

# Partition of Households and Land Holdings in Khardaha — in Relation with the Population Growth —

Shuichi NAKAYAMA\*

カルダハ村の人口増加に伴う世帯と土地の分割

中山 修 一\*

## CONTENTS

Preface	III. Population growth of all India and its interpretation
I. Purpose of the study	IV. Changes in population and households in Khardaha
II. Data for analysis	

## Preface

“The timeless India” or “the changeless India” were once a key ward for explaining the slow tempo of changes in Indian villages. However, how was it possible to be changeless with the fact that the population is increasing more than 2.0% every year. It is the right time to notice that the development of rural India is at risk with the over population pressure on food, employment, education, housing, and welfare in recent years.

After 24 years from the first survey in 1967, the team of geographers from the Hiroshima University had conducted a return survey in Khardaha village. The village is located about 35 km from the central part of the holy city of Varanasi in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Yonekura, J. ed. (1973) named this village after the first survey as a typical agricultural village in the Great Plains of India.

The return survey was conducted between October 16 and 30, 1991. The great

---

\* Faculty of Education, Hiroshima University ; 広島大学教育学部

changes in the village the team found are ① any of T.V. anthenas on the roof of houses, ② the electric pumping sets for irrigation in the fields, ③ tracters in the fields, ④ disappearance of oxen working for irrigation wells. and ⑤ a new building of village *panchayat*(council), and so on. However, such scenes as paddy fields, *jowars*, sugar cane fields,cows and buffalows reminded the members as they were walking in the village of 1967. The village housing also showed a very little changes excepting several newly constructed houses.

For the last couple decades, many scholars in and outside of India has been spoken that the gap between the rich and the poor in Indian village got widened. The main back-up reason for it was the drastic increase in population in rural India. Therefore one of the author's central theme was how the living standard of households was improved for last 24 years of interval. The following two questions came up with the author's interest on the changes in the study village: ① how the family size was reorganized along with the rapid growth of population? and ② how the land property was distributed among the increased children to keep their certain household economy?

It is very natural if the land productivity remains the same, the population growth could affect the production share per person per family. Assuming that there are two sons in a family,it is easely considered that a family's land property could be subdivided into two parts for two sons after one generation. Each son's family has to live on half share of the father's land property. It is very easily understood that if this custom continues, sooner or later a family faces at difficulties for living depending on the land property.

This return survey was so timely that it may be possible to understand the family divisions and their effects on the family structure for 24 years interval which can be considered to be the changes in one generation.

## **I . Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this paper is to make a better understanding of the changing process of the partition of rural households and their land holdings in relation with the population growth in a sample study village: khardaha, Uttar Pradesh, India.

It may be said that this kind of study is so unique that the same group of study members had conducted after 24 years of the first survey in 1967. And the almost same

schedule for getting the census information regarding the total households of the village has been applied at each one of the household once again. Therefore the members could realize the truth of village life both changed and unchanged through their own eyes and analysis.

## **II. Data for analysis**

The statistics and data employed in this paper was taken from various government reports and the first hand information collected during our field survey in Khardaha village with the application of census schedule of household survey conducted in October 16 through 31, 1991.

The total households of the study village, Khardaha was 205 with total population of 1301. In the first survey in 1967, it was 93 households with the population of 724. This fact shows that the households increased 120.4 % or 112 households in number, and the population increased 79.7% or 577 persons for last 24 years. All the data employed in the present paper is the tentative one. Final correction on data shall be made later at the final report.

