



Role Of Common Property Resources In Rural Development Of India

Mr. Sandip Ramgonda Patil¹ & Prof. Dr. J. S. Ingale²

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Economics,
Vivekanand College, Kolhapur (Empowered Autonomous)

²Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Dr. N. D. Patil Mahavidyalaya, Malkapur.

Corresponding Author - Mr. Sandip Ramgonda Patil

DOI - 10.5281/zenodo.14607381

Abstract:

Common property resources include waste land, common threshing grounds, canals and irrigation channels, rivers, rivulets, and water reservoirs, ponds and tanks, village forests and woodlots, village pastures and grazing grounds, and watershed drainage. Many people rely on CPRs for their livelihood, including women and landless and marginal farmers. Along with other minor forest products like fruits, nuts, fiber, medicinal plants, etc., CPRs provide fuel for houses and feed for livestock. They contribute to raising people's living standards. Over years, the amount of CPRs available to the communities decreased significantly. 15% of India's total land area is categorized as common property resources. Each household has an average of 3100 square meters, or 0.31 hectares, of Common Property land resources at their disposal. According to 20% of families, cattle are grazed on CPRs. In 23 percent of houses, irrigation is done via common water resources. Thirty percent of households rear livestock using common water resources. 2.8% of households use common water resources for home enterprise. CPRs are essential for maintaining rural livelihoods, particularly for low-income people. 62% of households say they collect fuel wood. 2.45% of households claim to have gathered firewood from CPRs. Just 1% of homes say they sell fuel wood that has been obtained from CPRs. Every household collects 500 kilograms of fuel wood on average annually. Chips and firewood are reported to be used by 1.87% of households. Firewood and chips are typically consumed by households in amounts of 10.67 kg (cash buy), 27.61 kg (home grown), and 84.55 kg (total) each month. A considerable segment of households depend on CPRs for the rearing of livestock, either by means of collecting fodder or grazing.

Key words: Common Property Resources (CPRs), Land, Water, Forest, Fuelwood, Feed etc.

Introduction:

Resources that are accessible to all members of a community and shared by everyone are known as common property resources. The community as a whole owns these resources, not any one person. In India, common property resources

include waste land, common threshing grounds, canals and irrigation channels, rivers, rivulets, and water reservoirs, ponds and tanks, village forests and woodlots, village pastures and grazing grounds, and watershed drainage. Many people rely on CPRs for their livelihood, including

women and landless and marginal farmers. Along with other minor forest products like fruits, nuts, fiber, medicinal plants, etc., CPRs provide fuel for houses and feed for livestock. They are also essential to preserving ecological balance. The development of the area under their jurisdiction is significantly influenced by the resources found on common land. They contribute to raising people's living standards. The use of common property resources as a tool for rural development is more significant. Before British dominion, a large amount of India's natural resources were freely available to the country's rural population. Most of the control over these resources was in the hands of the local communities. Over years, the amount of CPRs available to the communities decreased significantly as a result of the community management system's steady degradation and growing state control over these resources. Most people agree that CPRs continue to be important in the lives and economies of rural residents. In a country like India, where the land-to-population ratio is decreasing due to population growth, the impoverished are compelled to work in a variety of complementary jobs like farming, herding cattle, fetching water, gathering firewood, making basic goods that can be sold, etc. The impoverished are most dependent on CPRs due to their lack of income-producing private property resources and other valuable private assets. For this reason, people require access to CPRs in order to obtain building materials, fruits

and vegetables, fiber from herbs, fuel wood, crop wastes, cow dung, weeds, feed, organic manure (dry leaves and forest litter), water for drinking, and other household necessities. Water is collected from lakes, rivers, ponds, and communal tanks.

CPRs also support a variety of income generating activities such as arts and crafts and dairy production.

