

Assessing the Socio-Economic Impact of Land Acquisition Policies on the Local Community: A Case Study of Khangesra Village (Panchkula) Haryana

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ABSTRACT

Land acquisition for industrialization, infrastructure development, and urban expansion has become an important component of economic growth in Haryana. While such development contributes to regional progress, it also affects the livelihoods of farming communities that depend primarily on agriculture. This study examines the socio-economic impact of land acquisition on farmers in Khangesra-II village of Barwala Tehsil, Panchkula district, Haryana. The study is based on both primary data collected through structured schedules and field observations and secondary data obtained from government sources. The analysis focuses on changes in land ownership, occupation, income, standard of living, agricultural practices, women's work participation, and social conditions after land acquisition. The findings reveal that although most affected households received compensation and many invested it in housing, land purchase, and family needs, a majority remained dissatisfied with the acquisition process due to the compulsory nature of land acquisition and concerns over long-term livelihood security. The study also observed changes in cropping patterns, reduced animal rearing, increased women's participation in the workforce, and growing family disputes following compensation. Overall, the study concludes that land acquisition has produced both positive and negative socio-economic outcomes, improving physical living standards for some households while simultaneously reducing agricultural opportunities and creating challenges for sustainable rural livelihoods.

Keywords: Industrialization, Infrastructure development, Urban expansion, Workforce and secondary data

INTRODUCTION

Haryana has emerged as one of the fastest-growing states, with notable advancements in agriculture, industry, and services (Economic Survey of Haryana, 2022-23). Agriculture remains the backbone of Haryana's economy, providing employment and livelihood to a large share of the population. The state's fertile soil, extensive irrigation facilities, and the success of the Green Revolution have resulted in high agricultural productivity. The growth of the industrial sector has also been closely linked to agriculture through the supply of raw materials and market demand.

In the present scenario, Haryana's agriculture has evolved beyond traditional methods, with farmers adopting scientific approaches that have led to increased production and success. The per capita income and standard of living for Haryana's farmers have seen improvements, challenging the notion of farmers being labeled as 'Bechara' or helpless. The adoption of modern techniques and technologies has equipped farmers with the resources necessary for a healthy and fulfilling life.

However, a pressing issue arises due to the decline in the average landholding per farmer, a consequence of the burgeoning population in Haryana. While the farmers strive to enhance production, the finite nature of available

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land poses a constraint. Additionally, a new challenge has emerged in the form of land acquisition by the government. This acquisition is driven by various purposes, including development projects and the creation of infrastructure facilities.

This situation presents a dual challenge for the agricultural sector in Haryana. On one hand, the land bears the burden of a growing population, and on the other hand, the government's acquisition of land further exacerbates the pressure. The government's acquisition of fertile land poses a threat to the farmers and their conditions. While the reasons behind land acquisition are multifaceted and include the pursuit of developmental goals, it is essential to recognize that this process has far-reaching implications for the agricultural economy of Haryana.

The study focuses on the adverse effects of land acquisition on the conditions of farmers in Haryana, recognizing it as a significant problem that impacts the state's economy. By delving into the multifaceted challenges posed by land acquisition, the research aims to contribute valuable insights into potential solutions for sustainable agricultural development in the region.

Study area:

Khangesra II, nestled in Barwala Tehsil, Panchkula District, Haryana, India, stands as a village marked by fertile lands that were acquired by the government for development and infrastructure projects. Back in 1992, the State Government conceived the New Industrial Estate, Alipur, and Khangesra, aiming to stem migration from surrounding areas to Panchkula town. The government strategically earmarked 2600 acres as a Controlled Area to ensure systematic urban growth around the industrial estate, a move sanctioned in a notable notification by the Haryana Government in July 2002. As Panchkula town's development neared completion in 2002, there was a decision to extend the reach to areas like Kot Behla, designating them as Periphery Controlled Area and Controlled Area around the industrial estate—hence, Panchkula Extension-II. Khangesra, positioned on both sides of National Highway-73, bears an irregular shape, flanked by the Tokka river on the east and the urbanizable expanse of Periphery Controlled Area on the west (Town and Country Planning Department, Haryana, 2002). As of the 2011 Census, Khangesra hosts a population of 1077, with a 47.4% female population, a literacy rate of 65.4%, and significant

demographic nuances reflective of the village's socio-economic fabric (Census of India, 2011). A survey was conducted in 2021 using scheduled method, with data collected from 100 households in Khangesra II village, located in the Panchkula district of Haryana.

