

Land, Law and Legacy: Exploring the Educational Effects of Colonial Land Policies and Present-Day Property Disputes

Dr. Zahid Iqbal¹, Humayun Sohail² & Muhammad Rashid Mahmood³

¹Assistant Registrar, University of Okara, Punjab, Pakistan.

E-mail: zahidiqballak@gmail.com

²PhD Scholar, Department of Education, University of Okara, Punjab, Pakistan. E-mail: Humayunkhanlodhi55@gmail.com

³MPhil Scholar, Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

Email: bhattimahi45@gmail.com

Abstract

Using a qualitative approach, this study identifies and explores the determinants of land litigation in Pakistan. Interviews and focus group discussions with a wide range of key stakeholders were used to collect data, including additional district collectors, deputy commissioners, assistant commissioners, tehsildars, patwaris, lawyers, and revenue officers. Qualitative content analysis revealed ten key themes that play a major role in land disputes during colonial land grants and the zamindari system. Such themes include the inherited history of conflicts, land record tempering, the absence of land reforms, power dynamics in villages, disputes over patriating properties, systems left by the colonial era, opposition to land redistribution, the elite land-owning class, land ownership concentration, and evictions of indigenous communities. The results give an overall understanding of the complex interplay of these determinants and provide a perspective to mitigate the issues related to the land dispute over colonial land grants and the zamindari system. The outcomes of this study will also be valuable for educational institutions and training centers that provide education and professional training to land revenue officers and judicial officers.

Keywords: Colonial Land Grants, Zamindari System, Land Disputes, Land, Law, Legacy, and educational policy.

Introduction

Land disputes form a major chunk of Pakistan's civil litigations and hamper economic development and social stability in the country. Current estimates suggest that more than 60–70% of civil litigation in Pakistani courts is in relation to land-related cases such as ownership, inheritance, and tenancy disputes (Siddique, 2020). Such disputes represent approximately 90% of all criminal cases in the rural regions, as their legal proceedings often take years, e.g., inheritance cases may remain pending for over 4 years, with courts in the inland revenue also taking over 3 years to resolve similar cases (Haque & Waqar, 2024). The largest burden on the economy comes from the inefficiencies of land dispute resolution systems, which cost the economy approximately 1.65% of GDP each year (Haque & Waqar, 2024). Again, in just 2024, 148 people were killed in property disputes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, illustrating the dire social implications of lingering land reconciliations (Daily Times, 2024).

Colonial-era policies, particularly the Zamindari system, led to land disputes that have persisted in recent years. British colonial rule, however, also granted extensive land to loyal intermediaries who became a hereditary class of landlords, controlling much of the agricultural land (Ali, 1988). Concerns about this new system rupturing existing communal landholding trends and replacing them with a land tenure hierarchy model that persisted in a post-colonial context. The absence of extensive land reforms meant that these feudal systems persisted, resulting in ambiguous property records, which led to overlapping claims and continue to contribute to contemporary litigation (Cheema, 2020). Through the Zamindari system in varying states, such as Punjab, we see further centralization of land ownership exceeding social divides, leading to persisting land grabs (Rose, 2024).

The literature on land tenure systems and agrarian reforms is extensive in South Asia, but studies linking colonial land policies to contemporary land litigation in Pakistan are few and far between. The majority of studies dealing with the land tenure systems focus on economic consequences or wider effects spawned by agrarian reforms, and seldom address the historical roots of these legal conflicts as related to land disputes, as seen in the historical land grants and the Zamindari system

(Gazdar, 2009; Hasan & Riaz, 2015). This study seeks to bridge this gap by examining the long-term institutional and legal implications of colonial land grants and Zamindari structures in sustaining land disputes in Pakistan.

In addition, knowing the history behind land disputes is critical for preventing improvements in relevant policy interventions. This study sheds light on the structural dynamics that inhibit the resolution of land disputes among communities by tracing the colonial roots of contemporary land conflicts. It underlines the demand for total land reforms targeted at dismantling the legacy of feudalism and digitizing land records. These reforms are crucial because they will reduce the number of litigations, ensure equitable distributions of land, and social justice (Nisar et al., 2022).

