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Literary Survey of Socio-Economic Structure in Eastern Rajasthan: A Case Study of Malarna

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Abstract— This document gives formatting guidelines for authors preparing papers for publication in the International Journal of Recent Development in Engineering and Technology. The authors must follow the instructions given in the document for the papers to be published. Jaipur as a prominent state during medieval as well as modern period marked it as historical significance. Thus, expanding the scope of regional historiography in Rajasthan. This development has attracted historians to explore and decipher the rich content of regional primary evidence available. However, despite its significance, major part of Rajasthan's regional primary document, particularly sources on economy remains underexplored due to the limited number of studies focusing on archival sources. Pioneering scholars utilized significant segments of Rajasthan's vast archival resources, still a substantial portion of these documents remains untapped. Moreover, this research will attempt to deep detail study on rural economy and social practices of Rajasthan and serve as bridge across by delving into local documents written in the Rajasthan language, thereby uncovering fresh dimensions of the region. By examining the sources, the study seeks to offer new insights into the economic and social strategies and administrative practices that contributed to the prosperity of eastern Rajasthan during the late medieval times.

Keywords—Malarna, Archival source, Eastern Rajasthan, Rural economy, society

I. INTRODUCTION

The pre-modern Rajasthan presents a complex and multifaceted historical landscape, characterized by significant shifts in administrative structures, rural social and agrarian transformation over time. To comprehend this transformative phase requires an ample study of rural area of different villages in Rajasthan, which can offer crucial detail of rural agrarian society existed at that time. However for this purpose significant core part of eastern Rajasthan Malarna district, has been taken to investigate at micro level. Malarna considered as core part of eastern Rajasthan, mentioned in primary sources of Mughal times such as *Ain-i-Akbari* and Rajasthan sources as well. It also reflected in the works of numerous historians of modern times. *Ain-i-Akbari* gives reference about the area 172,639 bighas and 3,299,241 collected revenue in dams.¹

This research aims to take a deep survey and take out untapped information comprised in these documents to cover various villages of *pargana* Malarna and highlight different aspect of rural economy and social perspectives.

Pargana Malarna, situated in eastern area of Rajasthan, Sarkar Ranthambore, suba Ajmer. Jaipur rulers acquired this area as watan Jagir from Mughal emperor in return of their services rendered to Mughals. We do find references of mentioning this paragana in farman and vakil's report, such as Son of Mirza Raja Jai Singh, Raja Ram Singh Kachhwaha, who held a rank 5000/5000 and had area in Jagir, viz; Amber, Bahatri (Baswa), Niwai, Hindaun, Phagui, Nihar, Malarna etc.ii Raja Bishan Singh had of Amber, Baswa, Phagui, Niwai and Sobner in jagir in 1688 A.D.iii and Pargana Malarna restored to him on 17th September 1689, in return of his operations against the jats, were appreciated by Aurangzeb.iv

This research draws upon significant regional sources, Arhsattas, Chithis, jamabandis, Arzdasht, taqsim etc. Jaipur records, specifically focusing on Malarna district of eastern Rajasthan. Documents contained statistical detail revenue charges, nature of assessment, food grains, commercial crops, land size, non-agrarian duties, and total income generated. Through this analysis, the research endeavours to provide a fresh detail of various villages of *pargana* Malarna. The rest of the paper is organised as follows. Section 1 slight introduction of paper, section 2 of the paper elaborates on the extensive archival data referred to for this study and research methodology. Section 3 comprised general detail concerning rural economy. Section 4, social perspective. Findings are summarised in the last section of paper. Wherever a primary source needs to be cited and meaning for regional words, the details are provided in endnotes. Illustration of samples of document mentioned in the appendix section.

II. LITERARY ARCHIVAL SOURCES

First gone through significant related regional sources, preserved in Rajasthan State Archive in Bikaner. Made analytical approach to statistical detail contained in *Arhsattas* at the same time other sources examined as well.



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Information collected villages wise, and categorised into several topics. Detail regarding crop cultivation, revenue charges, area size total income taken from *Arhsattas*. Information of climatic condition, rainfall situation, percentage of cultivation and officials involved in local administration taken from *Arzdasht* and nature of land, peasants, and land holders from *chithhis*.

Arhsattas are ledgers of receipt and disbursement, which were prepared *pargana*-wise. Significant documents to work on economy of Rajasthan because it gives income and expenditure of each *pargana* along with details for every village.^v In Present paper, an attempt has been made to analyse *Arhsatta* of *Pargana Malarna* belonging to various yaers, likewise V.S 1787/ A.D 1730.^{vi} Document contained valuable statistical information regarding Agricultural productions, Crop patterns, taxation, Prices of Commodity, revenue charges, levies, and trade items etc.

Chithis or letters, written by the *diwans* (chief administrative and revenue officials) to subordinate administrative officials at the *pargana* level, particularly the *amil*. *Arzdashts* written by amils, faujdars and other official who posted in various *pargana*, have large amount of political, social and economic aspects. It also provides essential information about rain condition in *parganas* and soil fertility. *Jamabandis* provide a detailed account of the revenue assessment for an individual village or *pargana* for a single harvest or both harvests (*kharif* and *rabi*). Mostly written in Rajasthani language (*dundhari*) and dated as Vikram samvat (V.S). To ensure a consistent comparison, dates can be converted to the Gregorian calendar by deducting 57 years. While some older texts are dated using the *Fasli* calendar, others follow the Hijri era, which is based on the Islamic lunar calendar.