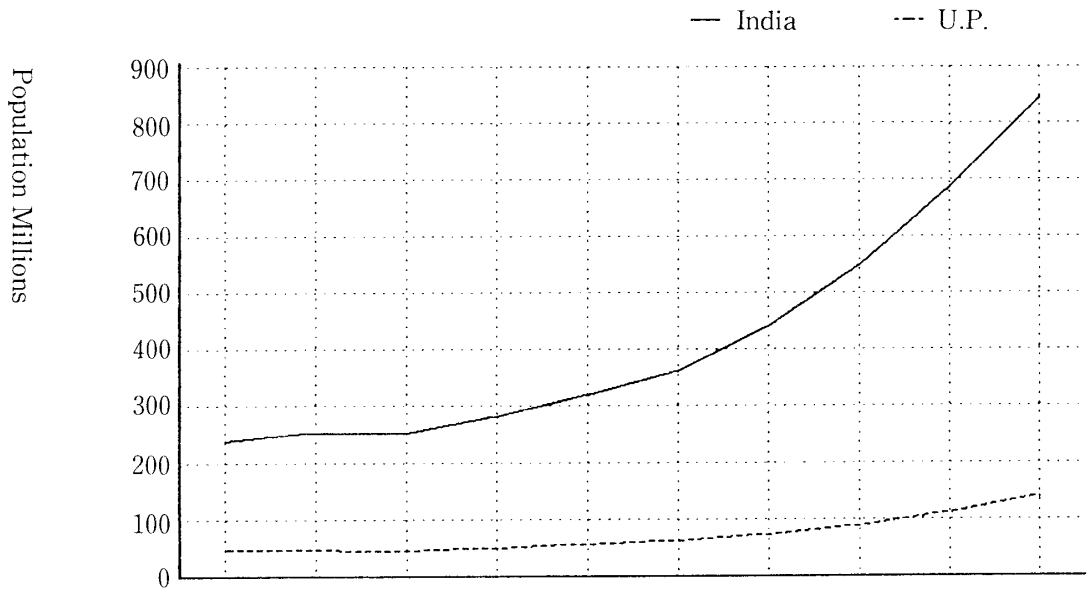
This high tempo of population growth can be understood by employing the census result in 1981, which presents 116 households with 998 persons. It is very clear to point that in terms of population growth rate, it is much higher than national average. The national average of population growth rate for 1981-91 was 23.5%. However, the study village showed 29.2% for 1981-91.

## **III. Population growth of all India and its interpretation**

### **1. Population growth**

The population explosion in India is creating the very serious problem in the socio-economic development, not only at the national level but also at the village level. Figure 1 shows the decennial growth of population for 1901-91. The total population of India reached such a huge number of 843.93 millions in 1991. Looking at the growth tendency of the total population of India, it is clear that the total population remained below 400 million till 1951 census. However, the population almost doubled in 1991 after 30 years from 1961.

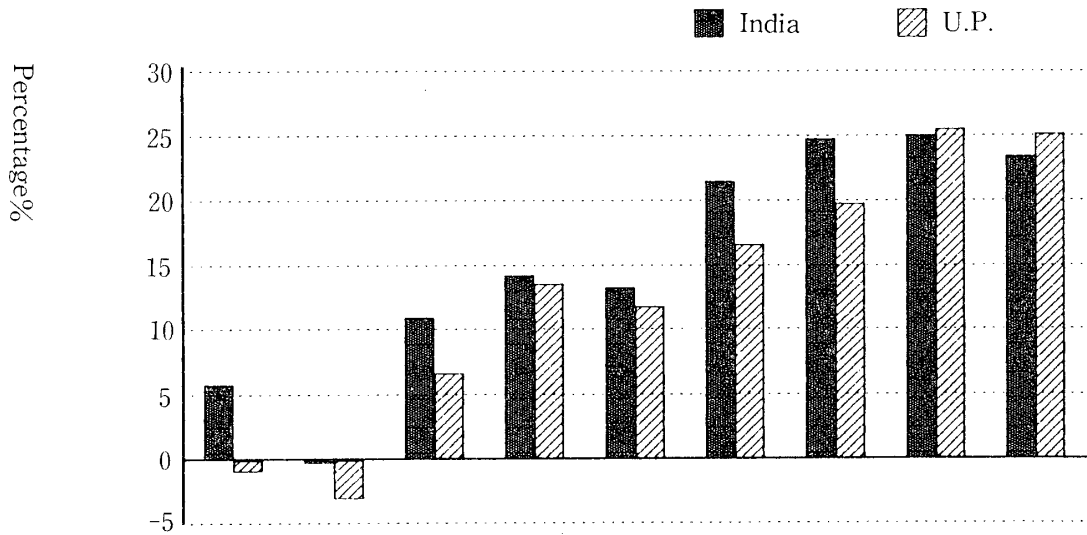
The growth rate of population in India reached one of the highest points in the



