Society & Social Justice · GS - II

In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2020	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Universal health coverage; elderly population; maternal mortality; antenatal and postnatal care; reproductive health; primary healthcare; public health infrastructure; social determinants; financial protection

Model Answer

Introduction

Health is both a prerequisite for social development and an indicator of human welfare. Geriatric and maternal healthcare require particular attention because they influence household well-being, gender equality and the quality of life across generations.

Need for sound healthcare policies

- **Geriatric healthcare:** Ageing increases the need for affordable treatment of non-communicable diseases, rehabilitation, mental healthcare and long-term care.
- **Maternal healthcare:** Quality antenatal care, institutional delivery, skilled birth attendance and postnatal services reduce maternal and neonatal mortality.
- **Equity:** Rural populations, low-income households and marginalised communities often face barriers to healthcare access.
- **Financial protection:** High out-of-pocket expenditure can push vulnerable households into poverty.

- **Preventive care:** Nutrition, vaccination, screening and health education can reduce avoidable illness and complications.

Policy priorities

- Strengthen primary healthcare and referral systems.
- Expand geriatric services, home-based care and trained caregivers.
- Improve maternal nutrition, emergency obstetric care and reproductive health services.
- Address anaemia, malnutrition, sanitation and transport barriers.
- Ensure adequate staffing, medicines and gender-sensitive care.
- Strengthen public health financing and monitoring.

Conclusion

Inclusive healthcare policies must cover the entire life cycle, from pregnancy to old age. Accessible primary care, adequate public investment and protection against medical expenses can advance social development and reduce health inequalities.

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