Research Outlines

- Nature of data comprised in documents
- Dimension of land and food Productivity in different villages of Malarna
- Significance of area to taken ample research on rural society of eastern Rajasthan
- Rural stratification in society and pattern behind ownership of land in village
- Types of religious land grants and other grant
- Revenue assessment and over all collection samples from two significance villages of Malarna.
- Total revenue collection divided between agrarian as *mal-o-jihat* and Non-Agrarian taxes as *sair-i-jihat*
- Non-agrarian taxes, other miscellaneous taxes including residential, grazing, and service taxes under *siwai-jamabandi*.

Sample of two villages of Malarna Achalpur and Areevpur, have been taken for detail analysis of whole process

III. RURAL ECONOMY

Agrarian society of Rajasthan was more innovative to produce considerable size of agricultural commodities produced by the invention of landed property rights and their allocation to settled farmers who contributed for large productivity. Extended cultivable land noticed and multiple crop cultivation, including food grains, cash crops as well as trading commodities, which resulted in large amount generated from taxation. This explains how dry interior regions of Rajasthan have appeared more innovative and progressive.

As far as land revenue is concerned, define as mainstay of finance and much attention had been given to extend it. Income generated through land revenue reflects in political circumstances and economic prosperity of the different region at the respective time of agrarian growth. At the same time difference in the fertility of soil and variation in climate had a considerable impact on agricultural production. Agrarian system of concerned area shows similar kind of system of Mughal with slight changes at village level.

Mal-o-jihat was the main land tax which was collected from various crop productivity and charges varied on the basis of significance of crops as well as land rights enjoyed by cultivators. For this purpose, sample of two villages of *pargana* Malarna, **Achalpur** and **Areevpur** have been taken for detail analysis. It shows two methods of assessment *zabti (naqd)* and *jinsi (batai)*, *Zabti* system signified assessment of land revenue in cash rates fixed on each crop per *bigha*, and in the *Batai* or *Jinsi* method revenue was realized in kind or sharing or division of grains.^{vii} Harvested grain was weight, after that state share was taken in kind or cash as well, fixed share of state was extracted from the peasants. *Mal-o-jihat* used to be collected under two categories under *Naqad* (cash) and *jinsi* (kind).^{viii}

The *Arhsatta* denotes main head of taxation *muqarara Jama*^{ix} which further sub divided into *hal-sal*^x and *baqaya*^{xi}. Further, the *halsal* is separated into two parts *hasbul mufasal*^{xii} and *hasbul wasul*^{xiii}.

Hasbul mufasal is additional divided into two heads under which the various taxes levied by the state, (i) *muafiq Jamabandi*^{xiv}, and (ii) *siwai jamabandi*^{xv}.

To understand the total pattern see the figure 2. The pattern and magnitude of taxation can be gathered by a proper study and analysis of large number taxes of charged on various trade items and food crops, has shown in statistical data consisted in *Arhsatta*.

A. Village Areevpur, Glimpses of Revenue Assessment Methods and Production

The entire Here we have attempted to understand the significant aspects such as cultivated area under each crop

production, rate of tax on various food crops and trade items, under zabti assessment.

For this study we have consulted the area in village Areevpur of Pargana Malarna. Information structured in separate points deal with topics such as zabti, batai, kharif and rabi harvest. Document denotes information with the heading such as, Jama Parnati Hal, Muwafiq Jamabandi Rayyati, mauza Areevpur, of Pargana Malarna V.S 1787 AD 1730.xvi .

TABLE I
COLLECTION OF TAXES ON VARIOUS ITEMS, UNDER ZABTI ASSESSMENT, ILLUSTRATION HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM VILLAGE AREEVPUR OF PARGANA MALARNA¹⁷.

Crops	Area (<i>bighal/biswal/biswansi</i>)	Rate (<i>Rupee/Aana/Paisa</i>)	Total (<i>Rupee</i>)
Sugarcane (<i>Varh</i>)	20.25/4	3/4/-	Rs.63
Rice (<i>Saali</i>)	55.50/4	1/-/-	Rs.56
Vegetables (<i>Sabzi</i>)	1.50/2	1/4/-	Rs.02
Cotton (<i>Van</i>)	104.50	1/4/-	Rs.130.65
Onion (<i>Kanda</i>)	50/3	1/6/-	Rs.01
Pumpkin (<i>Kodon</i>)	37.25/3	1/-/-	Rs.37.50
Tobacco	4.75/-	3/4/-	Rs.15.50
Rice (<i>Madhwa</i>)	3.50/3	1/-/-	Rs.3.75
Total collection of taxes was Rs.310			

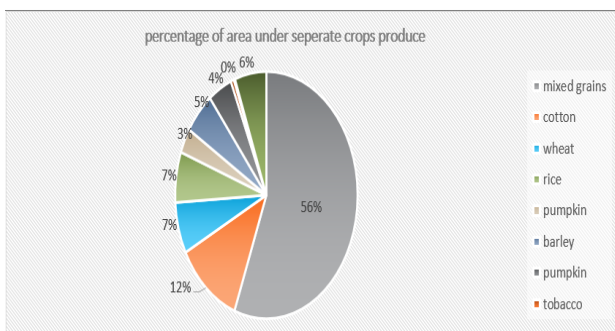


FIGURE 1 PERCENTAGE OF AREA UNDER PRODUCTION OF TRADE COMMODITIES AND FOOD CROPS IN VILLAGE AREEVPUR, PARAGNA MALARNA

As per the given details in table 1, total collection was Rs.310. Higher collection was extracted from cash crop cotton (*van*), total area (*bigha, biswa*) under this crop was 104/50 and total collected amount was Rs.130.50, much higher in comparison to other crops.