	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991
Year	238.04	252.09	251.32	278.98	318.66	361.09	439.23	548.16	685.18	843.93
U.P.	48.63	48.16	46.67	49.78	56.54	63.22	73.75	88.34	110.86	138.76

India

Fig. 1 Decennial growth of population 1901 – 91



	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991
India	5.75	-0.31	11.00	14.22	13.31	21.51	24.80	25.00	23.50
U.P.	-0.97	-3.08	6.66	13.57	11.82	16.66	19.78	25.49	25.16

Year

Growth Rate %

Fig. 2 Decennial growth of population 1901 – 91

world with 25.0% for ten years from 1971 to 81 census year as shown in Figure 2. It shows the decennial growth of population for 1901-1991 for the All India and Uttar Pradesh in which our sample study village, Khardaha is located.

As shown in Figure 2, the decennial growth rate of population of all India reached more than 20 % since 1961. While the growth rate of U.P. shows more than the all India's point for 1981 and 91. It may be said that the population growth factors are much higher in U.P. than in all India in 1970's and 80's. It may be said that the up-grade effect of rural economy shall be one of the major factors for the drastic population growth.

## **2. Hindering effect of population growth**

The population explosion is believed to give very serious hindering effects for the socio-economic growth of a country. In the case of India, a symbolic effects used to appear the fact of slow pace development of the per capita availability of foodgrains. Figure 3 demonstrates the very slow tempo of improvement of per capita availability of foodgrains in India since 1951. The government statistics of India (Ministry of Planning ed.(1989): *Basic Statistics relating to the Indian Economy-1989*) takes as foodgrains such agricultural products as rice, *jowar*, *bajra*, maize *ragi*, wheat, barley, other millets, gram, *tur* or *arhar*, and other pulses. It must be noticed that all kinds of millet shall be included to foodgrains instead of fodder crops in India.

As shown in Figure 3, the maximum availability of food grains per capita was 472.1 gram per day in 1987. But in the next year (1988), it again dropped to 441.4 gram per day. On one hand, the agricultural development should be highly appreciated for the adjustment of the food supply for the growing population. On the other hand, it is clearly understood that the very high growth rate of population is hindering the improvement of per capita availability of foodgrains in recent years.

It may be said that in term of average availability of food grains per capita in India has been remaining the almost same standard since 1961.

## **3. Population growth and its pressure on land**

The areal expansion of cultivated land in India seems to reach the upper limit level already. According to the data filed by the Ministry of Planning ed.(1989), "net area

