

## RESTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN HYDERABAD STATE

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### **Abstract:**

*On the samasthans themselves oft cited by scholars is the brief introduction to the largest samasthans by K. Krishnaswamy Mudiraj. Mudiraj compiled his voluminous Pictorial Hyderabad in the late 1920s and early 1930s, a time when many of the samasthans enjoyed strong leadership. Thus, his account of their administration (as well as accounts of the Nizams ruling at the time), is generous in its portrayal of the samasthan families. In addition, from the early decades of the twentieth century, several Telugu works follow a similar pattern of flattery. For instance, specific to the Jatprole samasthan, V. Sadasiva Sastrulu's Sri Surabhivari Vamsa Charitramu, published in 1913, is accordingly generous in its portrayal of then Raja Lakshma Rao.*

**Key words:** Restructure, Irrigation, Hyderabad State

### **INTRODUCTION**

Agriculture was and is considered to be the main source of livelihood to the bulk of the population. But the agricultural methods were primitive and imperfect. Rotation of crops was practiced imperfectly without any principles. the agrarian structure centers round a variety of issues concerning the organization of agricultural production. This involves a complex range of interactions between man and nature, and between men. The first of these aspects, namely issues related to choice of techniques and inputs, productivity and its determinants and so on has been one of the major pre occupations of economic studies of the agrarian structure in India. There is a section of people who can be termed as landed agricultural labourers. They are peasants of small land holdings but insignificant to depend upon for their living.

Some of them are tenants, taken on rent they are called as peasants. Most of them lived uncomfortably with indebtedness on family labour. All the members of the family including women and children worked in fields, struggled hand to mouth, engaging in all types of personal jobs, on their own effort. Landless agricultural labourers-unskilled, socially outcaste, unspecified job holders, most of them are bonded labours. The feudal practices of vetti, baghela and slave labour system and their characteristics are peculiar in Telangana region.

### ➤ **Analysis of Restructure and Development of Irrigation Facilities in Hyderabad State**

#### **Samasthanas:**

Scholarship on the samasthans of Hyderabad has generally been cursory, as their role in Hyderabad has been considered, "more nominal than real". This work to some extent, reorients the view of Hyderabad away from that of the Nizam's and British the standard focus for much of the scholarship, and instead shift attention outward to the countryside, and downward in the political structure to the level at which the samasthans families operated.

### **Oil Seed Crops:**

The Telangana region of utilized 6064616 acres of land for sowing oil seeds and it was 52% of overall area allotted for only oil seeds crops in Hyderabad state. The total land used for tilling was 11667040 acres which is 14% of total crop lands of Hyderabad state.

### **Cash Crops:**

The cash crops are grown for trade and export. It increased the revenue of the Nizam's Dominion. The area occupied by cash crop agriculture in Nizam's Dominion during the Quinquennial years of 1927-31 was 16583807 acres, constituting nearly 20% of total crop area. Now let us look into the distribution of holdings:

### **Distribution Of Holdings**

The above tables further indicate that 36% of the land owners were poor peasants possessing only 3.5% of the total area and 56% of them were holdings only 15% of the land. The rest of 85% of the land was owned by only the 44% of the people 25% of the total land was owned by only the 4% of the people having more than 50 acres, an average. About 1/3rd of the land was owned by 28% of the people possessing 10 to 25 acres. These can be called as middle peasants and 11% of the people who owned about 28% of the land possessing 25 to 50 acres rich peasants, the rest of the 4% of the people who ¼ of the total area possessing more than 50 Acres could be classed as the 'Doras'. 50% of these 'Doras' owned more than 20% of the total area possessing hundreds of acres may be classed as the landlords.

### **Types Of Land Tenures**

The above land tenures given in the table were in the vogue both in Khalsa and non-khalsa areas. The lands in the Nizam's Dominions were held under different type of tenures. In the first-place certain lands were managed by the Government directly, the revenues from which went to the Government exchequer. All though more than 50% of the total area of the territories belonged to this category only. Lands under this category were known as the Diwani or Khalsa lands.

Secondly, certain lands were owned by the Nizam the revenue from which went to the Privy Purse, such lands were called the Sarf-e-Khas lands. Third category mention may be made of the lands which were granted by the state to individuals who enjoyed the revenue from such lands wholly or partially. These lands belonged to the category of jagirs and inams etc.

### **Feudal State:**

It could be observed that the agrarian structure in Hyderabad state was like a page from medieval feudal history. Although the general pattern of land tenure in state was Ryotwari. The number of big landlords owning large areas of lands was tremendous. In 1948-9 it was reported that in the three districts of Nalgonda, Mahboobnagar and Warangal, the number of Pattedars owning more than 500 Acres was about 550, owning 60 to 70% of the total cultivable land. The Jagirdars, Paigahs, and Samsthanams exploited the peasants by collecting excess taxes and illegal exactions from the peasantry. The Nizam issued Firmana banning 82 kinds of illegal

exactions. The firmana was not enforced and landlords continued their illegal exactions in collaboration with the Government officials.

