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Q5(b)

Analyze the issues related to the citizenship in contemporary India. Give suitable illustrations.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Tribal communities in India

Tribal communities in India: Definitional problems; Geographical spread; Colonial policies and tribes; Issues of integration and autonomy.

Core demand of the question

- Analyze the issues related to the citizenship in contemporary India. Give suitable illustrations
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Citizenship is equal membership that documents and stigma can grade.

NRC-type proof and CAA debates made belonging a public fight.

Women's papers often follow male kin.

Migrants in COVID lacked a portable civic life.

Minority violence and Adivasi land show citizenship beyond the voter list.

Introduction

Citizenship in contemporary India is equal membership on paper and a graded experience on the ground. Issues now cluster around documents, religion, gender, migration, and dissent.

Body**Legal-political issues**

- Constitutional citizenship is jus soli layered with later statutory rules. NRC-type exercises and proof cultures can turn the poor into suspects in their own street.
- CAA debates illustrated how religion entered the public argument about who is a natural heir of Partition, which strains Beteille's equality creed.
- **Assam's** long foreigners' question shows a regional illustration where census, migration, and language politics meet the passport.

Social issues

- Women often hold dependent documents through father or husband, a Seed-and-Earth citizenship.
- **COVID migrants** illustrated urban workers without a portable civic address.
- Religious minorities face violence and discrimination that make citizenship a security problem, not only a form.
- Adivasi autonomy claims illustrate citizenship as land and council, not only a voter ID.

What analysis requires

- **Citizenship is a bundle:** vote, welfare, movement, and dignity. Cutting one strand grades the rest.

Flow diagram

Equal citizenship -> Documents NRC proof
Equal citizenship -> Religion gender migrant
Illustrations Assam COVID -> Equal citizenship

Conclusion

Contemporary Indian citizenship issues are documentary exclusion, religious majoritarian pressure, gendered dependence, and the migrant's missing city right. Illustrations from **Assam**, lockdown roads, and minority insecurity show that the Constitution's equal member is still a social struggle.

Facts & figures

NRC / proof culture

Paper trails that the poor and the displaced struggle to produce.

CAA debate

Illustration of religion in the politics of belonging.

Assam

Regional theatre of migration, language and citizenship rolls.

COVID migrants

Workers who discovered they were not urban members when the city closed.

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