Review of Literature:

1. NSSO (1999)⁵⁴ “Common Property Resources in India “An enquiry on common property resources (CPRs) was conducted as a part of the 54th Round of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during January to June 1998. The enquiry was carried out only in the rural areas of the country. Common property resources constitute all such resources which are meant for common use of the villagers. In the pre-British India, a very large part of the country’s natural resources was freely available to the rural population. These resources were largely under the control of the local communities. Gradually, with the extension of state control over these resources, resulting in decay of the community management system, CPRs available to the villagers declined substantially over the years. Nevertheless, it is widely held that CPRs still play an important role in the life and economy of the rural population. The beginning of the studies of the CPRs in India can be traced back to early 1980’s. Some of these studies covered fairly a

large number of villages scattered over the vast area of the country but majority of those was of the nature of case studies. The enquiry, therefore, is the first attempt to provide comprehensive state- and national- level estimates of size, utilisation and contribution of CPRs. It also provides separate estimates for different agro-climatic zones of the country.

2. Manohara N. Gowda (2008)⁶⁰ have studied on Common Property Resources in Karnataka: An Economic Analysis.” Broadly speaking common property resources (CPRs) are those resources that are accessible to the whole community of village and to which no individual has exclusive property rights. Chapter one deals with introduction to research topic of the study, hypothesis and chapter scheme. Second chapter meaning of common property resources, evolution of common property resources, definition, role of common property resources in developing economies and India, need for present study, objectives gives brief review of past literature on common property resources both theoretical as well as few particular studies at micro and macro levels. Third chapter gives brief account of profile of the study area, sampling framework, nature and sources of data, definitions of terms and concepts used and limitation of the study. In the Fourth chapter the distribution of common property resources in India, Karnataka state, across the different agro climatic zones, different districts, and different regions of Karnataka have been analyzed. In the Fifth

chapter the results of the present study have been presented under various headings. They are location of study area, basic characteristics of sample households, cropping pattern, fuel use pattern, livestock in the study area fodder and grazing sources, and CPRs as income sources. In the concluding chapter the summary of present study major findings, concluding observations, policy suggestions and areas of future research have been presented.

3. Mandal Ram Krishna (2014)³² “Use of common property resources in rural household of Arunachal Pradesh: A case study” The framework for rural livelihood analysis is gaining ground rapidly as a ‘new’ approach to rural poverty alleviation or reduction in low income economies. In rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh, livelihoods and its diversification has always been seen. Common property resources (CPRs) are regarded as an important resource base for the rural economy in many of the developing and underdeveloped countries till today because of their significant economic contributions to the sustenance of rural livelihood. Arunachal Pradesh is renowned for endemic biodiversity as the 18th Biodiversity hotspot. The communities have direct dependency on the forest resources for their day to day livelihood. It is widely accepted that CPRs still play an important role in the life and economy of the rural population of Arunachal Pradesh. The study reveals that CPRs played a very important role in the economy of the

surveyed villages although the consumption value from community forest was higher for the non-poor households in absolute terms yet in relative terms, the poor households' dependency on community forest was very important and crucial for their survival. Hence, there was urgent need to form sustainable management of CPRs, particularly the forests in order to avoid 'the tragedy of commons'.

4. Kannan A. and Ramar A.(2013)²⁷ "Status of Common Property Resources (CPRs) and Rural Poor Livelihoods: a Case Study in Theni District of Tamilnadu" The Common Property Resources (CPRs) are still playing a crucial role in providing livelihood sustenance to the local masses in general and rural poor in particular for long. But in the recent periods, the quantity and quality of such vital resources have been degrading conditions due to a number of social, economic and political reasons. But this study is primarily aimed to identify the category of such CPRs, pattern of utilization and the reason to go down of such vital CPR in the rural pocket of Tamil Nadu in general and Theni district that is study district in particular. This paper is wholly based on the secondary sources of information in Theni district of Tamilnadu during the year 2006-07 to 2011-12.

5. Pradhan A. K. and Rabinarayan Patra (2011)²⁴ "Common Property Resources in Rural India: Dependence, Depletion and Current Status" A large majority of over 75 cr rural population of India are dependent on Common Property Resources (CPRs) for their livelihood. But with the spread of liberalization, privatization, globalization and market-orientation even to the ordinary business of people's lives, the CPR base of the country is depleting very fast. If such depletion persists, it could be alarming. In the interests of providing livelihood support to the rural folk and ensuring sustainable overall development of the economy, conservation of CPRs assumes significant priority. A comprehensive CPR management policy of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) kind with thrust on local stakeholders is suggested.

