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Social Mobility in Kazakhstan

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Calendar plan of completion of the thesis

| Stage of work | Deadline according to plan | Actual completion date | Percentage completion | Student signature | Signature of scientific advisor (consultant) |
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| Writing up to the introduction | | | | | |
| Preparation of a literature review | | | | | |
| Elaboration of methodology | | | | | |
| Data acquisition and processing | | | | | |
| Analysis and interpretation of the results | | | | | |
| Elaboration of recommendation of the results | | | | | |
| Writing a conclusion | | | | | |
| Thesis completion | | | | | |
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| Preparation of the report, visual aids and presentation | | | | | |
| Thesis presentation | | | | | |

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Abstract

This thesis examines self-assessed intergenerational social mobility in Kazakhstan with the EBRD “Life in Transition” survey data collected in 2016. We test perceived social mobility with the answers of the survey respondents to two questions: “Do we live better than our parents?” and “Will our children live better than we do?” The importance and relevance of these issues are determined by how people perceive their economic and social status at the moment, and how they are set up for the future. The study found that the majority of respondents in Kazakhstan positively assess social mobility.

Social mobility between people may depend on a person’s personal character, giftedness, and genetics. Considering these factors, during the analysis, we found that none of the observed characteristics collected with the survey (with only a few exemptions) explains the perception of social mobility in Kazakhstan. We conclude that more research or richer datasets are needed to understand which factors determine perceived social mobility.

Keywords: social mobility, Life in Transition Survey, generation.

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1.Introduction

Social mobility refers to the shift in an individual's social status from one status to another. The shift can either be higher, lower, inter-generational, or intra-generational, and it cannot necessarily be determined if the change is for good or bad. In our study, we want to reveal the direction and magnitude of satisfaction across generations with their quality of life.

The topic under consideration is one of the most relevant today. The Message of the First President of our country to the people of Kazakhstan pays special attention to social mobility and economic modernization in Kazakhstan: "The new stage of the Kazakhstan way is new tasks of strengthening the economy, improving the well-being of the people. It is vital for Kazakhstan to find the optimal balance between economic success and the provision of public goods. In the modern world, this is a fundamental issue of socioeconomic modernization. This is the main vector of Kazakhstan's development in the next decade" (N.Nazarbayev, 2012, January 27).

The goals and objectives of these works are defined as follows: define the concepts and essence of social mobility; characterise mobility as a form of population reproduction; describe the general picture of social mobility in Kazakhstan.

This study will help to understand the average level of satisfaction of people by their social status and might be helpful in drawing a conclusion for the government in:

- understanding the progress of the country in terms of social mobility;
- improvement of social policy.

Social mobility comes in different forms and types that differ from each other only for the purposes of analysis.

1. Horizontal mobility.

This form of meaning is manifested when a person's religious position or political views are changed without changing the vertical position. Suppose a person has changed his occupation, but his social status has remained the same.

Example: an auditor with good experience in the Big 4 company, moved to work as a professor at KAZGUU University according to his background.

2. Vertical mobility

This form is described when the social status of a person changes significantly. When a person goes from poor to rich and vice versa. Vertical mobility can be upward or downward. It is logically clear that when a person, progresses and moves to the highest status in society, this is considered an ascent. When a person regresses to a low position, this is downward mobility.

3. Upward and downward mobility.

As noted above, upward mobility occurs with progress, such as getting a position in a job that is higher or conferring a rank to government employees. An example of downward mobility is the CEOs of companies that went bankrupt on the same day due to recent events in the world like the coronavirus.

5. Intergenerational mobility

Intergenerational mobility occurs when social position changes from one generation to the next. The change can be up or down. For example, the father was an ordinary farmer, but he was able to educate his child and he became an exemplary employee.

Such social changes provide the next generation to change their thinking, image and quality of life in the community.

6. Intragenerational mobility occurs between family members in one generation, in one period of time. Most often, it can be the same family when their children occupy different positions in society or when a student starts his career as an assistant to the chief accountant, but after some time he becomes the chief accountant himself.

