

PREFACE

India has always been a predominantly agricultural country. Agriculture accounts for roughly 35 to 40 percent of the national income and is the principal means of support for nearly 70 percent of the population. Average income in agriculture is well below the non-agricultural average.

Indian agriculture has long suffered from stagnation and neglect. It was only after the attainment of independence that a marked awareness of the need for a conscious approach towards systematic and empirical study of the problems confronting our agriculture were considered and various measures adopted for a speedy solution of the problems. So that maximum benefit could be derived from the existing resources while the work of creating new resources could also progress simultaneously. The problem of poverty in agricultural sector is one of the major problems. The main reason as to why the majority of cultivators are generally poor is that they have uneconomic holdings of cultivable land, resulting in very little marketable surplus out of the low quantum of yield from their petty holdings. Small holder's group in agriculture forms a major portion, with low annual output per man and of a relatively low level of living for

the family, this part of agriculture constitutes an acute problem of poverty. The present work is devoted to study the changing pattern of size of operational holdings in Indian Agriculture.

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