Society & Social Justice · GS - II

“Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and feminist movement has been patriarchal.” Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Patriarchal norms, gender socialisation, unpaid care work, workplace equality, political representation, gender-sensitive policing, media representation, men's participation, community engagement, legal enforcement, feminist movements, behavioural change.

Model Answer

Introduction

Despite women's achievements in science, politics, sports and business, patriarchal attitudes continue to shape household responsibilities, employment opportunities and public perceptions. Structural and behavioural interventions are needed beyond education and welfare schemes.

Interventions to Transform Social Attitudes

- **Early gender socialisation:** Schools and families should challenge stereotypes about household work, leadership and occupational roles from childhood.
- **Men's participation:** Engage boys and men in campaigns against domestic violence, discriminatory norms and unequal care responsibilities.

- **Redistribution of unpaid care:** Expand childcare facilities, parental leave and community care services to reduce the disproportionate burden on women.
- **Workplace reform:** Enforce equal-pay principles, prevent sexual harassment and promote transparent recruitment and promotion.
- **Political representation:** Strengthen women's participation in decision-making institutions and leadership positions.
- **Responsible media:** Encourage diverse portrayals of women and discourage normalisation of violence or discriminatory stereotypes.
- **Legal enforcement:** Improve implementation of laws addressing domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking and dowry-related abuse.
- **Community mobilisation:** Involve local governments, self-help groups, religious leaders and civil society in sustained behavioural-change campaigns.

Conclusion

Gender equality requires transforming social norms, institutions and power relations, not merely expanding individual opportunities. Collective responsibility, effective law enforcement and equitable care arrangements can help build a genuinely inclusive society.

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