

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DOI: 10.26727/NJRCM.2020.9.4.129-131

Year: 2020 Vol: 9 Issue: 4. Oct-Dec. Page: 129-131

Modified BG Prasad socioeconomic scale classification update based on New CPI (IW) series from September 2020

Velmurugan Anbu Ananthan^{1*}

Affiliation: 1. Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Government Theni Medical College, Theni, Tamilnadu

***Author for correspondence:** Dr. Velmurugan Anbu Ananthan, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Government Theni Medical College, Theni, Tamilnadu. E mail: vel416@gmail.com

Date of Submission : 16-11-2020

Date of online Publication : 13-12-2020

Date of Acceptance : 12-12-2020

Date of Print Publication : 31-12-2020

ABSTRACT

Socio-economic Status determines the health status of an individual and their compliance to treatment by affecting their affordability and financial stability. Inflation and rise in the cost of the living cannot be prevented. Socio Economic status is an important variable in medical research. Its classification warrants the researchers to constantly update the income-based categories so that the assessment can be done correctly in practice. The Labour Bureau, government of India has revised the base year of the existing Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Industrial workers (IW) series 2001 = 100 to a more recent, 2016 = 100. In this letter, an attempt has been made to update the Modified BG Prasad scale based on new index for September 2020.

Key word: Socio-economic status, Socio-economic classification, Modified BG Prasad scale, Consumer Price Index (CPI), Industrial workers, update, 2020

Nat.J.Res.Com.Med. 2020; 9(4). © Community Medicine Faculties Association-2020

CORRESPONDENCE/FINDINGS

Sir,

Socio Economic Status is one of the important baseline characteristics that determine the health status of an individual. It plays a major role in health seeking behaviour of an individual. It is also an important variable in medical research and is included in analysis of almost all the studies. The two most used Socio-Economic Status (SES) scales are Modified Kuppaswamy scale and Modified BG Prasad scale. BG Prasad scale considers only the per capita monthly income of the family members and can be easily computed.^{1,2} Kuppaswamy SES scale is based on 3 variables – Monthly total family income, Occupation and Education of the head of the Family. The aim of this letter was to update on the income ranges for Modified BG Prasad scale based on the recently released All India Consumer Price Index

(CPI) for Industrial workers (IW) with 2016 as baseline(=100).³ Prior to the current release, baseline was used as 2001(=100) as shown in Table 1.⁴

Income limits for a socioeconomic scale are determined by the All India CPI released by the Labour Bureau, Government of India on monthly basis. They are updated regularly with an Index value in comparison to a base year. The base year of 2001 has been used for long and was awaiting an update. It was recently updated for the month of September to a new baseline

Table 1 shows the CPI (IW) from January 2020 to September 2020. Till August 2020, old baseline, 2001(=100) was followed. From September 2020, new baseline series, 2016 (=100) has been adapted.³ According to the release of Labour Bureau, CPI (IW) September 2020 = 118 with 2016 (=100) as baseline.

By using a linking factor of 2.88 between 2001 and 2016 series,

Table 1: Consumer price index for Industrial Workers from 2018 to 2020- CPI (IW): Base 2001=100

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2018	288	287	287	288	289	291	301	301	301	302	302	301
2019	307	307	309	312	314	316	319	320	322	325	328	330
2020	330	328	326	329	330	332	336	338	340*			

* *Calculated using linking factors *September value for 2020 with base year as 2001= $118.13 \times 2.884,5 = 340$

*CPI(IW) value for a month will be released on the last working day of the subsequent month **Source:** Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. ^{3,4,5}

Table 2: Modified BG Prasad scale income limits September 2020 in Rupees

Social Class	Per capita monthly income limits(1960)	Per capita monthly income limits (2001) = 1960 value X 4.93 x 4.63	Per capita monthly income limits (2016) = 2001 value X 2.88	Per capita monthly income limits, Sept 2020 =2016 value X 1.18
I (upper class)	100 and above	2283 and above	6575 and above	7759 and above
II (upper middle)	50-99	1142-2282	3289-6574	3881-7758
III (middle)	30-49	685-1141	1973-3288	2328-3880
IV (lower middle)	15-29	343-684	988-1972	1166-2327
V (lower class)	<15	<343	<988	<1166

Source:

1. 1960 limits from BG Prasad scale^{1,2}

2. Linking factors from Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. ^{3,4,5}

CPI (IW) for September 2020 can be calculated as 340 with 2001 (=100) as baseline.

Table 2 shows the updated per capita income limits for Modified BG Prasad scale September 2020.

4.93 and 4.63 are linking factors between 1960 to 1982 series and 1982 to 2001 series respectively.

2.88 is the linking factor between 2001 and 2016.^{4,5}

2020 September CPI (IW) = 118 (with Base 2016=100).^{3,4}

Per capita monthly income limits (2001) = 1960 value X 4.93 x 4.63^{1,2,4,5}

Per capita monthly income limits (2016) = 2001 value X 2.88^{4,5}

Per capita monthly income limits (September 2020) = 2016 value X 1.18^{3,4}

This updated B G Prasad scale shown in Table 2 will be help the researchers to understand the updates in the income limits and encourage them to apply it in

their day to day research rather than using the old values. These values are also available for different states and different classes of workers. They can help the researcher in calculating more specific income ranges. The CPI (IW) for every month is updated on the labour bureau website on the last working day of the succeeding month.

REFERENCES

1. Prasad BG. Social classification of Indian families. J Indian Med Assoc. 1961;37:250-1.
2. Prasad BG. Changes proposed in the social classification of Indian families. J Indian Med Assoc 1970;55:198-9.
3. Labour Bureau; Ministry of Labour and Employment; Government of India [Internet]. Report on New Series of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) (Base 2016 = 100) [cited 2020 Oct 30]. Available from: http://labourbureaunew.gov.in/UserContent/Report_CPI_IW_New_Series_Base_2016.pdf

4. Labour Bureau; Ministry of Labour and Employment; Government of India [Internet]. Index Number. [CPI \(IW\) Base 2001=100, Base 2016=100](#). All India General Index [cited 2020 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://labourbureaunew.gov.in/>
5. Labour Bureau; Ministry of Labour and Employment; Government of India [Internet]. Linking factors between new series and old Series [cited 2020 Oct 29]. Available from: http://labourbureaunew.gov.in/LBO_Linkin_gFactors.htm

Conflict of Interest : None

Source of funding support : Nil

© Community Medicine Faculties Association-2020

NJRCM: www.njrcmindia.com www.commedjournal.in