Objectives:

Land acquisition is a compulsory condition for industrialization, government projects and for infrastructure development. Any activity is not possible without the land because land is the basic resource of every activity, then how is it possible that the development of the country is possible without the land. So the government acquires the land. But it affects badly to those people who are depends completely on land for their livelihood, the development is going on but it affected negatively on the other side. To know about the conditions of the farmers after land acquisition, the centre of the objectives of the study are the farmers whose land acquired.

The objectives are:

- To study the impact on standard of living of farmers due to land acquisition.
- To study about the shifting of occupation of the farmers whose land was acquired.

METHODOLOGY

The study at hand is underpinned by a comprehensive approach, incorporating both primary and secondary data sources to ensure a robust analysis. Secondary data, derived from authoritative reports of government entities such as the Census of India and Town and Country Planning Department, forms a critical foundation for the research. This dataset offers a reliable snapshot of the broader context and trends. Concurrently, primary data is acquired through structured schedules and keen observational methods, allowing for a more nuanced and firsthand understanding of the subject. The synthesis of these two data streams enriches the research methodology, providing a well-rounded perspective. To visually communicate the findings, pie and bar diagrams are employed, offering a clear and concise representation of the tabulated data, thereby enhancing the accessibility and interpretability of the study's outcomes.

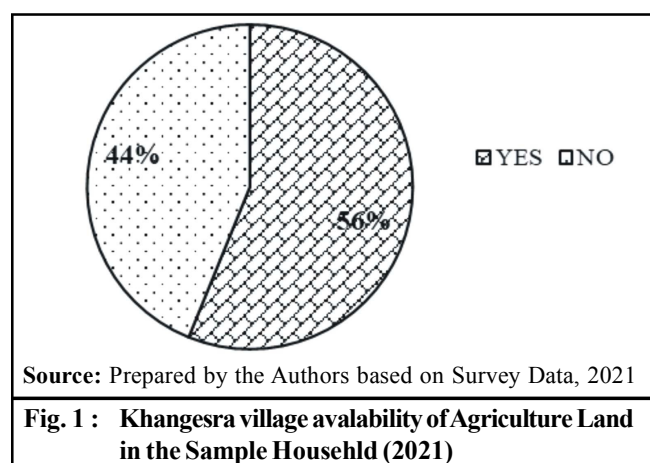
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Impact of Land Acquisition on Socio –Economic

condition of local population:

Own Agriculture land:

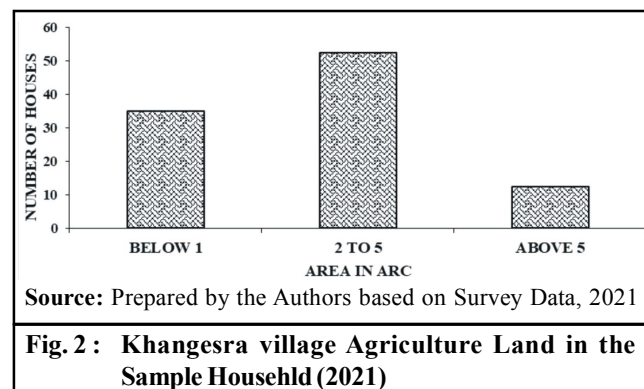
The impact of land acquisition on the socio-economic condition of the local population in Khangesra village is evident in the distribution of agricultural land ownership. According to the data, a significant portion of the population, comprising 56.14%, possesses their own agricultural land. This ownership represents a crucial aspect of the socio-economic fabric, influencing livelihoods, income generation, and overall economic stability for a majority of the villagers. Conversely, 43.85% of the population does not own any agricultural land. The absence of land ownership can have implications for these individuals, potentially affecting their economic standing, access to resources, and participation in the agricultural sector. The stark contrast in land ownership within the village underscores the nuanced socio-economic landscape shaped by land acquisition, highlighting both opportunities and challenges for the local population. Understanding these dynamics is essential for assessing the broader impact of land acquisition initiatives on the residents' well-being and economic prospects in Khangesra (Fig. 1).



