



An assessment study of land acquisition in West Bengal

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Abstract

Land acquisition has been a key component of India's post-independence development initiatives. The majority of these projects have resulted in significant land use changes, which have displaced and evicted many people and forced them to relocate in other places against their will. Displacement brought on by development results in the loss of economic assets, the breakdown of social networks, the destruction of ancestral property, and in certain cases, even higher rates of sickness and mortality. Therefore, with the help of the West Bengal government in India, this paper aims to investigate further the micro-level effects of agricultural land acquisition on the patterns of livelihood of both genders to the establishment of the industry on the fertile agricultural land in the Asansol subdivision of Paschim Bardhaman district in the early 2000s. In addition to causing landlessness, land acquisition without any rehabilitation policies also led to joblessness among the impacted population, which in turn produced food insecurity and increased workloads for women in the household. The women, on the other hand, work both within and outside the home in frantic attempts to alleviate the burden.

Keywords: Land acquisition, gender, development induced displacement, industry, agricultural land

Introduction

India is becoming one of the biggest economic rivals in the world and is drawing significant sums of foreign investment to the nation. Numerous private sector and multinational corporations have embraced their projects at place cutting location advantage in search of greater economic space. Numerous capital-intensive projects have been undertaken in the areas of heavy engineering, steel, power generation, housing, fertilizer, infrastructure development, urban development, and so forth. These initiatives have undoubtedly increased capital, and they must be implemented in rural or semi-rural regions. In such on the other hand, land acquisition in India refers to the procedure by which the Indian central or state governments purchase land for a variety of infrastructure and economic development projects. The purchase of the land has several repercussions, such as displacement and socioeconomic impacts, particularly on the men and women in the impacted family who lose their jobs. These new projects built for development require large parts of non-developed land. Since it is impossible to find such land close to large cities, the majority of planned regions, which are primarily made up of villages, rely heavily on agriculture as their primary source of revenue. This is when purchasing agricultural land becomes necessary, the influence of land acquisition on women's engagement in income production after losing their family-based traditional jobs has been attempted to be studied in this work. The fieldwork conducted with a group of peasants in the rural Brdhaman subdivision in the Paschim Bardhaman district of West Bengal served as the basis for this study article. This report was completed between January through June of 2024 as a component of the researcher's doctoral work. In-depth observations, interviews, and case studies of the communities impacted by land acquisition were the primary methods used to gather the data. With the use of structured, open-ended interviewing techniques, the demographic and economic

surveys were carried out among every home in the specific village. To fully comprehend the impact of land acquisition on the women members of the impacted families, qualitative data were gathered.

Area and people

The villages of the study area come under the administrative jurisdiction of Asansol-I block of present Paschim Bardhaman district. The Asansol-I block is situated in the western part of the district and is bounded in the north by the Damodar River. On the west and the south of the block lies the Durgapur sub-division while the Asansol Township is located in the east. Although the two major townships of the district are situated almost in the vicinity of this block, it is chiefly an agricultural area with few patches of *Sal* forest. The area is characterized by vast open cultivable lands interspersed with village settlements connected by unmetalled roads. The name of the village which has been studied specifically is Kajora and it is a multiethnic farming village. The village is situated at about seven kilometers from the Bardhaman town which was the district headquarters of erstwhile Bardhaman. This village is located very near to the river Damodar on the east and in the west, lies the eastern railway track which runs between Bardhaman and Asansol railway station.

On the west of Durgapur lies the Raniganj. At the south side of this village, there are Ichapur and Sarpi villages. In the west and north lie the villages Jamuria and Bansra respectively. Except Ichapur, all the other villages that surround Kajora are agricultural villages in which most of the inhabitants depend on agriculture and agricultural related economic pursuits. In Kajora too, the majority of the villagers are dependent on the cultivation of paddy and various kinds of vegetables. In Kajora, there are primarily two kinds of land. In local dialect, they are referred to as "Jal Jami" and "Kala Jami." While the "Kala Jami" is situated close to the home sites and at higher elevations than

the "Jal Jami," the "Jal Jami" grounds are low lying and retain water throughout the rainy season. People primarily grow paddy on the "Jal Jami" during the rainy season. However, throughout the winter, "Kala Jami" is utilized for vegetable farming. Of the entire land under agriculture in Kajora, 48.26% falls under the "Jal" category. The information gathered by the household census survey was used to determine this. Kajora's terrain types are covered in Table 1. To fully comprehends the impact of land acquisition on the women members of the impacted families, qualitative data was gathered.

