land reforms in the region. Finally, through the help of a village study it explores the present picture of the land tenural system existing in the district, locating land reforms within its analysis.

Research Papers

The following papers based on data from PARI villages were written for the Tenth Anniversary Conference on Agrarian Issues, held in Kochi from January 9 to 12, 2014.

Dhar, Niladri Sekhar, Dixit, Aditi and Sivamurugan T., *Manual Employment in Rural India: Evidence from PARI-based Data*.

Sarkar, Biplab, *Farm Harvest Price and Cost of Production: A Quantitative Assessment of Agricultural Price Policy in India*.

Bakshi, Aparajita, Das, Arindam, and Swaminathan, Madhura, *Household Incomes in Rural India: Results from PARI Villages*.

Rawal, Vikas, *Cost of Cultivation and Farm Business Incomes in India*.

Reddy, Bheemeshwar A. and Swaminathan, Madhura, *Intergenerational Occupational Mobility in Rural India: Evidence from Ten Villages*.

Sarkar, Biplab, *Farm Harvest Price and Cost of Production: A Quantitative Assessment of Agricultural Price Policy in India*.

Singh, Shamsher with Jose, Secki P., *Condition of Housing and Access to Basic Amenities in PARI Villages*.

Thomas, Jayan Jose and Das, Yasodhara, *A Note on Migration from Rural India: Evidence from PARI Villages*.

Papers based on PARI data were also presented at other conferences.

Madhura Swaminathan delivered a Keynote on the theme “Social Inclusion and the Labour Market” at the 55th Indian Society of Labour Economics Annual Conference at J.N.U., New Delhi, December 14, 2013. The talk, based on PARI data, was titled *Dalit Workers in Rural India: Evidence from Village Studies*.

Biplab Sarkar presented his work on *Input Use and Cost of Cultivation of Rice: Findings from Village Studies*, in collaboration with Professor Jihei Kaneko, Kobe University, Japan at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Regional Agriculture and Forestry Economics held at the Okayama University, Japan from October 18 to 20, 2013.

Shamsher Singh presented the following papers *Social Exclusion in Access to Basic Household Amenities in Rural India* at The Asian Conference on Asian Studies 2013 - ACAS 2013, Osaka, Japan; and *Exclusion in Access to Basic Household Amenities - Evidence from Selected Villages in India* at the 7th Annual International Conference on Sociology, 6-9 May 2013, Athens, Greece.

*Reports**Socio-Economic Surveys of Selected Villages in Rajasthan: A Report Prepared for the University Grants Commission*

The report is based on data from three PARI villages located in the State of Rajasthan. This report was prepared for the University Grants Commission by Dr. Vikas Rawal, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University. The complete report is available on the following link:

<http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/rajasthan-vikas.pdf>

The villages which are a part of this study are: 25 F Gulabewala in Sri Ganganagar district, Dungariya in Udaipur district and Rewasi in Sikar district. These villages lie in three different agro-ecological regions of Rajasthan. 25 F Gulabewala is in the canal-irrigated north-western plain region, Dungariya is in the sub-humid southern plain and Aravalli hills zone, and Rewasi is in the transitional plain of inland drainage zone (IIA) of western dry region of Rajasthan.

The three villages also represent very different social contexts. The caste composition of 25 F Gulabewala consists of Jat Sikhs, who are the dominant caste, Majhabi Sikhs and Nayaks. Dungariya, on the other hand, is an entirely tribal village. Rewasi is a multi-caste village. In Rewasi, Jats are the dominant caste. Rajputs, a dominant caste before abolition of jagirdari system, are now poor peasants and manual workers. The village also has households belonging to Meena Scheduled Tribe as well as several OBC castes.

The report analyses following aspects of socio-economic conditions in these villages.

- Literacy and Education
- Land relations
- Cropping pattern, irrigation and agricultural production
- Incomes from crop production and animal resources
- Conditions of employment
- Inequality of household incomes and wealth
- Access to basic amenities

The report brings out wide disparities in economic conditions across these three villages. Dungariya, a tribal village, presents a case of acute deprivation and neglect. The other two villages are marked by sharp economic disparities across castes, classes and gender.

