Approaches To The Concept Of Social Mobility

Isakov S.D.

Teacher Of The Department Of Social Sciences, Namangan Engineering Technological Institute, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The article discusses the sociological interpretation of the concept of social mobility, its generality with the concept of stratification and features of individuality. The emergence of social mobility with the change of social status and social role of the individual is also emphasized. The article also briefly discusses the classification of social mobility.

KEYWORDS

Social mobility, stratification, social status, social role, social class, social hierarchy, horizontal mobility, vertical mobility, group mobility, individual mobility.

INTRODUCTION

In sociology, social mobility is often defined as a change in the social position or activity of an individual and a group. Social mobility is a basic condition of existence in any society. We can say that social mobility is an integral attribute of society. Throughout our research, we often encounter social stratification, an important process that is inseparable from the concept of social mobility.

The structure of any society is divided into certain levels, classes, but social mobility should not be equated with social stratification. Social mobility and stratification are interrelated, they form a system of functionally interrelated processes. It can be said that social stratification is the result of social mobility or, conversely, the social position of the individual is formed as a result of social mobility. They are therefore functionally inextricably linked to each other. Through social mobility, a hierarchical structure of society is formed or reorganized. Through social mobility, members of society rise to new social levels or find a unique social status.

The term "social mobility" has been defined differently by different thinkers. The first detailed explanations of the concept of "social mobility" are given in P. A. Sorokin took over. In his book Social Mobility, published in 1927, the scientist first conducted research in the field of social mobility.

He described social mobility as "any movement of a person or social object, that is, the transition of all things characterized or changed by human activity from one social position to another"[5:373].. He also believed that mobility should be understood not only as a transition from one particular activity to another, but also from one class to another, but also as a transition to each specific feature, as well as to the movement of material and spiritual values[6:133]. He saw in mobility not only structural changes in society, but also cultural changes, the transition of society from one cultural paradigm to another, from one way of thinking to another. As society developed, so did the interpretive ideas that required structural change in it.

A similar definition to the one given by Sorokin was also suggested by Lipset and Bendix. According to these researchers, social mobility refers to the process by which people in a society move from one position to another[3]. When we study social mobility, we analyze people's behavior from a position that has a certain level within the social system. According to researcher B. Barber's research, social mobility means moving up or down between upper or lower social classes [1]. Initially, P. Sorokin. The research conducted by Sorokin did not stop, it was continued by other researchers. In classical sociologists who conducted research on social mobility, T. Parsons considered social mobility as a status-role system within the theory of structural functionalism. The existence of social institutions allows a person to have a certain social status. For example, the status of a government official predetermines his or her behavior, which is unique and different from the behavior of other members of society. In addition, situations may arise in which a person performing different roles may conflict with himself. In other words, one role played by a person may not match another, leading to a conflict of roles.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research on social mobility was initially based on studies of stratification strata of society. In fact, the problems of social stratification and social mobility are difficult to study separately. Social mobility research is an in-depth and natural continuation of research on social stratification. "The problem of social mobility is related to the existence of a social status of inequality in a real society and therefore requires a social study of the phenomenon of

movement between interpersonal social statuses"[4:20-22].

Not only sociologists, but also other scientists have become accustomed to believing that P. Sorokin was the first to study the issues of social mobility. However, there are other classics of sociology that study the problems of social mobility. For example, consider Max Weber's research. Max Weber described in his works that there are many criteria for social stratification. As a follower, he suggested dividing a class or social group into three social strata according to income level, which is often used by social stratification researchers[8].Thus, the concept of social mobility is closely related to another sociological term - social stratification. The analysis of social stratification involves the analysis of the differentiation, content, form and structure of social classes from a statistical point of view. The analysis of social mobility is carried out in a dynamic context: interactions, dynamic mechanisms, time and space, the direction and speed of differentiation of each level of social structure are analyzed taking into account quantitative data. Research on social stratification and research on social mobility are interrelated and complementary.

