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Effects of Economic Inequality on Social Mobility

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ABSTRACT

Economic inequality has a significant impact on social mobility, which refers to the ability of individuals or groups to move upward or downward within the social and economic hierarchy of a society. When economic resources are unevenly distributed, people from low-income families often face limited opportunities to improve their social and economic status. Access to quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities is often closely linked to financial capacity. As a result, individuals from economically disadvantaged backgrounds may struggle to obtain the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary for upward mobility. Children from wealthier families generally have better access to quality schools, private tutoring, and other educational resources, which enhance their chances of achieving higher academic and professional success. In contrast, students from poorer households may experience financial stress, lack of educational support, and limited exposure to opportunities, which can hinder their progress. Economic inequality can also lead to the persistence of poverty across generations, creating a cycle that is difficult to break. When social mobility is restricted, societies may experience increased social divisions, reduced economic productivity, and a weakening of social cohesion. Therefore, addressing economic inequality through inclusive policies, improved educational access, and equitable distribution of resources is essential to promote fair opportunities and strengthen social mobility in society.