

Panel 4: Revisiting Our Social Compact Wellbeing of Youths

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Social Compact

- “Broadly speaking, a social compact is a shared understanding of how all of us in society relate to one another. It's about the respective roles and responsibilities of different groups.” <https://str.sg/wLds>
- “Since independence, our social compact is one where the Government creates the conditions for economic growth and jobs, while ensuring access to the most essential needs – education, healthcare and housing. ... We continuously create and sustain a society of opportunities for every Singaporean – regardless of race or religion.” <https://petir.sg/2022/06/09/spores-social-compact-is-actually-easy-to-understand/>

Some Considerations

- Implicit contract across groups (income, ethnic, gender, citizenship, age, even across generations, **government**)
- Common goal(s) transparent, attainable, without barriers and discrimination: **income** and/or otherwise (happiness, **life satisfaction**, etc)
- **Relationship stocks** (family, community, nation); altruism across groups living and working in Singapore
- Inequality (correlates with social ills) and **social mobility** (both intra- and inter-gen)
- Government and inclusive institutions (legal, economic, cultural) critically **set and help achieve** the common goal(s)
- Meritocracy, fairness, and efficiency: a **balancing act**, dependent on evolving social preference and individual “sacrifice” for the common good

Relationship Stocks

Community Capital

Social Participation Index

Community Leadership Index

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Participation in any social groups in the past 12 months

Held leadership positions in any social groups in the past 12 months

National Capital

National Capital Index

0.8634

I have a part to play in developing Singapore for the benefit of current and future generations

I will do whatever I can to support Singapore in times of crisis

I have a sense of belonging to Singapore

Family Capital

Family Support Index

Family Environment Index

0.7944

0.8388

We are willing to help each other when something needs to be done

We are able to make decisions about how to solve problems

No matter what happens, I know I'll be loved and accepted

We confide in each other

I feel appreciated for who I am

We express our feelings to each other

We avoid discussing our fears and concerns with family members^a

We cannot talk to each other about feeling sad^a

We don't get along well with each other^a

Wellbeing (Happiness and Life Satisfaction) Regressions with Relationship Stocks

- Family Capital +
- Social Participation Index +
- Community Leadership Index –
- National Capital +

Life Goals and Wellbeing

▶ **TABLE 4: CONSTRUCTED INDICES OF LIFE GOALS**

	Non-zero-sum life goals		Zero-sum life goals
Index	Family Life Goals	Altruism Life Goals	Career Life Goals
Cronbach's Alpha	0.6820	0.7466	0.5832
Variables	To maintain strong family relationships	To be actively involved in local volunteer work	To acquire new skills and knowledge
	To get married	To be actively involved in overseas volunteer work	To start my own business
	To have children	To help the less fortunate	To earn lots of money
		To contribute to society	To have a successful career