Land acquisition for Aerocity Andal

In 2012, the heavy industry Aerocity Andal was founded under the Topsi Gram Panchayat's jurisdiction. Approximately 290 tons of sponge iron was produced daily at this factory between 2010 and 2015. Following the founding of Aerocity Andal, the firm constructed a metal road on the western side of the factory to connect it to the national highway.

Table 1: Land Types in Kajora

Land type		Total
Kala Jami (in acres)	Jal Jami (in acres)	
61.89	57.73	119.62
(51.74)	(48.26)	(100)

Note: Figures in parentheses represent percentage out of column total (Ghosh, 2024) ^[5].

After the construction of Aerocity Andal, the company has constructed a metal road on the western side linking the plant with national highway 19 in a location called Andal. The south-eastern railway station line operates on the eastern side of the industry. The Asansol railway station is located just about five kilometers away, while the Bardhaman district headquarters is seven kilometers from this area. In this regard, the researcher remembers that in response to a question on June 1, 2024 ^[5], in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the Land and Land Reforms Minister stated that 217. 23 acres of land had been acquired for the Aerocity Andal (Ghosh 2024 ^[5]: 85). The land acquired for the sponge-iron industry was categorized as "jal some" class in accordance with the traditional classification system established by the Land and Land Reforms Department. The transfers of these lands to the company occurred on various dates throughout August 2015, and notifications 2012 to January 2015. The Land

Acquisition Department set an approval rate of 20,686 rupees per acre. The instances of land acquisition for Aerocity Andal indicate that the Government of West Bengal aimed for a swift acquisition of land for the company, which is why Act-II was utilized for this purpose (Ghosh 2024 ^[14]: 87). The area lies on the bank of the river Damodar which is the largest river of the erstwhile Bardhaman district. Cultivation of paddy (staple food of the district) in the villages under study depends primarily upon rainfall and no systematic irrigation facilities have yet been developed by the government. The villagers residing on the south-eastern bank of the river cultivate a variety of vegetables on the land adjoining their homesteads ("Kala Jami") owing to a very good supply of groundwater tapped through traditional dug wells. But just west of the south-eastern railway track, the groundwater level is not very congenial for cultivation of vegetables. The main agricultural activity on this side of the railway track is rain fed paddy cultivation for about four to six months of the year. Land for the two big private industries had been acquired by the government on this side during 1991-1996 (Goswami and Ghosh 2024; Goswami, 2024a; 2024b; 2024a; 2024b) ^[14].

Table 2 shows pre-acquisition and post-acquisition agricultural landholding scenario of the land loser families in Kajora. After land acquisition, five families among the total number of 99 families became landless which constitutes 5.05% of the total land loser families. The families having less than.5 acres of land dramatically increased from 10 (10.10%) to 28 (28.28%) after land acquisition. It was noticed that even after land acquisition the number of families having.5-1.5acres of land increased from38 (38.38%) to39 (39.39%). But, the families having1.5-2.5acres of land decreased from 23 (23.23%) to 19 (19.19%). Similarly, a good decline was noticed in the number of families having 2.5 acres to more than 5.0 acres of land, the number of families decreased from 28 (28.28%) to 8 (8.08%) after acquisition. On the other hand, the numbers of households within the size category 2.5-5.0+ acres have declined from 6.53 to 4 only. From the above analysis, it can be inferred that there was a steep decline in the amount of paddy cultivation land which consequently brought a decrease in the production of paddy too. On the other hand, the decrease in amount of paddy land and paddy production led to an increase in non-agricultural activities and loss of household level food security (Goswami and Ghosh 2024; Goswami 2013a; 2016) ^[9, 13, 14].

Table 2: Pre-acquisition and Post-acquisition Agricultural Landholding Scenario of the Land loser Families in the Village

Size category of land holdings acres	Before land acquisition	Mean house hold size	After land acquisition	Mean household size
Landless	-	-	5(5.05)	3.60
≤.5	10(10.10)	1.90	28(28.28)	4.21
.5-1.5	38 (38.38)	3.97	39 (39.39)	6.21
1.5-2.5	23(23.23)	6.80	19(19.19)	5.16
2.5-3.5	17(17.17)	7.80	03(03.03)	9.66
3.5-4.5	04(4.04)	8.20	03(03.03)	9.33
4.5-5.0	-	-	01 (01.01)	14.00
5.0+	07(7.07)	9.40	01(01.01)	11.00
Total	99	5.63	99	5.63

Notes: Figures in parentheses represent percentage out of column total (n = 99), n = Total number of land loser families in Kajora.

