



Implications of Land Acquisition on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Women (A Case Study of Shatabdinagar Yojna, Rural Land Acquisition by MDA)

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Abstract

The acquisition of agricultural land for industrialization and other purposes leads to a number of socio-economic results. Meerut District is one of the districts of Uttar Pradesh state of India, where 48.92% population (As per the 2011 census) lives in rural area. Meerut is a rich agricultural area whose land is fertile in term of productivity. In this paper, we have presented some observed data and Sample Survey on socio-economic results of women of land acquisition on the fertile agricultural land by Meerut Development authority (MDA) in Meerut District. The findings showed that acquisition of agricultural land for various purposes to change the socio-economic life of women of land loser families. This study has showed life of women of land loser families after the land acquisition. The study has showed that after the land acquisition educational level, occupation pattern and standard of living have been changed among the female members of land loser families.

Key Words: Land acquisition, Land loser, MDA (Meerut Development Authority).

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1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we have conducted a field based study on the impact of land acquisition among a group of women of the land loser families in rural area of Meerut district in Uttar Pradesh state of India. The field work for the study was done during the month of January 2018 to April 2022.

2. RESEARCH AREA AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Meerut District is one of the important district of Uttar Pradesh state of India, where 48.92 % population (as per the 2011 census) lives in rural area. Meerut is a rich agricultural area, whose land is fertile in term of productivity. MDA has acquired the land for various purposes and various schemes since 1980. In this paper the Shatabdinagar Yojana (one of the MDA's Schemes) has been selected for the study. 100 women of land loser families will be selected by purposive sampling to fill the questionnaire. This study is based on 6 villages (Rithani, Kunda, Achronda, Jainpur, Kanchanpur Ghopla and Kashi) whose land acquired for Shatabdinagar Yojna.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- i. To analyze the socio-economic effect of land acquisition on women of the land loser families.
- ii. To study the effect of land acquisition on education level of women of the land loser families.
- iii. To study the changing of living condition of women of land loser families before and after land acquisition.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1: Impact of Living Condition on Women; Before and After Land Acquisition

Impact of Living Condition	Before Land Acquisition	After Land Acquisition
Good	13 (13%)	87 (87%)
Not good	87 (87%)	13 (13%)
Same	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	100 (100%)	100 (100%)

Source: Field Survey

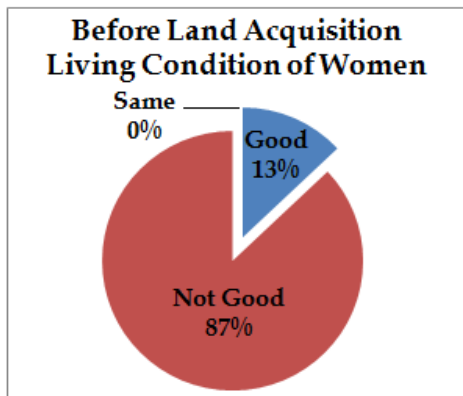


Fig. 1(a): Before Land Acquisition Living Condition of Women

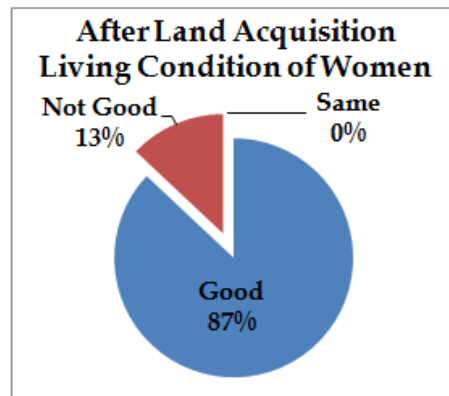


Fig. 1(b): After Land Acquisition Living Condition of Women



The above table shows the data about the living condition of women of land loser families. Here 87 respondents responded that their standard of living has better after the land acquisition as compared to before land acquisition. While 13% respondents responded that their standard of living was better before land acquisition than after land acquisition. 13% respondents responded that their standard of living after land acquisition was not good as compared to before land acquisition, while 87 respondents responded that their standard of living before land acquisition was not good as compared to after land acquisition. None of the respondents responded of having the same standard of living before and after the land acquisition.