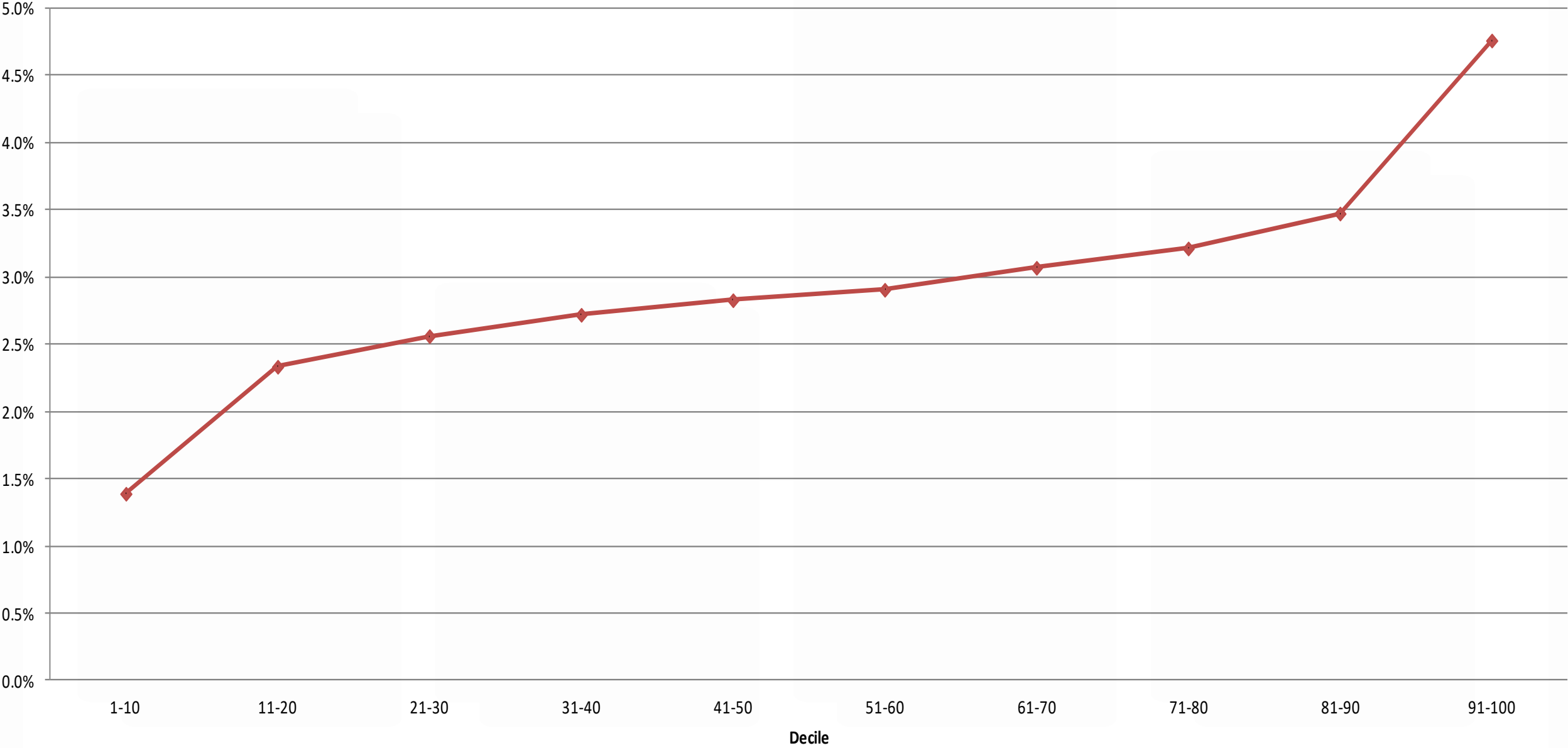
▶ **TABLE 5: WELLBEING REGRESSIONS WITH LIFE GOALS**

	Model 1 (All)	Model 2 (Working)	Model 3 (Studying)	Model 1 (All)	Model 2 (Working)	Model 3 (Studying)
	Happiness			Life Satisfaction		
	(n=3,350)	(n=1,884)	(n=1,100)	(n=3,350)	(n=1,884)	(n=1,100)
Male	-0.036	-0.054	-0.019	-0.028	-0.063	0.023
Non-Chinese	0.019	0.032	-0.031	-0.050	-0.009	-0.163*
Married	0.050	0.023	-0.149	0.060	0.018	0.076
Age	0.055*	0.149*	0.008	0.076**	0.135*	0.081
Age^2	-0.001	-0.003*	-0.000	-0.001*	-0.003*	-0.002
Household Income Step	0.239***	0.249***	0.179***	0.273***	0.276***	0.200***
Family Life Goals	0.281***	0.243***	0.349***	0.269***	0.232***	0.341***
Altruism Life Goals	0.114***	0.099**	0.115**	0.135***	0.103***	0.174***
Career Life Goals	-0.139***	-0.144***	-0.143**	-0.172***	-0.162***	-0.164**

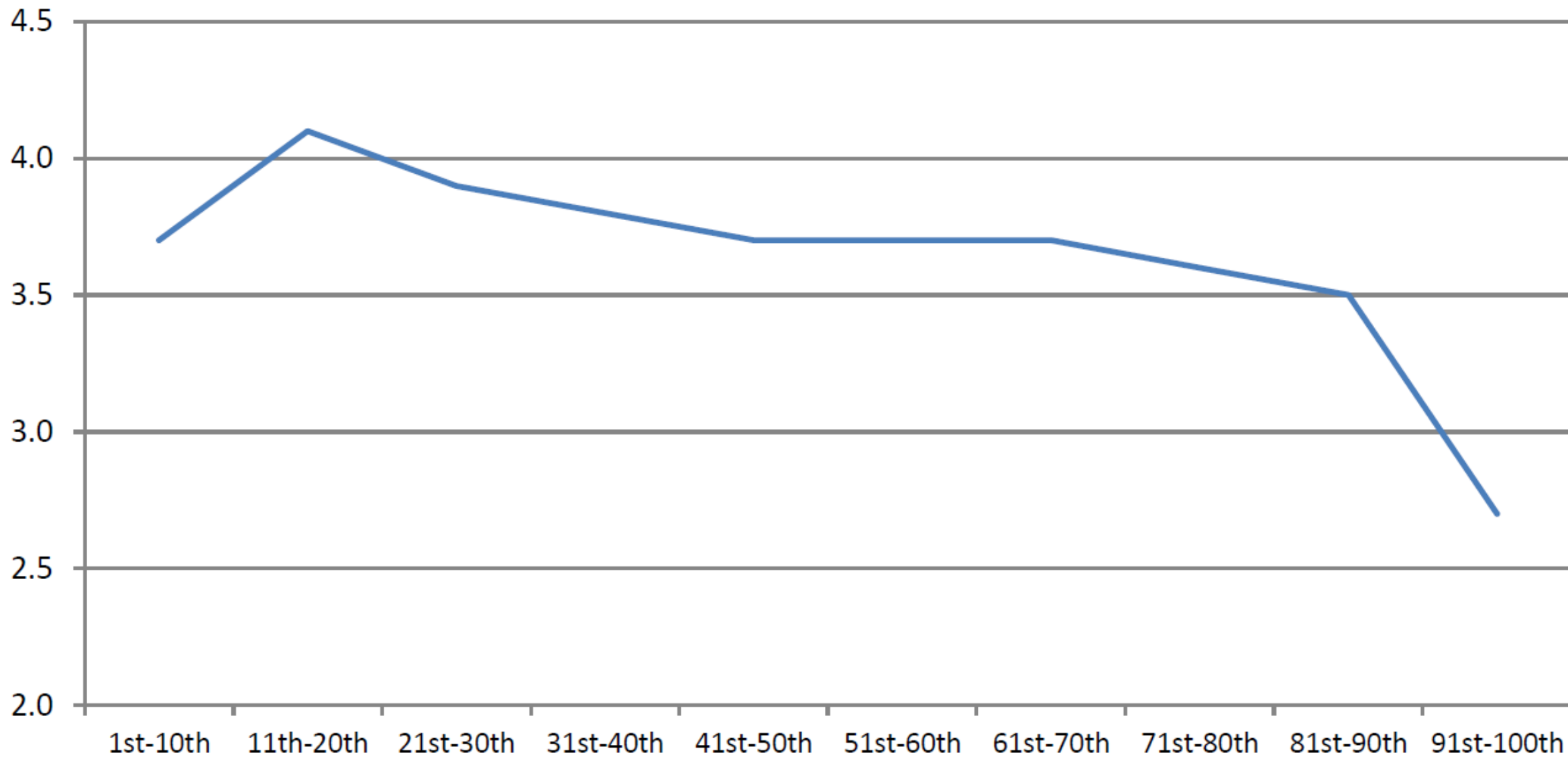
Income Inequality ...

