

INTERGENERATIONAL SOCIAL MOBILITY AND INDIVIDUAL WELLBEING: EMPIRAL EVIDENCE OF THE BOLIVIAN CASE

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ABSTRACT

Intergenerational social mobility has a tight link with individual wellbeing. Nevertheless, the quantification of this link is a complex task due to, amongst others, the complexity of the concept of wellbeing itself. This study is a contribution to the understanding of this link in the Bolivian case, taking into account a broad concept of individual wellbeing that goes beyond traditional proxies such as wealth, income, educational and social studies. Based on the Mobility and Social Stratification Survey carried on by UNDP-Bolivia in 2009, we estimate a factorial model grounded on Sen's Capabilities Approach that yields two complementary aspects of individual wellbeing: the material wellbeing capability and the subjective wellbeing capability. After having quantified these two aspects, some of their drivers were identified based on Roemer's Inequality of Opportunities approach. We have paid special attention to the impact of certain characteristics of the individuals' households of origin such as the head's education, the life style that it provided and the perception of the social class it belonged. We present comparative results for individuals in rural and urban areas, providing novel and rich quantitative information on the degree of intergenerational social mobility in the country.

Keywords: Intergenerational Social Mobility, Capabilities Approach, Inequality of Opportunities, Factor Analysis.