Social Mobility and Social Policy: A Bibliometric Analysis of Global Research Trends (1990–2025)

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The rate of social mobility is one of the best measures of social and economic growth. This pattern suggests that people's economic status has been improving over time. Many academics are interested in how welfare policies, educational programs, and redistribution tactics affect social mobility outcomes. Studies on social mobility do not give social policy enough information, despite the abundance of literature on the topic. This study examines the literature on social policy and mobility from 1990 to 2025 using a bibliometric analysis of 389 articles categorized in Scopus. The findings show how social mobility and policy changes interact. We investigate the intellectual and conceptual framework of the field, together with publishing trends and notable contributions, using scientific mapping and performance evaluation. The majority of inquiries focus on the industrialized countries of the United States and Great Britain. Bibliographic coupling reveals new themes and patterns in scientific mapping following co-word analysis. The paper defines the future course of transdisciplinary studies, offers recommendations for policymakers, and emphasizes the intellectual and conceptual development of social mobility research.

Keywords: Scientific Cartography, Bibliometric Analysis, Social Progress, Economic Disparity, And Public Policy.

Introduction:

A system that promotes social justice and equality of opportunity is one that enables people to go up the social ladder. According to [1], it is the custom of transferring one's social status within a particular social class from one generation to the next. According to the "Great Gatsby Curve" theory, which was proposed by [2] and there are less prospects for upward mobility and a general slowing in societal growth as a result of growing economic inequality. According to a concept of intergenerational mobility between nations, there is a positive correlation between socioeconomic difference and intergenerational continuity [3][4]. We observe a high level of social mobility when individuals can move up the economic or social ladder regardless of the income or status of their family [3]. Over the past 20 years, policy conversations have been sparked in a number of countries by worries about income inequality and the lack of possibilities for social mobility [2][5]. Social mobility and intergenerational mobility have been the subject of research by economists, sociologists, and public policy specialists.

Institutions that influence opportunities for social mobility are significantly impacted by social policy, both directly and indirectly. Thru the implementation of policy frameworks in sectors like health, education, employment, and social protection, social policy seeks to improve equity, social welfare, and quality of life [6]. Previous research has demonstrated that policy changes can impact an individual's socioeconomic standing.

According to [7], as greater economic production and employment opportunities directly come from improved skill sets made possible by increased access to education, educational rules are crucial for promoting equity. A welfare system's potential to reduce or increase economic inequality depends on the approach taken [8]. The design and strategy of the welfare system have a significant impact on reducing long-term economic consequences. Comparative study indicates that differences in migration trends between countries are influenced by policy frameworks, institutional structures, and educational systems [1][9].

Over the past ten years, there has been a significant increase in mobility research. Researchers can now study social mobility frameworks and patterns, as well as the factors influencing them, thanks to the availability of large longitudinal datasets from a range of nations [9]. The research covers a wide range of topics, such as financial mobility, educational mobility, occupational mobility, and regulatory frameworks influencing mobility within enterprises. Numerous recent empirical studies have looked at how different policies affect economic inequality and social mobility [10]. These policies include investments in children, educational reform initiatives, and social welfare programs. By combining public policy, sociology, and economic viewpoints, studies like this demonstrate how social policy and social mobility are multidisciplinary subjects. By demonstrating a connection between political systems, socioeconomic inequality, and socioeconomic growth, a new study has demonstrated an interdisciplinary aspect. Only strong economic policies that ensure equal opportunity for all, excellent educational institutions, and efficient welfare systems can lead to positive changes in social mobility [2]. According to recent studies [11], social mobility is linked to health, political views, social results, and general well-being. The current study focuses on how welfare regimes, social programs, and governance institutions affect social mobility across generations.