*Incomes of Rural Households in Maharashtra: A Study based on Primary Data from Two Villages
Report Prepared for the University Grants Commission*

The report is based on data from two PARI villages located in the state of Maharashtra. This report was prepared for the University Grants Commission by Professor R. Ramakumar, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Aparajita Bakshi and Madhura Swaminathan. The complete report is available on the following link:

http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/Incomes%20of%20Rural%20Households%20in%20Maharashtra_TISS_UGC.pdf

India has no regular official serial data on household incomes. This is a big lacuna as macro-aggregates do not allow us to study the distribution of household incomes. In this report, we use data from household surveys in two villages of Maharashtra conducted in 2007. These villages are located in two different agro-ecological zones: one in Vidarbha, the region most affected by agrarian distress, and one in the Western Maharashtra plain zone, an area that is well irrigated and constitutes a relatively prosperous part of the State. We have used these data to study the level and structure of household incomes among rural households. In this context, the significance of this report on household incomes in two villages of Maharashtra lies in the fact that we are able to examine distributional features of household incomes, its variations across caste and class, and sources of income, although at a micro level.

The objective of this project is to study levels and structure of incomes of households in two villages of Maharashtra. In particular, the project studied the following issues:

- Level and distribution of household and per capita incomes
- Disparities in levels of incomes across social groups and classes
- Contribution of different sources to household incomes, and the variations in composition of income across social groups and classes
- Levels of farm business incomes from different crops and crop cycles
- Costs of cultivation of different crops

The estimates of incomes reported in this study are based on detailed disaggregated information on household activities and include data on incomes from crop production; incomes from animal resources; incomes from agricultural and non-agricultural wage labour; incomes from salaries; and incomes from business and trade, rent, interest earnings, pensions, remittances, and scholarships. The methodology for collection of data on incomes was carefully developed using an accounting framework. The study provided estimates of annual household income and per capita income for households resident in these two villages.

FAS-UNICEF

Partnership Project



FAS-UNICEF Partnership Project on Child Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards

UNICEF entered into a partnership with the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) as part of its Social Policy Programme. In the partnership programme, FAS examined cross-sectional and micro-level data on the status of children from villages in different agro-ecological regions. This micro-level analysis can help complement information on macro-level trends in child well-being, and help provide nuance and depth to our understanding of the well-being of rural children. The output of this collaboration was a series of publications – reports on villages in six States and one overview report – that dealt with aspects of deprivation and living standards among women and children in rural areas.



rework material from the previous seven reports prepared by FAS, and to publish a new Summary Report.

The *Summary Report* is based on 14 village reports and six State reports prepared as part of the FAS-UNICEF collaborative project on Child Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards. This fourteen-village data base is drawn from the Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI) of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies. The villages belong to the states of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. Detailed surveys were conducted in each village, between 2006 and 2010.

The FAS-UNICEF collaboration began in late 2010, continued through 2011 and ended in December 2012. UNICEF and FAS entered into a Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) on November 1, 2013. As a part of the agreement, FAS agreed to collate and

Our studies show widespread deprivation among a majority of persons in the surveyed villages in terms of access to and achievements in education, the domestic educational environment, child work, access to basic amenities and the status of women. The

degree of deprivation follows expected patterns of gender and caste deprivation. Looking at variations across villages, child deprivation was not always less in the agriculturally advanced canal-irrigated villages as compared to the less advanced rainfed villages. However, inequality was higher in agriculturally advanced villages. In some canal-irrigated villages like Harevli in western Uttar Pradesh and Ananthavaram in coastal Andhra Pradesh, child deprivation persisted among households in lower asset groups.

Since the family was the unit of analysis, our study brought out the problem of lack of education among parents. Given the home environment, addressing educational deprivation requires not only good schooling but public provisioning of libraries and after-school and out-of-school extra-curricular activities.

Child labour persisted in all the study villages. While compulsory schooling is one step forward, there is also need to address the demand for child labour such as for cotton-picking in Rajasthan or in stone-quarrying in Gulbarga district of Karnataka.

