

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

Q12

Distinguish between 'care economy' and 'monetized economy'. How can care economy be brought into monetized economy through women empowerment?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · GS III · 15 marks · Indian Economy

Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

Core demand of the question

- Distinguish the care economy from the monetized economy
- Explain how care work can be brought into the monetized economy through women empowerment
- Use time-use evidence and name real schemes

Revision summary

The care economy is unpaid or underpaid household and person-care; the monetized economy is priced and counted work.

Women do most unpaid care, which is a main reason for low female labour-force participation.

Empowerment means recognise care, reduce it with water fuel and crèches, and redistribute it at home.

- **Some care should become paid work:** ASHA, Anganwadi, Palna crèches, eldercare, and protected domestic work.

DAY-NRLM and asset rights help turn care skill into an enterprise, not only a double burden.

Introduction

- **Much of what keeps a household alive is** work without a wage: cooking, childcare, eldercare, fetching water. That is the **care economy**. The **monetized economy** is the part that passes through a price, a payroll, or a tax invoice. Women do most of the first and a smaller share of the second. Empowerment is the bridge if it **recognises, reduces, and redistributes** care, and if some care becomes **paid decent work**.

Body

Distinction

- **Care economy:** unpaid or underpaid services that reproduce labour - children, the sick, the old, the daily meal. It sits largely **outside Gross Domestic Product** as household production.
- **Monetized economy:** goods and services sold or paid by the State; counted in GDP, GST, and employment surveys when they are "economic activity".
- The two are linked. Factories run because someone did unpaid care the night before. The Time Use Survey (2019) showed Indian women spending **several hours more** per day on unpaid domestic and care work than men.

Bringing care into the monetized economy through women empowerment

- **Recognise:** count unpaid care in satellite accounts and in policy, so a "low female labour-force participation" is not misread as idleness.
- **Reduce:** tap water, clean fuel (**Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**), crèches, and time-saving infrastructure cut the unpaid load so women can take paid hours.
- **Redistribute:** paternity leave, cheaper quality childcare, and men sharing housework; without this, a job only **double-burdens** the woman.
- **Monetize care jobs:** pay and professionalise **Anganwadi workers**, **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA)**, and **mid-day-meal cooks**; expand **Palna** / National Crèche and paid eldercare; bring domestic workers under labour codes and social security.
- **Assets and organisation:** **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** self-help groups, property rights, and skilling (including **Skill India** care-sector courses) turn unpaid skill into an enterprise or a wage.
- **Public care infrastructure is itself a monetized sector: it raises GDP and** women's participation, which is the empowerment loop.

Caution

- Paying a woman to do the same isolated housework without rights is not empowerment. Monetization must mean **wage, safety, and a career ladder**, not a cheaper nanny class.

Flow diagram

Care economy unpaid -> W Women's time
 Monetized economy -> Wages GDP
 W -> Recognise reduce redistribute
 Recognise reduce redistribute -> Paid care jobs crèches
 Paid care jobs crèches -> Wages GDP
 Paid care jobs crèches -> E Women's empowerment

Conclusion

The care economy is unpaid reproduction of people; the monetized economy is priced work. Women carry the first. Empowerment brings care into the second by cutting unpaid hours, sharing them, and turning care into paid public and private jobs with rights - Ujjwala, crèches, **ASHA and Anganwadi** pay, and NRLM are the Indian tools.

Facts & figures

Time Use Survey 2019

NSO survey: women spend far more minutes per day on unpaid domestic and caregiving work than men.

PM Ujjwala Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: LPG connections that cut time and smoke from biomass cooking.

ASHA and Anganwadi

Frontline care workers; still often honorarium-based, which is partial monetization without full worker status.

Palna / crèches

Public childcare that both employs workers and frees mothers for paid hours.

DAY-NRLM

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission: self-help groups that organise women for savings and livelihoods.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-3/2023/distinguish-between-care-economy-and-monetized-economy-how-can-care-economy-be-brought-into-monetized-economy-through-women-empowerment/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com