



Mains Practice Question

Q. Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises? (Answer in 250 words, UPSC Mains 2023)

01 Jan, 2024 GS Paper 1 Indian Society

Approach

- Begin by providing a brief overview of the concept of urbanization.
- Discuss how Urbanisation lead to segregation of poor and how it leads to marginalization.
- Conclude by reinforcing the idea that a holistic and inclusive approach is necessary to address the complexities associated with urbanization.

Introduction

Urbanization in India has become an **inescapable ordeal**. The model of building a developed city comprises unplanned development, which only bolsters the **dichotomy** prevailing in urban cities between the **rich and the poor**. Although segregation and marginalization differ from region to region.

Body

How Urbanisation lead to segregation of poor:

- **Income Disparities:** Urbanization often results in **income inequalities**, with limited **affordable housing options** for the poor, leading to **spatial segregation**.
- **Inadequate Housing Policies:** **Poorly planned urbanization and inadequate housing policies** can lead to the concentration of slums
- **Employment Opportunities:** The **concentration of employment opportunities** in specific urban areas can force the poor to settle in marginalized neighborhoods due to job proximity.
- **Social Stigma:** **Social biases** and stigma can play a role in segregating the poor as they are often pushed to the **peripheries of urban centers**.

How urbanization leads to marginalization:

- **Lack of Social Services:** **Inadequate provision** of **essential services** like **healthcare, education, and sanitation** in urban slums further marginalizes the urban poor.
- **Land Displacement:** **Urban development projects** often displace poor communities without proper compensation or alternative housing options.
- **Health Disparities:** **Overcrowded and unsanitary living** conditions in slums contribute to health issues, with **limited access to quality healthcare** exacerbating the problem.
- **Social Discrimination:** The urban poor may face **discrimination and social exclusion** based on their economic status and background.

Government Initiatives to tackle segregation and marginalization of poor:

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation

- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

Conclusion

Though steps are being taken at various levels, success of these will depend on better **policy implementation** ,**community participation** and continuous **advocacy** for the **rights** of the urban poor.

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