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A Study of the Problems Faced in Common Property Resources in Rural Development of Shamli District of Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Common property resources (CPR) play a critical role in the development of the areas under their authority. They contribute to enhancing the level of living of the people in the region. More importantly, common property resources in rural regions serve as a driver of rural development. The primary goal of this research is to investigate the challenges encountered with shared property resources. The key difficulties in common property resources were identified as overexploitation, poor protection, degradation of CPR, overuse, illegal encroachment on common land, actual control over common land, land distribution status, and equitable distribution of benefits

Keywords: Common Property Resource, Rural Development, Over Exploitation, Poor Protection, Degradation of CPR, Over use

INTRODUCTION

Degradation from overexploitation, inadequate property rights leading to open access, disintegration of traditional community administration, and inefficient formal institutions are all issues with Common Property Resources (CPRs) in rural development. Key issues include social isolation, invasion by strong organizations, declining resource bases, and the poor's subsequent pauperization. To achieve long-term sustainability and equal benefits, CPRs must be effectively managed through strong local self-organization, clear regulations, monitoring, and dispute resolution.

In a populous and predominantly agrarian country like India, with a declining land-to-person ratio, people, particularly the poor, are forced to engage in a variety of complementary activities such as cultivation, cattle grazing, fetching water, collecting firewood, producing simple marketable products, etc. The poor rely the most on CPRs because they lack income-generating private property resources and other valued private assets.As a result, families rely on access to CPRs for fire wood, agricultural waste, cow dung, weeds, feed, organic manure (dry leaves and forest litter), construction materials, fruits and vegetables, plant fibre, drinking water, and other household needs. Irrigation water is gathered from community tanks, ponds, lakes, and rivers. CPRs also support a wide range of income-generating enterprises, including arts and crafts and dairy production.

CPRs are community-owned natural resources that all members have the right to access and use, subject to specific conditions; no one owns them. CPRs generate secondary forest products like as fruits, nuts, fibre, medicinal plants, and so on, in addition to fuel for homes and cattle feed. Because many of them rely on the income from their animals due to restricted access to land, such land is especially vital for the livelihoods of landless people, marginal farmers, and other disadvantaged groups in rural regions. Women gather the bulk of fuel and feed in rural regions, therefore CPRs are especially important for them. Common property resources are those that are accessible to all members of the community and are managed by the group's collective efforts. They belong to the community as a whole, not to any specific individual.

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Examples of such resources include public parks, communal gardens, and shared grazing pastures. A community or organization larger than a single house or family shares these resources and has the right to use them. The community is also responsible for the maintenance and management of these resources. Because they provide basics such as food, water, and recreational space, these resources are critical to the community's survival and well-being. They also play an important role in maintaining ecological equilibrium.

The existing literature has multiple alternative definitions of common property resources (CPRs). The characteristic shared by the majority of these definitions prioritizes the kind of access when recognizing CPRs. The conceptual approaches span a wide range. At one extreme, whatever that isn't private property is considered common property. To distinguish between "free rider" or "free or open access" resources and common property, the opposite approach adopts a much tighter position. The latter category is marked by a lack of resource management standards. "A resource becomes common property only when the group of people who have the right to use it collectively are well defined and the rules that govern their use of it are set out clearly and followed universally," according to those who argue for this method. They argue that common property implies the presence of an institutional framework for resource management.

Up to the end of the nineteenth century, community management systems for CPRs and forest land existed in varied forms around the country. The great bulk of the country's natural resources were common property, allowing rural residents unlimited access to a wide range of necessary supplies. Beginning with the classification of "reserved" and "protected" forests in the late nineteenth century, the process of strengthening state control over common resources has mostly consisted of denying peasants access to these resources by legal methods. As a result, community management systems gradually deteriorated and are now all but extinct.

Common Property Resources in India:

Common property resources in India include village pastures, community forests, wastelands, communal threshing grounds, trash disposal sites, watershed drainages, village ponds, tanks, rivers/rivulets, and riverbeds. Estimating common property resources is challenged by the wide range of CPR situations in terms of accessibility, usage facilities, and other factors caused by the unique nature of resources and resource users at the micro level. Despite this, there are several definitions of CPLRs and macro-level quantification of common property land resources accessible on a national scale in India. When presenting a proportion, it is required to specify the total from which the share was computed.

