Why does social mobility tend to shrink as a country becomes more developed?

For a developing country, the channels are relatively open. When the economy is still highly dependent on labor-intensive manufacturing, you make more when you work hard. Fewer people have education so education cannot be the sole criteria to determine where you are. Your personal connections, your experience, and whether you can capture opportunities would be more important. So if you are wealthy, you can move on to be a supervisor, then a foreman, then a manager.

In a developed economy, credentials are more important than anything else. To get a university degree and a management position, you need to have a university degree and a management position. If you are a worker, it is more likely that you will have opportunities to move to be a manager.

Can a socially mobile society be unequal?

Social mobility is highly linked to meritocracy, where your outcome is purely based on your own effort, not your background.

A meritocratic society could still be unequal. Inequality is the problem. What is the cause of inequality? If inequality is not a result of simple differences, then it's a problem. But if you get less because of your father's occupation or because you are a woman, then it's a different type of issue, and in that case, it's a problem.

The question we should ask ourselves is: is there any discrimination here? If there is no discrimination, we can assume that the process is based on personal effort.

Q&A: Credentials more important in a developed economy

Social mobility is highly linked to meritocracy, where your outcome is purely based on your own effort, not your background.

Recent discussion on social mobility centered on how people who live in one-to-three-room flats lived. What are your thoughts on this? If inequality is not a result of simple differences, then it's a problem. But if you get less because of your father's occupation or because you are a woman, then it's a different type of issue, and in that case, it's a problem.

The question we should ask ourselves is: is there any discrimination here? If there is no discrimination, we can assume that the process is based on personal effort.

Recent discussion on social mobility centered on how people who live in one-to-three-room flats lived. What are your thoughts on this? If inequality is not a result of simple differences, then it's a problem. But if you get less because of your father's occupation or because you are a woman, then it's a different type of issue, and in that case, it's a problem.

The question we should ask ourselves is: is there any discrimination here? If there is no discrimination, we can assume that the process is based on personal effort.