Socio Economic Status of Urban and Rural Families of Jammu District

Santoshi Kumari, Vijay Kumar Shivgotra, Pawan Kumar

Abstract
Background: The Socio Economic Status is an important determinant of health and nutritional status as well as mortality and morbidity.
Objective: The present study was conducted with the objective of Measuring the Socio Economic Status of urban and rural families of Jammu district.
Methodology: Multistage sampling technique was adopted in the selection of four blocks with two urban and two rural blocks of Jammu district in the year 2014 with total 320 families identified by stratified random technique. The proposed SES scale based on kuppuswami SES scales for urban and pareekh SES scale for rural.
Result: The analysis shows that out of 320 families 33(10.31%) families belongs to high class, 158(49.37%) families belongs to upper middle class and 129(40.31%) belongs to lower middle class. Out of 160 urban families 26(16.25%) families belongs to high class, 79(49.38%) belongs to upper middle class and 55(34.38%) belongs to lower middle class whereas in out of 160 rural families 7(4.38%)families belongs to high class,79(49.38%) belongs to upper middle class and 74(46.25) belongs to lower middle class.

Keywords: Socio economic status, education, occupation, income and expenditure, development indicators, rural, urban.

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1. Introduction

The socio economic status (SES) is an important determinant of health and nutritional status as well as of mortality and morbidity. Socioeconomic status (SES) is a measure of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on various variables responsible for that like income, education, occupation, family effluence, physical assets, social position, social participation, political influence, etc. Majority of researchers agree that income, education and occupation together best represent SES, while some others feel that changes in family structure, family effluence etc. should also be considered. Wealth is also considered a determinant of SES, which is a set of economic reserves or assets, presents a source of security providing a measure of a household's ability to meet emergencies, absorb economic shocks, or provide the means to live comfortably. Socioeconomic status also influences actual utilization of various available health facilities. There have been several attempts time to time to develop different scales to measure the socioeconomic status.

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SES classification namely Kuppuswami scale11 is widely used

to measure the socio-economic status of an individual in urban communities. It is based on three variables namely education, occupation and income. Letter on modification of Kuppuswami scale were done, where the education and occupation of head of the family and income per capita per month was used. For the rural areas, Pareekh classification became popular based on nine characteristics namely caste, occupation of family head, education of family head, level of social participation of family head, landholding, housing, farm power, material possessions and type of family. Kuppuswami scale has 22 questions regarding various indicators of SES. Likewise, there are many SES scales, some are good for rural community but not for urban, some had considered limited determinants of SES and few are considering a number of similar determinants many times.

Socio-economic status (SES) is one of the most important variables in social science studies/researches. So there is a continuous need to develop a quite reliable, valid and applicable SES scale. Moreover, these scales were developed for a particular type of population not applicable to larger representative cross-section of the community.

Objective of the Study

The present study was proposed to determine the socio-economic status of the individual or family enlisting the majority of measure of socio-economic status of present era in a complied scientific manner through validated socioeconomic status indicators.

Methodology

The study was conducted in urban and rural blocks of Jammu

district. Data were collected from rural & urban population with the aid of pretested and validated Questionnaire. A total of 320 three hundred twenty urban and rural samples were selected for the study using multistage sampling technique. The sampling techniques include random selection of two rural and two urban blocks of Jammu district viz. Jammu, Gandhi nagar, Marh and Bhalwal. The instrument was validated against the only available and widely used Kuppuswami.s modified scale of urban population and Pareekh scale for rural population. The present instrument is proposed to measure the socio-economic status of the family and is neither based on the individual nor on the head of the family. unlike the commonly used Kuppuswami Scale and later its modification, the modified version of Kuppuswami Scale and Pareekh Scale, the instrument developed by us is applicable both for urban as well as rural families. Moreover, the instrument has been developed for all sections of the Society. In the final form, the scale consisted of 23 items. Suitable weight-age was given to each item and scoring for each item was based on a scale ranging from 0 to 9. The maximum aggregate score was 100. Based on the final score, the socio-economic states of the family is divided into six socio-economic categories, namely Upper high (combined score of more than 76), High (61-75), Upper Middle (46-60), Lower Middle (31-45), Poor (16-30) and Very Poor (combined score less than 15). In the present study, the instrument was used to assess the socio-economic status of all strata of the society.