Case Study

Kajol Bag is a middle aged man who inherited 7.20 acres fertile land from his father. Into which, 3.80 acres was

paddy land and 3.40 acres of land for vegetable cultivation. 2.80 acres of his paddy fields have been acquired for Aerocity Andal. He belonged to Sadgop caste and was an

active participant in the movement against land acquisition. He saved the money in the State Bank. He thinks that his one acre of paddy land and 3.40 acres of vegetable land are blessing for him, because these lands have not been acquired. He cultivates paddy (Paddy land), potato, onion, tomato, cauliflower, etc. and sells in the market. His one son studies in class V and his daughter studies in class VIII.

Socioeconomic impact of land acquisition

The first and foremost consequence conforms to the observation of Michael Cernea which he mentioned in his publications on the “eight major risks” (i.e. landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, loss of common property, marginalization, food insecurity, mortality, social disarticulation) involved in involuntary displacement caused by development projects all over the world (Cernea 1996a; 1996b) [3]. Industrialization in the liberalization decade in Asansol block has undoubtedly led to dispossession of the small and marginal farmers from their principal means of

production. In Table 3, we have made an attempt to quantify the pattern of utilization of the compensation money received by the land loser in the study area. First, it should be mentioned that all the 99 households have received compensation. Second, all the families have utilized the compensation money in more ways than one. So, as the category, any row total is a result of the addition of same household more than once under different categories. As a result, sum of the row total is not equal to the total number households in the sample. This gives safari idea as to how the villagers have tried to compensate their loss of land.

The maximum number of affected households has spent some portion of the compensation money for agricultural purposes (for example, agricultural land, shallow tube wells, etc.), while the second highest number of households has spent some portion of compensation in domestic consumption. Besides these, in this table, it is also clear that 50.50% families deposited compensation money in the bank.

Table 3: Profile of Utilization of Compensation Money by Land loser Households in the Study Area

Compensation category in rupees	Purchase of agricultural land	Purchase of shallow tube well	House building or repair	Domestic consumption	Marriage of family members	Repayment of loan	Bank deposit	Business investment
<5,000	-	10	-	21	14	07	09	02
5,000-10,000	-	12	-	08	08	03	06	08
10,000-15,000	-	14	04	12	-	01	07	-
15,000-20,000	-	09	06	05	-	-	06	-
20,000-25,000	01	04	-	02	03	-	02	-
25,000-30,000	-	09	04	05	02	-	05	-
30,000-35,000	-	01	-	01	-	-	01	-
35,000-40,000	02	04	01	03	-	-	03	02
40,000-45,000	-	01	-	01	-	-	01	-
45,000-50,000	-	01	01	01	-	-	01	-
50,000-55,000	-	02	02	02	-	-	02	-
55,000-60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60,000 <	-	08	07	08	02	-	07	-
Total	03 (3.03)	75 (75.75)	25 (25.25)	69 (69.69)	29 (29.29)	11 (11.11)	50 (50.50)	12 (12.12)

Note: Figures in parentheses represent percentage out of column total (Ghosh, 2024) [5].

After this table, a selected case study in the form of personal narrative would be described in order to highlight the fact and results encountered by the villagers affected by land acquisition for private industries. We would now summarize in the following Table-4 the situation of occupational change that has occurred among the agricultural households of Kajora following acquisition. It is evident from the following breakdown of occupation categories that the proportion of individuals engaged in cultivation has significantly decreased after the land takeover—from 75.19% to a mere 6.99%. However, interestingly, this shift away from agriculture in terms of occupation was not compensated for by a corresponding proportional increase in regular jobs and/or occupations unrelated to agriculture. In fact, a considerable number of Kajora villagers cultivate in “Kala Jami” alongside growing food crops on the unacquired land—the number of individuals in this category has also surged dramatically from 30 to 286, which reveals the tendency of the Sadgop farmers to adapt in this situation of landlessness. The number of holders of permanent positions (e. g., school teachers, government office employees, railway employees, etc.) has increased in Kajora

but none of them get a job in the sponge iron factory as a land loser. Among the contracted workers, there were several individuals who received casual employment in the construction operations of the Sponge iron factory, but a substantial number of individuals were identified to be engaged as agricultural day laborers. Only one new job was observed to develop in the post-acquisition era, and that is the group known as “shopkeeper” who encompasses village grocers, owners of cycle repair shops, and proprietors of fertilizer selling shops.