Most of the women responded that their standard of living has better after land acquisition as compared to before land acquisition they have replied that before land acquisition they have their own land so the food grain was come from the agriculture and income also. They were doing commercial agriculture with their family, because their land was so fertile that they got heavy production from the land but they had no any standard of living. The reason was that the women used to do animal husbandry and farm work along with the household. There were no quick working appliances to settle the domestic work. The opportunities to more study and work outside were negligible. The women had to depend on the men of the family for all outside work from home and for most of their decisions. The situation has changed after the land acquisition. They become independent for study and for work outside.

But the other aspect is show that the 13% respondents are not satisfied by standard of living conditions of women after land acquisition. The women were completely satisfied with the standard of living conditions before the land acquisition. The respondents have replied that their family income was depend on the agriculture before land acquisition. Their families have their own land so the food grain was come from the agriculture and the income also. Their land was so fertile that they did commercial agriculture and have got much income. It is true that their family income was not good but enough that they can live with satisfaction with their family. They were fulfilling their needs with the income from agriculture but after land acquisition their family had to lose both their land and their source of income. After the land acquisition their family did not get enough money as compensation to buy new land for agriculture. The women or their husbands did not have the skills for other occupations. No one in the family was too educated to do a job. Wage work was against their social practices. In such a situation, due to their children's education, marriage ceremony and other responsibilities, they become indebted and the standard of living went down.

Table 2: Impact of Land Acquisition on Occupation Pattern of Women

S. No.	Occupation	Before Land Acquisition Number of Women of Land Loser Families	After Land Acquisition Number of Women of Land Loser Families	Change
1.	Home Maker	39 (39%)	46 (46%)	7 (7%)
2.	Home Maker and Agriculture Worker	47 (47%)	8 (8%)	-39 (-39%)
3.	Labor in the Fields	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	-1 (-1%)
4.	Government Job	0 (0%)	7 (7%)	7 (7%)

5.	Private Job	0 (0%)	24 (24%)	24 (24%)
6.	Self Business	0 (0%)	13 (13%)	13 (13%)
7.	Cow Dung Cakes Seller	13 (13%)	2 (2%)	-11 (-11%)

