INTRODUCTION
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Presently, Rajasthan is the second largest state of India. In colonial India, as the result of Treaties of 1817-18 between British East India Company and Rajput States, a new era began in Rajasthan. Under the new system, the British exercised power without responsibility while the Rajput rulers were left with responsibility without power. Along with the political reorientation, the process of sub-ordination and integration of the economy of Rajput States with colonial economy was started in Rajasthan. This process of change and transformation was spread over a whole century and every institution underwent a change, and modified to suit the need of colonial economy. With this background, the present work aims at to study the trends and patterns in the movement of prices of food crops and agricultural products other than food crops.

The present work is based on the various primary and secondary sources, particularly the primary sources available in Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner in Rajasthani like Nirkh Bazar, Arhsattas, Chittis, Bahis etc.

**Primary Sources:**

The Archival, non-archival, numismatic, inscriptions and Archaeological data form the back-bone of the historical research for all the periods. Rajasthan is extremely rich in all the five categories of sources. The State Archives at Bikaner possess enormous material both in Persian as well as
in Rajasthani. Besides this, the region is also rich in private collections possessed by many business families, jagirdars and revenue officials. The bardic literature (such as the khyat and baat) is enormous which provide very relevant information.

This vast archival material was first utilized by Syed Nurul Hasan and Satish Chandra. The information on Agricultural production, food grain prices and rural society was tapped in two subsequent studies on Amber region by S.P. Gupta and Dilbag Singh. Similarly the material on Jodhpur (Marwar), Kota and Bikaner was studied by G.D. Sharma, B.L. Bhadani, Masanori Sato, Madhu Tandon Sethia and G.S.L. Devra respectively. These studies provided a new insight into the agrarian economy of 17th to 19th centuries. They had studied the structure and stratification of the village and society and traced the change taking place in agricultural production, non-agricultural taxes, revenue demand and prices.

The Archival sources provide us valuable data on the qasbas and cities. The information on them is related to number of houses of different categories of people, taxes, markets, trade and commerce. The information contained in the

source throws ample light on the state’s growth and development of towns and cities.

The present work is entirely based on the archival records preserved at Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner. These records are as follows.

**Nirkh Bazar:**

*Nirkh Bazar* gives the market rate. *Nirkh Bazar* was prepared by the *panch mahajans* (association of merchants) of the *qasba*. These records give the daily market rates prevailing in *pargana*, and in a *qasba* market (township) for all kinds of commodities. It included the prices of agricultural (*mal-o-jihat*) and non-agricultural (*sair-o-jihat*) products along with gold (*kundan*), gold *muhar*, silver and different kinds of *taka* (copper). *Nirkh Bazar* shows four rates of various commodities recorded at four times in a day.\(^4\) Further we can say that, they provide us information about rates for the whole year (for all twelve months). It included the prices of bullion, agricultural and non-agricultural products along with different items under the head *kirana*.

Our documentary evidence is not only large in volume but varied in nature. It may be classified as follows:

a) Document giving information of various *qasbas* villages and their details about area under crops, tax on individuals etc.

b) Documents providing accounts of incomes and expenditure at the *qasba* village and *pargana* level.

\(^4\) *Nirkh Bazar, pargana sawai Jaipur of different year.*
c) Agricultural production in *kharif* and *rabi*, land tax, peasants, their number of houses, ploughs and amount of tax collection, and sometimes the name of the traders.

d) Non-agricultural taxes under different heads such as *sair-o-jihat*, *kholari*, *jamadari* etc.

The *Nirkh Bazar* papers are in *Tauji* form. Its size is between 4” to 5” in breadth and 6” in length. These are arranged *pargana* wise and are in good condition, although some documents have been damaged. Here the list of *Nirkh-Bazar* used is given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pargana</th>
<th>Year (V.S.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Naraina</td>
<td>1842/1785 A.D., 1845/1788 A.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Toda Rai Singh</td>
<td>1840/1783 A.D., 1844/1787 A.D., 1849/1792 A.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Khandari</td>
<td>1847/1790 A.D.</td>
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**Arsattha:**

The *Arhsatta* was the most useful of the revenue records. It is obvious that the word is really from the Hindi word *Arhsatta*, sixty-eight, it being supposed that it was compiled from the daily entries from as many as sixty-eight (*arhsatta*) documents.\(^6\) These documents are invariably mentioned in the *arhsatta*, though they do not actually reach the number 68. Several types of *arhsatta* compiled such as the *arhsatta-jama 'bandi, arhsatta -mujmil, arhsatta khazana, arhsatta imarat kharch, arhsatta-bhomi, arhsatta-potadar, arhsatta-qarar-baqi, arhsatta jama’ kharch, arhsatta-babat ijara, zamindara bhomi etc.\(^7\)*