This study aims to understand the legacy of colonial land grants and the Zamindari system in contemporary land contention in Pakistan. The study seeks to fill knowledge gaps through analysis of both historical policies and their contemporary ramifications to shine a light on the drivers of land litigation. Indeed, the results are anticipated to guide policy-making and legal reforms that will help reduce land conflicts and foster fair land governance in Pakistan.

The most important contribution of this work is the contribution on land disputes and colonial land policies, it demonstrates how the dynamics of history frame present-day conflicts. The study serves as a key pedagogical tool in unearthing the historical origins and continuities of these colonial legacies. It may be suggested that findings of the present study may be of use for upgrading the courses programs of institutions / training centers catering to the training needs of Land Revenue officer and Judicial Officers (Boateng & Klopp, 2024). This will, in turn, equip trainees and students with a richer appreciation of the historical and legal dimensions of the practices around land conflicts, and offer them a possibility to suggest more enlightened, context-sensitive and community-based-ranging responses to these persistent challenges (Sajida & Sabreen).

In addition, colonial land policies such as the Permanent Settlement and the Punjab Land Alienation Act not only restructured land ownership but also shaped the distribution of public resources, including

education. These policies empowered certain landowning elites while marginalizing others, resulting in unequal access to education that persists today. Present-day property disputes, often rooted in colonial-era land frameworks, disrupt school operations, delay infrastructure development, and affect student attendance—particularly in rural and peri-urban areas where schools are built on contested land (Shifa, 2025). These disputes also strain household resources and community stability, further impeding children's educational continuity. The Education Department's efforts are often hindered by legal ambiguities and overlapping land claims, revealing an urgent need for coordinated planning between land and education authorities to ensure equitable, uninterrupted access to schooling (Tan, 2025).

In Section 2 of this paper, we review the broad literature on the historical and institutional background of colonial land grants and the Zamindari system, and its relevance for contemporary land disputes in Pakistan. The research methodology is described in Section 3 with the qualitative approach followed for data collection and analysis. Results in Section 4 present insights into how colonial legacies are reflected in current land litigation trends, identifying key patterns to further interpret the role of colonial legacies on 21st century public interest land litigation. Finally, Section 5 presents the research's conclusions, including theoretical contributions, practical implications for land governance reforms, and policy recommendations aimed at minimizing incidences of land dispute, as well as improving equitable access to property rights.

Literature Review

The history of arrive proprietorship in Pakistan is closely connected to its colonial past, particularly the arrive frameworks set up by the British, just like the zamindari framework. These ancient buildings have enormously affected the laws and society around arrive possession in Pakistan, playing an imperative part in today's arrive debate. This audit looks at how colonial arrive awards and the zamindari framework have influenced arrive debate and legitimate cases in Pakistan (Afzal & Khan, 2022). The British government made distinctive sorts of land grants and possession systems within the Indian subcontinent to preserve control and collect charges. One vital framework was the zamindari framework, where huge pieces of arrive

were given to nearby proprietors called zamindars. They were in charge of collecting charges from the agriculturists. This framework was not fair a way to require advantage of individuals for cash, but moreover a way to reinforce control and control over neighborhood communities (Sarma, 2023).

The control of arrive by a little number of landowners constrained numerous agriculturists to take off their homes and made a gather of individuals who had no arrive and worked as laborers. This changed the way communities oversee their arrive and made a framework that profited wealthy and capable individuals (Husain, 2019). The arrive gifts given amid colonial times were frequently not well recorded, and the borders were vague or not clearly stamped. This caused a part of perplexity almost the law, making it difficult for afterward eras to claim their rights to the arrive they acquired. He says that not having clear records and the unjustifiable way arrive was given out driven to issues afterward on. This issue proceeds nowadays since numerous arrive proprietorship papers in Pakistan are still debated or hazy, driving to a part of lawful cases about arrive (Kazmi, 2023).

The zamindari framework made huge contrasts in riches and social status within the farmland. As said, zamindars regularly took advantage of their part to charge agriculturists tall rents, causing numerous individuals to be destitute and despondent. A little number of well off families possessed most of the arrive, making a framework comparable to feudalism that still exists nowadays, indeed in spite of the fact that the zamindari framework was finished within the mid-20th century (Ayaz & Mughal, 2023). Specialists like Mahmood Mamdani (1996) have pointed out that contentions almost who possesses arrive and acquires it are a enormous reason for legitimate fights over arrive in Pakistan. The nonattendance of clear laws to handle the clashing claims of previous proprietors and inhabitants made the circumstance more regrettable, coming about in long lawful debate.

