

“MEASURING THE SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS OF URBAN BELOW POVERTY LINE FAMILIES IN IMPHAL CITY, MANIPUR: A LIVELIHOODS STUDY”

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ABSTRACT

The study has confined only to the Urban Local Body of Imphal city, which is the governance of the East and the West Districts of Imphal. Manipur falls under the jurisdiction of the Imphal Municipal Council. According to the census conducted in the year 2001,^[1] the total population of the urban below poverty line of the Imphal city is 61397, which denotes 12100 household from 27 ward of the Municipal council, which consists of 7 wards in Imphal East district and 20 wards in Imphal West district, out of which $\frac{1}{3}$ (one third) wards from the total 27 wards, i.e., 9 wards were selected by using the random sampling method. And taking the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) models for determining the size of the simple, i.e. 10,000 to 20,000 is to 370 samples. So being 12100 household total populations, 370 household sample sizes has chosen for the universe of the study. The main objective of the study was to understand the livelihood's socioeconomic status of the urban below poverty line families in Imphal city. Research Approaches: Review the available data, reports and surveys of the city and initial consultations with the stakeholders, Government officials to understand the capabilities, assets and activities required for the means of living. Data collection has conducted on different parameters followed by reconnaissance surveys, field visits, etc with the help structured interview schedule. The Socioeconomic status serves to understand the way people survive and making a living in poor urban areas.

Key words: Socioeconomic status: education, occupation and income.

¹ *Statistical Abstract 2005, Manipur & Imphal Municipal Council Publicity, 2007.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Socioeconomic is an important determinant of the livelihoods as it influences levels of knowledge, skill and income conditions which mean for their living.

The Imphal city is largely characterized by medium to low level of developments, which are reflected in low per capital income, poor economic base, and limited industrial development. Trade and commerce is one of the major economy bases of the area. While weaving and pisciculture are other important and traditional means of livelihood in the valley, logging, cultivation of a few cash crops, handloom and handicrafts are the traditional sources of additional income. Moreh has become an important business centre because of border trade with Myanmar.

Livelihood opportunities of urban below poverty line families in Imphal city are very limited. Most of them are working poor, and form a major part of the informal sector of the economy. Their livelihoods remain illegal and illegitimate in many cases. The settlements they live in are either illegal or poorly served by the urban local bodies and the low income group population were unskilled labourers engaged in manual labour.

The urban poor, residing in certain pockets of the city such as informal settlements and inner city areas, are particularly vulnerable and struggle to gain access to services and opportunities to improve their livelihoods.

Socioeconomic status (SES) is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of family's economic and social position relative to others, based on income, education, and occupation. The household income, earners' education, and occupation are examined as well as combined income, versus with an individual, when their own attributes are assessed.

Socioeconomic status is typically broken into three categories, high SES, middle SES, and low SES to describe the three areas of a family. Placing a family into one of these categories any or all of the three variables (Income, education, and occupation) has assessed.

2. Results and Discussion

The Socioeconomic status (SES) of the Below Poverty Line families study is analyzes with accordance to the outcomes of the research data of education, occupation and income with reference to the Kuppaswamy's classification of socioeconomic status scale given below.

KUPUSWAMY'S CLASSIFICATION OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS			
It is based on Education, Occupation and Income of Family Head			
Score Card			
Education		Score	
Professional Degree, PG & Above		7	
Graduate		6	
Intermediate or Post-High-School Diploma		5	
High School Certificate		4	
Middle School Certificate		3	
Primary School or Literate		2	
Illiterate		1	
Occupation		Score	
Profession		10	
Semi-Profession		6	
Clerical, Shop-owner, Farmer		5	
Skilled worker		4	
Semi-skilled worker		3	
Unskilled worker		2	
Unemployed		1	
Family Income Per Month (in Rs)		Score	
>17520		12	
8760-17515		10	
6570-8750		6	
4380-6560		4	
2628-4370		3	
885-2620		2	
< 876		1	
Total Score Graded			
Socioeconomic Class		Total Score	
Upper (I)		26 – 29	
Upper Middle (II)		16 – 25	
Lower Middle (III)		11 – 15	
Upper Lower (IV)		5 – 10	
Lower (V)		< 5	

2.1. Education

The main factor of Education also plays a role in income. Median earnings increase with each level of education. Higher levels of education are associated with better economic and psychological outcomes (i.e.: more income, more control, and greater social support and networking). Education plays a major role in skill sets for acquiring jobs, as well as specific qualities that stratify people with higher SES from lower SES.