Higher production of cotton may be explained by suitability of soil and its rising demand as significant trade item, as textile has been dominant trade item in Rajasthan.

In figure 1, dimension of area under trade commodities and food crops such as mixed grains (*bajedi*)^{xvii}, cotton, sugarcane and millets, onion, wheat, pumpkin, barley, rice and sesame. However, a close scrutiny on this figure we can easily discern that largest area was taken under the production of *bajihari*, it was the mixed crop of moth, rice and millets. It might be due to either largest consumption or suitability of soil for the production of this crop.

TABLE 2
COLLECTION OF TAXES ON FOOD GRAINS AS WELL AS TRADE COMMODITIES.xviii

Commodity	Weight (<i>Man/ser</i>)	Rate Rs./As./Ps.	Total (<i>Rupee</i>)
Millets (<i>Bajro</i>)	26.50/86	-/8/9	Rs.36.85
Sesame (<i>Til</i>)	1.75/86	-/10/-	Rs.05
<i>Moth</i>	39/3	-/12/2	Rs.49
<i>Urd</i>	3/4	-/12//2	Rs.4.50
Total collected amount was Rs.94.25			

Table 2, has shown collection of taxes under various grains, such as *Bajro*, *til*, moth and *urd*. As far as production concerned on one hand moth has taken highest place, on the other hand *urd* shows marginal production. Taxes rates can be considered average, as we have not notice high taxation on any commodity. Total collected amount from each commodity was Rs.94.25.

TABLE 3
TAX COLLECTION FROM RABI HARVEST, VILLAGE AREEVPUR
PARGANA MALARNA. xix

Commodities	Quantity Mound	Tax Rates Rs.	Total amount Rs.
Multi grains	96	Rs.0.75	Rs.93.60
Wheat	60.25	Rs.0.80	Rs.76.20
Mustard seeds	0.25	Rs.0.50	Rs.0.25
Barley	49.01	Rs.01	Rs.49
Lentil	0.25	Rs.0.75	Rs.0.10
Mixed grains	498.50	Rs.01	Rs.498.80
Total tax collection was Rs.717.80			

Table 3 illustrates production of various commodity from *rabi* harvest in *Batai* assessment in village Areevpur of *pargana* Malarna. One can discern that the *baijhari* shows highest cultivation, as well as highest tax collection. When gram was grown mixed with barley it was called *bejhar*, peculiar crop of Rajasthan, as we can notice this food crop has taken second highest place in production. The total collected amount generated from taxation on various food crops was Rs.717.80.

A. Village Achalpur, tax Rates Variation on Food Crops and Cash Crops,

TABLE 4
ILLUSTRATES AMOUNT GENERATED FROM TAXES ON FOOD-GRAINS
AND OTHER TRADE ITEMS, INSTANCE FROM VILLAGE ACHALPUR, OF
PARGANA MALARNA. xx

Commodities	Total taxation	Food grains	Total taxation
Sugarcane	Rs.11	Millets	Rs.60
Cotton	Rs.9.25	Barley	Rs.01
Tobacco	Rs.0.75	Sesame	Rs.14.75
Pumpkin	Rs.5.25	Urad	Rs.47
Barti	Rs.0.75	Moth	Rs.16.40
Total amount Rs.27		Total amount Rs.141	

Table 4 taxes collected under food grains and other trade items, illustration has been taken from another village of *pargana* Malarna Achalpur. Same method of assessment applied here, food-grains production under *batai* (in kind/sharing of grains) assessment and mostly trading items were being assessed in *zabti* assessment. Similarly highest production of cotton noticed nevertheless highest taxation from sugarcane due to higher tax rate of sugarcane in comparison to cotton.

The grain like Moth's rate was highest comparison to other grains. At the same time rate of *til* was low among all goods. As far as taxation from *rabi* harvest in *zabti* assessment in village Achalpur is concerned, it shows very minute production and tax collection. It was collected from one crop only *saali*, kind of rice, which is peculiar crop of Rajasthan. Total collected amount was R.0.50 only with taxation rate Rs.1.25 per bigha total production of this crop was 13 bighas. Even taxation and production from *rabi* harvest in *batai* assessment was marginal, only one crop, *chana* produced 2.20 mound. Total generated amount was Rs.3.25 only.

The total tax revenue collected from the village Achalpur amounted to ₹166.60, while the collection from Areevpur significantly higher, totalling ₹1,122. A comparative analysis reveals that revenue collected from Areevpur was considerably greater than that of Achalpur. This disparity can be primarily attributed to the contributions of two key crops: cotton (**van**), which generated ₹130.60, and **baijhari**, which accounted for ₹93.60 of the total collection.

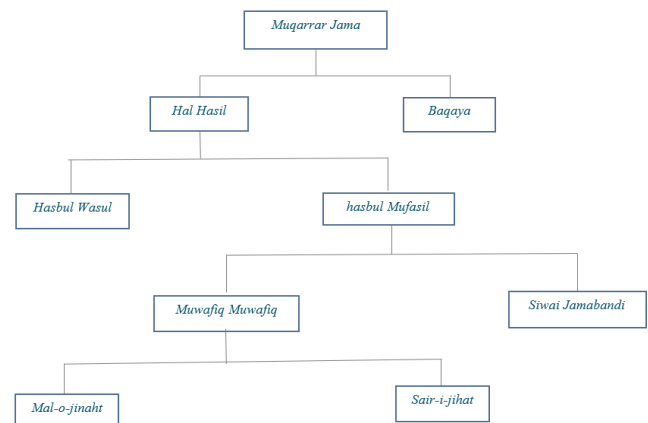


FIGURE 2 HIERARCHY OF TAXATION UNDER DIFFERENT HEAD IN ARHSATTA.

