Society & Social Justice · GS - I

Globalization has increased urban migration by skilled, young, unmarried women from various classes. How has this trend impacted upon their personal freedom and relationship with family?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

globalization, urban migration, skilled women, economic independence, personal autonomy, individualisation, family relations, gender norms, career opportunities, marriage, work-life balance

Model Answer

Introduction

Globalisation has expanded employment opportunities in sectors such as IT, finance, healthcare, education, media and services. This has encouraged increasing numbers of skilled young women to migrate independently to urban centres.

Impact on Personal Freedom

1. Economic independence: Employment provides women with independent incomes and greater control over spending, saving and career decisions.

2. Greater autonomy: Living away from family can expand freedom regarding mobility, occupation, lifestyle, friendships and marriage.

3. Professional identity: Urban employment strengthens women's social identity beyond traditional domestic roles.

4. Delayed marriage: Career opportunities and economic independence may enable women to postpone marriage and exercise greater choice regarding partners.

5. Wider social networks: Diverse workplaces expose women to new ideas, relationships and social experiences.

Impact on Family Relationships

The impact is multidimensional.

Changing authority: Financial independence can increase women's bargaining power within families and encourage more egalitarian relationships.

Generational tensions: Differences over lifestyle, marriage, relationships, dress and occupational choices can create conflict with traditional family expectations.

Emotional distance: Physical separation may produce loneliness and difficulties in caring for elderly parents or participating in family events.

New forms of connection: Digital communication, frequent visits and financial support can maintain strong family relationships despite geographical distance.

Changing gender roles: Families may increasingly negotiate household responsibilities, caregiving and marriage decisions rather than following rigid traditional norms.

Conclusion

Urban migration has generally expanded women's **economic agency and personal autonomy**, while simultaneously requiring families to renegotiate traditional expectations. The trend therefore represents a transformation towards more **individualised yet increasingly negotiated family relationships**, rather than a simple weakening of family bonds.