



LIVELIHOOD & WELLBEING OF MARGINALIZED FARMERS: A CASE STUDY OF UTTAR PRADESH STATE

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ABSTRACT

Since ancient period marginalized people have been prone to acute economic resource backdrop for their survival, dignity, identification & acceptance in the society. This dramatic portrait still prevailed in the post-independent period and is more vulnerable in the context of rural Indian economy. Uttar Pradesh is a purely agrarian-based economy where the agriculture sector has a dominant role in their sectoral composition. From the point of view Marginal Section, Uttar Pradesh keeps a significant place as a maximum number of marginal farmers have been found in Uttar Pradesh only among all the states (agriculture Census 2010-11). Moreover, poverty among rural has been prevalent highly in Chhattisgarh Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand where Uttar Pradesh stands at second place with 41percent (Planning Commission). Hence, the objective this present paper is to analyze the socioeconomic stature of marginal farmers in terms of their living and well-being conditions in Uttar Pradesh. Data is gathered from agriculture census, Planning Commission livings, health and well being to a great extent. and Statistical Abstract. Furthermore, macro and microdata have been analyzed in order to interpret and scrutinize the magnitude of socio-economic state of farmers in the context of Uttar Pradesh.

Keywords: Agriculture Sector, Marginal Farmers, Livelihood & Well-being

INTRODUCTION

In India almost seventy percent of total population account in rural areas and agriculture is a mainstay of it. Social Progress Index 2017 reveals India stands in Lower Middle Social Progress group with 93rd rank among 128 countries. The index also divulges the datum of prevailing weak social infrastructure in rural India. A significant proportion of Rural India depends upon agrarian division in order to earn their livelihood and sustained well being. Nonetheless, Agrarian division has been tormenting for a long time and the quest for sustainable livelihood is still unattained. Majority of rural populace involves in the operation of crop cultivation but the efficient operation of agrarian activity with appropriate profitability is zero in case of marginal farmers. Moreover, Economics of crop cultivation depends upon the factor utilizing under it and land is the fundamental element which directs crop cultivation begins. In India, out of 121 million agricultural holdings, 99 million are with small and marginal farmers, with a land share of just 44 percent and a farmer population share of 87 percent. With multiple cropping prevalent, such farmers account for 70 percent of all vegetables and 52 percent of cereal output and 33 percent from these agricultural households have less than 0.4 hectares of land. On the other hand, the percentage of area that was actually operated under larger holdings was more than 10 times the actual land held at 10.59 percent, while for marginal farmers it was three times lower at 22.50 percent. This clearly stresses

that marginal farmers undergo in [India](#). Therefore, once India's agronomy is concentrated by marginal farmers intensely, the question of their income generating capacity and sustained livelihood is a serious matter of worry for India. The process of marginalization of holdings has been witnessed by all the states in the country, though the extent of marginalization varies from state to state. The proportion of marginal holdings is over 75 percent in the states of Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal (Singh, 2011).

Another cause for concern is that in 2010-11, the proportion of net irrigated area to net area sown was 45.70 percent, which shows that for half the country's farmland irrigation is yet to reach farmers, who rely entirely on rains for their crops and among the sources of irrigation, tube-wells was the main source followed by canals. While the cropped area in [India](#) is estimated at 193.76 million hectares, nine states accounted for 78 percent of it, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and West Bengal respectively. Out of the total 64.57 million hectare net irrigated area, 48.16 percent is accounted for by small and marginal holdings, 43.77 percent by semi-medium and medium holdings and 8.07 percent by large holdings. Though precarious livelihood of farmers couldn't flaunt only by observing the stature of irrigation in India yet it relies on availability of inputs. An optimum Quantity of inputs in order to raise the production is a prime requirement but with this the urge of proper management for post-harvest period equally important. Greater the magnitude of good distribution process of farmers produce at a profitable price, greater will be the total returns to them. Therefore, the demand of this contemporary time is to bestow rural India with the efficacious social and agrarian infrastructure, which will directly incite the production, Income, livelihood & their wellbeing.

