

**‘Money comes & goes but the land stays’:  
Understanding rural women’s perspective  
on increasing land sale in western  
Maharashtra, India**

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# Land

- Economic resource
- Social, political marker
- Increasing incidence of land sale

# Inheritance rights

- Hindu Succession Act 1956- daughter not given same rights as son
- Amendment in HSA 1956 by Maharashtra state in 1994 making unmarried daughter coparcener but agricultural land & married daughter excluded
- HSA Amendment 2005 made daughters (incl married) coparceners and included agricultural land in its purview

# Research questions

- I. What do rural women think about the increasing incidence of land sale?
- II. In their view how has it impacted their society?
- III. With increasing land prices do women claim their inheritance rights in parental land?

# Study area

- Maval tehsil, Pune district, Maharashtra state, India

## Key features:

- Rain-fed paddy cultivation
- Maratha is dominant caste
- Proximity to major cities Pune & Mumbai
- Urban migration
- Land acquired for dams, highways, industrial development
- High incidence of land sale

# Data collection

## Phase I

- Semi-structured interviews

## Phase II

- In depth interviews
- Focus groups

# Perceived impact of land sale

- Changes in physical environment
- New employment opportunities
- Shortage of agricultural labour
- Increasing disparity
- Breaking down of support mechanisms
- Tensions in familial relationships

# Opinions regarding claiming rights

- Women are aware that they have right
- Due to stricter procedure it is difficult to bypass the sister
- In spite of legal provision & high prices, claiming any share in parental land is still considered to be inappropriate, 'only selfish women do it'
- Disputes between brothers and sisters are on rise: women caught in crossfire



# Summing up

- Emotional ties with land loosening , mostly seen as economic resource
- Breaking of support mechanisms
- Strained familial relationships
- Overall unease on sale of land

Thank you!

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