

Social Stratification and Mobility:

1. Social Stratification:

Social stratification is the systematic ordering of individuals and groups in a society based on variables like wealth, power, education, and social position. It leads to inequalities in access to resources and opportunities.

Key features of stratification:

- _ **Universal but variable:** existing in all communities, but with various forms.
- _ **Persists over generations:** inherited by families
- _ **Supported by beliefs:** societies use cultural or ideological beliefs to defend stratification.

2. Systems of Stratification:

- **Slavery:** people have no freedom and are owned.
- **Caste system:** a strict, birth-based regime with limited mobility.
- **Class system:** depending on financial standing, permitting class mobility.
- **Estate system (Feudalism):** a system in which privileged landowners hold the majority of the power.

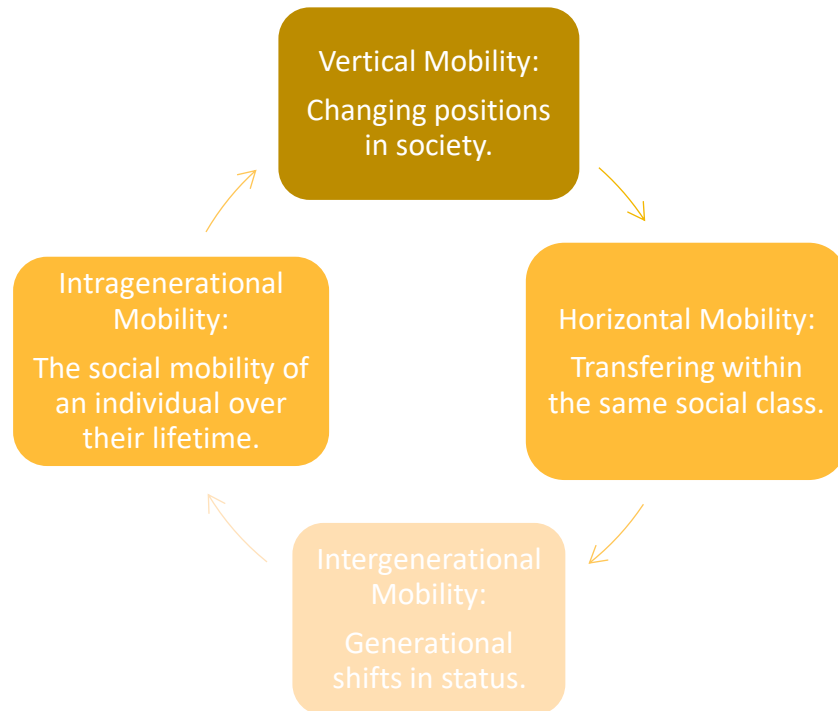
3. Theories of stratification:



4. Social Mobility:

The ability of people or groups to move up or down the social hierarchy is known as social mobility.

✚ Types of Social Mobility:



✚ Factors affecting social mobility:

- **Education:** upward mobility is enhanced by higher education.
- **Occupation:** more prestigious jobs translate into higher status.
- **Economic Capital:** mobility is influenced by financial resources.
- **Social Networks:** relationships can open doors to mobility.
- **Discrimination:** gender, race, or class barriers can limit mobility.