

## **Changing Vocation Devoid of Economic Ascendence: An Intergenerational Analysis of Occupational Mobility among Paniyan Tribes of Kerala**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Social mobility studies occupy a central place in sociological discourse. This article examines intergenerational occupational mobility among the Paniyan communities in rural Kerala. Historically marginalized indigenous tribal groups, the Paniyan communities have faced social, economic, and political discrimination, resulting in poverty and limited access to resources and opportunities. Through a triangulation approach, the study analyzes the occupational status of Paniyan households and identifies factors that influence intergenerational mobility. Based on correlation and regression analyses of survey data from 379 households, the study found that despite occupational diversity and rural livelihood opportunities, Paniyan households have experienced limited upward mobility. The study also shows that social mobility in occupation is moderately influenced by the status of the preceding generation, and sons' education level and relocation experiences play a significant role in determining whether they adopt different occupations than their fathers. The study highlights the persistence of occupational patterns between generations, with sons of fathers in agriculture or wage labor being more likely to follow in their fathers' occupational footsteps than the sons of farmers. The study underscores the importance of occupation in shaping social mobility among the Paniyan communities and recommends policies to promote their inclusion and mobility.

**Key Words :** Inter-generational mobility, Occupational mobility, Paniyan, Tribal Community

### **INTRODUCTION**

Social mobility studies hold a central position in sociological discourse, and India's ongoing social and economic transformations have sparked increasing attention toward such studies. Education, occupation, and income are crucial factors contributing to social mobility. This article aims to analyze how educational attainment and changes in occupation influence status changes within and between generations in the Paniyan community of Kerala. The postcolonial era in India witnessed the implementation of welfare policies by nation-states, including investments in the development of various tribal communities. Against this backdrop of institutional interventions, this article investigates the causal factors behind intergenerational occupational mobility patterns among

**How to cite this Article:** Jafar K and K Gulam Dasthagir (2018). Changing Vocation Devoid of Economic Ascendence: An Intergenerational Analysis of Occupational Mobility among Paniyan Tribes of Kerala. *Internat. J. Appl. Soc. Sci.*, 5 (12) : 2495-2506.

the Paniyan communities in rural South India. Employing a triangulation approach, the study examines the occupational status of Paniyan households and identifies the factors influencing intergenerational mobility. Through correlational and regression analyses of survey data collected from 379 households, the study establishes that Paniyan households, predominantly trapped in poverty and deprivation, have failed to experience upward mobility. Despite the emergence of occupational diversity among Paniyans, marked by a departure from traditional occupations, Paniyan youth have gained access to rural livelihoods through governmental schemes, tourism, and industrial development in hilly terrains. Nevertheless, the findings reveal a lack of significant upward occupational mobility within the Paniyan community in Kerala, despite occupational diversity and rural livelihood opportunities. By utilizing primary data on occupation from two generations within the same household and secondary data from existing research articles on Paniyan community mobility, government reports, and documents, the study demonstrates that intergenerational occupational mobility is moderately influenced by the status of the preceding generation. It also explores why marginalized communities in the state are the least developed. Moreover, the study underscores the significance of occupation in determining social mobility among the Paniyan communities. Three sets of variables are identified as affecting the occupational relationships between fathers and sons: father's characteristics, son's characteristics, and household characteristics. The findings reveal that three-fifths of all sons pursue occupations different from their fathers. Chi-square statistics demonstrate a statistically significant relationship between the father's occupation and the son's occupation, indicating a high level of occupational persistence between generations. Binary logistic regression indicates that sons of fathers engaged in agricultural jobs/MGNREPA and wage labor are more likely to follow in their father's occupational footsteps compared to sons of farmers. Among all explanatory measures, the level of education and relocation experiences of sons emerges as powerful determinants of whether they adopt occupations different from their fathers. This article examines the intergenerational occupational mobility of the Paniyan community in Kerala, delving into the extent to which they have improved their social and economic status over time. By analyzing data on education, employment, and income levels across generations, this article provides insights into the factors contributing to intergenerational mobility among the Paniyan community.

The majority of the population predominantly inhabits the districts of Wayanad in the state, with the remaining concentrated in the adjoining districts of Kannur, Kozhikode, and Malappuram. According to the 2011 Census, there are 15,876 Paniya families in Wayanad, accounting for a population of 69,116.

