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Q6(a)

Write a detailed note on the effects of growing slums in urban areas.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 marks · Industrialization and Urbanisation in India
Industrialization and Urbanisation in India: Evolution of modern industry in India; Growth of urban settlements in India; Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization; Informal sector, child labour; Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

Core demand of the question

- Write a detailed note on the effects of growing slums in urban areas
- Cover housing, labour, health, and politics

Revision summary

Slums are the residential face of informal urban labour.

Effects include service deficit, disease, and insecure tenure.

Women carry extra water and care costs.

The formal city depends on this cheap labour.

Politics oscillates between eviction and patronage, not yet full urban citizenship.

Introduction

Growing slums are the housing form of India's urban informal economy. Their effects are overcrowding, insecure tenure, cheap labour for the city, and a politics of vote versus eviction.

Body**Housing and services**

- Slums concentrate people without title, water, and sanitation. The city extracts labour while delaying citizenship of space.
- Women and children carry the water and disease load, a feminization of urban poverty.

Labour and class

- Slums house construction, domestic, and vending workers that Breman placed in the informal market.
- They subsidise formal India with cheap services next to malls, a spatial disharmony Beteille would recognise in another key.

Health and stigma

- TB, undernutrition, and fire risk are ecological effects. Caste clusters inside slums can repeat village rank.

Politics

- Patron parties trade stay against demolition. Rights-based housing and **in-situ upgrade** are the alternative to treating slums as only a nuisance.

Flow diagram

Rural migrant informal -> Slum
Slum -> Cheap city labour
Slum -> Health tenure deficit
Slum -> Vote eviction politics

Conclusion

- **Growing slums effect a dual city:** growth on informal housing. The sociological task is tenure, services, and labour rights, not only clearance.

Facts & figures

Informal labour

The economic base that makes slum growth structural, not accidental.

Tenure insecurity

The legal effect that blocks investment in the dwelling.

Jan Breman

Migrant labour whose city life is often a slum or a worksite camp.

In-situ upgrade

A policy alternative to demolition that treats residents as citizens.

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