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## **Study on Common Property Resources and Economic Development Overview**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Depletion of environmental resources (renewable and non-renewable) has received serious consideration from researchers, policy makers, scientists, and intellectuals since long time and has got impetus very recently. In this context, identification and preservation of environmental resources deserve serious consideration in so far as they can be highlighted as an instrument for poverty alleviation and economic development. The actual question is at what cost? Is this reduction in CPR costlier that poor would be adversely affected? There is dearth of research studies in this field due to impediments in conceptual clarification besides the inept maintenance of official records on CPRs. The need of the hour is to create a data- base on resources, which are owned collectively*

*Keywords:- Common Property Resources, Renewable, Environmental, Resources, Poverty,*

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Every living being requires certain natural resources for his sustenance, such as land, water, atmosphere, light, forest, and biodiversity. Depletion of environmental resources (renewable and non-renewable) has received serious consideration from researchers, policy makers, scientists, and intellectuals since long time and has got impetus very recently. In this context, identification and preservation of environmental resources deserve serious consideration in so far as they can be highlighted as an instrument for poverty alleviation and economic development

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### **II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Since time immemorial, the CPRs have been contributing a lot to the village economies. The local communities in general and the poor in particular survive on these resources to a large extent. A unique feature of CPRs lies in its ability to maintain eco-balance by means of averting soil erosion, deforestation and siltation on the one hand and providing fuel, fodder, small timber, manure, fruits and medicinal herbs on the other.

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### **III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The current literature on CPR discusses about the increasing incidence of loss of area under CPR and declining in productivity and quality maintenance. The research question is whether this reduction is inevitable in the reform process or should it be reversed? The actual question is at what cost? Is this reduction in CPR costlier that poor would be adversely affected? There is dearth of research studies in this field due to impediments in conceptual clarification besides the inept maintenance of official records on CPRs. The need of the hour is to create a data- base on resources, which are owned collectively

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### **IV. OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of the study is to analyze the use and access to CPRs. Thus the study focuses on these specific objectives:

- Study on the Gender-wise Distribution of the Respondents
- Study on the Age-wise Distribution of the Respondents
- Study on the Religion of the Respondents
- Study on the Ownership of Land of the Respondents

## V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Within the above mentioned objectives of the study, the methodology has been designed to carry out the research work in a scientific way so that a comprehensive analysis of the research problem may be obtained. In this regard, the methodology applied in the study besides the methods of sampling and way of determining the sample size is discussed in the following paragraphs along with the area of the study, methods and techniques employed in the data collection.

### V.I Techniques of Analysis

The data collected through the interview schedule were scrutinized and the Statistical Package for Social Studies (SPSS) has used for analysis. Apart from simple tabular analysis, statistical tools such as percentage analysis and Garrett ranking were used to know the perception of the households for degradation of CPRs.

## VI. Gender-wise Distribution of the Respondents

As per the Hindu culture, the aged male leads the family and makes decisions on vital issues in the family affairs. Table 1 reveals that the male headed households dominated and represent 66.7 percent. The female headed households represent only 33.3 percent that too emerged due to the unforeseen family circumstances. By comparing the wet and dry category of villages, mostly male headed households are higher than the female headed households.

**Table 1: Gender-wise Distribution of the Respondents**

Gender Group	Category of Land		Total
	Wet	Dry	
Male	147 (28.0)	203 (38.7)	350 (66.7)
Female	97 (18.5)	78 (14.8)	175 (33.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b> <b>(46.5)</b>	<b>281</b> <b>(53.5)</b>	<b>525</b> <b>(100.0)</b>

*Note: Figures in the parentheses represent percentages*

Source: Computed from Primary data

## VII. Age of the Respondents

The age of the head of the households play a vital role in determining the household development. It is expected that the middle-aged group of 36-60, may involve actively enriching their income and wealth status. Table 2 shows that of the total surveyed households, 15.4 percent of the households are in 25-30 age group, 11 percent are in 46-50 age group, 12.8 percent are in 56-60 age group and 8.2 percent are in 61 and above age group.

