

## The Exclusion of Women's Interests in the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act

While much was written on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act (LARR), and the subsequent amendment ordinances and bills, no scholarship has examined the effects of the legislation on the interests and status of women. It has been argued that the objective of land acquisition legislation should be to ensure that those affected are left better off post-acquisition than before. Yet, the actual provisions of the LARR legislation indicate that this is not likely to be true for most women displaced by land acquisition. By elaborating on documented issues concerning the status and wellbeing of women, and the shortcomings of the LARR legislation's response to these known issues, this essay will attempt to show how the LARR legislation implicitly and explicitly excludes women's interests and realities from the design of the law. The provisions on compensation, resettlement and rehabilitation exclude or subordinate women's needs, interests, and contributions to the land, disproportionately excluding women from receiving or benefitting from the awards now required in cases of land acquisition.