

## Land Struggle of Scheduled Castes – A Sociological Study

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### Abstract

Although, many deprived communities are struggling to get land. Only a handful of such land struggles can be seen. The Santhal Rebellion, the Mopla Rebellion in Kerala and the Kogadu Farmers Movement in Karnataka are the major land struggles that have made their presence felt across India. These have inspired other minor land struggles. The role of the organization in solving the problems is very important. The problems can be personal or communal, educate organization and struggle can help to alleviate the problems.

The present study aims at studying the land struggle movement of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and analyzing the problems faced by Scheduled Castes while participating in land struggles. Present study includes ten (10) taluks in Tumakuru district of the state of Karnataka with 30 respondents in each taluk and a total of 300 respondents from all the taluks of the district using simple random sampling method. It reveals that participating in land struggles is increasingly problematic. Organization other than the Dalita Sangharsha Samiti (DSS) are unhelpful to land struggles of SCs.

**Key words :** Land Struggle, Scheduled Castes, Organization

### Introduction

Land is an important natural resource and is the habitat for all the living beings. As the intellectual development of the so-called intelligent animal grew, did the concept of private property acquisition. The land is thus, inadequately distributed due to human selfishness. In such cases the land was inadequately distributed among caste-to-caste and class-to-class in India, due to the need for more land. The weaker sections were exploited by the powerful. Thus, the classes of landlords and labourers emerged in the society. This process is constantly growing on in the present society.

Farmer's movements are not only the cause for major peasant movements in different regions. Land ownership, the formation of the classes in rural farming, the role of various classes, historical background, mobilization and strategies of the peasants, immediate cause of the movement, total effects of the movement at the all India level are not only diverse but also many movements. These were the revolutionary struggle for the peasant's movements in India that came close to it.

The role of the movement is important in alleviating social problems i.e., people who are there for a particular social problem can find a solution to that problem through movement with an organization. Not all campaigns are so successful, movements can be peasant movements, environmental movements, independence movements, student movements, labour movements and land struggle movements. Movements are usually communal or established for the benefit of many not on behalf of one person. These include the Land Rebellion Movement (1855-56), The Peasant Rebellion in Punjab (1930), the Bardoli Satyagraha, the Mopla Rebellion (1921) in Malabar and the Kogodu Peasant Movements in Karnataka. These movements succeeded and inspired other movements, i.e., the role of the movements in providing social justice is commendable.

### Objectives of the study

- To study the land struggle movements of Scheduled Castes.
- To analyze the problems caused by Scheduled Castes participating in land struggles.

**Review of Literature**

Sharma K.L. (1986) worked on *Castes, Class and Social Movements*, in his work it was seen that, the position of Scheduled Castes in contemporary India is much weaker. Scheduled Castes are the largest holders of small holdings in a rural area. They are focused on being the some amount of land owners. He is still facing socio-economic inequality, because of this earthquake. Governments that fight for it and raise their voices are aware that it is against justice. As the last class of the caste hierarchy, the elite must mobilize and convert and meet their demands through movements to secure their status. The concept of social justice in the society has to be systematically pursued at the grassroots level. Economic resources must be shared equally in villages. The authors point out that economic resource is land and that there is a need for movements for all.

Danial Thornar (1962) in his book on *Land and Labour in India*, the land and labour are detailed. Land is one of the basic economic resource in a rural agricultural system like India. The farming system is divided into three main categories, the first being the owner (Malic), the second the farmer (Kisan) and the last the agricultural labour (Majadur). In this land owners have given their land to the middle class farmers without cultivating it. Farmers need agricultural workers to help them. The lower caste communities work as agricultural labourers. They have no share in the crop. The author is of the opinion that he is economically disadvantaged and that the result is social backwardness.

**Statement of the Problem**

The statement of the problem of the present study is “Land Struggles of Scheduled Castes – A Sociological Study”.

**Research Methodology and Techniques**

In the present study, field research has been carried out using scientific techniques for data collection. It collects qualitative and quantitative information. Interviews were collected by the respondents with the help of mentors, experts and pre-tested and finally the perfect interview schedule was used to gather needed information for the present research.

**Study Area and Sample**

The present study has selected ten taluks in Tumakuru district to collect information to supplement the research. Each taluk in the district, the sample was selected by selecting 1 hobli over the SCs and 2 villages where the SC population is high. 300 respondents were selected from 20 villages for the study. Simple random sampling method is adopted for the study.

**Sources of Data Collection**

The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data have been gathered through field survey by using well structured Interview Schedule to gather information from the respondents. The secondary sources of data have been gathered from Books, Journal Articles, Periodicals, Reports, Theses, Volumes, Websites (E-source) and others.

**Data Analysis**

The research methods, techniques and research data from various sources are analyzed in a qualitative and quantitative manner using codification, revision, classification, indication and analyzing the information in a sociological framework using adequate statistical tools.