Centre of attention for the present study is to evaluate Uttar Pradesh agronomy at present time, as Uttar Pradesh is a purely agrarian-based economy where the agriculture sector has a dominant role in their sectoral composition. From the point of view Marginal Section, Uttar Pradesh keeps a significant place as a maximum number of marginal farmers have been found in Uttar Pradesh only, among all the states (agriculture Census 2010-11). Moreover, poverty among rural has been prevalent highly in Chhattisgarh Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand where Uttar Pradesh stands at second place with 41percent (Planning Commission). Hence livelihood of marginal farmers in Uttar Pradesh state is below necessary as well as sufficiency.

Sustainable Livelihood for Farmers

Since the early-1990s, the concept of sustainable livelihood is dominating the issue of rural development. Among the first contribution to this area was by Chambers (1987). The concept of sustainable livelihood has been interpreted in various ways (Ellis, 2000). A commonly accepted definition of livelihood is as follows: "A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, while not undermining the natural resource base." (Scoones, 1998).

Syed Ajmal Pasha scrutinized socio-economic state of affairs of marginal farmers in a drought-prone area of India. The methods of farming adopted by farmers to maximize the total returns are not sufficient as their holdings size is very small and below 1 hectare. Paper reveals that increasing number of marginal holdings stimulates fragmentation of land holdings at a wider level. The prominent feature of the structural change in agriculture was inclining in the number of marginal holdings of below 1 hectare without equivalent upsurge in the area operated by them. This tendency is likely to continue in the near future also. Given the demographic trend, marginal holding will remain with us as far as one can see, and their persistence would give rise to many hurdles in the application of new agricultural technology to Indian agriculture. (Rao, 1989). Moreover Devendra, 1981 also strongly argued, small & marginal farmers are usually crop oriented subsistence household with low income, living close to the bread-line. Mahendra Singh, the article examined the challenges and opportunities for the sustainable viability of marginal and small farmers in India. It is suggested that for ensuring the sustainable viability of marginal and small farmers, the creation of job opportunities in rural areas along with suitable policy support for the development of livestock sector and other allied activities especially dairy, goat, and sheep farming would be a panacea for the resource-poor farming community in the future. Paper analyses Household Characteristics, Cropping Pattern and Production Structure for all kind of holdings & it has observed that marginal & small farmers are at loss in terms of return to their produce.

R.K.P. Singh, "Agricultural Production performance on Small farm holdings: Some Empirical Evidence from Bihar, India" 2014, has found and explicates a strong positive relationship between farm size and output per hectare is a result of higher use of fertilizer, modern seeds and irrigation sources on comparatively larger landholders than small landholders in Bihar, India. It is mainly due to more uneconomic land holdings of sub-marginal and marginal farmers to have limited access to water resources, quality input, and credit. Access to resources and technology must be considered together for any agricultural development programmes for small land holder's agriculture. It is therefore needed to look for ways of improving their access to resources for farming through increased opportunities for earning off farms and off-season income or through improved credit market. Hence, small size and land fragmentation are key bottlenecks for the growth of agriculture in Bihar, India.

Ajit Maru, Agriculture, Farming, Food, Nutrition and Technology: From the "green revolution" to the "Ever Green Revolution": The Case of India, 2013, purely divulges that larger farmers with resources benefitted from use of new technologies (which as evidenced retrospectively was neither scale or socially neutral leading to major inequities) in dryland agriculture also, larger farmers with access to other resources in addition to technology have benefitted from these investments in contrast with marginal & small farmers and their dry land.

A.K. Singh, The paper has discussed the income levels and livelihood issues of farmers on the basis of a large field study in Uttar Pradesh. Further, the study has suggested a multi-sectoral integrated strategy of promoting agricultural and non-agricultural activities in the rural areas embedded in the local conditions, resources, and institutions to meet the challenge of sustainable development in the state. Therefore, to foster the farmers well being and upsurge their livelihood is utmost agenda of the policymakers.

This extant paper is an effort to examine the socio-economic condition of marginal farmers in Uttar Pradesh state. Uttar Pradesh is Agril based economy in contrast with the industrial & service based economy. Furthermore, Paper analyses distribution of Marginal farmers among the seventy-five districts of Uttar Pradesh at the macro level. Furthermore, socio-economic condition of marginal farmers and rural infrastructure stature scrutinize on the basis of first-hand data from the two economic regions eastern & Bundelkhand respectively.

