

An Economic Analysis of Tenancy Situation in Selected Areas of Mymensingh

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Abstract: *In this study an attempt is made to explain the incidence of sharecropping system in two villages of Mymensingh district. The present study was based on field survey. Two sample villages namely Noudar and Salimpur in Mymensingh district were selected for the purpose of the study. Of the 27 farmers 12 farmers were selected from Noudar and 15 farmers were selected from Salimpur. Data were collected by interview method. Data were analyzed by using tabular and statistical techniques. The analytical techniques used by the study included arithmetic mean, percentage, ratio etc. in case of need, secondary data were also used in the study. The major findings of the study are: (i) poor farmers rented out no land, but middle farmers rented out more land than rich and small farmers, (ii) small and poor farmers in both villages sharecropped in more land than middle and rich farmers, (iii) in the study areas 20 percent of the sample households sharecropped out land to their relatives, (iv) in the study areas more than 75 percent of the sample households rented in land because they have sufficient able-bodied male members in the family, (v) net land leasing is negative in both the villages. In view of the above findings, the following suggestions for policy implications emerge: (i) in order to protect the tenants legal institutional and administrative measures should be taken by the authority (ii) the need for tenancy reforms is necessary in rural Bangladesh.*

Introduction

In rural Bangladesh the most important tenancy is sharecropping. Under sharecropping system agricultural output is shared equally between landowners and sharecroppers. Adam Smith recognized that the sharecropping would

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ultimately disappear. Georgescu-Roegen (1969) and Bhaduri (1973) who stated that the institution of share tenancy as a feature of pre capitalist mode of production and this system was considered to be a barrier of modern technology and means of exploitation of sharecroppers by landowners. On the other hand, Bardhan and Srinivasan (1971), Bardhan (1976) did not consider tenancy as a barrier to modern technology. The demise of sharecropping was supported both by Marxist and neo- classicalists on the presumption that such demise would bring social development and eliminate inefficiency (Ali and Rowsonuzzaman, 1983). Dugupta (1998) stated that introduction of new technology has made the position of the sharecropping extremely vulnerable. Chakraborty (1981) explained that the sharecropping system has pre-dated and post-dated feudalism. The practice of share tenancy in Bangladesh is one of the widely discussed aspects of agriculture. In rural Bangladesh land tenure situation has undergone remarkable changes. The proportion of area under tenancy has increased from 17 percent of the operated land in 1983-84 to 22 percent in 1996 at rural Bangladesh (M. Hossain, 2000). M.K. Hussain (1986) stated that normally irrigators preferred to take in more land but given out less land than non irrigators did. Cheung (1969) observed that the land owners would rent-out land in to small parcels. The views reflected here were also supported by Jannuzi and Peach (1982) and Hossain (1977). We will not discuss the theoretical questions. In this study an attempt is made to explain the incidence of sharecropping system in two villages of Mymensingh district.

Importance of the Study

The results of the study may help the policy makers in making decision. The study will be helpful to the researchers for future studies of similar nature. Extension workers may utilize the findings of the study to agricultural development. The results of this study have academic importance to the teachers and the students of economics.

Methodology

The study was based on field survey. Two sample villages namely Noudar and Salimpur in Mymensingh district were selected for the purpose of the study. Noudar village is situated within Poura Corporation of Trishal and Salimpur is situated outside the Poura Corporation. Total 27 sample farmers from two villages were randomly selected. Of the 27 farmers 12 farmers were selected from Noudar and 15 farmers were selected from Salimpur. Data were collected by

interview method data were analyzed using tabular and statistical technics. The duration of data collection was December 2016 to March 2017. In case of necessary, secondary data were also used in the study. Secondary data were collected from different official document and non-official sources.

Results and Interpretations

Here we will explain the incidence of sharecropping in two villages. For the purpose of the study, respondents of the study areas were divided in the following six groups. There groups are : (i) 0.10 – 0.99 acres (ii) 1.00-1.99 acres (iii) 2.0 - 2.99 acres (iv) 3.0-3.99 acres (v) 4.00-4.99 acres (vi) 5 acres and above.

