

Pattern of Intergenerational Occupational Mobility: A Study of Calicut City

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This study examines the pattern of father to son and mother to daughter intergenerational occupational mobility. The study is based on primary data gathered from the households of four divisions of Calicut City in Kerala. Along with occupational mobility, intergenerational shifts in educational levels, work status and industrial origin etc. are also studied. It was found that 72 per cent of the respondents and 70 per cent of their wives are intergenerationally immobile with respect to their occupational grades. The result reveals that the age-old theory of 'non-competing groups' proves true in the case of respondents and their wives.

I Introduction and Objectives

Occupational mobility is a component of the broader phenomenon of labour mobility. It can be considered either as a movement of the offsprings of individuals into occupations other than those of parents, i.e., intergenerational occupational mobility, or as an intragenerational movement between occupations during the life of an individual. The first concept shows the changes in the occupational attainment between different generations. An understanding of the pattern of intergenerational occupational mobility is essential to know related issues like: (i) whether the system gives equal opportunity for all, or if not, what factors are responsible for the existence of unequal economic opportunities; (ii) the reproduction of the existing division of labour and the perpetuation of existing class inequalities and (iii) the flexibility of labour market and the response of labour force to changing economic environment. Therefore, in the present study, we have examined the pattern of intergenerational occupational mobility in an urban centre, that is, the city of Calicut in the State of Kerala. Due to the absence of significant secondary data, this study is mainly based on primary data.

The following are the major objectives of the present study: (i) to find the pattern of intergenerational occupational mobility in terms of the explanatory variable of parental occupational grades; (ii) to find the pattern of intergenerational shifts in education, residence, industrial origin and work status, since there is a close link between occupation on the one side and education, place of residence, industrial origin and work status on the other and (iii) to highlight the policy and methodological implications of the present study.

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