Our study consists in part of all of the above forms of mobility, with particular attention paid to intergenerational social mobility in Kazakhstan, which is the basis of our thesis. Secondary data was used for this research, and regression estimated with the maximum likelihood method was used to analyse the survey data.

Intergenerational mobility reflects the ratio of the position that children have reached to the positions held by their parents. When comparing indicators that reflect the characteristics of social positions inherent in different generations (sons and fathers, daughters and mothers), sociology also has ideas about the direction of the changes presented within society. In the event that most people throughout their lives remain in the status that was assigned to them by birthright, it is customary to talk about the traditional type of social structure or about a stagnant social order. If a person is given the opportunity to achieve, through his own efforts, higher status indicators, this is evidence of an open type of general mobility within generations that is characterized by the ratio of positions that the same person occupies at different stages of his own life, during which he can both acquire and lose a certain status, in one case occupying more privileged positions, and in others - losing them, strive for ups or downs. In an open society dominated by democratic regimes and a market economy, a person throughout his life can both win certain positions and lose them due to failures. He can also “start all over again”. A closed or totalitarian society, when a person loses his status, is characterized by the fact that in the future a person cannot count on restoring his former positions.

In general, for the transformation, development and analysis of the progress of society, this concept is necessary for every developing state, including Kazakhstan, the above factors will improve in parallel if you are aware of the country’s rate, because every citizen rather wants improvement and growth.

2.Literature review

Intergenerational sociology began to be studied in order to trace the political and economic progress in countries, and the main goal was to identify its impact on changes in the social structure in the process of generational change. One such study was Karl Mannheim’s *The Problem of Generations*, where the problem of generations is described as a significant topic that deserves careful study. According to Mannheim (1928), this science is an invaluable guide to understanding the structure of social and intellectual movements. The significance of this science becomes clear if we try to get a more accurate idea of the accelerated pace of social change that is characteristic of modern times (20 p.). He also put

forward one hypothesis about social mobility between generations. In other words, he wanted to make it clear that the rate of change in a society is related to life expectancy. More precisely, if the lifespan of society were shortened or accelerated, the rate of progress would change accordingly. (Mannheim, 1928, p. 9).

It is important to understand what influences intergenerational social mobility. Causa and Johansson (2009) define social mobility as the change in the socio-economic status of parents and the status of their children that they will receive when they become adults. To measure this status, factors such as income, education, occupation, or social class must be taken into account. The studies comparing generational income involved father-son couples. Income must often be measured by household income as it is a factor influencing people's standard of living (Orsetta and Asa, 2009, 9p.).

The World Economic Forum in 2020 presented the first global index of social mobility (Global Social Mobility Index). Social mobility is understood as the ability of the current generation of citizens of the country to live better than the previous one. Low social mobility limits a person's opportunities, which remain tied to his socioeconomic status at birth: those born into poor and poorly educated families remain poor and poorly educated. Human capital is the driving force behind economic growth, and anything that contributes to inequality of opportunity and impedes the realization of talent also holds back the development of the economy, the authors of the report note.

The new index is designed to enable country policymakers to identify areas for the development of social mobility and human capital, the authors explain. The rating includes 82 countries. The social mobility index is calculated on the basis of ten socioeconomic parameters: quality of healthcare, access to education, quality and equity of education, opportunities for lifelong learning, access to technology, employment opportunities, fair wages, working conditions, social security, efficiency and openness of public institutions.

The top ten lines of the rating are occupied by European countries, where the level of social mobility is maximum. Denmark is first (with a score of 85.2 out of 100), followed by Norway (83.6), Finland (83.6),

Sweden (83.5), Iceland (82.7), the Netherlands (82.4), Switzerland (82.1), Austria (80.1), Belgium (80.1) and Luxembourg (79.8). Kazakhstan took 38th place with 64.8 points, ahead of such countries as Russia (39th place, 64.7 points) and China (45th place, 61.5 points).