On the other hand, the most negative and direct result of land acquisition was apparent when we gathered information on the household food security of the land-losing families of Kajora. We have attempted to illustrate the household food insecurity brought about by land acquisition in terms of the villagers' reliance on purchasing the staple food crop from the market. Through field observations and interviews, we learned that nearly all the farmers in Kajora used to eat the paddy they cultivated in their fields. We have not encountered any farmer who sold their paddy in the market. Buying rice for consumption is seen by the peasant families of this area, particularly among

the Sadgop, as an act of dishonor. A competent farmer in this region is one who can sustain his family with the rice cultivated in his fields for the entire year. Nearly all discussions with members of land losing families consistently revealed their despair whenever they had to mention the duration of months they purchased rice from the market for household use. Let us now examine Table 5. However, before we analyze the table, we must point out an

important aspect that indicates a greater number of families in the period following acquisition. This is because quite a significant number of families in the pre-acquisition period have divided into smaller units due to the size reduction process that occurs over time, and acquisition may have accelerated the family fragmentation, but we have not investigated this occurrence since it necessitates a larger sample size and control and treatment group comparisons.

Table 4: Changes in Occupational Pattern among the Land loser Family Members

Occupational pattern	Number of family members in pre-acquisition period	Number of family member in post-acquisition period
Cultivation	379(75.19)	39(6.99)
Vegetable business	18(03.57)	52(9.31)
Cultivation vegetable business	30 (5.95)	286 (51.25)
Regular job	9(1.78)	32(5.73)
Contract labours	68 (13.49)	133 (23.83)
Shopkeeper	-	16 (2.87)
Total	504	558

Note: Figures in parentheses represent percentage out of column total (Ghosh, 2024) ^[5].

Table 5: Changing Pattern of Dependence on Staple Food (Paddy) in the Market among Land loser Families

Months	Number of the families	
	Pre-acquisition period	Post-acquisition period
0	28 (56)	45 (45.45)
1-4	22 (44)	11 (11.11)
5-8	-	31 (31.31)
9-12	-	12(12.12)
Total	50 (100)	99 (100)

Note: Figures in parentheses represent percentage out of column total (Ghosh, 2024) ^[5].

Turning to our main point, we observe that during the pre-acquisition phase, 56% of the total cultivator families were self-sufficient regarding domestic paddy consumption, whereas this figure fell to 45. 45% in the post-acquisition phase. Additionally, in the pre-acquisition phase, there were no families that bought rice for more than five months each year. However, in the post-acquisition phase, it is noted that 43. 43% of families have to buy rice for 5-12 months of the year. We can deduce that the acquisition of rain-fed, monocarp land has diminished the domestic food security of most land-losing families in Kajora 15 years after the land was appropriated for the Aerocity.

Loss of job among the land loser

The researcher has revealed through interviews and direct observation during the agricultural season that all the peasant families of Kajora conducted their agricultural activities with the assistance of family labor along with hired laborers from the village and its vicinity within a range of 4-5 kilometers. These hired workers mainly came from landless tribal families who received payment on a daily wage basis. The agricultural laborers in this village were compensated with Rs. 35/- per day and three kilograms of rice, while the female laborers earned Rs. 30/- per day and three kilograms of rice during 2007 when the researcher carried out the fieldwork. By factoring in the price of three kilograms of rice at the current local market rate, the wage for male and female agricultural laborers amounted to Rs. 70/- and Rs. 65/- respectively, which was significantly lower than the wage rate of agricultural workers (Rs. 101. 23/day) established by the Government of India in 2009. Here, an effort has been made to evaluate the effect of land acquisition on the labor employment pattern in the village. For this aim, we collected data from each land loser family

regarding the number of hired laborers for carrying out various agricultural tasks (e. g. ploughing, harvesting, etc.) on their land prior to and following the acquisition in a specific agricultural season.

