

## EDUCATION AS A MEANS OF SOCIAL MOBILITY: OPPORTUNITY OR OBSTACLE?

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### Abstract

Education has long been recognised as a key means of achieving social mobility, where it can act as a tool that provides opportunities or makes it difficult for individuals to move up in the social strata. This study uses the literature method. The results show that education can provide insights, skills and certifications that enable individuals to obtain better jobs and improve their socio-economic status. Education is also recognised as a factor that helps spread progressive ideas, which contributes to overall social development. However, along with these positive impacts, education also has an ambivalent role. In many cases, unequal and exclusive education systems have hindered social mobility, especially for individuals from marginalised groups. Issues such as high tuition fees, curricula that do not match market needs, and discrimination in education are significant barriers. Thus, to achieve the full potential of education as a tool for social mobility, policies must be designed in such a way that they overcome such barriers and provide equitable access to quality education for all members of society.

Keywords: Education, Social Mobility.

### INTRODUCTION

Social mobility refers to the movement of individuals or groups within the social hierarchical structure of society. Such mobility can be vertical, i.e. movement up or down in the social strata, or horizontal, where there is movement between sectors or occupations without a change in social class. Social mobility is an important indicator of the level of equality and fairness in a society, and can influence the potential for economic growth and social stability. (Breen & Jonsson, 2020)..

Social mobility, then, is a concept that explains the movement of individuals or groups within the social stratification structure of society. It includes changes in social status that can occur vertically or horizontally. Vertical refers to upward or downward mobility in the social hierarchy, such as movement from the lower economic class to the middle class or vice versa, often related to changes in income, education, occupation, or wealth. (Vallet, 2020). Meanwhile, horizontal mobility is a movement that occurs within the same social strata but involves a change in employment sector or geographical environment. Social mobility is considered a barometer of the health of a society in terms of social equality and integration, and provides an overview of the