Arrive Changes and Their Issues After picking up freedom, Pakistan attempted to alter arrive laws to break up the zamindari framework and donate arrive to agriculturists. But these changes were often done severely and confronted restriction from affluent landowners.

They too said that arrive change didn't unravel the issues of arrive possession and printed material, which Kept on cause issues with arrive debate (Junejo & Dali, 2019). Keeping Colonial Legitimate Frameworks After picking up freedom, the modern government kept numerous of the laws and frameworks that the British had presented, such as the rules approximately charges and arrive proprietorship. These laws didn't fit well with the complicated circumstance in Pakistan after it picked up autonomy. Issues like arrive legacy, need of official possession records, and conventional hones regularly clashed with the official lawful framework. As a result, the courts were overpowered with arrive debate since individuals and communities attempted to get it the complicated legitimate framework to guard their rights (Ramesh, 2018).

Wealthy individuals taking arrive utilizing the law has been a major reason for the increment in arrive debate. This circumstance is exceptionally clear in nation regions, where solid families more often than not control nearby courts and arrive workplaces. This makes it difficult for standard individuals to settle their arrive issues reasonably (Afzal & Khan, 2022). The impacts of colonial arrive rules have ended up precarious since conventional and devout traditions approximately arrive possession moreover exist in numerous regions of Pakistan. These activities regularly go against official laws, which can cause more legitimate issues (Ritter, 2020).

The history of arrive gifts and the zamindari framework from colonial times has had a enduring affect on Pakistan's legitimate and social circumstance, driving to a part of debate over arrive. The unjustifiable way arrive was isolated amid colonial times, at the side issues within the laws made after colonial run the show, has driven to a confounding and debated circumstance with respect to who claims the arrive (Siddiqui et al. , 2024) Progressing hazy laws, the control of powerful individuals, and the blend of official and conventional legal systems are still causing arrive clashes in Pakistan. To illuminate these issues, we got to take a near see at the laws about land and the legitimate frameworks in place. We moreover ought to settle the past wrongs that are still causing debate over arrive within the nation.

Thus, the existing literature highlights how colonial land policies laid the foundation for present-day structural inequalities that continue to impact social sectors, particularly education. British colonial land reforms, including the Permanent Settlement and land revenue systems, institutionalized landlord dominance, restricted land access for lower classes, and reinforced class hierarchies that marginalized rural populations from educational opportunities (Rahman, 2024). These legacies continue today, as unresolved property disputes—often stemming from colonial documentation and legal ambiguities—hinder the establishment and expansion of educational infrastructure in affected areas (Saha, 2024). Research shows that schools constructed on disputed lands face frequent closures or legal challenges, while displacement caused by land conflicts disrupts children's education and exacerbates dropout rates (Tassadiq, 2024). Moreover, the diversion of administrative resources to handle land conflicts limits the capacity of the Education Department to focus on quality improvement, equitable access, and long-term planning, particularly in rural or peri-urban settings where land insecurity is widespread (Shahrukh & Mustafa, 2025). These findings underline the need for integrated land-education policy frameworks that acknowledge the historical roots of present barriers and promote collaborative strategies between land administration and education departments to ensure uninterrupted access to schooling.

Research Methodology

In this study, data were collected using qualitative methods, specifically through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. The target participants include key stakeholders involved in land administration and dispute resolution, such as the Additional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar, Patwari, and practicing lawyers. These individuals are directly engaged with land-related matters at various administrative and legal levels and possess valuable insights into the historical and structural causes of land disputes. The interviews and discussions were guided by a set of open-ended questions designed to explore participants' perspectives on the influence of colonial land grants and the Zamindari system on current

litigation patterns, challenges in land governance, and recommendations for legal and institutional reforms. ...

Research Questions

- 1. What are the major components of Colonial Arrive Awards and the Zamindari Framework and how do these variables make the issue of arrival case in Area Punjab?
- 2. What is the way forward: How land disputes issued pertaining to colonial and zamindari system can be reduced?