The difficulty begins with the definition of waste lands, which make up the country's CPLR. According to the National Wasteland Development Board's (NWDB) technical group report, "waste land" refers to degraded lands that can be brought under vegetative cover with reasonable effort and are currently underutilized, as well as land that is deteriorating due to a lack of appropriate water and soil management or natural causes. This concept is founded on taking ecological characteristics and land productivity into account. There are difficulties in measuring wastelands using these various criteria. The total count under various estimates is unavailable since the definitions do not conform to the government's agricultural department's land use categorization. Scientists used samples to try to make credible estimations.

However, the estimating exercise is difficult and imprecise due to a lack of complete top sheets and poor topographical data. Nonetheless, there are several macroeconomic estimates available. Land use classification statistics from the government offer estimates of uncultivated land based on legal ownership. Bagchi and Philip estimated the extent of non-forest waste lands in the states based on the government's land use categorization, which came to 80.17 million hectares. However, the government's classification and estimates contain substantial problems, thus they cannot be used for micro-level planning. In 1989, the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) employed ground trothing and remote sensing to analyze wastelands. Based on detailed satellite mapping of 146 districts across the country, the NRSA projected 129.57 million hectares of waste land, with 93.69 million hectares of non-forest areas.

Literature Review:

According to Pradhan and Patra (2011), the vast bulk of India's rural population (75 crore) relies on Common Property Resources (CPRs) for a living. However, as liberalization, privatization, globalization, and market orientation extend throughout everyday life, the country's CPR basis is rapidly diminishing. If this depletion

continues, it might be problematic. Conservation of CPRs is a top priority in order to provide livelihood assistance to rural people and ensure the economy's long-term growth. A comprehensive CPR management policy of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) type with a focus on local stakeholders is proposed.

Ratul Mahanta and Daisy Das (2012) discover that dwindling common property resources drive rural people to metropolitan regions in quest of a living. Thus, there is a relationship between the depletion of common property resources, poverty, and migration. On the basis of these ideas, an attempt was made to investigate the relationship between common property resource deterioration and migration in the state of Assam. Thirteen indicators representing demographic, natural resource, and livestock-related indicators were constructed using thirty variables collected at two periods in time, 1991 and 2001. Factor analysis was used to identify the links between common property resource deterioration and migration.

Jodha (2013) found this to be especially true in India's dry and semi-arid tropical regions, which are particularly high-risk, low-productivity. Historically, (i) the presence of factors that are unfavourable to rapid privatization of land resources; (ii) community-level concerns for collective sustenance and ecological fragility; and (iii) the reliance of private resource-based farming on collective risk-sharing arrangements all contributed to the establishment of common property resources in these areas. CPRs help rural communities meet their production and consumption demands in a variety of ways. Despite their private contributions, CPRs are facing a significant problem, as seen by shrinking areas, declining output, and management failure.

Tewathia (2015) explore the dependent on forest resources in the context of India. Poor strata were shown to be heavily reliant on CPRs. On the contrary, this stratum has little voice in CPR management and administration. This strata can benefit from a clear legal framework and defined rights. Forests and village commons have long provided supplemental livelihoods and essential requirements to rural communities across the world. Firewood is the single most significant source of rural residential energy in South Asia, and it is still mostly harvested rather than purchased. Many variables influence consumers' reliance on communal resources. Some of these aspects include household size, family income, and government rights and arrangements

Ram Prakash (2016) demonstrate that the distributional impact of common property resources benefits landless, artisanal, tiny, and marginal families. The availability of common property resources (CPRs) such as grazing and fallow lands, ponds, rivers, and forests has been shown to be extremely beneficial to cattle development. The average amount of green fodder used per household for livestock rearing is significantly higher in CPR-rich regions than in CPR-poor regions. Because of the availability of CPRs, the absolute quantity and diversity of cattle-livestock is higher in CPR-rich regions than in CPR-poor areas. Based on the study's findings, it is possible to conclude that improving CPRs can assure the long-term development of livestock growth in particular, as well as the rural economy in general.

