

## Nature and Use of Common Property Resources in India

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### Abstract:-

Common property resources are community's natural resource where every member has the right of access and usage with specified obligations, without anybody having property rights over them. CPRs provide fodder for the livestock and fuel for the households along with other minor forest products like fruits, nuts, fibre, medicinal plants etc. Common property resources play a very important role in the development of rural area under their jurisdiction. They help in improving standard of living of the people. The dependence on CPRs is the greatest among the poor because they do not possess income generating private property resources or other valuable private assets. The availability of common property land resources per households was 0.31 hector in India. In India per capita common property land resources was 0.06 hector. In five years reduction in CPR land was 19 hector per 1000 hector. 20% households reporting grazing of livestock on CPR land. 13% households collecting fodder for livestock from CPR land. 2% households cultivating fodder on CPR land. In case of CPR Water resources it was found that in India 23% households use common property water resources for irrigation, 30% households use common property water resources for livestock rearing, 2.8% households use common property water resources for household enterprise. In respect of forest CPR it was observed that 45% households reporting collection of fuelwood from CPR forest resources in India. Share of fuelwood in value of collection from CPRs was 58%. Percentage of households reporting use of fuelwood was 52%. Average quantity of fuelwood collected from CPRs during 365 days was 500 kg.

**Key Words:** Common Property Resources (CPR), Land, Water, Forest, livestock etc.

### 1. Introduction:-

CPRs can be defined as a community's natural resource, where every member has the right of access and usage with specified obligations, without anybody having property rights over them. CPRs provide fodder for the livestock and fuel for the households along with other minor forest products like fruits, nuts, fibre, medicinal plants, etc. In rural areas, such land is of particular relevance for the livelihood of the landless and marginal farmers and other weaker sections since many of them depend on income from their livestock due to the fact that they have limited access to land. Common property resources play a very important role in the development of area under their jurisdiction. They help in improving standard of living of the people. More importantly common property resources in the rural areas are a means of rural development. The rural populace of India had unrestricted access to a significant portion of the nation's natural resources prior to British rule. The local communities possessed most of the power over these resources. The community management system gradually deteriorated as state control over these resources increased, leading to a significant decrease in the amount of CPRs accessible to the villages over years. It is widely held that CPRs

still play a significant role in the life and economy of the rural populace. In a populous and predominantly agrarian country like India with declining land-man ratio the people especially the poor are forced to engage themselves in a number of complementary activities like, cultivation, cattle grazing, fetching water, collecting firewood, producing simple marketable products, etc. The dependence on CPRs is the greatest among the poor because they do not possess income generating private property resources or other valuable private assets. Consequently, they depend on access to CPRs for fuel wood, crop wastes, cow dung, weeds, fodder, organic manure (dry leaves and forest litter), building materials, fruits and vegetables, herbs fiber, water for drinking and other domestic uses. Irrigation is collected from community tanks, ponds, lakes and rivers. CPRs also support a variety of income generating activities such as arts and crafts and dairy production.

## **2. Review of Literature:-**

Mandal Ram Krishna (2014)<sup>1</sup>“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’.

Kumar Naveen K. (2015)<sup>2</sup> “Governance and Management of Common Property Resources: An Analysis on Community Participation in Sustainable Village Development in India” Millions of people across rural India depend on and share the ‘common’ (community) natural resources like forest, wasteland, grazing land, water resources, etc., for their livelihoods, whereas developing such ‘common resources’ through collective action for the sustainable village development is a challenging task for the rural community. The study analyses the community participation of Hiware Bazar village of Maharashtra in governance and management of common property resources for sustainable village development. This study adopts both descriptive and analytical research methodologies to understand various developmental initiatives and its overall impact of the watershed-plus and other attenuating measures on the social and economic lives of the people in Hiware Bazar. The study uses both qualitative and quantitative data that are collected through primary and secondary sources. The study finds that community-driven common resources management had impacted on rural households through increased employment and income. The social and economic integration of the people in Hiware Bazar led to social, economic and environmental transformations for sustainable development of the village.

Ravi S. Singh and Ankita Singh (2015)<sup>3</sup> “Women and Common Property Resources: A Case Study of Rural Awadh Tarai” Rural women and men share different tasks and responsibilities which results in different needs, priorities and concerns. Although these responsibilities vary across regions and cultures, but rural women often follow similar gender division of labour. In most of the cases, rural women have the responsibility for the collection of fuel-wood, food and fodder for animals for which they are heavily dependent on common property resources. Men seldom have responsibility for collecting and using natural resources for household use. Based on primary data generated through fieldwork, the present paper delves into role played by CPRs in the lives of rural tribal women of Awadh Tarai.