Nayar (2012) explored social mobility in Indian society and its implications for individuals and communities. He examined factors such as caste, class, education, and occupation that influence social mobility and analyzes the interplay between social, economic, and cultural factors in shaping social mobility trajectories. It highlighted the multidimensionality of social mobility, including changes in economic status, social status, cultural capital, and access to resources. It also evaluates the impact of government policies and social reform movements on reducing social inequalities and facilitating upward mobility for marginalized groups. The research employed extensive data analysis and case studies to provide a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms, challenges, and consequences of social mobility in India. Desai and Dubey (2015) the relationship between social networks and social mobility within the Indian context. They delve into the intricate connections between social connections and upward mobility, examining how social networks can serve as a resource for individuals in their pursuit of social and economic advancement and draw upon empirical research and theoretical frameworks to explore the dynamics of social networks and their influence

on mobility patterns in India. Through their analysis, the book provides valuable insights into the role of social relationships in shaping opportunities, access to resources, and social mobility outcomes. D. L. Sheth, published by Routledge (2018) work focuses on social and economic mobility specifically within rural areas of India. The book investigates the factors and mechanisms that contribute to or hinder mobility in these contexts and draws on extensive fieldwork, qualitative interviews, and statistical data to provide a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and opportunities faced by individuals in rural India. The author explored the interplay of social structures, caste dynamics, education, land ownership, and government policies in shaping mobility prospects. The review emphasizes significant contribution in shedding light on the unique dynamics of rural social and economic mobility in India, making it an essential resource for scholars, policymakers, and those interested in understanding the complexities of rural development and social change. Kumar and Varghese (2016) examined the patterns of intergenerational social mobility within tribal communities in Kerala, India. The study compares different tribal groups and explored the factors that influence mobility outcomes, such as education, occupation, and social capital. The article provides valuable insights into the social mobility dynamics of tribal communities in Kerala, highlighting the role of education and other determinants in shaping their mobility prospects. Nair and Ahuja (2016) focused on studying the social and economic mobility of the Warli tribe, an indigenous community. The research examined the factors influencing mobility outcomes within the tribe, including education, occupation, and access to resources and presents a case study approach to provide insights into the social and economic mobility patterns specific to the Warli tribe, contributing to the understanding of mobility dynamics within indigenous communities. Bhattacharya and Sahu (2018) examined the impact of government policies on social mobility within indigenous communities in the state of Odisha, India. The study investigated how various policy interventions, such as reservations, affirmative action, and welfare programs, have influenced the social mobility prospects of indigenous communities and provided valuable insights into the role of government policies in shaping social mobility outcomes and highlights the complexities and challenges faced by indigenous communities in Odisha. Gowri *et al.* (2011) focused on conducting a participatory assessment of poverty and health among the Paniya tribe, a marginalized tribal population in South India. The study employed a participatory approach to involve the Paniyan community in the assessment process, gathering their perspectives and experiences on poverty and health issues and insights into the unique challenges faced by the Paniya tribe in terms of poverty and health, offering valuable information for policymakers and researchers working towards improving the well-being of marginalized tribal populations in South India. Gopala Nair (1999) offered a comprehensive examination of the economic mobility and social change experienced by the Paniyan tribes in Kerala, India. The author explores the factors that influence economic mobility within the Paniyan community and investigated how social changes have impacted their socioeconomic status. Through empirical research and analysis, Nair provided valuable insights into the dynamics of economic mobility and sheds light on the social transformations occurring within this marginalized tribal group. The study is a significant contribution to our understanding of the socio-economic conditions and challenges faced by the Paniyan tribes in Kerala, providing valuable knowledge for policymakers, researchers, and anyone interested in the well-being of marginalized communities.

Sujatha (2013) presented a detailed examination of occupational mobility among the Paniyan tribes in Kerala, India, focusing on both economic and social dimensions. Sujatha explores the factors that influence occupational mobility within the Paniyan community and delves into the economic and social aspects associated with such mobility. Through empirical research and analysis,

the author provides valuable insights into the dynamics of occupational mobility among the Paniyan tribes, shedding light on the challenges and opportunities they face in terms of economic advancement and social status. The study contributes to our understanding of the socio-economic conditions and aspirations of the Paniyan tribes, making it a valuable resource for researchers, policymakers, and those interested in the well-being of marginalized tribal communities in Kerala.

