

**ANALYSIS OF THE AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVES OF THE BRITISH AS
WELL AS INDIAN GOVERNMENTS DURING AND AFTER
INDEPENDENCE**

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Abstract:

In marketing and business, the term "commercial" is very often used. The act of effectively introducing new products or services to the market is referred to as commercialisation. This is done to attract customers and so significantly boost sales. This aspect makes me think of how the concept was spread across British India as the mercantile elite grew in power. A variety of decisions that are directly connected to commercialization in India are well-examined in this study. Although "commercialization" is one of the most often used terms, its concepts and introduction are not new to the history of the Indian subcontinent. The Industrial Revolution seems to have given rise to the earliest recorded usage of this expression in England. The statement is so crucial in regard to the history of British India. The notion of commercialising agriculture was made feasible by British knowledge that India's northern plains are very productive. Furthermore, if commercialised, this may be very advantageous for the British people. Alternatively, commercialising agriculture refers to the process of progressively converting subsistence farming into a "production of sales" for customers. Additionally, it said that Indian farmers used to just plant food for their personal use, but that Britishers forced them to increase production for other people. The British developed techniques for growing crops using artificial processes and pushed the majority of Indian farmers to adopt them in order to boost their profit margins. Records indicate that the British were solely responsible for the beginning of commercial agriculture. The national economic growth of the British people saw a great boom as a result. The stable financial condition led them to accept capitalism in all of its manifestations. In addition, there has been a slow but steady advancement in

the social, economic, and technological realms. The development of capitalism gave the British a great deal of power and enabled them to firmly establish control over their many colonies. Additionally, there has been development everywhere, which gives the military more influence.

1 Introduction

Agrarian India is a country. India's main industry is agriculture. In India, agriculture has always been an important source of revenue. Agriculture and farmers are the backbone of the country. 70–72 percent of people still depend on agriculture for a livelihood and their companies nowadays. Natural disasters often have a severe effect on farmers in India since the country's agriculture is so dependent on the environment. The analogy between Indian agriculture and a monsoon lottery illustrates how strongly the nation's agriculture depends on how often it rains. Sometimes too much rain may harm the crops, and other times draughts might cause them to remain dry. Both situations have an effect on agricultural production. The question of how a big population will live in these circumstances arises. The agriculture industry has long been a significant component of the Indian economy. Agriculture is the foundation of the Indian economy. Land tax has

historically been a key source of revenue for the Indian people. The land tax represents "land revenue".

Before the British created a government there, Indian communities were autonomous. Their everyday activities were restricted to the confines of their own villages. In the past, people created as much as they want without thinking about producing more than was required. Prior to British administration, the economy was mostly focused on the trafficking of products. This changed to cash transactions under the British occupation. More than 70% of those who live in rural regions depend on agriculture for a living. However, the agricultural system was not extremely sophisticated. Since it depended only on rain, it was erratic. In these conditions, the inauguration of British rule was certain to have an influence on agriculture. Ever since the British gained control, the situation for farmers has been worse.

Money tied to agriculture started to flow heavily to the British government. The East India Company plan of the British government during its rule was to boost concentrated land revenue. India is mostly an agricultural country, hence land income was a major economic factor. The East India Company imposed rules on Indian agriculture in an effort to plunder the Indian economy as much as possible. These regulations forced Indian farmers to live below the poverty level since they had to pay more than they could make. The Indian farmers were forced to live in terrible poverty and risk going without food as a result of the tremendous pressure this produced.

Both before and after independence, the government has consistently disregarded agriculture. As a consequence, farming remained obsolete and the nation was unable to advance. The British government avoided taking any action that may have aided India's agriculture and instead concentrated only on collecting agricultural taxes. The farmers struggled to provide for their basic needs of food, housing, and clothes since they were so weak. For

farmers, the situation has become worse. Before the establishment of British rule, Indian groups existed in isolation. With the expansion of British rule, the strength and beauty that had formerly made India a unique nation started to fade. Various rural industrial companies were shut down. A sizable percentage of people choose to become farmers. As a result, the agricultural industry was under pressure. With the end of Peshwai in 1818, Maharashtra fell under British rule. The farmers' health has become worse ever since. During Peshwai's rule, many lost their employment, which made it impossible for them to feed themselves. During the early years of British rule, military personnel who wanted to pursue careers in agriculture did so. Many people developed interests in farming, which increased the labour for farmers. The large collection of land tax put the farmers under a great deal of stress. During the British period, landowners, particularly the Watandar and Jhagirdar people, dominated. Natural catastrophes and an unanticipated propensity for agriculture were proving to be losses for the agricultural industry.