For the purpose of anlysis, respondents were divided in to four groups. These groups are as follows: poor farmers having land between 0.1 and 0.99 acres (ii) small farmers : having land between 1.0 and 2.99 acres (iii) Middle farmers : having land between 3.0 and 4.99 acres (iv) Rich farmers : having land between 5.0 acres and above group.

Household Renting out land on a sharecropping Basic:

Table 1, Table 2, Show that in Noudar village out of 5 households only one household surveyed belong to 2.0 to 2.99 acre group accounted for 13.73 percent o the total rented out land. But in salimpur village it was only 7.4 percent the total rented out land. Again in Noudar 2 of the 5 households with 3.0 to 3.99 acre group sharecropped out 31.37 percent of the total sharecropped out land. While 2 of the 5 household with 3.0 to 3.99 area group rented out 25.93 percent of total rented out land in Salimpur. Only one of the household with 4.0 to 4.99 acre group rented out 27.45 percent of the total rented out land in Noudar. But in Salimpur only one household with same acre group sharecropped out 37.04 percent of total sharecropped out land. In Noudar only one household with 5 acre and above acre group rented out 27.45 precent. But in Salimpur out of 5 household only one household with sanse acre group rented out 29.63 percent of the total rented out land.

Of the 15 households in Noudar that own agricultural land only 5 households sharecrop land out. Of the 36.15 acres of land which the 15 households own only 2.55 acres are rented out (7.1%). While in Salimpur of the 15 households that own land, 5 households rent out land of the 33.7 acres of agricultural land which the 15 households own, 2.7 acres are sharecropped out (8%).

It is evident that middle farms rented out more land than rich and small farms. But poor farms rented out no land.

Households Renting in Land on a Sharecropping Basis

Table 1,2 show the households renting in land at the study areas. In Noudar 12 households sharecropped in land 8.9 acres. This amount forms 24.62% of the total cultivated land. While 14 sample household sharecropped in 9.56 acres of agriculture land in Salimpur. This amount forms 28.37% of the total cultivation land. The percentage in Salimpur was higher. Table : 1,2 show that in Noudar out of 12 households 4 households surveyed belong to 0.1 to 0.99 acre group accounted for 41.57 percent of the total rented in land. But in Salimpur out of 14 household only 3 households with 0.1 to 1.99 acre group in 35.15% of the total rented in land. Again in Noudars 5 of the 12 households with 1.0 to 1.99 acre group sharecropped in 42.7 percent of the total sharecrooped in land. While 4 of the 14 households with the same acre group sharecropped in 39.33 percent of the total sharecropped in land in Salimpur. In Noudar out of 12 households only 2 households with 2.0 to 2.99 acre group sharecropped in 13.48 percent of the total sharecropped in land. But in Salimpur 4 of the 14 households with 2.0 to 2.99 acre group sharecropped in 18.31 percent of the total sharecropped in land.

Although 2 of the 14 households with 3.0 to 3.99 acre group in Salimpur sharecropped in 5.23 percent of the total sharecropped in land. It can be seen in Noudar out of 12 households only one household with 5 acres and above group sharecropped in about 2.25 percent of the total sharecropped in land. Where as, in Salimpur out of 14 households only one household with 5 acres and above group sharecrooped in nearly 2.09 percent of the total sharecropped in land.

It evident that in small and poor farmers in both villages sharecropped in more land than middle and rich farms (Table 3,4). It also appears that small farmer in Salimpur sharecrooped in more land than that of Noudar. Thus the net land leasing = (total sharecropped out land – total sharecropping in land) in Noudar is – 6.35 acres while it is 6.86 acres in salimpur. In the study areas net leasing is negative. It appears that in the study areas net land leasing is negative for poor and small farmers, which indicates that poor and small farmers sharecropped in more land than they sharecropped out. While, the net land leasing is positive for middle and rich farmer, which implies that the middle and rich farmers sharecropped out more land than they sharecropped in. In fact, net land leasing is negative in both villages. The amount of land under sharecropping out is less than under sharecropping in, which indicates that farmers in the study areas sharecropping in land from other villages.