Shreya Mitra (2020) study is based on a survey of secondary literature as well as the author's work experience in the development sector. It would focus on how proper CPR administration and usage may help to alleviate poverty and improve social development. The lowest of the impoverished frequently rely completely on CPRs for food and income. For many, CPRs provide an additional source of income during normal times while simultaneously acting as a safety net during periods of low agricultural productivity and periodic food shortages, helping to rural family food security.

Sumita Banik Saha (2021). Common Property Resources (CPRs) are an important source of income in the agriculture-dominated economy of North East India. They also contribute significantly to environmental sustainability. CPRs have a better potential to maintain the natural environment than the other three types of property: private property, state-owned land, and open access property. However, due to external threats, over-extraction, transitory villages, shrinking, and inadequate management, the quality and quantity of these resources are constantly threatened.

According to Manavalan *et al.* (2024), resources may be broadly categorized into four characteristics depending on the link between the resources and the resource users. They are divided into four categories: (a) private property resources, (b) state property assets, (c) open access resources, and (d) common property resources. Property can be described as private if only a person or a family has use rights over resources, or as Common Property Resources (CPRs) when resources are used jointly. In a nutshell, Common Property Resources (CPRs) are all resources that are available to the entire community in rural areas and to which no

individual has exclusive property rights. In rural India, Common Property Resources (CPRs) include community woods, community pastures, common grazing areas, threshing grounds, wastelands, watershed drainages, ponds, tanks, rivers, rivulets, riverbeds, water 2 reservoirs, canals, irrigation channels, public roads, and more.

Dai *et al*. (2024) explore a dynamic Cournot oligopoly in which companies collaborate to exploit a productive asset (renewable resource) and a subset of firms participate in competing cross-share holdings. The game's Markov Perfect Nash Equilibrium is developed and utilized to investigate the effect of cross-ownership on equilibrium production methods, steady-state resource stocks, cross-ownership profitability, and social welfare. They demonstrate that in the case of a productive asset, for every amount of cross-ownership, there is a resource stock interval for which symmetric cross-ownership is beneficial. This stands in stark contrast to a static oligopoly, in which cross-ownership is beneficial only if there are enough enterprises participating.

Objective of the Study:

The main objective of study is to study the problems in common property resources in rural development in Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh.

Hypothesis:

- **H1-** There is a problem of exclusion, discrimination and exploitation in common property resources.
- **H0**-There is no problem of exclusion, discrimination and exploitation in common property resources.

METHODOLOGY

This research focuses on the issues surrounding public property resources in rural development in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli area. It is mostly dependent on primary and secondary data. This is a descriptive study. It entails a behavioural examination of ideas. This research has 300 respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Fig. 1 illustrates the SC/ST/OBC and Weaker Sections of society that are generally permitted to utilize CPR in villages. Out of a total of 300 respondents, 221 (73.67%) say they are always allowed to use CPR in the village, 47 (15.67%) say they are allowed to use CPR in the village on a regular basis, 18 (6.00%) say they are allowed to use CPR in the village on occasion, 9 (3.00%) say they are rarely allowed to use CPR in the village, and 5 (1.66%) say they are never allowed to use CPR in the village. According to the Table 1, the majority (73.67%) of respondents believe that SC/ST/OBC and the weaker sections of society are always allowed to use CPR in villages, while only a small percentage (1.66%) believe that SC/ST/OBC and the weaker sections of society are never allowed to use CPR in villages.

