

Global Care Crisis - ILO

Why in news?

\n\n

UN's ILO cautions of a severe shortage of care workers.

\n\n

Who is a care worker?

\n\n

\n

- According to International Labour Organization (ILO), there are unpaid and paid care works.

\n

- Two kinds of work fall in the **unpaid category**, and these overlap suitably.

\n

- There are the **direct**, personal and relational care activities.

\n

- E.g. mother feeding a baby or a son nursing his ill parents.

\n

- **Indirect** care activities include cooking and cleaning and other household chores.

\n

- On the other hand, **paid care work** involves healthcare or other professionals.

\n

- It includes nurses, teachers, doctors and personal care workers.

\n

- They take care of patients, aged people and people with similar challenges and vulnerabilities.

\n

\n\n

What is ILO's observation?

\n\n

\n

- There is a shortfall in paid care - the nurses, teachers, doctors and personal

care workers.

\n

- Already, there are over 380 million such workers.

\n

- They account for 11.5% of total global jobs.

\n

- But this is not enough given the pace of population growth, ageing and diseases.

\n

\n\n

What are the driving factors?

\n\n

\n

- In 2015, ILO estimates showed that around 2 billion people were in need of care.

\n

- This comprised of 1.9 billion under age 15 and 0.2 billion senior citizens.

\n

- This number is estimated to go up, touching 2.3 billion by 2030.

\n

- This is a significant increase considering the way healthcare improves.

\n

- Besides, changes in social dynamics and the concept of family are also the reasons.

\n

- Growth in nuclear families and fragmentation would increase people in need of care.

\n

- Notably, nuclear families account for the highest share of the world's working-age population.

\n

\n\n

What are the shortfalls and possible measures?

\n\n

\n

- **Policies** - Governments and businesses must formulate policies to provide decent care work.

\n

- ILO estimates that this will need doubling the investment in the care economy.

\n

- It could lead to a total of 475 million jobs by 2030, which means 269 million new jobs.

\n

- **Pay** - In countries such as India, care workers like nurses are alarmingly underpaid.

\n

- Nurses and midwives constitute the biggest occupational group in healthcare.

\n

- Nursing remains the most feminised of the healthcare occupations, according to the ILO.

\n

- Low, poor wages force them to try multiple jobs, more shifts or working overtime.

\n

- Such practices not only endanger the quality of care work but also impact work-life balance.

\n

- Any policy in this regard should promote social justice and gender equality.

\n

- **Unpaid work** - The ILO and several rights agencies now consider unpaid care as proper work.

\n

- An ILO survey shows each day unpaid care work constitutes 16.4 billion hours.

\n

- In other words, two billion people working eight hours per day with no remuneration.

\n

- If this is assigned a price, it would be \$11 trillion i.e. 9% of global GDP.

\n

- Notably, nearly 80% of this is household work, mostly done by women.

\n

- There is a need for more childcare and elder-care services so that more women are free to pursue careers.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: BusinessLine

\n



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering