

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i>	xii
<i>List of tables</i>	<i>page</i>	xiii
<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i>	xv
1 Land rights for women: making the case	1	
I The backdrop	2	
II Gender, property, and land: some conceptual links	11	
(1) Household property and women's property	12	
(2) The significance of land as property	17	
(3) What do we mean by rights in land?	19	
(4) Prospects for non-land-based livelihoods	24	
III Why do women need independent rights in land?	27	
(1) The welfare argument	27	
(2) The efficiency argument	33	
(3) The equality and empowerment arguments	38	
IV Questions addressed, information base, and the book's structure	45	
2 Conceptualizing gender relations	51	
I Gender relations within the household/family	53	
(1) The bargaining approach	54	
(2) What determines intra-family bargaining power?	60	
II Gender relations outside the household/family: the market, the community, and the State	71	
III Interactions: the household/family, the community, and the State	80	
3 Customary rights and associated practices	82	
I Which communities customarily recognized women's rights in land?	83	
II Women's land rights in traditionally matrilineal and bilateral communities	100	
(1) Northeast India: The Garos, Khasis, and Lalungs	101	
(2) South India: The Nayars, Tiyars, Bants, Mappilas, Nangudi Vellalars, and others	109	
(3) Sri Lanka: The Sinhalese, Hindu Tamils, and matrilineal Muslims	120	
(4) Some cross-regional comparisons	132	
III Women's land rights, structural conditionalities, and gender relations	133	
(1) Women's land rights and associated practices	133	
(2) Land rights and gender relations	146	

4 Erosion and disinheritance: traditionally matrilineal and bilateral communities	153
I India	154
(1) The Garos	154
(2) The Nayars of central Kerala	168
(3) Matriliney and development	179
II Sri Lanka	180
The Sinhalese	180
III In conclusion	192
Appendix 4.1: A marriage proposal among the Christian Garos	194
5 Contemporary laws: contestation and content	198
I India	199
(1) The formulation of contemporary Hindu law	199
(2) Anomalies resulting from existing land legislation	215
(3) Laws governing Christians and Parsis in India	223
II Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Muslims in India	227
(1) From custom to the Shariat	227
(2) Devolution under Islamic law	233
III Sri Lanka	237
IV Nepal	242
V Summary comments on women's legal rights in landed property in South Asia	246
6 Whose share? Who claims? The gap between law and practice	249
I The gap between law and practice in traditionally patrilineal communities	249
II Barriers to women inheriting land in traditionally patrilineal communities	260
(1) 'Voluntary' giving up of claims	260
(2) The necessity of male mediation	268
(3) Hostility from male kin: pre-emptive steps to direct violence	271
(4) Responses of village bodies and government officials	276
III Glimmer of change: women claim inheritance shares in some traditionally patrilineal communities	282
IV A look at traditionally matrilineal and bilateral communities	285
V Some hypotheses	291
7 Whose land? Who commands? The gap between ownership and control	292
I Women's ability to retain their land	292
II Control over the transfer and use of land	294
III Barriers to women self-managing land	298
(1) The physical and social confinement of women	298
(2) Post-marital residence: village exogamy and patrilocality	311
(3) Male control over labour and technology	311
8 Tracing cross-regional diversities	316
I Some hypotheses	317
II Information sources	321

III	The cross-regional patterns	325
(1)	Marriage location and post-marital residence	325
(2)	Close-kin marriages, especially between cross-cousins	336
(3)	Purdah practices	344
(4)	Sexual control over women	345
(5)	Rural female labour force participation rates	355
(6)	Rural female literacy rates	358
(7)	Total fertility rates	359
(8)	Land scarcity	361
IV	An overview of regional patterns	368
9	Struggles over resources, struggles over meanings	421
I	On women's consciousness and individual resistance	422
II	Group resistance: struggles over privatized land	438
(1)	The Tebhaga struggle	438
(2)	The Telangana struggle	441
(3)	The Bodhgaya struggle	444
III	Group resistance: claiming rights in public land	454
IV	Further observations on gender construction and group contestation	458
10	The long march ahead	467
I	Recapitulation	468
II	Some suggestions, some dilemmas	478
(1)	Reforming the laws	478
(2)	Dowry v. inheritance	480
(3)	Establishing <i>de facto</i> inheritance rights in land	483
(4)	Strengthening land claims through channels other than inheritance	486
(5)	Exploring joint management and promoting infrastructural support	488
(6)	Building group support among and for women	490
III	The macro-scenario	493
(1)	Interlinking diverse concerns	493
(2)	Bargaining with the State	496
(3)	Increasing women's presence in public decision-making forums	499
(4)	Some recent developments and the road ahead	502
<i>Definitions</i>		505
<i>Glossary</i>		507
<i>References</i>		510
<i>Index</i>		553