

SOCIAL MOBILITY in developing countries:

Emerging trends in Theory and Practice

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Problems of:

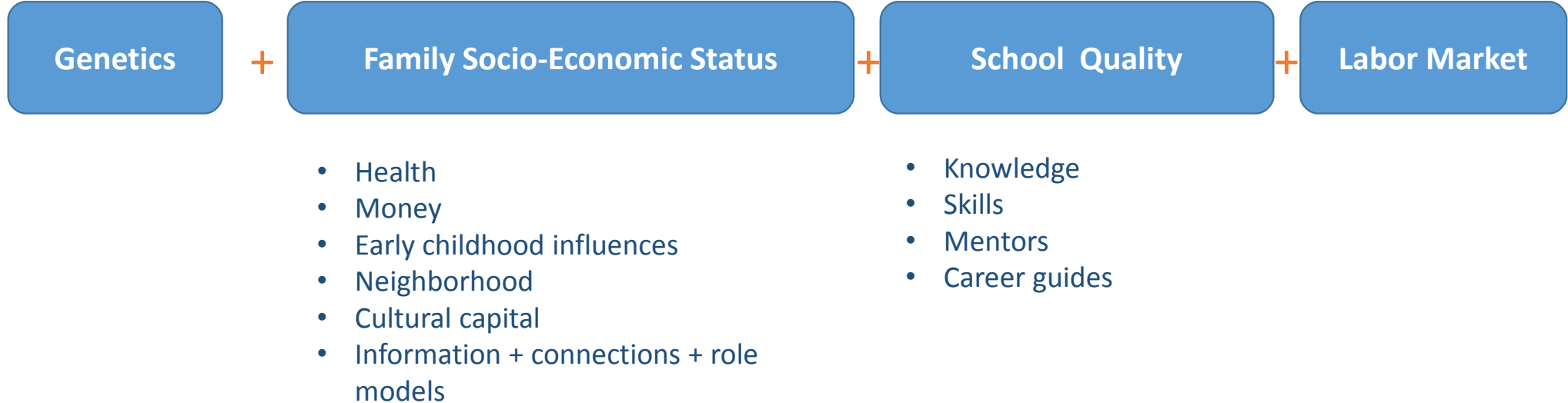
- **Data...**

But also

- **Concepts** (income, family...)

Growing body of work... many countries...

Equality of Opportunity: Pipeline of influences

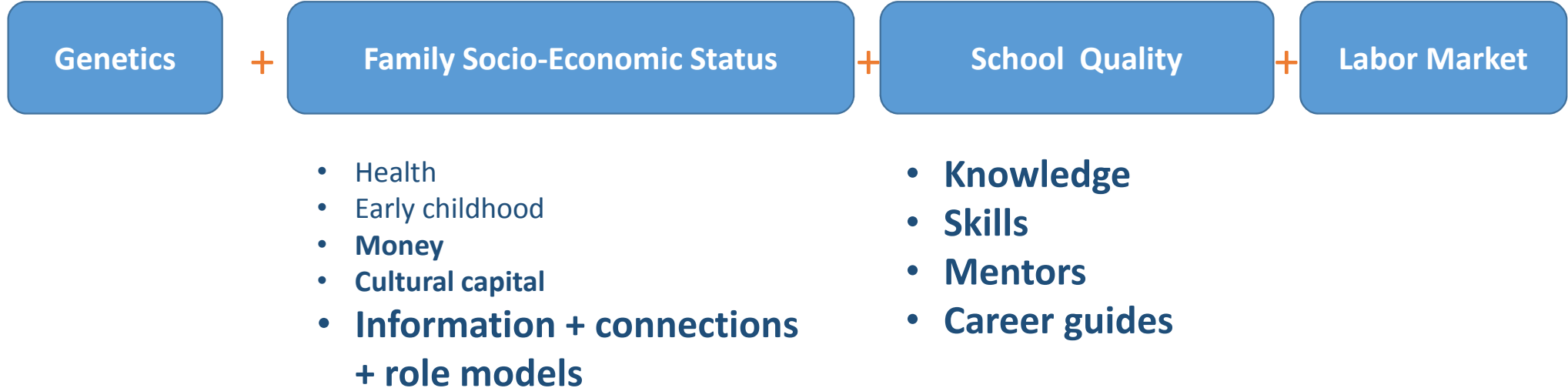


adapted from Krishna and Nolan (2018)

Organizations promoting social mobility (SMPOs):

- 30+ SMPOs in India
- Different parts of the pipeline
- Non-profit
- Relatively new (~ 5 years)
- Mostly urban
- ~ 100,000 young people annually

Practice: SMPOs promoting equality of opportunity



adapted from Krishna and Nolan (2018)

Similar efforts in other countries:

- In Southern Africa – Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa...
- Preliminary identification of more than 100 likely SMPOs
- Field verification...

SMPOs – a research agenda

Challenges

- Isolated
- Average organizational age: <10 years
- Urban >> rural
- Currently, no common research agenda

Opportunities

- Learning-process approach → models of scalable action
- Combining different parts of the pipeline
- Leadership and professionalization

New Project: Talent Ladders

- JAMAICA – world-beating sprinters
- ETHIOPIA - marathoners
- MALI – singers
- NIGERIA – novelists
- ESTONIA – software engineers
- HARYANA (INDIA) – wrestlers
- Others

Effectively, these systems work as ladders of opportunity...

Open access, meritocratic, zealously overseen by a variety of actors

Cast light on the “How to” question: How to promote opportunity more broadly in a nation