In addition, the data analysis approach for this study was follow a thematic analysis technique as outlined by Braun and Clarke (2006), which is well-suited for identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) within qualitative data. The analysis was proceed through several structured stages. In the first stage, the researcher will become familiarized with the data by reading through the transcripts multiple times to gain a deep understanding of the content. In the second stage, initial codes will be generated by organizing data into meaningful groups, assigning brief labels to segments of the text that appear relevant to the research questions.

These codes will represent recurring ideas, concepts, or patterns in participants' responses. The third stage involves identifying themes by collating codes into potential themes that capture the essence of the data. In the fourth stage, these themes were reviewed and refined to ensure they accurately represent the dataset and are distinct from one another. In the fifth stage, themes were clearly defined and named to reflect their scope and meaning. Finally, a thematic analysis report was written, and insights and recommendations for future action will be drawn from the perspectives of the respondents. This rigorous and iterative process was allow for a comprehensive understanding of how colonial land grants and the Zamindari system continue to influence land disputes in Pakistan.

Analysis & Results

Table 1
Demographics and Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

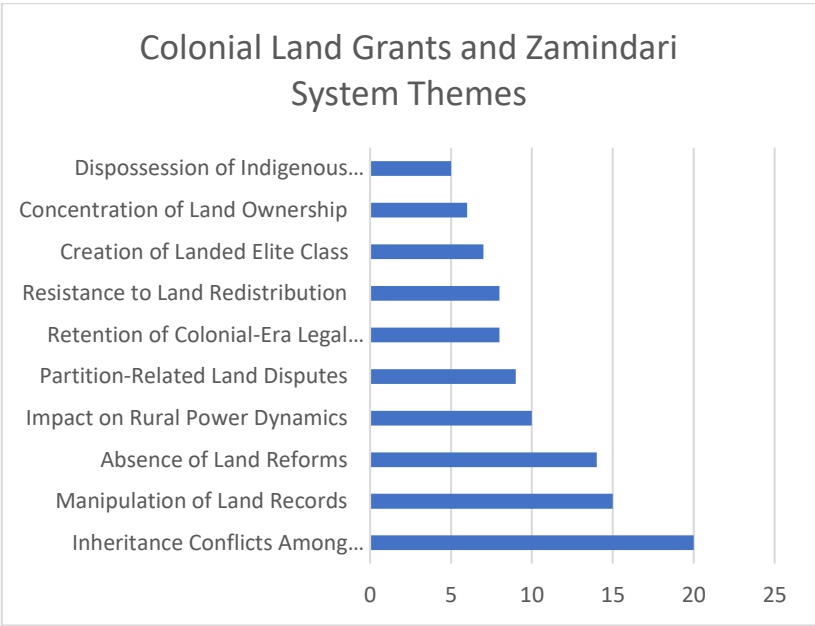
Demographics	Characteristics	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Gender	Male	38	88	88
	Female	5	12	12

	Total	43	100	
Age	18-25	4	9	9
	26-35	12	28	37
	36-45	20	47	84
	46-55	5	12	95
	Above 55	2	5	100
	Total	43	100	
Designation	Additional Commissioner	2	5	5
	Deputy Commissioner	2	5	9
	Assistant Commissioner	5	12	16
	Tehsildar	10	23	35
	Naib Tehsildar	10	23	47
	Patwari	10	23	47
	Lawyers	4	9	100
	TOTAL	43	100	
Qualification	Matriculation	5	12	12
	Intermediate	7	16	28
	Graduation	9	21	49
	Master	14	33	81
	MPhil. or above	8	19	100
	TOTAL	43	100	
Experience	1-5 (Years)	4	9	9
	6-10 (Years)	8	19	28
	11-15 (Years)	15	35	63
	15-20 (Years)	7	16	79
	Above 20 (Years)	9	21	100
	TOTAL	43	100	

The following provides information on a number of topics related to Colonial Land Grants, the Zamindari system, and future steps to address these issues.