### **Land Holdings:**

On account of the increase in the value of land and also the lack of suitable and remunerative subsidiary occupations, more and more number of people began to depend, as years rolled by, on land for their living. In contrast to this, big landlord Deshmukhs who owned entire villages found it profitable to let their vast lands on lease<sup>1</sup> and themselves take up.

**Land Rights:** Different types of land tenures were in vogue both in Khalsa and Non-Khalsa areas. In Diwani villages Ryotwari tenure based on Bombay system was widely prevalent. Under pattedari tenure, the owner or pattedar was himself the cultivator of the land and as long as the assessment that was determined and fixed from time to time was paid, no interference was made with his land rights.

### **Tenures:**

1) Ryotwari: More than half the land measuring in millions of acres was held under this holding. The holders of land under this category possessed the land not by way of any grant by the Government. They happened to be in possession of the land since a very long time which was legalized by the Government of the Nizam under the Hyderabad Revenue code which was adopted in accordance with the provision of the Bombay Act v of 1879.

### **Conclusion**

*The various types of Jagirs that existed in the Nizam's Dominions may be listed out under the following heads:*

**Paigah:** Otherwise known as Jagirat-i-Nigehdast-Jamait was a kind of military Jagir originally assigned by Nawab Nizam Ali Khan Bahadur to Abdul Khair Khan, Nawab Shams-ul-Umra, Amir-i-Kabir for the maintenance of a body of horse. His majesty's Household troops and hence they were designated Paigah Jagir.

**Maqas:** Next to the Paigah rank the maqas which were the jagirs granted to important nobles by the Nizam. Out of nine maqas four belonged to the premier nobles which were known as Umra-ee-Ozzam.

These belong to Nawab Salarjung, Nawab Khani Khanan, Nawab Fakhr-ul-Mulk and Maharaja Sir Kishen Pershad. **Altumgah Jagir:** The Turkish word Altumgah comprising of the words 'Al' and Tumgha both of which signified the royal signet. It was permanent perpetual and hereditary grant and the right or interest conveyed. It was not transferable by sale, gift, bequeath. Altumgah jagirs were held in highest esteem and were considered special marks of honour and favour for the grantees.

**Jat Jagirs:** Were grants of large areas of land for the maintenance of the grantees without any obligation whatsoever of any service in return. Most of the Jat jagirs were personal in nature and were originally intended for the life time of the recipients. The Nizam's Government felt

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<sup>1</sup> Rao, Bhanumathi Ranga, S., *Land Revenue Administration in the Nizam's Dominions (1853-1948)*, Osmania University, 1992, p.21.

that it was beneath its dignity to take back what it had donated and hence in course of time jat jagirs became permanent.

**Mushrooti Jagirs:** Were granted for the performance of some definite service whether religious, civil or military, which were continued only so long as the conditions of the grant were fulfilled.

**Tankha Jagirs:** Were grants of revenue made over to meet the salaries of the grantees for services rendered to the Government. In this regard they resemble Paigah Jagir. But Tanka Jagirs were of a later origin and most of them were not legitimate. They came into existence at a time when the state was involved in pecuniary difficulties and the military chiefs called Zamindars insisted on obtaining Government taluqs as guarantee for the regular payment of their establishment and paying the troops from the proceeds.

**Chauth Jagirs:** During the early stages of their conquest the Marathas levied the conquered territories 1/4 of the revenue derived from the land revenue called chauth. When such territories came under the Nizam's Government after the pindaris were vanquished the chauth which the jagirdars paid to the Marathas was continued to be paid to the Nizam as such jagirs were known as chauth paying jagirs.

**Mocassa Jagirs:** Like chauth Mocassa was peculiar to the Marathas revenue system. It was the name given to the portion of land revenue devoted to some special purpose or maintenance of some chief and the grantee was known as Mocassaradar. Lands and villages which were paying Mocassa to the Marathas came under the Nizam's they were styled as Mocassa Jagirs.

**Samsthans:** While other jagirs had their villages scattered over entire dominion the Samstanams existed as large and compact units. The samsthans which were fourteen in number belonged to Hindu rajas who were holding their lands since a long time before the first Nizam came to the Deccan. They were recognized by the first Nizam on the condition of an annual payment called peshkash out of the total fourteen samsthans only five big samsthans viz., Gadwal, Wanaparthy, Jatprole, Amarachinta and Palvancha were exempted from the Diwani Jurisdiction

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