



## Approach – Answer: Sociology Mains Mock Test 2 – 640 (2015)

### 1. (a) Social consequences of mobility

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#### Answer format:

Mobility refers to the “**movement of individual or group between within different levels of social stratification**”. It is usually measured in terms of **occupational rankings, income and consumption patterns** of the upwardly or downwardly mobile groups or individuals. It therefore, not only impacts individuals or groups but also the society as a whole.

**Pitrim .A. Sorokin**, studied systematically for the first time, the consequences of mobility. ‘**Social consequences**’ of mobility deals with the impact of mobility on the ‘**whole society**’.

#### Impact of mobility on whole society.

##### ➤ Impact on the structure of the society:

According to **Max Weber**, **Anthony Giddens**, **Frank .Parkin** there will be rise and expansion of the middle class. **Kerr** and **Barnard** have put forth the **Embourgeoisement** thesis, which states that, due to technological advancement there will be rise in the wages of manual workers and they will achieve ‘middle-class status.’ Hence, instead of a ‘pyramidal structure’, we will have ‘**diamond shape stratification system**.’ It will also prevent ‘polarization’ of classes in industrial economy.

##### ➤ Impact on the class solidarity in the society:

‘Class solidarity’ is the ‘degree of cohesiveness’ of a particular class in the society. Hence the ‘rate of social mobility’ has important implications for class solidarity. According to **Ralph Dahrendorf**, social mobility has also led to ‘diminution of class prejudices and intensity of class conflicts.’ According to many sociologists, such as **Anthony Giddens**, **Karl Marx**, have argued that the ‘**rate of social mobility is inversely proportional to class solidarity**’.

**However, according to Goldthorpe and Llewellyn**, since ‘upward mobility’ is greater than downward mobility in contemporary societies, few will move down to level of working class. This will lead to the formation of a ‘homogenous working class’ and there will be greater potential for class solidarity.

##### ➤ Impact on the social order:

**Emile Durkheim** has discussed the ‘negative implication’ of social mobility for the society. According to him, when the stratification system is not subjected to any constraints, and there are no legitimate limits of one’s aspirations, any sudden rise in power or economic disasters, could have ‘dissociative’ **impact on the social integration of the society, or anomie**.