Table 2
Categories of Colonial Land Grants and Zamindari System in the Context of Land Litigation and Way Forward

Sr. #	Themes and Categories of Colonial Land Grants and Zamindari System	Frequencies
1	Inheritance Conflicts Among Zamindar Families	20
2	Manipulation of Land Records	15
3	Absence of Land Reforms	14
4	Impact on Rural Power Dynamics	10
5	Partition-Related Land Disputes	9
6	Retention of Colonial-Era Legal Framework	8
7	Resistance to Land Redistribution	8
8	Creation of Landed Elite Class	7
9	Concentration of Land Ownership	6
10	Dispossession of Indigenous Communities	5



1. Inheritance Conflicts Among Zamindar Families

To control these variables, it is pivotal to empower the formalization of legacy assertions through clear, lawfully authoritative wills and the right enlistment of arrive possession. Furthermore, executing intercession and discretion instruments to resolve debate some time recently they heighten to case can be compelling. Teaching Zamindar families almost the significance of straightforward and lawfully sound progression arranging can moreover offer assistance minimize clashes and diminish the rate of arrive case.

2. Manipulation of Land Records

To control these components, it is fundamental to execute rigid measures for the confirmation and digitization of arrive records. Building up a straightforward and tamper-proof arrive enlistment framework, coupled with customary reviews and observing, can offer assistance anticipate false exercises. Also, giving preparing and assets for arrive organization authorities to distinguish and address control early can decrease the probability of debate heightening to case. Open mindfulness campaigns on the significance of keeping up precise and lawfully recognized arrive records can moreover play a vital part in minimizing arrive case related to record control.

3. Absence of Land Reforms

Importantly, understanding these variables implies executing thoughtful arrive changes that in a way that propels evenhanded arrive conveyance and ensures residency for all partners. The changes should include transparent and fair land policies, simple procedures for land reallocation, and instruments to resolve disputes outside the courtroom, such as mediation and arbitration. Strengthening the legitimate framework controlling land ownership and ensuring its implementation can additionally gut case rates. Open instruction on arrives rights and the benefits of formalizing proprietorship, the qualified Data recommendations and ODI sourcing can do to enhance the treatment of military land development and discrete settlement (Moran, 2021; Shum, 2023), input can propel investigate rightism on arrives rights.

4. Impact on Rural Power Dynamics

These variables should be overseen through incorporated administration and consideration of all partners in land settling on choices. Further, bolstering close by trains that manage arrive debate and cultivating exchange among different community bunches can offer assistance avoid clashes from rising. Furthermore, implementing land reforms that levels the playing field between different regional groups and ensuring equitable access to land can help ease tensions. Fair prepare and consciousness efforts can empower oppressed communities to claim their rights inside the legitimate framework, lessening the reliance on case as a method of resolving power-determined arrive dispute.

5. Partition-Related Land Disputes

Partition-related arrive debate are a Basic supporter to arrive case in Pakistan, as the mass uprooting and chaotic exchange of property amid the 1947 Parcel cleared out numerous arrive titles vague or challenged. Such debate usually involves many claimants, dubious records of ownership, and conflicting valid claims, leading to protracted legal battles. Thus, it is critical to facilitate the procedure for elucidating partition-related claims using extraordinary courts or dedicated judicial systems capable of addressing the unique intricacies of such cases. There ought to likewise be endeavors to digitize and solidify authentic arrive records, which would furnish clear, available documentation to settle debate in an effective way. My students and colleagues and I worked with local police and cities to open mindful campaigns and lawful help administrations, which can bolster influenced people in exploring the lawful framework their case is in, decreasing the burden of case.

6. Retention of Colonial-Era Legal Framework

The preservation of colonial period legal frameworks may be a use middle person undermining property claims in Pakistan. Harkening back to a colonial approach to property, these archaic laws are often poorly equipped to address the present-day environment of land ownership and management in a post-colonial society. The legally admissible frameworks are convoluted and severe and happen to indicate seek after long lawful fights and don't sufficiently represent advanced substances and evenhanded arrive dissemination. To counter this issue, it is significant to

change and modernize the arrive laws to reflect current socio-economic conditions and the wants of all citizens. Streamlining lawful methods, dispensing with out-of-date controls, and presenting modern laws that guarantee straightforwardness and reasonableness in arrive possession can altogether diminish arrive case. Furthermore, preparing and teaching lawful experts and the open around these transformed laws will help encourage smoother determination of debate.