Agriculture Area:

The distribution of agriculture land among households owning such land in Khangesra village provides insight into the varying scales of agricultural activities. Among these households, 35% cultivate an area of 1 acre or less, reflecting a substantial portion engaged in smaller-scale farming. Additionally, a significant 52.5% of households till an area ranging between 2 to 5 acres, signifying a moderate-sized agricultural presence within this group. On the larger end of the spectrum, 12.5% of households cultivate an area exceeding 5 acres, indicating

a minority engaged in more extensive agricultural operations. This breakdown underscores the diversity in the scale of agricultural practices within the village, portraying a mosaic of land-use patterns and emphasizing the need for nuanced policies that cater to the varying needs of the local farming community. Understanding the size distribution of agriculture land holdings contributes to a comprehensive understanding of the agricultural landscape in Khangesra, which is pivotal for formulating targeted development strategies and policies (Fig. 2).



Nature of Agriculture land:

The nature of agricultural land in Khangesra village reveals a balanced distribution between irrigated and unirrigated land. According to the data, 54.5% of the agricultural land in the village is equipped with irrigation facilities, indicating a substantial portion of cultivated land benefiting from controlled water sources. In contrast, 45.5% of the land is categorized as unirrigated, implying a reliance on natural rainfall or other non-controlled water sources for agricultural activities. This dual nature of agricultural land points to the coexistence of farming practices that leverage both irrigation infrastructure and those dependent on natural water availability. Understanding this distribution is pivotal for assessing the resilience and adaptability of local agricultural practices to varying water conditions, and it underscores the diverse strategies employed by farmers in Khangesra to sustain their agricultural pursuits.

Source of irrigation:

In Khangesra village, irrigation sources vary based on their availability in different locations. Approximately 92.18% of the irrigation is derived from tube wells, while the remaining 7.82 % is sourced from other irrigation methods.

Land Acquired or Not:

In the context of land distribution within the area, the term “land acquired” refers to households that have procured or purchased land, whether for agricultural, residential, commercial, or investment purposes. This category, accounting for 43.86% of households, encompasses those who own or have gained access to land through various means, including purchase, inheritance, or other avenues. Conversely, “land not acquired” characterizes households (56.14%) that lack ownership or access to land, possibly opting for land rental or lease arrangements or simply not having any land under their ownership. These figures provide insights into the prevalence of land ownership or access among households in the area, reflecting the diverse factors such as economic conditions, land availability, local regulations, and cultural norms that shape these patterns.

Fertility level in village:

Different area has different fertility level. In Khangesra village 78.12 per cent land is very fertile, 21.88 per cent land is moderate.

Awareness about land acquisition:

44.73 per cent are aware about the land acquisition and 55.27 per cent in village are not aware about land acquisition.

Quality of acquired land:

94.11 per cent of acquire land is fertile land, whereas 5.89 per cent land is fallow land.

Satisfaction of respondent (for land acquisition):

In Khangesra village, 45.09 per cent respondent were satisfied from land acquisition and 54.91 per cent respondent were not satisfied with land acquisition.

Causes of selling their land:

1.96 per cent of farmers sold their land due to high land valuation and 98.04 per cent farmers sold their land due to forcing government policies.

Compensation money is received or not:

In Khangesra village 96 per cent received their compensation money and 4 per cent had not received their money.

Utilization of compensation money:

Received money was used for different purposes

by the families. In Khangesra village, 30 per cent expended their compensated money in marriage, 62 per cent used money for house, 13 per cent used in big cars, 6 per cent invested in share market and 40 per cent purchased new land with the compensated money.

Change in personal income:

Change of personal income of 52 per cent was found in the village, and no change in personal income is 48 per cent.