ANREG 3, 1993

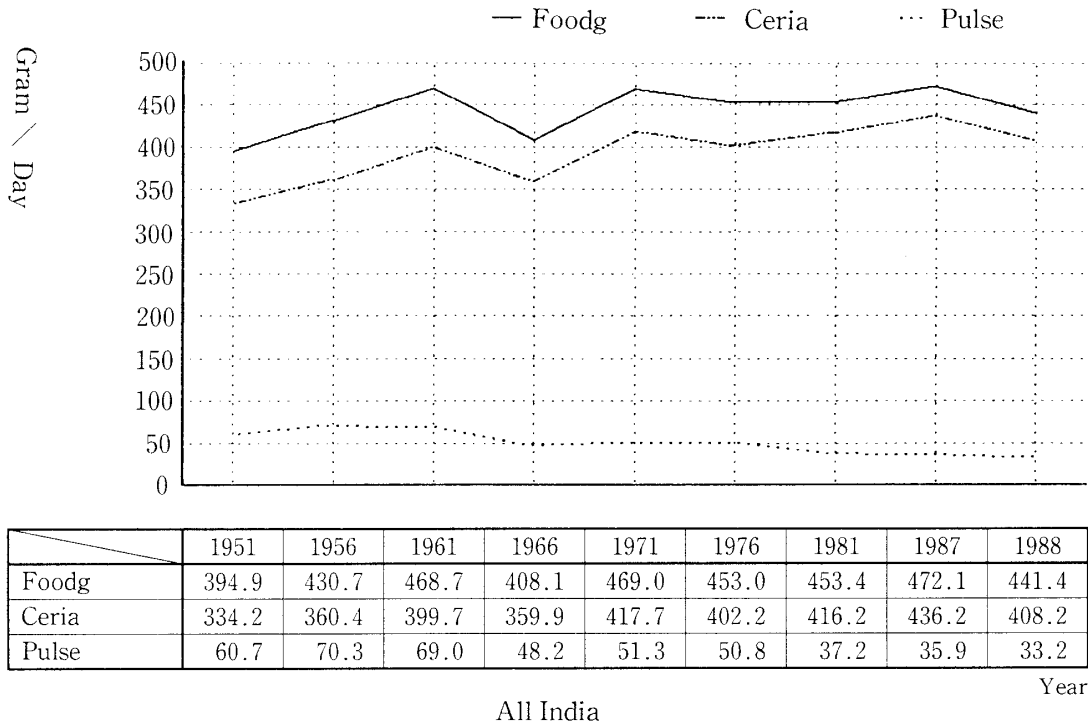


Fig. 3 Per capita availability of foodgrains

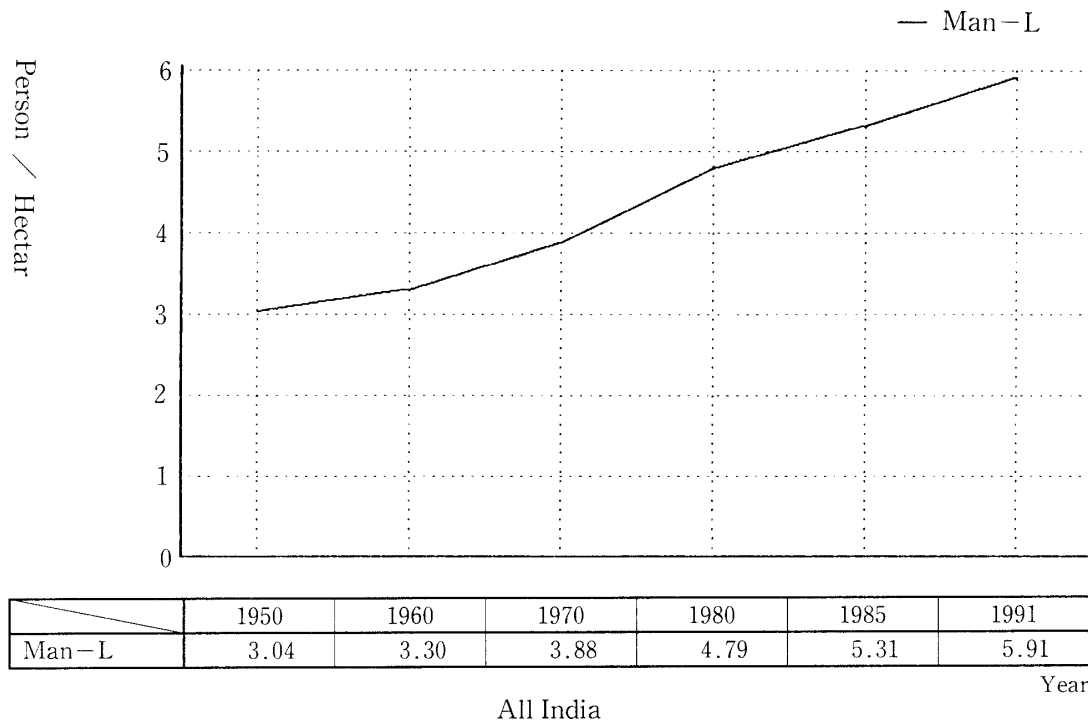


Fig. 4 Man-Land ratio 1950-1991

sown for all India in 1973-74" was 143.1 million hectares. Its area decreased slightly to 141.1 million hectares in 1985-86. However the population growth is still keeping the high growth rate of nearly 2.5% per annual.

