

## **CHAPTER – II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

Studying the literature has become important for the researcher to prevent inevitable unintended mistakes and replicate the research. This section provides a summary of the main models or viewpoints on access to land and livelihoods that are available in the literature. Documents or articles were chosen using a “backward spider” approach. The primary goals of the current literature review are to identify work undertaken in a particular field of study; to identify any research gaps in earlier research findings; to avoid duplicating previously existing research outcomes; and to enable current original study strategies more straightforward and coherent. The present literature is reviewed in chronological order.

#### **2.2 LAND ACCESS AND LIVELIHOOD IN GLOBAL CONTEXT**

Budlender (1992) in the “The Right to Equitable Access to Land” pointed that land claims finally come down to decisions about how to use land, costs, and how society’s resources should be administered. Thus, the issues posed by land claims are politically driven but in a more fundamental perspective that they are about who gets what, when, and how. Decisions are typically taken in the administrative structure by representatives from the local, state, and national governments. The legislative and other legal mechanisms can be used to organize the landless and homeless, impose basic duties on the state, provide landless rights, open up the decision-making process, and make it more accessible.

Zarin and Bujang (1994) in the article in “Theory on Land Reform: An Overview” attempted the land tenure mechanisms directly impact development issues and contribute to defining income distribution patterns. The land tenure system, especially in non-industrialized countries, shows socio-economic class differences and linkages. As defects in a tenure system stymie economic and social progress, land reform is usually necessary to restructure the institutional framework of tenure systems and eliminate impediments. Land reform has historically referred to the transfer of property rights in land for the benefit of landless peasants, local farmers, and tenants.

De Janvry et al. (2001) the authors present the key topic of access to land and the potential consequences of land policy reforms in the book chapter “Access to Land and Land Policy Reforms.” The question of optimal access to farmland includes questions such as who will be granted access and under what conditions will give access continue to be a source of concern in many developed countries.

The book of De Janvry et al. (2001) “Access to Land, Rural Poverty, and Public Action” examine each network of land access and suggest ways to improve their effectiveness in reducing poverty. Land is a fundamental economic asset in agricultural societies. It Analyses that most of the land in less advanced nations is underutilised and abused in sustainability. Lack of access to land or inadequate terms of access continues to be a major cause of hunger, and unfulfilled land demands may be a source of political instability. Around the same time, there are now unique possibilities to revisit problem of access to land. It is believed that there are various ways to gain access to land, each of which impacts how land is used. While state-led redistributive land reforms have historically received a lot of interest, they are only one choice among many, and they are currently not the easiest to handle politically.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2002) in “Land tenure and rural development” handbook reflects the growing recognition that access to land is often required for disadvantaged people to establish sustainable rural livelihoods. The secure access to land, whether legal, informal, traditional, or otherwise, it is essential for rural people’s livelihood security and is a necessary condition for sustainability. Land tenure issues are frequently a significant cause of food insecurity, limited livelihood possibilities, and, as a result, poverty. Reliable access to land must consequently be considered while developing remedies to existing rural development or food insecurity problems. It necessitates identifying and addressing land tenure issues at the outset of a rural development initiative.

In the paper of Cotula et al. (2006) “Better land access for the rural poor: Lessons from experience and challenges ahead,” pointed out that for hundreds of millions of rural inhabitants in developing countries; the land is a vital asset. The research focuses on lessons from current policy, legislation, and practice for improving and protecting disadvantaged communities’ access to rural land. It also investigates the linkages underlying land access and alleviating poverty, altering perspectives to land reform, various methods for securing land rights and achieving greater equitable land distribution, the unique susceptibility of specific

populations to losing existing rights to land, and the importance of addressing land rights in conflict resolution and peace-building.

Quan (2006) for the objectives of the article “Land access in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Issues, trends, linkages and policy options,” land access is commonly understood as the mechanisms through which individuals or groups get the right and opportunity to occupy and use land on a temporary or permanent base. Accessing land involves engaging in both legal and unregulated marketplaces, as well as gaining access to land through family and acquaintances, covering all land rights transferred through inherited or within relatives.

Network (2008) UN-HABITAT report in in “Secure Land Rights for All” emphasises the necessity for policies that ease access to land for all sections. Having access to land is a basic human right. It has evolved into an essential challenge in ensuring secure and long-lasting access to land for all those who require it, especially for the poor. It can offer secure land tenure in a variety of ways. Poor people are necessary for housing and livelihoods, and as such, they serve as a critical foundation for the realization of human rights and poverty alleviation.

In the article “Access to Land, Rural Development and Public Action: The When and the How” Bandeira and Sumpsi (2009) analyses the analytical literature on land access, agricultural production, and collective action to determine when and how the state can engage in rural land allocation. According to the study, positive effects achieved if public decisions on land distribution are carried out under specific terms and in a confident manner.

In the article “Land Rights Issues in International Human Rights Law” Wickeri and Kalhan (2010) addresses a land is indeed a bridge issue and therefore not merely a human right asset in the international legal system. The landlessness limits the exercise of a number of fundamental human rights. Access to land is critical not just for growth and poverty alleviation, but also for access to a wide range of economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as a gateway to numerous civic and political rights. Individual rights of land access for particular groups have been defined under the international legal framework. Access to land influences a wide range of rights. The fundamental rules of international law provide for protections about access to land that assess the legal implications of access to land for a wide range of human rights.