Among the research in the field of social mobility in the middle of the last century, the research conducted by American sociologists Blau and Duncan occupies a special place. Compared to previous studies, the research of these scientists has been relatively objective and accurate in defining concepts, the analysis has been more systematic and comprehensive, and quantitative analysis methods have also been used. Blau and Duncan conduct a multivariate regression analysis to create a complex causal relationship model to explain the process of achieving socio-economic status in society and the various factors that influence the implementation of this process. To date, the professional status assessment method used by these researchers and the implementation process analysis method based on socio-economic status indicators are still one of the most common methods used by researchers studying social mobility. Moreover, thanks to the efforts of Blau and Duncan, social mobility research has been recognized as the most challenging and successful field of statistical research in sociology. However, some researchers have criticized the research of Blau and Duncan. This is because although their research methods are based on statistical analysis methods, they do not have the ability to re-evaluate and validate their findings.In such a situation, as a rule, social institutions cease to perform their functions and cease to function. In such situations, society is characterized by the most deviant behavior, which is characterized by the fact that a person begins to deviate from the norms of behavior accepted in this society and enters into antisocial groups. In this case, of course, negative developments are expected in the society[9].

It should also be noted that social institutions can perform not only functions but also disruptions. Dysfunctions are caused by social institutions in cases of serious changes in society, cataclysms or shocks[7:35-37].

In such a situation, as a rule, social institutions cease to perform their functions and cease to function. In such situations, society is characterized by the most deviant behavior, which is characterized by the fact that a

person begins to deviate from the norms of behavior accepted in this society and enters into antisocial groups. In this case, of course, negative developments are expected in the society. All of these definitions represent the meaning of the concept of 'social mobility', which means a change in social status in a person, while also taking into account the change in social roles. It is argued that 'social status' and 'social role' are inseparable. In fact, a person's social status also determines his or her role. The change in social status that occurs as a result of mobility always leads to a change in attitudes as well as a change in the roles of individuals. Changes in social status usually lead to a change in an individual's profession as well.

Thus, social mobility is a broader term that encompasses up and down changes in the economic, political, or occupational status of both the individual and the group as a whole.

Currently, research focused on social mobility is mainly quantitative and is analyzed using statistical analysis methods. There are two traditions in the study of mobility: one is the study of mobility within the same class structure, and the other is the change of social hierarchy, i.e., economic or social situation. In the study of modern social mobility, these two differences do not acquire a dichotomous character. The main problem in the study of social mobility is that social mobility studies the changes between the starting and ending points of an individual's social status and the factors influencing it. In empirical research, there are three main variables that characterize an individual's social status:

1) Social background of the person (usually measured by the profession or status of the father);

2) The initial social status of the person who has just entered society (usually measured by the person's first occupation);

3) The person's current social status (usually measured by the person's current occupation).

If we define the situation under study as the social origin of the individual in a particular context, and the end point in the context as the person's current position, then the context focuses on the relationship between the social status of the family and the social status of the child. Contexts in this view are called intergenerational mobility and reflect a level of social mobility. The more active the level of social mobility in a society, the more open and transparent the social structure of the society, and the lower the level of mobility, the more closed the social structure of the society. However, no society has ever been fully open or completely closed. With the gradual development of research in the field of social mobility, researchers began to form alliances in different countries, trying to compare the manifestations of social mobility and processes in different countries on a common conceptual basis.

Social mobility is a phenomenon according to which members of a society move from one social status to another. For example, within the social strata of society, when a person moves from a lower social status to a higher social status, the direction of transition may rise, but at the same time a reverse transition is possible - from a higher social status to a lower social status. Some members of the community move from one profession to another, but their income, prestige, and social status are essentially the same (e.g., a

university teacher is transferred to the research department as a research assistant). In this regard, it can be concluded that there are different types of mobility conditioned by the direction of social flow. All of them are shown in the figure below (Figure 1).
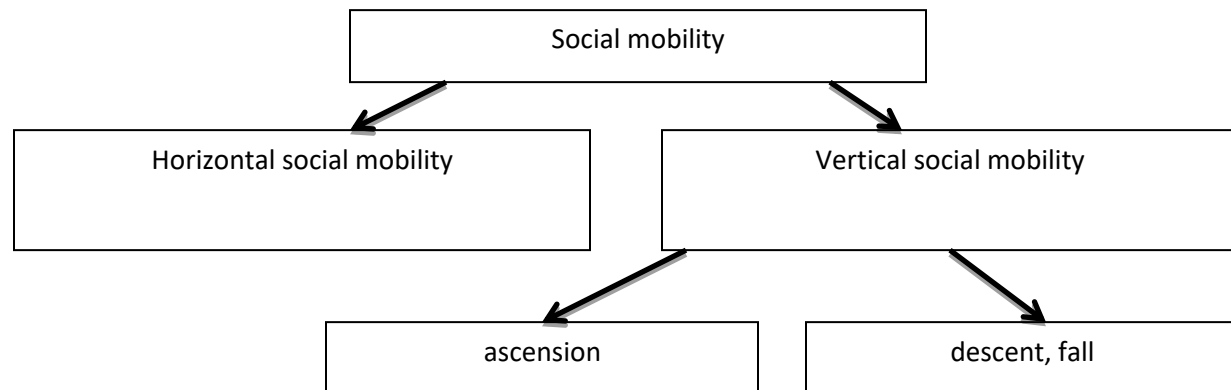
Social mobility