Even if research on the causes and consequences of social mobility has increased, it is still challenging to describe the topic's historical background in modern literature. In order to better understand how people climb the social ladder and how variables like wealth, education, and employment impact mobility outcomes, the majority of recent research has sought to collect empirical data [12]. Other studies that look at how institutions, welfare management, and redistributive policies affect social mobility and economic inequality are [9][1]. The concentration on outcomes rather than the profession's overall growth is a fundamental issue, even if these studies make great progress in the field of social mobility thanks to their empirical techniques and sophisticated statistical analysis. Additionally, concepts and information from other fields, such as sociology, public policy, and econometrics, have also been incorporated into studies of social mobility. This is because the material is scattered over multiple domains, according to [9]. There is a dearth of bibliographic data regarding the development of welfare policy and the extent to which individuals can advance in society from one generation to the next. To close this knowledge gap, a thorough analysis of the subject and an account of the investigation's growth trajectory are crucial.

A quantitative technique called bibliometric analysis uses systematic reviews to track the development of a research topic. It ensures that there won't be any prejudice in the test. According to [13], the application of bibliometric analytic techniques can show patterns in knowledge and the development of research ideas. Bibliometric analysis is currently used to uncover underlying themes and concepts across a wide range of academic fields and to investigate ever-expanding and dynamic regions of literature [14]. Science mapping makes it easier to identify important geographic locations, interdisciplinary collaborations, and new research areas. By examining the relationships between educational systems, welfare regimes, socioeconomic disparities, and public policy structures, this study offers a multidisciplinary approach to social mobility studies by tracking their historical and geographic trends. To understand more about these changes, we carried out a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of Scopus-indexed works related to social policy and social mobility. Biblioshiny (R 4.4.3;

RStudio 2026.01.1+403) and VOSviewer (version 1.6.20) were used for bibliometric techniques.

By including authors, publications, collaboration patterns, topic clusters, and new areas of social policy and mobility research, this study adds to the body of existing literature. This study tracks the development of policy-focused, cross-disciplinary field-wide conversations using science-mapping and bibliometric methodologies. The results shed light on the field's intellectual growth and point out areas that require more research.

Our Approach and the Resources We Employed:

The Study's Objective:

Question 1: In terms of the quantity of publications, the caliber of the research, and the range of topics covered, how has the scholarly discourse on social policy and social mobility changed over time?

Question 2: The prominent people, organizations, and publications that have improved our knowledge of social mobility are the subject of the second research topic. What broad topics and policy viewpoints have influenced the development and course of social mobility research?

The fourth line of inquiry focuses on the innovative research and intellectual relationships that have enhanced our comprehension of social mobility studies.

Information Gathering Sources and Techniques:

Peer-reviewed articles spanning a wide range of social science fields, including economics, public policy, sociology, and many more, can be found in the renowned interdisciplinary database Scopus [15]. For this same reason, it was used to gather the bibliographic data for this investigation. This site provides access to multidisciplinary works for scholars studying public policy, sociology, and economics. It differs from other databases in that it offers reliable data and is interoperable with a variety of bibliometric tools. Additionally, it offers structured citation information. Because Scopus is the leading database for bibliometric research, it has a sizable user base. However, a multitude of regional studies and publications that would not be available from a single source are accessible by databases such as Web of Science.

This investigation was conducted on February 26, 2026. To find pertinent information about social mobility and the policy framework, a carefully crafted search query was used:

("social mobility" AND "socioeconomic mobility" AND "public policy" AND "welfare policy" AND "social inclusion" AND "social welfare" AND "income support" AND "education policy" AND "health policy" AND "employment policy" AND "livelihood program*" AND "social protection")

Table 1. Reported bibliometric corpus and analysis settings

Parameter	**Reported specification**
Database	Scopus
Coverage	1990–2025
Search date	26 February 2026
Language	English
Document types	Research articles and reviews
Final analyzed corpus	389 documents
Bibliometric software	Biblioshiny and VOSviewer 1.6.20
Keyword co-occurrence threshold	At least four occurrences
Total keywords / eligible keywords	1,086 / 46

We limited our search to English-language publications so that the bibliometric analysis might be trusted. Because the results of this study are restricted to globally indexed English-language research, they may not be indicative of regional or non-English language

studies. The researchers chose a period from 1990 to 2025 to make sure the study represented current advancements in the discipline.