3. Research Methodology: variety of models to estimate social mobility in Kazakhstan

In our thesis, we want to test, firstly, what personal characteristics determine the probability of being more successful than the parents (when parents were your age), and secondly, what personal characteristics determine the probability to believe that your children will be more successful than you (**Figure 1** answers “c” and “f”). To empirically test these statements, we use the answers of the respondents to the following two questions and develop two different models.

Figure 1.

(4.01) To what extent do you agree with the following statements?
READ OUT A-K; SINGLE CODE FOR EACH

SHOW CARD 14

| | | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither disagree nor agree | Agree | Strongly agree | Not applicable | Don't know |
|---|---|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| a | The economic situation in our country is better today than around 4 years ago | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | -98 | -97 |
| b | The political situation in our country is better today than around 4 years ago | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | -98 | -97 |
| c | I have done better in life than my parents INTERVIEWER: Only if necessary, explain, when your parents were your age | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | -98 | -97 |
| d | My household lives better nowadays than around 4 years ago | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | -98 | -97 |
| e | All things considered, I am satisfied with my life now | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | -98 | -97 |
| f | Children who are born now will have a better life than my generation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | -98 | -97 |
| g | On the whole, I am satisfied with the present state of the economy | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | -98 | -97 |
| h | The gap between the rich and the poor in our country should be reduced | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | -98 | -97 |
| i | There is less corruption now than around 4 years ago | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | -98 | -97 |
| j | All things considered, I am satisfied with my job as a whole | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | -98 | -97 |
| k | All things considered, I am satisfied with my financial situation as a whole | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | -98 | -97 |

Source: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) LiTS III (2016).

We start with the first question and develop a separate model for it. To determine what factors affect the fact that the survey respondents believe that they live better lives than their parents, we will use the maximum likelihood method, which finds an optimal way to fit the distribution to the data. For example, we might expect the probability of being more successful being greater for people who live in an urban area or have higher wages and so on. For each respondent, we have data on their region, residence, gender, age, education, sector of the economy where they work and wage. We will use the Probit model that

guarantees us that predicted probabilities are in the interval [0,1] since they make the probabilities that are sigmoidal or “s-shaped”. Probit model employs the maximum likelihood methodology. We estimated 5 models, adding step by step explanatory variables.

The empirical model is expressed with the following equation:

$$\Pr(\text{being more successful than parents} = 1 \mid X) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{wage} + \beta_3 \text{schooling} + \beta_4 \text{age} + \beta_5 \text{gender} + \beta_6 \text{region} + \beta_7 \text{residence} + \beta_8 \text{sector} + \varepsilon$$

- Where wage - denotes a respondent’s wage;
- schooling - denotes his or her education expressed in the years of schooling necessary to attain this level of education in consistency with the most studies in Labour Economics (Mincer, 1974);
- age - denotes age of respondents;
- gender - denotes gender of respondents;
- region - denotes a region where a respondents lives; we combine 16 country’s provinces and Astana (Nur-Sultan) and Almaty into five geographical regions: West (Atyrauskaya, West-Kazakhstanskaya, Mangistauskaya, Aktyubinskaya provinces), South (South-Kazakhstanskaya, Kyzylordinskaya, Jambylskaya, Almatinskaya provinces), North (Kostanayskaya, North-Kazakhstanskaya, Pavlodarskaya provinces), Central (Akmolinskaya, Karagandinskaya, E-Kazakhstanskaya provinces) or Metropolis (cities of Astana and Almaty);
- residence - denotes urban or rural residence;
- sector - denotes industry of employment;
- $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5, \beta_6, \beta_7, \beta_8$ - are the parameters which we estimate
- ε - is the error term.

