# Society & Social Justice · GS - II

**Preventive and family-centred interventions are essential for addressing child vulnerability before it develops into abuse, neglect or exploitation. Examine the role of interdepartmental coordination and community-based mechanisms in strengthening child protection in India.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
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| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Early identification of vulnerable children, family-level risk assessment, child rights, Juvenile Justice Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012, interdepartmental convergence, local governance, data privacy, social stigma, rehabilitation and institutional accountability.**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

Child protection requires more than responding to abuse after it occurs. Preventive identification of vulnerable families and timely support can reduce children's exposure to neglect, exploitation and violence.

### Importance of Preventive Interventions

Family-centred risk mapping can help identify indicators such as poverty, domestic violence, school dropout, substance abuse and inadequate parental care. Early intervention through counselling, education, healthcare and social protection can prevent vulnerability from escalating.

### Role of Institutional Coordination

The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 provides a framework for care and protection through institutions such as Child Welfare Committees. The POCSO Act, 2012 strengthens protection against sexual offences. Coordination among departments of education, health, women and child development, police and local bodies can improve identification, referral and rehabilitation.

**Challenges and Safeguards**

Poor data integration, departmental silos, shortage of trained personnel and social stigma may weaken implementation. Family mapping must protect privacy, prevent discriminatory labelling and ensure that interventions remain child-centred rather than punitive.

**Conclusion**

A coordinated, rights-based and preventive approach can strengthen child safety by addressing vulnerabilities at their source while preserving dignity and family welfare.

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