**Introduction to Social class and social mobility**

A group of people possessing the same socio-economic status with society are classified under a social class. Further, the movement within or between these various social class or strata is known as social mobility. A lot of aspects are considered when studying the various social classes and the factors which impact their relationship with each other. Some of the key aspects which are analyzed when undertaking such a study are occupation, wealth, level of education and social background (i.e., caste, race, etc.).

A particular social class or the movement in or out of it is shaped by a lot of factors. Drawing an analogy with mathematics, a social class can be considered as an algebraic equation and the various factors mentioned above as the variables crucial for solving this equation. The level of education can significantly affect the strata one occupies in society and has been the major mode of social upliftment in the contemporary times. As the government expenditures on education increase across the world, so does the weight it possesses in affecting one’s social mobility. Next comes the level of income, which directly or indirectly depends on the level of education one possesses. A person born in a particular economic background can stake claim to a lot more resources than a person from an underprivileged family. And hence comes the third variable, which is occupation. People who possess more wealth are usually the people who are engaged in white collar jobs and are more often than usual well-educated.

**A CASE STUDY OF THE KHANDUJA FAMILY**

My grandfather hailed from pre-partition undivided Punjab and was an officer in the Indian Army. His educational qualification was much higher than his fellow countrymen in those times. And that good level of education gave him access to more financial resources which in turn significantly affected the wealth variable of the family. The level of education that my grandfather was able to receive was majorly because of the high socio-economic status that my great grandfather was able to maintain in the society at that point in time . Education usually passes down the family tree and when one member achieves that status in society in terms of education and wealth, it is passes down to the children in most cases which the children also attaining an equal or even higher degree of education. Hence, his son, i.e., my father, choose to become a doctor by profession, once again a highly respected occupation in the Indian society. And that good level of education gave him access to more financial resources which in turn significantly affected the wealth variable of the family. Since he was born and brought up in a highly conducive environment to growth, he was able to maintain, rather uplift the status of the family even further, which brings me down to the third generation, that is me.

Education these days has become relatively expensive in comparison to the previous decades. And the fact that I am able to afford it, is owed to the fact that my parents and grandparents have been able to establish that kind of socio-economic status from an early stage. A lot of changes can be observed from my grandfather’s time in the 1960s, to my age i.e., 2020s. Apart from loosening caste barriers, rising middle class and urban migration, the level of awareness among the general populace has seen a significant change. One side where a lot of people had to fight for their deserving positions in the 60s, the Indian state has put in place several safeguarding mechanisms since then to provide an equitable distribution of resources. The age that saw the major chunk of this transformation was the second generation of the family. Coming up during the times of massive tides of industrialization of the 80s, the liberal reforms of the 90s and the mass migration from the countryside to the metropolitan areas, my father witnessed a change not only in the social status of the family, but the country as a whole. A lot reforms in place now, were initiated during this very age as people became more and more aware and the country was opened to business with the outside world from a closed door economy.

**Conclusion**

From the case study it is clear that The term class first came into wide use in replacing such terms as rank and order as descriptions of the major hierarchical groupings in society stating that caste system was very prevalent in the third generation which in turn affected your social status in the society in terms of both education and wealth. Whereas with the advent of times and a new government education and skill set was given more priority in different sectors of life . To some extent wealth is also a reflection of achieved social mobility that is those with a sequence of good jobs and good incomes are more easily able to purchase more expensive or better-quality things.