The number of hired labourers employed by a cultivator family mainly depended on the number of adult males and the amount of agricultural land owned by the family. The researcher expected that in a situation of land acquisition, the number of hired labourers employed by a particular family would decline irrespective of the number of adult males in the family. In order to test this hypothesis, we have constructed a table in which the amount of land lost by the families is cross tabulated with the average number of hired laborers by those families. We have also constructed two more tables to see the relationship between labour employment pattern and the number of adult working males in the pre- and post-acquisition periods.

From Table 6 and Figure 1, we find that the average of the number of hired laborers in a family has a positive relation ($r=.40$) with the amount of land lost by acquisition, which means that contrary to our expectation, land acquisition has increased the number of hired laborers in a landloser family. One possible reason may be the fragmentation of the extended family which created a shortage in the family labor pool. This is supported by the findings represented in Tables 7 and 8 and Figures 2 and 3, which revealed that while in the pre-acquisition period the number of hired labourers had a negative relation with the number of adult male workers of the family; the former was found to be related positively with the latter in the post-acquisition period. This means that a farmer who lost land through acquisition also faced the shortage of family labour owing to the breakup of the joint/extended family which was found to be an almost inevitable consequence of acquisition. The researcher may

recall here that there were 37 joint/extended families (74%) out of 50 families in the pre-acquisition period, which fragmented into 74 nuclear families within a period of 15-17 years (Majumdar, 2011) [8].

Table 6: Amount of Land Lost vis-à-vis Hired Labour Employment

Size category of land lost	Number of families	Mean of labour employed	Coefficient of correlation(r)
0-.25	28	23.71	
.26-.50	14	24.28	
.51-.75	15	28.60	
.76-1.00	18	33.50	
1.01-1.25	8	31.98	
1.26-1.50	1	40.00	
1.51-1.75	4	24.69	
1.76-2.00	3	33.78.40	
2.01-2.25	0	0.00	
2.26-2.50	1	22.00	
2.51-2.75	0	0.00	
2.76-3.00	3	31.00	
3.01-3.25	0	0.00	
3.25+	4	31.05	
Total	94	31.91	

Table 7: No. of Adult Malevis -à- vis Hired Labour Employment in Pre-acquisition Period

No. of adult male	No. of family	Mean of labour employed	Coefficient of correlation (r)
1	6	90.00	
2	7	74.42	
3	5	46.80	
4	5	47.00	
5	11	38.45	
6	8	27.37	-.00034
7	3	26.00	
8	2	12.50	
9	2	12.50	
10	1	5.00	
Total	50	46.10	

Note: Figures in parentheses represent percentage out of column total (Ghosh, 2024) [5].

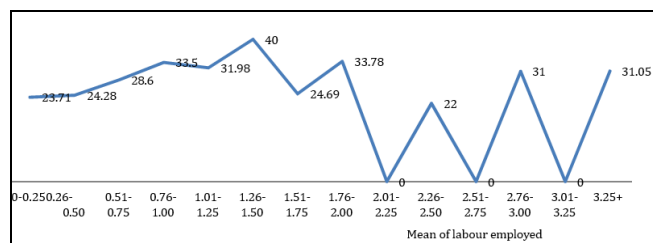


Fig 1: The Amount of Land Lost vis-à-vis Mean of Hired Labour Employment.

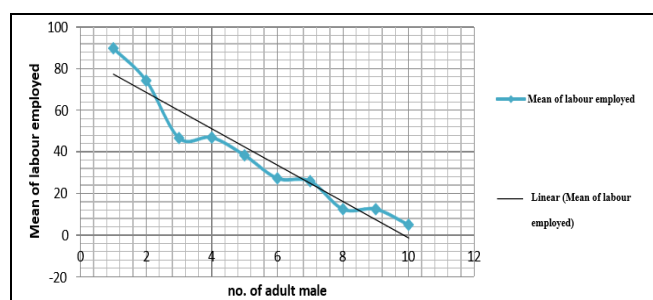


Fig 2: Adult Male vis-à-vis Hired Labour Employment in Pre-acquisition Period.

