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A STUDY ON THE CEILING SURPLUS LAND PROGRAMME  
IN THE DISTRICTS OF THANJAVUR AND COIMBATORE  
IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU, INDIA

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A Dissertation

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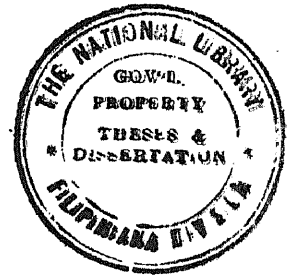
The Faculty of the Graduate School

Xavier University

Cagayan de Oro City

Philippines

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In Partial Fulfillment  
Of the Requirements for the Degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

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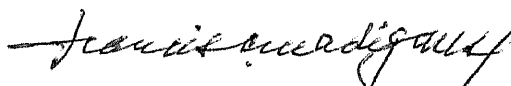
by

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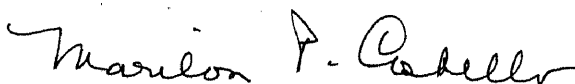
The dissertation entitled A STUDY ON THE CEILING SURPLUS LAND PROGRAMME IN THE DISTRICTS OF THANJAVUR AND COIMBATORE IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU, INDIA, prepared and submitted by G. Lawrence Amal Raj S.J. in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology major in Rural Sociology, is hereby accepted.



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This work is dedicated to my loving niece Nirmal Rita  
and affectionate nephew John Prabu.

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The responsibility for the opinions expressed and for whatever errors remain in this research endeavour is entirely that of the researcher's.

*G. Lawrence S.J.*

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## ABSTRACT

1. Title : A Study on the Ceiling Surplus Land Programme in the Districts of Thanjavur and Coimbatore, in the State of Tamil Nadu, India

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### 8.1. Summary

The Tamil Nadu Government has been assigning lands to the eligible rural poor as a part of land reform programme. In 1991, the researcher collected data in order to study and evaluate the particular Ceiling Surplus Land Programme, a land reform programme by the Tamil Nadu Government. This sample study is restricted to those farmers who were assigned lands by Tamil Nadu Government in 1985-86 along with another sample of nonbeneficiaries.

### The Objectives and the Various Aspects of the Study

1. This study was meant to examine the quality of the assigned land and also the type of development required on the assigned land.

2. It was also meant to find out how much of the assigned lands have been utilized by the beneficiaries.

3. The study also attempted to identify various factors that promoted or hindered the full utilization of the allotted land.

4. It also tried to compare and evaluate the various socio-economic changes that have taken place between beneficiaries and nonbeneficiaries from the point of view of income, expenditure, savings and investments, liabilities and the ability to meet their family requirements.

5. It also attempted to evaluate the CSL Programme in terms of improvement in housing condition, education and employment.

6. It also tried to examine the reasons for success or failure of the CSL Programme and to offer appropriate suggestions to improve the programme.

Besides these above-mentioned objectives, the researcher has also collected data on various relevant characteristics of the sample under study namely, the age, level of education, distribution of caste, occupational pattern, tenancy status, family size, farm size, farm

productivity, annual income, annual expenditure, level of savings and level of liabilities.

In order to understand the CSL Programme from the Government point of view, the researcher collected some data from the Government personnel of the Department of Land Reform. The various questions asked from the Government personnel include the difficulties involved in allotting lands, the availability and utilization of financial assistance under Central Scheme, the areas of Government supervision, their own evaluation of the programme and finally their suggestions to improve the programme.

## 8.2. Methodology

The researcher has made use of descriptive and evaluative correlational analysis. The interview schedule formed the main survey instrument in collecting data from both beneficiaries as well as nonbeneficiaries. Data were collected from 300 respondents from villages under the two Districts of Coimbatore and Thanjavur. The former District represented the dry area, while the latter represented the irrigated area. About 180 beneficiaries (60%) and 120 nonbeneficiaries (40%) were selected through the method of systematic random sampling with equal representation from both irrigated and dry areas.

Five Government personnel belonging to the Department of Land Reform were also interviewed in order to understand the CSL Programme from the Government point of view and also to broaden the perspective of the whole CSL Programme.

The following statistical techniques were employed:

1. Frequencies, Percentages, Means and Standard Deviations were used to describe the respondents and the CSL Programme under study.

2. Chi-Square analysis, t-tests and r-values were also used in this study.

3. Multiple Regression Analysis for farm net income and farm productivity as dependent variables, was also used.

### 8.3 Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

#### a) Findings

1. A majority of the assigned lands were found to be good, cultivable and located relatively near the main road.

2. A high percentage of assigned lands have been utilized by the beneficiaries, as they were found fertile and cultivable.

3. The two major problems of the beneficiaries were the lack of financial assistance and lack of irrigation facilities.

4. The beneficiaries have improved more than the nonbeneficiaries from the point of view of income, expenditure, and liabilities, whenever the farm size was larger, whenever the respondents belonged to higher caste group and whenever the respondents belonged to higher tenancy status.

5. The CSL Programme has helped the beneficiaries very much in terms of improvement in housing condition, education and employment.

6. In general, the CSL Programme, according to the great majority of beneficiaries as well as nonbeneficiaries, was a successful one because the assigned lands were fertile and that those lands were sold to the beneficiaries at a low price.

#### **b) Conclusions**

The Ceiling Surplus Land Programme has been a successful effort on the part of the Tamil Nadu Government, precisely because the landless people have begun to feel that they enjoy the ownership of some portions of land. They feel that their status in society has risen. But still, the conditions of the beneficiaries have not changed much from those of the nonbeneficiaries from the point of view of income, expenditure, savings and liabilities. Especially, the poorest of the beneficiaries who could be

identified in the small farm size group, scheduled caste group and landless status group have not experienced improvement by the CSL Programme. But in terms of housing conditions, education and employment, the beneficiaries have improved much more than the nonbeneficiaries. In short, the CSL Programme has made a perceptible impact on the beneficiaries.

c) Recommendations

1. The land allotted must be equitable and adequate enough for efficient and economic farming; it is suggested that the minimum allotment of land irrespective of its quality must be 1.5 acres wherever it is feasible.

2. Periodic institutional financial support and technical assistance must be made available to all the beneficiaries for a period of five years from the time the lands were allotted them. But, there must be a special attention on those beneficiaries belonging to the small farm size group, scheduled caste group and landless status group who constitute the poorest of the beneficiaries, by way of continuous, appropriate and long term support services.

3. Besides allotting good quality land to the beneficiaries, the Government must also see to it that the land is equipped agriculturally for easy and

immediate cultivation.

4. The Government must help the beneficiaries at the initial stages when land is assigned to them. There should be also greater supervision of the Government over their assigned lands.