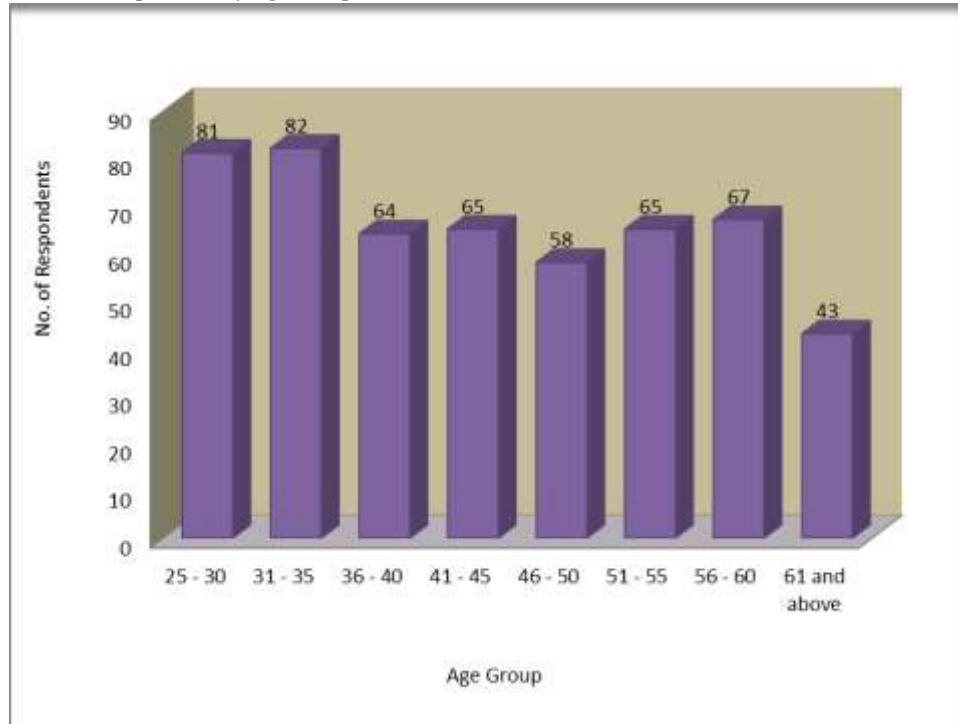
**Table 2: Age-wise Distribution of the Respondents**

Age Group	Category of Land		Total
	Wet	Dry	
25 - 30	31	50 (9.5)	81 (15.4)
31 - 35	35 (6.6)	47 (9.0)	82 (15.6)
36 - 40	32 (6.1)	32 (6.1)	64 (12.2)
41 - 45	38 (7.2)	27 (5.2)	65 (12.4)
46 - 50	27 (5.1)	31 (5.9)	58 (11.0)
51 - 55	34 (6.5)	31 (5.9)	65 (12.4)
56 - 60	33 (6.3)	34 (6.5)	67 (12.8)
61 and above	14 (2.7)	29 (5.5)	43 (8.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b> <b>(46.5)</b>	<b>281</b> <b>(53.5)</b>	<b>525</b> <b>(100.0)</b>

