

Beyond static inequality

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Propositions Accompanying the Dissertation

Beyond Static Inequality: Public Policies and Economic Mobility in Thailand

by Patima Chongcharoentanawat

1. In a fair and open society, people are able to prosper to their full potential through their own talents and effort. They can rise to higher socioeconomic status regardless of their backgrounds.
2. Economic mobility is a different but complementary perspective to inequality. Hence, a better insight into mobility is a valuable piece of knowledge for the design of policies to reduce inequality.
3. The share of income earners in a household (human capital) and the possession of productive assets (physical capital) are the most important factors that foster income mobility. [Chapter 2]
4. The effectiveness of vocational training in fostering mobility is not promising. Program design that is not tailored to participants' characteristics is the main culprit. [Chapter 3]
5. The Village Fund (microcredit program) does not impact socioeconomic mobility of borrowers. This might be attributable to the loan contract that is unsuitable to facilitate productive activities. [Chapter 4]
6. The steady and reliable source of income from social pensions allows households to invest in education of their grandchildren or other children living in the same households. [Chapter 5]
7. In theory, social protection has the potential to remove binding constraints to upward mobility by improving the productive capacity (both human and physical capital) of programs' beneficiaries. However, in practice, only having social protection programs in place is not enough to change mobility prospects.
8. Social protection should be considered as an integral part of the wider system of social and economic support aiming to enhance productive capacity, unleash economic opportunity and foster sustainable mobility to higher economic status.
9. "A nation will not survive morally or economically when so few have so much while so many have so little" (Sanders, 2014).
10. "They leave Omelas, they walk ahead into the darkness, and they do not come back" (Le Guin, 1973).