

**REVISED SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS SCALES: AN UPDATE ON THE MODIFIED KUPPUSWAMY AND MODIFIED BG PRASAD INDICES FOR APRIL 2024****Dr. Rama Shankar\***

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**KEYWORDS :****INTRODUCTION**

Socio-economic status (SES) is a measure of a person or family's position in society, determined by factors such as cultural and material belongings, income, and participation in community group activities.[1] Factors such as an individual's nutritional health, mortality rates, and general morbidity are key indicators of how socio-economic status (SES) impacts their well-being. Additionally, understanding how a person utilizes healthcare services is crucial for public health researchers. Collecting sociodemographic information is also vital in many research papers and dissertations. The modified Kuppuswamy scale, and modified BG (Brahm Govind) Prasad scale, is widely used for categorizing socioeconomic status.[2] The BG Prasad SES scale is suitable for both urban and rural settings, whereas the Kuppuswamy scale is predominantly used in urban areas. While it is ideal for all public health researchers to continuously update these scales, this article aims to assist early-career researchers by providing the most current data as of April 2024.

**Modified BG Prasad Classification**

The Modified BG Prasad scale classifies individuals based on their economic status using monthly per capita income. This classification is subject to annual changes due to inflation rates and fluctuations in consumer goods prices. Each month, the Labour Bureau, under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, computes the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for industrial workers.[3] This index is compiled using data from 317 commercial centers located in 88 major industrial zones across the country. For the month of April 2024, the All-India CPI-IW was 139.4.[4]

Periodic adjustments is mandatory from time to time since its inception in 1961 wherein base year was taken as 1960 with a C.P.I value of 100. Such yearly adjustments had included linkage factors (LF) to bring back C.P.I to its base year value of 1960.It was equal to 4.63 in 1982 .It reached up to 4.93 in 2001. and declined upto 2.88 in 2016.[5,6]

The formula used to update the income values is:

- Updated Income Values for April 2024=Correction Factor × Old Income Value of 1961
- Correction Factor=LF for Base Year 1982×LF for Base Year 2001×LF for Base Year 2016 × Current CPI [IW] /Base Index in 2016

To calculate the correction factor, we first obtained the linkage factors (LF) for the periods between 1960 and 1982 (4.63), 1982 and 2001 (4.93), and 2001 and 2016 (2.88). These factors were then multiplied together and divided by 100, the base index for 2016. This calculation yielded a correction factor of 91.64. The revised per capita monthly income values for April 2024 are presented in Table I..

**Table 1: Modified BG Prasad Scale for April 2024 (Rupees/Month)**

Socio Economic Class	Original BG Prasad classification of 1961 (Rupees/month)	Correction factor for April 2024 (4.63 x 4.93 x 2.88 x139.4*/100) =91.64)	Modified BG Prasad classification for April 2024 (Rupees/month)
I- Upper	≥100	91.64	91.64 x100 ≥9164
II- Upper Middle	50-99	91.64	91.64 x 50 4582-9163

III- Middle	30-49	91.64	91.64 x 30	2749-4581
IV-Lower Middle	15-29	91.64	91.64 x 15	1375-2748
V- Lower	<15	91.64		<1375

\*All India CPI (IW) for April 2024)

**Modified Kuppuswamy socio-economic Scale**

The scale was initially developed to measure an individual's socio-economic status (SES), but it was later adapted to assess the SES of a family. The evaluation is based on three key factors: the educational level of the head of the family, the occupation of the head of the family, and the family's total monthly income. Each factor is divided into subgroups with assigned scores. The education parameter ranges from 1 to 7, the occupation parameter ranges from 1 to 10, and the income parameter ranges from 1 to 12. The total score can vary between 3 and 29, with 29 being the highest possible score. The CPI (IW) is the most commonly used and appropriate Consumer Price Index for updating socio-economic classifications, as it accurately reflects the spending habits of a typical working-class family.

The given inflation rate figure for Apr 2024 is 3.87 [7] The base year for calculation of income figures is taken as 2016 [8]. The inflation factor (conversion factor) is calculated as follows:

- Inflation Factor= ((CPI of the current year – CPI of the previous year) × 100)/CPI of the previous year (where)
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the current year (April 2024) is 139.4,
- CPI for the previous year (April 2023) is 134.2.[9].
- Inflation factor=3.87

**Table 2 reflects the expected incomes of April 2024.****Table 2: Total monthly family income for Modified Kuppuswamy Scale along with the scores**

Monthly family income updated for 2016	Inflation Rate (139.4*-134.2**) x 100/134.2	Monthly family income updated for April 2024	Score
≥40,430	3.87	≥156464	12
20,210–40,430	3.87	78213-156463	10
15,160–20,210	3.87	58669-78212	6
10,110–15,160	3.87	39126-58668	4
6060–10,110	3.87	23452-39125	3
2021–6060	3.87	7821-23451	2
<2021		<7821	1

\*CPI (IW for April 24 is 139.4

\*\*CPI (IW for April 23 is 134.2

The educational and occupational scores for the head of the household are shown in Tables 3 and 4, respectively. A total score is obtained by aggregating the scores from the education, employment, and income factors. The overall score is then used to categorise households, as seen in Table 5.

**Table 3: Scoring for education of the head of the family as per Modified Kuppuswamy Scale**

Education of the head of the family	Score
Profession or honours	7
Graduate	6
Intermediate or diploma	5
High school certificate	4
Middle school certificate	3

Primary school certificate	2
Illiterate	1

**Table 4: Scoring for occupation of the head of the family as per Modified Kuppuswamy Scale [10]**

Occupation of the head of the family	Score
Legislators, senior officers and managers	10
Professionals	9
Technicians and associate professionals	8
Clerks	7
Skilled workers and shop and market sales workers	6
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	5
Craft and related trade workers	4
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	3
Elementary occupation	2
Unemployed	1

**Table 5: Modified Kuppuswamy socio-economic status scale**

Total score	Socio-economic class
26–29	Upper (I)
16–25	Upper middle (II)
11–15	Lower middle (III)
5–10	Upper lower (IV)
<5	Lower (V)

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