Note: Figures in the parentheses represent percentages

Source: Computed from Primary data

Figure 1: Distribution of the Respondents by Age Group



## VIII. Religion of the Respondents

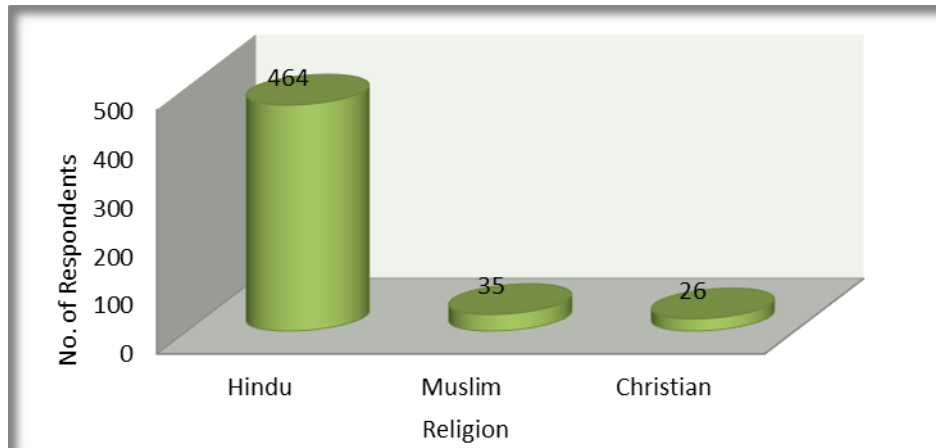
Religion is referred to as a system of beliefs, practices and values concerned with the sacred. It is related to super natural entities and powers, which are considered as the ultimate concern of all mundane existence among human groups. Of the surveyed households, 88.3 percent were Hindus. Muslims and Christians constituted 6.7 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. The population of the religious groups varied among the categories of land. In the wet land area, 41.3 per cent of the households belonged to Hindu and the rest of them were Muslims and Christians.

Table 3: Religion-wise Distribution of the Respondents

Religion	Category of Land		Total
	Wet	Dry	
Hindu	217 (41.3)	247 (47.0)	464 (88.3)
Muslim	15 (2.9)	20 (3.8)	35 (6.7)
Christian	12 (2.3)	14 (2.7)	26 (5.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b> <b>(46.5)</b>	<b>281</b> <b>(53.5)</b>	<b>525</b> <b>(100.0)</b>

Note: Figures in the parentheses represent percentages

Source: Computed from Primary data

**Figure 2: Distribution of the Respondents by Religion**

## XI. Land Holdings

Much of the human history is dominated by the relationship of man to land. A sense of well-being and security is inherent in the ownership of land. The ownership of land and the pattern of its distribution may have a direct bearing on distribution, accumulation and generation of wealth, particularly in an agrarian economy like India. The real economic strength and status of a rural person is judged on the basis of his land ownership. This also forms a basis for land ceiling, distribution of government land and obtaining institutional credit. But, his income from agriculture depends on the extent of land operated by him, which incorporates the effect of leasing.

**Table 4 : Ownership of Land of the Respondents**

Ownership of Land	Category of Land		Total
	Wet	Dry	
Landless Farmers	55 (10.5)	68 (13.0)	123 (23.4)
Marginal Farmers (less than 1 hectares (2.5 acres))	98 (18.7)	123 (23.4)	221 (42.1)
Small Farmers (more than 1 less than 2 hectares (5 acres))	56 (10.7)	54 (10.3)	11 (21.0)
Big Farmers (more than 2 hectares (more than 5 acres))	35 (6.7)	36 (6.9)	71 (13.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b> <b>(46.5)</b>	<b>281</b> <b>(53.5)</b>	<b>525</b> <b>(100.0)</b>

*Note: Figures in the parentheses represent percentages*

Source: Computed from Primary data.

Table 4 reveals that about 23.4 percent of households do not have any land of their own. However, 42 percent of the households belong to marginal farmers. It means that these households are having a meager area of land. Approximately, 21 percent of land owners are small farmers, representing the category of 1–2 hectares. Another 13.5 percent are large farmers having the land ownership of more than 2 hectares.

## X. CONCLUSION

The CPRs form a crucial part of environmental resources. It plays a vital role in the rural poor's life in particular and local people in general. Eighty six per cent of the populations entirely depend on common property resources for their survival as far as the study villages are concerned. In both the regions the availability of CPR has declined over the period. Privatization of CPRs in the form of land to the landless people as well as the land given to the corporate sector in Tamil Nadu in both previous and present government are the major causes for reduction of CPR in the local areas. The reduction of CPRs has directly affected the dependent community in general and particularly the vulnerable sections.

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