***Intergenerational occupational mobility*** refers to the movement of individuals or families between social classes or positions over generations, specifically in relation to their occupations. In the case of the Paniyan community, intergenerational occupational mobility serves as a crucial indicator of the impact of social and economic policies on their well-being and livelihoods. Through this sociological lens, researchers gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by Scheduled Tribes in Kerala and the significance of policies and interventions that foster upward mobility and social justice for these marginalized communities. The study of intergenerational occupational mobility among Paniyan communities in Kerala is essential for comprehending the factors that contribute to social and economic mobility among marginalized communities in India. The Paniyan communities have historically endured social and economic exclusion, leading to low levels of education, limited access to resources, and unfavorable socio-economic outcomes. Analyzing intergenerational mobility patterns can help researchers identify the factors that either facilitate or hinder upward social mobility within the Paniyan community, including access to education, employment opportunities, and social standing. These studies can also shed light on the effectiveness of policies and programs aimed at promoting social and economic mobility, ultimately improving the livelihoods of marginalized communities such as the Paniyan. Furthermore, understanding the experiences of the Paniyan communities regarding intergenerational mobility can aid researchers and policymakers in designing interventions tailored to their specific needs and challenges. By examining intergenerational mobility within Paniyan communities, researchers contribute to broader discussions surrounding social and economic mobility among indigenous and marginalized communities in India and beyond. Ultimately, these insights inform policies and programs geared towards reducing inequalities and advancing social justice.

The primary research question to examine the extent of inter-generational occupational mobility within the Paniyan communities in rural Kerala and identify the factors influencing limited upward social and economic mobility among these community. The study aims to analyze data concerning education, employment, and income levels across generations, aiming to comprehend the patterns of social and economic mobility among the Paniyan community. By doing so, the study intends to offer insights into the factors that contribute to inter-generational occupational mobility, including access to education, employment opportunities, and social status, while also exploring any barriers that impede upward mobility. Ultimately, the study strives to inform policies and interventions that can foster social and economic mobility among marginalized communities like the Paniyan in rural Kerala.

Several studies have been conducted on social mobility among indigenous communities in India, with occupation and education serving as significant indicators of social mobility. Social stratification, intergenerational social changes, and occupational status have been identified as important determinants of social status. While some studies have shown upward social mobility among indigenous communities, others have observed that new job opportunities prompt sons to pursue occupations different from their parents. Overall, despite some progress in promoting social mobility among indigenous communities, they still face considerable challenges related to discrimination, marginalization, and poverty. Research on Scheduled Tribes (STs) has revealed

that, despite some advancement, STs continue to experience significant social and economic exclusion. Similarly, studies on indigenous communities across India, including STs, Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), have demonstrated ongoing struggles with discrimination, marginalization, and poverty. Although education has been recognized as a crucial factor in promoting social mobility, substantial barriers persist in accessing education and employment opportunities. Studies on intergenerational occupational mobility have explored various factors, such as education, family background, and social networks, that influence social and economic mobility.

## METHODOLOGY

This study utilized a triangulation research method, incorporating secondary data from the Socioeconomic Survey of ST Communities in Kerala, qualitative data from interviews, and quantitative data from sample surveys. The sample survey involved 379 households from the Paniyan community residing in tribal hamlets of Thamarassery Taluk in Kozhikode district. The survey encompassed questions pertaining to education, employment, income, and household characteristics. The sample was selected using a multi-stage random sampling technique, with the sample size determined through power analysis. Correlation analysis, regression analysis, and ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis test were employed to identify factors contributing to intergenerational occupational mobility among the Paniyan community. The study evaluated intergenerational occupational mobility by analyzing data on the educational attainment, employment status, and income levels of parents and their children. Descriptive statistics were also employed to examine intergenerational mobility patterns and identify contributing factors.

The findings of the study revealed that access to education and training played a significant role in intergenerational occupational mobility. Children with higher levels of education were more likely to achieve higher occupational status compared to their parents. Additionally, the presence of government welfare schemes in the rural economy created new avenues for upward mobility among the Paniyan community. Correlation analysis was utilized to examine the relationship between various variables such as education, income, and occupational status, identifying the factors most strongly correlated with intergenerational occupational mobility. Furthermore, regression analysis was employed to determine the factors that contribute to or hinder intergenerational occupational mobility among the Paniyan community, including education and the changing structure of the rural economy.

### Objectives of the Study:

1. To analyze intergenerational occupational mobility within the Paniyan community.
2. To analyze intergenerational occupational mobility within the Paniyan community.
3. To examine the relationship between occupational mobility and educational attainment.