In the current context of social policy in India, our findings, though from only 14 villages, bring out very clearly the need for massive expansion and strengthening of investments in child-related activities. Policies pertaining to basic education,

health and shelter need to be universal in scope with special attention and effort placed on more deprived households. It follows, then, that we must move away from policies designed specifically for “below-poverty-line” (BPL) households, that is, policies of narrow targeting based on an arbitrary expenditure poverty line. As we have shown, the incidence of child labour is often higher in small land-owning households than among landless labour households. So, ensuring all children are not working but attending school will require a focus on children that may belong officially to APL (above poverty line) households. Similarly, we have seen that the problem of lack of space or absence of an educated woman in the family does not necessarily disappear with higher asset ownership. While backward districts and correspondingly backward villages need special attention, so do the poorer sections, typically comprising socially deprived communities, in the more advanced villages.



TISS-ACTIONAID

Partnership Project

Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)-ActionAid Project on Land and Livelihood Strategies in Rural Karnataka: A Study Based on Intensive Household Surveys in Three Villages

The state of Karnataka, according to some scholars, has provided a new model of development termed the Bangalore model, a path of development characterised by great dynamism in the services sector. At the same time, it is clear that the rural economy of Karnataka has not kept pace with the urban economy and that intra-State and inter-sector inequalities persist. In this context, we require more detailed study of the rural economy and, in particular, of the nature of livelihoods for household residents in rural areas.

A study of livelihood strategies in an agrarian society must start with an analysis of pattern of ownership of land and other means of production. Land relations – including the pattern of ownership of land across classes and castes and the nature of tenancy – have a fundamental bearing on the nature of livelihood strategies that different classes of households are able to access. Not only do these determine the position of different classes and sections of the village society in the system of agricultural production, they also influence their access to non-agricultural means of livelihood.

This project was in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (with funding

from ActionAid India). The Principal Investigator at TISS is T. Jayaraman, Professor of Science Policy and Chair, Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Studies. Aditi Dixit handled the work at FAS.

The Project focuses on three villages of Karnataka:

- (a) Alabujanahalli in Maddur taluk, Mandya district, from the canal-irrigated sugarcane/paddy growing region in southern Karnataka.
- (b) Siresandra in Kolar taluk, Kolar district, from the semi-dry rainfed region in south-eastern Karnataka with cultivation of ragi on rainfed land and vegetables on tubewell-irrigated land.
- (c) Zhapur in Gulbarga taluk, Gulbarga district, from the dry rainfed region of north Karnataka with cultivation of rainfed cereals and oil seeds.

The project report titled “*Land and Livelihood Strategies in Rural Karnataka: A Preliminary Report on Intensive Household Surveys in Three Villages*” was submitted in June 2013.

FAS-ICSSR

Partnership Project

Nature of Income Diversification in Village India With a Special Focus on Dalit Households

This research project is an attempt to understand rural incomes and livelihoods in India in the specific context of the rising importance of the rural non-farm sector in employment and income generation. The study is based on a series of village studies undertaken by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) since 2006. The FAS collected detailed data on household incomes and occupations (and many other variables) in census-type household surveys conducted in different parts of India. These surveys provide a unique opportunity to understand the processes of income and occupational diversification in rural India, and the implications of such processes

on poverty and inter-household inequality, particularly inequality between different caste groups in the villages.

The project will use data from seven villages collected by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) under the Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI). These include two villages from Uttar Pradesh (surveyed in 2006), two villages from Maharashtra (surveyed in 2007), one village from Madhya Pradesh (surveyed in 2008) and two from Rajasthan (one village surveyed in 2007 and one in 2010).

LIBRARY

Professor Yoshifumi Usami has generously presented us his collection of books and reports on the agrarian economy of India and South Asia. Professor Usami's collection of over 4000 books is a unique gift and provides a rich repository of material on agrarian India.



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

FAS-Japan Collaboration

Professor Jun-ichi Okabe, with Aparajita Bakshi, has prepared a book manuscript with the working title, *A New Statistical Domain in India: Statistical Data Bases in Gram Panchayats*.

The objective of the book is to study panchayat-level databases and their potential use in local-level administration, planning and policy implementation. The authors study the overall status of local-level data available in two contrasting gram panchayats, Raina gram panchayat, Barddhaman district, West Bengal and Warwat Khanderao gram panchayat, Buldhana district, Maharashtra. Data for the villages were taken from the archive of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies.