This tendency is continuously giving the very high pressure on land-man relationship in the rural India. It is very clear that after the Independence of India, man to land ratio is getting worse year by year.

Figure 4 shows the changes in man-land ratio since 1950. The man-land ratio(person/hectar) was 3.04 in 1950, but it reached 5.91 in 1991. It is astonishing to understand the ratio doubled in 40 years since 1950. On the other hand, the land-man ratio(hectar/person) dropped from 0.33 in 1950 to 0.17 in 1991 as shown in Figure 5.

Above all the over population pressure in rural India is reaching almost the critical stage. Those workable people who belongs to the small land holding family or the landless family is facing at very hard time to find the job other than agriculturre in and around the village. It naturally happens that they have to migrate from the village to the larger towns to find the better job.

It might be said that it is close to the time for somethings happen in the rural India due to the great social tense .

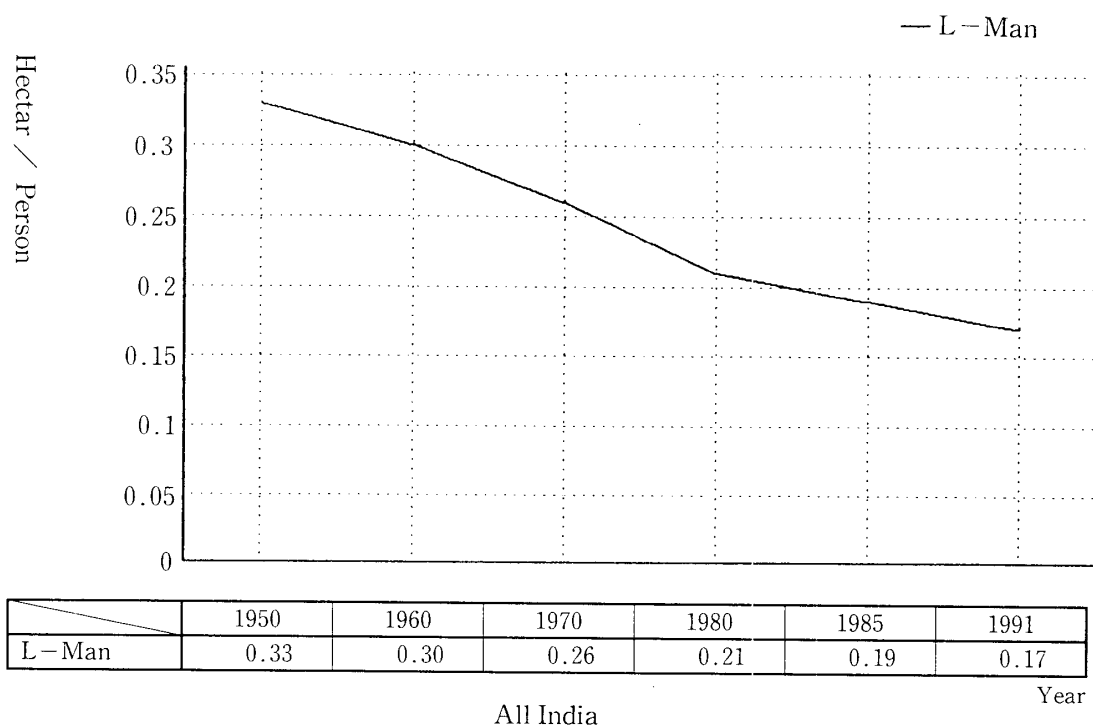


Fig. 5 Land-Man ratio 1950-1991

#### IV. Changes in population and households in Khardaha

##### 1. Population growth

The changes in population and households in Khardaha between the first survey in 1967 and the present survey of 1991 is shown in Figure 6. The total living population of Khardaha increased from 724 in 1967 to 1301 in 1991. The net increase was 577 persons or 79.7 % in 24 years. Male population increased from 359 to 625, and female from 365 to 676. Net increases of living population of the village was 266 for male and 311 for female. The gap between the increase in population of male and female was brought by the fact that male population went out the village seeking the jobs outside of the village for their living.