- Child wellbeing –
- Obesity +
- Drug abuse +
- Rates of imprisonment +
- Homicide rates +
- <https://equalitytrust.org.uk/resources/the-spirit-level>

Average Annual Real Growth Rate of Monthly Household Income from Work Per Household Member Excluding Employer CPF Contributions Among Resident Employed Households by Deciles, 1995 to 2012



Annualised Real Change in Average Monthly Household Income per Household Member from Work (2009-2019)



▲ **TABLE 10: INTERGENERATIONAL INCOME MOBILITY QUANTILE REGRESSIONS**

In Personal Income	P10	P30	P50	P70	P90
	(n=1,946)				
In Parental Income	0.158**	0.096***	0.067***	0.065***	0.110***
Father's Years of Education	-0.003	-0.008**	0.005	0.006*	0.015**
Mother's Years of Education	0.005	0.027***	0.014**	0.009**	0.013**
Age	0.093	0.592***	0.562***	0.218***	-0.296***
Age^2	0.002	-0.009***	-0.009***	-0.003**	0.008***
Male	0.137**	0.027	-0.031	-0.045*	0.005
Non-Chinese	-0.588***	-0.418***	-0.307***	-0.282***	-0.297***
Pseudo R^2	0.2534	0.3543	0.2697	0.1756	0.1403

▲ **TABLE 11: TRANSITION FROM BOTTOM QUINTILE OF PARENTAL INCOME**

NYS 2019	Youth's Personal Income Quintile				
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Bottom Quintile of Parental Income	20.84%	25.05%	26.96%	10.90%	16.25%

TABLE 7: WELLBEING REGRESSIONS WITH PERCEIVED OPPORTUNITIES & INCENTIVES

	Model 1 (All)	Model 2 (Working)	Model 3 (Studying)	Model 1 (All)	Model 2 (Working)	Model 3 (Studying)
	Happiness			Life Satisfaction		
	(n=3,350)	(n=1,884)	(n=1,100)	(n=3,350)	(n=1,884)	(n=1,100)
Male	-0.065*	-0.067	-0.060	-0.058	-0.077*	-0.023
Non-Chinese	0.077*	0.084	0.024	0.002	0.039	-0.098
Married	0.186***	0.133**	0.081	0.188***	0.123**	0.292
Age	0.061*	0.153**	0.019	0.082***	0.138*	0.093
Age^2	-0.001*	-0.003**	-0.001	-0.002**	-0.003*	-0.002
Household Income Step	0.175***	0.169***	0.136***	0.218***	0.202***	0.167***
Career Opportunity	0.295***	0.279***	0.333***	0.275***	0.277***	0.285***
Work-Connection	0.025	0.032	0.013	0.042*	0.034	0.057
Inequality-Incentive	0.107***	0.095***	0.109***	0.091***	0.069***	0.101***

Wellbeing Regressions with Perceived Opportunity

- Career opportunity +
- Inequality as an incentive +
- Work-connection is the opposite of perceived meritocracy (social mobility)
- Perceived social mobility matters much in subjective wellbeing especially for the poor, and for the rich, the contribution of perceived social mobility to subjective wellbeing is dampened when inequality-incentive is high, suggesting that connections and luck may become more important.

Middle-Income Group

- Is the middle-income group squeezed between?
- Social mobility is much alive among the broad middle-income group of youths.
- Future research should explore the mobility barriers faced at the lower tail of the income distribution.

References

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