### Study Area:

The study focused on the Paniyan community in the Kozhikode district of Kerala, situated on the Malabar Coast in the southwestern part of the Indian Peninsula. The district encompasses diverse terrains and is home to various tribal communities, including Kurichya, Paniyan, Adiyar, Karimpalan communities, among others. However, these marginalized communities face significant challenges related to overall development. Additionally, the district's remote hilly location poses difficulties in accessing basic necessities such as food and amenities.

In terms of the occupational pattern of the Paniyan community, historically, they were predominantly self-sustaining and relied on subsistence farming, hunting and gathering, and engaging in barter with neighboring tribes for their livelihood. However, following the implementation of constitutional provisions and safeguards, there have been changes in the occupational structure, leading to an increase in occupational diversity. Presently, the majority of Paniyans in the district are engaged in land-based work, either as cultivators producing for themselves or as agricultural laborers. The education sector offers the highest employment opportunities, with primary and middle school teaching positions being the most prevalent. Government employees also constitute a significant portion, but economically, contractors and businessmen fare better. In addition to these primary occupations, Paniyans also participate in various other livelihood activities, such as hunting and gathering, plantation work, weaving, carpentry, and basketry. These supplementary activities contribute to their income and help them maintain their traditional way of life. It is important to note that the district lacks large-scale industries, limiting the range of employment opportunities available to the Paniyan community. Future development and investment in the region have the potential to bring new industries and job prospects, benefiting not only the Paniyan community but also others in the area.

### DATAANALYSIS

**Null Hypothesis:**

A) To analyze intergenerational occupational mobility within the Paniyan community.

H<sub>0</sub>: there is no significant relationship between inter-generation and occupational mobility among the Paniyan community.

H<sub>1</sub>: there is a significant difference between inter-generation and occupational mobility among the Paniyan community

Correlations		Occupational mobility	OM_1	OM_2	OM_3	OM_4	OM_5	OM_6	OM_7
Pearson Correlation	Occupational mobility	1.000	.398	.682	.626	.696	.706	.685	.696
	OM_1	.398	1.000	.214	.213	.243	.189	.196	.194
	OM_2	.682	.214	1.000	.431	.420	.464	.424	.492
	OM_3	.626	.213	.431	1.000	.425	.401	.368	.407
	OM_4	.696	.243	.420	.425	1.000	.447	.407	.460
	OM_5	.706	.189	.464	.401	.447	1.000	.499	.481
	OM_6	.685	.196	.424	.368	.407	.499	1.000	.363
	OM_7	.696	.194	.492	.407	.460	.481	.363	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	Occupational mobility	.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	OM_1	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	OM_2	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	OM_3	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.000
	OM_4	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000
	OM_5	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.000
	OM_6	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000
	OM_7	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.

Table contd...

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N	Occupational mobility	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379
	OM_1	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379
	OM_2	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379
	OM_3	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379
	OM_4	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379
	OM_5	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379
	OM_6	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379
	OM_7	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379

Model Summary <sup>b</sup>									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.950 <sup>a</sup>	.903	.901	.28554	.903	494.373	7	371	.000
a. Predictors: (Constant), OM_7, OM_1, OM_6, OM_3, OM_4, OM_2, OM_5									
b. Dependent Variable: Occupational mobility									

ANOVA <sup>b</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	282.157	7	40.308	494.373	.000 <sup>a</sup>
	Residual	30.249	371	.082		
	Total	312.406	378			
a. Predictors: (Constant), OM_7, OM_1, OM_6, OM_3, OM_4, OM_2, OM_5						
b. Dependent Variable: Occupational mobility						

Inter-generational mobility refers to the ability of individuals or families to move up or down the social and economic ladder across generations, while intra-generational mobility pertains to the ability to move up or down within one’s own generation. This research aimed to analyze both inter-generational and intra-generational occupational mobility within the Paniyan community and explore the relationship between occupational mobility and educational attainment in this community. Data on occupational mobility and educational attainment were collected from a sample of 379 Paniyan community members. To analyze inter-generational occupational mobility, Pearson’s correlation coefficient was utilized to examine the relationship between different variables of occupational mobility (OM\_1 to OM\_7) and overall occupational mobility. Multiple regression analysis was employed to determine the significance of each occupational mobility variable in predicting overall occupational mobility. For the intra-generational mobility analysis, the Kruskal-Wallis test was employed to compare the ranks of different occupational mobility groups. Lastly, Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient was used to investigate the relationship between occupational mobility and educational attainment.