Objectives of the Study:

The main objective of study is to study the role of common property resources in India and specific objectives of the present study are as follows-

1. To study the role of common property land resources in India.
2. To study the role of common property water resources in India.
3. To study the role of common property forest resources in India.

Result and Discussion:**1. Availability of Common Property land resources in India:****Table 1: Availability of Common Property land resources in India**

Sr. No	Item	Estimate
1.	Percentage of common property resources in total geographical area	15
2.	Common property land resources per household (ha)	0.31
3.	Average household size	5.04
4.	Common property land resources per capita (ha)	0.06
5.	Components of common property land resources (percentage)	
	1. Community Pastures and Grazing Grounds	23 (3.45%)
	2. Village Forests and Woodlots	16 (2.40%)
	3. Other	61 (9.15%)

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation)

The observations regarding the resources of common property land available in India are displayed in the above table. 15% of India's total land area is categorized as common property resources. Each household has an average of 3100 square meters, or 0.31 hectares, of Common Property land resources at their disposal. With an average household size of 5.04 individuals, each person has access to about 0.06 hectares, or 600 square meters, of Common Property land resources. Grazing grounds and community pastures make for 3.45% of all common property resources. Village Woodlots and Forests make up 2.40% of the Common Property Resources overall. Of the three components, the other category has the greatest contribution, making about 9.15% of the total Common Property Resources. There is a scarcity of Common Property land resources; just fifteen percent of the entire land area is designated as such. There may be pressure on these resources given the comparatively low per capita access to Common Property land resources. The other category's dominance raises the possibility that there are additional Common Property Resource categories that aren't included in the table specifically.

2. Availability of CPR land in different states:**Table 2: Availability of CPR land in different states**

Sr. No	State	Area owned per household (ha)	CPR land per household (ha)	Percentage of CPR land to Geographical area
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.67	0.17	9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.52	1.15	-
3.	Assam	0.79	0.05	7
4.	Bihar	0.59	0.08	8
5.	Gujarat	1.17	0.72	27
6.	Haryana	1.00	0.05	3
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.73	0.33	12
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.68	0.14	-
9.	Karnataka	1.23	0.25	10

10	Kerala	0.28	0.12	-
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1.52	0.74	22
12.	Maharashtra	1.08	0.30	11
13.	Manipur	0.66	0.17	-
14.	Meghalaya	1.02	0.72	-
15.	Mizoram	0.36	4.37	-
16.	Nagaland	2.68	1.49	8
17.	Orissa	0.58	0.28	11
18.	Punjab	0.94	0.02	1
19.	Rajasthan	2.21	2.04	32
20.	Sikkim	0.49	0.25	14
21.	Tamil Nadu	0.35	0.16	12
22.	Tripura	0.30	0.01	1
23.	Uttar Pradesh	0.74	0.14	12
24.	West Bengal	0.33	0.03	2
25.	India	0.84	0.31	15

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation)

The area owned by each household and the amount of Common Property Resources (CPR) land owned by each household in each of India's states is compared in this table. Kerala has the lowest area (0.28 ha) and Rajasthan the largest (2.21 ha) in terms of area owned by households. The amount of CPR land per household varies as well; Tripura has the least amount (0.01 ha) and Mizoram has the most (4.37 ha). The area owned by each household is typically greater than

the CPR land per household in most states. There are several exceptions, though, like Rajasthan, Mizoram, and Nagaland, where the amount of CPR land per household is far more than the amount of owned land. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka are examples of southern states with comparatively lesser area owned per household. The national average for Area owned per household is 0.84 ha. The national average for CPR land per household is 0.31 ha.