Table 1 : SC/ST/OBC Normally Allowed to Use CPR

Response	N	%
Always	221	73.67
Often	47	15.67
Sometime	18	6.00
Seldom	9	3.00
Never	5	1.66
Total	300	100.00

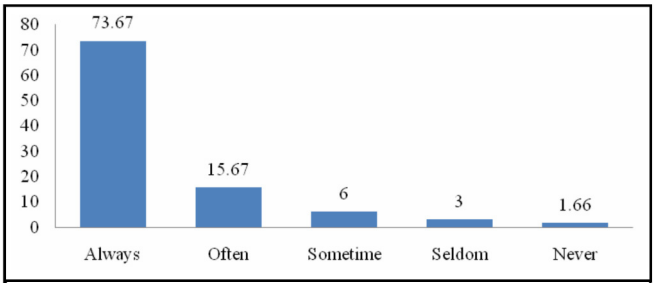

Fig. 1 : % of Respondents on SC/ST/OBC Normally Allowed to Use CPR

The Table 2 and Fig. 2 illustrates if social or economic discrimination occurs on the CPR platform. Out of total 300 respondents, 4 (1.33%) say that always there is a social or economic discrimination being practiced in the CPR platform, 7 (2.33%) say that often there is a social or economic discrimination being practiced in the CPR platform, 19 (6.34%) say that sometimes there is a social or economic discrimination being practiced in the CPR platform, 100 (33.33%) say that Seldom there is a social or economic discrimination being practiced in the CPR platform, and 17 According to the data in the Table 2, the majority (56.67%) of respondents believe that social or economic discrimination is never practiced on the CPR platform, while only a small percentage (1.33%) believe that social or economic discrimination is always practiced.

Table 2 : Social or Economic Discrimination being Practiced in the CPR Platform

Response	N	%
Always	4	1.33
Often	7	2.33
Sometime	19	6.34
Seldom	100	33.33
Never	170	56.67
Total	300	100.00

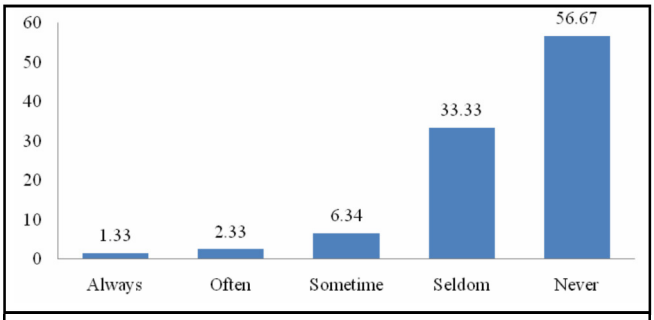

Fig. 2 : % of Responses on Social or Economic Discrimination being Practiced in the CPR Platform

The Table 3 and Fig. 3 displays if any member of the family has been stopped from performing CPR within the previous two years. Out of 300 respondents, 2 (0.67%) indicate they have been prohibited from doing CPR in the previous two years, while 298 (99.33%) say they have not. According to the above table, the majority (99.33%) of respondents have not been stopped from administering CPR in the recent two years.

Table 3: Member of the Household Prevented for using CPRS During the Last Two Years

Response	N	%
Yes	2	0.67
No	298	99.33
Total	300	100.00

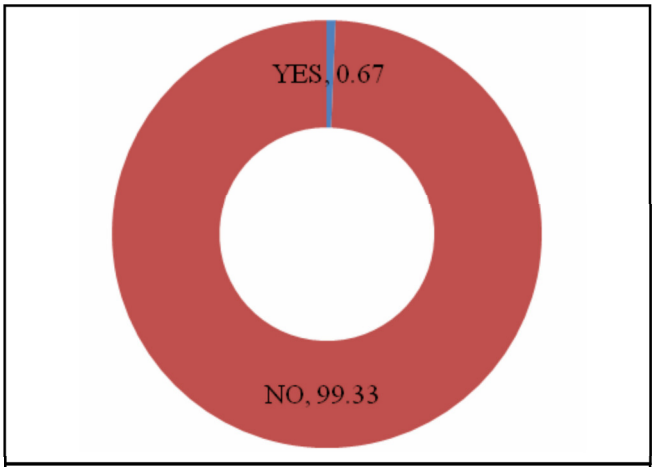

Fig. 3 : % of Responses on Member of the Household Prevented for using CPRS

The Table 4 and Fig. 4 indicates if social or economic exploitation is being conducted on the CPR platform. Out of total 300 respondents, 4 (1.33%) say that there is always a social or economic exploitation being practiced in the CPR platform, 7 (2.33%) say that often there is a social or economic exploitation being practiced in the CPR platform, 19 (6.34%) say that sometimes there is a social or economic exploitation being practiced in the CPR platform, and 25(8.33%) respondents claim that social or economic exploitation is performed infrequently on the CPR platform, whereas 245 (81.67%) say it is never conducted there. According to the data in the Table 4, the majority (81.67%) of respondents believe that social or economic exploitation never occurs on the CPR platform, while only a small percentage (1.33%) believe that social or economic exploitation occurs on a regular basis.

