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Q8(a)

Why has 'Active aging' become a glocal goal? Do you agree that the role of elderly care-giving is disproportionately gendered in developing countries? Why?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 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

- Why has 'Active aging' become a **glocal** goal? Do you agree that the role of elderly care-giving is disproportionately gendered in developing countries? Why?

Revision summary

Active ageing is a global health-and-participation goal with local delivery.

India's longer lives and changing families make it a domestic policy issue.

Care of the elderly falls on women by kinship rule.

Male migration and informal paid care deepen that skew.

Without pensions and shared care, active ageing is women's extra shift.

Introduction

Active ageing has become a **glocal** goal because longer lives, shrinking families, and global health talk now meet local kinship. Yes, elderly care in developing countries is disproportionately gendered. Daughters-in-law and daughters do the body work.

Body

Why a **glocal goal**

- **Global:** WHO and UN frames treat ageing as a development issue of health, work, and participation, not only as a rich-country hobby.
- **Local:** India is greying while pensions are thin and the joint family is changing, so 'active' is a policy hope against a care crisis.
- **Glocal** means the slogan travels; the means are NFSA, pensions, and neighbourhoods, not Scandinavian wards.

Gendered caregiving

- I agree. Patriarchy assigns care to women as an extension of Seed-and-Earth domestic duty.
- Sons inherit; women nurse. Migration of men thickens the daughter-in-law's load in villages.
- Paid geriatric work is also female and informal, underemployed and unprotected, the same informalization seen in the wider labour market.
- Developing-country welfare is household-based; the household is a gender factory.

Why

- Honour forbids sending parents to an institution even when women already do a double shift.
- State care is residual, so the 'family' in policy is a woman.

What active ageing needs

- Pensions, health, and men's share of care, or the goal will mean busy grandmothers, not equal ageing.

Flow diagram

Global ageing talk -> Local thin pensions

Local thin pensions -> Active ageing goal

Patriarchy -> Women as carers

Conclusion

Active ageing is **glocal** because demographic ageing is global while care remains local. Elderly caregiving in developing countries is disproportionately gendered because patriarchy and thin public care dump the body work on women.

Facts & figures

Glocal

Global slogan adapted to local kinship and welfare.

Seed and Earth

Domestic ideology that naturalises women as carers.

Informal care work

Paid and unpaid female labour around the elderly body.

Thin pensions

Public income support too small to buy a care market.

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