Ram Prakash (2019)<sup>4</sup> “Management of Common Property Resources: A Pragmatic Model for Uttar Pradesh, India” Common Property Resources (CPRs) constitute important component of community assets in India and they benefit the livelihood of the rural population in many ways. At the national level, it is estimated that, since 1960, reductions in the area of CPRLs varying from 30 to 50 percent have been noticed in different states of the country. Over the period of time quantity and quality of CPRs has declined and depleted rapidly in Uttar Pradesh, India. Management of Common Property Resources has many social and economic implications for rural population. It has guaranteed the continuous supplies of natural resources that are essential for subsistence economy of rural people. It has constituted a mechanism of social control to protect common property resources. This research Paper analyses the importance of CPRs, depletion of these resources and more specifically attempt to suggest a pragmatic model of the management of CPRs for the state of U.P. that can be generalized for entire India.

Kannan A. and S. Sakthivel (2018)<sup>5</sup> “Status and Significance of Common Property Land Resources (CPLRs) in Tamil Nadu: Evidences from Secondary Sources” The Common Property Land Resources (CPLRs) are the most important source of rural poor in the rural pockets of India. The rural population in general and the poor in particular depend largely on common property land resources for their sustenance. In the last few decades, the availability of such immense resources was degraded in both qualitatively and quantitatively across the regions in India. The study results revealed that the availability and accessibility of CPLRs has coming down slowly from year-by-year exception to the category of other than current fallow land in Tamil Nadu during 1998-99 to 2013-14. It is estimated that around 4.3 per cent of CPLRs increase were observed in the state during the study periods. In Tamil Nadu, it is accounted that 4.3 per cent of PPLRs were converted into CPLRs during the periods of 1998-99 to 2013-14. It is further accounted that the per capita availability of forest, CPLRs and private land has also observed that declining trend during the study periods.

### **3. Objectives of the Study:-**

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

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

#### 4. Result and Discussion:-

##### 4.1 Availability and Reduction in 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	0.31 (ha)
3.	Common property land resources per capita	0.06 (ha)
4	Reduction in CPR land during last 5 years (per 1000 ha.)	19 (ha)

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation)

The above table shows the availability and reduction in common property land resources in India. Percentage of common property land resources in total geographical area was 15% in India. Common property land resources per households was 0.31 hecter in India. In India per capita common property land resources was 0.06 hecter. In five years reduction in CPR land was 19 hecter per 1000 hecter.

##### 4.2 Components of Common Property Land Resources in India:

**Table 2**  
**Components of Common Property Land Resources in India**

Sr. No	Components of Common Property Land Resources	Percentage
1	Community Pastures and grazing land	23 %
2	Village Forest and woodlots	16 %
3	Other	61 %
<b>4</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation)

The above table shows the components of common property land resources in India. Out of total common property land resources available in India community pastures and grazing land was 23%, Village forest and woodlots was 16% other land was 61%.

##### 4.3 Collection from Common Property Land Resources in India:

**Table 3**  
**Collection from Common Property Land Resources in India**

Sr. No	Item	Estimate
1.	Households reporting collection of any materials 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 %

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation)

The above tale shows the collection from common property land resources in India. In India total 48% households reporting collection of any materials from the CPR land. Average value of annual collections was Rs. 963 per households. Ratio of average value of collection to average value of consumption expenditure was 30.02%.

**4.4 Nature of use of Common Property Land Resources in India:**

**Table 4**  
**Nature of use of Common Property Land Resources in India**

Sr. No	Nature of Use of CPR Land	Percentage
1.	Households possessing livestock	56 %
2.	Households reporting grazing of livestock on CPR Land	20 %
3.	Households collecting fodder from CPR land	13 %
4.	Households cultivating fodder on CPR land	2 %
5.	Average quantity of fodder collected from CPR land during 365 days.	275 kg

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation 54<sup>th</sup> Round Report)

The above table shows the nature of use of common property land resources in India. In India 56% households possessing the livestock. 20% households reporting grazing of livestock on CPR land. 13% households collecting fodder for livestock from CPR land. 2% households cultivating fodder on CPR land. In India average quantity of fodder collected from CPR land during 365 days was 275 kg.

