

Intergenerational Educational Mobility in India:
Evidence from 1970–present
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Abstract

Using data from comprehensive socioeconomic censuses undertaken in rural India in 2002 and 2012, we provide new estimates of intergenerational educational mobility over the last 40 years. Because the data sources are censuses rather than samples, our estimates are very precise, and there is wide scope for examining the determinants of mobility at a highly local level. We use a difference-in-difference strategy to show that school construction between 1991 and 2001 led to increased intergenerational mobility. Finally, we present estimates of within-village mobility, showing that mobility within the village social network has not changed substantially in the last 30 years. Economic growth has lifted the status of villages as a whole, but the social order within those villages has been considerably more static.

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