Horizontal social mobility

Vertical social mobility

ascension

descent, fall

Figure № 1. Classification of types of social mobility

The picture shows two types of social mobility - horizontal and vertical. Vertical social mobility is a change in an individual's social status that is accompanied by an increase or decrease in his or her status. Depending on the rise or fall of a person's status, vertical mobility includes two subtypes. The transition of an individual to a higher class position is called upward social mobility. As an example, consider the situation where a young woman becomes a firm director after she starts working as a low-paid secretary. When a person moves from a high level to a low social position, it is a social movement that moves downwards. For example, the bankruptcy of a director of a large company who was later forced to become a sales agent. Vertical social mobility is usually a common need for community members and groups. Usually, members of the community hope to achieve a high social status through their efforts. Factors influencing members of society who aspire to high social status are:

First, personal factors, including individual needs and conditions of self-sufficiency. In a traditional society, people usually value working conditions highly. With the development of society, the importance of self-sufficiency conditions in the process of seeking professional and social status is becoming increasingly significant, especially since the level of education directly affects members of society.

Second, the choice of value orientation and professional status. These social factors include the employment system, employment opportunities, and the distribution of social resources. The employment system directly determines the conditions, methods and procedures necessary for members of society to obtain a certain social professional status. The question of whether a member of society has a satisfactory social status in a particular model of social mobility depends on the job opportunities provided by society and the personal qualities of its members.

Downward movement (downward vertical social mobility) means a decrease in the social status of members of society, which is usually undesirable, but this movement still exists in real life. First, the decline in the social status of members of society may be due to social

causes, among which unemployment can be distinguished. Second, the decline in social status can be caused by the abolition of ordinary professional status (retirement, etc.). A decrease in the social status of members of a society may also be caused by the imposition of a penalty on a member of the society, such as an administrative or judicial penalty.

Another type of social mobility is horizontal. This mobility is understood as a change in a person's social status, as in vertical mobility, which does not lead to an increase or decrease in his or her position. For example, horizontal social mobility is observed when a profession changes to the same profession in terms of prestige. Horizontal mobility is the flow of people with the same level of social status. It differs from vertical flow and is not related to the hierarchical structure of social status. Horizontal social mobility has little effect on the social status of individuals, but at the same time has a significant impact on

changes in social structure. The most important social factor influencing horizontal mobility is the change in occupational composition resulting from the development of production. For example, the development of new industries such as electronics and information will help to attract many members of society to the transition from other professions to new fields. Geographical mobility is a type of horizontal mobility. This does not mean a change in the status of an individual or group, but rather a move from one place to another while maintaining the previous status. International and interregional tourism is an example of the transition from urban to rural areas and vice versa. If a change in status is added to a change in status, then geographic mobility becomes migration. If villagers come to the city to see their relatives, then it is geographical mobility. If he moved to the city for permanent residence and found a job here, then it is a migration process [2:82].
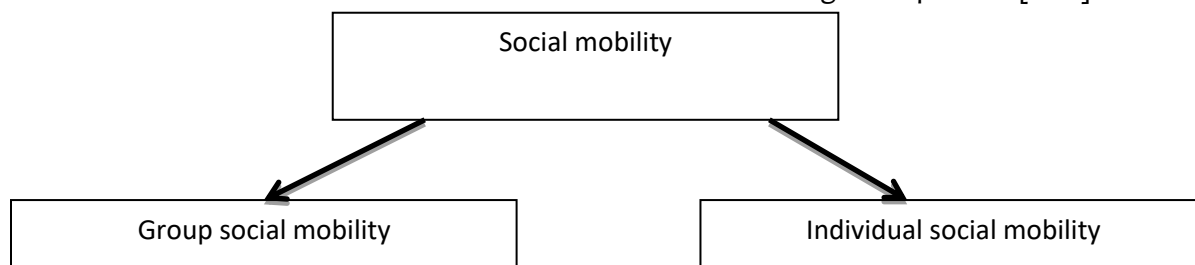

Figure 2. Classification of social mobility by direction of movement.

