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Q6(a)

Discuss some of the striking issues of development induced imbalances that need urgent attention

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 marks · Perspectives on the study of Indian society

Perspectives on the study of Indian society: Indology (G.S. Ghurye); Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas); Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai).

Core demand of the question

- Discuss some of the striking issues of development-induced imbalances that need urgent attention
- Treat as a 20-mark answer

Revision summary

Green Revolution and irrigation split rural India into surplus and labour-export zones.

Dams and mines displace Adivasis in the name of national growth.

Cities concentrate wealth and dump workers into underserved slums.

Women and ecology carry unpaid costs.

Urgent attention means rights before projects, not compensation after.

Introduction

Development in India has raised national output and split regions, classes, and ecologies. The striking imbalances are not accidents. They are how dams, mines, Green Revolution belts, and cities have grown. Urgent attention means treating displacement and inequality as the development question, not as side effects.

Body**Agrarian imbalance**

- Irrigated Green Revolution pockets accumulated surplus while rainfed districts remained labour-exporting, a path [A. R. Desai](#) already saw as uneven bourgeois development.
- Farmer debt and suicide sit beside export plenty.
- Land concentration and landless Dalit labour persist under dominant castes.

Displacement and tribe

- Mines, dams, and sanctuaries in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and the [Narmada](#) valley turn Adivasi land into national assets.
- G. S. Ghurye's assimilation path becomes dispossession when 'integration' arrives as a project fence.
- PESA and Forest Rights titles lag behind the bulldozer.

Urban and regional imbalance

- Metropolises pull capital and skilled work. Small towns and slums absorb cheap labour without services.
- SECC-type rural deprivation and slum tenure insecurity are two faces of the same surplus labour.

Gender and ecology

- Women lose commons and get fewer titles after resettlement, a Seed-and-Earth outcome in project colonies.
- Groundwater crash and pollution dump costs on those who did not take the profit.

What needs urgent attention

- Enforceable consent and rehabilitation before extraction.
- Regional agro-ecology, not only more of the same input package.
- Urban services for the working poor, not only elite infrastructure.
- Caste and gender audits of who gains from 'growth'.

Flow diagram

Development projects markets -> Agrarian regional split

Development projects markets -> Tribal displacement

Development projects markets -> Metropole slum

Development projects markets -> Gender ecology costs

Conclusion

Development-induced imbalances are agrarian, tribal, urban, gendered, and ecological. They need urgent attention because they are the structure of Indian growth, not a delay in trickle-down. Sociology's task is to name who pays for the dam and the mall.

Facts & figures

Narmada

Dam politics that made displacement the public face of development imbalance.

Green Revolution belt

Irrigated surplus region contrasted with rainfed out-migration.

PESA / FRA

Legal tools that should precede extraction and often do not.

A. R. Desai

Read Indian development as a class path that produces unevenness by design.