Income generation activates of women

Traditionally, the Sadgop women in a peasant family perform all kinds of domestic work, like cooking, cleaning of the house, washing utensils and clothes, feeding the domestic animals, and caring for the children and the old age persons. These women also help their men in the storage and processing of the paddy after harvest but they usually do not move out of their houses to do extra-domestic work, like sowing paddy seeds, harvesting of paddy, selling vegetables, etc. For a woman, working outside the house is considered to be dishonorable and it is a shameful act on the part of a woman of this caste to work outside the domestic domain for earning money. We have not found any woman belonging to a family having sufficient land to feed the members of her family to work outside the household. The acquisition of land of the Sadgop peasant families however brought a change as regards the participation of women in extra-domestic work. In the village Kajora, the researcher has found that many wives, widows, and unmarried daughters have moved out of their traditional domestic activities to work outside the household for earning money to provide economic support to the family. The economic crisis created by land acquisition forced the women of these families to do a variety of jobs which were earlier done by the men only. These extra-domestic jobs included selling of vegetables in the nearby market, working as daily labourers in brick kiln factories, and also as agricultural workers in the fields of other landowning families of the village. The researcher has not however found any Sadgop woman who migrated as agricultural labourers to distant villages like the tribal and lower caste women of the region. Engagement in extra-domestic work by the women of the land loser families however did not mean that the women were released from their heavy domestic tasks. Land acquisition in Kajora village has imposed the double burden of workload on the women of the affected families.

Table 8: No. of Adult Malevis-à-vis Hired Labour Employment in Post-acquisition Period

No. of adult male	No. of family	Mean of labour employed	Coefficient of correlation (r)
1	82	28.78	
2	5	39.00	
3	4	56.25.65	
4	3	60.00	
Total	94	30.30	

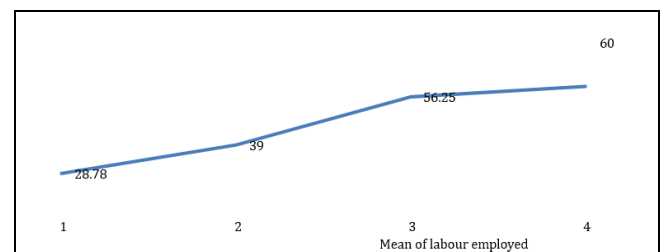


Fig 3: Adult Male vis-à-vis Hired Labour Employment in Post-acquisition Period.

In the following Table 9 and the bar diagram (Figure 4), we have made an attempt to quantify the work participation of women within and outside the domestic domain under the impact of land acquisition. The table shows that even before the acquisition, some of the Sadgop women (11.03%) were

already doing extra-domestic work to provide economic support to their families but the percentage of women doing extra-domestic work was nearly up to 50% of the total number of women after the acquisition. The table also shows that vegetable selling in the market became an important extra-domestic job for the women of the land

loser families. Some of the women were also found to engage themselves in both vegetable selling and daily agricultural work to earn money. The typical case study of one housewife of a land loser family who is now engaged in extra-domestic work is given below to depict the condition of women under the impact of land acquisition.

Table 9: Working Women Engaged in Domestic and Extra-domestic Work among the Land loser Family

Periods	Domestic and extra-domestic work					
	Domestic	Extra-domestic				Grand total
		Vegetable selling	Agricultural labourer with vegetable selling	Day labourer others	Total (extra-domestic)	
Pre-acquisition	113(88.97)	8(6.29)	2(1.57)	1(.78)	3(2.36)	14(11.03)
Post-acquisition	83(49.70)	39(23.35)	33 (19.76)	7(4.19)	5(2.99)	84(50.30)

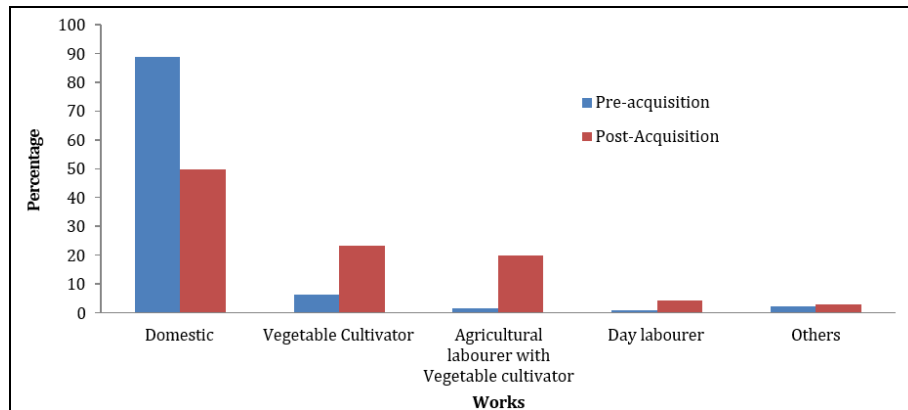


Fig 4: Bar Diagram Showing the Working Women Engaged in Domestic and Extra-domestic Work

