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Q6(a)

How do you relate the growth of development of metropolises and its impact on the mental and social life of people in India.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 marks · Visions of Social Change in India

Visions of Social Change in India: Idea of development planning and mixed economy; Constitution, law and social change; Education and social change.

Core demand of the question

- How do you relate the growth of development of metropolises and its impact on the mental and social life of people in India?
- Treat as a 20-mark answer

Revision summary

Metropolises grew as 1991 command centres of services and capital.

Social life mixes office and apartment with caste clubs and endogamy.

- **Mental life splits:** elite choice and therapy versus slum insecurity.

Women gain work and still face the street.

Migrants live split minds between city room and village.

Introduction

Indian metropolises grew as command centres of post-1991 services, finance, and media. Mental and social life inside them mixed new freedom with crowding, **anonymity**, and anxiety. The relation is not that the city simply modernises the mind. It stratifies experience by class, caste, and gender.

Body

What metropolitan growth is

- Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and similar cities pull capital and migrants.
- Gated colonies and slums are one labour market, two mental worlds.
- A. R. Desai's uneven development sits in the skyline.

Social life

- Associations shift from village kin toward office, apartment, and caste-regional clubs, a Yogendra Singh recombination.
- Endogamy continues through websites, so the metropole does not melt caste.
- Women's public work and Me Too-type speech appear; streets still punish moving women.
- Heritage cores and malls reorganise leisure as consumption.

Mental life

- **Anonymity** can ease village honour and also produce isolation, status competition, and fear.

- Commute, informal housing, and pollution are body-and-mind costs for the working poor.
- Elite wellness and therapy markets grow beside untreated slum distress.
- Digital media, the fourth pillar's noisy cousin, organises rumour, aspiration, and panic.

Migrants

- Circular workers live two social lives. COVID-era reverse flows later showed the village as mental fallback.
- Champaran's peasant was tied to a field; the metro worker is tied to a room and a phone.

Relation to 'development'

- Metropolitan growth concentrates opportunity and concentrates breakdown. It is the same process.

Flow diagram

Metropole growth -> Gated services lifestyle
Metropole growth -> Slum migrant labour
Gated services lifestyle -> Choice anxiety consumption
Slum migrant labour -> Insecurity isolation commute
Caste gender -> Metropole growth

Conclusion

Metropolises develop as India's growth machines and remake social life as mixed, marketised, and still caste-marked. Mental life gains **anonymity** and choice for some, and overcrowding, fear, and split households for many. The relation is stratified urbanism, not a single metropolitan mind.

Facts & figures

Gated versus slum

Socio-spatial pair that organises two metropolitan mental worlds.

1991 services city

Policy turn that accelerated metro pull of the new middle class.

Circular migration

A social life that is not fully urban even inside the metropole.

Anonymity

Relief from village honour and a source of isolation at once.