**4.5 Nature of use of Common Property Water Resources in India:**

**Table 5**  
**Nature of use of Common Property Water Resources in India**

Sr. No	Nature of Use of CPR Water	Percentage
1.	Households reporting use of common property water resources for-	
	i) Irrigation	23 %
	ii) Livestock Rearing	30 %
	iii) Household Enterprise	2.8 %
2.	Households Reporting Irrigation Using Common Property Water Resources Owned/ Managed by:	
	i) Village Panchayat	1.1 %
	ii) Community	0.8 %
	iii) Government	1.8 %
	iv) River / Govt. Canal etc.	10.3 %

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation 54<sup>th</sup> Round Report)

The above table shows the nature and use of common property water resources in India. In India 23% households use common property water resources for irrigation, 30% households use common property water resources for livestock rearing, 2.8% households use common property water resources for household enterprise. The above table also shows the use of common property water resources owned and managed by various authorities. 1.1% households reporting use of common property water resources owned and managed by village panchayat for irrigation, 0.8% households reporting use of common property water resources owned and managed by community for irrigation, 1.8% households reporting use of common property water resources owned and managed by government for irrigation, 10.3% households reporting use of common property water resources owned and managed by river/government canal for irrigation.

#### 4.6 Nature of use of Common Property Forest Resources in India:

**Table 6**  
**Nature of use of Common Property Forest Resources in India**

Sr. No	Nature of Use of CPR Forest	Percentage
1.	Households reporting collection of fuelwood from CPRs.	45 %
2.	Share of fuelwood in value of collection from CPRs.	58 %
3.	Percentage of households reporting use of fuelwood	52 %
4.	Average quantity of fuelwood collected from CPRs during 365 days.	500 kg

(Source: National Sample Survey Organisation 54<sup>th</sup> Round Report)

The above table shows the nature of use of common property forest resources in India. 45% households reporting collection of fuelwood from CPR forest resources in India. Share of fuelwood in value of collection from CPRs was 58%. Percentage of households reporting use of fuelwood was 52%. Average quantity of fuelwood collected from CPRs during 365 days was 500 kg.

#### 5. Conclusion:

Common property resources play a very important role in the rural development. It help in improving standard of living of the people. Common property resources in the rural areas are a means of rural development. The dependence on CPRs is the greatest among the poor because they do not possess income generating private property resources or other valuable private assets. CPRs provide fodder for the livestock and fuel for the households along with other minor forest products like fruits, nuts, fibre, medicinal plants, etc. In respect of CPR land resources it was observed that Percentage of common property land resources in total geographical area was 15% in India. Common property land resources per households was 0.31 hector in India. In India per capita common property land resources was 0.06 hector. In five years reduction in CPR land was 19 hector per 1000 hector. The study reveals that out of total common property land resources available in India community pastures and grazing land was 23%, Village forest and woodlots was 16% other land was 61%. In India total 48% households reporting collection of any materials from the CPR land. Average value of annual collections was Rs. 963 per households. Ratio of average value of collection to average value of consumption expenditure was 30.02%. In India 56% households possessing the livestock. 20% households reporting grazing of livestock on CPR land. 13% households collecting fodder for livestock from CPR land. 2% households cultivating fodder on CPR land. In India average quantity of fodder collected from CPR land during 365 days was 275 kg. In case of CPR Water resources it was found that in India 23% households use common property water resources for irrigation, 30% households use common property water resources for livestock rearing, 2.8% households use common property water resources for household enterprise. It was found that 1.1% households reporting use of common property water resources owned and managed by village panchayat for irrigation, 0.8% households reporting use of common property water resources owned and managed by community for irrigation, 1.8% households reporting use of common property water resources owned and managed by government for irrigation, 10.3% households reporting use of common property water resources owned and managed by

river/government canal for irrigation. In respect of forest CPR it was observed that 45% households reporting collection of fuelwood from CPR forest resources in India. Share of fuelwood in value of collection from CPRs was 58%. Percentage of households reporting use of fuelwood was 52%. Average quantity of fuelwood collected from CPRs during 365 days was 500 kg. From the overall analysis it was observed that Common Property Resources (CPRs) play significant role in the rural development so it was suggested to the government to protect and enhance the quality of common property resources in India.

## 6. References:

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