

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q8

Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · GS I · 10 marks · Indian Society and Diversity

Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

Core demand of the question

- Explore and evaluate the impact of Work From Home on family relationships
- Give both gains and strains, including gender and care, not only convenience
- Keep the explanation within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

WFH returns commute time to the family and can help care of children and the old.

It erases the wall between office and home in small flats.

Women often add paid tasks to unpaid care rather than trade them.

Privacy, overtime, and sometimes violence risk rise when exit to a workplace vanishes.

Hybrid rules and a fair chore split decide whether the family gains.

Introduction

Work from home, massively widened in the pandemic years, moved the office into the house. Family relationships gained shared time and lost the old wall between paid work and care.

Body

Gains for the household

- Commute hours returned to spouses, children, and elderly parents, which could raise daily talk, meals, and supervision of schoolwork.
- Dual-earner couples in Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities saved travel cost and could live nearer to kin instead of only nearer to the central business district.
- Illness, disability, and infant months were easier to manage when a parent did not vanish for ten office hours.
- Some men saw housework that had been invisible, which is a possible, not automatic, step toward fairer sharing.

Strains and unequal loads

- The same roof held meetings, cooking, and online classes, so privacy, sleep, and tempers suffered in small urban flats.
- Women in India already did most unpaid care; WFH often added office output on top of that double shift rather than replacing it.

- Couples without a separate room faced status strain when one partner's call silenced the other's, which reproduces workplace hierarchy at home.
- Domestic violence risk can rise when abusers are present all day and exit routes to a workplace shrink.
- Kin who expected constant availability treated the worker as always free, which bred guilt and hidden overtime.

An evaluation

- WFH is good for family time when housing, devices, and a fair split of chores exist; it is harsh when the house is the factory floor for one gender.
- Hybrid rules, paid care, and a **right to disconnect** decide whether the family is enriched or colonised by the firm.

Flow diagram

Work from home -> More kin time
Work from home -> Blurred work rest
Blurred work rest -> Heavier unpaid load
More kin time -> Stronger daily bonds
Heavier unpaid load -> Strain conflict

Conclusion

Work from home can thicken family contact and cut the commute tax. It also blurs rest, piles unpaid work on women, and can trap conflict indoors; evaluation therefore turns on housing and gender, not on the laptop alone.

Facts & figures

Pandemic WFH wave

2020-22 made remote salaried work ordinary for a slice of urban India.

Unpaid care gap

Time-use evidence that Indian women still do the bulk of housework and care.

Right to disconnect

Policy idea that off-hours messages should not be unlimited when the office is the house.

Hybrid work

Mix of home and office days that many firms kept after full lockdowns ended.

Housing constraint

Urban one- and two-room homes that cannot host two video jobs and a child class at once.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-1/2022/explore-and-evaluate-the-impact-of-work-from-home-on-family-relationships/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com

WRAP Exams