Results and interpretation

Uttar Pradesh apportioned into seventy-five districts and in all districts, some or more proportion of agrarian operation exists whereas the state is chiefly divided up into four economic regions and each economic region consists of a particular number of districts. Uttar Pradesh economic regions are eastern, western, and central and Bundelkhand respectively. In order to scrutinize the socio-economic status of marginal farmers in Uttar Pradesh, two economic region eastern and central regions has been selected for the generalization of Uttar Pradesh farmers. Table one explicates segment of the intensity of marginal farmers among all districts. Intensity of marginal farmers has classified into four key categories and this rank categorization is classified as very high, high, medium and low intensity of marginal farmers. The result divulges that maximum districts are coming together under the rank of the very high intensity of marginal farmers which undoubtedly exhibits that marginal farmers have been continuing to incline in Uttar Pradesh, possessing less than one-hectare patches of land. In 33 districts, the very high concentration of marginal farmers has found in Uttar Pradesh. Moreover, these districts are mainly covered by a central and eastern region of Uttar Pradesh. On the other hand, high intensity of marginal farmers has witnessed in around 32 districts and the majority of districts are coming together under the economic region of Bundelkhand and western part of Uttar Pradesh. Bundelkhand & western region possessed the medium intensity of marginal farmers mainly seven districts like Lalitpur, Jhansi, Mathura, Jalaun and Banda etc. this is very astonishing datum that no district from any economic region of Uttar Pradesh comes under the low intensity of marginal farmers. Therefore, amassed intensity of marginal farmers in this state is a foremost reason to keep farmers' livelihood uncertain and low down their well being. As the land is a fundamental requirement of farmers in order to apply adequate inputs for generating income from cultivation but in Uttar Pradesh majority of farmers possessed only less than one-hectare patches of land that could not be capable to generate good returns for their survival.

In order to analyze the socio-economic condition and agrarian infrastructure stature of marginal farmers in Uttar Pradesh, primary data has been gathered from the village of eastern and Bundelkhand Region. Charsoni village has chosen from Bundelkhand region, comes under Jalaun district whereas Dariyapur village from eastern region comes under Faizabad district. Both villages are small and Agril based

villages and the majority of the rural population relies on agrarian operations. 80 samples of farmers have been gathered from each village.

Table 2: It exhibits a maximum number of farmers has been observed in both the villages under the category of marginal farmers. Therefore marginal farmers found in high numbers in the chosen village.

Table 3 divulges the classification of farmers on the basis of caste structure and it shows a majority of marginal farmers comes under scheduled castes in both the villages.

Rural and agrarian infrastructure stature evaluated on the bases of some Indicators and awareness among the farmers. Table 4 reveals farmers are least aware of accessing facilities provided by the government. There is lacuna between policy making and its implementation on the real ground, that clears from the table.

Table 5 explicates that farmers are not grasping the input subsidy provided by the government as they are marginal farmers. On the other hand, there is no irrigation service in the villages so farmers have to arrange it on their own ends from private sources. There is no storage facility in both the village even no government initiative in this process has been taken for a long time. The current government is assuring various training programme in order to educate farmers, but there is no training programme attended by any farmer from both the villages.