Professor Yoshifumi Usami has been working with the FAS on analysis of PARI data, in particular, data on rural workers, wage rates and employment, including work at NREGA. His research has focussed on analysis of issues pertaining to the rural labour market where available secondary data are inadequate or inaccurate. He presented a paper at the Tenth Anniversary Conference titled *An Examination of the Recent Reported Rise in Agricultural Wages in India*. In the coming year, Professor Usami will mentor young people at FAS.

FAS-China Collaboration

The FAS-China collaboration was initiated to improve the understanding of recent developments in the agrarian situation and rural development in the two countries.

In December 2012, eight Chinese scholars visited India at the invitation of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies. On a reciprocal visit, seven members of the FAS network visited China from April 20 to 30, 2013.



The following persons visited China:

1. V. K. Ramachandran, *Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore*
2. Madhura Swaminathan, *Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore*
3. T. Jayaraman, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai*
4. R. Ramakumar, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai*
5. Vijoo Krishnan, *All India Kisan Sabha*
6. Aparajita Bakshi, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur*
7. Niladri Sekhar Dhar, *Foundation for Agrarian Studies, Bangalore*

During their ten-day stay at China, the group interacted with scholars at Ningbo Social Sciences Institute, Ningbo; School of Philosophy and Public Administration, Henan University; Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing; Yunnan University of Finance and Economics, and Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

A conference on Rural Development in India and China was organised by the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Shanghai on April 30, 2013. The following papers were presented at the conference.

- Ramachandran, V. K., *Resolving the Agrarian Question in India: What Needs to be Done*
 Jayaraman, T., *Climate Change and Agriculture with Special Reference to India*
 Swaminathan, Madhura, *Food Security in India*
 Ramakumar, R., *Rural Credit in India*

The FAS team visited Wandu and Tentou villages in Zhejiang province, Houwang and Nanjie villages in Henan province, and Hancunhe village in Beijing. The villages represented different types of ownership patterns and different modes of cooperation. While Nanjie village was an example of classical mode of collective ownership and centralised management, Houwang village followed the household responsibility system. The other villages showed different forms of cooperation in ownership and organisation of production.

VISITORS

International

Kaneko Jihei, *Kyoto University, Kyoto*
Jun-ichi Okabe, *Yokohama University, Yokohama*
Junko Shindo, *University of Yamanashi, Yamanashi*

India

Subhashini Ali, *President, All India Democratic Women's Association, New Delhi*
M V Bhaskar, *TNQ Books, Chennai*
Sudhanva Deshpande, *Managing Editor, LeftWord Books, New Delhi*
Carsten Krinn, *Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, New Delhi*
Vinod Koshti, *Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, New Delhi*
A. K. Shiva Kumar, *Member of National Advisory Council, New Delhi*
Sripad Motiram, *Associate Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai*
Kamal Murari, *Assistant Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai*
Kamal Thadani, *Assistant Programme Officer, UNICEF India, New Delhi*
A. Vijayaraghavan, *President, All India Agricultural Workers Union, New Delhi*

Student Interns

Ranjini Basu, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai*
Yanqing Guo, *Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Shanghai*
Francis Heng, *Independent Artist, Vancouver*
Deepak Kumar, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai*
Kunal Singh, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai*
Alicia Tallack, *Simon Fraser University, Vancouver*

Student Visitors

Niloy Krittika Chowdhury, *Jawaharlal Nebru University, New Delhi*
Priya Gupta, *Jawaharlal Nebru University, New Delhi*
Manish Kumar, *Jawaharlal Nebru University, New Delhi*
Amit Kumar, *Jawaharlal Nebru University, New Delhi*
Puja Pal, *Jawaharlal Nebru University, New Delhi*

PUBLICATIONS

Dalit Households in Village Economies, Edited by V. K. Ramachandran and Madhura Swaminathan, Tulika Books, New Delhi, Pages: 339, Price: ₹ 695.

Abstract

Caste is an institution of oppression and social discrimination specific to South Asia, more so to India. Central to the caste system were the status assigned to the Dalit people and the criminal practice of untouchability. Caste is embedded in production relations. It is an impediment to the growth of the productive forces, and a bulwark against the revolutionary overthrow of the ruling classes.