Table 4: Social or Economic Exploitation being Practiced in the CPR Platform

Response	N	%
Always	4	1.33
Often	7	2.33
Sometime	19	6.34
Seldom	25	8.33
Never	245	81.67
Total	300	100.00

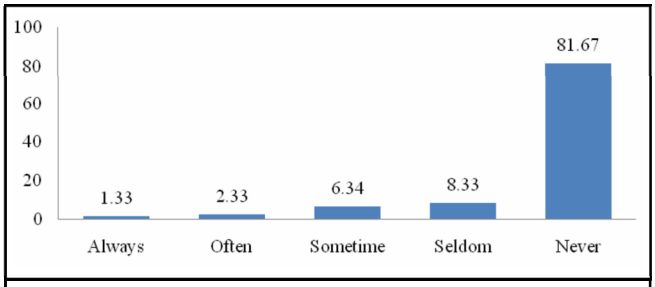

Fig. 4 : % of Responses on Social or Economic Exploitation being Practiced in the CPR Platform

The Table 5 and Fig. 5 indicates if the villages have timber rights to utilize CPR. Out of 400 respondents, 7 (1.75%) strongly disagreed with this statement, 17 (4.25%) disagreed with it, 4 (1%) were neutral about it, 141 (35.25%) agreed with it, and 231 (57.75%) strongly agreed with it. According to the above data, the majority

(57.75%) of respondents strongly agree with this statement, implying that villages have the right to perform CPR, while just a small percentage (1.75%) strongly disagree.

Table 5: Villages Have Timber Right to Use the CPR

Response	N	%
Strongly Disagree	5	1.67
Disagree	13	4.33
Neutral	3	1.00
Agree	106	35.33
Strongly Agree	173	57.67
Total	300	100.00

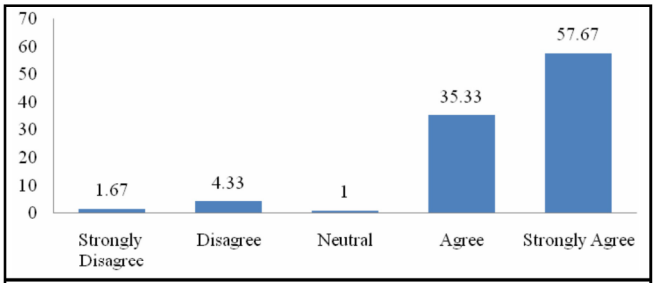

Fig. 5 : % of Responses on Villages Have Timber Right to Use the CPR

This Table 6 depicts the issues encountered while dealing with common property resources. The soreness of respondents' individual statements on the problems they experience with common property resources in the sample research area was assessed. The score for an individual statement would vary from 300 to 1500. A score less than 900 indicates an adverse view, a score equal to 900 indicates a neutral attitude, a score greater than 900 indicates a favourable opinion, and a score around 1500 indicates the most favourable opinion.

1. Overexploitation is the biggest issue with common property resources. Responses to this statement reflect a good attitude because the overall score is 1293, which is 86.20 percentile value, and the mean is 4.32, demonstrating the consistency of the responses.
2. Poor protection is a key issue with common property resources. Responses to this statement reveal a good view because the total score is 1254 (83.60 percentile value) and the mean is 4.18, demonstrating the homogeneity of the responses.
   The degradation of CPR is the most serious issue concerning common property resources. Responses to this statement demonstrate a good attitude because the overall score is 1328, which is 88.53 percentile value, and the mean is 4.44, indicating that the responses are uniform.
3. Overuse is a big issue with common property resources. Responses to this statement reflect a good attitude because the overall score is 1274, 84.93 percentile value, and the mean is 4.25, demonstrating the consistency of the response.
4. I Illegal encroachment on common land is the most serious issue concerning common property resources. Responses to this statement demonstrate a good attitude because the overall score is 1199, which is 79.93 percentile value, and the mean is 4.01, indicating that the responses are uniform.
5. The primary issue with common property resources is actual control over the land. Responses to this statement reveal a good attitude because the overall score is 1189, which is 79.27 percentile value, and the mean is 3.96, demonstrating the uniformity of the response.
6. Land distribution status is the most serious issue concerning common property resources. Responses to this statement demonstrate a good attitude because the total score is 1260, 84.00 percentile value, and the mean is 4.01, demonstrating the consistency of the response.