As shown in Figure 7, the growth rate of Khardaha population is 74.1% for male and 85.2% for female. It must be noted that the growth rate of female population was 5.5 point higher than that of male. It must be noted here that this is the reflection of male out-migration from the village to the larger towns for their earning.



Fig. 6 Growth of population and household



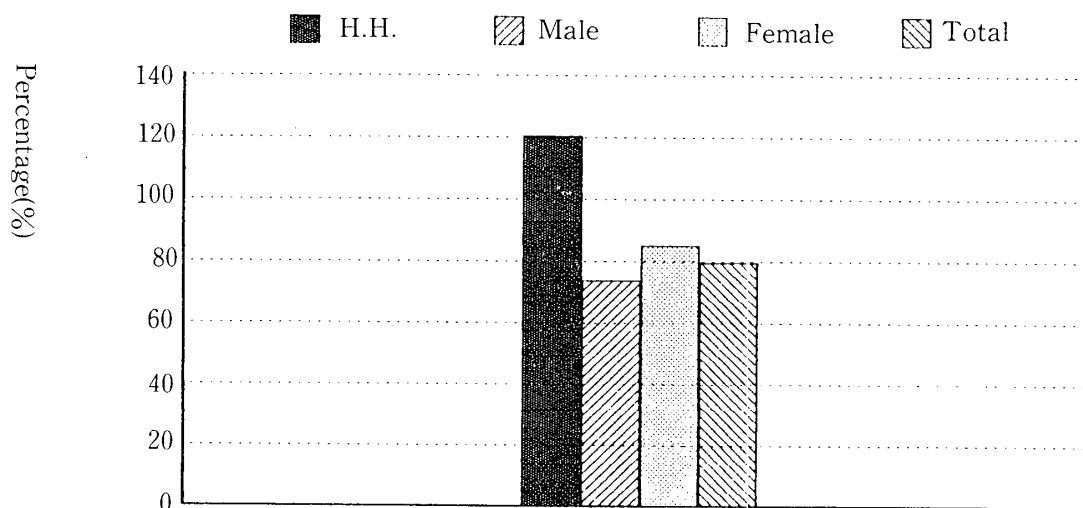
## 2. Partition of households

It is clearly shown in Figure 7 that the growth rate of households of Khardaha was 120.4% for 1967 and 1991. This fact seems to probe that the partition of households had much progressed between 1967 and 1991 in the village.

In the course of study on Indian rural households, the nature of joint family system had attracted the interest of many scholars by various academic fields. However, in this paper the main theme is how the original family either joint or single shall be divided into separate families by the cause of population growth between the generations.

In Khardaha village, six patterns (A to F) of partition of households can be seen as shown in Figure 8 in last 24 years.

“A pattern” means that a household in 1967 showed no partition in 1991. “B pattern” means that a household in 1967 showed a break-up into two households in 1991. Likewise, “C pattern” showed the break-up of a household into three. “D pattern” was separated into four families, “E pattern” into five, and “F pattern” into six families.