3. Use of Common Property Resources:

Table 3: Use of Common Property Resources

Sr. No	Item	Estimate
1.	Households reporting collection of any material from CPRs	48%
2.	Average Value of annual collections per household	Rs. 693
3.	Ratio of average value of collection to average value of consumption expenditure	3.02%
4.	Households reporting grazing of livestock on CPRs	20%
5.	Households reporting use of common water resources for	
	i) Irrigation	23%
	ii) Livestock Rearing	30%
	iii) Household Enterprise	2.8%

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation)

The story up above illustrates how Common Property Resources (CPRs) are used in India. Nearly 50% of households say they gather items from CPRs. Each household's average annual collecting value is Rs. 693. The average value of consumer expenditure divided by the average value of collection is 3.02%, meaning that CPRs make up a minor but substantial amount of household income. According to 20% of families, cattle are grazed on CPRs. In 23 percent of houses, irrigation is done via common water resources. Thirty percent of households

rear livestock using common water resources. 2.8% of households use common water resources for home enterprise. CPRs are essential for maintaining rural livelihoods, particularly for low-income people. The use of CPRs for grazing and water resources indicates their importance in agriculture and livestock rearing. The relatively low ratio of collection value to consumption expenditure suggests that CPRs are not a primary source of income but rather a supplementary resource.

4. Collection of fuel wood from CPR and their sale:

Table 4 : Collection of fuel wood from CPR and their sale

Sr. No	Item	Estimate
1.	Percentage of households reporting the fuel wood	62%
2.	Percentage of households reporting collection of fuel wood from CPRs	45%
3.	Percentage of households reporting sale of fuel wood collected from CRPs	1%
4.	Average quantity of fuel wood collected during 365 days (k.g)	500
5.	Average quantity of fuel wood sold during 365 days (k.g)	24

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation)

Information about the gathering and selling of fuel wood from common property resources (CPRs) is available in the table above. 62% of households say they collect fuel wood. 2.45% of households claim to have gathered firewood from CPRs. Just 1% of homes say they sell fuel wood that has been obtained from CPRs. Every household collects 500 kilograms of fuel wood on average annually. A household's annual average sales of fuel wood are just 24 kg, a relatively little portion of the overall

amount of fuel wood that is collected. For many households, fuel wood is a major source of energy, and a sizable fraction of them collect it using CPRs. The fact that so little fuel wood obtained from CPRs is sold, however, suggests that most fuel wood is used for domestic rather than industrial use. The little amount of fuel wood that is sold indicates that CPRs are not being used for profit, but rather are providing a necessary energy source for nearby populations.

5. Estimated consumption of fire wood and chips obtained from CPR:

Table 5: Estimated consumption of fire wood and chips obtained from CPR

Sr. No	Item	Estimate
1.	Percentage of household reporting use of firewood & chips	87%
2.	Monthly per household consumption of firewood & chips (k.g)	
	Cash purchase	10.67
	Home grown	27.61
	Total	84.55
3.	Per household annual consumption of firewood & chips (k.g)	1015
4.	Derived value of average quantity of fuel wood consumed out of collection during 365 days (k.g)	555
5.	Percentage of consumption out of collections in total consumption	

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation)

Estimates of firewood and chip use from Common Property Resources (CPRs) are shown in this table. Chips and firewood are reported to be used by 1.87% of households. Firewood and chips are typically consumed by households in amounts of 10.67 kg (cash buy), 27.61 kg (home grown), and 84.55 kg (total) each month. The average household uses 1015 kg of firewood and chips annually. 555 kg is the estimated average amount of fuel wood used during a 365-day period that was not collected. 54.8% of total consumption (555 kg / 1015 kg) is the

proportion of consumption out of collected. Household's use a lot of firewood and chips, and a large percentage of them depend on CPRs for collection. Rather than being purchased with money (10.67 kg/month), the majority of firewood and chips are used from home grown sources (27.61 kg/month). Based on the derived value of fuel wood consumption, it can be inferred that households utilize a substantial amount of their collections, with CPRs accounting for about 54.8% of overall consumption.

6. Dependence on CPR for livestock rearing:

Table 6: Dependence on CPR for livestock rearing

Sr. No	Item	Estimates
1.	Percentage of households possessing livestock	56
2.	Collecting fodder from CPR	13
3.	Reporting grazing on CPR	20
4.	Cultivation of fodder	2
5.	Average quantity of fodder collected (k.g) from CPRs	275

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation)

The reliance on common property resources (CPRs) for livestock rearing is indicated in the above table. A total of 1.56% of households own animals.