B. Non-Agrarian Taxes

It was collected under head, *Sair-Jihat*, which seems to be additional charges in order to meet the expenses incurred in the collection of taxes mal^{xxi}.

There are more than 75 taxes under this head, which included agricultural, non-Agricultural and administrative taxes. In this, document *sair-i-jihat* was collected under different type of taxes such as *Lawazamo*, *Zaribano*, *Dehnimi*, *Jhupri*, *Ghas charai*, *Nirotri*, etc. *Dehnimi*, was the additional or sub tax, under *lawazmo* in *zabti* method, was charged as 5% on per one hundred rupee. However, *Varh* (sugarcane) was exempted, before collection of this tax. The amount collected from *Varh* crop was deducted from total amount and then *dehnimi* 5% tax levied on rest amount. *Zaribano*, was charged on land under *lawazmo* in *zabti* method. The amount taken under this head was 1 taka and 25 dam per bigha. Like *dehnimi* tax, here also the area, which came under the crop *Varh*, was deducted before its collection. See figure 3.

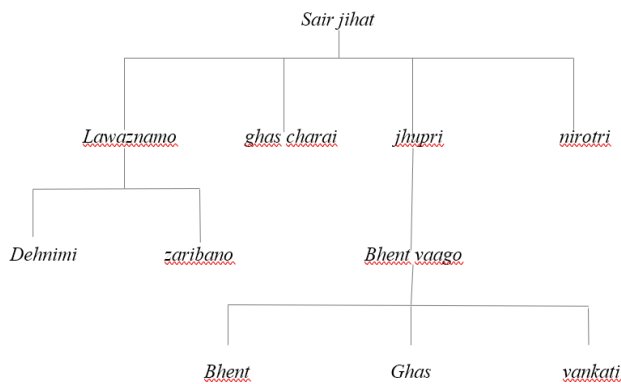


FIGURE 3 HIERARCHY OF TAXES UNDER SAIR-I-JIHAT

C. Residential and grazing taxes

Jhupri Vaago (cottage) was a tax on cottages with a standardized rate of 12 aanas per *jhupri*. While this tax was uniformly imposed across all parganas, its rates exhibited regional variation. In the specific case of Pargana Malarna, the rate was firmly established at 12 aanas^{xxii} per *jhupri*, reflecting localized adjustments within the broader framework of taxation. The *Bhent Vaago* component of the *Jhupri Vaago*, was categorized into three distinct types: 1) *Bhent*: Possibly a voluntary donation or offering. 2) *Ghas*: A tax levied on grazing (*charai*). 3) *Vankati*: Collected at a fixed rate of 12 aanas per *jhupri*, yielding a total revenue of 8.75. The *Nirotri* tax was assessed at Rs. 9 per hundred bighas under the *tan* (nominal assessment) system and in villages it was realized at Rs. 9 per hundred rupees.

It was collected after deducting the *varh* Rupee in the *Zabti* method. For example, with a total *Zabti* collection of Rs. 341.80 and a *Varh* Rupee deduction of Rs. 63, (63-341.80 =278.95) the net amount was Rs. 278.95, resulting in a final total collection of Rs. 25.95.

Chari, was the small portion of rent free land and somehow grazing tax^{xxiii} that was extracted village wise. (See table 6).

D. Service Tax

The *Tehsildari* tax was levied at a rate of 25 dams per day. The recorded collection of three months, calculated as 25 × 60 = 1,500 dams. (50 dams were equal to 2 paisas or 1 taka), the total revenue amounted to Rs. 1.75. The *Tulai Bichoti Ka* tax was imposed for the weighing of grains, with a charge of Rs. 0.60 per Rs. 100. *Mapa* tax was the toll tax, charged on the *banjaras*, by authorities who were controlling the routes. It was charged as the 12.50% on *maal* and 2% on sale of grains (table 6). For this purpose I have taken sample of two Village such as, *Khohari*, *Sugarcane* (*varh*) rate *anas.8*, *Cotton* (*van*) rate *anas.4*, *Kherij-* *anas.11*, in *Rabi* harvest *Kherij-* *As.5*. In documents found that the taxes were assessed through the *ijara* contract as well, with the *Guman Singh Naruka*. *Kayali* tax was collected by state through *ijaradars* (contractors) from traders. *ijara* was assigned to *Girdhari Kasliwal* with *Ramji*, and *Govind Shrimal*. *Girdhari Kasliwal* with *Ramji* paid Rs.45.30 as *ijara* of *kayali* tax to the state. *Ijaradar Govinda Shrimal* paid Rs.109.75, to the state, as *kayali* collection of six months and five days.

E. Miscellaneous Taxes

Haasil bhent, collection of *bhent/offering* from 148 villages on *Dussehara* festival. All villages paid Rs.01 as *bhent* except three villages, *Jeewad* paid Rs.1 and 2 taka, village *Pachmanarel* paid 2 taka and *Malarna* paid Rs.3, see table number 5. It may be because of its significance and larger area of villages. Total collection was Rs.51. Village *Galad*, *Sugarcane-anas.8*, *Cotton anass.4*, *Tobacco anas.7*, *Kherij-* *anas.5/Paisa.2*. In *Rabi* harvest, *Kherij-* *anas.2/Paisa. 2*, total collection of *mapa* from village *Galad* is-Rs.33.75. Village *Mudwari* paid Rs.308.3/- it was Highest among all taxes.