Document Type-Based Inclusion-Exclusion Standards:

Reviews and research articles are among the resources provided.

Conference pieces, editorials, chapters, and notes are not included.

The Selection Procedure:

We found 852 items in the initial search round.

597 articles were found by searching the database; 255 of them were eliminated because they were either conference papers, editorials, book chapters, or notes, or they were not published in English. The remaining publications were either English-language articles or research papers. Using the query described in Section 597 articles were found in the Scopus database.

After reviewing titles and abstracts, 389 publications remained. 208 of those records were eliminated because they had nothing to do with intergenerational mobility, social policy, or social mobility. This methodical technique guarantyd a comprehensive dataset for social mobility trend analysis. The 389-document final dataset was subjected to bibliometric analysis, performance evaluation, and scientific mapping using Biblioshiny (R 4.4.3; RStudio 2026.01.1+403) and VOSviewer (version 1.6.20). To guaranty clarity in document assessment, Author pointed out that the review and selection process adhered to PRISMA 2020 standards. We followed the document selection process to guaranty consistency.



Figure 1. Schematic bibliometric research workflow

Performance Assessment and Scientific Cartography:

This study tracked the evolution of the field of social policy and social mobility research using bibliometric analytic techniques like scientific mapping and performance evaluation. VOS viewer software and Biblioshiny (RStudio) were used to evaluate the final dataset.

The study was based on a scientific map and an evaluation of performance. Numerous helpful elements were included in this performance study, including annual scientific output, important sources and authors, the most cited articles worldwide, important affiliations, production by nation, and a partnership map. This explained the geographical and scholarly dispersion of scholars as well as the expansion of studies on social mobility and social policy.

To identify subject-dominating themes, scientific cartographers use keyword co-occurrence analysis. By examining the phrase frequencies inside the clusters, one might have a deeper understanding of their conceptual structure. In order to monitor the development of popular ideas and themes, we looked at trending topics. We created a three-dimensional model that shows the links between the three variables in order to identify the connections between certain countries, keywords, and journals. Finally, using bibliographic coupling analysis, we examined important issues and provided suggestions for further study on social policy and social mobility.

Final Thoughts and Review:

Evaluation of the Results:

Performance analysis is the foundation of a bibliometric analysis study that investigates and evaluates the impact of research in a particular academic area [13]. Performance reviews frequently take into account a number of characteristics, including primary authors, prestigious

journals, and publications with a high number of citations, annual publishing rates, institutional influence, and national contributions. This is useful when monitoring the evolution of a certain academic field. These analytics can be used to determine how a subject has changed over time and which writers and pieces have had the most influence. Performance analysis evaluates the influence and outcomes of academic undertakings by providing a thorough picture of the development and organization of scholarly knowledge [13][14].

Every Year, Scientific Studies Are Carried Out:

The number of scholarly research examining the relationship between social mobility and well-being has increased dramatically during the past 30 years. The statistics show that after 2000, there was a sharp rise in the quantity of English-language books that were indexed globally. Academic productivity fell between 1990 and 2002, leading to fewer publications each year. After 2004 and 2005, the amount of research increased gradually. Since 2015, the quantity of English-language articles indexed worldwide has increased dramatically; a peak is anticipated in 2024–2025. As evidenced by the growing number of papers in these fields, educational equity, welfare reform, intergenerational social mobility, and economic inequality are some of the current hot topics in academia and policy. The current spike can be explained by the growing interest in social mobility in several academic disciplines, including economics, sociology, and public policy.

In addition to providing responses to research questions 1 and 2 regarding the growing number of publications annually, this study identifies the publications, authors, organizations, and countries that have been crucial in influencing social policy and promoting social mobility. Is Well Known for Being a Pioneer in the Field of Social Policy and Social Mobility.