7. Resistance to Land Redistribution

Resistance to arrive redistribution may be a critical calculate compounding arrive case in Pakistan, as settled in landowners regularly restrict changes that might change their property or diminish their impact. This resistance can stem from fears of losing property, financial benefits, or political control, driving to delays and lawful challenges against redistribution endeavors. To address this issue, it is fundamental to construct broad-based bolster for arrive change by locks in partners through straightforward meetings and illustrating the benefits of redistribution for broader financial and social improvement. Executing slow and compensatory redistribution procedures can help relieve resistance, giving reasonable stipend and elective arrangements for influenced landowners. Reinforcing lawful systems to ensure against out of line claims and guaranteeing strong requirement of redistribution arrangements can to offer assistance in diminishing case by making a more impartial and straightforward arrive dissemination framework.

8. Creation of Landed Elite Class

The creation of a landed tip top lesson has altogether contributed to arrive case in Pakistan, as concentrated arrive proprietorship among a little, powerful bunch can lead to settled in control awkward nature and debate over arrive rights. This first-class course regularly uses impressive financial and political impact, which can complicate endeavors to address arrive clashes and implement evenhanded arrive changes. To counter this issue, it is vital to advance approaches that empower a more impartial dispersion of arrive and restrain over the top landholdings. Actualizing arrives ceiling laws, upgrading straightforwardness in arrive exchanges, and supporting approaches that enable little landholders and marginalized communities can offer assistance weaken the control of the landed tip top.

Moreover, fortifying lawful components to address debate unbiasedly and giving bolster for landless and impeded bunches can decrease the case burden and cultivate a more pleasant arrive possession environment.

9. Concentration of Land Ownership

The concentration of arrive possession worsens arrive case by making unequal get to arrive and expanding clashes over proprietorship among various claimants. When arrive is concentrated within the hands of many, it regularly leads to debate as littler landholders or those looking for get to to arrive challenge the authenticity of huge property. To address this issue, actualizing comprehensive arrive changes that advance evenhanded dissemination of arrive is basic. Building up and enforcing land ceiling limits can avoid over the top collection of arrive by a couple of people or substances. Also, arrangements that encourage arrive redistribution and bolster the formalization of arrive residency for marginalized communities can offer assistance diminish debate. Guaranteeing straightforward arrives enrollment forms and giving legitimate help to resolve clashes reasonably can too moderate the impacts of concentrated arrive proprietorship and decrease the rate of case.

10. Dispossession of Indigenous Communities

The dispossession of innate communities essentially powers arrive case, as authentic treacheries and progressing marginalization led to debate over arrive rights and proprietorship. Innate communities frequently confront challenges in recovering their conventional lands due to need of legitimate acknowledgment, lacking documentation, and competing claims by other parties. To address this issue, it is significant to recognize and maintain the arrive rights of inborn communities through lawful and approach changes. Actualizing arrives compensation programs, giving formal legitimate acknowledgment to innate arrive claims, and guaranteeing that inborn people groups have a voice in arrive administration choices can offer assistance correct verifiable treacheries. Also, advancing discourse and associations between innate communities and government specialists can encourage more evenhanded arrive assertions and decrease case. Reinforcing legitimate assurances and advertising back for inborn arrive claims can help resolve debate and anticipate future clashes.

Discussion & Conclusion

The primary objective of this research was to critically investigate the enduring influence of colonial-era land revenue settlements and the institutional framework of the Zamindari system on the contemporary landscape of land litigation in Pakistan. This study was rooted in the recognition that many of the current legal disputes over property ownership, tenure rights, and land access are not isolated incidents but are deeply embedded in historical structures established during British colonial rule. The research placed particular emphasis on understanding the mechanisms through which these colonial legacies persist and how they interact with present-day institutional deficiencies, bureaucratic dysfunctions, and entrenched socio-political hierarchies to exacerbate land-related conflicts.

Thus, to accomplish these research goals, an extensive qualitative methodology was adopted. Primary data were collected through in-depth interviews and structured focus group discussions conducted with a diverse group of stakeholders directly involved in land administration and litigation processes. These included high-ranking land revenue officers—such as Additional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, and Patwaris—alongside legal practitioners actively handling land litigation cases in courts. The qualitative analysis of these discussions revealed a complex array of themes and causal linkages that explain the persistence and proliferation of land disputes across various regions of Pakistan.