Source: Field Survey

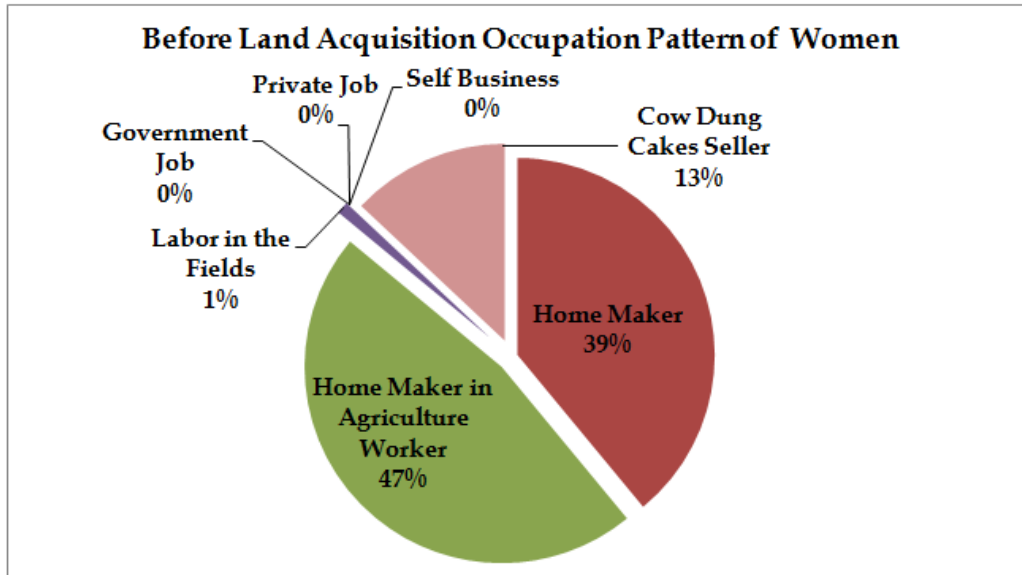


Fig. 2 (a): Before Land Acquisition Occupation Pattern of Women

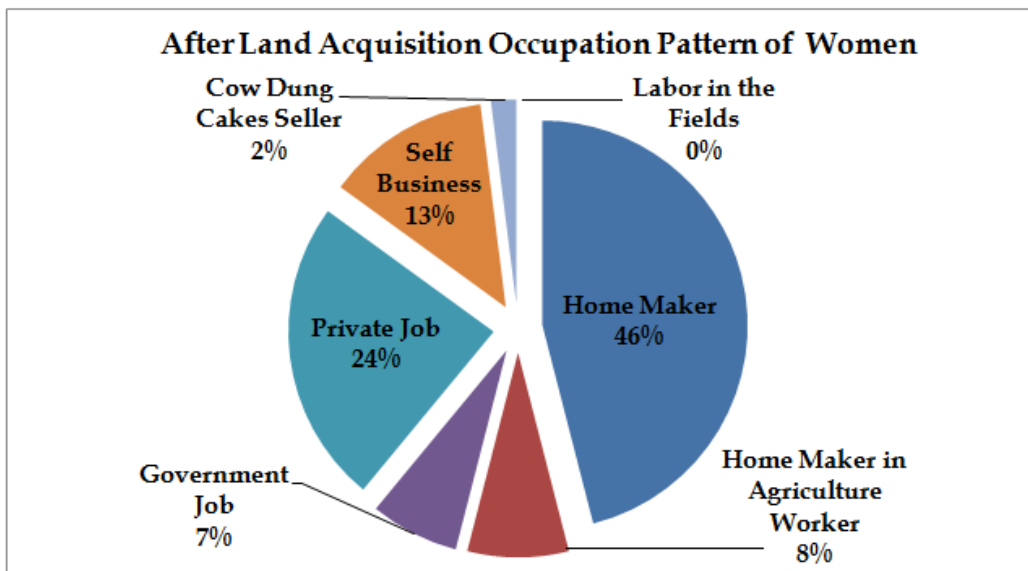


Figure 2 (B): After land acquisition occupation pattern of women

Table No. 2 shows that impact of acquisition on occupation of women. Before land acquisition 39% women were home maker or housewife. They used to do all the housework like cooking, cleaning house, washing, utensils and clothes, feeding the domestic animals, caring of the children and the old age persons. After land acquisition 46% women are homemaker. The 47% women were both home maker and agricultural worker before land acquisition. In addition to domestic work, they worked as a helper in the fields with their family, such as carrying food and water on the fields, sowing, planting, sorting and harvesting hauling and storage etc., but after land acquisition only 8% women are both home maker and agricultural worker. The biggest reason for the difference in figures before and after land acquisition is land acquisition. After land acquisition, there is no land left and if it is left then it is in such a small quantity that there is no need for much human labor. One reason for the discrepancy in the figure is that the purchase of land by the land owners for cultivation at some other place, where women were unable to work in the fields due to the distance of the fields from the home. Here only 1% women of the land loser family were day laborer in fields. The reason why the figures so low was that social prestige of the family and the women's families had their own land which was sufficient for subsistence, so there was no need to do daily wages labor in someone else fields. After the acquisition of land, no woman works as a day laborer in the field. Here the 13% women also use to make cow dung cakes before land acquisition. Women used the cow dung cake as fuel in the kitchen. They used to sell the left over cow dung cakes from their kitchen consumption and kept what they got in return as their income. After land acquisition 2% of women work of making cow dung cake for their domestic consumption only. The biggest reason for the difference between before and after land acquisition is land acquisition as the woman's families have stopped animal husbandry due to the problem of fodder and the women use gas chulha in their kitchen.

