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Q5(c)

## Effect of displacement through development on the rural landless and marginal farmers .

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Rural and Agrarian transformation in India

Rural and Agrarian transformation in India: Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes; Green revolution and social change; Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture; Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.

### Core demand of the question

- Effect of displacement through development on the rural landless and marginal farmers
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

### Revision summary

Landless and marginal farmers lose fields, **commons**, and village wages.

Compensation follows title, so the landless are structurally excluded.

Dalit and Adivasi households are hit hardest.

Women's work and water vanish with the **commons**.

Resettlement that ignores livelihood recreates urban poverty.

### Introduction

Development displacement hits the rural landless and marginal farmers first because they have the least title and the weakest voice. Dams, mines, highways, and SEZs turn them from poor peasants into informal migrants.

### Body

#### Who loses

- Marginal farmers lose tiny plots and common-property grazing and forest that actually fed them.
- The landless lose wages on those fields and access to **commons**; compensation usually follows patta, not labour.
- Adivasi and Dalit households are over-represented, as **Narmada** and coal belts showed.

#### Effects

- **A. R. Desai's class lens:** surplus is nationalised as growth, risk is privatised as poverty.
- Women lose fuel, water, and field work; feminization of poverty follows the move.
- Cities receive slum labour. The village loses a generation of agrarian security.

#### Policy gap

- Resettlement that counts acres, not livelihoods, fails Thorner's mazdoor.

## Flow diagram

Dam mine SEZ -> Loss of plot and commons  
Loss of plot and commons -> Migrant informal labour  
Landless no patta -> Migrant informal labour

## Conclusion

Displacement through development proletarianises the already weak. Without **commons**, wages, and consent, growth is a class project against the landless and the marginal farmer.

## Facts & figures

### Narmada

Public face of dam displacement of Adivasi and peasant livelihoods.

### Commons

Grazing, fuel, and forest that sustain those with little private land.

### Patta bias

Compensation to recorded owners, not to labourers on the same soil.

### A. R. Desai

Read development as a class process, not a neutral national good.

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