TABLE 5,
ILLUSTRATES AMOUNT COLLECTED FROM NON-AGRARIAN TAXES,
HEAD MUWAFIQ JAMABANDI, VILLAGE AREEVPUR, PARGANA
MALARNA, YEAR1730. xxiv

Name Of Tax	Collected Amount	Remarks
<i>Bhent</i>	Rs.01	Collected under <i>bhent vaago</i>
<i>Ghas</i>	Rs.3.25	Grazing tax
<i>Venkati</i>	Rs.05	Rs.0.75 per cottage/hut
<i>Nirotri</i>	Rs.25.95	Charge as Rs.9 per 100 <i>bighas</i>
<i>Tehsildar</i>	Rs.1.75	Charges as 25 dam per day
<i>Tulai Bichoti Ka</i>	Rs.7.50	Weighing tax
<i>Rozina Ka</i>	Rs.1.50	Daily charges
<i>Jhupri</i>	Rs.3.75	Tax on hut
<i>Lawazamo</i>	Rs.33.25	Rs.12.25 from <i>dehnimi</i> , Rs.20.80 from <i>zaribano</i>

TABLE 6
NON-AGRARIAN TAXES UNDER HEAD SAWAI JAMABANDI. xxv

Name Of Tax	Collected Amount	Remarks
<i>Hasil Bhent</i>	Rs.148	Paid by villages on <i>dussera</i>
<i>Mapa</i>	Rs.342	charged as the 12.50% on <i>maal</i> and 2% on sale of grains
<i>Chari</i>	Rs.58	Grazing tax extracted from 117 villages
<i>Kayali</i>	Rs.155	Rate Rs.0.60 per hundred rupee

F. Trading Goods and Charges

Historical evidence indicates that during the late medieval and early modern periods, merchants and bankers came to Rajasthan from different parts of India and settled down there. The mercantile communities in this region exhibited exceptional commercial acumen, which became increasingly evident in subsequent centuries as they accumulated significant wealth.

The main trading community were the mahajans , banjaras who used to carry salt, rice, sugar etc. from one place to another on the back of oxen.^{xxvi} Evident record of production of trade items and tax rates charged on trade items in pargana Malarna.

Trade items gleaned from **Arhsatta** (revenue record) of Malarna, include staple crops such as **sugarcane, cotton, sesame, barley, millet, and bajra**, along with other agricultural products like **onions, pumpkins, and vegetables**. Each commodity not only had its specific taxation rate, assessed seasonal production cycle and economic significance. For example, cash crops like sugarcane and cotton, known for their high market value, attracted higher tax rates, while staple grains such as barley and mixed grains (**bejhari**) were taxed more modestly.

Detailed documentation of trade items and associated taxes offers a comprehensive view of the economic priorities of the region. It underscores the importance of both cash crops and staple foods in sustaining the agrarian economy and highlights the role of taxation as a tool for managing economic resources and state revenue during the period.

TABLE 7
ILLUSTRATES TAX RATES ON TRADE ITEMS CULTIVATED UNDER
KHARIF HARVEST. xxvii

Trade Items	Tax Rates	Remarks
Sugarcane	Rs.3-3.50	Tax rates Varied from village to village cultivated under kharif harvest
Cotton	Rs.1.25	Cultivated in kharif harvest
Saali (Rice)	Rs.01	Variety of rice
Onion (Kanda)	Rs.1.30	Showing constant production
Pumpkin (Kodon)	Rs.01	Shows considerable production
Tobacco	Rs.3.25	Highest tax rate among all items
Grains (Chola)	Rs.01	staple crop of Rajasthan
Barti	Rs.0.75	Constant production in Achalpur
Maadwo	Rs.01	Kind of rice
Vegetables (Sabzi)	Rs.1.25	Production in Areevpur

TABLE 8
TAX RATES ON FOOD GRAINS, FROM RABI AND KHARIF HARVEST.

Food Grains	Tax Rates	Remarks
Millets	Rs.0.50	Cultivated in both harvest
Barley	Rs.0.60	Produced in Achalpur
Urad	Rs.0.60	Pulses
Seasame (Til)	Rs.1.25	Significant trade item
Moth	Rs.0.75	Cultivated in kharif harvest
Grains (Chana)	Rs.01	Rabi harvest, Achalpur
Rice (Saali)	Rs.0.30	Peculiar crop of Rajasthan, both harvest
Grains (Bajher)	Rs.0.75	Cultivated in Areevpur
Barley	Rs.01	Being produced in Areevpur
Wheat	Rs.0.75	Marginal production
Lentils (Masoor)	Rs.0.75	Pulses found in Areevpur
Mustard (Sarso)	Rs.0.50	Cultivated in Areevpur
Mixed Grains (Bejhari)	Rs.01	Highest collection (Rs.499)

Table 7 highlights significant variations in tax rates across different commodities. Notably, sugarcane and tobacco were subject to the highest tax rates, reflecting their economic importance. The second-highest tax rates were levied on onions, cotton, and vegetables, while moderate taxation was observed for pumpkin, rice, and grain. These details indicate that the state generated substantial revenue from taxes on cash crops, which were pivotal to the agrarian economy. Table 8 provides insights into the taxation of food grains produced during both the **rabi** and **kharif** harvests. Among these, sesame (**til**) was taxed at a notably high rate, while barley was subjected to an average tax rate. In contrast, other crops, including the largest-yielding crop, mixed grains (**bejhari**), were taxed at minimal rates. This analysis underscores the differential fiscal strategies employed by the state to optimize revenue collection from diverse agricultural outputs.