The second part of our study is aimed at revealing what objective characteristics affect the expectations of the parents-respondents that their children will live better than themselves. Similarly, we can expect that children’s success may be influenced by their parents’ age, education and wages. To answer this question, we ran similar probit regression:

$$\Pr(\text{live better than parents} = 1 \mid X) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Wage} + \beta_3 \text{Schooling} + \beta_4 \text{age} + \beta_5 \text{gender} + \beta_6 \text{region} + \beta_7 \text{residence} + \beta_8 \text{sector} + \varepsilon$$

4. Results and discussions

The study employs the secondary data collected by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) with the Life in Transition III Survey. In collaboration with World Bank in 2016, the Life in Transition (LiTS) III Survey demonstrated burgeoning levels of life satisfaction across the former communist bloc countries. In this wave of the survey, EBRD surveys respondents from 51,000 households in 34 countries, predominantly “transition countries” in Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia, and also for comparison of some more developed western countries. LiTS III carried out between late 2015 and the beginning of 2016, includes information and questions on diverse economic and social topics. The survey instrument suggests 9 modules, which initially gather data on the characteristics of the family, living space and consumer habits. The other modules collect information on asset ownership, work history and so on. There are two types of respondents: primary and secondary who are of the opposite gender to the first one. In total 1,500 interviews were conducted in each country. LiTS III was conducted face to face using Computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), where CAPI selected randomly primary and secondary respondents. From the data analysis, we can say that in 2016 average level of people’s life satisfaction rose in transition countries and now they are more optimistic about the future.

For the purpose of our thesis, the data on Kazakhstan has been considered. R software was used for data processing and analysing. LiTS III is based on interviews duration of which is no more than one hour. 1,500 interviews were expected to be conducted per country, about 20 households. The households’ addresses were found randomly. For the first visit, the interviewers had a goal to explain the purpose of the survey and its structure, as well as to write the composition of the family. When the answers to all the questions and modules were completed, the interview was considered completed.

Table 1 in the Appendix shows the summary statistics for the selected variables of interest. After dropping the data of other countries, we have a remaining 1505 observations (respondents) from Kazakhstan.

For our thesis, we are interested in Section 4 which is called attitudes and values. The section asks the respondents the following question: “To what extent do you agree with the following statements?” The statement important to us is: “I have done better in life than my parents.” Answer options: strongly agree, agree, neither disagree nor agree, disagree and strongly disagree. We created a binary response to the present question combining the responses “strongly agree” and “agree” into the category “agree” and the responses “disagree” and “strongly disagree” into a category “disagree”. We dropped the respondents who answered “neither disagree nor agree” from the analysis because we know nothing about their opinion on the issue from their answers. With this question, we received the following data: 924 respondents “agree” and 246 “disagree”. Thus, the majority of respondents believe that they live a better life than their parents. The given information is used for the estimations.

The optimism of the respondents regarding their lives in comparison with the lives of their parents can be explained by the historical events taking place in our country in the 20-21st century. Firstly, the country gained independence and went through dramatic reforms toward market economy and liberalisation. During approximately half of this reform period, the country experienced fast economic growth due to the fast growth of world commodity prices. There was a significant improvement in the economic system, and the educational system of the state, which also affected social mobility and the development of the population. However, we would like to draw attention to the following aspect in this regard. The high level of migration from the countryside to the city is, of course, a characteristic feature of our time: according to Census data for 1999 and 2009, the population living in the cities increased from 54% in 1999 to 56.4% in 2009. At the moment, this ratio has grown even further, thereby giving impetus to the growth of education and the general development of the individual, and satisfaction, the growth of social mobility.

246 respondents who answered negatively to this thesis may have a low social status in society. For example, they can be unemployed, as in any state, there is unemployment in Kazakhstan. However, the fact that we are dealing with a systemic view (there is little work in Kazakhstan) can be confirmed by the following figures: about half of the population surveyed believes that in the event of a job loss, it will not be possible to find an equivalent job at all or with great difficulty. Only 7% of respondents were sure that they could do it easily. (By the way, the growth of xenophobic sentiments is connected in many respects precisely with the prevailing stable idea that there is little work in Kazakhstan). As for the housing issue, 55% of the population needs either new or improved old housing. On the one hand, this is the problem that drives a person to move, on the other hand, it is the difficulty and even impossibility of obtaining housing in a new place of residence that hinders his migration impulse, and, therefore, the possibilities of mobility.