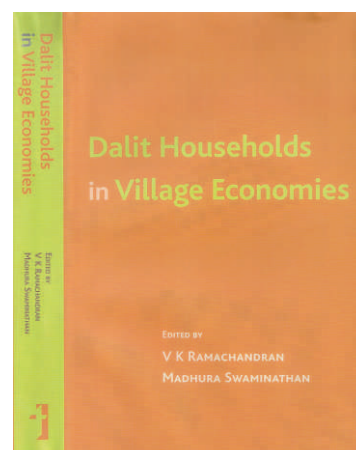
Although there have been, in recent years, new scholarship and new attempts to understand the socio-economic conditions of life of Dalit people and households in India, it is still true, as a leading scholar in the field has written, that “very few empirical studies have tried to study the phenomenon of economic determination.”

This book is an attempt to contribute to the study and understanding of economic deprivation and exclusion among Dalits in rural India.

The first section of the book deals with poverty and group discrimination. The second section has case studies – from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal – on historical aspects of land, caste and social exclusion. The third section deals with contemporary fieldwork-based economic analyses from Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The last section has studies of Dalit

households in village economies; the empirical base for these studies comes from the village-level data archive of the Project on Agrarian Relations (PARI) being conducted by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies.

The articles in the book are evidence, in some cases, of direct discrimination, and in others of what has been described as differentiated impact discrimination (for instance, when an employment practice is neutral on the surface but has a differential impact across social groups in practice). Most of all, they reflect cumulative discrimination and disadvantage, that is, differences in human functioning and ownership of the means of production that are the outcome of discrimination and disadvantage over generations.



Contents

Introduction

V. K. Ramachandran

The Role of Social Exclusion in Explaining Poverty in Income-Poor States of India

Sukhadeo Thorat, Nidhi Sadana Sabharwal and Amit Thorat

Agrarian Change and Changes in the Socio-Economic Conditions of Dalit Households
in a Malabar Village

R. Ramakumar

The Peasant Movement and Dalit Rights in East Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

G. Ramakrishnan

Land Reform and Access to Land among Dalit Households in West Bengal

Aparajita Bakshi

Dalit Households in Industrializing Villages in Coimbatore and Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu: A
Comparison across Three Decades

Judith Heyer

Tenancy and Distress in Thanjavur Region, Tamil Nadu: A Case Study of Palakurichi
Village

V. Surjit

Land Conflicts and Attacks on Dalits: A Case Study from a Village in Marathwada

R. Ramakumar and Tusbar Kamble

Access of Dalit Borrowers in Rural Areas to Bank Credit

Pallavi Chavan

Variations in Land and Asset Inequality

Vikas Rawal

Asset Poverty among Rural Households: An Illustration from Two Villages in Uttar
Pradesh

Partha Saha

Income Inequality in Village India and the Role of Caste

Madhura Swaminathan and Vikas Rawal

Hired Manual Workers: A Note

V.K. Ramachandran, Niladri Sekhar Dhar and Navpreet Kaur

Exclusion in Access to Basic Civic Amenities: Evidence from Fourteen Villages

Madhura Swaminathan and Shamsber Singh

REVIEW OF AGRARIAN STUDIES

The *Review of Agrarian Studies* is the peer-reviewed journal of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (www.ras.org.in). The journal invites articles on agrarian studies – on the forces and relations of production in agriculture and in rural areas, on living standards, and on different aspects of social formations in the countryside. The *Review* carries theoretical and empirical articles on social, economic, historical, political and scientific and technological aspects of agriculture and rural societies.

The print edition of the *Review* is published jointly by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies and Tulika Books, New Delhi, one of India's most important publishers of books in the social sciences.

The journal is rendered online, and the print edition typeset, by TNQ Books and Journals (www.tnq.co.in), one of India's leading providers of scholarly publishing services worldwide.

We are grateful to the Indian Council of Social Science Research for a publication grant for the journal. During 2013-14, two issues of the journal were published online and in print.