The correlation analysis reveals a significant positive correlation between all the occupational mobility variables (OM\_1 to OM\_7) and the dependent variable, occupational mobility. All correlation coefficients exhibit statistical significance ( $p < .05$ ). The multiple regression analysis indicates that the model is highly significant ( $p < .05$ ) and accounts for a substantial portion of the variance in occupational mobility ( $R^2 = .903$ ). Each of the occupational mobility variables included in the model emerges as a significant predictor of occupational mobility ( $p < .05$ ), demonstrating that each

variable contributes uniquely to the overall model. Based on these findings, we can confidently conclude that there exists a strong positive relationship between all the occupational mobility variables and overall occupational mobility within the sample. Furthermore, the multiple regression models suggest that all the included occupational mobility variables significantly predict overall occupational mobility.

B) To analyze intra-generational occupational mobility among the Paniyan Community.

**Null Hypothesis:**

H<sub>0</sub>: there is no significant relationship between intra-generation and occupational mobility among Paniyan community.

H<sub>1</sub>: there is a significant difference between intra-generation and occupational mobility among Paniyan community.

<b>Kruskal-Wallis Test</b>			
Ranks			
	Intera-Generation	N	Mean Rank
Occupational mobility	1	215	268.84
	2	116	91.22
	3	48	75.57
	Total	379	

<b>Test Statistics<sup>b</sup></b>	
	Occupational mobility
Chi-Square	291.683
Df	2
Asymp. Sig.	.000
a. Kruskal Wallis Test	
b. Grouping Variable: Occupational mobility	

C) To elucidate the relationship between occupational mobility and educational attainment

H<sub>0</sub>: there is no significant correlation between occupational mobility and educational attainment.

H<sub>1</sub>: there is a significant correlation between occupational mobility and educational attainment.

<b>Correlations</b>				
			Occupational mobility	Educational attainment
Spearman's rho	Occupational mobility	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.078
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.131
		N	379	379
	Educational attainment	Correlation Coefficient	.078	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.131	.
		N	379	379

Based on the results, the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient between occupational mobility and educational attainment is 0.078, with a p-value of 0.131. This suggests a weak positive correlation between the two variables, but the p-value is not significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore, we cannot reject the null hypothesis that there is no significant correlation between occupational mobility and



educational attainment.

The study identified access to education as a significant factor in intergenerational occupational mobility. Children with higher levels of education were more likely to achieve higher occupational status compared to their parents. The introduction of new government schemes in the rural economy also created opportunities for upward mobility within the Paniyan community. Social networks and relationships were found to play a role in shaping intergenerational mobility patterns. Children who had family members or friends in higher occupational positions were more likely to attain similar positions themselves. Intersectional forms of marginalization, such as gender and caste, also influenced occupational mobility outcomes.

Despite the presence of occupational diversity among Paniyan youth, the study found limited upward occupational mobility within the Paniyan community in Kerala. This can be attributed to various factors, including restricted access to education and training, lack of social and economic networks, and the effects of intersecting forms of marginalization. The study provides valuable insights into the factors that contribute to or hinder intergenerational occupational mobility among the Paniyan community in rural Kerala. These findings can inform policies and interventions aimed at promoting social and economic mobility among marginalized communities like the Paniyan. Moreover, the study contributes to broader discussions about social and economic mobility among indigenous and marginalized communities in India and beyond.

**Education:** Access to education and the quality of education are crucial factors in social mobility. Higher levels of education and training equip individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to secure higher-paying and more prestigious occupations. Employment opportunities, including job availability in a specific region or sector, can also impact social mobility. The nature of work and the level of income contribute to social mobility, as higher-paying and more stable jobs offer greater opportunities for upward mobility. Income levels are closely tied to social mobility, as higher income provides better prospects for financial stability and upward mobility. However, income inequality can pose barriers to social mobility for individuals at the lower end of the income distribution. Social status, encompassing factors such as family background, caste, race, and gender, can significantly influence social mobility. In many societies, social status is closely intertwined with access to education, employment, and income, making it challenging for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve upward mobility. Social networks, including family and friends, play a role in social mobility by providing access to job opportunities and other resources that aid individuals in achieving upward mobility. Social mobility is influenced by a complex array of factors, and addressing barriers to social mobility necessitates a comprehensive approach that considers the specific context and population.