*takhmina* and *khasra.*\(^8\) The *arhsatta mujmils* are ledgers of receipts and disbursement maintained *pargana* wise. They furnished revenue information to the *diwan’s* office related to the *pargana*. This includes number of *qasbal* villages, villages in *jagir, inam, bhomi* and *khalsa*, the total assessment for the *pargana*, income expenditure and the *bagi* etc.\(^9\) The *arhsatta bhomi zamindari* contains detailed lists of the items of taxes under various heads of the *bhoomi* and *zamindari* areas.\(^10\) The *muwazana* records were compiled in the early 19\(^{th}\) century on the basis of information given in the various categories of records such as *arhsatta, awarija, jamabandi, khasra, dastur-ul-amul* and *chitthis.*\(^11\)

They furnished information on *qasbas* and villages in the *pargana*. The *pargana* level *jamabandi* records were prepared with the help of the *chaudharis* and the

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\(^7\) Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner.
\(^8\) Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner.
\(^9\) *Arsattha mujmil* of different years.
\(^10\) *Arsattha bhoomi* and *zamindari*.
qamungos. The documents are very useful in ascertaining the magnitude of land revenue (mal) under *batai* and the incidence of *jihat* taxes in a *pargana*. The *dasture-ul-amal* and *amal dastur* are a body of rules and regulations for the guidance of revenue officials.\(^{12}\) The *yaddashtis* (memoranda) were compiled by hereditary village officials (*patels* and *patwaris*) and state functionaries. They offer us the number of plough and bullocks held by each peasant in *qasba/village* and also the extent of cultivation in a *pargana* comprised of village and *qasbas*.\(^{13}\)

The *arhsatta rahdari* are in *Tauji* form. These contain useful information about commercial taxes, like *rahdari*, *vatwali* etc., on the goods passing through the territory of Jaipur state. From these records we also know about the nature of internal trade and the *ijara* system. The *Arhsatta jama-hal* of *pargana* Sawai Madhopur has been used in this work. Their evidence on Agricultural and non-agricultural taxes under the heads (*mal-o-jihat*,\(^ {14}\) *sair-o-jihat*\(^ {15}\) and *sawai jama bandis*\(^ {16}\)) is of extreme importance. Remaining series of documents provided supplementary information related to the topic.

The data contained under the *sair-jihat* are of extreme importance for the study of the non-agricultural section. The *sair-jihat* consists of various


\(^{13}\) *Ibid.*


\(^{15}\) Irfan Habib, op. cit., p.110-300; Also explained in the context of Rajasthan by S.P. Gupta, op. cit., p. 156.

\(^{16}\) *Ibid.*

Literally *sawai jama bandi* means revenue realized in addition to *jama-bandhi.*
customary fees or taxes collected from the residents of a qasbal village, such as transit duties, house taxes and taxes on animals etc. It also includes certain impositions, allowances or remunerations payable to certain local officials and grain merchants. The arhsatta of the different qasbas of 18th – 19th century provide detailed break-up of the sair-jihat.

BIKANER RECORDS (Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner)

Bahis:- These are the account records.

Zakat-Bahis – The Zakat-Bahis constitute the most important category of Bikaner Records especially the Zakat-Bahis No.4 and 81A. They give us valuable information about the inter-regional and inter-provincial trade, trade-routes, commercial taxes, and the names of the people of different communities engaged in trade.17

Lakha-Bahis: There are a number of Lakha-Bahais in Bikaner records of which Lakaha Bahis No.49, 129, 232 and 241 have been found very useful for the present study. Lakha bahi No. 241 gives us information about the hundi system where as Lakha Bahi No. 49 and 232, record and names of noted merchant of Bikaner engaged in the inter-regional and inter-provincial trade.

JODHPUR RECORDS (Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner)

Sanad Parwana-Bahis: – There are about 156 Sanad Parwana-Bahis in the Jodhpur Records preserved in the Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner. Of these 35 Bahis, i.e. from Bahi No. 1 to 35, which are related to the period under review,

17 Zakat-Bahis, Pargana Jahazpur, V. S. 1871/ 1814 A.D.
have been used in the present study. These Bahis provide us useful information about the various handicrafts carried on in Marwar, condition of the artisans and their wages, inter-regional and inter-provincial trade, trade-routes, commercial taxes, currency and Hundi system, fairs, marketing system, Postal system, means of transport, ijara system, and the condition of peasants.18

JAIPUR RECORDS

Rojnama–Chabutara – Kotwali – The Rojnama-Chabutara-Kotwali records are arranged Pargana wise. The Rojnama-Chabutara-Kotwali of qasba Averi and Tonk have been extensively used. These records help us to know about the taxes, like mapa, kayali, amad, and nikasu collected on a platform in front of the office of kotwali in the qasba.19

Yaddashti-Dastur Amal-Sair-Chabutar –Kotwali – From these records we come to know about the transit duty collected from the traders passing through the various Parganas of Jaipur; the weekly hats held in the territory of Jaipur, and the chungi lived on goods brought in and taken out of a Qasba. In this work the Yaddashti-dastur-Amal of Pargana Toda Bhim are used.20

KOTA RECORDS (Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner)