Kuppuswami's Classification of Socioeconomic status:
It is based on Education, Occupation and income of Family Head

Question (Item) 1 enquired about the monthly per capita income in rupees from all sources.

Family income/month(in Rs)		Score
1)	36000 above	7
2)	31000-35000	6
3)	26000-30000	5
4)	21000-25000	4
5)	15000-20000	3
6)	10001-14999	2
7)	>10000	1

Question 2: Regarding the education of either the husband or wife who was more educated amongst them.

EDUCATION	SCORE
1.Professional qualification with technical degrees or diplomas e.g. Doctor, Eng, CA, MBA, etc	7
2.Post graduation(non-technical incl. PhD)	6
3.Graduation	5
4.10th pass but < graduation	4
5. Primary pass but <10th	3
6.<Primary but attended school for at least 1 year	2
7.Just literate but no schooling	1
8.Illerate	0

Question 3: regarding the Occupation of either the husband or wife.

OCCUPATION	Score
1. Service in central/state/public undertaking or owner of a company employing	5
2. Service in private sector or independent business employing 2-20 persons	4
3. Service at shops, home, transports, own cultivation of land	3
4. Self employed e.g. shops, rehdies or petty business with income>5000	2
5. Self employed with income <5000	1

Socio economic total score graded

Socio economic status	Total Scores
1) Upper High	≥76
2) High	61-75
3) Upper middle	46-60
4) Lower middle	31-45
5) Poor	16-30
6) very poor or below poverty line	≤15

RESULTS

In the present study 320 families were visited and interviewed; of which 160 were in rural and 160 in urban settings from 4 blocks of Jammu district. From each block we select 2 areas & out of each area we interview 40 household. All the 23 individual questions (Items) were analyzed. However, the results of first two questions are being discussed below:

Question (Item) 1 enquired about the monthly per capita income in rupees from all sources. It was calculated by dividing the total monthly income in rupees from all sources. The question was rated on a 7 point scale with scoring from 1 (for those having monthly per capita income less than Rs. 10,000 per month) to 7 (for those having monthly per capita income more than Rs. 36,000 and above). Question 2 was regarding the education of either the husband or wife who was more educated amongst them.

Fig.1 Histogram showing Socio economic Status.

from 0 (zero) to 7 amongst them. According to our study, 4 families (2.05%) in rural and 26(16.25%) urban people services in central/state/public undertaking or owner of a company employing, 21(13.13%) in rural and 19(11.88%) in urban people services in private sector or independent business employing, 118(73.75%) in rural & 83(51.88%) urban people service at shops, home, transports, own cultivation of land & 17(10.63%) in rural and 32(20%) urban people are Self employed e.g. shops, rehdies or petty business. With accordance to the Kuppuswami.s classification of Total Grade Scores of the socioeconomic status, the research data depicts through the above table that, 33(10.31%) families belonged to high class, 158(49.37%) belonged to upper middle and 129(40.31%) belongs to lower middle class. Out of 160 urban families 26(16.25%) families belongs to high class, 79(49.38%) belongs to upper middle class and 55(34.38%) belongs to lower middle class whereas in out of 160 rural families 7(4.38%)families belongs to high class,79(49.38%) belongs to upper middle class and 74(46.25%) belongs to lower middle class.

