

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

Q7(c)

How is ageing becoming an emerging issue in Indian society ?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 marks · Perspectives on the study of Indian society

Perspectives on the study of Indian society: Indology (G.S. Ghurye); Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas); Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai).

Core demand of the question

- How is ageing becoming an emerging issue in Indian society?
- Keep demography, family, and welfare

Revision summary

Longevity and fewer children make ageing demographically visible.

Household fission and migration weaken traditional care.

Widows and informal workers are the sharp edge.

Honour ideology hides neglect and work in old age.

Welfare pensions and health must supplement family duty.

Introduction

Ageing is an emerging Indian issue because longevity is rising while the joint household that was supposed to care is thinning. The elderly are more visible, more female at the oldest ages, and less guaranteed a son's roof.

Body**Why emerging**

- Fertility decline and better survival produce a larger old-age share, first in the south and among the middle class.
- Urbanisation and migration empty the village house that ideology still calls the ashrama of care.
- Informal work means no pension for most, so ageing is a poverty risk, especially for widows under Seed and Earth.

Social form of the issue

- Loneliness, abuse, and medical cost meet a cultural claim that old age is honoured.
- **Feminization of later life:** more widows, less property.
- Policy (**Maintenance Act**, sparse pensions, homes) is catching up slowly, a welfare lag Yogendra Singh would call incomplete modernization of tradition.

Not only a rich-country issue

- Poor elderly continue to work. Ageing is not retirement; it is weaker bodies in the same informal market.

Flow diagram

Longevity low fertility -> Ageing
Migration small household -> Ageing
No pension widowhood -> Ageing

Conclusion

Ageing emerges as a social issue where demography meets a mobile, informal, still-patrilineal family. It will thicken unless public care matches the missing joint roof.

Facts & figures

Demographic transition

The shift that raises the share of the old after fertility falls.

Widowhood

The gendered core of Indian ageing poverty.

Maintenance Act

A legal attempt to enforce filial duty when the roof has split.

Informal ageing

Old people without retirement, still selling labour.