The next essential statement with the same options is: “Children who are born now will have a better life than my generation”. Likewise, we generated a binary response to the question. Interviewees answered 1050 that they “agree” with the second statement and 153 “disagree”. This finding confirms that people are highly positive regarding social mobility, and this, possibly, should be explained by the fact that compared to other post-Soviet countries, things are going much better in Kazakhstan, thus most of our respondents were tuned in to a positive wave of events in the future.

Now, with our models, we test if there is a statistically significant difference between people answering positively or negatively to the questions allowing us to assess their perceptions of the inter-generational social mobility. In other words, we want to understand whether people’s characteristics explain the probability they are optimistic or pessimistic about social mobility.

Table 2 shows the results of the first regression. The only statistically significant variable is the west region residency. People, who live in the Western region, are less likely to believe that they live better lives than their parents in comparison with the residents of the cities of Almaty and Astana. Also, urban residency is statistically significant in the second model meaning that people living in the urban areas tend to believe that their life is better than parents in comparison with rural area residents, however, the coefficient is not statistically significant in the model controlling for the sector of employment. Thus, the

sector of employment is more important than the residency, however, none of the sectors of employment is statistically different from the reference sector “Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing”. The wage and age of the respondents are neither statistically nor economically significant; schooling is economically significant (the magnitude of the coefficient is rather large) but not statistically significant either. Negative signs for these three variables (wage, years of schooling and age) are counterintuitive and unexpected: in Kazakhstan, people who are older, have higher wages and higher levels of education tend to believe that they live worse lives than their parents; thus, generally, they share a pessimistic view in their life in comparison with their parents’ lives. However, the coefficients are not statistically significant and this could be because of the small sample size or because this observation is not systematic.

Table 2: Probit models for first question

| | Dependent variable: | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 401c | | | | |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| wage | -0 (0.00000) | -0 (0.00000) | -0 (0.00000) | -0 (0.00000) | -0 (0.00000) |
| schooling | -0,053 (0.043) | -0,055 (0.043) | -0,052 (0.044) | -0,049 (0.044) | -0,027 (0.047) |
| age | -0,008 (0.006) | -0,009 (0.006) | -0,008 (0.006) | -0,008 (0.006) | -0,01 (0.006) |
| genderMale | | -0,079 (0.137) | -0,078 (0.140) | -0,068 (0.141) | -0,14 (0.150) |
| region_groupedcentral | | | -0,077 (0.218) | 0,04 (0.227) | 0,114 (0.233) |
| region_groupednorth | | | -0,218 (0.262) | -0,141 (0.265) | -0,1 (0.273) |
| region_groupedsouth | | | -0,07 (0.210) | 0,129 (0.235) | 0,149 (0.244) |
| region_groupedwest | | | -0.761*** (0.272) | -0.654** (0.278) | -0.629** (0.286) |
| residenceUrban | | | | 0.285* (0.154) | 0,263 (0.160) |
| sectorConstruction | | | | | 0,346 (0.451) |
| sectorFinance, Insurance, | | | | | -0,335 |

| | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| and Real Estate | | | | | (0.718) |
| sectorManufacturing | | | | | 0,004 (0.472) |
| sectorMining | | | | | -0,511 (0.733) |
| sectorNonclassifiable Establishments | | | | | -0,144 (0.448) |
| sectorPublic Administration | | | | | -0,427 (0.429) |
| sectorRetail Trade | | | | | -0,019 (0.465) |
| sectorServices | | | | | -0,029 (0.409) |
| sectorTransportation and Public Utilities | | | | | 0,079 (0.453) |
| sectorWholesale Trade | | | | | -0,122 (0.533) |
| Constant | 0,331 (0.553) | 0,395 (0.563) | 0,503 (0.625) | 0,221 (0.644) | 0,089 (0.754) |
| Observations | 464 | 464 | 464 | 464 | 464 |
| Log Likelihood | -239,63 | -239,46 | -233,76 | -232,06 | -227,54 |
| Akaike Inf. Crit. | 487,256 | 488,928 | 485,515 | 484,123 | 495,07 |
| Note: | * ** *** p<0.01 | | | | |

Table 3 shows the regressions' results for the second question assessing the views regarding the respondents' children's lives in comparison with their own lives. From the table, we can see that only the north has a positive and high statistical significance which means people in North Kazakhstan tend to believe that their children will live better. The rest of the coefficients are not significant.

