

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CHANGING LAND USE PATTERN IN INDIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE

NEHA RANI

Assistant Professor Tikaram P.G. College Sonipat

Abstract

The present paper is an attempt to analyses the changes that have taken place in land use pattern in India from 1950-51 to 1999-2000. The study is based on secondary data. The total land of India is 3287263 Sq. km out of which we have data of 92.9% land use. From which 46.04% of this land is used under the agricultural activities. The study reveals that marginal changes have occurred in all land use categories. During the above said period the forest area has increased from 14.2% to 22.52%. Net sown area is also increased from 41.77% to 46.07%.

Keywords: Land use, Pattern, Fallow Land, Agricultural, Non-agricultural.

Introduction

In all resources land is a limited and most important basic natural resource. The layout or arrangement of the uses of the land is known as “land use pattern”. Land use is multi disciplinary area and is a perquisite resources base for all activities of society. It describes the various ways in which human beings make use and manage the land and its resources. Land use pattern refer to the spatial distribution of human activities, in other words what kind of activities located where? Secondly we discussed cropping pattern, it refers to the type of crops raised and the proportion of area under various crops at a point of time. The land may be used for agriculture, forest, pasture etc. Land use is determined by many factors like relief features, climate, soil, and density of population, technical and socio-economic factors.

Dominant part of land is used for agriculture which is one of the oldest economic activities of man competing demands for its effective and proper use. Land use is a major issue of global environment change. There is subsequent need of system of land utilization. The analysis of land use is an important aspect of geographical studies. At the present, land use is continuously changing as a result of changes in pattern and magnitude of human activities. So it becomes a matter of interest for agricultural geographers as to what extent the land use pattern has been lateral. Therefore, the present study analyzes the change in land use over time and space.

Data Sources And Research Methodology

For the present study data set complied from various secondary sources since independence are used to study the levels, trends and differentials for India and its states. It includes information on population growth, urbanization, land use pattern, socioeconomic and agricultural variables. Most of the demographic and socioeconomic data are taken from Census publications (Registrar General of India) for different time periods under study. The land use

classification data are compiled from various reports of the Indian Ministry of Agriculture and forest data are compiled from various reports published by Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Discussion

There is huge difference in land use pattern in pre Independence and post independence. The changes after post independence are mainly in agriculture land. The collection of land use data in India begins at the village level. The land utilization or land use statistics formed part of the agricultural statistics and the source for these data is the Ministry of Agriculture, which, however, collects primary data from individual state Authorities. The technical Committee on Co-ordination of Agricultural Statistics, set up in 1948 by the Ministry of Food & Agriculture, recommended a nine-fold land-use classification and also recommended standard concepts and definitions for all the states to follow for better comparability and comprehension.

Classification of land use

Classification of land use is the systematic arrangement of land on the basis of certain similar characteristics mainly to identify and understand their fundamental utilities intelligently and effectively. The land use pattern is complex and dynamic. There are mainly five types of land utilization in India. However, further detailing the existing categories formed the new categories.

1. Forest Area
2. Land not available for cultivation
3. Uncultivable land
4. Fallow land
5. Net area shown

Land use Pattern in India, 1950-51 to 1999-2000

The physical, economic and institutional framework taken together determines the pattern of land use of a country at any particular time. In other words, the existing land use pattern in different regions in India has been evolved as the result of the action and interaction of various factors taken together, such as the physical characteristics of land, the structure of resources like, capital and labour, available and the location of the region in relation to other aspects of economic development, e.g. those relating to transport as well as industry and trade.

