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Q5(a)

Citing some case studies, expand the concept of Development-induced Displacement?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 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

- Citing case studies, expand the concept of development-induced displacement
- Define the process, name Indian projects, and show who loses
- Keep a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Development-induced displacement is forced loss of land and livelihood for projects labelled national growth.

Narmada, older dams and **mining belts** are Indian case studies.

Those without clear title, often Adivasi, Dalit and women users, lose first.

Compensation rarely restores common resources.

The process is class and ethnicity structured, not a neutral side-effect.

Introduction

Development-induced displacement is the forced removal of people from land and livelihood in the name of dams, mines, industry, expressways, and city renewal. The project is counted as growth. The displaced are often counted as a cost to be managed, not as rights-holders.

Body

Concept

- Displacement is not only a house lost. It is the break of common forest, river, shrine, and work that A. R. Desai would treat as a class dispossession.
- Compensation, when it comes, usually prices private title and ignores women, tenants, and forest users without papers.
- Resettlement colonies can produce a new poor rather than restore a community.

Case studies

- The Narmada projects, especially Sardar Sarovar, displaced Adivasi and peasant villages across state borders; the **Narmada Bachao Andolan** made the sociology public: who gains irrigation and power, who loses the riverbank.
- **Hirakud and later large dams showed an older pattern:** downstream cities and canals, upstream submergence of the already weak.

- Mining and industrial corridors in Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh have moved Adivasi households for ore and plants, which is integration-as-dispossession rather than Nehruvian partnership.
- Urban projects and protected forests also displace slum and pastoral users, so the concept is not only rural.

Sociological expansion

- Caste and tribe sort who is 'sacrificed' for the national surplus.
- Yogendra Singh's modernizing state uses law and science as heterogenetic force; the village tradition of riverine life is not asked for consent in fact.

Flow diagram

Dam mine highway city -> Displacement
Displacement -> Loss of land forest river
Displacement -> Weak title women tenants Adivasi
Compensation colony -> New poverty risk

Conclusion

Development-induced displacement is organised eviction for a public project. Narmada and **mining belts** show that growth can deepen agrarian and tribal inequality unless land and voice come first.

Facts & figures

Sardar Sarovar / Narmada

Multi-state dam project whose submergence and resettlement became a defining displacement struggle.

Narmada Bachao Andolan

Movement that linked displacement to questions of whose development counts.

Hirakud

Early large dam whose oustees illustrated incomplete rehabilitation.

Mining belts

Central and eastern India where ore projects have moved Adivasi settlements.

Title bias

Cash and land-for-land schemes privilege recorded owners over common-property users.