Research:

Suggested Resources:

The results show that several journals have made significant contributions to the field. The British Journal of Sociology of Education, International Journal of Educational Development, Sustainability, and Social Science and Medicine are the top five journals in terms of publishing volume. Five studies were published in each of these publications. A wide range of works are published in the fields of public policy, education, sociology, and multidisciplinary social science. The numerous studies that demonstrate this interdisciplinary quality demonstrate how research on social mobility is pertinent to numerous policy domains and social science topics.

Prominent Writers on the Subject:

The most pertinent author analysis indicates that eminent academics have significantly contributed to the growth and development of the field of social mobility literature. With four publications, Ng IYH is the author with the most, followed by Hout M with three. Evans C., Didier N., Goldthorpe J.H., Beller E., Edin K., Gregg P., Gassman F., and Gangl M. are one of the many authors who have authored two publications, each consisting of a single article. A very small percentage of authors have published considerably more frequently. The discipline is still dominated by a few bright minds because few scholars have written down their ideas.

While the best authors concentrate on individuals who have made substantial contributions to the canon of literature, citation analysis finds the most prominent academics in publications. By looking at the most referenced works, researchers interested in social mobility should be able to gain a better understanding of the field's scholarly canon.

Top-Rated Articles from All over the World:

Important contributions to a field can be better understood by examining citations. The publication had a major influence on discussions about health outcomes, social stratification, and socioeconomic disparities, the most cited piece emphasizes this. [16][17] are two other well-known studies that discuss economic opportunity, social stratification, and

domestic development. These papers have influenced the conversation about social mobility and its consequences both theoretically and empirically.

Trustworthy Partners:

Research projects are distributed globally by institutional funding. Oxford wrote nine of the top-ranked articles, UC Berkeley wrote 10, and the University of Wisconsin–Madison wrote eight. Renmin University of China, Cardiff University, and University College London are among the prestigious universities that have submitted five papers apiece. These demonstrate the strong research infrastructure of these prestigious universities and industrialized nations.

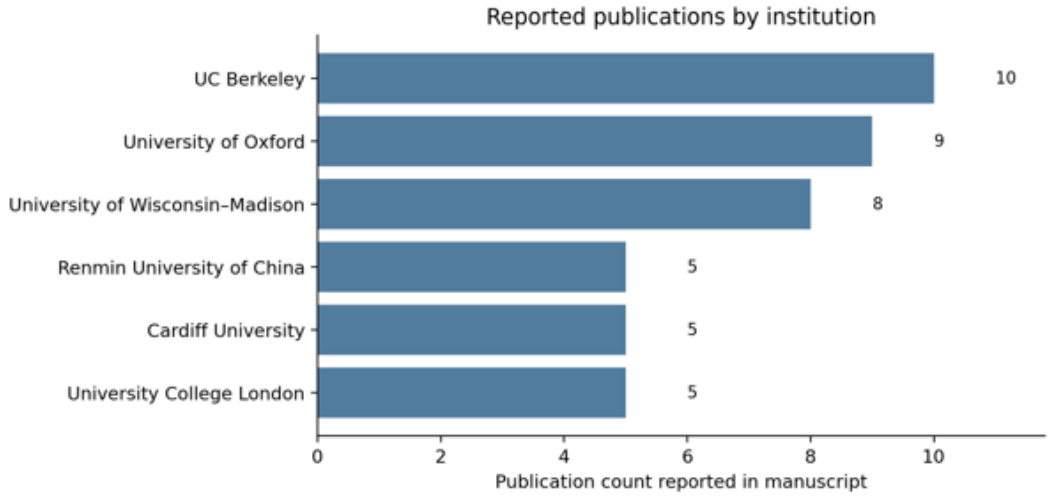


Figure 2. Reported publication output by selected institutions

Exports by Country:

The production table frequently classifies social mobility and policy studies by nation. With 143 publications, the US has considerably more than any other nation. With 136, the United Kingdom is ranked second. With 67 publications, China was the most active Asian contributor. With 32 and 22 publications, respectively, Canada and Germany rank among the top publishing countries. Thru their published works, Sweden, Spain, Brazil, and Australia have made modest but significant contributions. According to reports, most field research is carried out in reputable academic and policy environments.

