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Q7(c)

**Discuss different forms of deprivation associated with slums.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 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**

- Discuss different forms of deprivation associated with slums

**Revision summary**

Slum deprivation includes shelter, water, sanitation and health.

It is tied to informal work and migrant footholds.

Caste, religion and 'illegal' stigma add social exclusion.

Eviction for city projects is political deprivation.

Women bear time, safety and care costs inside the same space.

**Introduction**

Slum deprivation is not only a missing roof. It is a bundle of housing, work, health, dignity, and political insecurity that the informal city produces.

**Body****Material forms**

- **Shelter deprivation:** crowding, fire risk, and lack of tenure, so demolition is a constant threat.
- Water, sanitation, and drainage failure, which hits women first in time and safety.
- **Health deprivation:** smoke, waste, and epidemic exposure with thin public care.

**Work and class**

- The slum is often the dormitory of the informal sector. Insecure wages and bondage-like contractor advances travel into the house.
- Circular migrants use slums as a foothold; **COVID reverse migration** showed they can lose even that foothold overnight.

**Social forms**

- Caste and religion segregate lanes. Untouchability can reappear as who sweeps and who rents.
- Stigma of the 'illegal' resident denies urban citizenship even when the labour is essential.
- School quality and NEP-era digital talk can widen a new educational deprivation inside the same basti.

**Political and legal forms**

- Weak title blocks credit and address proof. Patronage vote banks can exist beside voicelessness on planning.
- **Displacement for 'development' repeats the Narmada logic inside the city:** the poor move for someone else's skyline.

## Gender

- Seed-and-earth honour plus dense housing raises surveillance and violence. Women's paid work in the slum is still unpaid care at night.

## Flow diagram

Slum -> Tenure water health  
Slum -> Informal insecure work  
Slum -> Stigma caste eviction  
Slum -> Gendered time and safety

## Conclusion

Deprivation in slums is housing, health, insecure informal work, caste-religious stigma, and legal invisibility. It is urban poverty organised as a place, not a random shortage of brick.

## Facts & figures

### Tenure insecurity

Lack of recognised title that makes demolition and denial of services routine.

### Informal sector link

Slums house the workers who grow the cheap urban economy.

### COVID reverse migration

Showed how thin slum footholds were when jobs stopped.

### Urban displacement

City projects can reproduce development-induced eviction inside the metro.