

SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS SCALE-2023

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ABSTRACT

The health status of any country depends on the socio-economic status (SES) and the per capita income of its citizens. The SES also decides the affordability and utilization of the economic facilities available. Constant changes in the price of goods in the country due to inflation make it mandatory to constantly update the income-based socioeconomic scales. On reviewing the previous SES Scale developed by Kuppuswamy, Prasad and Udai pareek,the investigators developed a new version of SES Scale.

Keywords:

Socioeconomic, Scale, Status.

INTRODUCTION

Socio economic status (SES) refers to an individual's position within a hierarchical social structure, Composite scales are generally used to measure the SES, which has a combination of social and economic variables. There is no direct measure of the social status of an individual; therefore, an attempt had been made by many eminent researchers and social scientists in the past to formulate a composite index to measure it. Several methods or scales have been proposed for classifying different populations by socioeconomic status: Rahudkar scale (1960), Udai Parikh scale (1964), Jalota Scale (1970), Kulshrestha scale (1972), Kuppuswamy scale (1976), Shrivastava scale (1978), Bharadwaj scale (2001).

The most commonly used scales for measuring socioeconomic status are Kuppuswamy scale, and Uday Pareek scale which has been used for both urban and rural areas, urban areas, and rural areas. However, social transformation and fast-growing economy have rendered these scales ineffective in measuring the SES at present. Hence considering present factors they have been revised.

Socio-economic status scale

(i) The modified Kuppuswamy scale is commonly used to measure SES in urban and semi-urban communities. The Kuppuswamy scale was devised by Kuppuswamy in 1976 and is based on a composite score considering the education and occupation of the head of the family along with monthly income of the family, which yields a score of 3-29. This scale classifies the study populations into high, middle, and low SES. However, the income ranges in the scale lose their relevance following the depreciation in the value of the Rupee. Therefore; it is needed to update the scale regularly for socioeconomic classification of study populations.

Multiplying the income scale of 2001 by 3.09 updates the scale for January 2017 Kuppuswamy' scale however has limitations as there is an overemphasis on income rather than educational and occupational factors. Education and occupation factors also need to be revised by using suitable survey methods.

(ii) BG Prasad's classification is used in both urban and rural areas and is based on per capita monthly income. It was introduced in 1961 considering the base of Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 1960 as 100.8 The scale was modified in 1982 and 2010 by introducing linking factors to convert CPI (1982 and 2010) from the new base of 100 to the old base CPI (1960). The linking factors for 1982 and 2001 were 4.93 and 4.63 respectively.

The advantage with BG Prasad's classification is that it takes into consideration only the income as a variable and is easy to calculate and it is applicable both for urban and rural families. As price index value will be updated at frequent intervals there is need for simultaneous updating of this socio-economic classification and this is a limitation.

(iii) Udai Pareek' socio-economic status scale attempts to examine the socio-economic status for rural population. This scale has nine factors which assess the socio-economic status of the individual after filling the information, and scoring the individual items, the total score is summed up and interpreted in terms of the class.

Income is a sensitive issue for the families and they may not be comfortable in discussing it with the interviewer. Udai Pareek scale does not collect information on income, so the data collected with the scale may be more valid.

After the careful review of the above three SES Scales the investigators decided to develop a new SES Scale which satisfies all the dimensions followed earlier with the few more dimensions added. Hence the new SES Scale has been furnished with the following dimensions.

- (i). Education qualification
- (ii) Occupation
- (iii) Monthly income
- (iv) Land details
- (v) Vehicles Owned

Based on their dimensions the scoring has been allocated with the weight ages from 5 to 0 in all dimensions. The data has been collected from the family head only.

D -I	Educational qualifications	Scores
1.	Professional Degree	5
2.	Post Graduation Degree	4
3.	Graduation Degree	3
4.	School Education – Higher secondary	2
5.	School Education – High school	1
6.	Illiterate	0

D- II	Occupation	Scores
1.	Government sector	5
2.	Private sector	4
3.	Business	3
4.	Self Employed	2
5.	Daily wages	1
6.	Unemployed	0

D-III	Monthly Income of Family	Scores
1.	Above 80,000	5
2.	Above 50,000 up to 80,000	4
3.	Above 25,000 up to 50,000	3
4.	Above 15,000 up to 25,000	2
5.	Above 5,000 up to 15,000	1
6.	Up to 5,000	0

D-IV	Land Details in (Acres)	Scores
1.	Above 10	5
2.	8 to 10	4
3.	5 to 8	3
4.	2 to 5	2
5.	Up to 2	1
6.	No land	0

D- V	Vehicles Owned	Scores
1.	Both Two Wheelers and Four Wheelers	5
2.	Four wheelers	4
3.	More than One Motor cycle	3
4.	One Motor cycle	2
5.	Only Cycle	1
6.	No Vehicle	0

CONCLUSION:

Thus the investigators developed an instrument to measure the socio-economic status of the students in respect to the present scenario in the Tamilnadu state of India.

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