The reason for this, after land acquisition women were also educated due to which other employment opportunities were also available for women. According the data before the land acquisition no any women used to do government job, private job or on business the reason for this was that women were less educated before land acquisition. So employment opportunities were not available for women whereas after land acquisition 7% women do government jobs (teacher in Basic, TGT, PGT, and Police service) 24% women do private jobs (teaching in Public School and Colleges, and coaching centers, cleaning staff, nursing, receptionists etc.) 30% women do their own business Such as parlor, tuition, cutting and stitching clothes, cosmetic sailor and mehndi designer etc. after land acquisition the reason for women being self reliant is that women have been educated and they have vocational education and hence various employment opportunities are also available for women after land acquisition.

Table 3: Impact of Land Acquisition on Education Level of Women

S. No.	Level of Education	Before Land Acquisition Number of Women	After Land Acquisition Number of Women	Change
1	Illiterate	43 (43 %)	0 (0%)	-43 (-43%)
2	Literate	18 (18 %)	1 (1%)	-17 (-17%)
3	primary level	22 (22 %)	2 (2%)	-20 (-20%)
4	Upper primary level	13 (13 %)	12 (12%)	-1 (-1%)

5	Secondary level	4 (4%)	23 (23%)	19 (19%)
6	Senior secondary level	0 (0%)	17 (17%)	17 (17%)
7	Higher education	0 (0%)	45 (45%)	45 (45%)