Bandeira and Sumpsi (2011) the lack of agreement on the social consequences of rights to land ownership has sparked heated political and scientific debates in the article

“Rural poverty and access to land in developing countries: Theory and evidence from Guatemala.” The study expands a hypothetical case about potential costs and asset accumulation strategies, variables that influence the positive effects of acquiring access to or raising the value of agricultural land acquisitions in emerging various countries. It puts the principle to the test using household survey data. It determines that successful rural income generation strategies can be versatile, where they can support access to land, and where beneficiaries are granted business-related incentives.

Geiser et al. (2011) in the paper “Access to Livelihood Assets: Inclusion, Exclusion, and the Reality of Development Interventions” defines necessity, many assets are needed for a living, and many considerations are involved in obtaining them. This paper focus on properties that are broadly related to land-based generating income, such as land itself, forestry, irrigation water, manufacturing inputs, commodity markets, and so on. The poverty is often triggered by an absence of access to land, water, and education. It combines findings from research conducted worldwide to explain why specific individuals are denied access to assets. Besides, it raises the question of whether access is enough – does just having access to services result in gains, or do we need to extend our definition of access? However, this article focuses on those who are more completely committed to relying on land-based resources for their livelihoods.

Kelly et al. (2013), in the article “The Mazama returns: the politics and possibilities of tribal land reacquisition,” since years of policy that threatened land rights and land possession, tribal access to traditional lands in the United States has increased, with increasing prospects for tribal land reacquisition. It is the outcome of changing rural land usage, legislation, and tenures, as forest and ranch proprietors have disentangled ownership, resulting in more available land. This case study examines trends associating developing tribal capacity and influence with access to land rights, as well as the relationships between governance, economics, race, power, and the ecosystem, using a political ecology lens.

Gilbert (2013) in the article “Land rights as human rights: the case for a specific right to land,” pointed out that land rights have gained some exposure as a land rights issue. The study investigates how land rights have been seen under international law on human rights from five perspectives: as a right to property, as a particularly important right for people of Indigenous descent, as a component of equality among genders, and as a rallying cry against uneven access to food and housing.

Almeida and Wassel (2016) in the project “Land rights and access to land survey in Timor-Leste - a tool for evidence-based policy and advocacy” addressed the land issues through a pilot study aimed at evaluating a unique land survey that would give quantitative data on land-related concerns. The survey can help develop evidence-based land policy and laws by the government and parliament, as well as civil society engagement. The survey was developed with the assistance of local participants such as government agencies, civic society, including professionals to provide crucial information to presently inaccessible policymakers. The study interviewed a random, representative sample of men and women who represented their residences, and it focused on households from different demographic categories.

The authors Clarkson and Murphy (2016) contend in the article “Tribal Leakage: How the Curse of Trust Land Impedes Tribal Economic Self-Sustainability” that title to trust property will and should be transferred to tribes and individuals in fee under a proposed tribal status that grants the tribe permanent authority, along with full taxation rights. A scheme like this will eliminate a significant source of economic leakage while still guaranteeing the newly purchased land is still subject to the territorial authority, regardless of the landowner’s race.

In the report of “ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, 1989 (No. 169): A Manual,” is a comprehensive international agreement designed to protect the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples. In the convention, Article 13(1) emphasizes the importance of respecting the cultural and spiritual values and practices of indigenous and tribal peoples, particularly concerning their relationship with the land or territories they occupy or use. This provision highlights the need for governments to recognize and protect the significance of land to these communities, which is often tied to their cultural identity, traditional knowledge, and way of life. Article 14(1) focuses on the rights of ownership and possession of the peoples concerned over the lands they traditionally occupy. It also mandates governments to take the necessary steps to identify these lands and ensure adequate protection of the rights of ownership and possession. Additionally, it emphasizes that measures should be taken to safeguard the rights of these peoples to use lands not exclusively occupied by them but to which they have traditionally had access for their subsistence and traditional activities.

The “Expert Group Meeting” on “Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” noted that adhering to good practices and guidance on responsible land tenure governance are the gateways to policies that enable rural communities to benefit from new possibilities and opportunities. Poor households can be pursued more

aggressively by a combination of shifting rural usage of land to more productive crops and strengthening landowner rights.

### **2.3 LAND ACCESS AND LIVELIHOOD IN ASIA CONTEXT**

Mannan (2001) in the article “South Asia’s Experience in Land Reform: The Role of NGOs, the State, and Donors,” articulated that because the great majority of South Asians live in rural regions, the land is a key source of subsistence. The land is also a status symbol, a source of power, a kind of social protection, and a source of contention between those who possess it and those who do not. The approaches of South Asian nations to land reform are very similar. The first aimed to promote a redistributive land policy by establishing land limitations for landowners and seeking to disperse confiscated land to the landless.

