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Q7

Patriarchy is the least noticed yet the most significant structure of social inequality.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** patriarchy is the furniture nobody lists - and it still assigns the rooms
- **One stand:** name the unnoticed structure; then show the bill in bodies, wages, and offices
- Move through home, work, ritual, state. Keep one honest counter
- Close on making the furniture visible so it can be moved

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a photograph nobody captions. Stand:** furniture that assigns sitting.
- **Headings:** home, work, ritual, police/panchayat, then one counter.

Earn **Ambedkar** or **Beauvoir** once. Peg NFHS or 73rd.

Close on a visible chair.

Note

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

Anecdote

- **A family photograph:** the men sit. The women stand behind, smiling. No one captions the standing as a structure. Patriarchy is that caption nobody wrote - least noticed, most significant, still assigning who may sit.

One stand

- **Not a private mood of 'bad men'. A system of rules:** descent, property, honour, a voice in a panchayat. Write it as infrastructure. Link to 2023's two disciplines without copying that paper.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Least noticed:** it looks like nature, like 'our culture', like a joke.
- **Most significant:** it organises labour, violence, the state inside the house.
- **Social inequality:** beside caste and class - intersecting, not a side quest.

Home

- Unpaid hours, a curfew, a missing girl at birth (NFHS).
- Who eats last.

Work

- A labour-force number that cannot see the home.
- A glass ceiling that is also a glass floor (who cleans).

Ritual and culture

- A priestly monopoly, a surname, a festival that parades a boy.

State

- **Peg:** 73rd seats, maternity, POSH, marital rape debates - the file entering the photograph.
- A police desk that sends a woman home to 'compromise'.

The counter

Class and caste can crush a man who still sits in the photograph. Patriarchy is not the only furniture. And a policy that only scolds mothers will miss capital and khap. Also: men as allies who rock the cradle (cousin of 2021) - structure can be moved without a war on persons.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** caption the standing. Then give a chair, a wage, a street at night. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Beauvoir

One is not born, but becomes - the unnoticed making of a sitting and a standing.

Ambedkar

The Hindu home as a political unit - caste and gender as one furniture set.

National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5)

Sex ratio, anaemia, decisions - peg, no fake decimals.

Arts. 14-15

The legal caption the photograph lacked.

73rd / POSH

Seats and workplaces - moving furniture in public.