The significance of irrigation devices can be inferred from the evidence that villages given on patta were classified according to the availability of irrigation device in the village.^{xxviii}

There has been mentioned of pond in detail comprised in document Arhzdasht, where detail explanation of distribution of trees above the pond in village Nindad.^{xxix} The maps show that numerous water bodies were erected for conservation of water for Jaipur like, Jal Mahal, Bishan Sagar and Bhagwant Sagar.^{xxx} Even choice of crops varied according to the variation in the climatic patterns, if rains were delayed peasant shifted to cultivation of moth which has the shortest maturity period, for instance vakil, of Amber court Amar Chand and Sahib Ram, inform us that due to meagre and delayed rains till the Bhadava,^{xxxi} only moth could be sown.^{xxxii} Another significant information comprised in document Arzdasht belonging to V.S 1743 (1686), description of farmers get ploughing done in the pargana, yield of Bajra as rains good for the production of bajra.^{xxxiii}

IV. RURAL SOCIETY

Village society comprised different category of land, such as arable land, habitation (*abadi*), pools (*talab*), grooves (*bagh*), water channel, (*nullahs*), forest (*jungle*) and waste land. There was a wide range of variation in the area of villages, average village had about one thousand *bighas* of arable land. Classified under two sets of categories namely, *asli*, *dakhli*, on the one hand and *Raiyati* and *talluqa* on the other. The *arhsattas* classify villages as *asli* (original) and *dakhili* (dependent or newly colonised). As notice that the number of *asli* villages changed from time to time while number of *dakhili* villgaes remain more or less constant. The increase varied, as depicted in specimens, which has been taken from different *parganas*, for e.g. Lalsot increase from 171 to 196, Chatsu 400 to 415, Malarna 153 to 164, Bahatri 560 to 564, Dausa 232 to 234, Sawai Jaipur 1174 to 1248.^{xxxiv} Villages further categorised into different heads, *khalisa*, *jagir*, *alufati*, *raiyyati*, *talua*, *jagir*, *punyaudik*, *nankar*, *pashkash*, *inam*, *sarikati* etc.

Villages under various type of area, such as *chhappar bandi* (area under habitation), *nabuds* or, (saline), *rah* (passageways), *jungle* (forest), *talab* (pond, river), all referred as uncultivable land, and *layak zaraiti*. The cultivable land of village was termed as *layak-i- zaraiti*, and proportion of cultivable area varied village to village depending on fertility of land. Cultivable land was further divided into two categories *Bahat* and *parat*. The cultivable land of villages were classified into a number of category, such as *polchi*, *banjar*, *kharara*, etc. it is not clear whether the classification of land into *polchi* and *banjar* was based on quality of soil or continuity of cultivation, *Kharara* was land of dried ponds.



Villages were stratified into higher and lower classes. Higher class comprised with *mahajans*, *bhomias*, *chaudharies* and *qanungos* and a class of Rajput mainly *shekhawats*. Lower class contained with *paltis* and *raiyyatis*. Dominant peasants were *patels* at village level and organised *khud-kasht* cultivation with hired labour. Marginal peasant could only possess own ploughs and cattle for cultivation. In *Arhsatta bhom* the word *raiyyat* is frequently mentioned. Landless cultivators comprised who had no right over land or crops. They basically belonged to different types of non-peasant castes such as *nai* (barber), *teli* (oil-presser), *mali* (gardner), and recognised as *gunvar*. They were forced by some upper status villagers such as, *bhomia*, *patel*, and *jagirdars* to render agricultural duties, their rights and privileges not clear. There were peasantry who possessed massive agricultural resources to facilitate them to produce crops for market, on the other hand there were ordinary peasantry who produced only food grains for their consumption.

Big land holders such as *bhomias*, *mahajans*, paid only *mal* (land revenue), they were totally exempted from the other duties on goods and transportations. On the other hand marginal peasant had to pay revenue along with other duties. Privileged class not only paid revenue at concessional rate but also exempted from the taxes under *jihat*, such as *bandhati* approximate 15%, *Seri* 12.5% (5 *sers* per *mun*) to 25% (10 *ser* per *mun*), these rates varied from village to village and had to be paid by the peasant and cultivators.

Rural society illustrate property rights held by various assignees, major assignees as a proportion of village and smaller assignees only receive in cash. These assignees were different from the *jagirdars* under Mughals, they used to claim their tenure by right of heredity and could not be disposed easily. *bhom* was an allodial holding which was transmitted to the descendants of those who had originally brought the land under cultivation or those who had been displaced by later conquerors and allowed a small *bhom* by way of a subsistence allowance. The *bhom* shown in *Arhsatta bhom*, generally 1/6th that of customary claim. *Bhom* land were not exempt from various taxes. Other such type of grant is *udik* for religious purposes and it was also hereditary and *Inam* was also rent free land grant. The taxes were imposed sometimes on *punya udik* land grant like *hasil chabutra kotwali* or *ghas charai*.

Ijara granted to big *thikanedars*, many of them holding *zamindari* rights of *ijara* directly from the Mughal government. *ijara istimara*^{xxxv} fixed rent grantees were invariably required to produce a guarantor who was generally a *mahajans*. This denotes significance of mercantile community in revenue assignment in villages.

