

REVIEW ARTICLE

**An Update on B.G.Prasad's
Socio-Economic Classification**

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Keywords

NA

Received

20 February, 2017

Reviewed

24 February, 2017

Accepted

05 March, 2017

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. B.G.Prasad's Classification was first introduced in 1961.It was based on the per capita income. It is simple to calculate and is subjected to constant change from time to time with inflation. Socioeconomic classification is an important predictor of the health status of an individual or a family.

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 established¹.

The important parameters that are used in socio economic status are Education, Occupation and Income². Some of the classifications for determining the socio economic status are Kuppuswamy's method, BG Prasad's method, Pareek's method, Kulshreshta's method. B.G.Prasad classification takes Income into account and is based on the Per capita Income.

B.G.Prasad's Classification:

B.G.Prasad's Classification was first introduced in 1961. It was based on the per capita income.

Per Capita Monthly Income = Total Monthly Family Income From All Sources / Total No. Of Family Members.

The Consumer Price Index for 1961 is 100. Based on that, the classification for 1961 was designed. It was later revised by himself in 1968 and 1970^{3,4}.

Advantages: It is simple to calculate, It takes only income variable into consideration.

Disadvantages: Income variable is subjected to constant change from time to time with inflation. To overcome this disadvantage this classification should be updated from time to time.

SOCIAL CLASS	PER CAPITA INCOME PER MONTH (In Rs) FOR 1961
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Class I (Upper Class)	100 and above
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Class II (Upper Middle Class)	50-99
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Class III (Middle Class)	30-49
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Class IV (Lower Middle Class)	15-29
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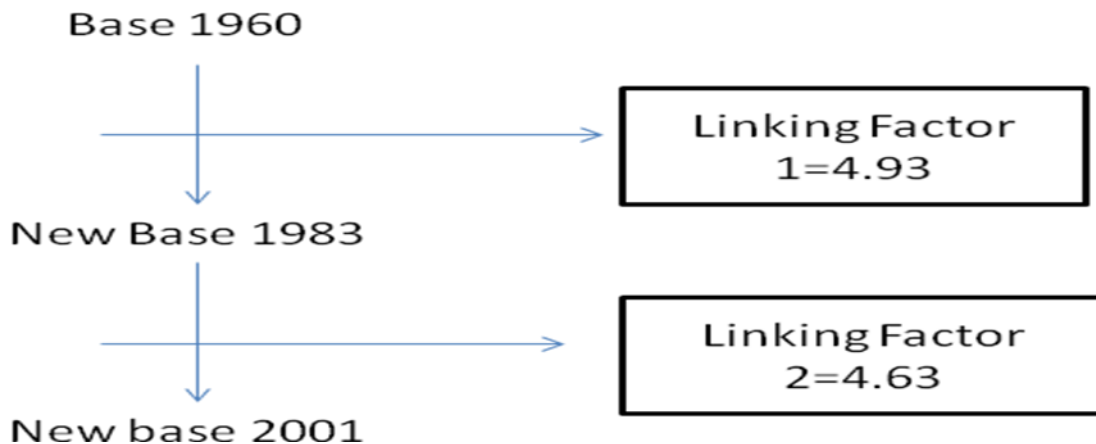
Class V (Lower Class)	<15
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REVISION OF B.G.PRASAD'S

CLASSIFICATION:

After 1970, BG Prasad's scale was modified by Kumar in 1993⁵. The consumer price index of 1982 was set as the new base. For this

conversion a new linking factor of 4.93 was introduced to convert CPI of 1960 base to CPI of 1982. With the changes in the inflation again in 2001 a new base was set by introducing another linking factor of 4.63. Labour bureau of India has given the linking factors.



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.

Calculating the new income values:

Calculation of the current month income values is given by the formula:

$$\text{Income for given month} = \text{Old Income Value (Base 1960)} \times \text{Multiplication Factor} \times \text{Linking Factor 1} \times \text{Linking Factor 2}$$

Multiplication factor = Current CPI / Index value of 2000 i.e 100.

Calculation of values for December 2016:

CPI for December is 275. Therefore Multiplication Factor is 2.75. For belonging to Class I the total income should be

$$100(\text{Base value for 1960}) \times 2.75 \times 4.93 \times 4.63 = 6277.$$

So the families whose per capita income is greater than Rs.6277/- belong to Class I according to BG Prasad's Classification.

This can be calculated with the online available tool on <http://prasadscaleupdate.weebly.com/>⁶

Revised monthly Per Capita Values for the month of December 2016:

SOCIAL CLASS	PER CAPITA INCOME PER MONTH (In Rs) FOR December 2016
Class I (Upper Class)	6277 and above
Class II (Upper Middle Class)	3139 - 6276
Class III (Middle Class)	1883 - 3138
Class IV (Lower Middle Class)	943 - 1882
Class V (Lower Class)	<942

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 December 2016.

Conflicts of Interest : None.

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