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Q5

Hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2021 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Often a proverb:** the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world
- **One stand:** care is power - unpaid, under-counted, and still world-making. Do not freeze it as a woman's fate
- Move through home, economy, polity, law. Keep one honest counter
- Close on sharing the cradle, not only praising it

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a night bus and a pretty cage. Stand:** care is power; do not freeze the carer.
- **Headings:** home, time-use, panchayat, law, then one counter.

Earn the **proverb** once; **Ambedkar** or a labour peg.

Close on sharing the cradle.

Note

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

Anecdote

- **A night bus:** a woman stands with a sleeping child so a man can sit with a phone. Tomorrow she will be told she 'rules the world' from the kitchen. The **proverb** can be honour. It can also be a pretty cage. Write to keep the honour and break the cage.

One stand

Early care shapes a people - language, shame, a taste for cruelty or kindness. That is power. It must be visible in GDP, in paternity leave, in a creche, not only in a greeting card.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Cradle:** childhood, unpaid care, the first republic.
- **Rules the world:** influence on character, labour supply, even a vote twenty years later.
- **Risk:** a compliment that refuses a salary, a seat, a street at night.

Home

- Who rocks, who is free to wander (cousin of 2023 restrictions/demands).

Economy

- **Peg:** time-use surveys - hours that do not enter GDP.
- A missing creche is an industrial policy.

Polity

- The first school of citizenship is the home. A violent cradle exports a violent street.
- **Women in panchayats:** ruling more than the cradle - still fighting the proxy.

Law

- **Maternity benefit, POSH, Art. 15:** the republic entering the house.
- Childcare as infrastructure, not a private hobby.

The counter

Not every hand that rocks is kind (abuse is also a cradle). And men who never rock still rule boards. The **proverb** is a claim about influence, not a census of cabinets. Honour care by redistributing it - including to the state.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** count the hours, share the night bus. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Proverb

The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world - honour plus a warning against the cage.

Ambedkar

The home is a political unit - caste and gender as daily law.

Time-use / unpaid work

Hours that rule the world and miss the GDP.

Maternity / creche

Care as infrastructure - otherwise the proverb is a greeting card.

73rd Amendment

Women ruling beyond the cradle - watch the proxy.

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