Chithi denotes information in respect of land holding under *tan jagirs* in village Ramga, *pargana* Malarna. Total land area 6434 *bighas*, total cultivable land 4264 *bighas*, and total area assigned as *tan jagir* was worth Rs.3750. Talluqadar Kisor Singh Son of Tilok Singh was assigned village I as *tan jagir*.

Chithis show some landholders who were exempted from taxation such as those who had 50-200 *bighas* were exempted to pay tax. The *patel* presumably were local *zamindars* and peasants, and collected tax from other local *zamindars* and peasants. Therefore responsibility of revenue collection and management was entrusted to intermarries and the village headmen as well. State relied on them for proper collection and assessment of revenue in villages.

It is interesting to note that rural society stratified on the bases of caste and property rights as well. Some times their rights were based on nature of their caste and clan. There are numerous instances where cultivator's names are mentioned with their caste. For instances, there were self-cultivating peasant who carried cultivation with the help of some collaborators (*bhayichara* system) and with the help of other clan group known as *khidmati praja* system, they were scheduled caste and they were not allowed to hold land themselves, just rendered different type of labour services and got strip of land share of produce in return of their services.

Even high caste resident and big proprietors did not require to pay additional taxes. However revenue assessment carried out according to status and caste. Big *zamindar* or privileged peasant used to pay revenue at concessional rates unlike common peasantry or low status people had to pay high rate of taxes. It denotes that stratification of village society had an impact on revenue system. There were numerous taxes paid by common resident of rural society on different occasions likewise resident tax, water tax, marriage tax, grazing tax etc.

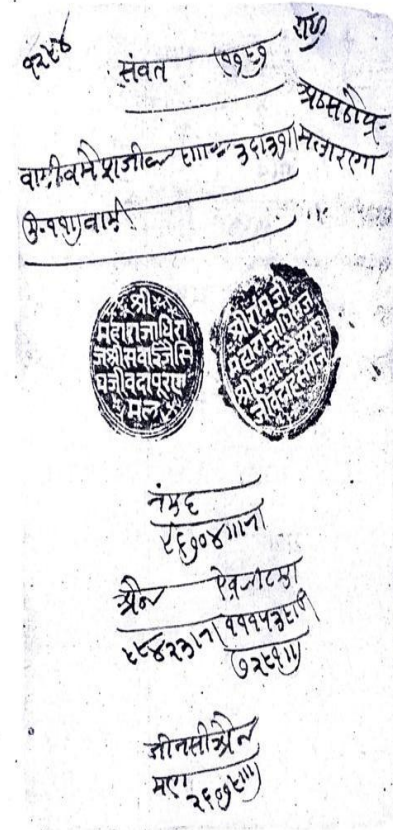
V. FINDINGS

The findings contribute to a broader understanding of the local level social and economic activities in different villages of Malarna in eastern Rajasthan. The hostile upshot of climate situation can be noticed through the crop production, as we noticed large production of crops which needed lesser water comparison to crops required good amount of water. The natural physical features of area was advantageous for cultivation of cash crops like sugarcane, cotton, sesame, etc., but its required effort, either in the form of human labour or technological support.

Since distribution of various agricultural assets, size of holdings, bullocks, and irrigation devices was highly unequal which denotes social stratification. The study presents good amount generation through revenue charges imposed according to nature of crops such as food crops, cash crops and crops particularly cultivated for markets. Agrarian dominance in the regional economy, leading to economic prosperity and challenges the notion of a uniform economic decline in late medieval India. Agricultural practices were encouraged, and emphases laid on bring large land area under cultivation. State income derived from the collection of various types of taxes.

Notably, a consistent taxation structure was observed for two commodities, sugarcane and cotton, likely attributable to the suitability of the soil for their cultivation. Cotton, in particular, was grown extensively, suggesting its importance as a significant trade item in the region's economy. Instead of rice, the staple crops identified in the region were *madwo* and *Sali*. Variations in agricultural output were evident across different villages. Village Areevpur, consistent productivity was observed in both the *rabi* and *kharif* harvests. Conversely, Achalpur consistent productivity was limited to the *kharif* harvest. Notably, the *rabi* harvest yielded no production under the *batai* (sharecropping) method, and in the *zabti* (revenue assessment) system, only a single crop was cultivated. These findings underscore significant regional and methodological variations in agricultural practices and productivity. *Bajed* was most cultivated crop, as it has highest and constant production. These findings highlight the economic prominence of specific crops and the regional variations in tax revenue within the studied area.

Appendix



ARHSATTA PARGANA MALARNA V.S 1787/A.D 1730



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संवत् १९६९ राश्ट्र
 नाशिका जिल्हा
 सायब्याव
 माळवाड
 वाजरीमण ४२१९
 इ. ११६१०
 मोठमण १२२९
 इ. ११६१०
 माळमण १११२
 इ. ११६१०
 सायब्याव
 इ. ११६१०

ARHSATTA PARGANA MALARNA, VILLAGE ACHALPUR, BUNDLE NO. 29,
 V.S 1787/A.1730

रवीकर () तहसुला मलारणा

रत्नबाईची धातुपट्टी चादिये जा जोगेंद्री धातुपट्टी	
चाकीलापक जरापतची धा	
४२६४	
तन	
३६१७	
सम्बत १६६७	
घरीफतत्रालुके कितोर रबी	
सिंधनिलिका सिंधका	
दमतननाकुसुधसंग	
सम्बत १६६६	
मुजाफिक अहसटैर	
कटरफी	
१६६७	
फसल घरीफ	फसल वीरजारे अजव
१६६७	१६६७
मुजाफिक अहसटैर	असल विचोतरा
करारजाकर रजारे	१६६७ १६६७