Bengwayan (2003) in the report “Intellectual and Cultural Property Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Asia” pointed indigenous and tribal groups worldwide face diverse challenges to their continued existence as distinct peoples. Asia’s indigenous and tribal communities face unique challenges such as native communities being evicted from their ancestral lands to prepare for mines, dams, logging permits, and tourist complexes. In certain instances, they are not compensated for lost lands.

Melis et al. (2006) the topic of the conference was “Putting Land First? Exploring the Links between Land and Poverty” the paper presented was divided into three categories: land ownership questions such as titling and tenancy systems; land access and rural poverty; and land reforms and land policy. It mentioned that the “Land is to rule” in everywhere in the world. Many who own land have assets, power, and prestige in a pre-industrial society. The land is a relevant cost, not just a resource. Many who own land are rich, and those who do not are impoverished. Land bestows social standing. In contrast, certain people’s social class, such as caste, denies them access to land. Land reforms, which have lately come to the fore, often have political ramifications.

The book of ANGOC (2009), an Asian NGO Coalition stresses the secured access to land in “Securing the Right to Land – A CSO Overview of Access to Land in Asia”. Improving land access is critical in diverse countries for addressing a wide range of social issues, including rural unemployment, hunger, food malnutrition, rural-urban migration, and political unrest. Land access has steadily been identified as a significant cause of the armed struggle, domestic abuse, corruption, internal migration, economic violence, and other social injustices. Thus, strengthening those with limited access to land will ensure their sustainable

future while also improving their quality of life. Agrarian reforms alleviate rural poverty directly, but its democratising consequences enable other pro-poor policies to function more efficiently.

Raihan et al. (2009) in the research paper “Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor: The Case of Bangladesh” discussed the ability to use lands and other natural resources, manage the resources, transfer the rights to the land, and take advantage of other benefits is referred to as access to land. It delves into the issues surrounding land access for impoverished rural populations in Bangladesh. The study highlights the critical role of land and natural resources in the livelihoods of the rural poor, emphasizing that access to these resources is fundamental for their economic stability and social well-being. The paper identifies several barriers to land access, including inequitable land distribution, tenure insecurity, and bureaucratic obstacles. It also examines the impact of these barriers on poverty and income inequality. By analyzing the effectiveness of land reform policies and programmes, the authors suggest that improving land access for the rural poor requires comprehensive policy interventions, community-based approaches, and stronger enforcement of land rights. The study underscores the necessity for sustainable land management practices to ensure that the rural poor can benefit equitably from natural resources. There are compelling considerations for ensuring that those in rural areas have secure access to land. It enables improved agriculture production and food stability, rural economic development, higher family incomes, and more productive land use. Access to land empowers disadvantaged rural communities, strengthens structures that give them a chance to speak and contributes to a more participative democratic culture. The access to land and proper tenancy protection are essential to both rural communities and rural economies.

Rutten et al. (2010) in the research paper “Localities of Value: Ambiguous Access to Land and Water in Southeast Asia,” discussed that access to localities of precious, such as forests, farm fields, and fishing grounds, is being highly disputed in Southeast Asia as economic growth and population development place growing strain on natural resources.

The book of Yoshino and Paul (2019) the “Land Acquisition in Asia: Towards a Sustainable Policy Framework” starts by posing questions about the difficulties encountered in securing access to land for purposes of development. One of the most prominent themes of this discourse is land capture without fair compensation. It examines the socio-economic and environmental challenges of land acquisition in Asia. The book critiques existing legal

frameworks, highlighting issues like displacement and inadequate compensation. It proposes a sustainable policy framework emphasizing participatory approaches, fair compensation, transparency, and community involvement. By analyzing successful case studies, the authors demonstrate how balanced land acquisition practices can drive economic growth and social stability. The book offers practical recommendations for policymakers to design equitable and sustainable land policies, promoting long-term development and minimizing adverse impacts on local communities.

## **2.4 LAND ACCESS AND LIVELIHOOD IN INDIA**

In the research “Social Exclusion and Land Administration in Orissa, India,” Mearns and Sinha (1998) emphasized the importance of access to land in rural India. The research offers an exploratory, state-level examination of the variables that limit the rural poor and other economically and socially excluded communities’ access to land. It serves as the first empirical study of its sort in India that examines land access through the perspective of transaction costs. This pilot experiment aimed to field-test a method that was repeated in other Indian states to find gradual changes in land administration and policies that would help increase poor rural access to land.

Mearns (1999) the purpose of the research paper “Access to Land in Rural India: Policy Issues and Options” is to provides an overarching basis for the critical analysis of viable initiatives to enhance access to land by the rural poor in India, as part of a larger strategy for eradicating inequality through rural development. The paper considers India’s record of introducing land reforms and describes the elements of a recent, complementary approach to improve accessibility to land for the rural poor by placing permanent restrictions on access to land in their historical context.

Pimple and Sethi (2005) in the article “Occupation of Land in India: Experiences and Challenges” inspect in its broadest sense, that land involves forests, mountains, water, and mines, which is the foundation of all human existence. It satisfies the essential requirements for food, clothing, and shelter. More crucially, for the 70% of Indians who rely primarily on agriculture, the land serves not just as a source of nourishment but also as a means of survival. It is also for those who are landless, and it is a means of income and a way of life.