Source: Field Survey

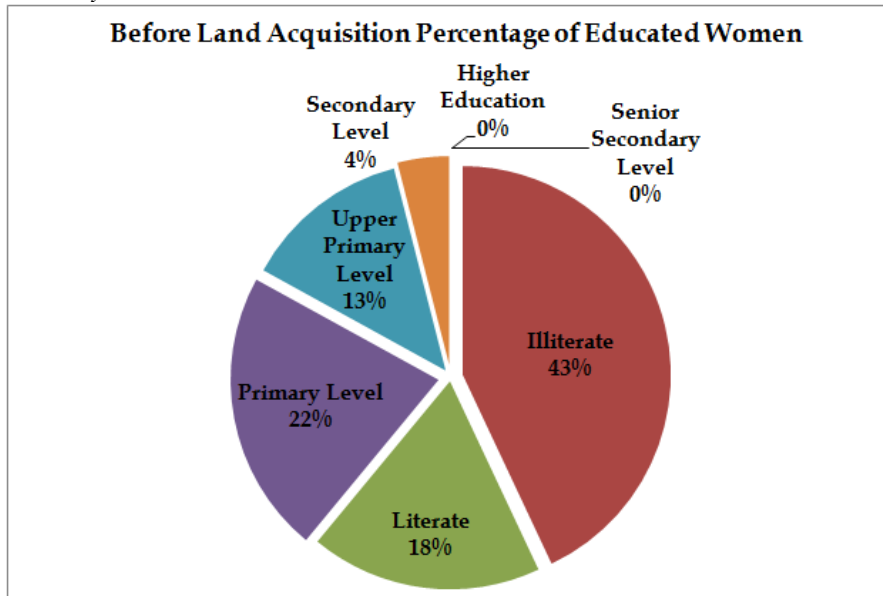


Fig. 3(a): Before Land Acquisition Educational Level of Women

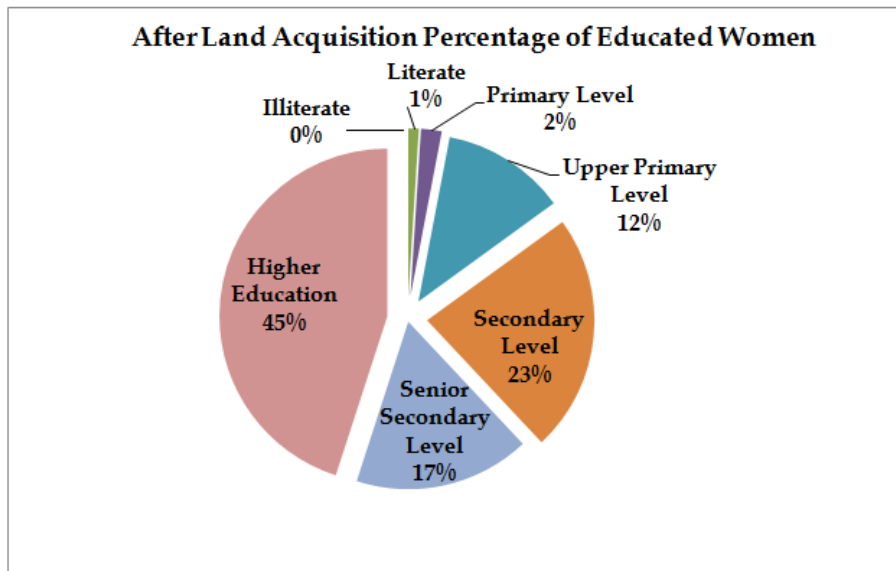


Fig. 3(b): After Land Acquisition Educational Level of Women

Table 3 shows impact of before and after land acquisition on educational level of women. According to the data before land acquisition 43% of women of land loser families were illiterate 18% of women were literate, 22% of women educated up to primary level, 13% of women were educated up to upper primary level and 4% of women educated up to secondary level whereas before land acquisition none of the women had obtained higher secondary or higher education.

The data of the fourth row in the above table related to the women of the land loser families (who got their education after land acquisition). According the data no woman is illiterate after land acquisition. 1% of women are literate, 2% of women are educated up to primary level, 12% of women are educated up to upper primary level, 18% of women are educated up to higher secondary level, and 45 % of women are educated up to higher education level.

Comparing obtained the data related to the educational level before and after land acquisition, it is clear that there has been an improvement in the educational level of women after the land acquisition. There are many reasons for the improvement in the educational level, such as the development of infrastructure around the villages after land acquisition, establishing of various educational institutions and the construction of roads, which solve the problem of girls going to school.

5. FINDINGS

Following are the major finding of this research paper

- (a) The major finding of the research paper shows that land acquisition in rural area does not affected only land loser but also the women of their family.
- (b) The land acquisition is affected socio-economic life of women of land loser families.
- (c) The study also shows that after land acquisition occupation pattern have been changed of women of land loser families.
- (d) Due to land acquisition the education level of women of land loser's families has improved.
- (e) The study shows that most of the women have become self sufficient after land acquisition as compared to before land acquisition.
- (f) After land acquisition the living standard of women whose families got compensation late and in less amount, has dropped as compared to before land acquisition.

6. SUGGESTIONS

From the observation of this study following suggestions are made

- (a) The government should have a proper policy framework for the land acquisition and awareness policy as well so that land loser and their family can know all aspects of such acquisition. Government should have organized skill development programme and investment guidance aspects etc.
- (b) The process of land acquisition affects the lives of the land losers and also has social and economic impact on the lives of other men and women of their family therefore, the government should make policy and rules related to acquisition in mind, the problems faced in the livelihood of the family who lost the land.
- (c) The government should be made arrangement to give the compensation amount at the right time and in the right amount to the family who lost the land due to acquisition.

- (d) The government should help the land losers to properly invest the compensation amount after land acquisition.
- (e) All disputes related to the amount of compensation to be received after land acquisition should be settle in time.

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