

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

Q6

In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · GS II · 10 marks · Health, Education and Human Resources

Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector / Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Core demand of the question

- In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss
- Honour the official stem. Use NHM, RMNCH+A, Ayushman Bharat, and the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly
- Keep the discussion within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Maternal and geriatric care are social-development policies because they protect households at birth and in old age.

JSY, JSSK, PMSMA and LaQshya improved institutional delivery; anaemia and quality gaps remain.

NPHCE and the 2007 senior-citizens Act are the geriatric frame; home and palliative care are still thin.

Ayushman Bharat can help only if Health and Wellness Centres actually deliver continuum care.

Adequacy is staff, blood, referral and long-term care, not logos alone.

Introduction

Social development is longer, healthier, and more equal lives, not only a rising GDP. Maternal survival decides whether a household stays out of medical poverty; geriatric care decides whether an ageing society remains dignified. Sound policy in both fields is therefore a development instrument.

Body

Why these two fields

- **Maternal health is the inter-generational hinge:** anaemia, unsafe delivery, and missing postnatal care transmit poverty and lost schooling.
- **Geriatric health is the new demographic fact:** longevity without pensions, joint families thinning, and non-communicable disease make old age a social-development risk, not a private family matter.

- **Article 47** and the **National Health Policy, 2017**, already treat health as a public commitment; adequacy means money, staff, and protocols, not a scheme logo.

Maternal health - what exists and what sound policy adds

- RMNCH+A, **Janani Suraksha Yojana**, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, and LaQshya target institutional delivery, free drugs, and labour-room quality.
- NFHS and SRS still show high anaemia, high C-section in private care, and wide State gaps; adequacy means midwives, blood, referral transport, and respectful maternity care, not only a delivery count.
- Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres can hold antenatal and postnatal work if they are staffed; PM-JAY covers hospitalisation but not the whole maternal continuum.

Geriatric health

- National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly, dedicated OPD and some regional geriatric centres, and the **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007**, are the thin legal-policy frame.
- NCD screening, palliative care, dementia, and home-based care are still urban-scarce; social development fails if the elderly only meet casualty wards.
- **Recommendation:** link **NPHCE** to Health and Wellness Centres, geriatrics in MBBS and nursing, and a public long-term-care conversation that India has postponed.

Together

- A society that loses mothers in labour and warehouses the old has not socially developed. Health policy is the bridge.

Flow diagram

Maternal RMNCH+A JSY -> Social development
Geriatric NPHCE NCD -> Social development
HWC and PM-JAY -> Maternal RMNCH+A JSY
HWC and PM-JAY -> Geriatric NPHCE NCD

Conclusion

Sound and adequate maternal and geriatric policies raise social development by protecting two ends of the life course. India has NHM schemes and a named elderly programme; adequacy still means staff, continuum of care, and State-level closing of NFHS gaps, not only insurance cards.

Facts & figures

National Health Mission / RMNCH+A

Umbrella for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health.

Janani Suraksha Yojana

Conditional cash support for institutional delivery among eligible women.

NPHCE

National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly; OPDs and regional geriatric centres.

National Health Policy, 2017

Shifts talk toward comprehensive primary care and a larger public spend.

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

Civil-legal duty of maintenance; not a substitute for public geriatric services.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-2/2020/in-order-to-enhance-the-prospects-of-social-development-sound-and-adequate-health-care-policies-are-needed-particularly-in-the-fields-of-geriatric-and-maternal-health-care-discuss/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com