



## The Impact of Class Mobility on Delinquency in Iran

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### Abstract

The relationship between class origin and class destination is a central question about justice in contemporary society. The possibility of individuals and groups freely moving from one status to another in society, or "social mobility," and the possibility of employees of organizations and institutions being promoted to a higher position, rank, and position, or "career mobility," have always faced inhibiting factors in society and government organizations. Given the importance of class analysis in understanding social issues, this level of analysis is used as an important factor in the economic, social, and political outlook of society.

Social mobility, and consequently class mobility, is one of the most important factors affecting crime. The mobility and transfer of individuals to another class or their efforts to remain in one class have a significant impact on the Committing of various types of crimes. Class mobility refers to changes in the class status of individuals in societies. The motivation of individuals to improve their social status and move to a higher social class varies in different societies, and this is particularly true in Iranian society. The existence of a strong incentive to move upward in social classes and the lack of necessary legal facilities and tools in terms of economy, society, culture, etc., in line with this movement, creates opportunities for committing crimes. Mobility processes may have important implications for levels of class polarization.

Class mobility is the process of change within a class or movement from one class status to another – either downward or upward. This approach paves the way for individuals to measure relative class mobility over time. Because there is a class change in class mobility, an individual changes a social class after acquiring the necessary qualifications, with many efforts, and after years of activity. Changing class does not always happen this easily and through legal and legitimate means, and an individual is forced to commit a crime to change class or even remain in their current class. The extent of vertical mobility in a society is an important indicator of the degree of "openness" of that society, that is, it shows the extent to which intelligent and talented individuals born into the lower strata of society can climb the socio-economic ladder without resorting to deviance and committing crime.





According to Merton, when there are few or many opportunities for people, social expectations from people are low or high, and the meanings are vague, illogical, and unjustified for them, each of them independently or in combination with each other can lead to deviant behavior.

In line with the theoretical framework of the research and the study of the role of class mobility on crime in Iran, it can be said that economic factors are a fundamental factor for all social structures and have significant effects on individual activities, including the occurrence of crime. In Iran, pressure variables such as unemployment rate, income inequality, and industrialization have been among the important variables that influence crime, including theft, in the country, so that an increase in unemployment rate and income inequality has led to an increase in the theft rate in Iran. Also, the results of the study of the economic causes of murder in Iran indicate that the variables of unemployment rate, relative poverty, and income inequality are among the determining factors of murder in Iran and have a direct relationship with it.

In the Iranian criminal system, economic crimes are more likely to be a consequence of a differentiated crime, which itself results from the triple connection of media activity, Iran's political and economic situation, and the perpetrator's position in terms of relationship with the executive authorities. These three factors, willy-nilly, simulate economic crime with security crime, and differential criminal proceedings are based on this basis.

Class mobility in Iran depends on the influence of economic factors, public beliefs, people's relationships with each other, customs, traditions, habits, and a set of other factors. In Iranian society, some public activities and events create a basis for class mobility. In Iran, not only jobs, but also income and economic status cause class mobility. Increasing income and using it as a means to achieve goals that create a certain amount of good social Prestige in society. Income does not always cause class mobility, because the way income is used also affects mobility. For example, some people use income to achieve higher academic levels and increase their level of education or social status, while others use income only to increase their well-being and use facilities.

Scientific studies by economists report that the living conditions of Iranian society are very poor. Perhaps no country in the world has faced this situation like Iran. Given the type of approach and sensitivities that are observed, there are no signs of improvement in the situation. Although granting subsidies reduces poverty pressure to some extent, the trend of rising inflation and slow economic growth prevents their effects from being meaningful. Until an economy-oriented approach is adopted with an emphasis on economic growth and an appropriate foreign policy, it will not be possible to escape this situation. And the continuation of the current situation can lead to the disruption of social classes, further reduction of social capital, decline of morality, further weakening of the family institution, a sharp decline in the level of community health and productivity, etc., and will provide a basis for the spread and continuation of crime.

**Keywords:** social mobility, class mobility, delinquency, Iran, crime.



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