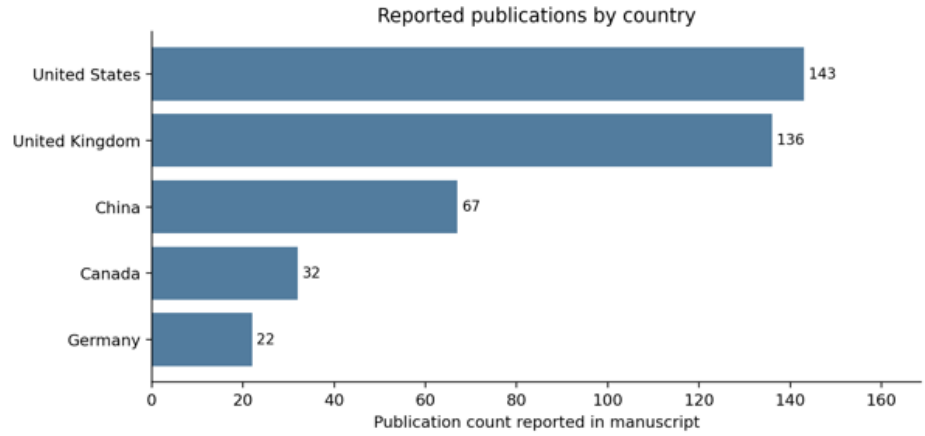


Figure 3. Reported research output by country

Table 2. Reported publication contributions by country

Country	Reported publications
United States	143
United Kingdom	136
China	67

Canada	32
Germany	22

Alliance for Global Collaboration:

You might look at the country collaboration network to see how international research relationships are distributed in the field. The network of country partnerships demonstrates the increasing significance of international cooperation in improving comparative assessments of social mobility. There is a robust regional research network, as seen by the obvious collaborations between several North American and European nations. China has established itself as a major and expanding participant in international research thru its partnerships with countries like the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, and Australia.

Methods of Scientific Cartography:

Science mapping offers a bibliometric view on the conceptual and intellectual foundations of a particular study subject by closely examining the relationships between authors, keywords, and publications. Network-oriented approaches can be used to gradually assemble academic information and more quickly identify recurring themes and clusters. A suitable systematic framework for comprehending the evolution of scientific disciplines. Researchers frequently use techniques like bibliographic coupling and co-occurrence analysis to gain a better understanding of how research fields are organized. We used co-word analysis to identify new trends in the same field and bibliometric coupling analysis to identify the key topics related to social policy and social mobility.

Analyzing Keyword Relationships (Co-Word Analysis):

The findings of a co-word analysis, which looks for thematic connections within a research topic by analyzing the terms that appear simultaneously in academic articles, are displayed. It is predicated on the idea that comparable keywords correspond to related ideas and academic disciplines. Co-word analysis, a technique now commonly used in bibliometric research to find emergent themes and trends, was first proposed by [18].

The author's use of keywords was examined using VOS reader software. 46 of the 1086 total keywords appeared four times or more and had a resolution of 0.5. Basically, there were four camps. Clusters served as the basis for a theme analysis. The top three sentences from each cluster were chosen in this study.

To Find Groups of Problems Pertaining to Social Policy and Social Mobility, We Employed Word Co-Occurrence Analysis:

The first category, "Fundamental Inequalities and Educational Pathways," examines the relationships among poverty, education, and inequality. Research on how socioeconomic disadvantage and educational disparity affect social mobility outcomes is the main emphasis of the current theme. The examination of these terms indicates that structural inequities are the main focus of social mobility research.