Kumar et al. (2005), according to the report “A Socio-Economic and Legal Study of Scheduled Tribes’ Land in Orissa,” investigates the land issues faced by Scheduled Tribes in the Indian state of Orissa. The study focuses on the socio-economic conditions and legal

challenges that tribal communities encounter in accessing and retaining land. The report reveals that land is a crucial asset for the Scheduled Tribes, central to their livelihoods, cultural identity, and social status. However, these communities face significant obstacles, such as land alienation, inadequate legal protection, and encroachment by non-tribal populations. The research underscores the ineffectiveness of existing land laws and policies meant to safeguard tribal land rights, leading to economic vulnerability and marginalization. The authors advocate for stronger legal frameworks, effective enforcement of land rights, and community-led initiatives to protect and restore tribal land. The report highlights the need for comprehensive land reforms and inclusive policies to ensure socio-economic development and justice for the Scheduled Tribes in Orissa.

Purushothaman (2005) described alternative land-use and management strategies to improve the livelihood base of poor marginal farmers in India's dry forest periphery in his article "Land-Use Strategies for Tribals: A Socio-Economic Analysis." The tribal community's livelihood base has been weakened by land alienation, soil erosion, wild animal assaults, and dwindling access to forests. Benefit-cost studies and stakeholder consultations show that millet-based dry farming with soil restoration or raising perennials on field bunds is more cost-effective than existing methods and has stakeholder support. Any other economically superior alternative land-uses are not appropriate locally, demonstrating prudence to create tribal planning plans.

Aufschnaiter (2008) in the doctoral dissertation, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology "First you push them in, then you throw them out: The Land Rights Struggle of the Adivasi Peoples in India with Special Reference to South India" India is unusual because it has a highly advanced minority rights defence scheme for its Scheduled Tribes, which is effectively useless due to a lack of enforcement on the ground.

Almost half of the global population relies on land as their main source of income. However, land and services based on land are crucial, particularly for fulfilling the subsistence requirements of tribal communities. Apart from being a means of subsistence, soil, trees, and other natural resources are widely identified with social, economic, and political influence. Another aspect that contributes to land alienation is a lack of census and treaty data. In the paper "Land Alienation and other Land Related issues in Tribal areas- An Overview," Patnaik (2009) delves into the challenges that arise from the ambiguity in laws governing land alienation and regeneration in specific states, including the issue of land

alienation among tribal communities in India. The research emphasises the frequent occurrence of non-tribal individuals and entities seizing control of tribal lands, leading to notable socio-economic drawbacks for indigenous communities. Author discusses the legal and systemic failures that facilitate this alienation, including weak enforcement of protective laws and policies. The report calls for stronger legal frameworks, effective implementation of existing protections, and community empowerment to address and mitigate land alienation and ensure sustainable livelihoods for tribal communities and provide the procedures for the solve of all the land related cases for the tribal lands.

Thirunavukkarasu (2009) in the research study “A Study of Land Use and Cropping Pattern following Land Reforms in a Tribal Area of Tamil Nadu” analyses that to promote the more unproductive use of land resources, land reform policies are required to initiate tribal development. Land reform legislation should be adapted to each tribal area. It is related to the inequitable allocation of lands due to land reforms, which has resulted in a change in the tribals’ socio-economic status. As an outcome, a new survey and settlement should be done to terminate the tribals’ stagnant situation. Perhaps a more equitable land allocation should be encouraged.

Ambagudia (2010) in the article “Tribal Rights, Dispossession and the State in Orissa” pointed land rights issue is nowhere more relevant among society’s marginalised groups than among tribals. The value of social justice influenced the theory of land reforms, which aimed to provide fair or minimal land rights while discouraging consolidation of ownership of land.

In the working paper “Tribal movements and livelihoods: Recent developments in Orissa” the authors Padhi and Panigrahi (2011) analyses of human rights violations against indigenous peoples’ rights to life and livelihood are a key concern. The study aims to assess tribal policies and activities critically. It seeks to assess the influence of initiatives for development on tribal people’s livelihood resources and to change perceptions about these programmes. Also, aims to look at different ways of articulating indigenous people’s collective concerns for the promotion and maintenance of their natural resource-based livelihoods.

In the article “Land Reforms and Record Management in Tribal Areas: Pertaining Issues and Prospects” the authors Behera and Singh (2014) discussed how India’s tribal groups face many issues. Land alienation is a hotly debated issue among tribal communities.

Despite conservation legislation and Constitutional provisions in the scheduled areas, tribal peoples continue to be victims of land alienation. Although there are many causes for land alienation, it is believed that issues with record-keeping in tribal areas are also to blame for illicit trade and land conversion, resulting in land alienation and posing a risk to land protection. In most tribal regions, the surveys were done in some places more than a century ago. As a result, there are tensions and inconsistencies between the public and authorities and the deprivation of tribal communities by land alienation, poverty, and threats to livelihood safety.

