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**Title of Thesis: “Critical Analysis of Land Acquisition: A Socio -Legal
Perspective”**

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Pre-Ph.D. Submission Presentation (online) was held on 31st August, 2022 and the scholar has included all the relevant suggestions made during the Pre-Ph.D. submission seminar.

Final Ph.D Viva (online) was held on 17th April, 2023 and it was successfully defended by the scholar.

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FINDINGS

There was a lack of awareness among the respondents with regard to the LARR Act, 2013. They are not even aware of the basic features of the Act. The authorities claimed that they had given full compensation and even in some cases they had done rehabilitation through proper procedure as prescribed by the Act. However, this raises a question because at the ground level the PAP was completely denied about the same. They claimed that not even a proper survey is done before land acquisition, neither any proper, just or fair procedure as prescribed by the Act is followed and moreover, the respondents were not even aware about the LARR Act, 2013 and its characteristics. For their actual land price they had to visit different departments again and again and most of them are not even duly compensated for their land as per market value. As most of the respondents were farmers they are completely ignorant or we can say illiterate about what is happening to their land.

Surprisingly, no awareness programmes were conducted as all the 100% respondents replied in the negative. No department was found to be completely organized and up-to-date digitally with regard to the land acquisition cases in Department of Land Resources (DoLR). When RTIs were filed with the concerned Government departments to seek data required in connection with the research, the researcher was intimated that no records were available with them and only available in their register that too in manual form.

It was also found that whenever the Government forcefully acquires land especially rural and forest land wherein the stakeholders do not accrue any direct benefit the acquisition often fails subsequently snapping the overall development plan. Governments in the wake of social and economic development often exceed their traditional role of “Law keepers” to facilitators for private players in land acquisition, hence disturbing balancing of interest and negotiating power of the Land Owner and Affected Families. Attributable to this disturbance in Balance of Power between Acquirer and Affected People, the Government introduced “New Act” which is owner-centric wherein stakeholders are engaged at each step of land acquisition to make informed decisions and redress their issue and concerns.

Even as the government attempts to clear some of these policy loopholes and contradictions, the new legislation would find it difficult to see the light of the day as it would face uphill challenges from many fronts. Major challenges emanate from the state’s poor track records of implementing key legislations. In the absence of strong doses of administrative and structural changes in the nature of a Governance system, the new law would remain without teeth.

As it is aptly remarked that newer or more legislation is not the only solution rather what is needed is greater and more effective transparency and accountability within the administrative apparatus and make the land acquisition procedure more citizen-centred and participatory.