	67-91
H.H.	120.4
Male	74.1
Famal	85.2
Total	79.7

Khardaha

Fig. 7 Growth rate of population and household

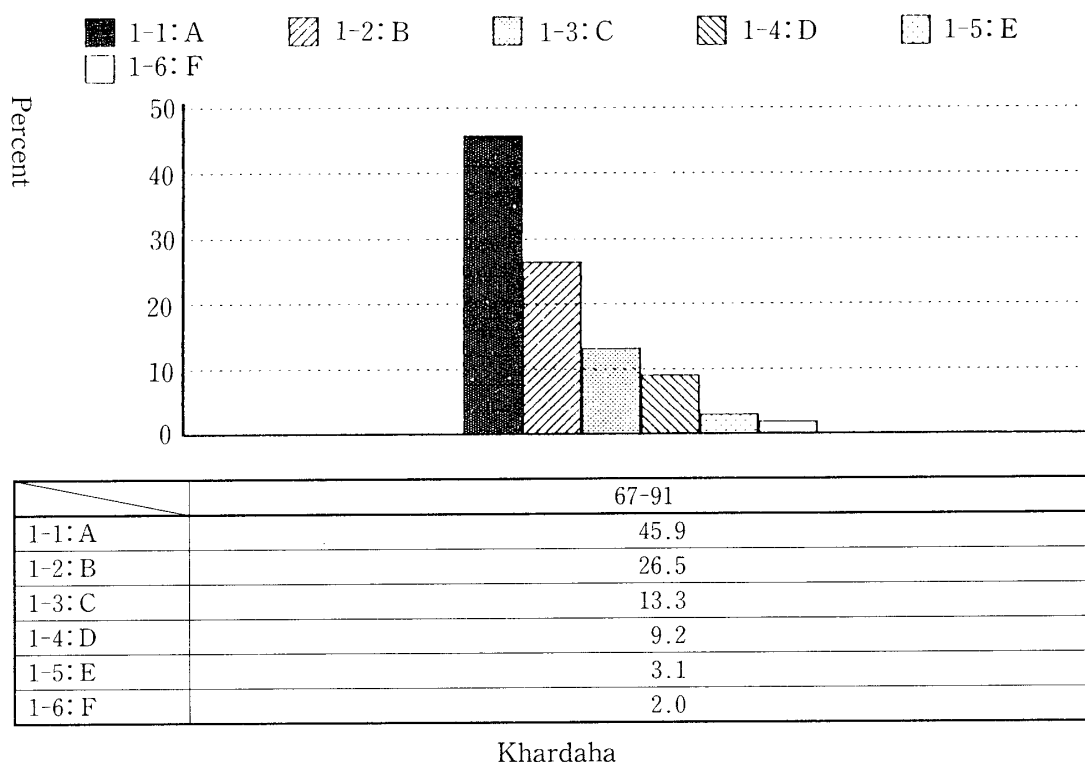


Fig. 8 Partition of household

The patterns of partition of household in Khardaha village is summarized in Figure 8. It is quite interesting to note that 45.9% of households of 1967 showed no partition after 24 years in 1991. The maximum percentage of household's partition is seen in "B pattern" which had broken-up into two in 24 years. Only 3.1% and 2.0% of households showed "E" and "F pattern" respectively. It must be noted that the partition of household into five or six in 24 years are very rare case in Khardaha.

### 3. Partition of household and its relation to their landholdings

Figure 9 shows the partition of household and its condition of landholdings. It is generally said in India that the land property of a household shall be divided among the sons with an equal share according to the Land Law.

