



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Prasad's Socioeconomic Scale Updated For 2019

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To the Editor,

Prasad's social classification is based on the indicator per capita monthly income. It was formulated in 1961 and further modified in 1968 and 1970 by Dr BG Prasad. It has been extensively used in India to determine the socioeconomic status of individuals or families residing in urban and rural areas. It is a simple tool used by medical students and researchers in community based studies.¹⁻³ With the passage of time and inflammation in economy, the

original limits set in this classification became substantially low and impractical. Although Kumar ⁴ linked Prasad's classification (1961) with the All India Consumer Price Index (AICPI), it has lower validity due to great variations in the Consumer Price Index. The CPI value changes monthly which is available at <http://labourbureau.gov.in>. Thus there is a constant need for updating the Prasad's classification as follows:

Table 1: Method of Updating Prasad's classification ⁵

Price index by old base (1960) for the original scale = 100
Price index by new base (1982) for the year 1982 = 100
Linking factor between 1960 and 1982 series = 4.63
Price index by new base (2001) for the year 2001 = 100
Linking factor between 1982 and 2001 series = 4.93
For arriving at corresponding family income cutoff values for year 2001 New income value = (old value × 4.63 × 4.93).
The new values are calculated by further applying a multiplying factor:
Multiplying factor = current index value (X)/Base index value in 2001 (100) = X/100

To calculate the updated values for the current year, we have to consider the latest All-India Average Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (Base 2001 = 100). The value of the index for February 2019 is 307. The new values are calculated by further applying a multiplying factor =

current index value (307)/Base index value in 2001 (100) = 3.07. The updated values for the per capita monthly income (in Rupees/month) for February 2019 are given below in Table 2. They have been calculated using the online tool. ⁶

Table 2: Revision of BG Prasad's Classification for 2019

Social class	B G Prasad's classification 1961	Modified B G Prasad's classification for February 2019
1.Upper high	100 and above	Rs 7008 and above
2.High	50-99	Rs 3504-7007
3.Upper middle	30-49	Rs 2102-3503
4.Lower middle	15-29	Rs 1051-2101
5.Poor	Below 15	Below Rs 1050

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