

# Assessment of racial microaggressions as a potential cause of land tenure conflicts between Indo-Fijian sugarcane farmers and iTaukei landowners in Ba Province, Fiji

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*Key Words: Racial microaggressions, racial dissension, land tenure conflicts, intergroup conflicts, interracial coping mechanisms*

## Introduction

**1.1. Rationale** - Recent statistics confirm substantial decline in Indo-Fijian sugarcane farmers concurring with subsiding sugarcane production. Reports primarily indicate racism-induced native tenure conflicts with iTaukei landowners as potential cause however failing to assess the notion methodically.

**1.2. Objectives** - This study aimed at evaluating significance of 14 racial microaggressions associated with 6 different experiential forms of land tenure conflicts as well as developing resolution stratagem for interracial coping mechanisms within the study area.

## 2. Literature review, theoretical and conceptual framework

Existing body of literature on Fiji fails to provide relevant rationalized data for verifying existence racial dissension. Thus, integration of racial microaggressions theory with experienced variations of land tenure conflicts was established to frame this study.

## 3. Method

Stratified sampling was administered for consented participation of 186 Indo-Fijian farmers from three representative districts namely, Saweni, Khalsa, and Rarawai. Corresponding data for racial microaggressions and experiential forms of land tenure conflicts were retrieved via questionnaire and semi-structured interviews while participatory rural appraisal was conducted in a focus-group workshop for development of a resolution stratagem.

## 4. Findings

Statistical analysis of variance followed by multiple regression analysis revealed strong positive correlation between experiential forms of land tenure conflicts and racial microaggressions ( $R^2_{ti...tvi} .91 \leq .96$ ; Cronbach  $\alpha \geq 0.98$ ) at  $p \leq .05$ . Based on findings of interracial coping mechanisms, a resolution model was designed for the targeted study area.

## 5. Conclusion

The study concludes by affirming the significant associations of racial microaggressions with existing experiential forms of land tenure conflicts. Such evidence points towards existence of causal relationships and need further investigation. Finally, this research also devised a resolution paradigm for minimization of racial microaggressions between Indo-Fijian tenants and respective landowners.