**Participation in Land Struggle Movements**

Participation		Frequency	Percentage
<b>Participated</b>		88	<b>29.33</b>
<b>Not Participated</b>		212	<b>70.67</b>
Total		<b>300</b>	100.00
If Participated, Type of Movement			
Type		Frequency (n=88)	Percentage
<b>National Movements</b>	<b>Level</b>	19	<b>21.60</b>
<b>State Movements</b>	<b>Level</b>	46	<b>52.27</b>
<b>District Movements</b>	<b>Level</b>	27	<b>30.68</b>
<b>Taluk Movements</b>	<b>Level</b>	22	<b>25.00</b>
If not Participated, What are the Reasons			
Reasons		Frequency (n=212)	Percentage
<b>Lack of Interest</b>		149	<b>70.28</b>
<b>Lack of Information</b>		87	<b>41.03</b>



<b>Lack of leadership</b>	169	<b>79.71</b>
<b>Lack of Organization</b>	184	<b>86.79</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12.26</b>

Above table shows respondents involved in land struggle movements in the study area. Of the respondents interviewed, 29.33 per cent are participated in the land struggle movements and the remaining 70.67 per cent are not participated in the land struggle movements. If participated, 21.6 per cent are participated in National Level Movements, 52.27 per cent are participated in State Level Movements, 30.68 per cent are participated in District Level Movements and 25 per cent are participated in Taluk Level Movements. If not Participated in the movements, the reasons are 70.28 per cent of the respondents opined lack of interest, 41.03 per cent opined lack of information, 79.71 per cent opined lack of leadership, 86.79 per cent opined lack of organization and 12.26 per cent opined other reasons like family problems, ill health etc. From the Table it was seen that respondents were facing a high degree of organization problem to participate in the movements.

**Co-operation from Other Organizations for Land Struggles**

Co-operation	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Have co-operated</b>	168	<b>56.00</b>
<b>Not co-operated</b>	132	<b>44.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	100.00
If so, What Organizations		
If co-operated	Frequency (n=168)	Percentage
<b>DSS</b>	133	<b>79.16</b>
<b>Farmers Association</b>	52	<b>30.95</b>
<b>Women's Organization</b>	10	<b>05.95</b>
<b>Environmental Organizations</b>	05	<b>02.98</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>01.19</b>

Above table represents co-operation from other organizations for land struggles. Out of 300 respondents interviewed, 56 per cent are opined have co-operated and remaining 44 per cent are opined not co-operated. If co-operated to the land struggles, the organizations are 79.16 per cent are DSS, 30.95 per cent are Farmers Association, 5.95 per cent are

Women's Organization, 2.98 per cent are Environmental Organizations and 1.19 per cent are others in the area. This shows that the DSS has been largely involved in the land struggles of the SCs. This is because, the organization is set-up for the betterment of the marginalized communities and the members of this organization are Dalits. Caste organizations also play an important role in land struggle. It is evident that, the DSS is currently collaborating on social justice.

**Problems Faced in Participating Land Struggles**

Problems	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Problems arises</b>	226	<b>75.33</b>
<b>Problems not arises</b>	74	<b>24.67</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	100.00
If so, the problems that arises		
If problems arises	Frequency (n=226)	Percentage
<b>Opposition from the family</b>	194	<b>85.84</b>
<b>Opposition from the community</b>	170	<b>75.22</b>
<b>Opposition from the upper classes</b>	53	<b>23.45</b>
<b>Change in social relationship</b>	181	<b>80.08</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>08.40</b>

Above Table depicts the problems caused by participating in land struggles. Among the respondents, 75.33 per cent are opined problems arises while participating in land struggles and remaining 24.67 per cent opined that none of the problem arises while participating in land struggles. This means that the respondents were more likely to be involved in land struggles than they love. If the problems arises, 85.84 per cent of the respondents are faced the problem of opposition from the family, 75.22 per cent are faced opposition from the community, 23.45 per cent are faced opposition from the upper classes, 80.08 per cent are faced change in social relationship and 8.4 per cent are faced other problems while participating in land struggles. This is because the respondents have expressed their views that they have no strength to deal with any disasters caused by the land struggles.

**Effects of the Land Struggles on the Social Relationship of the Respondents**

Effects	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage
Good	21	07.00
Normal	142	47.33
Excellent	12	04.00
The opposite is true	127	45.66
Not well	25	08.33

The above Table summarizes the effects of the land struggles on the social relationship of the respondents. Out of 300 respondents interviewed, 7 per cent of the respondents opined good, 47.33 per cent opined normal, 4 per cent opined excellent, 45.66 per cent opined the opposite is true and 8.33 per cent opined not well about the effects of the land struggles on the social relationship. This shows that a large number of respondents struggling with social relationship problems.

**Findings of the Study**

- It is evident that 70.67 per cent of the land related movements were not involved. This is due to the lack of information, the increasing organization problem and the lack of interest about land struggle.
- It was noticed that 79.16 per cent of the Dalit organizations have provide co-operation to other organizations while at the time of respondents struggle for land. Except for such organizations, other organizations have been found to be co-operated boringly. It is well known that caste self-esteem play an important role.
- About 75.33 per cent of the respondents were participating in land struggles. At that time they faced the problems of opposition from the community, family and has been changed social relationship with the community.
- Majority of the respondents have found to be more trouble with social relationships due to land struggles.

**Suggestions**

- In case of Scheduled Castes, the level of organization in rural areas is very low.

Therefore, it is necessary to set-up camps in the villages and creates awareness about benefits of the organization.

- The government should ensure that no disasters occurred in the villages when Scheduled Castes take part in the movement.
- Participation in Scheduled Castes movements in rural areas is very low. Therefore, awareness about the importance of the movement should be raised.

**Conclusion**

It was concluded that, Scheduled Castes participating in a low level of agitation for the respondents land struggle. For them, the organizational problem is often hunting. Among the organizations, DSS supported more for land struggles other than the organizations. Other organizations have shown a lack of co-operation. For the Scheduled Castes to attain social justice, they must first educate, organize and meet their demands through struggle. In this way, there is a need for success in the movement by putting forward plans in a systematic way.

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