2 Litreature Survey

Mughals reigned over India's territory prior to the arrival of the British. "Babar, the founder of the Mughal Empire, defeated Ibrahim Khan Lodi at the Battle of Panipat in 1526. He founded the Mughal dynasty, which reigned over India before to British control.¹ Many rulers governed India, including Humayun, Shershaha Suri, Akbar, Jahangir, and Aurangzeb. Although Babar started the Mughal dynasty, Akbar really started India's government and method of rule.² India was an agricultural society in the Middle Ages and agriculture was its main industry throughout the Mughal era. Most people lived in villages, and agricultural output either directly or indirectly supported their way of life.³ The success and popularity of the monarch of a specific kingdom depended on the land revenue strategy. The farmers of India were won over by Akbar and Shershaha via the implementation of these revenue programmes.⁴ "Mughal kings used a variety of policies to raise money. Additionally, they experimented with a number of methods to collect land income. "The producers received a suitable fraction or somewhat more of

the total land productivity, which was centralised by the various governments. The unproductive class gave all their best to get a significant portion of the output. Such programmes were employed by the ruling elite to generate income.⁵ 2.1.2: The Class of Landlordship: "Even though the landlordship system had received approval from the Mughals and Delhi's sultans, they didn't put it into practise."⁶ Private land ownership, also known as the jamindar and zamindari technique, has existed since ancient times and has been handed down through the generations. In the 17th century, land lordship became a common practise. The phrase first used in the 14th century.⁷ Different rights and benefits are associated with the term "land lordship" in various regions of the nation. A individual who owns a plot of land and cultivates it in a small hamlet or a town was known as a landlord during the Mughal era. ⁸ Irfan Habib, a contemporary historian, claims that "land lordship means an upper rural class and enjoying different rights other than the farmers."⁹ This was the most common use.

In addition to owning property in a certain village or villages, landlords also inherited the right to collect rent from neighbouring properties that were part of that specific village or region. This indicated that although he might collect the money and place it in the treasury, he was not the owner of all the properties that fell within his powers. He used to get his portion of the money collected in returns.¹⁰ The majority of the agricultural land that was obtained by whatever means necessary belonged to landowners hereditarily. These landlords served as the go-betweens between the government and the monarch; it was their main responsibility to collect farmer income and either deposit it in the government treasury or deliver it to Jahagirdar or the local king. "These mediators included the Choudharys, Deshmukhs, Deshpande, Desais, Khots, Mukadam, and Talukadar."¹¹ These landowners and local farmers often had intimate ties to one another via ancestry, race, or caste.

3 Research Analysis

Farmers began to rebel against the system of land taxation. Both the British government and the farmers sought to maintain a steady flow of money. So

they changed this income system quite a little. In 1793, Lord Cornwallis invented the Kayamdharma technique.⁷ He established a long-lasting system of land revenue. In Bengal, Orissa, the North Districts of Madras, and Varanasi district, the Kayamdharma system was put into use. For 10 years, the Kayamdharma technique relied on three key components. He also adjusted the government's portion. Additionally, agreements were formed to provide the British 89% of the land earnings and the landlords 11%.⁸

Serial no.	Administration period	Year	Amount
1	Mirkasim administration	1762-63	64.6 lakh
2	Mirjafar administration	1763-64	76.2 lakh
3	Mirjafar administration	1764-65	81.7 lakh
4	Company of civil first year	1765-66	147.0 lakh
5	Company collection	1790-91	268 lakh

Table number 3.1: land tax collection in Bengal

"We learn from the figures above that the British government also increased land revenue by 80% between 1790 and 1791."⁹ In the years 1790–1791 as well, the British government raised land income twice. According to the British government, if farmers had a clear indication of their income, they would endeavour to enhance their output. "The British government had issued stern

warnings to the landowners to collect land income from the farmers within the allotted period. The government would seize the farmers' land if they didn't pay the taxes. Regarding landlords' access to land earnings, there was no clear understanding. To protect the peace and security, for instance, some rights were stripped from this way. 10 The Kayamdharma system has two primary characteristics. The first was that landlords would acquire land and act as brokers for farmers and the British government. The British government took possession of the ancestral right. Farmers turned became slaves and labour.

