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Q5

Girls are weighed down by restrictions, boys with demands - two equally harmful disciplines.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Two cages:** girls restricted, boys demanded - both are harm
- **One stand:** patriarchy is a double discipline, not a women's-only wound
- Move through family, school, work, law. Keep one honest counter
- Close on equal freedom plus equal care, not a swap of cages

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with two clocks in one house. Stand:** two disciplines, one structure.
- **Headings:** family, school, work, law, then one counter.

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

Close on two unlocked doors.

Note

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

Anecdote

A house with two clocks. The daughter must be home before dark. The son must not cry, must take the shop, must 'become'. Both children learn a smaller life. The topic names the pair: restrictions and demands - two equally harmful disciplines.

One stand

Do not run a men's-rights detour or a girls-only sermon. Show how the same structure cuts both, then show who still pays more in body and unpaid hours. Write for freedom with care, not for a new uniform.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Restrictions:** mobility, voice, property, the body - typically stacked on girls.
- **Demands:** breadwinner, violence-as-honour, no tenderness - stacked on boys.
- **Equally harmful** is a moral claim about discipline, not a claim that harm is identical in hospital wards.

Family

- Dowry and 'family name' on one side; the boy as ATM on the other.
- Unpaid care is still mostly a woman's day. Name it.

School and media

- STEM gatekeeping; 'boys don't read literature'. Both are smaller minds.
- Reels that sell a gym-and-gun masculinity and a shrinking girl.

Work and state

- **Peg:** NFHS / labour force - women's work often missing from the count; male suicide and farm distress as the demand's bill.
- **Maternity, paternity, creche:** if only women 'get' care, the demand on men never moves and the restriction on women stays.

Law

- **Art. 14-15, POCSO, workplace harassment law:** the republic against the house-clock.
- **73rd Amendment's** seats: a crack in the restriction; the demand on the sarpanch's husband is the leftover cage.

The counter

'Equally' must not erase femicide, anaemia, or a missing girl at birth. Boys' cages are real; they are not a reason to stall a woman's file. Justice is two unlocked doors, not a lecture that 'everyone suffers' and therefore nothing is due.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** shorten the daughter's curfew and the son's armour together. **Ambedkar's** social democracy is that double key. Expand; this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Ambedkar

Social democracy: the house is a political unit - caste and gender as daily law.

Beauvoir

One is not born, but becomes - use once for how both cages are taught.

National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5)

Sex ratio, anaemia, decision-making - peg, no fake decimals.

Arts. 14-15

Equality and non-discrimination - the legal bleach for both disciplines.

73rd Amendment

Seats for women: a crack in restriction; watch the proxy-sarpanch demand.

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