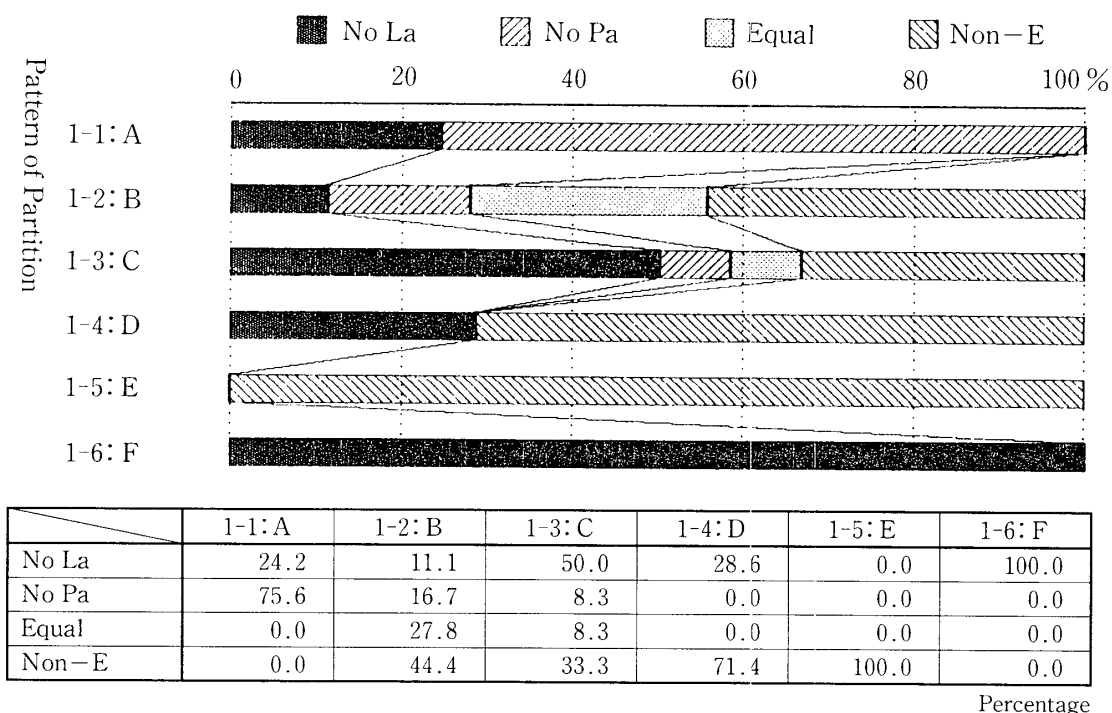
Maurya, R.P. (1990) had mentioned that the present rule of succession of land property follows the U.P. Zamindari and Land Reforms Act of 1950 in the State of Uttar Pradesh, where the sample study village, Kharda is located. In this Act, the law of succession of property contained under the Section 171 which describes "where a male tenure-holder, without making a valid will, dies, his interest in the holding shall devolve

amongst the heirs of nineteen categories in order of preference given below". The first category is that where a tenure-holder dies leaving a male lineal descendant. This category must be one of the most popular case. The Act notes that "the succession will be per *stirpes* and not per capita, and in equal shares, and persons entitled are all male lineal descendants in the male line of descent, irrespective of degree, and the widow of the above who has no son and has not remarried."(Maurya, R.P., p.187)

However, it is not practical to think that the land property shall be distributed among sons without making any considerations for the economical operation size of agriculture.

The remarkable facts can be found in Figure 9. The percentage of "no land holding", "no partitioned land", "landholding partition of equal share", and "landholding partition of non-equal share" are analyzed in Figure 9. The most noticeable fact is that the partition of landholdings with equal share is seen in the partition pattern B(27.8%) and C(8.3%) only. The high percentage of partition of non-equal share of landholdings is seen in the partition patterns D(71.4%) and E(100.0%).

It might be said that the more the number of partition of household become



Khardaha

Fig. 9 Partition of land holdings

large, the more the increase in number of household with non-equal share succession of land property.

It seems that this result probes the unfair justification of “the equal share succession of land property among Indian peasants”. It must be noted that in more practical way their verification of continuation of agricultural operation is the more important factor for the succession of land property.

## **References**

Maurya,R.P.(1990): *Uttar Pradesh Land Laws*. Central Law Agency, 315p.

Ministry of Planning,Govt. of India(1989): *Basic Statistics Relating to the Indian Economy 1989*. Govt. of India,169p.

Yonekura,J.ed.(1973): *Recent Changes in Settlements in India*. Kokon Shoin, 505p.