

PREFACE

I am a student of rural origin. My ancestral profession is farming. I had a deep interest in agriculture, which developed my interest toward rural geography and led me to the stage of bringing this research work on rural land use. In connection with my studies I stayed for a quite long time at Baroda that gave me a comprehensive knowledge of its surroundings, and so I selected its two talukas Padra and Karjan for this study.

Though land use started from the day of the advent of man on the earth, it's partly known history would probably have started from the last twelve thousand years, when man learnt the art of raising crops. With the passage of time the improvements have been going on taking place. Growing population must have urged to improve upon the old practices to satisfy the desire of getting more from the meagre known resources.

The exploration and use of animate energy from the animal, killed for food, gave an spurt to the development of agriculture. Thus, the *modus operandi* and *modus vivendi* have been improving over time, with a view to enjoy greater advantages out of their labour.

The industrial revolution which brought scientific methods and in-animate energy in use did not change the fate of the then industries only, but cast its impact on agriculture also. Better implements gave better advantages to the agricultural practices.

Knowledge also simultaneously made advancement, developing wider horizons for research. Eye was set on seeking still better amenities and facilities for a comfortable life to human kind. The land use was not ignored, researches have also been conducted on this phase of activity, as this served the basis of a host of knowledge including geography. Geographers have taken these studies by their own point of view.

The Greek geographers, Roman geographers and earlier than them the Phoenicians, later on Chinese and Arabs have taken lead in this direction. Land use has become an interesting item of research during the pre-mediaeval, mediaeval and modern times. In the modern period rather in the first and second half of the twentieth century leading geographers like Sir Dudley Stamp, Vink etc. and others made a significant contribution in this study. Dudley Stamp has the credit of surveying and mapping the land of England, and wrote an exhaustive treatise namely "The Land of England Its Uses and Misuses". He produced many researchers on this aspect of geography. They have developed scientific concepts, definitions, philosophies and have given right directions to the research on this subject.

In India many geographers have worked on this problem but Aligarh School took a task of research in this direction. It did not remain confined to Aligarh but diffused in other parts of the country and several workers have contributed valuable pieces on land use research.

As regard the definitions and concepts of land use, different geographers have given their varying opinions. To cite an example, Vink, has defined only those land uses made by the sedentary population and excluded nomadic from his definition. No doubt, the land use is the same, what he has said, but the question arises as to why the nomadics are ignored. As such they do not possess their own land, but they use land for their own sustenance either through cropping temporarily, or through their animals. They move around on land in search of pasture and water for their animals covering large distances the year round, and sometimes stay at places for long duration till the exhaustion of the fertility of land, or the water and pasture. This may be termed as the temporary land use for their and their animal's sustenance.

Thus, the present researcher feels that, though, in the very strict sense of sedentary uses of land, some one may feel that the temporary land use may not be called a land use. This, however, cannot be absolutely excluded from the meaning and definition of land use as this type of land use gives sustenance to a section of human kind and their pet animals. Therefore, in the opinion of the present researcher the types of uses of land made by nomadics or temporary users of land should also be included in the comprehensive definition of land use.

The land use study in Padra and Karjan has been quite interesting. A few catalyst of change have been diagnosed and explained in the text, and attempt has been made to justify the objectives set for this research work.

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