CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION
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Agrarian structure is the complex whole in which agriculture does. It is very wide in scope and complex in nature. In simple terms the agrarian structure is understood to mean the institutional framework of agriculture: it includes the distribution of ownership in land; the forms of land tenure and the forms of agriculture employment and; the organisation such as cooperatives, agricultural societies, trade union, credit or advisory services, can be regarded as part of the structure, membership of which is obligatory (Warriner, 1969).

The United Nations (1951) while studying the problems of agrarian structure in under developed countries used the term agrarian structure to mean the institutional framework of agricultural production. It includes the land tenure, the legal and customary systems under which land is owned, the distribution of ownership of farm property between large estates and peasant-farms or among peasant-farms of various size; land tenancy, the system under which land is operated and distribution of produce; the organisation of farm production and marketing; the mechanism of financing agriculture; taxation; and the service such as technical advance and educational facilities, health services and water supply, and communications supplied by government. Thus, according to the U.N. explanation the whole complex in which agriculture operates forms the agrarian structure with prime importance to
land and land relations. To some other, agrarian structure refers to the manner in which man-land relationships are governed (George, 1978). It includes the ways in which land is held and cultivated, and rights and privileges are enjoyed by the different categories of people who have access to land or involved in its cultivation.

Throughout history, patterns of landownership have shaped patterns of human relations in nearly all societies. They have also helped in determining the possibility and pace of economic change. In agrarian societies, land is the primary production asset, the tangible expression of economic status and hence political power. As it forms the property structure, it forms the basis of network production relations which constitute the broad socio-economic framework within which production is carried on.

Thorner (1956) considered agrarian relations as the nature of relations among the various groups of persons who draw their livelihood from the soil. To Thorner, agrarian structure is the sum total of agrarian relations in which each group operates in relations to other groups. All sections of the society are not equally interested in land. The three main categories of interests in land in rural India are the land owners, tenants and landless agricultural labourers. This pattern of land ownership distribution displays three basic production relations in Indian agriculture. The owner cultivator operates his own land. The tenant cultivates land on
lease without owning it and pays rent to the owner of that land in cash or kind as per terms of payment fixed either by custom or law. Landless agricultural labourer sells his labour in market or may work in field for certain share of produce already fixed, as is in the case of a tenant. These three categories are related with each other with certain rights, duties and obligations. History of agrarian structure in India is the history of relations among these three main categories of interest in land.

According to Joshi (1974) the study of agrarian social structure is primarily the study of groups connected with land. The differentiation of right over land leads to the formation of different group. Thus, the property structure constitutes the chief basis of productive activity in rural society. The property structure is further, related to productive activity through an application of labour land. Thus, agrarian social structure is basically in terms of relationship existing between the owner of land and the actual producers.

Beteille (1974) holds a wide conception by recognising the inter-relatedness of the structural elements in agriculture such as technology work, organisation of production and agrarian hierarchy. Following Beteille's conception of agrarian social structure we may state that agrarian structure comprises of land cultivation which requires people, a given technology and inter-relation of these dimensions. The relationship of people to soil in terms of ownership, control and use gives
rise to a set of relations which we shall call agrarian relations. Besides land, technology and a network of relationship among people. There are also other important aspects determining the character of agrarian structure. Ecology is one such aspect, not in itself, but in as such as conditions the use of land and technology. The state or the political organisation is another important element which everywhere determines the condition of landownership, control and use, which in turn depend upon the manner in which land is defined in a given political ideology.

Thus, distribution of land in other words is property structure and production relations arising therefrom exercise a decisive influence on production. A structure which promotes parasitism through multiform exploitation of one section of society by another and causes under-utilization of manpower and inefficient and inadequate use of land, tends to damage and depress production. On the other hand, a property structure which is essentially egalitarian in character, providing opportunities for self-development to all sections of producers and which ensures the maximum utilization of both land and manpower, promotes production and raises agrarian economy as a whole to higher levels (National Commission on Agriculture, 1976). But Indian agrarian structure was considered resistance to change because of the political structure, because of caste, and also because of the proportion of the population which holds some rights in land is fairly large (Warriner, 1969). But how far these observations hold good is to be seen.
Since fifties, attempts have been made to change the agrarian structure to be more conducive for agricultural development with social justice. Objectives set out in Five Year Plans (1950-79) for land reforms have been two-fold, (i) to remove such impediments to increase agricultural production as arise from the agrarian structure inherited from the past and, (ii) to eliminate elements of exploitation and social injustice with in the agrarian system by providing security for the tiller and assure equality of status and opportunity to all sections of rural population. Thus, the laws enacted are supposed to bring changes in the pattern of land distribution, to redefine rights in land, to provide security of tenure and to regulate agricultural rents, share and wages.

Any change in land distribution and ownership is bound to have a direct influence on the social structure of rural society and indirectly on other groups and relations, because agrarian structure of India encloses a world of its own since it is neither a large estate nor a peasant system, but a system of caste (Warriner, 1969), which holds good for this region where ryatwari and mahalwari system of land tenures were prevailing in the form of Bhaichara villages or joint villages. The village community was isolated into a more or less self-sufficient unit. In rural India relations are determined by caste though the economic development modifies them (Cox, 1948).

Technological development has taken place in agriculture since 1966. New agricultural technology, i.e., high-yielding
varieties seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, mechanisation of farm operations and other improved practices were introduced in Indian agriculture two and half decades back which are bound to affect work relations, attitudes and outlook, values, norms and the whole complex of habitual responses and practices, in other words the whole institutional complex. In the present context the interstices and conflicts in changing social hierarchy bases, displacement of artisans and tenants, demands for labour and its supply; the roles, status, mobility, and transportation and communications, are the very meet of the relations between technology and social change.

