

Research Title Social mobility of business leaders  
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#### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to study the characteristics of business leaders and pattern of mobility. This study tries to prove some hypotheses concerning factors which affect social mobility.

Data has been obtained by interviewing 186 business leaders selected from the 1973 - 1978 edition of Who's Who In Thailand to meet the following criteria : they occupy the highest positions in the firms in all types of business and industry.

The characteristics of business leaders were as follow: a great portion of business leaders in the sample were of age 30 - 44 years, or an average of 41 years. More than half of them were born in Bangkok, and most of those came from other provinces came from the central region of their education in Bangkok. Almost all of them were married, their wives had considerable formal education and earning. The larger proportion of business leaders had Chinese ancestors. The majority of them had high level of education, and it was also found that more than half of them had University degree. A large member of fathers of business of leaders received formal education, and were also in business. Most of business leaders participated

in social activity group or business association:

Intragenerational occupational mobility of business leaders has been found to be high. When comparing with their first occupation, the most mobile took their first occupations as clerks, salesman and government servants. But compared with their fathers' occupation at the time the leaders entered into the labour force, the data show considerable influence of class inheritance from fathers to business leaders. The leaders with fathers of higher occupations tend to enter the labour force in first jobs that have more prestige.

The data seems to support the following hypotheses:

1. High level education does not influence intragenerational mobility of business leaders, but it determines their first occupations.
2. Family background influences mobility to the top business positions, particularly big business.
3. Social mobility of business leaders in Thailand has no clear connection with occupational structure of the whole society.