However, ten prominent and interrelated themes emerged from the analysis: (1) intergenerational inheritance conflicts among Zamindar families, which often go unresolved due to the lack of standardized inheritance procedures; (2) widespread manipulation and falsification of land records, often with the collusion of local officials; (3) the continuing absence of comprehensive and equitable land reforms; (4) asymmetrical rural power dynamics that favor elite landholders; (5) unresolved land ownership claims resulting from mass displacements during the Partition of British India; (6) the durability and rigidity of colonial legal frameworks that are ill-suited to contemporary challenges; (7) political and social resistance to redistributive land policies; (8) the deliberate creation and

ongoing protection of a landed elite class that exercises significant influence over political and legal institutions; (9) the severe concentration of land ownership among a few families or entities; and (10) the historical and continued dispossession of indigenous and marginalized communities, particularly in tribal and peri-urban areas.

In light of these findings, the study offers a series of targeted policy recommendations aimed at reducing the incidence and intensity of land litigation. Chief among these are the modernization and digitization of land records, the overhaul of outdated legal statutes governing land ownership and transfer, and the formulation of new legal mechanisms that address the socio-political inequalities rooted in Pakistan's colonial past. Beyond policy reform, this study also highlights broader implications for the education sector. It recommends the inclusion of subjects related to land laws, property rights, and revenue administration in the curricula of schools, colleges, and professional institutions. Such academic exposure would equip future generations with a better understanding of the legal and historical complexities surrounding land issues in Pakistan. Furthermore, the insights generated from this study can serve as a foundation for designing targeted training modules for land revenue officers. These modules should focus on enhancing the officers' technical proficiency, ethical standards, and conflict resolution skills in order to improve their effectiveness in managing disputes and reducing the burden on the judicial system.

Practical & Managerial Implications of the Study

The implications of this study extend significantly into the realm of managerial and institutional practice, particularly for educational institutions and professional training centers responsible for developing the capacity of land revenue officials, judicial officers, and legal professionals. Given that the data collection was conducted with serving revenue officers—such as Tehsildars, Assistant Commissioners, and Patwaris—as well as practicing legal experts engaged in land litigation, the study provides an empirically grounded understanding of the ongoing influence of colonial land policies on contemporary property disputes in Pakistan. These insights are not merely theoretical but have immediate applicability for public policy design, bureaucratic reform, and legal education. They

can inform curriculum development, training content, and policy interventions that aim to mitigate land conflict and improve institutional performance in land administration and justice delivery.

Furthermore, academic institutions—particularly those affiliated with departments of education, law, governance, and public administration—should prioritize the inclusion of colonial-era land tenure systems, legal doctrines, and administrative procedures in their academic syllabi. A historical and institutional analysis of British-imposed land laws and their evolution can provide students with a nuanced understanding of the origins of land disputes and their contemporary implications. Embedding such content in formal education would prepare future land revenue officers, civil servants, judicial officers, and legal practitioners to approach land-related legal and administrative challenges with greater depth, critical thinking, and historical awareness. This understanding would also help bridge the gap between academic learning and the practical realities encountered in land administration and litigation processes across Pakistan.

In addition to academic education, professional development centers and civil service training institutions should incorporate the findings of this study into their ongoing training modules for in-service officers. These training programs should be designed to not only improve technical knowledge of land records and legal statutes but also cultivate problem-solving capabilities, critical legal reasoning, and socially responsive dispute resolution techniques. Specific focus should be given to modules on ethical decision-making, community engagement in dispute mediation, and the socio-legal dimensions of land ownership, especially in historically marginalized communities. Integrating these themes would ensure that revenue and judicial officers are not merely technocrats but socially conscious public servants equipped to address the structural and institutional roots of land conflicts.

Ultimately, the assimilation of this study's insights into formal education and professional training systems would yield multiple long-term benefits. It would strengthen the institutional capacity of Pakistan's land administration and judicial systems, enhance the quality and fairness of land dispute resolution, and promote a more integrated, evidence-based

approach to governance. Most importantly, it would foster a synergy between research, education, and practice, thereby producing a cadre of public servants and legal professionals who are better informed, ethically grounded, and professionally equipped to serve the public interest. This, in turn, could lead to a more transparent, equitable, and efficient system of land governance—one that not only resolves disputes but prevents them at their roots and contributes meaningfully to social justice and national development.

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