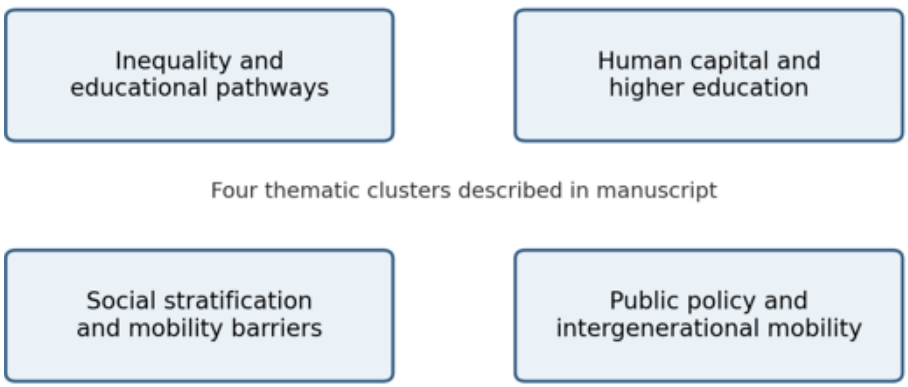


Figure 4. Four thematic clusters identified in the co-word discussion

Table 3. Interpretive summary of the four-co-word thematic clusters

Cluster	Theme described in manuscript	Illustrative concepts
1	Fundamental inequalities and educational pathways	Poverty; education; inequality
2	Human capital and higher education	Human capital; educational policy; higher education
3	Social stratification and mobility barriers	Social class; social mobility; unequal opportunity
4	Policy interventions and intergenerational mobility	Public policy; equity; intergenerational mobility

Words like "human capital," "educational policy," and "higher education" all show how important Cluster 2 is for social mobility. The importance of a bachelor's degree in promoting human capital and economic development are the main issues.

The first obstacle to society progress is institutionalized forms of inequality and social stratification. Examining ideas like "social mobility," "social class," and "higher education policy" shows how these factors impede fair mobility by contributing to the unequal opportunities experienced by different socioeconomic groups.

In Section which focuses on policy interventions and the significance of intergenerational mobility, several ideas are covered, including public policy, equity, and intergenerational mobility. It implies that research on how these factors affect intergenerational mobility should be done often.

Diagram of Interdisciplinary Interests:

The trend themes map, was made using Biblioshiny (RStudio). The first quartile indicates where the issue of the study was first discussed in the literature. The main topics in the data are socioeconomic stratification in Hong Kong (about 2010) and social justice in Singapore (around 2012). Studies looking at structural and educational factors such poverty, inequality, human capital, and education increased between 2013 and 2015. In the years following 2016, issues including social policy, public policy, gender equality, and mobility became more prominent. In 2020, educational inequality became a distinct topic of study. This discipline has changed to reflect this change, moving from descriptive analyzes focused on inequality to studies of social mobility along several dimensions with an emphasis on policy consequences.

Three-Step Method:

The results of the Biblioshiny (RStudio) program's theme extraction from writers' keywords are displayed. The three-field structure displays the current status of social mobility research as well as important journals, topics, and contributing nations. Social mobility, inequality, intergenerational mobility, and higher education are all covered in journals including the British Journal of Sociology, the Journal of European Social Policy, and Research in Social Stratification and Mobility. The majority of studies look at educational mobility and attainment within policy contexts. The densest distributions are found in the United States and the United Kingdom, followed by those in Canada, Germany, and China. The three-field arrangement illustrates the concentration and dominance of this network, which was mostly formed by Western academics.

Citations with Links:

This study used bibliographic coupling to answer research questions 3 and 4 by looking at the articles' common references and identifying thematic connections. Relationships between publications that cite similar sources suggest thematically connected clusters within the research area. Bibliographic coupling is more frequently used than co-citation analysis to

highlight novel study areas. This approach is widely used in scientific mapping and bibliometric analyzes to show the development of research and find recurrent themes in works.

