Preface

At the time of independence, the country inherited an agrarian structure that was characterized by a large number of intermediaries between the tiller and the state. The land distribution was highly skewed and tiller had little incentive to invest in land for increasing the productivity. Therefore measures aimed at correcting the distortions in structure of land ownership remained at the top of agenda for Rural Development. In the successive five year plans, a serious of land reforms measures were mostly legislative in mature and included abolition of intermediaries, conferring ownership rights on the actual tillers, imposition of ceilings on land holdings and redistribution of surplus land, consolidation of holdings and redistribution of surplus land, consolidation of holding and updating and improvement of land records while there have been several hurdles in the implementation, the land reform measures played crucial role in bringing about community development, through the community’s participation.

Development is a very elusive concept. In a technical sense Development refers to qualitative and structural changes in the state of an economy. Growth as compared to development refers only to quantitative and tangible increase in the GNP. But development refers to a relatively stable long range increase in real national income that is accompanied by a change in the attitudes of the people, their motivation, institutional set up production, techniques etc. Development, from another angle, may refer to the production and utilization of material resources or to the enrichment of human resources.
Rural Development is the main item on the agenda for discussion before today's academics, administrators and social workers. A great deal has been written on rural development, participatory democracy, target group oriented strategy to rural development and basic minimum needs in recent years. The basic theme of all such studies is as to what went wrong in the past and what new steps to be taken with regard to integrated rural development. Since much has been talked about the local level planning and people's oriented development schemes, this study addresses itself in a direct way to these problems and attempts to explore the possibility, with in the conceptual and operations framework, of an alternative development strategy in the background of distributive justice and local level planning.

Political masters and administrators at the helm of affairs in the state have, perhaps, developed an illusion that with the abolition of Zamindar's in the state, the object of land reforms has been achieved. For some of them, by adoption of a few stray legislations subsequent to the framing of U.P.Z.A. & L.R. ACT-1950 U.P. Zamindari abolition of land reforms including that of sharecropping has been fulfilled.

Many legal problems in the field of land reforms are due to general problems which the courts are facing today. Land reform received a setback, also, because of unsatisfactory implementation of the legislation and inadequate schemes and designs. Poor drafting of legislative enactments also led to vexatious and procedural faults. It was revealed during the course of my field study that the work of land reforms did not receive adequate government attention in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Conditions went on changing but there was hardly any appreciable change in the political will. In order to meet the challenges of legal procedural delays, there is an acute necessity of establishing land tribunals. There is every justification to impose agricultural income tax on big land holdings.
Therefore, there is an imperative need to consolidate various land reforms laws in force in the state of Uttar Pradesh under a consolidation statute or code having one common forum for disposal of all types of cases.

In a nutshell, it can be concluded that land reform as a concept never withers away. It is a universally applicable principle of good policy which finds approval by all the thinkers and in all the religions and scripts of the world.

To study the subject in all its aspects was a stupendous task as Uttar Pradesh is larger than many countries of the western world. The Land Reform of Uttar Pradesh was also patronized by the great national leaders like Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant, Lal Bahadurshastri, Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Choudhri Charan Singh and a band of other leaders.

This thesis consists of seven chapters. The first chapter deals with the Introduction and Review of Literature and chapterization besides a plethora of socio-economic development of Indian agriculture and land reforms the second chapters deals with Research Design consisting of statement of the problem, objectives, Research proposition, methodology etc. The third chapter presents the theoretical aspects of community development and land reforms. Chapter four deals with the impact of land reforms on the society. Chapter five analyses the progress of land reforms in Uttar Pradesh. Chapter six discusses with the case study of District Aligarh (UP) regarding the role of land reform on the community development. Finally Chapter seven provides the conclusion and findings, recommendations and suggestion of the present study.
This study differs from other in a number of ways. First it is free of Jargon and euphemism. The language used is simple, comprehensible and non-technical. Secondly it is exploratory and diagnostic in nature and thirdly, it is multi-dimensional in character.

This work is a humble obeisance to my native state of Uttar Pradesh and its rural people. If any of my suggestion is found acceptable and implemented, it would be a matter of immense satisfaction and happiness.