Change in women work participation:

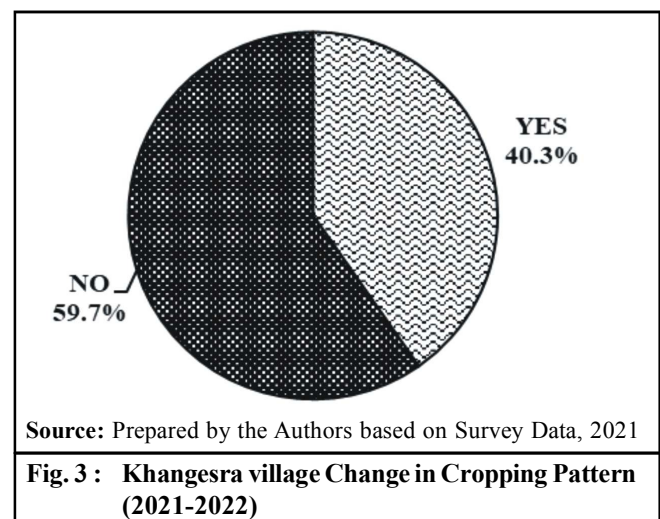
Rising women's participation had fueled household income an economic growth, and women work participation is increasing with increasing in literacy rate, women get more opportunities to work outside the home. In Khangesra village, women participation increase with 47.5 per cent, which is not very good.

Dowry /haffty marriage incidences:

Dowry refers to the durable goods, cash, and real or movable property that the bride's family gives to the groom, 44 households said that there is no dowry marriage incidences and 56 per cent denied with this.

Change in Cropping pattern:

Cropping pattern refers to the proportion of land under cultivation of different crops at different points of time. This indicates the time and arrangements of crops in a particular land area. In khangesra village we found 40.3 per cent of households have change their cropping pattern and no change in cropping pattern was found in 59.7 per cent of the households (Fig. 3).



Change in animal rearing:

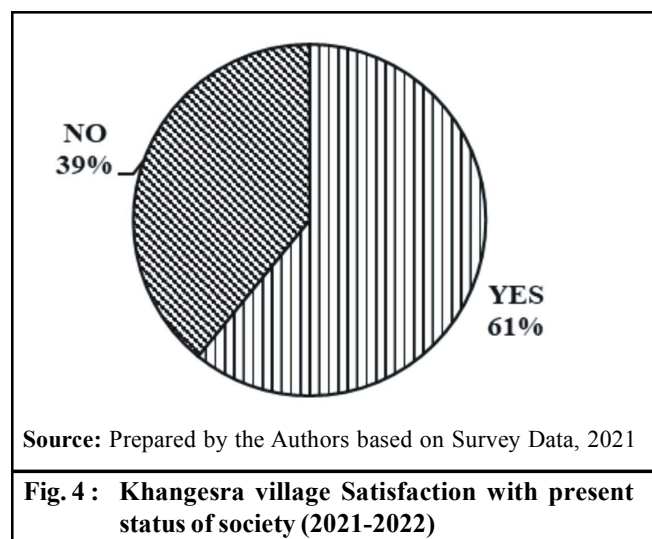
In Khangesra village, 75.8 household accepted that animal rearing has been changed (animal rearing Increased with 20.2 % and it decreased with 55.6 %) and 24.2 per cent said that there is no change in animal rearing.

Income in family disputes:

In Khangesra village, we found many disputes between the families of the sample households. 80 per cent households said that we see many disputes and 20 per cent said no change in society.

Satisfaction with present status of society:

In Khangesra village, we found many changes in present status of society (Fig. 4).



There is many households which is satisfied by environment change is 61 per cent and not satisfied is 39

per cent.

Conclusion:

The study concludes that land acquisition has significantly transformed the socio-economic conditions of farmers in Khangesra-II village. While compensation enabled many households to improve housing, purchase assets, and invest in new land or other activities, the loss of fertile agricultural land adversely affected traditional livelihoods. The study found noticeable changes in occupation, cropping patterns, animal rearing, women's work participation, and family relations. Although some respondents experienced higher incomes and better living standards, more than half expressed dissatisfaction with the land acquisition process due to inadequate long-term livelihood security and the compulsory nature of acquisition. The findings suggest that development projects should be accompanied by fair compensation, timely rehabilitation, employment opportunities, and skill development programs to ensure that affected farming households benefit from sustainable socio-economic development rather than merely receiving one-time financial compensation.

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