They used bibliometric coupling analysis to examine the most significant developments in social policy, economics, and social mobility during the previous 30 years in order to address the second study question. The writers listed fifteen references to support their claims. Out of 389 publications, only 149 were deemed suitable, even tho 79 showed substantial relationships. Of the eleven clusters that formed, only six were visible when the analytical resolution was reduced to 0.5. The authors then used five referenced studies to examine the top five clusters, one for each dominant cluster.

Bibliometric coupling clusters and key sample articles demonstrating emerging trend.

The results of Cluster 1 show that the consequences of intergenerational social mobility for different socioeconomic cohorts are highly influenced by local surroundings, educational ambitions, health disparities, structural inequality, and unequal access to resources. For this group, the primary issue is that systemic inequality prevents people from moving up the social ladder.

Cluster 2 primarily examines the relationships between factors such as social mobility, educational attainment, and family history. Research in this area [19][20][21] shows that differences in socioeconomic status impact both the ability to obtain an education and one's performance on the job, despite the fact that educational attainment is a strong predictor of social mobility. In the end, this clustering shows that when trying to explain mobility trends, perspectives on structural inequality and human capital diverge.

Investments in education, differences in mobility results between nations, wealth transfers between generations, and the persistence of socioeconomic inequities are all included in Cluster 3. Numerous studies by [9][22], show a strong correlation between global policy and institutional support and improvements in outcomes' mobility and reductions in inequality.

Cluster 4 demonstrates how social policies and the welfare state are important factors in determining future mobility and stratification. This group eventually supports the extent to which legislative frameworks and welfare programs can improve social mobility and reduce basic inequality [23][24][25][3].

Studies that look into how social policy and public opinion affect people's perceptions of their own socioeconomic standing and opportunities for growth make up the fifth category. Significant research has demonstrated a relationship between people's support for redistribution programs, their outlook on the future, and their economic circumstances. Numerous studies have shown that how governments and the general public view mobility has a big impact on how they deal with inequality [26].

Topic of Evaluation:

The results show that social policy and social mobility research is getting increasingly intricate. The welfare system, educational opportunities, inequality, and generational mobility are just a few of the many concerns that need to be addressed. As more and more studies shift from descriptive mobility analysis to these more thorough structural components, the body of research on how welfare policies and institutions affect social mobility outcomes is expanding. Because human capital and structural inequality theory emphasize education, a meritocracy, and the stubbornness of institutional obstacles and socioeconomic class, they are philosophically incompatible with social mobility and policy.

The results show that many academics have contributed significantly to the field's development. Numerous academic fields are frequently used in social mobility research. The expanding impact of the SDGs is shown in increases in the number of published publications worldwide after 2015. The continuous trend is a reflection of both the growing wealth disparity and the worldwide search for effective policy tools. In the literature of the topic, social mobility is linked to a number of concerns, including welfare regimes, educational systems,

redistributive policies, and employment inequities, rather than being viewed as a stand-alone sociological phenomenon. Now, the focus is on a more structural and policy-oriented problem.

According to the data, China is currently having a significant impact on social policy and mobility, but historically, developed nations like the US, UK, and many European countries have dominated contributions. Because they have access to longitudinal datasets like the US Panel Study for Income Dynamics (PSID) and the UK Household Panel Survey (BHPS), developed nations may have an advantage. Previous studies have shown that the availability of longitudinal data has a significant impact on Anglo-American academic research on social mobility O'Grady. The study's conclusions highlight the increasing need of researching social mobility programs in developing nations.

The growing international cooperation between Asia, Europe, and North America is a key component of the social mobility effort. Given the current focus of research, more context-oriented studies must be carried out in developing regions. Migration is hampered by informal work, a lack of social activities, and educational inequality in developing countries, although these problems also exist elsewhere.

