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Q3(b)

Discuss development induced displacement in the context of tribal uprising in India. Substantiate your answer with any one detailed illustration from India.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 marks · Challenges of Social Transformation

Challenges of Social Transformation: Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability; Poverty, deprivation and inequalities; Violence against women; Caste conflicts; Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism; Illiteracy and disparities in education.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss development-induced displacement in the context of tribal uprising in India. Substantiate your answer with any one detailed illustration from India
- Keep to a 15-mark length

Revision summary

Development projects displace Adivasis from land and forest.

Uprising is often the political form of that loss.

Narmada dams drowned villages to water the plains.

Rehabilitation failed many, especially women without title.

Rights before projects are the alternative to manufactured revolt.

Introduction

Tribal uprisings in contemporary India are often fights against development that takes land, forest, and gods. Displacement is not a side cost. It is the injury that turns a project into a rebellion. One detailed illustration is the Narmada valley struggle around large dams.

Body**The general link**

- Mines, dams, factories, and parks in the central Indian belt treat Adivasi land as empty national property.
- G. S. Ghurye's Hinduisation-as-integration becomes, on the ground, a police camp and a colony.
- Verrier Elwin's protection failed when the Forest Department and the dam arrived first.
- **Uprising here includes both armed and non-armed refusal:** roadblocks, court cases, and sometimes insurgency.

Illustration: Narmada

- **Sardar Sarovar** and allied dams promised water and power to plains farmers and cities.
- Submergence hit Adivasi and peasant villages in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, breaking grove, kin, and field together.

- **The Narmada Bachao Andolan** made displacement a national sociological fact: who is 'developed', who is drowned.
- Rehabilitation lists lagged; land-for-land was uneven; women lost commons without titles, a Seed-and-Earth outcome in colonies.
- The uprising's dynamic was moral publicity plus local leadership, not a return to isolation.

What the illustration teaches

- Development-induced displacement produces tribal uprising when consent and PESA/FRA-type rights are skipped.
- **A. R. Desai's path of development is visible:** national accumulation on a dispossessed margin.
- One valley does not exhaust Jharkhand mines or Odisha plants, but the structure rhymes.

Flow diagram

Dam mine park -> Displacement
 Displacement -> Tribal uprising
 Narmada illustration -> Displacement
 PESA FRA consent -> Possible avoidance

Conclusion

Tribal uprising in the development era is frequently an anti-displacement movement. Narmada shows how a dam reorganises ecology, kinship, and citizenship, and how Adivasi protest becomes the public of that injury. Without land rights first, growth will keep manufacturing revolt.

Facts & figures

Narmada Bachao Andolan

Movement that made dam displacement a national debate.

Sardar Sarovar

Large dam whose submergence zone cut across Adivasi and peasant tracts.

PESA / FRA

Legal tools of consent and title that displacement routinely outruns.

Ghurye-Elwin

Assimilation versus protection; neither matches a dam without rights.