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Q5(e)

Foetal origin of adult diseases and contribution of David Barker.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · Anthropology GS 1 · 10 marks · Culture, Language and Communication

7. Culture, Language and Communication: Nature, origin and characteristics of language; verbal and non-verbal communication; social context of language use.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/foetal-origin-of-adult-diseases-and-contribution-of-david-barker/>

David Barker

He proposed that undernutrition in the womb programmes later adult cardiovascular and metabolic disease. This is the foetal origins or Barker hypothesis.

Thrifty phenotype

Hales and Barker's idea that foetal adaptation to poor nutrition becomes a risk when later life is energy-rich.

DOHaD

Developmental Origins of Health and Disease: the wider research field that grew from Barker's work, covering the first thousand days and later chronic disease.

Low birth weight

A common marker in this literature for constrained foetal growth. It is a clue, not a complete explanation by itself.

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