Society & Social Justice · GS - I

Examine the role of ‘Gig Economy’ in the process of empowerment of women in India.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Flexible employment, digital platforms, financial independence, women's entrepreneurship, work-life balance, access to markets, income insecurity, gender digital divide, social security, labour protection.

Model Answer

Introduction

The gig economy involves task-based or short-term work facilitated by digital platforms and contractual arrangements. It can expand women's economic opportunities in India.

Role in Women's Empowerment

- **Flexible employment:** Freelancing, online tutoring and home-based services can help women balance paid work with care responsibilities.
- **Financial independence:** Platform-based jobs provide income opportunities for women facing barriers to conventional employment.
- **Market access:** Digital platforms connect women entrepreneurs and professionals with customers across geographical boundaries.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Online selling, design and consulting enable women to establish businesses with relatively low initial investment.
- **Professional participation:** Remote work can create opportunities for women in technology, education and business services.

Challenges

Irregular earnings, algorithmic bias, digital illiteracy, online harassment and inadequate social security limit the benefits. Flexibility may also reinforce unequal unpaid care responsibilities.

Way Forward

Affordable digital access, skill development, transparent platform policies, grievance redressal, maternity protection and portable social security can improve outcomes.

Conclusion

The gig economy can strengthen women's economic empowerment, but its benefits depend on safe working conditions, fair remuneration and effective labour protections.

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