Table 6: Problems Faced in Common Property Resources

Problem	SDA	DA	N	A	SA	Total	PV	Mean
Over Exploitation	10	42	12	384	845	1293	86.20	4.32
Poor Protection	13	54	21	396	770	1254	83.60	4.18
Degradation of CPR	4	22	12	460	830	1328	88.53	4.44
Over Use	11	34	9	500	720	1274	84.93	4.25
Illegal Encroachment on Common Land	26	64	15	394	730	1199	79.93	4.01
Actual control over Common Land	32	40	24	428	665	1189	79.27	3.96
Land Distribution Status	14	44	30	392	780	1260	84.00	4.21
Equitable Distribution of Benefits	17	30	15	444	760	1266	84.40	4.23

Table 7 : EDE in Common Property Resources (One-Sample T-Test, Test Value = 3)

Variable	N	Mean	t	SD	Std. Error Mean	Mean Diff.	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		P Value
							Lower	Upper	
EDE-1	300	1.45	-35.958	0.871	0.045	-1.566	-1.66	-1.47	.000
EDE-2	300	4.43	34.205	0.826	0.042	1.416	1.34	1.51	.000
EDE-3	300	4.65	40.853	0.816	0.042	1.666	1.57	1.76	.000

7. The main issue with common property resources is the equitable distribution of benefits. Responses to this statement demonstrate a good attitude because the overall score is 1266, which is 84.40 percentile value, and the mean is 4.23, indicating that the responses are uniform.

According to the data in the table above, the major issues with common property resources are overexploitation, poor protection, degradation of CPR, overuse, illegal encroachment on common land, actual control over common land, land distribution status, and equitable benefit distribution.

Hypothesis testing:

- H1- There is a problem of exclusion, discrimination and exploitation in common property resources.
- H0-There is no problem of exclusion, discrimination and exploitation in common property resources.

Code :

EDE1: Are SC/ST/OBC and weaker section of the society normally allowed to use CPR in village

EDE2: Is there any social or economic discrimination being practiced in the CPR platform

EDE3: Is there any social or economic exploitation being practiced in the CPR platform.

Exclusion, discrimination, and exploitation are all issues with common property resources. The hypothesis was tested using a one-sample t-test with a test value of 3. The p-value for all three variables was less than the level of significance of 0.05 ('p' value < 0.05). Therefore, at a 5% level of significance, the null hypothesis (exclusion, discrimination, and exploitation in common property resources) was rejected and the alternative hypothesis (no problem of exclusion, discrimination, and exploitation) was accepted. It finds that there are no issues of exclusion, discrimination, or exploitation of common property resources.

Conclusion:

The primary goal of this research is to investigate the challenges encountered with shared property resources. The key difficulties in common property resources were identified as overexploitation, poor protection, degradation of CPR, overuse, illegal encroachment on common land, actual control over common land, land distribution status, and equitable distribution of benefits. Common property resources play a vital role in the development of the areas under their authority. They contribute to enhancing the level of living of the people in the region. More importantly, common property resources in rural regions serve as a driver of rural development. Common property resources are all resources intended for the common use of the inhabitants. In pre-British India, the rural populace had unfettered access to the majority of the country's natural resources. The local community generally controlled these resources. CPRs accessible to villagers decreased significantly over time as governmental control over these resources increased, culminating in the breakdown of the community management system. Nonetheless, it is commonly believed that CPRs continue to play a vital role in the lives and economies of rural communities.

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