Usage of income generated by women

In conventional farming families, women have limited access to cash. In the village of Kajora, women similarly did not utilize or save significant amounts of cash as they were not involved in services or small businesses. The primary income sources for the village women were the sales of eggs from domestic poultry and excess straw and cow dung cakes, which the men of the farming household did not control or own. Typically, the elder women in the family would spend and save the money gained from the sale of these items. The elderly women once provided some funds to the children of the family for their enjoyment and also during family celebrations on the occasion of religious holidays. The situation altered following land acquisition, as many women also started earning money by engaging in

work outside the home. In the subsequent Table 10, we have tried to compare the manner of spending the money earned by women in landlosing and non-landlosing families through quantification. The data indicate that a larger number of women have saved cash through bank deposits, which they earned by performing work outside the home to prepare for future economic challenges. Expenditure of cash earned through acquisition that impacted women represented the second largest category of usage. Notably, the expenditure of money earned by women for household needs has significantly decreased among women from landlosing families, suggesting a poorer distribution of finances for domestic enjoyment (e. g. providing some spending money to the children of the family).

Table 9: Utilization Pattern of Money Earned by Women

Utilization Category	Number of women Land loser	Non-land loser
Bank deposits	63(52.06)	42(35.00)
Loan repayment	45(37.19)	27(22.50)
Household purposes	13(11.74)	51(40.83)
Total	121	120

Note: Figures in parentheses represent percentage out of column total (Ghosh, 2024) ^[5].

Conclusions

The key findings of this empirical study on the employment loss and participation of women towards income generation after land acquisition in the particular area have some interesting observations which are both positive and negative in nature. However, development projects have made the life of the ousters in general of landloser families in particular more miserable and they have been further impoverished and languishing in poverty.

(1) The following are several of the essential concerns that the researcher has identified for consideration by the policy makers and the project resettlement agencies to address in order to enhance the socio-economic situation of the land loser families in the specific area and to take all necessary precautions to prevent such issues from arising in the cases of the ongoing and upcoming projects. Use of compensation funds for agricultural activities: From this research, we can ascertain that the trend among affected households is that they have allocated a portion of the compensation funds for

agricultural activities (such as buying agricultural land, shallow tube wells, etc.), whereas the remaining households have utilized some of the compensation for household consumption as well as savings in the bank.

(2) Changes in occupational pattern: At the occupational level, agriculture, the principal form of occupation in the pre-acquisition stage, was drastically reduced in the post-acquisition period. However, what is worth noting is that this change from agriculture in terms of occupation was not found to be filled in by a consequent proportional increase in occupations unrelated to agriculture. However, a significant shift from paddy cultivation to vegetable cultivation in homestead land and vegetable business is evident in post-acquisition period. This implies that agricultural communities like Sadgop, do not want to dissociate themselves from agriculture related activities to avoid risk in non-agricultural related activities (Das and Ghosh 2016) ^[4]. But, due to lack of agricultural land, some of land loser have joined in non-agricultural works in this area.

(3) Food insecurity: The reduction of available agricultural land has decreased paddy production, impacting food security for families that lost land, which is evident in the significant increase in the number of individuals purchasing rice from the market for half of the year during the post-acquisition period. In an agrarian society, land is a major means of livelihood. Owning cultivable land is seen to be quite prestigious for the peasant families in this region. A good farmer in this area is one who can feed his family with the paddy grown in his field throughout the year.

(4) Increase of agriculture labourer: After the land acquisition, the proportion of the remaining land has been decreased with the labourer. As a result, the number of labourers has been increased in the study area. The wages have been reduced for the excess of labourers in the study area.

(5) Raise the task burden for women both in domestic and external environments: women from landowner families generally do not choose to work as agricultural or daily laborers, whereas some women from land loser families are obligated to do so in the aftermath of land acquisition. This indicates that the compelled participation of women from landloser families in intensive vegetable farming on homestead land generates a certain income, which may help facilitate the involvement of women from non-land loser families in vegetable cultivation, as shown by these case studies.

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