

**Socio-economic Status as an Agent Influencing Land Lease Contracts in
Agriculture: A Study in two Delta Villages of Andhra Pradesh**

C Samba Murty
Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
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Thesis Advisory Committee:

Prof. N. K. Chandra (thesis supervisor), Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

Prof. N.K. Rao, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

Prof. V.N. Reddy, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

Thesis Examination Committee:

Prof. N. K. Chandra, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

Prof. V.N. Reddy, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

Prof. K. Bharadwaj, Indian Statistical Institute Calcutta

Prof. R.K. Sau, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

Thesis Summary

The central issues in the literature on agricultural tenancy relate to its extent, the productive efficiency of alternate tenures, and the exploitative nature of the lease contracts. The present study endeavours to test some of the hypotheses emerging from these issues based on the data collected on a census basis in two delta villages.

As regards the magnitude of tenancy, the evidence pertaining to the study villages suggests that agricultural development need not have a depressing effect on it. The cross-section analysis strengthens the argument, with the relatively progressive of the two villages having a higher proportion of leased in land to operated land.

The proposition that the farm efficiency of tenants is less than that of owners is studied using alternative statistical tests which negate this hypothesis. As to the effect of socio-economic status of cultivators is no less than big ones and that there is no valid evidence to say that low caste cultivators have lower productivity.

A tenant's bargaining power as indicated by his socio-economic standing may shape the terms and conditions governing the lease contract which may assume many forms and may be exploitative. The study shows that the socio-economic status does not influence rent to the disadvantage of the less privileged tenants. It is further evident that the variations in rent are unrelated even to the relative social or economic status of the lessee-lessor. The relative status, however, seems to influence contractual obligations other than rent such as sharing of by-product and labour rent

Related Publications

Rama Rao, G.D. & C.S. Murty, *Distribution of Government Land to the Rural Poor in Coastal Andhra Pradesh*, Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Oct – Dec, 1980.

Reddy, V.N. & C.S. Murty, *Backward Castes and Tenancy: A Village Study*, Economic and Political Weekly, July, 1979.