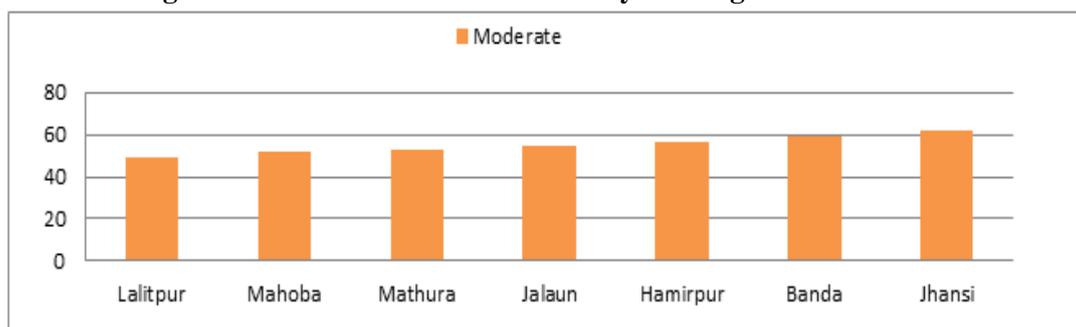
In order to accelerate diversification in the agrarian division, the government has sanctioned some assistance to farmers for promoting livestock & poultry but the reality portraits that even none farmers are aware of it. Market board is designed to pay a reasonable price to farmers for their crop production. But as marginal farmers have very minimal produce or they kept it for their self-consumption, so they are not able to utilize facility of the board and moreover those who bring their produce in Mandis, they are not receiving reasonable prices of it as their collective bargaining power is zero. Rural social infrastructure is also in a very wretched condition. There is government hospital in Charsoni village but doctors are not available 24 hours on the other hand government schools are putting their efficiency in providing mid-day meal only instead of education in a proper way. On the other hand in Dariyapur village, there is an only primary school where nonavailability of teachers has been observed. Furthermore, there is no government hospital so farmers are depending upon quack doctors. Therefore indicators like health and education which is the foremost component of HDI is in an alarming situation in these villages. It requires a long gestation to express its contribution to human capital but it has been lacking since decades in India, particularly in rural India. not only this, farmers are not receiving any type of assistance under Swatch Bharat Abhiyan, there is a distress among farmers for not receiving any kind of financial assistance from the government under this Abhiyan, therefore the old practices have been continuing in both villages.

CONCLUSION

Uttar Pradesh keeps a significant place as a maximum number of marginal farmers have been found in Uttar Pradesh but the farmers' agony is at high extent in this state. Poor social and rural infrastructure in chosen villages are explicating pathetic and worsening condition of marginal farmers with inaccessibility and divulges their unawareness towards government policy and schemes. First hand data & village conditions are flaunting that farmers have been still surviving in miserable conditions and fighting for means of livelihood, most of the agricultural farmers are relying on irregular wage sources, hence their livelihood security and comprehensive development is still in extreme sluggish pace.