In conclusion, based on our results, we can say that neither age nor wages or education affect self-assessed social mobility. But it is worth remembering that our data is subjective (respondents' answers), thus, it does not reflect actual social mobility but rather people's perception of social mobility.

Table 3: Probit models for second question

| | Dependent variable: | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 401f | | | | |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| wage | -0 (0.00000) | -0 (0.00000) | -0 (0.00000) | -0 (0.00000) | -0 (0.00000) |
| schooling | -0,039 (0.050) | -0,039 (0.050) | -0,035 (0.052) | -0,035 (0.052) | 0,029 (0.065) |
| age | 0,004 (0.006) | 0,004 (0.006) | 0,002 (0.007) | 0,002 (0.007) | 0,003 (0.007) |
| genderMale | | 0,003 (0.156) | -0,049 (0.163) | -0,051 (0.164) | -0,167 (0.181) |
| region_groupedcentral | | | -0,222 (0.274) | -0,24 (0.282) | -0,222 (0.297) |
| region_groupednorth | | | 0.851*** (0.282) | 0.836*** (0.287) | 1.079*** (0.315) |
| region_groupedsouth | | | -0,124 (0.259) | -0,162 (0.288) | -0,088 (0.310) |
| region_groupedwest | | | -0,386 (0.305) | -0,408 (0.315) | -0,343 (0.334) |
| residenceUrban | | | | -0,051 (0.179) | -0,031 (0.196) |
| sectorConstruction | | | | | 0,628 (0.511) |
| sectorFinance, Insurance, and Real Estate | | | | | -4,881 (173.064) |
| sectorManufacturing | | | | | 0,612 (0.532) |
| sectorMining | | | | | 0,314 (0.724) |
| sectorNonclassifiable Establishments | | | | | -0,151 (0.530) |
| sectorPublic Administration | | | | | -0,637 (0.522) |
| sectorRetail Trade | | | | | 0,625 |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | | | | (0.516) |
| sectorServices | | | | | -0,097 |
| | | | | | (0.487) |
| sectorTransportation and Public Utilities | | | | | -0,137 |
| | | | | | (0.541) |
| sectorWholesale Trade | | | | | -0,406 |
| | | | | | (0.745) |
| Constant | -0,807 | -0,809 | -0,821 | -0,773 | -1.608* |
| | (0.639) | (0.650) | (0.733) | (0.756) | (0.966) |
| Observations | 494 | 494 | 494 | 494 | 494 |
| Log Likelihood | -175,48 | -175,48 | -161,26 | -161,22 | -146,13 |
| Akaike Inf. Crit. | 358,957 | 360,957 | 340,527 | 342,447 | 332,266 |

Note:

* ** *** p<0.01

5. Conclusion

Social mobility is an important concept in modern economics that reflects a movement of people through a system of social hierarchy. Upward social mobility creates incentives for people to improve their human capital or human capital of their children through education, skills development, healthcare and so on, and thus, contributes to the economic and social development of the countries.

Social mobility could be measured by objective and subjective indicators. While objective indicators measure actual social mobility, such as careers and wages of children versus careers and wages of their parents, subjective indicators measure the perception of people regarding social mobility and social lifts. The data on subjective indicators are usually collected by various surveys.

We use the data of the “Life in Transition” survey collected by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Kazakhstan in 2016. We assess the perceived social mobility of the survey respondents by considering their answers to two the question: “I agree or disagree with the following statement: I have done better in life than my parents” and “I agree or disagree with the following statement: Children who are born now will have a better life than my generation”.