Simon (2016) in the research article “Land Laws, Livelihood and Human Security of Tribes in India” attempts to examine the history of tribal land displacement and the enormous challenges they have faced in recent years. The article discusses how rules, regulations, and acts affect tribal land problems and their access to timber and forest resources and how much the government should go to fix the problem. The most delicate matters for tribes in India are estate, livelihood, and human protection after they lost control over land and resources at a personal and community level. Tribals are on the brink of their social and economic situations, prompting an examination of their history and character. New factories and intermediaries have infiltrated the tribal country, causing deforestation and forest encroachment.

Sarap (2017), the author in the article “Erosion of Access to Resource, Poverty, and Public Action in the Tribal Belt of Central India” examines how tribal people can reclaim their dignity and identity. It also analyses how the reduced availability of land and other natural resources affects the socio-economic status of tribal communities. The research emphasises that the loss of land, clearing of forests, and exploitation of natural resources have resulted in a significant decline in traditional resources, ultimately leading to higher levels of poverty and exclusion. Sarap critiques the inadequacies of legal protections and public policies designed to safeguard tribal land rights, pointing out the ineffective enforcement and systemic issues that exacerbate resource loss. The article calls for robust public action, including legal reforms and community-led initiatives, to restore and protect tribal access to land and resources. Sarap advocates for participatory development approaches that actively involve tribal communities in resource management and policy-making processes, aiming to ensure sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty in the tribal regions of central India.

Rao (2017) in the book “Tribal Land Question: Case of Andhra” examines the land has always been and remains the most crucial asset for tribal groups and their identification. The land is intricately intertwined with tribal life and survival as for the others. The perception of land issues of tribal also included administrative and legal intervention strategies to reclaim alienated tribal lands from non-tribal trespassers. It allows for a more in-depth analysis of the intricacies of ethnic land acquisition. It also emphasises the link respectively non-tribal inductees into tribal areas’ political groups and the government, which has been a participant in tribal land alienation. Further explores the historical context of protection land policies and forest legislation in terms of the results of legal cases launched against non-tribal inhabitants for land restitution. It can stimulate substantive dialogue on tribal land matters, as well as increase access to the land.

Xaxa (2017) in the book chapter research article “Work, Institutions and Sustainable Livelihood: Issues and Challenges of Transformation” discussed that it is impossible to imagine indigenous/tribal peoples outside of land and forest. Xaxa analyses the intricate connection between land and how tribal communities in India make a living. The chapter emphasises the importance of land to the socio-economic well-being and cultural identity of these communities. Xaxa discusses the challenges posed by land alienation, resource depletion, and institutional barriers that hinder sustainable livelihood practices. The analysis underscores the need for effective land reforms, robust legal protections, and inclusive policies that empower tribal communities, and calls for a transformative approach to ensure sustainable development and secure land rights for tribals. Some people depend entirely on the forest for their survival as food hunter-gatherers, while others rely on the land as peasant cultivators and do not depend on forest resources. The deprivation of land, forests, and other resources negatively impacts tribal communities in India.

Wahi and Bhatia (2018) in the report “The Legal Regime and Political Economy of Land Rights of Scheduled Tribes in Scheduled Areas of India” investigate the tribes’ troubles on land rights. The report leads to a deeper comprehension of how this is so, adding new insights to debates in India and even the international literature on land rights, social inclusion, and progress. This report thoroughly analyses the legal structures and political factors that regulate land rights for Scheduled Tribes. Report highlights systemic issues such as weak enforcement of protective laws, land alienation, and bureaucratic hurdles that undermine tribal land rights. The authors emphasize the need for stronger legal protections,

effective policy implementation, and political commitment to safeguard tribal land. The report proposes giving tribal communities more power through participatory governance and legal changes to secure sustainable access to and ownership of their ancestral lands.

In the paper “Increasing Access to Land for Housing for Irula Tribal Families: Lessons from Implementing the Solid Ground Campaign In India” Samuel et al. (2019) explore future policy measures to resolve the land rights of such vulnerable groups as well as lessons learned from applying the initiative in India. Access to decent, stable land for even the most basic housing needs remains a major issue for many poor households. This is even though the land is crucial for their survival, livelihood, success, and escape from poverty.

Saxena (2020) in the monograph series April 2019 “Protection of tribal livelihoods & cultural expressions” pointed Indian tribals are at the bottom of the social and political hierarchy. As a result, development initiatives have avoided them. However, they have often hurt them by seizing their lands and other resources that supported tribal livelihoods, leading to the discovery of the reasons for their suffering. To prevent this, corrective measures are implemented. Nevertheless, new projects will still neglect their traditions and way of life, just like they have previously.

Reddy et al. (2020) in the article “Tribal and Non-Tribal Farmers’ Land Rights and Food Security Promotion in Telangana” investigate and contrast the condition of land rights. Conducted through thorough field research, this study delves into the crucial connection between land ownership and farmers’ food security in Telangana. The research explores the impact of secure land ownership and access on agricultural productivity, food security, and livelihoods for tribal and non-tribal farmers. It points out the differences in land rights and legal protections, explaining that tribal farmers encounter more difficulties because of past marginalisation and insufficient legal structures. The study results indicate that having secure land rights is crucial in improving food security and encouraging sustainable farming methods. The writers support fair land reforms, stressing the need for strong legal safeguards and policies that guarantee equal land access for Indigenous farmers. They advocate for inclusive policy measures to tackle these gaps, promoting better agricultural results and food security for all farmers in Telangana. The research emphasises the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to promoting land rights and food security in the area.