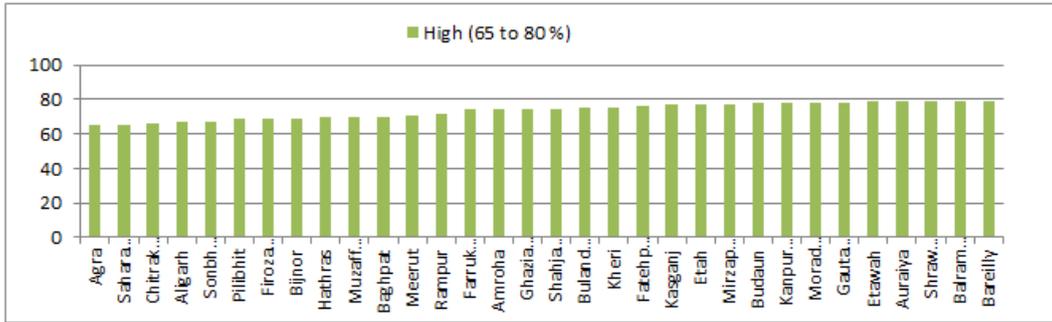
Tables and Figures

Fig 1: Districts with Moderate Intensity of Marginalization in U.P



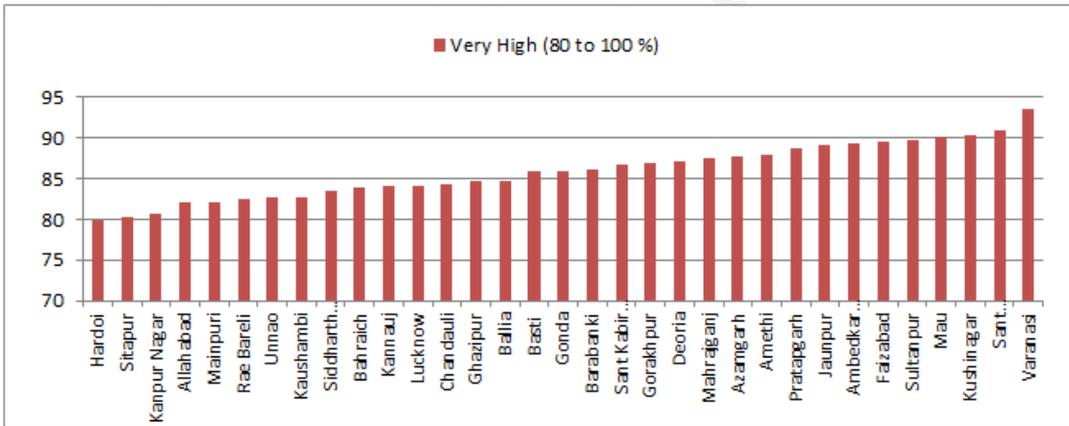
Source: Author's Calculation

Fig 2: Districts with High Intensity of Marginalization in U.P



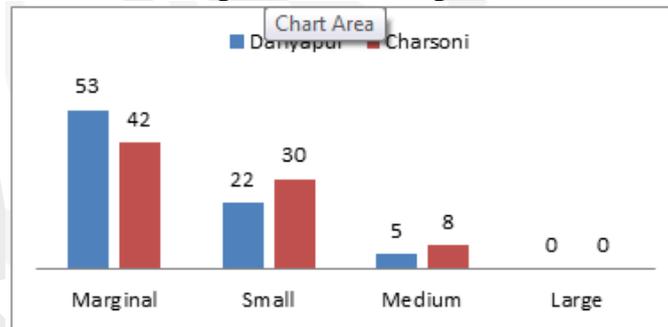
Source: Author's Calculation

Fig 3: Districts with Very High Intensity of Marginalization in U.P



Source: Author's Calculation

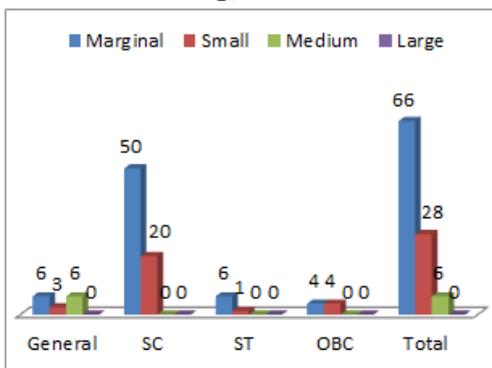
Fig 4: Land Holding Wise Status



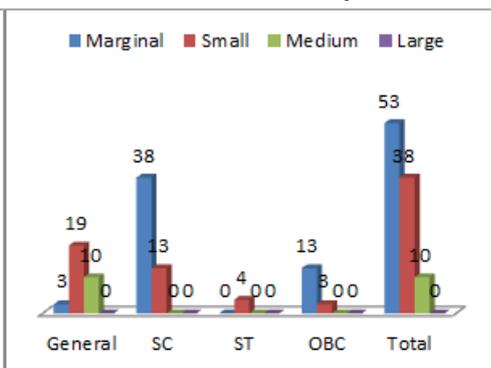
Source: Primary

Category Wise Land Holding Status (In Percentage)

a) Charsouni Village



b) DariyaPur Village



Source: Primary

Table 1: Infrastructure Indicators (In Frequency)

Infrastructure Indicators	Dariya Pur Village		Charsoni Village	
	Awareness	Usage	Awareness	Usage
1. Agrarian Infrastructure				
a) Subsidized Fertilizer	80	19	80	11
b) Irrigation	80	0	80	0
i. From Govt Source				
ii. From Private Source	80	80	80	80
c) Storage facility	75	0	80	4
d) Any training programme	5	0	10	0
e) Assistance for promoting livestock & poultry	5	0	6	0
f) Mandies	80	14	80	16
2. Rural-socio Infrastructure				
a) Govt. Schools	80	74	80	77
b) Govt Hospitals	80	0	80	79
c) Assistance under swachh Bharat Abhiyaan for toilets	80	5	80	9
d) Sampark Marg Connectivity	0	75	0	78

Source: Primary

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