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1 (JANUARY-JUNE, 2013)

RESEARCH ARTICLES

To Whom Does Temple Wealth Belong? A Historical Essay On Landed Property In Travancore
K. N. Ganesh

Features of Rural Underemployment In India: Evidence From Nine Villages
Niladri Sekhar Dhar with Navpreet Kaur

Tractor Production And Sales In India, 1989–2009
Anupam Sarkar

TRIBUTE

P. Sundarayya, 1913–1985 A Centenary Tribute

Introductory notes
V. K. Ramachandran, B. V. Raghavulu, and Madhura Swaminathan

Present-Day Agrarian Relations in Andhra Pradesh
P. Sundarayya

REVIEW ARTICLES

Climate Change and Agriculture in the United States
T. Jayaraman

RESEARCH NOTES AND STATISTICS

India's Agricultural Debt Waiver Scheme, 2008
R. Ramakumar

BOOK REVIEWS

Unfinished Tasks of Land Reform
Abhijit Sen

Gender and Social Vulnerability in Rural Punjab
Shakti Kak

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Chávez's Legacy of Land Reform for Venezuela
Gregory Wilpert

A New Statistical Domain in India: An Enquiry into
Gram Panchayat-Level Databases
Jun-Ichi Okabe with Aparajita Baksbi

Housing Shortages in Rural India
*Shamsber Singh, Madhura Swaminathan, and V. K.
Ramachandran*

Changes in the Distribution of Operational
Landholdings in Rural India: A Study of National
Sample Survey Data
Vikas Rawal

SPECIAL ESSAY

Celebrating a Study of India's Agrarian History
Shireen Moosvi

RESEARCH NOTES AND STATISTICS

Agrarian Relations in Post-Apartheid South Africa:
A Communist Viewpoint
Lechesa Tsenoli

BOOK REVIEWS

Agriculture in Revolutionary Cuba: Achievements
and Challenges
Venkatesh Athreya

Biofuels, Smallholder Agriculture, and Food
Security
V. Sridhar

One Kind of Slavery?
Vamsi Vakulabharanam

PERSONNEL

The Team

V. K. Ramachandran – *Honorary Managing Trustee*
 Aditi Dixit – *Programme Coordinator*
 Niladri Sekhar Dhar* – *PARI Coordinator*
 Arindam Das – *PARI Coordinator*
 Pinki Ghosh – *Accounts Coordinator*

Research Staff

Sanjukta Chakraborty
 Amalendu Das
 Yasodhara Das
 Secki P. Jose
 Chiranjit Poddar
 Kunal Singh*
 Sivamurugan. T

Office Assistant

Jaya Mary

Collaborating Institutions

The Foundation draws on institutional support of the following organisations:

TNQ Books: *The journal is rendered online, and the print edition typeset, by TNQ Books and Journals, one of India's leading providers of scholarly publishing services worldwide.*

Tulika Books: *The print edition of the Review is published jointly by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies and Tulika Books, New Delhi.*

Free Software Movement Karnataka (FSMK): *FSMK provides technical support to the Foundation.*

Sudip Shetty & Co.: *Financial and accounting support is provided by Sudip Shetty & Co.*

Pace Hospitality: *Pace Hospitality provided event management services during the Tenth Anniversary Conference.*

External Collaboration

FAS and the Review of Agrarian Studies draw on the voluntary services of academics across India. They include:

Venkatesh Athreya, *Bharathidasan University*
 Aparajita Bakshi, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences*
 C. P. Chandrasekhar, *Jawaharlal Nebru University*
 Indira Chandrasekhar, *Tulika Books*
 Pallavi Chavan, *Reserve Bank of India*
 S. Mahendra Dev, *Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research*
 Niladri Sekhar Dhar, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences*
 T. Jayaraman, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences*
 V. K. Ramachandran, *Indian Statistical Institute*
 R. Ramakumar, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences*
 Vikas Rawal, *Jawaharlal Nebru University*
 Abhijit Sen, *Jawaharlal Nebru University and Member, Planning Commission*
 Madhura Swaminathan, *Indian Statistical Institute*

*Left during the year.



FOUNDATION FOR AGRARIAN STUDIES
514, First Floor, 16th Cross, Indiranagar II Stage,
Bangalore, India - 560038

www.fas.org.in

agrarian_studies@vsnl.net

(+91) 080-40952150

Foundation for Agrarian Studies

© 2014