The study revealed significant differences in intergenerational mobility patterns across generations within the Paniyan community. While earlier generations faced poverty and deprivation, the younger generation gained access to new opportunities resulting from the evolving structure of the rural economy, including government schemes and the growth of tourism and industrial sectors. This led to some upward mobility among the younger generation, but significant barriers remained in achieving higher occupational status. The study emphasizes the necessity for policies and interventions that promote social and economic mobility among marginalized communities, such as the Paniyan, with a specific focus on addressing the unique challenges faced by women and older generations.

To enhance social mobility and foster economic and social inclusion for all members of the

Paniyan community, the study suggests promoting access to education, training, and quality employment opportunities while addressing discrimination and inequality. The findings also highlight the role of factors like education and training, availability of new industries and government schemes, social networks, and intersecting forms of marginalization in shaping intergenerational mobility patterns among the Paniyan community. These findings align with existing research emphasizing the importance of education, social networks, and quality employment opportunities in facilitating upward mobility.

Additionally, the study identifies significant barriers to achieving upward mobility within the Paniyan community, such as limited access to education and training, discrimination, and intersecting forms of marginalization. These findings reflect the broader patterns of social and economic inequality in India, where marginalized communities, including tribal groups, encounter substantial obstacles to upward mobility. Consequently, the study underscores the necessity for policies and interventions to promote social and economic mobility among marginalized communities like the Paniyan. Such initiatives may include improving access to education and training, fostering inclusive economic growth, addressing discrimination and inequality, and strengthening social networks and support systems.

By integrating the study's outcomes with existing literature on social and economic mobility, a deeper understanding of the complex factors influencing mobility patterns among marginalized communities in India can be achieved. This understanding can inform strategies for promoting greater economic and social inclusion.

Firstly, the study highlights the importance of improving access to education and training for marginalized communities like the Paniyan. Initiatives such as scholarships, vocational training, and adult education programs can help individuals acquire the skills and knowledge needed for higher-paying and secure jobs.

Secondly, the study emphasizes the need for inclusive economic growth that generates new opportunities for upward mobility among marginalized communities. This can be achieved through promoting industries in rural areas, developing infrastructure for tourism and other sectors, and implementing government schemes for job creation and income generation.

Thirdly, the study underscores the necessity of addressing discrimination and inequality, which act as significant barriers to social and economic mobility. Measures like anti-discrimination laws, gender equality promotion, and addressing caste-based discrimination can help mitigate these challenges.

Finally, the study emphasizes the importance of strengthening social networks and support systems to help individuals overcome barriers to upward mobility. Initiatives such as community-based organizations, mentoring and networking opportunities, and support systems that facilitate work-life balance can play a crucial role in this regard.

The findings of the study underscore the need for a comprehensive approach to promoting social and economic mobility among marginalized communities in India. By implementing policies and initiatives that address barriers to upward mobility, it is possible to create more inclusive and equitable societies that foster greater economic and social inclusion for all.

However, the study has several limitations that should be considered. The sample size of 379 households may not be representative of the broader Paniyan community or other indigenous communities in India. Additionally, reliance on self-reported data introduces the possibility of bias and inaccuracies. Future research could benefit from objective measures such as employment records and income tax data. Exploring other dimensions of social mobility, like intra-generational

mobility and geographic mobility, would also be valuable. Furthermore, incorporating the perspectives and experiences of stakeholders such as policymakers, employers, and community leaders would provide deeper insights into social and economic mobility among marginalized communities.

### **Conclusion :**

the study on inter-generational occupational mobility among Paniyans sheds light on the complex factors that shape mobility patterns in rural Kerala. It highlights the significance of education, access to new industries and government schemes, social networks, and addressing marginalization. The study's contributions extend to the broader understanding of inter-generational occupational mobility among indigenous and marginalized communities in India. It emphasizes the need for policies and interventions that address specific barriers faced by women and older generations. By promoting access to education, training, and quality employment opportunities, while addressing discrimination and inequality, social mobility and economic inclusion can be enhanced for all members of the Paniyan community. Future research should consider larger and more representative samples, mixed methods approaches, exploration of other dimensions of social mobility, and engagement with stakeholders to gain a comprehensive understanding of social and economic mobility among marginalized communities in India. Ultimately, addressing barriers and fostering inclusion can lead to more equitable and inclusive societies for all.

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