

An Updated Kuppuswamy's Socio-Economic Classification For 2017

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ABSTRACT

Social Stratification is division of society into various strata based on the socio demographic characteristics of the individuals. The important parameters that are used in stratification are Education, Occupation and Income. Kuppuswamy's Classification is one such classification which takes all the three parameters into account. It was first introduced by him in 1976. It is subjected to constant change from time to time with inflation. It is used mainly for Urban population.

Key words: Updated Kuppuswamy's Classification, Socio-economic, Social Stratification.

INTRODUCTION

Social Stratification is division of society into various strata based on the socio demographic characteristics of the individuals. Stratification is an essential component in sociology. It can help in identification of at risk groups in the community and application of preventive measures to such groups for prevention of disease. Close association between low socio economic status and diseases like malnutrition, communicable diseases, Diarrhoea, Acute respiratory illnesses has already established. ^[1]

The important parameters that are used in socio economic status are Education, Occupation and Income. ^[2] Some of the classifications for determining the socio economic status are Kuppuswamy's method, BG Prasad's method, Pareek's method, Kulshreshtha's method. B.G.Prasad classification takes Income into account and is based on the Per capita Income. In rural areas, the Pareek classification based on nine characteristics,

namely, caste, occupation, education, level of social participation of head of the family, landholding, housing, farm power, material possession, and total members in the family, is widely used. ^[3] In Urban areas modified Kuppuswamy's classification is used which takes Education, Occupation, Income into consideration. Each classification has its own advantages and disadvantages.

KUPPUSWAMY'S CLASSIFICATION:

Kuppuswamy's classification was given by Kuppuswamy in 1976 taking income of 1960 (100) as base. It is a composite scoring system which includes total monthly Income of the family, Education and Occupation of the head of the family. Scoring is given to each parameter. Minimum score is 3 and maximum score is 29. The scale classifies the study subjects into Upper, Upper middle, Lower middle, Upper lower and Lower classes.

MODIFICATION OF

KUPPUSWAMY'S CLASSIFICATION:

The Income variable in the classification is subjected to change with the changes in the inflation. So there is dire need for modification of the income variable so that it will be used by the public health professionals for classification of the study population. This scale was previously modified by Mishra *et al.*, for 1998 price index, [4] Kumar *et al.* [5]

Table 1: Original Kuppuswamy's Classification (1976):

PARAMETER	SCORE
EDUCATION	
Profession or Honors	7
Graduate or Post graduate	6
Intermediate or Post High School Diploma	5
High School Certificate	4
Middle School Certificate	3
Primary School Certificate	2
Illiterate	1
OCCUPATION	
Professional	10
Semiprofessional	6
Clerical or Shop owner or Farmer	5
Skilled worker	4
Semi Skilled worker	3
Unskilled worker	2
Unemployed	1
Family Income per month in 1976 (in Rs)	
>= 2000	12
1000 - 1999	10
750 - 999	6
500 - 749	4
300 - 499	3
101 - 299	2
<= 100	1
SOCIO – ECONOMIC CLASS	
Upper Class	26 - 29
Upper Middle Class	16 - 25
Lower Middle Class	11-15
Lower Upper Class	5-10
Lower Class	<5

The income ranges which are used will be relevant to the particular period of the study. So for every year a new income range should be calculated based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers. Labour bureau of India will give

Table 4: Modified Income Values for January 2017:

Family Income in 1976	Family Income in 1998	Family Income in 2017*
>=2000	>=13500	>=41985
1000 - 1999	6750 - 13499	20992 - 41984
750 - 999	5050 - 6749	15706 - 20991
500 - 749	3375 - 5049	10496 - 15705
300 - 499	2025 - 3374	6298 - 10495
101 - 299	676 - 2024	2102 - 6297
<= 100	<= 675	<=2101

*Approximate nearest values

It implies that Rs.2000/- of 1976 are equal to Rs.13500/- of 1998 and Rs.41985/- of 2017 January. This is due to the rise in inflation since 1976.

the CPI (IW). The CPI (IW) is released on the last working day of the succeeding month and is updated on the same day on the Labour Bureau website. The latest CPI available is for January 2017 which will be valid till the end of March 2017. The CPI (IW) for January 2017 is 275 available in the website http://labourbureaunew.gov.in/LBO_indnu m.htm

Table 2: The reference indices according to the years are as follows:

YEAR	REFERANCE INDEX
1960	100 (Base)
1976	296
1982	490 – 100 (New Base given by Mishra <i>et al</i> [4])
1998	405
2001	458 – 100 (New Base given by Kumar <i>et al</i> [5])

Calculation of the Conversion factor: [6]

Price index by old base for 2001 = 458

Assuming price index by new base for 2001 = 100

Price index by old base for 1998 was 405.

Price index by new base for 1998 = 100/458 X 405 = 88.428

Table 3: Calculation of Conversion Factor:

YEAR	ALL INDIA CPI(IW)**	CONVERSION FACTOR
2008	147	147/88.428=1.66
2009	169	169/88.428=1.91
2010	181	181/88.428=2.05
2011	185	185/88.428=2.09
2012	198	198/88.428=2.24
2013	228	228/88.428=2.57
2014	244	244/88.428=2.75
2015	266	266/88.428=3.01
2016	274	274/88.428=3.10
2017	275	275/88.428=3.11

** Given by Labour Bureau, Govt. of India, are of different months of a year

The above obtained conversion factor should be multiplied to the base values given in 1998.

Final calculation of new income values is given by formula

$$\begin{aligned} \text{INCOME FOR A GIVEN MONTH} &= \text{BASE VALUE OF INCOME FOR 1998} \times \text{CONVERSION FACTOR.} \\ \text{CONVERSION FACTOR} &= \text{ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX} / \text{PRICE INDEX BY NEW BASE FOR 1998.} \\ \text{PRICE INDEX FOR NEW BASE FOR 1998} &\text{ IS 88.428 AND IS CONSTANT, TILL THE BASE GETS CHANGED.} \\ \text{ALL INDIA CPI (IW)} &\text{ VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH.} \\ \text{INCOME FOR GIVEN MONTH IS GIVEN BY:} & \\ & \frac{\text{BASE VALUE OF INCOME FOR 1998} \times \text{ALL INDIA CPI (IW)}}{88.428} \end{aligned}$$

So for January 2017, the income should be $13500 \times 275/88.428 = 41984$ or greater for score of 12. Similarly all incomes for other scores can be calculated in the given manner manually.

This can be calculated with the online available tool on <http://scaleupdate.weebly.com/> [7]

Limitations of the Scale:

1. Scale should be updated from time to time to ensure its constant use.
2. It takes the Occupation and Education of the Head of the Family into account. In Indian societies there will be joint families which will be headed by grandparents who will be illiterate and unemployed.
3. It does not take the family size into consideration. Small family with same income as any other large family will enjoy upward social mobility.

CONCLUSION

Socioeconomic classification is an important predictor of the health status of an individual or a family. So, it should be constantly updated for the use of health care professionals. The latest update is till January 2017 which will be valid till the end of March 2017.

Conflicts of Interest: None.

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