

SHORT ARTICLE

Modified BG Prasad Socio-economic Classification, Updated – 2020Dhrubajyoti J Debnath¹, Rakesh Kakkar²

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Abstract

SES of a family is often an important parameter of measurement in various health studies. Socioeconomic status is an important tool which influences the accessibility, affordability, acceptability, availability and utilization of various resources. The concept of socio-economic status is widely used in medical sociology.

Keywords

BG Prasad socio-economic status; Consumer Price Index CPI 2020

Introduction

Socio economic status (SES) is one of the prime factors influencing the health status of a nation. (1) SES of a family is often an important parameter of measurement in various health studies. Socioeconomic status is an important tool which influences the accessibility, affordability, acceptability, availability and utilization of various resources. The concept of socio-economic status is widely used in medical sociology. This is an important parameter affecting the health condition of an individual, family, social security system. Social class also influences the ability to identify the emotions of others (i.e., emotion perception). (2,3,4) SES also guide appropriate economic and public health policies. (5)

There are several scales to measure socio-economic status in India. The modified Kuppaswamy scale has combined education, occupation of the head of the family, and income per month of the family from all sources. Pareekh SES had added caste and family type with a total of nine indicators. In Gour's classification, expenditure was combined with income, education, occupation, and living standard. Tiwari SES used seven profiles i.e. housing, material possession, education, occupation, economic profile, cultivated land, and social profile in his scale. (6, 7) Modified BG Prasad's classification is used for both urban and rural areas. An update of Prasad's socio-economic

classification (1961) of Indian population has been proposed with relevance to the current consumer index price levels of January 2020. (8,9,10)

Modified BG Prasad scale is the one of the most widely used scale to measure the socioeconomic status of families. (11) B G Prasad's classification was based on per capita monthly income and the scale evolved in 1961. This was later modified in 1968 and 1970. (10,11,12) BG Prasad's classification was introduced considering the base of Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 1960 as 100 (10) modified in 1982 and 2001 by introducing linking factors to convert CPI (1982 and 2001) from the new base of 100 to the old base CPI (1960). (Table 1) The linking factors for 1982 and 2001 were 4.93 and 4.63, respectively. (8) All India average Consumer Price index (for Industrial workers) for January 2020 (on Base 2001=100) = 330. (13) Multiplication factor = Current index value (330)/Base index value in 2001 (100) = 3.3. Therefore, New income value = multiplication factor × old income value × 4.63 × 4.93. The updated values for the per capita monthly income (in Rs./month) for Jan 2020 are given in (Table 2)

Conclusion

Due to inflation, over a period of time there are changes in the Consumer price index in the country which makes it very essential to periodically update the socio-economic

scales based on income. In this article, the B G Prasad SES has been updated with the latest All India average Consumer Price index January 2020. This updated B G Prasad scale will be helpful for researchers using SES as one of the study variables.

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Tables

TABLE 1 REVISED PER CAPITA INCOME PER MONTH LIMITS

Price index by Old base (1960) for the original scale	Price index by new base (1982) for the year 1982	Linking factor between 1960 and 1982 series	Price index by new base (2001) for the year 2001	Linking factor between 1982 and 2001 series
100	100	4.63	100	4.93

TABLE 2 PROPOSED MODIFIED BG PRASAD’S SOCIAL CLASSIFICATION

Prasad’s social classification (1961)		Revision of the Prasad’s social classification for the year 2020	
Social Class	Per capita monthly income limits	Social Class	Revised for 2020 (in Rs./month)
I	100 and above	I	7533 and above
II	50-99	II	3766-7532
III	30-49	III	2260-3765
IV	15-29	IV	1130-2259
V	Below 15	V	1129 and Below