Sinha (2021) in the doctoral dissertation, Indian Institute of Technology “Land tenure security and livelihood activity choices in tribal areas of Jharkhand” researched indigenous

people's access to land and means of livelihood. The first component focuses on how a household perceives its land access and tenure security of land. Second objective focuses on the livelihood activity choices made by households in the light of their perceptions of their access to assets for their livelihood and security of tenure.

## **2.5 LAND ACCESS AND LIVELIHOOD IN NORTH-EAST INDIA**

In the book "Alienation of Tribal Land and Indebtedness," Bordoloi (1986) suggested the recommendation of alienating Tribal Land and Indebtedness in the proceedings. Land displacement and indebtedness emerge as major concerns for numerous Scheduled Tribe communities in India. Land alienation and debt issues in indigenous communities differ depending on the state, region, and specific tribal group. Similarly, the various land structures and land management practices throughout the country are not uniform, despite land being a matter of state jurisdiction. The tribal communities often have specific native customary land control rules.

Fernandes (2003) in the research article "Development Environment and the Livelihood of the Poor in the Northeast," pointed out that land has remained the single most significant physical possession, especially for tribals. Land plays a vital role in shaping ethnic and cultural identities within a region. Their means of subsistence have resulted in the formation of a mutually beneficial link with their society, as well as the emergence of tradition, rituals, customs, and social power mechanisms to secure their long-term usage.

Hanstad et al. (2008) in the article "Improving Land Access for India's Rural Poor" examine the evolution of land reform policy in India in light of the current circumstances. India has the world's highest proportion of rural poor and landless households. They discuss how lack of land ownership exacerbates poverty, restricts economic opportunities, and limits social mobility for millions of rural Indians. The article reviews the effectiveness of land redistribution programmes and identifies barriers such as bureaucratic inefficiencies and socio-political resistance. To alleviate landlessness, the authors recommend policy reforms focused on transparent land allocation, legal support for land rights, and empowering local communities to manage and distribute land resources. Their analysis underscores the necessity of land access for achieving rural development and poverty alleviation.

The edited book "Land, People and Politics: Contest over Tribal Land in Northeast India," of the authors Fernandes and Barbora (2009) discussed their report based on studies on

land alienation in various Northeastern states. It also looks into the intricate interactions of land ownership and the political challenges encountered by tribal communities in Northeast India. The book focuses on topics like land alienation, exploitation of resources, and conflicts stemming from governmental and corporate interests. It examines the social, economic, and cultural consequences of these land disputes, underscoring the significance of land in tribal identity and sustenance. The contributors advocate for stronger legal protections, community empowerment, and inclusive policies to address land-related conflicts and promote sustainable development for tribal communities in the region.

Pathak (2010) in the research article “Tribal Politics in the Assam: 1933-1947,” tribals’ politics revolved around topics such as identifying and building a tribal identity, refusing to be accepted into Hindu caste culture, temple entry, access to land, migration from conventional habitational regions, and overall backwardness. The author regards the ‘Line system’ to safeguard tribal land. It envisioned drawing an imaginary border between two different zones, with no immigrants authorized to occupy the land within this line.

Vandekerckhove (2011) makes a case for a more agency-oriented approach to the analysis of land relations in general in the article “The State, the Rebel, and the Chief: Public Authority and Land Disputes in Assam, India.” The focus lies on different interactions involving the state, the rebel, and the chief. This research forms part of wider significant scholarly effort to change people’s perceptions of land ties.

The 2011 report titled “This is Our Land: Ethnic Violence and Internal Displacement in north-east India” concentrated on the plight of internally displaced persons in major incidents of extensive violence, leading to the relocation of millions within the area. In northeast India, there are already multiple reasons of conflict and abuse. Countless numbers of ethnicities in Northeast India don’t exist in separate areas, and their calls for indigenous native lands have sometimes contributed to widespread unrest, including, in effect, forced migration. An increasing number of relocation characters indicate that perhaps the Sixth Schedule doesn’t immensely contribute to secure and successful defence of many communities in the northeast but instead propagates possibly harmful rivalry for political control and land.

Fernandes (2012) in the article “Tribal Commons and Conflicts in Manipur and Tripura in Northeast India” discussed tribal groups whose identities are inextricably tied to their territory, which is governed according to community-based customary law. Also

examine the role of land, especially the commons, in the conflicts in Manipur and Tripura and some equivalents.

Thaikho (2018) in the doctoral dissertation research “Land, People, and Territoriality: A Study of Poumai Naga Tribe” emphasises that the land issue is multifaceted; economic, political, social, and spiritual. Land comprehension extends beyond the knowledge of economic survival. It serves as the basis for the people’s ancestral belonging (origin), identity, and history. The importance of land and territoriality in their conflict is fundamental to their very life and survival.