Reasons for Renting out land

Now, we attempt to analysis the causes for renting out (sharecropping out) land. Reasons for sharecropping out land are listed in table 5. Table 5 shows in Noudar that 20 percent sample households that sharecropping the land out was that land were far away from their home. In Salimpur 40 percent sample households sharecropping out land because the landowner have not sufficient able bodies male members in the family, Nearly 60 percent sample household in both villages sharecropped out land because they engaged in other gainful jobs in rural areas. Other jobs in rural areas are more lucrative for them. The views reflected here also supported by Janson (1987). Meanwhile in the study areas 20 percent sample households sharecropped out land to their relatives. Janson (1987) found that 22 percent land rented out to the relatives Hossain (1986) observed that only 36 percent of land rented out to relatives.

Reasons for Renting in Land

Now we attempt to analyze the causes for renting in land. Reasons for renting in land are listed in Table-6. In the study areas more than 75 percent of the sample households rented in land because they have sufficient able-bodied male members in the family. The views reflected here were also supported by Janson (1987). In Noudar more than 16 percent of the tenants and in Salimpur 14 percent reported that no alternative job opportunity as the reason of rent in land. In the study areas we find that the rich farmers sharecropped in the less land but other farmers would like to sharecrop in more land. In Noudar, 8.33 percent of rich farmers renting in 2.25 percent of other's land. On the other hand, in Salimpur 7.14 percent of the rich farmer renting in 2.09 percent of other's land. The main reason is likely that rich farmers in the study areas are more concern about the rent income and prefer to sharecropping in land to extract surplus by using mechanized irrigation and other modern inputs.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In rural Bangladesh the most important form of tenancy is sharecropping. In the study areas about 60 percent of the households sharecropped land out because they engaged in other gainful jobs in rural areas. Other jobs in rural areas were more lucrative for them. About 20 percent households of both villages, renting out land to their relatives. In the study areas more than 75 percent households rented in land because they have sufficient able-bodied male members in the family. In Noudar village, about 8.33 percent of the rich farmers renting in 2.25 percent of

Table 1: Incidence of Land Leasing by Different Size Groups in Noudar

Size Group (in acres)	No of H.H.s	%of H.Hs	Cultivable owned land (in acres)	% of Cultivable owned land	No. of H.Hs	% of H.Hs	Share Cropped in land (in acres)	%of Share cropped- in land	No of H.Hs	%of H.Hs	Share Cropped- out Land (In acres)	% of share cropped our land	Operated land (in acres)
0.1-0.99	5	33.33	4.30	11.89	4	33.33	3.70	41.57					8.0
1.0-1.99	4	26.67	7.50	21.85	5	41.67	3.80	42.7					11.7
2.0-2.99	2	13.33	5.70	15.77	2	16.67	1.20	13.48	1	20	.35	13.73	6.55
3.0-3.99	2	13.33	7.70	21.30					2	40	.80	31.37	6.9
4.0-4.99	1	6.67	4.80	13.28					1	20	.70	27.45	4.1
5.0 acres and above	1	6.67	5.75	15.91	1	8.33	0.20	2.25	1	20	.70	27.45	5.25
Total	15	100	36.15	100	12	100	8.9	100	5	100	2.55	100	42.5

