

**ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN PROMOTING SOCIAL MOBILITY****Mrs. Anjali G. Kirkinde**

Asst. Professor,

Gurukrupa College of Education & Research, Kalyan

---

---

**Abstract**

Abstract: This paper is an attempt to discuss role of higher education in promoting social mobility. The paper give detailed discussion of meaning, type of social mobility. The present paper also highlights the role played by higher education in promoting social mobility.

Keywords: Social mobility, education, Horizontal Social mobility, vertical social Mobility.

**Introduction**

It is rightly said by Drew Faust, the President of Harvard University, “Higher education is the strong and sturdiest ladder to increase socio-economic mobility.” National Policy on education emphasizes the fact that education should lead not only to empowerment in terms of professional competence but must also serve as a vehicle for upward social mobility. A society is constituted by the people who are dynamic in nature. From the primitive uncivilized form it has evolved in to modern civilized and cultured society in which social mobility has played a dominant role since time immoral. The social position, status and economic conditions of people change from time to time due to hard work or lighter education or purely due to superior intellect. Better education and better service also help in change of the socially disadvantaged groups like women and the people belonging to scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes or backward classes. Lack of better higher education and will to do hard work have made rich people poor, thereby lowering the standard of living. Such type of changes which are observed in the social status, class, economic condition and standard of life of a person are spoken of as Social Mobility.

**1. According to P.A. Sorokin:** By social mobility is meant any transition of one individual from one position to another in a constellation of social group and strata.”

**1. According to S. Bogardus:** “Social mobility is any change in social position, such as occupational changes where persons move up or down the occupational scale, or relation to office whereby a follower becomes a leader, or a leap from a low economic class to a high one, or vice-versa.”

In the above definitions the nature of social Mobility has been clearly explained the relation to occupation, income organizational membership etc. Individuals with high aspirations tries to improve his social status and moves upward.

### **Types of Social Mobility**

In accordance with the direction of movement of the people in the society, Social mobility can be categorized into two types.

1. Horizontal Social Mobility
2. Vertical Social Mobility.

### **Horizontal Social Mobility**

It's a movement of a person to different situations but at the same level. i.e. within the single stratum, the process is called horizontal social mobility. For example, when a Principal of Secondary School at palm joins at the same post in a Secondary School at South Ex

### **Vertical Social Mobility**

Vertical mobility refers to any change in the occupational, economic or political status of an individual or a group which leads to change of their position. For example, when a teacher becomes a lecturer in a college is said to have moved vertically in the type: Upward Social Mobility (Ascending Mobility) and Downward Social Mobility (Descending mobility)

### **Upward Social Mobility**

Its movement of person from one status to another status which changes the position of a person or a group. For example, if a person is born in a family of a sweeper and after acquiring must learn the cultural behaviors of officers. This requires the individual trying for upward social mobility to learn the following.

### **Downward Social Mobility**

Downward mobility is caused due to following two factors.

- i) The first factor; is lack of initiative and efforts on the part of the people. Due to lethargy, rich and prosperous people have faced descending social mobility
- ii) The second factor which leads to downward vertical social mobility is social change.

Downward mobility occurs in government and private services and is generally the outcome of some sort of inefficiency or acts of criminal tendencies.

### **Education and Social Mobility**

Higher Education is one of the important means of encouraging social mobility the Indian society. It influences in promoting social mobility. Higher Education plays such an important role in following ways.

1. Higher Education is the need of every person as the development of human being is shape up because of higher education. It is higher education that reveals the latent qualities and potentiates of man and enables him to understand 'Self' and the environment surrounding him.
2. Higher Education sharpens the intellect, widens the vision, helps in the wholesome and balanced development of person, it leads to social, economic and political development of a nation.
3. Both the streams of education i.e. formal and Non-formal play a great role in bringing about social mobility.
4. Formal education is directly and causally related to social mobility. This relationship is generally understood to be one in which formal education itself is a cause or one of the cause of vertical social mobility.
5. Higher Education improves economic, social status of a person as it is directly related to occupational mobility. Hence higher education is more respected in the society.
6. Higher Education serves the purpose of motivating an individual to work hard for the importance of his/her position in the society.
7. As Higher education helps in gaining higher income, education is an important means for upward social mobility.
8. Occupational status is closely correlated with educational status, a change in occupation is considered to be the best single indicator of social mobility. The reason for it is that occupational status is closely correlated with educational status. Income style of life and the other determinants of class status.
9. Higher Education helps individual belonging to lower strata of the society to go up in the social scale and acquire social position in the society.

10. Higher Education helps in preparing individual for self employment, which is an important aspect of social upliftment.

11. The popularity of Higher education among women has considerably changed the social status of women. It has helped in raising their social position, status and achievement of high social prestige; which indicates upward social mobility of the women.

Medium of instruction in higher educational system plays an important role in bringing about mobility among the people of the society. One of the effects of adopting a regional language as a medium of instruction in schools and colleges is that it hinders spatial mobility of students and teachers which is related to both horizontal and vertical social mobility.

The teachers belonging to the lower caste, by joining this noble profession of teaching help in upward social mobility. Teachers engaged in research work innovations and imparting higher education help in breaking the barriers of caste and are respected by the students community for their help, guidance and scholarly taste and talent and promote intergenerational social mobility.

To get higher status, individual should try to get more and more higher education without which social mobility is difficult to achieve. Content of education, college and universities play an important role in social mobility of an individual

Not only the formal system of education but the non-formal system of education also acts as an important channel of social mobility. This system helps individuals who were devoid of the opportunities of education at a proper age to educate themselves.

There are various ways of facilitating social mobility, such as political power, marriage, family affiliations and education, but the most sought after this is education which is readily available to more people as educational facilities are expanded all over the world. Higher Education is regarded as the channel of mobility as it is:

- High educational achievement is the aspiration of people.
- Few would question about a person's integrity when high academic qualification.
- Education has high relationship with income and occupation. The higher the educational level, the more prestigious the occupation, leading to higher annual income.
- This term is associated with property and prestige.

**Conclusion**

Thus, higher education is a liberating force and in the present age it is also a democratizing force, cutting across the barriers of caste and class, smoothing out inequalities imposed by birth and other circumstances, thereby, bringing about mobility among the people in the social structure of the society.

**References**

- [1] S. Sarker, J. Manor, M. Weiner, P. Bardhab, A. Basu & A. Kohli (2001). The Success of India's Democracy, London: Cambridge University Press.
- [2] Anondshyam, Upokrs UGC NET/JRF./SET. Education UP Kar Prakashan Age-2
- [3] Higher Education in Information Age, J. Patnaik, Educational Consultancy organization of India, New Delhi.
- [4] Effective Teaching in Higher Education, Manju Narula, Common wealth Publishers, New Delhi.

...