The ongoing discussion on land legislation highlighted in Kipgen’s (2018) book chapter “Land Laws, Ownership, and Tribal Identity: The Manipur Experience” is crucial as it prompts contemplation on the fundamental aspects of land laws, governance, and the democratic viewpoint for the tribal population in India’s North Eastern region.

Marchang (2018) in the research article “Land, Agriculture and Livelihood of Scheduled Tribes in North-East India,” examines land in the northeastern area that is jointly owned and controlled by the Society of Scheduled Tribes. As an effect, households lacking land are much less prevalent in many tribes’ households than across all social classes, especially in tribal-dominated states. The most essential requirement is land, with agriculture, especially shifting cultivation, serving as the main revenue source for most individuals. Scheduled Tribes families mostly farmed small and medium-sized parcels of land for livelihood.

Fernandes et al. (2019) explore how land is central to tribal heritage and is seen as a key factor in ethnic conflicts in Northeast India in their book “Ownership, Management and Alienation: Tribal Land in Northeast India.” This requires an examination of land issues and disputes between tribes.

## **2.6 LAND ACCESS AND LIVELIHOOD IN ASSAM**

One of the primary reasons for tribal unrest in India is the alienation of tribal land. Throughout the report of “Report on the Alienation Survey of Tribal Land in Assam,” of Bordoloi (1999) addresses a broad difference between some of the occurrences of recorded land alienation instances and the real cases of alienation. The Tribal Research Institute in Assam conducted field surveys in tribal communities within and outside of tribal belts and blocks to assess the level of alienation of tribal lands.

Sharma and Sarma (2014) in the research article “Issues of conservation and livelihood in a forest village of Assam,” when landless peasants from rural regions moved to the forest areas in quest of land and a living, numerous identifiable forest settlements were established. Unfortunately, the forest department and its control, together with their growing population and desire for land, led to a significant conflict.

Baruah (2015) explores the historical context and current challenges related to land access among tribal communities in Assam in the research article “Land access and tribal communities in Assam: Historical context and contemporary challenges.” The research focuses on how land policies during colonial and post-colonial times have frequently marginalised indigenous communities, resulting in socio-economic disadvantages. It discusses how the lack of secure land tenure has resulted in conflicts and hindered sustainable development in tribal areas.

Gogoi (2016) aims to investigate the land development processes in the state of Assam in the research paper “Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement in Assam: Some Issues and Concerns.” Investigate and reconsider the problems and questions posed by the government’s land acquisition and R&R policies.

Sarma (2016) in the research paper “Role of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in livelihood of the Tribal community living in hilly area of Kamrup district, Assam” pointed out that the average income level of Assamese tribal households varies according to their ownership of agricultural land. The majority of the non-timber goods used by tribal people who lack land come from the forest.

From the article “Tribal Philosophy and Pandit Nehru,” Mishra (2017) discussed Assam’s location piqued Nehru’s interest. He made his first exposure to this land in December 1945, shortly after World War II. On his way back to Calcutta (Kolkata) on December 21, 1945, Nehru’s best expression of tribal philosophy is found in the work or preface to Verrier Elwin’s “Treatise on a Philosophy for NEFA.” As Nehru, in the fundamental values of “Tribal Panchasila” regarding tribal rights, in the principles “Tribal rights in land and forests should be respected.”

In the research paper “Tribal livelihoods and land access in Assam: The interplay of agriculture and forest resources,” Dutta (2017) examines the livelihoods of tribal peoples in Assam, focusing on their dependence on agriculture and forest resources. The study analyses the ways in which land access influences agricultural productivity and food security among

tribal communities. It also examines how traditional knowledge and practices support livelihoods and the obstacles presented by modern agricultural methods and environmental decline.

Dey and Haloi (2019) in the research paper “Assets, rural livelihood strategies and welfare outcomes: A case study from South Assam, India” in Assam study non-agriculture makes up most of a household’s activities. According to their surroundings, they choose their means of livelihood.

The land policy of “Assam Land Policy of 2019” after independence, the Government of Assam implemented four new land policies in 1958, 1968, 1972, and 1989 to satisfy the expectation of the prevailing circumstance during the particular period. Even though more than three decades have passed since the implementation of the 1989 Land Policy, numerous grievances remain unresolved regarding land settlements for indigenous peoples and government land possession by landless individuals in the State. The 2019 Assam Land Policy also highlights the pressing importance of safeguarding the land rights of the native inhabitants in the state, and the need to review current land policies and state land laws and makes appropriate modifications to align them with modern realities.

Sarma (2019) explores how government policies and programmes affect the ability of tribal peoples in Assam to access land and maintain livelihood security in the paper titled “Government Policies, Land Access, and Livelihood Security for Tribal Peoples in Assam.” The study evaluates the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at protecting tribal land rights and promoting sustainable livelihoods. It highlights the successes and limitations of these policies, suggesting areas for improvement to ensure equitable development and social justice for tribal communities.

Duarah (2022), in the research article “Forests and women’s livelihood in tribal societies: A history of land use change in Assam” mentioned that due to the rise in tribal landlessness over the last several years, their agricultural livelihoods have grown increasingly precarious. In Assam state, where the research region is located, the landholding system is an issue for peasant agriculture.

