**SOCIAL MOBILITY**

সামাজিক গতিশীলতা

According to **Paul B. Horton** and **Chester L. Hunt -** Social mobility may be defined as the act of moving from one social class to another.

In other word **Social mobility** refers to the movement of individuals, families, or groups within or between social strata in a society. It represents changes in social position relative to a society's social hierarchy or class system. Social mobility can be influenced by various factors such as education, income, occupation, or changes in the economy and social policies.

There are 4 types of social mobility.

**Types of social mobility**

**Horizontal mobility**: Refers to the movement of an individual or group within the same social stratum or class. For example: A teacher moving from one school to another without a promotion or salary increase.

**Vertical mobility**: Refers to the movement of an individual or group up or down the social hierarchy. It involves a significant change in a person's social class, status, or economic position.There are 2 types of vertical mobility:

**INTRAgenerational mobility:** refers to the changes in an individual's social status or class that occur within their own lifetime. It focuses on the social and economic movement experienced by a single person or group over the course of their career or personal development.For example: A high-ranking executive loses their position and ends up working in a lower-paying job**.**

**INTERgenerational mobility:** refers to the changes in social status or class that occur across different generations within a family. It compares the social and economic status of individuals with that of their parents or grandparents, highlighting how societal opportunities and barriers affect upward or downward movement between generations.For example: A child of farmers becoming a lawyer or a doctor.

**Structural mobility:** refers to social mobility that occurs due to changes in the structure of the economy or society rather than individual efforts or achievements. It is caused by shifts in the job market, industrial growth or decline, technological advancements, or social and political changes that alter the availability of opportunities or reshape the social hierarchy.For example: The rise of the tech industry enabled factory workers to retrain as software developers, reflecting upward structural mobility.

**Individual mobility**: refers to changes in a person’s social or economic status due to their own efforts, skills, or achievements.For example: A teacher earning a degree in law and becoming a successful lawyer demonstrates individual upward mobility.

**Absolute mobility:** refers to overall improvements in living standards or income levels across a society, often compared between generations.For example: A child earns a higher income than their parents did at the same age, reflecting absolute upward mobility.

**Causes of social mobility**

* **Education:** Access to quality education provides skills and qualifications needed for better jobs.
* **Economic Changes:** Shifts in industries, economic growth, or technological advancements create new job opportunities.
* **Government Policies:** Social welfare programs, affirmative action, and progressive taxation can reduce barriers to upward mobility.
* **Urbanization:** Movement from rural to urban areas often leads to better access to jobs, education, and resources.
* **Globalization:** Increased trade and international connections create opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.
* **Technological Advancements:** Automation and innovation create demand for new skills, leading to shifts in employment.
* **Family Background:** Parental wealth, education, and social networks significantly influence opportunities.
* **Cultural and Social Factors:** Societal attitudes, traditions, and community support can encourage or hinder mobility.
* **Personal Effort and Ambition:** Hard work, determination, and skill development can propel individual mobility.
* **Demographic Changes:** Changes in population size, age distribution, or migration patterns can create new social dynamics.

**Effects of social mobility**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Positive Effects | Negative Effects |
| 1. Improved Standard of Living | 1. Social Pressure and Stress |
| 1. Reduction in Social Inequality | 1. Family and Community Tensions |
| 1. Enhanced Social Integration | 1. Increased Competition |
| 1. Motivation and Innovation | 1. Downward Mobility Consequences |
| 1. Economic Growth | 1. Loss of Cultural Identity |

Social mobility reflects the ability to change social status within a society, driven by factors like education, economy, and policies. It promotes equality and opportunity but can also bring challenges like stress or inequality, shaping the social structure over time.