Intergenerational mobility refers to the fact that children have a higher social status or move to a lower position than their parents. Intergenerational mobility is a change in the upper and lower social status of a family member belonging to the same generation.

Social mobility within generations means a change in a person's social status in life. Social mobility within generations is also referred to as social career. The social status of an individual at different times is usually compared based on the professional status of members of the community. In modern

industrial society, due to the rapid growth of social productivity and the rapid change of social professional structure, members of society often engage in several social activities that constantly change their social status, leading to accelerated intergenerational mobility.

In addition to the types of social mobility listed above, modern science distinguishes two other types of social mobility listed in Fig. 3.
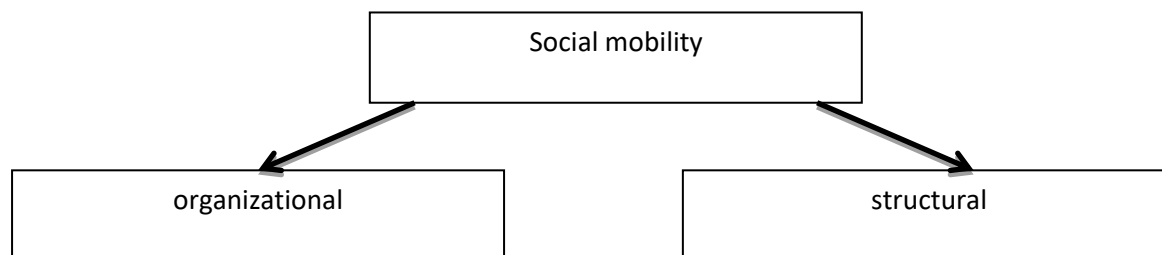

Figure 3. Types of social mobility.

Organizational mobility refers to social mobility for individual reasons. This usually does not lead to changes in the basic structure of society and is therefore called free flow. Unlike structural mobility, this is largely achieved through individual action. Therefore, conditionally, with organizational social mobility, the number of social flows is much smaller, changes occur gradually, and the scope of social influence is smaller. For example, people continue to improve their social status because of their best performance. Structural mobility refers to the social mobility that occurs at certain levels of social structure. It is characterized by large scale, high flow rate and abrupt changes. The results often lead to major changes in social structures or population distribution.

CONCLUSION

Social mobility is an important issue for sociology. Although the issue of social mobility began to be studied in sociology a

century ago, it occupies a special place among the issues

considered by sociology. Social mobility falls into the categories of social class, class structure, and human professional structure. Social mobility means that the process of quantitative change in the social class and the structure of the strata are manifested in the same social form, as well as changes in the production structure of humanity. In particular, these four classes of people are manifested in the movement and change of people's professional positions, i.e., the transition from one class to another, the movement and the transition from one professional position to another, from one professional field to another.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

authors/ editors/publishers of all those articles, journals and books from where the literature for this article has been reviewed and discussed.

REFERENCES

1. Barber B. (1972). The structure of social stratification and trends in social mobility. American Sociology. Prospects, problems, methods. Moscow. p. 246.

2. Gong Weibin. (2003). Social mobility: ideal forms and international experience. Journal of the Higher School of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.. No. 5. p.82-86.

3. Lipset S., Bendix R. (1959). Social mobility in industrial society. Los Angeles: University of California Press. p. 26.

4. Lu Xueyi. (2004). The importance of studying social mobility. Chinese Party and Government Forum,. №8. p. 20-22

5. Sorokin P.A. Man. (1992). Civilization. Society. Common ed., comp. and foreword. A. Yu. Sogomonov: Per. from English M.: Politizdat,. p-543.

6. Favell, A., & Recchi, E. (2011). Social mobility and spatial mobility. Sociology of the European Union, 50-75.

7. Ma Chuangsun, Zhu Jiao. (2012). Strengthening social stratification, social mobility and social stability. Chongqing social sciences. No. 1. p.35-39.

8. Weber M. (1990). Selected Works / per. with it., comp., total. ed. and after. Yu.N. Davydova; foreword P.P. Gaidenko. M.,.

9. Wang Chongguang. (1995). Social mobility and social reconstruction. People's Publishing House of Zhejiang City.

10. Yarmanova, Y. B. (2020). Development of individuality in collective relations. Theoretical & Applied Science, (6), 577-580.