## **2.7 LAND ACCESS AND LIVELIHOOD IN BODOLAND TERRITORIAL REGION**

Banerjee (2011) discussed in the academic paper “Tribal Land Alienation and Ethnic Conflict: Effectiveness of Laws and Policies in BTAD Area,” the increasing problems of division in the North East region and in the Bodoland Territorial Area District, where violence due to displacement is prevalent. There have been instances of significant displacements caused by conflict and frequent disturbances among indigenous tribes and immigrants. Analysing the causes of conflicts over land among tribes and other groups, and evaluating the effectiveness of specific laws and government initiatives, is crucial. Efforts have been made for decades to protect indigenous peoples and stop the transfer of their land.

Bordoloi (2015) in the article “Land tenure systems and agricultural practices in BTR” examines land tenure systems and their impact on agricultural practices in BTR. The study highlights the significance of secure land tenure for the economic stability of tribal peoples and the challenges posed by current land policies.

In the research paper “The Bodo movement: A historical overview,” Brahma (2016) provides a historical overview of the Bodo movement for autonomy, emphasizing the role of land alienation in fuelling the movement. The research highlights how crucial land accessibility is for the socio-political equilibrium of tribal communities in the Bodoland Territorial Region.

Goswami (2017) in the article “The Sixth Schedule and its impact on tribal land rights in BTR” evaluates the impact of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution on tribal land rights in BTR. The study finds that while the Sixth Schedule aims to protect these rights, its implementation has been inconsistent, leading to ongoing land disputes and challenges.

Das (2018) in the research paper “Colonial and post-colonial land policies in Assam” explores the historical context of land policies in Assam, highlighting how colonial and post-colonial policies have affected tribal land rights. The research suggests that these policies have caused the marginalised and displaced tribal communities in BTR, resulting in socio-economic conflicts in the area.

Narziary (2018) explores various government interventions aimed at improving agricultural productivity in BTR in the research paper “Government interventions in agricultural productivity in BTR.” The study assesses the effectiveness of these programmes in enhancing the livelihoods of tribal communities and identifies areas for improvement.

Kalita (2019) examines in paper “Land degradation and its impacts on tribal agriculture in BTR” the impacts of land degradation on tribal agriculture in BTR. The research examines the impact of soil erosion, deforestation, and climate change on agricultural productivity and the well-being of tribal communities.

Deka’s (2019) study “Forest resources and tribal livelihoods in Bodoland” explores how forest resources support the livelihoods of tribal communities in BTR. The research emphasises how important forests are for food, fuel, and income for these communities, and the dangers caused by deforestation and environmental decline.

Swargiary and Mahanta (2020) in the research paper “Changing pattern of farm and non-farm livelihood among the Bodos: a study in Bodoland territorial areas of Assam, India” found the shift in livelihood from the agricultural to the non-agricultural sector, particularly evident in the Bodoland region. To help marginalized communities, agro-based business entities should be fostered, and skill development activities should be established. Many tribal communities rely on their natural environment, traditional knowledge, and organisation for their livelihoods.

Borah (2020) in the article “Shifts in agricultural practices among Bodos: From subsistence to market-oriented farming” discusses the shifts in agricultural practices among the Bodo community, from subsistence farming to market-oriented agriculture. The study analyses how these changes impact the livelihoods of tribal peoples in BTR, including both opportunities and challenges.

Roy (2020) investigates the issue of encroachment and land conflicts in Bodoland in the paper “Encroachment and land conflicts in Bodoland.” The research emphasises the disagreements between tribal and non-tribal communities regarding land resources and the effects on social unity and economic progress.

Sharma (2020) conducted a field study in Kokrajhar district to examine the effects of land fragmentation on agricultural productivity as discussed in the research paper “Impacts of land fragmentation on agricultural productivity in Kokrajhar district.” The research offers real-life evidence of the impact of land fragmentation on agricultural productivity and the well-being of tribal farmers.

## **2.8 RESEARCH GAP**

The above literature survey shows the following research gaps in the proposed research topic:

1. There is a lack of effort to explore the difficulty related to tribal land relationships and land access in the region.
2. There is no study on policies and processes to gaze inappropriate or inability of land access that affects tribals' livelihoods.
3. Secure land tenure security and equitable is also a big challenge in the region.
4. There is no literal study that focuses on the challenges of the tribal people regarding land access and use of land.
5. Only a few studies have been found on the criticality of the livelihoods of tribal peoples, but no studies have been found regarding the landless and livelihoods of the tribal people in the proposed study areas.
6. No studies have been found on the issues of land access and livelihood affecting tribal people particularly the Bodos, Rabhas, and Garos which constitute the three major tribes in the proposed study area.

## **2.9 CONCLUSION**

Many researchers have conducted in-depth research on land rights, disputes, and access to land. However, the study on tribal access to land issues related to their livelihood has not been comprehensively researched by any scholars in the field that the current research have taken in the BTR. The assessment of accumulated literature on analyses undertaken in the relevant area of the current research has shed light on many facets of tribal access to land problems. Analysis of literature has offered many clues and information on various matters relating to land rights and land access for rural poor people at a worldwide, national, and regional level, enabling researchers to delve deeper into the issues.

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