

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

Q5(c)

Explain the implications of feminization of work in the developing societies.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Sociology

Sociology - The Discipline: Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology; Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences; Sociology and common sense.

Core demand of the question

- Explain the implications of feminization of work in the developing societies
- Keep the explanation within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Feminization is a rising female share in often flexible, low-paid work.

Standing linked it to casualisation of labour.

- **Implications:** some income and mobility, a **double day**, cheaper informal sectors.

SHGs, garments, NREGS, gig and **NFHS** are the developing-society files.

Census undercount of unpaid work hides part of the story.

Introduction

Feminization of work is the rising share of women in paid and counted labour, often in insecure, low-paid, and care-like jobs. In developing societies it is not automatically emancipation. It reorganises households, export industries, and the informal economy.

Body

What is being feminised

- **Guy Standing** described a **feminisation of flexible labour**: jobs once coded male become casual, and women fill them.
- Export garments, electronics assembly, domestic service, and now gig delivery and home-based piecework are typical sites.
- **SHGs** pull women into credit and micro-enterprise, which can be both voice and a new working day.

Implications

- Income and some public mobility rise. **NFHS** decision-making items sometimes move with earnings.
- **The double day persists**: unpaid care is not shed when the wage arrives. Ann Oakley and Sylvia Walby named that structure.
- Bargaining inside the household may shift, or male control of the new income may not.
- **Informalisation**: "women's work" is used to cheapen a sector, which **Marx** would read as a cheaper labour-power.

- State programmes such as NREGS have high female participation in some states, which can tighten rural labour markets and still leave asset ownership male.

Limits

- **Census** work definitions still undercount unpaid family labour, so feminisation can be statistically half-visible.
- Elite professional feminisation is not the same process as garment-line feminisation.

Flow diagram

Feminization of work -> Wage and public presence

Feminization of work -> Double day

Feminization of work -> Informal cheap labour

Wage and public presence -> Mixed implication

Double day -> Mixed implication

Informal cheap labour -> Mixed implication

Conclusion

In developing societies, feminization of work means more women in flexible paid labour, with mixed gains in income and voice and persistent unpaid care. **SHGs**, **NFHS**, garments, and gig home-work are the files. It is a restructuring of exploitation and agency together, not a simple success story.

Facts & figures

Standing

Described feminisation of labour as flexibility and insecurity, not only more jobs for women.

Double day

Paid work added to unpaid care, a core feminist implication.

SHGs

Organise women's credit and meetings; implications include voice and extra labour time.

NFHS

Tracks women's work, earnings control, and health, which test whether paid work yields agency.