Table 1: Land Use Pattern in India, 1950-2000

Classification	1950-51	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	1999-2000
1. Forest	14.24	18.11	21.04	22.18	22.24	22.52
2. Not available for cultivation	16.71	17.00	14.70	13.3	13.28	13.83
(a) Non Agricultural uses	3.29	4.97	5.43	6.46	6.92	7.31
(b) Barren and uncultivable land	13.42	12.03	9.27	6.46	6.36	6.20
3. Uncultivated land (Excluding fallow land)	17.39	12.61	11.54	10.62	9.91	9.29
(a) Permanent pastures and other grazing land	2.35	4.68	4.37	3.94	3.74	3.60
(b) Land under Miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in net area sown	6.82	1.49	1.42	1.18	1.25	1.18
(c) Cultivable waste land	18.7	6.44	5.76	5.50	4.92	4.51
4. Fallow land	9.89	7.65	6.54	8.14	7.66	8.12
(a) Other Fallow land	6.13	3.75	2.88	3.26	3.17	3.29
(b) Current Fallows	3.76	3.91	3.66	4.88	4.49	4.82
5. Net sown area	41.77	44.63	46.18	46.03	46.91	46.07

Forest Area

The categories include any land classed or administered as a forest under legal enactment.

During 1950-51 the area under forest was only 14.2% in India. But it has been increased 22.5% in 1999-2000. According to **National Forest Policy 1952**, the reporting area of the forest must be 33.3% of the total land. During the decade of 1950-51 and 1970-71 has maximum growth in forest area.

The proportion of the forest area is not evenly distributed in the country. As per the India state of forest report 2019 Mizoram has the maximum (85.41%) forest cover area of the total land and if we also take UTs in account, Lakshadweep has the highest percentage of forest cover 90.33%. Whereas Punjab and Haryana has the lowest percentage of forest cover.

Land not available for cultivation

This category includes two sub types

- a. Non agriculture uses
- b. Barren and uncultivated Land

The land used for human settlements, transport routes, canals, quarries, the mountains, deserts, marshes etc. are coming under this category. It accounts 16.71% of total land in India during the period of 1950-51 and this has been decreased to 13.83% in 1999-2000. The largest amount in this category is in Arunachal Pradesh followed by Rajasthan, MP, and Gujarat. Whereas Dadra and Haveli, Andaman Nicobar Sikkim are having less area under this category.

Uncultivable Land (Excluding Follow Land)

This category consists of three types of land viz.

- a. Permanent pasture and grazing land
- b. Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves.
- c. Cultivable waste land

Cultivable waste land denotes land considered by present judgments as cultivable but actually not cultivated during the current year and last five years or more in succession. Permanent pasture and other grazing land i.e. all grazing lands which may be permanent meadows and village common pasture. Area under miscellaneous trees, crops and groves overcome all cultivable land which is not included in the net area sown but is put to some agricultural use other than seasonal cropping. In the ensuing discussion they are considered together. This is potential agricultural land which will be available for extension of agriculture but not been cultivated owing to different reasons. Under this category 17.3% is covered during 1950-51 but till 1999-2000 it has been decreased to 9.29 % of the total land of India.

Fallow Land

Term fallow is applied to lands not under cultivation of the time of reporting, but which have been sown in the past. The duration of period for which land remains fallow is different in different parts of the study region.

This land use category consists of

- a. Other fallow land
- b. Current fallow land

Current fallow means the lands left unsown during the current agricultural year only to regain fertility and also that which remained uncultivated in the short term for want of moisture and economic reasons. Other fallow lands comprise all land which was taken up for a period of not less than one year and not more than five years. This type of land is mainly found in Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

Area under this category is also decreased from 1950-51 to 1999-2000.

Cultivated Land

India is the only country the in the world which has maximum land under this category of its total land. Net sown area is the land which is being actively filled for rising of crops. The net area sown is the actual area under crops counting areas sown more than once in the same years only once. Net area sown represents the extent of the cultivated area actually sown during the agricultural year. It may be reoffered to as net cropped area also. 41.77% of the total land is covered under net shown area during the period of 1950-51 while in 1999-2000 it became 46.07%.

Conclusion

- Area covered under the forest is increased from 14.24% to 22.52%.
- Area covered under not available for cultivation is decreased from 6.71% to 13.83%.
- Area covered under uncultivated land is decreased from 17.36% to 9.29%.
- Area covered under Fallow land is decreased 9.89% to 8.12%.

- Area covered under Net sown area is increased from 41.77% to 46.07%.

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