

# International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

*www.journalijar.com*

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56618

Title: DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDHOLDINGS IN INDIA- WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TAMILNADU AND UTTAR PRADESH,

### Recommendation:

**Accept after minor revision**

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓,		
Techn. Quality		✓,		
Clarity	✓,			
Significance	✓,			

Reviewer Name: Dr Abdul Haseeb Mir

## Detailed Reviewer's Report

The article titled "**Distribution of Agricultural Landholdings in India—With Special Reference to Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh**" provides a critical examination of the structural inequalities inherent in the Indian agrarian economy. By utilizing data from the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the author evaluates the shifting patterns of land ownership and operation, highlighting a concerning trend toward the fragmentation and marginalization of holdings. This research is highly relevant for policymakers and agricultural economists, as it addresses the fundamental constraint to productivity in India: the diminishing size of the operational land unit.

The introduction effectively establishes the dual importance of agriculture as both a source of livelihood for the majority of the population and a cornerstone of the national economy. The author correctly identifies that population pressure and traditional inheritance laws have led to a rapid rise in the number of small and marginal farmers. The theoretical framing of the paper suggests that land distribution is not merely a technical issue but a socio-economic one that dictates the level of equity and growth within the rural sector.

The comparative analysis between Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh is the cornerstone of this research. The author notes that Tamil Nadu, characterized by high population density and intensive farming, exhibits extreme fragmentation. In contrast, Uttar Pradesh, while also dominated by marginal holdings, shows significant regional inequalities that reflect its vast and varied landscape. This comparison is vital because it demonstrates that "one-size-fits-all" agricultural policies are likely to fail; the interventions required for the water-stressed, highly fragmented plots in Tamil Nadu differ significantly from those needed in the expansive, yet unequally distributed plains of Uttar Pradesh.

**REVIEWER'S REPORT**

A major strength of the article is its focus on "operational characteristics." The distinction between ownership and operational holdings is crucial, as many marginal farmers survive through complex leasing arrangements that are often informal and precarious. The author's data shows that the "marginalization of the peasantry" is a national phenomenon, but its intensity varies. The finding that the number of large holdings is steadily decreasing across both states points toward a future where Indian agriculture will be almost entirely composed of small-scale operators.

However, to elevate the manuscript to a higher academic standard, several minor revisions are recommended. While the NSSO data is a reliable foundation, the author should incorporate more recent figures from the latest Agricultural Census (if available) to ensure the analysis reflects the post-2020 landscape. Additionally, the paper would be significantly improved by a more detailed discussion on the impact of "Land Consolidation" (Chakbandi) programs. Specifically, explaining why these programs have seen more success in some regions of Uttar Pradesh compared to Tamil Nadu would provide valuable practical insights.

Furthermore, the author mentions the need for "sustainable agricultural methods" in the abstract, but this theme is not sufficiently developed in the main body. Strengthening the link between land size and the adoption of Green Revolution technologies—or the lack thereof due to diseconomies of scale—would provide a more comprehensive view of the agrarian crisis. For instance, small farmers often lack the capital for mechanization; discussing how "Collective Farming" or "Farmer Producer Organizations" (FPOs) could mitigate these scale issues would add a much-needed policy dimension to the research.

From a structural perspective, the article is logically organized and adheres to academic conventions. The technical terminology regarding land revenue settlements (Zamindari, Raiyatwari, and Mahalwari) is used correctly and provides essential historical context for current distribution patterns. However, the author should ensure that all statistical tables are clearly labeled and that the units of measurement (e.g., hectares vs. acres) are consistent throughout the text to prevent confusion.

The conclusion is pragmatic, advocating for proactive land organization and consolidation. The author's final argument—that equitable growth is impossible without addressing land fragmentation—is powerful and well-supported by the evidence presented. By adding a slightly more critical perspective on the failures of previous land reforms and the potential of modern cooperative models, the author will finalize a manuscript that is both a solid data analysis and a vital policy brief.

In summary, this article represents a significant contribution to Indian agrarian studies. It captures the structural challenges facing millions of smallholders with clarity and rigor. By documenting the move toward an increasingly fragmented landscape, the author provides a necessary baseline for future research into sustainable rural development. With the inclusion of more contemporary comparative data and a

# International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

*www.journalijar.com*

---

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

expanded section on collective solutions, this paper will be an excellent resource for scholars and practitioners alike.

**Recommendation: Recommend for publication with minor revision.**