Therefore, in Indian agriculture the structure of production techniques indicates that the techniques of farm production differ from one another. The three tier structural composition of production relations already recognised are primarily institutional in character (Mishra, 1977). The dual system, peasant and capitalist, have two techniques of production hired-labour and family labour. In capitalist farming objective is to maximise surplus whereas in small peasant farming of family labour it is to maximise total produce. Technique of production and composition of the owner-tiller-labour relationship would vary from one category of farmer to another depending on the size of land holding, social class structure and level of technology.

Ever since Haryana came into existence as a separate state, spectacular achievements have been made by the state in
almost all walks of life. Agriculture is the most predominant pursuit and provides livelihood to about 70.00 per cent of the population. Agriculture was a way of life for the people, but the introduction of HYV seeds in mid sixties followed by other technological changes have revolutionised agriculture. The area under high yielding varieties increased remarkably from mere 0.17 lakh hectares in 1966-67 at 27.10 lakh hectares in 1991-92.

The area under high yielding varieties now covers 95.00 per cent of area under wheat and 85.00 per cent of area under rice crop. Net area irrigated has also doubled and number of tubewells/pump sets has also increased twenty times. Similarly, number of tractors has increased from 4803 to 1,33,418. Fertilizer has been the most crucial input for higher production of crops and its use has increased by more than 47 times. Similarly, plant protection was provided by 98 lakh hectares in 1990-91 as against only 19.17 lakh hectares in 1966-67. The consumption of technical grade pesticides has gone up from 273 metric tonnes in 1966-67 to 5,265.90 metric tonnes in 1991-92. These elements of green revolution have increased agricultural production manifold which has also affected the traditional rural economy and rural social relations.

Veblen (1922) explicitly sought to show how social conditions are influenced directly by technological conditions. According to him that work involves determines men's habits and ways of thinking. It is these influences which shape men's
thoughts, their relations with one another, their culture and institution of control. Any change in techniques requires continual readjustment and cultural adaptations, for new tools and machines impose new routines, require fresh skills.

In Haryana, technological changes in agriculture have been apparent and agriculture being the main stay of people is bound to influence the traditional social relationship specifically of agrarian categories directly and intimately involved in adoption, use and affects of technological inputs in terms of the Green Revolution. Thus, from sociological point of view, it is necessary to study the changes in agrarian relations under the forces of technological innovation in this region.

Discussed in review of literature we have the ownership of land and cultivation status as the common elements, modes and motive of production are influenced by technological development in agriculture. Therefore, landownership, its cultivation and use of new agricultural technology are of much relevance in studying agrarian relations in present context. A study of the nature and type of this relationship would require, firstly, identification of the main agrarian classes, for example, landlords, tenants and labourers. Secondly, it would demand an examination of inter-relationship of the various classes under the new technological development in agriculture.

Studies have not emphasises the pure agrarian categories which have given rise to various forms. Therefore, the present study has specifically focussed on these agrarian categories.
Similarly, technological inputs and changes in agriculture in relation to these categories specifically draw the attention for discerning changes in their relationships. Following are the specific objectives of the study:

**Objectives of the Study**

1. To discern the traditional agrarian categories and nature of their relationship.
2. To examine the impact of Green Revolution on agrarian relations.
3. To know the emerging trends in agrarian relations.

**Significance of the Study**

Agriculture continues to be the principal economic activity in India even though the country has experienced significant industrial and urban development in recent years. The importance of agriculture in the country's life is well borne out by the fact that it was a principal occupation of sixty five per cent of India's total labour force in 1991. According to the 1991 census of India, 110.6 million of the workers were cultivators and another 74.6 million were agricultural labourers. Together they formed about 65.00 per cent of the total workers. In the rural areas, 74.3 per cent of the total population depended on agriculture as a major economic persuit in 1991. In India, agriculture is not merely an occupation or a business, it is a way of life which for centuries has shaped the thoughts and outlook of the rural
people. All these facts more than justify the continued interest of social scientists on Indian rural life in general and agrarian relations in particular.

The present work can possibly contribute some concrete knowledge of specific nature and may be helpful for practical purposes or for better understanding of the development problems in changing circumstances. More precisely, the following are the areas where the present work can extend its knowledge for practical consideration.

It will provide insight (village level) into the role of "habitat condition" on the patterning of agrarian social structure and relations. This may help to know the casual association between habitat and nature of production relations and may lead to intra-district and zonal variation in social relations in agriculture, besides the thought for sustainable agriculture and ecology. At village level, how far the institutional factors along with rural norms, values, customs and ideologies regulate the agrarian relations is a question of practical significances. For the policy makers of rural reconstruction the findings of the study may provide some idea of the functioning of non-economic factors in economic development.

The study of agrarian relation is primarily the understanding of quality of social relationship in agricultural communities. But from development perspective, the nature of interaction between established pattern of relations with
modernization process is significant. In particular this inter-
action determines the quality of adjustment of rural people to
the system sanctioned by the states and those sanctioned by
community. This concrete observation from the concept of
"adjustment relations" may also be helpful to the national
thinking on the new strategy for rural planning.

The immediate consequences of the interaction between
modernization and agrarian social structure had direct relevance
with development process. Whether this interaction is creating
more cohesion, tension and disintegrate in the sphere of inter-
personal relations or at the level of community structure, is a
matter of practical significance. Thus, the present research
might contribute measures in providing information about the
changing pattern of agrarian relations in the context of moder-
nization process and emergence of new classes.

Analysis of agrarian structure and relations would
further help the planner and policy makers to give a thought to
Dunkel proposal from various angles; would also draw the
attention for egalitarian distribution of land; desired changes
under the tenets of liberalisation, privatisation and globali-
sation; and for diversification of agriculture and agribusiness.