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Q1

Farming has lost the ability to be a source of subsistence for majority of farmers in India.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** for most Indian farm households, the field no longer feeds the year
- **One stand:** subsistence failed as a livelihood system - price, plot size, climate, a missing non-farm floor - not as a moral failing of the farmer
- Move through land, market, climate, household. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a living, not a romantic plough

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a field and a godown. Stand:** subsistence failed as a system.
- **Headings:** land/climate, market, household, counter.

Peg MSP / a small-plot fact. Close on a living, not a plough hymn.

Note

This is a map, not the full 1,000-1,200 word essay.

Anecdote

A family in Vidarbha keeps the field and a son in a city godown. The harvest pays the interest, not the year. Farming has not 'lost honour'. It has lost the ability to be the majority's subsistence. The topic is that arithmetic.

One stand

- **Subsistence:** food plus a surplus that covers seed, health, a wedding. Majority: the small and marginal. Write MSP, a monsoon, a plot that shrank - not a hymn to the soil.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Lost the ability:** a structural claim, not a mood.
- **Subsistence:** calorie plus cash for the non-farm bill.
- **Majority of farmers:** the small plot, not the showcase farm.

Land / climate

- Fragmentation, a groundwater crash, a heat that kills a crop twice.

Market

- Price risk, a mandi that is far, a contract that is a trap.
- MSP as a floor for some grains, a silence for the rest.

Household

- Distress migration as the real subsistence.
- A woman who farms without a title.

The counter

Some regions still live off the field. Horticulture, a dairy, a FPOs can work. The line is about the majority, not a ban on farming. And 'leave the land' without a town job is another destitution.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** a living from land plus a non-farm floor. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Gandhi

Village as a unit - then the plot that cannot feed.

Ambedkar

Land and caste - who owns the subsistence.

Ag census / NSS

Small and marginal as the majority - peg once.

MSP / PM-KISAN

A floor and a transfer - not a full living.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

The non-farm floor when the field fails.