Field Survey-2017

Table 2: Incidence of Land Leasing by Different Size Groups in Salimpur

Size Group (in acres)	No of H.H.s	% of H.Hs	Cultivable land (in acres)	% of Cultivable owned land	No. of H.Hs	% of H.Hs	Share Cropped in land (in acres)	% of Share cropped-in land	No of H.Hs	% of H.Hs	Share Cropped- out Land (In acres)	% of share cropped our land	Operated land (in acres)
0.1-0.99	3	20.0	1.42	4.29	3	21.43	3.36	35.15					4.78
1.0-1.99	4	26.67	6.35	19.20	4	28.57	3.75	39.23					10.1
2.0-2.99	4	26.67	8.75	26.46	4	28.57	1.75	18.31	1	20	.20	7.4	10.
3.0-3.99	2	13.33	6.75	20.41	2	14.29	0.50	5.23	2	40	0.70	25.93	6.5
4-4.99	1	6.67	4.0	12.10					1	20	1.00	37.04	
5 acres and above	1	6.67	5.8	17.54	1	7.14	.20	2.09	1	20	0.80	29.63	5.2
	15	100	33.7	100	14	100	9.56	100	5	100	2.7	100	5.2

Field Survey 2017

Table 3: Sharecropped-in land and Sharecropped-out land Different Size Groups in Noudar

Land Holding (in acres)	No of H.Hs	%H.Hs	Share cropped in land (in acres)	% of Share cropped-in land	No of H.Hs	% H.Hs	Sharecropped-out land (in acres)	% of Share Cropped Out land	Net land leasing (acres)
Poor farmer (0.1-0.99)	4	33.33	3.7	41.57					-3.7
Small farmer (1.0-2.99)	5	41.67	3.8	42.7	1	20	.35	13.73	-3.45
Middle farmer (3.0-4.99)	2	16.67	1.20	13.48	3	60	1.50	58.82	0.30
Rich farmer (5 acres and above)	1	8.33	0.20	2.25	1	20	0.70	27.45	0.50
	12	100	8.9	100	5	100	2.55	100	-6.35

Table 4: Sharecropped- in Land and Sharecropped-out land Different Size Groups in Salimpur

Land Holding (in acres)	No of H.Hs	% H.Hs	Share cropped in land (in acres)	% of Share cropped in land	No of H.Hs	% H.Hs	Sharecropped out land (in acres)	% of Share Cropped Out land	Net land leasing (in Acres)
Poor farmer (0.1-0.99)	3	21.43	3.36	35.15					-3.36
Small farmer (1.0-2.99)	8	57.14	5.50	57.53	1	20	0.20	7.41	-5.3
Middle farmer (3.0-4.99)	2	14.29	0.50	5.23	3	60	1.70	62.96	1.2
Rich farmer (5 acres and above)	1	7.4	0.20	2.09	1	20	0.80	29.63	0.6
Total =	14	100	9.56	100	5	100	2.7	100	-6.86

Field Survey 2017

Table 5: Reasons for Renting Out : Frequencies of Responses

Reasons for renting out land	Noudar Village		Salimpur Village	
	No of Households	% of households	No of Households	% of households
1. No. of able adult person	-	-	01	20
2. Engage in other gainful job	03	60	03	60
3. Distant land	01	20	-	-
4. To help relatives	01	20	01	20

Field Survey 2017

Table 6: Reasons for Renting in: Frequencies of Responses

Reasons for renting in land	Noudar Village		Salimpur Village	
	No of Households	% of households	No of Households	% of households
1. Sufficient able-bodied members.	09	75	11	78.57
2. Extract surplus by using modern inputs.	01	8.33	01	7.14
3. Lack of alternative job opportunities.	02	16.67	02	14.28
	12	100.00	14	100

Field Survey 2017

other's land. But in Salimpur only 7.14 percent of the rich farmers renting in land 2.09 percent of other's land. The major reason is likely that the rich farmers in both the villages are more concern about the rent income and prefer to extract surplus by using modern irrigation and agricultural inputs. In the study areas, net land leasing is negative. The amount of land under sharecropping out is less than under sharecropping in which implies that farmers in the study areas sharecropping in land from other villages. In order to protect the tenants legal institutional and administrative measures should be taken by the authority. The need for tenancy reforms is necessary in Bangladesh. Particular emphasis should be given to protect the rights of tenants in rural areas.

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