Thirteen percent of households gather CPR fodder. According to 20% of families, cattle are grazed on CPRs. Merely 2 percent of families raise fodder. 275

kilograms of feed are typically harvested from CPRs. A considerable segment of households depend on CPRs for the rearing of livestock, either by means of collecting fodder or grazing. The fact that so few households gather feed from CPRs, however, raises the possibility that other sources might be more significant. The moderate amount of fodder that is often harvested from CPRs suggests that CPRs play a significant role in raising cattle.

Conclusion:

Resources that are accessible to all members of a community and shared by everyone are known as common property resources. In India, common property resources include waste land, common threshing grounds, canals and irrigation channels, rivers, rivulets, and water reservoirs, ponds and tanks, village forests and woodlots, village pastures and grazing grounds, and watershed drainage. Many people rely on CPRs for their livelihood, including women and landless and marginal farmers. Along with other minor forest products like fruits, nuts, fiber, medicinal plants, etc., CPRs provide fuel for houses and feed for livestock. They are also essential to preserving ecological balance. They contribute to raising people's living standards. Over years, the amount of CPRs available to the communities decreased significantly as a result of the community management system's steady degradation and growing state control over these resources. 15% of India's total land area is categorized as

common property resources. Each household has an average of 3100 square meters, or 0.31 hectares, of Common Property land resources at their disposal. With an average household size of 5.04 individuals, each person has access to about 0.06 hectares, or 600 square meters, of Common Property land resources. Nearly 50% of households say they gather items from CPRs. Each household's average annual collecting value is Rs. 693. The average value of consumer expenditure divided by the average value of collection is 3.02%, meaning that CPRs make up a minor but substantial amount of household income. According to 20% of families, cattle are grazed on CPRs. In 23 percent of houses, irrigation is done via common water resources. Thirty percent of households rear livestock using common water resources. 2.8% of households use common water resources for home enterprise. CPRs are essential for maintaining rural livelihoods, particularly for low-income people. The use of CPRs for grazing and water resources indicates their importance in agriculture and livestock rearing. 62% of households say they collect fuel wood. 2.45% of households claim to have gathered firewood from CPRs. Just 1% of homes say they sell fuel wood that has been obtained from CPRs. Every household collects 500 kilograms of fuel wood on average annually. Chips and firewood are reported to be used by 1.87% of households. Firewood and chips are typically consumed by households in

amounts of 10.67 kg (cash buy), 27.61 kg (home grown), and 84.55 kg (total) each month. The average household uses 1015 kg of firewood and chips annually. 555 kg is the estimated average amount of fuel wood used during a 365-day period that was not collected. 54.8% of total consumption (555 kg / 1015 kg) is the proportion of consumption out of collected. A total of 1.56% of households own animals. Thirteen percent of households gather CPR fodder. According to 20% of families, cattle are grazed on CPRs. Merely 2 percent of families raise fodder. 275 kilograms of feed are typically harvested from CPRs. A considerable segment of households depend on CPRs for the rearing of livestock, either by means of collecting fodder or grazing.

References:

1. National Sample Survey Organisation 54th Round Report.
2. Manohara N. Gowda(2008) Common Property Resources In Karnataka: An Economic

Analysis” , Karnatak University, Dharwad For the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, Department Of Studies And Research In economics Karnatak University, Dharwad – 580003 Karnataka, India.

3. Mandal Ram, Krishna. “Use of Common Property Resources In Rural Household Of Arunachal Pradesh: A Case Study’. Research Journal Of Forestry, 2014.
4. Kannan, A., and A. Ramar. ‘26 “Status of Common Property Resources (CPRs) and Rural Poor Livelihoods: A Case Study in Theni District of Tamilnadu’. International Journal of Scientific Research, no. 2, 2013, pp. 6–2277.
5. Pradhan, A. K. ‘Common Property Resources in Rural India: Dependence, Depletion and Current Status’’. Journal of Managerial Economics, vol. IX, no. 1, 2011, pp. 6–20.