

Chapter – 5: Rural Administration

A Quarrel in the Village

- Mohan – farmer – owns small agricultural field – farming for many years
- Next to his land – Raghu's land – separated by small boundary – bund
- One morning – Mohan noticed – Raghu Shifted bund – few feet – increased his own land
- Mohan – angry but also frightened – Raghu's family – owned lots of land – his uncle – Sarpanch of village – even then – Mohan went to Raghu's house
- There was an argument – Raghu refused to accept – he moved the bund – called helpers – began beating Mohan
- Neighbors gathered – took Mohan away – badly hurt on head and hands
- Mohan – given first-aid by neighbor – someone suggested – go to police station – others suggested – waste of money – some even said – Raghu's family might have contacted police
- After lots of discussion – Mohan and some neighbors – went to police station

Area of the Police Station

- On the way – one neighbor suggested – spend more money and go to main police station
- Mohan explained – not a matter of money – their village comes under a particular police station
- Every police station – area under its control
- All people in the area – report cases or inform the police about any incident
- Responsibility of police – enquire, investigate and act

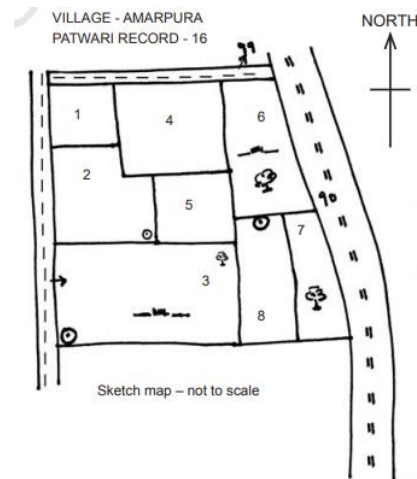
The Work at the Police Station

- On reaching police station – Mohan talked to person in charge (SHO – Station House Officer) – told him about his problem – wanted to file written complaint
- SHO – brushed him away – saying not to waste his time with minor cases
- Mohan showed him injuries – SHO did not agree
- Mohan – confused – called his neighbors – they argued – Mohan was beaten up in front of them – they rescued him – they insisted – case should be registered
- Finally – SHO agreed – told people that he will send a constable to investigate

Maintenance of Land Records

- Mohan and Raghu – arguing over common boundary of their land
- Can this dispute be solved peacefully? Are there records regarding land ownership?
- Measuring land and keeping records – main work of Patwari
- Patwari – also known as – Lekhpal, Kanungo, Karamchari, Village Officer – refer to him as Patwari
- Patwari – maintains and updates records in the village
- Patwari – uses multiple ways – measure agricultural fields
- Above case – Patwari would have measured both lands – compared them with the map – it would be clear – if the boundary was shifted or not
- Patwari – also responsible – collecting land revenues – providing information about crops to government
- Patwari – update records regularly – farmer may change crops – some may dig up a well

Khasra 5								
No.	Area in Hectare	Name of owner, Father or husband's name, address	If it is rented to some other farmer, their name and rent received	Area cultivated this year				
				Area cultivated this year			Area not cultivated fallow land	Facilities
				Crop grown	Area	Second crop grown		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	0.75	Mohna, Son of Raja Ram, Village Amarpura owner	No	Soya-bean	0.75 hectare			
2	3.00	Raghu Ram, Son of Ratan Lall, Village Amrapura owner	No	Soya-bean, wheat, irrigated	2.75 hectare	1.75	0.25	Well-1 Working
3	6.00	Madhya Pradesh Government Grassland	No	-				Well-1 Working Grazing



- Keeping track – work of revenue department – senior people – supervise Patwari's work
- All states – divided into districts – managing land matters – further divided into tehsils or talukas
- At the head – District Collector – supervises revenue officers (tehsildars)
- Tehsildars – hear disputes – supervise work of Patwaris – maintain records and collect land revenue – make sure – farmers can get these records easily
- Farmers – often require copy of land record – they have right to this information – may have to pay for it
- BUT – this information is not easily available – farmers – face problems
- Some states – records – computerised – kept at Panchayat office – easily available and updated regularly

- Situations where farmers may require land records –
 - Farmer wants to buy land
 - Farmer wants to sell produce
 - Farmer wants a loan from bank to dig a well
 - Farmer wants to purchase fertilizers
 - Farmer wants to divide property among children

A daughter's wish

- Daughter says – father inherited house from his father – leave it for brother
- What will herself and her mother do?
- She says – she needs a place of her own

A New Law

- Hindu Succession Amendment Act, 2005
- Farmers – who own land – often thought as men – while – women – regarded as workers on fields
- Until recently – some states – Hindu women – cannot inherit property
- After death – property of father – divided among sons
- Recently – law changed – now sons, daughters get equal share in property – law applied to all states and union territories
- This law – benefit – large number of women
 - Sudha – eldest daughter – married – leaves in neighboring village
 - Often helps mother with farming work
 - Mother asked Patwari – add Sudha's name along with other children in land records
 - Mother – organize farming – with younger brother and sister
 - Sudha – assured – any problem – she can depend on her share of land