The Kota records are arranged bhandar wise. There are about 24 bhandars. Each Bhandar has several bastas. In every basta, has different a number of bahis, such as zakat-bahis, jama-bandi bahis, Bohro-ki-Lekha-Bahis,

18 Bahi No. 9 Margshri Vadi No. 3, V.S. 1826/1769 A.D., has been consulted by me.
19 Rojnama–Chabutara Kotwali, of qasba Averi, V.S. 1753/1696 A.D.,
20 Yaddashti–Dastur Amal-Sair–Chabutar–Kotwali, pargana Toda Bhim, V.S. 1798/1741 A.D.
Tan-Kharch-Bahis, Talik-Bahis etc. The records from bhandar no. 1 to 8 are well arranged but the records of the bhandars from 9 to 22 are not properly arranged. In this work the records of the following bhandars have been consulted:

- Bhandar No.2/2, Basta No.128, V.S. 1871 (1814 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.3, Basta No.3/2, Talik-Bahi, V.S. 1863 (1806 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.3, Basta No.2, Talik-Bahi, V.S. 1870 (1813 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.4, Basta No.2, Zakat-Bahi, pargana Baran-Barod, V.S. 1871 (1814 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.4, Basta No.3, Zakat-Bahi, qasba Manoharthana, V.S. 1871 (1814 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.4, Basta No.3, Zakat-Bahi, pargana Jahazpur, V.S. 1872 (1815 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.4, Basta No.3, Zakat-Bahi, qasba Manoharthana, V.S. 1873 (1816 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.4, Basta No.3, Zakat-Bahi, pargana Jahazpur, V.S. 1871 (1814 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.7, Basta No.53, V.S. 1865 (1808 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.8, Hasil-Bahi, pargana, Baran-Barod, V.S. 1838 (1781 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.8, Basta No.19, Zakat-Bahi, Jhalawar, V.S. 1861 (1804 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.8, Basta No.30, Zakat-Bahi, qasba Manoharthana, V.S. 1884 (1827 A.D.)
- Bhandar No.14, Basta No.69, Jamabandi Bahi, V.S. 1856 (1799 A.D.)
These records are a collection of loose papers (many thousand in number) kept in bundle on the basis of years. These are small size papers. The Chitthis (letters) were written by the Diwan of Jaipur State to the administrative officials of the pargana, amils mainly, also the amin and the faujdar. Chitthis as primary source of information are invaluable in details and variety of information which ranges from the working of the jagirdari and Zamindari system, the pargana and village administration, structure and functioning of the village society, general agrarian system at the village and the pargana levels, rural disputes, the method of arbitration and adjudication to the structure and organization of trade, commercial practices, the position and role of the mercantile community and the rural urban interaction. The attitude of the State towards different social groups is reflected in the Chitthis. Chitthis are available for the entire state under the Jaipur Raja.
In the modern works, S. P. Gupta’s book, 'The Agrarian System of Eastern Rajasthan (c. 1650-c. 1750)', is important in which he has broadly explained agrarian conditions of the Eastern Rajasthan in the Mughal period. Thus it helped me to know about the background prior to the 19\textsuperscript{th} century Rajasthan. Another work by Dilbagh Singh titled as, ‘The State land lords and Peasants Rajasthan in the 18\textsuperscript{th} Century’ also covers the Mughal period but gives good information. Then the remarkable work was done by Malti Saxena whose book titled as ‘Impact of the British Sovereignty on the economic conditions of Rajasthan’. From this work I got much information regarding the period under review i.e., of 19\textsuperscript{th} century Rajasthan. The other authentic work is, History of the Jaipur City, written by Ashim Kumar Roy, and is also valuable to some extent for the present study.

In our study, ‘The Study of Movement of Prices in Rajasthan during the 19\textsuperscript{th} Century’ I have divided it into six chapters besides the Introduction and Conclusion.

In the first chapter, an attempt has been made to furnish the Geographical and historical background of Jaipur, in addition to it, Geopolitical conditions of the area, its topographical features, its climate etc. have been briefly but in the historical prospective analyzed.

In the second chapter of the present study I have tried to explore about the various agricultural products of Rajasthan viz, rabi and kharif crops and their total production per year. Majar food crops are taken into account. Then
the various means and methods of irrigation through different resources of water have also been discussed. The role of state government of that region is also highlighted. Then I have also discussed the famines occurred in Rajasthan during the 19th century and their causes.

In the third chapter, we took notice about the variation of prices of different food crops. Although many records are not available for the whole of the 19th century and for the entire area, trend in prices is seen from the available records.

In the fourth chapter we tried to explain, 'The Price movement of agricultural products other than food crops'. The Prices are shown through the various tables and graphs arranged systematically on the basis of various contemporary records.

In the fifth chapter of this work, an attempt has been made to highlight the usage of currency (coinage) during the 19th century in Rajasthan In the last (sixth) chapter of the present work, effort has been made to highlight about the, 'Land Settlement of the area during the study period'. In this chapter we have tried to show the various means and ways of revenue collection.