

CLASSIFICATION OF HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL CHANNELS OF SOCIAL MOBILITY THAT ENSURE THE SOCIAL ACTIVITY OF WOMEN IN MODERN SOCIETIES

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In recent decades, the concept of social mobility has gained prominence in the discourse surrounding gender equality, empowerment, and inclusive development. Social mobility, broadly defined as the movement of individuals or groups within a social hierarchy, reflects both personal effort and structural opportunities. For women, especially those in patriarchal or resource-constrained societies, social mobility represents a gateway to active participation in public life, professional advancement, and civic engagement.¹

Social mobility involves vertical (upward or downward) and horizontal movement in societal roles. Women's social mobility is influenced by education, economic access, legal rights, and sociocultural norms. When facilitated, it enables them to transition from marginalization to meaningful public and economic participation.

Upward mobility enhances women's access to education, skilled employment, and leadership. This increases their visibility, decision-making power, and overall societal influence. Women who achieve professional or political success often become role models for others, fostering broader gender equality.²

Discrimination in employment, cultural expectations, unpaid caregiving, and lack of representation in decision-making bodies continue to hinder women's upward mobility in many regions.

Effective interventions include equal access to education, anti-discrimination laws, support for women-led businesses, and inclusive workplace policies. Institutional backing is key to overcoming traditional and structural limitations.

Online education, digital work platforms, and virtual communities provide new channels for women's mobility and engagement. However, digital literacy gaps and unequal access remain challenges to overcome.

Beyond economics, social mobility fosters identity, empowerment, and intergenerational change. Women's progress catalyzes broader social and institutional transformation.

Social mobility manifests through two key types of movement: vertical (upward or downward in the social hierarchy) and horizontal (across roles or sectors at similar levels). For women,

¹ Mukherji, P. N. (2012). Social mobility and social structure: Towards a conceptual-methodological reorientation. *Sociological bulletin*, 61(1), 26-52.

² Payne, G., & Abbott, P. (2005). *The social mobility of women: Beyond male mobility models*. Routledge.

both forms are instrumental in expanding their social activity and engagement. Below is a conceptual classification of these mobility channels as they operate in modern societies.³

Here is a structured **classification of horizontal and vertical channels of social mobility** specifically focusing on how they **promote the social activity of women in modern societies**:

Classification of Horizontal and Vertical Channels of Social Mobility for Women

Vertical Channels

These involve upward or downward movement in social hierarchy — from lower to higher social, economic, or political status.

Channel	Description	Impact on Women's Social Activity
Education	Access to higher education and academic qualifications	Increases self-confidence, career opportunities, leadership potential
Professional Promotion	Career advancement from entry-level to leadership positions	Enhances visibility, influence, and participation in decision-making
Political Participation	Becoming elected representatives or holding public office	Amplifies voice in public affairs and gender-sensitive policymaking
Entrepreneurship	Transition from unemployment or informal work to owning a business	Promotes economic independence, community influence
Property Ownership	Gaining legal rights to property and capital	Increases control over resources and long-term security

Horizontal Channels

These involve movement across different roles or sectors at a similar social level, without necessarily changing class status.

Channel	Description	Impact on Women's Social Activity
Sectoral Change	Moving between fields (e.g., teaching to media or IT)	Broadens professional networks, diversifies experience
Geographic Mobility	Migration from rural to urban areas or internationally	Increases access to services, jobs, and support networks
Role Reassignment	Transitioning between social roles (e.g., from housewife to NGO volunteer or community leader)	Promotes civic engagement and community involvement
Digital Engagement	Participation in online platforms, e-commerce, digital learning	Facilitates public expression, economic activity, and advocacy
Organizational Mobility	Movement between institutions (e.g., from public to private sector, or to civil society roles)	Fosters cross-sector collaboration and influence

Both **vertical** and **horizontal mobility** channels serve as critical pathways through which women increase their **social activity, agency, and leadership** in modern societies. A balanced

³ Агабабян, И. Р., Ярашева, З. Х., & Тошназарова, Н. Ш. (2022). Тошназаров Ш. М. 4. Достижения науки и образования, 88.

focus on expanding access to both types of mobility — through education, inclusive policies, and social support — is essential for sustainable gender equality and active citizenship. Social mobility is a powerful mechanism for activating women's roles in society. By creating pathways for education, employment, and leadership, it not only transforms individual lives but also drives systemic change. Ensuring equitable social mobility requires the dismantling of structural barriers, investment in inclusive policies, and promotion of cultural shifts that support women's full participation in public life. In this way, social mobility becomes not only a goal but a necessary foundation for gender equality and inclusive development.

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