Further, great majority of the families were with upper middle and lower middle socioeconomic status, while few families with high socioeconomic status and very few rural families were with high socioeconomic status. Based on the fact and figures of the above table, occupations of the respondents were rating on five point scale with a scores ranging from 1 to 5. It is observed that, 9.38% were Service in central/state/public or owner of a company employing, while 12.08% were Service in private sector or independent business employing and 62.82% Service at shops, home, transports, own cultivation of land &15.32% were Self employed e.g. shops, rehdies or petty business. The overall average scores were found to be 48.53 with the Standard Deviation of 7.919 as shown in histogram fig.1. The data is tabulated and analyzed in SPSS version 21.
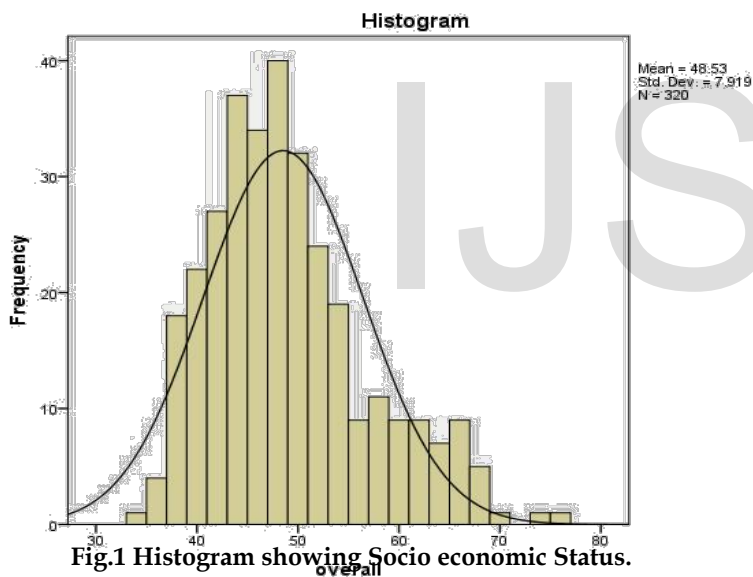
This item was rated on seven point scale with scores ranging

QUALIFICATION	Rural	Urban	Total
Illitrate	9(5.163%)	4(2.5%)	13(4.06%)

Primary school	17(10.63%)	15(9.38%)	32(10%)
Middle school	41(25.63%)	36(22.5%)	77(24.06)
Matriculation	75(46.88%)	53(33.13%)	128(40%)
Intermediate/Undergraduate	12(7.05%)	30(18.75%)	42(13.13%)
Graduate	5(3.13%)	19(11.88%)	24(7.5%)
Post graduate & above	1(0.63%)	3(1.88%)	4(1.25%)
OCCUPATION			
Service in central/state/public undertaking or owner of a company employing	4(2.05%)	26(16.25%)	30(9.38%)
Service in private sector or independent business employing 2-20 persons	21(13.13%)	19(11.88%)	40(12.08%)
Service at shops, home, transports, own cultivation of land	118(73.75%)	83(51.88%)	201(62.82%)
Self employed e.g. shops, rehdies or petty business with income>5000	17(10.63%)	32(20%)	49(15.32%)

SES LEVEL	RURAL	URBAN	TOTAL (OVERALL)
High (61-75)	7(4.38%)	26(16.25%)	33(10.31%)
Upper Middle (46-60)	79(49.38%)	79(49.38%)	158(49.37%)
Lower Middle (31-45)	74(46.25%)	55(34.38%)	129(40.31%)
TOTAL	160	160	320

Discussion and conclusion:

All the 23 individual questions (Items) were analyzed. However, the results of first two questions are being discussed: Question (Item) 1 enquired about the monthly per capita income in rupees from all sources. It was calculated by dividing the total monthly income in rupees from all sources. The question was rated on a 7 point scale with scoring from 1 (for those having monthly per capita income less than Rs. 10,000 per month) to 7 (for those having monthly per capita income more than Rs. 36,000 and above). Question 2 was regarding the education of either the husband or wife who was more educated amongst them. This item was rated on seven point scale with scores ranging from 0 (zero) to 7 amongst them. According to our study, 33 families (10.31%) belonged to high socioeconomic status, 158 (49.37%) belonged to upper middle socio economic status, 129(40.31%) lower middle. Among the 160 urban families, 26(16.25%) families belonged to high socioeconomic category, 79(49.38%) to upper middle and 55(34.38%) to lower middle socioeconomic category. No family belonged to poor or very poor socioeconomic status. In case of the 160 rural families studied, a majority i.e. 7(4.38%) belonged to high, followed 79(49.38%) belongs to upper middle class and 74(46.25) belongs to lower middle class. While no family belonged to poor or very poor socioeconomic status category.

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