Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Examine the challenges in achieving global polio eradication, with particular reference to insecurity and resistance to vaccination.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Poliovirus transmission; immunisation coverage; attacks on health workers; vaccine hesitancy; disease surveillance; international cooperation

Model Answer

Introduction

Polio eradication is a major global public health objective. Although vaccination has greatly reduced the disease, continued transmission in a limited number of countries highlights persistent security, logistical and social challenges.

Major Challenges

1. Security threats: Attacks on vaccination teams discourage health workers, disrupt campaigns and restrict access to vulnerable communities.

2. Vaccine hesitancy: Misinformation, conspiracy theories and distrust of authorities can reduce public participation.

3. Uneven coverage: Conflict, population displacement, remote settlements and weak health infrastructure can leave children unvaccinated.

4. Surveillance gaps: Detecting poliovirus circulation through clinical and environmental surveillance is essential for identifying outbreaks and responding quickly.

Way Forward

Governments should provide proportionate security for vaccination teams, strengthen local community engagement and work with trusted religious and community leaders to counter misinformation. Repeated vaccination campaigns, reliable vaccine supplies and effective surveillance must be sustained. International organisations should support cross-border coordination because poliovirus transmission is not confined by national boundaries.

Conclusion

Polio eradication requires more than vaccine availability. Security, public trust, equitable health services and international cooperation are essential to protect children and prevent renewed transmission.

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