The conceptual and thematic framework of recent literature suggests a change in the way social mobility is researched. The literature on social mobility, which has advanced beyond a merely descriptive perspective, has thoroughly examined a number of factors, including institutional support, welfare policy systems, educational access, and structural imbalances. Given the aforementioned theme elements, education has been acknowledged as a key strategy for attaining social mobility. The authors [27][28] draw attention to the conceptual conflict between structural approaches that uphold inequality and approaches that prioritize the welfare of individuals. Redistributive policies, institutional frameworks, and social welfare programs seem to be the most crucial elements in determining a country's potential for migration.

The bibliometric coupling research's main subjects show how social mobility studies is shifting away from theories of social stratification and toward programs run by organizations and laws that support equal opportunity. The importance of redistribution and inequality in contemporary society has been emphasized by [29][30]. The bibliometric coupling research indicates that attitudes on social mobility are changing from emphasizing stratification to emphasizing institutional and policy components.

Public policy, educational mobility, educational equity, and human capital are some of the topics that academics are currently discussing the most. Discussions about inequality and redistribution receive a lot of attention. Even if politicians are trying to influence people's ability to move up the social ladder, these discussions show that academics are worried about growing economic inequality. Thomas Piketty's seminal work "Capital in the Twenty-First Century" has sparked discussions about mobility and socioeconomic inequality all across the world. In their comparative studies of social power dynamics, focused on how welfare programs, institutional support, and educational frameworks affected mobility outcomes across various nations. Since there was a noticeable increase in the amount of attention given to the subject in 2016, it seems that academics are focusing more on the relationship between gender inequality and the results of social mobility. The SDGs have increased global efforts to reduce inequality, provide high-quality employment, create sustainable communities, and offer exceptional education. Academic research on the relationship between political engagement, public policy, and educational institutions and their impact on social mobility has increased as a result of these factors. The topic analysis of patterns indicates that previous studies focused more on social justice and social class. When social mobility research became too complicated and had far-reaching implications for future studies, public policy, gender issues, educational policy, and social inequality became the new scientific focus.

Limitation:

This study contains many flaws in terms of database size, language, and article classification. Since the authors only used Scopus to gather bibliographic data, they might have overlooked pertinent articles found in other databases, such Web of Science. Because only English-language articles were included, research done in regional and non-English languages may also have been underrepresented. Even tho gender was not included in the primary search term, the trend analysis revealed that it was a significant topic. This could suggest that gender-focused mobility research is underrepresented. Because of its reliance on reviews, it's possible that some relevant researches were overlooked, leaving us with an incomplete picture. Many sources may be included in the research, but not all of them will have a direct bearing on social mobility or social policy.

Conclusion:

In addition to policy viewpoints interwoven with the cognitive and thematic frameworks of the discipline, the study offers a thorough bibliometric examination of the development and organization of social mobility studies. By combining two well-known bibliometric techniques—performance analysis and scientific mapping analysis—this study has uncovered conceptual frameworks, recognized important contributions, and outlined the elements of new research in this field. The results of this study show an increase in scholarly investigation into patterns of intergenerational socioeconomic mobility. This indicates that scholars and policymakers are paying more attention to this issue. The current analysis indicates that advanced economies are common in the research region. These studies have significantly improved our knowledge of social mobility and policy, but further research into developing economies and countries may provide new perspectives. Topic analysis also showed that, in addition to the conventional theoretical understandings of inequality, the literature has expanded over the past 30 years to include a variety of viewpoints on educational systems, personal goals, and—most importantly—policy frameworks. The results may be used by legislators to create laws that improve accessibility, level the playing field, and lessen social and economic disparities. By highlighting important aspects of the recent literature, this study offers a thorough analysis of social mobility. Future scholars who want to go deeper into the topic of economic inequality and opportunity gaps will find this helpful. Future longitudinal research should concentrate on emerging and developing economies. Public policy frameworks, youth welfare, political opinions, health outcomes, educational investment, and have all been the subject of several recent study papers [11]. Future research on social mobility may consider these characteristics.

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