मुजाबिल्ला सिंधा सिंधद
 कोसवसटैर मुजाबिले

CHITHIS PARGANA MALARNA, V.S 1768/A.D 1711.xxxvi

संवत् १७४८ सन १९०० राश्ट्र
 जनाम रवी
 हसवळ मुसळ
 मु. जनावेदी
 भाळ जहाति
 जवती प्रागे
 जवती

जोहू वीधा १६१९ आशु वीधा वाप
 इ. १११७ उ. उ. इ. १११७ उ. उ.
 २८११ ३११

तरवुज वसुजा कादा वीधा नुड
 वी १११२ इ. १११३ इ. १११३ सु.
 सु. पटे सु. व.
 १११३ १११३

तरमारी वी. प्राणु लहाळ हरोवो.
 सु. सु. इ. १११३ उ. पटे
 १११३ १११३

ARHSATTA PARGANA MALARNA, S.V 1749/1692.xxxvii

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- [3] ⁱⁱⁱ Vakil report (Persian) Reg. no. 115/130, R.S. A. Bikaner and compare from C. U. Will's Report, p. 20B, R. S. A, Bikaner. Translation of extracts from a Report, Persian from Kesho Rai (Darbar's Vakil) to Maharaja (Bishan Singh), dated Bijapur, the 19th Rajab, 31st Regnal year (1688 A.D.).
- [4] ^{iv} Vakil report No. 177, dated 9th April, 1689, Vakil's report No. 185 dated 21st July, Vakil report No. 186 dated 23rd July, 1689 p. 29-30 of Vol. 1.
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- [8] ^{viii} Satish Chandra and S.P Gupta, (1996) The Jaipur Pargana Records; Some Aspects of Economic History, Indian Economy and Social History Review (IESHR), Shimla, Vol. III, pp. 303-15.
- [9] ^{ix} It was the total expected revenue to be collected.
- [10] ^x Actual revenue collection in the current year.
- [11] ^{xi} Arrears of revenue of the preceding years.
- [12] ^{xii} Realization of revenue according to kharif and rabi seasons, Arhsatta mujmil pargana Chatsu 1766. A.D.
- [13] ^{xiii} The amount realized from the outstanding arrears in the current year.
- [14] ^{xiv} Revenue realized according to the assessment.
- [15] ^{xv} Revenue realized from a variety of taxes other than the mal-o - jihat.
- [16] ^{xvi} Arhsattas Pargana Malarna VS. 1787/A.D1730, pp. 626-30, R.S.A Bikaner
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- [17] ^{xvii} Baijhari was the mixed crop of moth, rice and millets.
- [18] ^{xviii} Arhsattas Pargana Malarna VS. 1787/1730, p. 627. Quantity of grains mentioned in man/ ser and amount of tax rates/total amount mentioned in Rupee, Aanas, Paisas.
- [19] ^{xix} Arhsattas Pargana Malarna VS. 1787/1730, op cit. pp. 626-27. Fourty Sers equal to one mound.
- [20] ^{xx} Arhsattas Pargana Malarna VS. 1787/1730, op cit. p. 623.
- [21] ^{xxi} S.P Gupta, (1972) 'The System of Rural Taxation in Eastern Rajasthan (1650-1750)', proceeding of Indian History Congress Session Muzaffarpur, p. 283.
- [22] ^{xxii} For the sake of convenience, slight fractions have been ignored.
- [23] ^{xxiii} H.H Wilson, The Glossary of Judicial and Revenue Terms, p. 160, see also Rajasthan ShabdKosh by Sita Ram Lalas, p.1194.
- [24] ^{xxiv} Arhsattas Pargana Malarna VS. 1787/1730, op cit. p. 623-50.
- [25] ^{xxv} Arhsattas Pargana Malarna VS. 1787/1730, op. cit. p. 634.
- [26] ^{xxvi} Dastur komwar, (1987) vol. 23, p. 410, see also B.L Gupta, Trade and Commerce in Rajasthan During 18th Century, Jaipur Publishing House, Jaipur.
- [27] ^{xxvii} Tax rates on per bigha and per mound.
- [28] ^{xxviii} Sanad Parwana Bahi, no. 2, V.S 1822, HS, JR, R.S.A, Bikaner
- [29] ^{xxix} Arzdasht, by Kishordas to Maharaja Ramsingh, Asarh, sudi 14, V.S 1743/A.D 1686, Historical Section, Jaipur Records, Rajasthan Arzdasht, RSAB.
- [30] ^{xxx} Kapad- Dwara, Maps and Notes Nos-198, p. no.111-245.
- [31] ^{xxxi} Bhadva is the third month of rainy season and usually last one also.
- [32] ^{xxxii} Arzdasht, Bhadva, vadi 7, V.S 1660/A.D 1603 and Arzdasht, sawan, sudi 9, V.S 1638/A.D 1581 HS, JR, R.S.A, Bikaner.
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- [34] ^{xxxiv} Arhsattas belonging to Chatsu, Dausa, Malarna, Lalsot, Sawai Jaipur, R.S.A. Biakner.
- [35] ^{xxxv} A long term grant.
- [36] ^{xxxvi} Chithis pargana Malarna, V.S 1768/A.D 1711, HS, JR, R.S.A Bikaner.
- [37] ^{xxxvii} Arhsatta pargana Malarna, V.S 1749/1692, R.S.A. Bikaner.