4 Meaning and Form of Commercialization:

India's raw materials were in more demand in England every day, particularly cotton, sesame, indigo, tobacco, jute, and oil seeds. Farmers used to get net money payments as soon as the produce was available. Farmers naturally started to accept these yields as a result. So it only made sense that the region underneath the cash crops would grow. This procedure is referred to as "commercialization of agriculture."

1) According to Dhananjay Gadgil, "Instead of developing local agriculture, to develop farming for the sake of sale in the market indicates the commercialization of agriculture or to acquire crops which can give net the payment from the market indicates the commercialization of agriculture."¹¹⁴ 2) "To cultivate land with an eye towards trade or commerce, not only for one's own use or that of one's home or village, but also to obtain profit from the agricultural production by selling it in the markets" ¹¹⁵ refers to the commercialization of agriculture via land cultivation. 3) "A country's agriculture is known as being commercialised if things or agro-production are developed with the intention of making more money by selling them in markets."¹¹⁶ 4) To purchase such agricultural products in greater quantities so that farmers may make the most money possible.

Indian farmers were forced by the British to grow a cash crop. Farmers were required to place a strong emphasis on the outputs that the British needed as raw materials. After the American Civil War, England's mills were forced to rely on India for their cotton needs. Thus,

forcing Indian farmers to grow cotton was unnecessary for them. British required products like tea, sugar, jute, opium, blueish, etc. at the same period. As a result, they forced Indian farmers to accept the same yield. The lucrative crops drew the attention of the farmers as well. Farmers started to take the same products that had higher pricing on the global market as they started to get net cash in their hands. The farmer system of "objects-exchange" came to an end when the British started to retrieve the money.

The impoverished farmers were forced to sell it for more money than they paid when they first purchased it. Therefore, merchants from neighbouring provinces like Gujar, Marwadi, Bohari, etc. who belong to the miser caste (Vaishas) took advantage of this chance. "It is a well-known fact."

Serial no	Agricultural production	percentage
1)	Population	0.67
2)	Total area of land	-0.40
3)	Total crop production	-0.37
4)	Production of food stuff	-0.11
5)	Production of cash crop	-1.31
6)	Production of food stuff per acre	-0.18
7)	Production of cash crop per acre	-0.86

Table 3.2: Percentage (annual growth-1891-1946) of Agricultural Production during British Period:

the castes mentioned above were called by the British from Gujarat to Mumbai.

126 As a result, the British started to squeeze the Indian farmers' finances. Many Marwadis are said to have established many financial credit societies in Amravati; one of them is Dhanaraj, a well-known cotton dealer who has also been cited. They used to engage in gambling and profit-making while buying the whole cotton harvest. 127 In a city like Bombay, these dealers and moneylenders established a monopoly. Agricultural commercialization led to a rise in agricultural income, but a higher revenue tax was imposed as a result. Cotton cost a lot in the Bombay region between 1860 and 1964. At that time, Britain also made the most money. 128 These cash crops were profitable for the wealthy farmers, but they were coarsely ground for the impoverished farmers. There is now a huge disparity between wealthy farmers and poor farmers as a result of agricultural commercialization. The little farmers had a meagre existence. For farming and everyday survival, they had to sell their lands, and eventually they went bankrupt.

5 Conclusion

The analysis of the British government's agricultural policies in Pre-

Independence India reveals that, after their complete settlement in India, the British company government adhered to many of the land revenue laws and, via economic exploitation, achieved a significant profit. The British monarchs placed greater emphasis on the land revenue since, of the overall income, the state received half from land revenue and had room to grow it. The Jamindari, Mahalwari, and Rayatwari systems were used by the British administration to collect a significant amount of revenue tax. Indian farmers were grossly economically exploited. Conditions for the greatest majority of small farmers resulted in a pitifully miserable situation. The farmer would seek a loan with a high interest rate from the moneylenders and pay the tax on time since the tax had to be paid in net cash and they were afraid that if it was not paid on time, the government would confiscate the land. The farmers were powerless since the tax was so high and they were unable to repay it. It was discovered that throughout the British era, farmers were severely exploited. The British government placed enormous taxes on Indian farmers and farms without any connection to them.

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