We found out that the majority of people positively assess social mobility in Kazakhstan and believe that they live better lives than their parents and their children in turn will live even better. This is consistent with the previous studies that positively assess objective social mobility in Kazakhstan. We also found that the likelihood to have an opposite, negative perception is not explained by people's observed characteristics: the vast majority of coefficients turned out to be statistically insignificant. It is interesting to note that unlike in other countries people with higher levels of education, higher wages and older people tend to be more pessimistic regarding social mobility, however, this result is not statistically significant. Thus, we conclude that more research is needed in this area to understand what factors actually determine social mobility perception, which we leave for future research work.

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Appendices

Table 1: Summary statistics

| vars | n | mean | sd | median | trimmed | mad | min | max | range | skew | kurtosis | se |
|-----------|------|-----------------|------------------|--------|-------------|---------|-----|--------|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| country | 1505 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | 0 |
| region | 1505 | 8,1235880 4 | 4,66418 9388 | 8 | 8,065560166 | 5,9304 | 1 | 16 | 15 | 0,16559 6658 | 1,20166 4995 | 0,12022 86378 |
| residence | 1505 | 1,5720930 23 | 0,49493 97576 | 2 | 1,590041494 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - 0,29112 68283 | - 1,91651 7279 | 0,01275 804387 |
| gender | 1505 | 1,3521594 68 | 0,47780 21224 | 1 | 1,315352697 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0,61842 46228 | 1,61862 516 | 0,01231 628768 |
| age | 1505 | 44,230564 78 | 14,8101 2345 | 43 | 43,57095436 | 16,3086 | 18 | 93 | 75 | 0,38493 64059 | 0,47845 90908 | 0,38176 00059 |
| education | 1505 | 4,8398671 1 | 2,78393 0901 | 6 | 4,924481328 | 2,9652 | 1 | 8 | 7 | - 0,32166 26483 | - 1,51188 4786 | 0,07176 128413 |
| work | 1505 | 2,1820598 01 | 0,96346 68447 | 3 | 2,227385892 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | - 0,36969 50324 | - 1,82091 4946 | 0,02483 524931 |
| non_work | 1505 | 1,2744186 05 | 1,45263 5425 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 10 | 5,44717 8261 | 29,0085 5104 | 0,03744 452977 |
| hours | 903 | 40,362126 25 | 9,83334 4373 | 40 | 41,07330567 | 5,9304 | 10 | 70 | 60 | - 0,75367 27049 | - 2,07464 0475 | 0,32723 32108 |
| sector | 903 | 6,9413067 55 | 2,64279 325 | 7 | 7,177040111 | 2,9652 | 1 | 11 | 10 | - 0,72784 41974 | - 0,43950 00646 | 0,08794 665252 |
| wage | 582 | 75525,601 37 | 48022,0 0959 | 70000 | 70138,41202 | 38547,6 | 400 | 350000 | 349600 | 1,68557 8482 | 5,10920 6088 | 1990,57 6341 |
| q401c | 1505 | 2,6671096 35 | 1,94816 8454 | 2 | 2,432365145 | 1,4826 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 0,75855 28747 | 0,88695 44143 | 0,05021 786636 |
| q401f | 1505 | 2,7747508 31 | 2,07547 7472 | 2 | 2,570954357 | 1,4826 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 0,64882 84671 | 1,19692 3744 | 0,05349 950623 |
| region | 1505 | 3,1495016 61 | 1,33870 4252 | 3 | 3,186721992 | 1,4826 | 1 | 5 | 4 | - 0,15922 49587 | - 1,29474 7893 | 0,03450 773011 |
| schooling | 1505 | 11,217940 2 | 1,66601 5842 | 11 | 11,29211618 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 16 | - 2,19485 7374 | - 15,5333 1735 | 0,04294 482891 |
| bi_401c | 1170 | 1,2102564 1 | 0,40766 49305 | 1 | 1,137820513 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1,42026 4163 | 0,01716 715673 | 0,01191 819322 |
| bi_401f | 1203 | 1,1271820 45 | 0,33331 53523 | 1 | 1,034267913 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2,23516 8862 | 2,99847 4409 | 0,00960 9980441 |