Table No. 2.1: Educational Qualification of Head

Standard Scores	Educational	Frequency	Percent
1	Illiterate	281	75.9
4	Primary school	26	7.0
5	Intermediate	11	3.0
6	Graduate	44	11.9
7	Post Graduate	8	2.2
	Total	370	100.0

The above table clearly designated the education of the head of the family by rating on seven point scale with a standard scores ranging from 1 to 7. The standard scores of 2 & 3 are missing because there are no respondents who had primary school and middle school standard. It is found that, 2.2% of the more educated respondent had professional qualifications with Post graduate, 11.9% were Graduate, 3% were Intermediate, 7% had received primary education but had studied more than 10th to 12th class and about 76% were illiterate. The mean score obtained was 1.91.

2.2. Occupation

Occupational prestige as one component of socioeconomic encompasses both income and educational attainment. Occupational status reflects the educational attainment required to obtain the work and income levels that vary with different works and within ranks of occupations additionally, it shows achievement in skills required for the job. Occupational status measures

social position by describing job characteristics, decision making ability and control, and psychological demands on the job.

Table No. 2.2: Occupation of Family Head

Standard Scores	Occupation	Frequency	Percent
1	Unemployed	16	4.3
2	Multi-type Labourer	69	18.6
	Private chowkidar	9	2.4
3	Grocer	39	10.5
	Meat Butchery	19	5.1
	Tailor	12	3.2
	Rickshaw Puller	21	5.7
	Jeweler	12	3.2
	Bamon Cooker	19	5.1
	Vehicles Workshop Worker	15	4.1
4	Blacksmith	19	5.1
	Weaver	23	6.2
	Carpenter	24	6.5
	Tannery Worker	17	4.6
5	Retailer Agent	11	3.0
	Shop Keeper	29	7.8
6	Private School Teacher	16	4.3
	Total	370	100.0

Based on the fact and figures of the above table, occupations of the respondents were rating on six point scale with a scores ranging from 1 to 6. It is observed that, 4.3% were semi-professional with private school teachers, while 10.8% were shop traders with 7.8% of shop keepers and 3% of retailer agents, another 22.4% were skilled workers with 6.5% of carpenters, 6.2% of weavers, 5.1% of blacksmiths and 4.6% were tannery workers, furthermore, about 37% were semi-skilled workers with 10.5% of grocers, 5.7% of rickshaw pullers, 5.1% each of meat butcheries and bamon cooks and 3.2% each of jewelers and tailors, followed by 21% were unskilled workers with 18.6% of multi-type labourers and 2.4% of private chowkidars and 4.3% were unemployed. The mean score obtained was 3.27.

2.3. Income

The main factor of Income refers to wages, salaries, profits, rents, remittances and any flow of earnings received. Income is also the form of unemployment or workers compensation, social security, pensions, interests or dividends, royalties, trusts, alimony, or other governmental, public, or family financial assistance.

Income can be looked at in two terms, relative and absolute. Absolute income, as theorized by economist John Maynard Keynes, is the relationship in which as income increases, so will consumption, but not at the same rate. Relative income dictates a person or family's savings and consumption based on the family's income in relation to others. Income is a commonly used measure of socioeconomic because it is relatively easy to figure for most individuals.

Table No. 2.3: Monthly Income of the Family

Standard Scores	Monthly Income (₹)	Frequency	Percent
2	1600-2000	44	11.9
	2001-2400	103	27.8
3	2401-2800	144	38.9
	2801-3200	79	21.4
	Total	370	100.0

The above table discerned the distribution of monthly income of the respondents. Monthly income was calculated by dividing the total monthly income in rupees from all sources. The standard scores were rated on a three point scale with scoring from 2 to 3. The standard score of 1 is missing because the monthly income of this research study is above ₹ 1600/-, based on the Kuppaswamy's socioeconomic scale of monthly income, SES Score of 1 is equal to below ₹ 876/-.

It is found that, about 39% of families were having monthly income of between ₹ 2401 - 2800/-, while 27.8% between ₹ 2001 - 2400/-, another 21.4% between ₹ 2801 - 3200/- and about 12% were below ₹ 2000/-. The mean score obtained was 2.60.

2.4: This below table designates the total socioeconomic scores of education, occupation and Income.

Table No. 2.4: Socioeconomic Scores

SES Scores	Frequency	Percent
4	16	4.3
5	33	8.9
6	94	25.4
7	81	21.9
8	48	13.0
9	25	6.8
10	4	1.1
11	18	4.9
12	16	4.3
13	13	3.5
14	14	3.8
15	8	2.2

SES Scores	Frequency	Percent
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7	81	21.9
8	48	13.0
9	25	6.8
10	4	1.1
11	18	4.9
12	16	4.3
13	13	3.5
14	14	3.8
15	8	2.2
Total	370	100.0

Table No. 2.5: Socioeconomic Total Score Graded

SES Grade	Frequency	Percent
Lower	16	4.3
Upper lower	285	77.0
Upper Middle	69	18.6
Total	370	100.0

Statistics

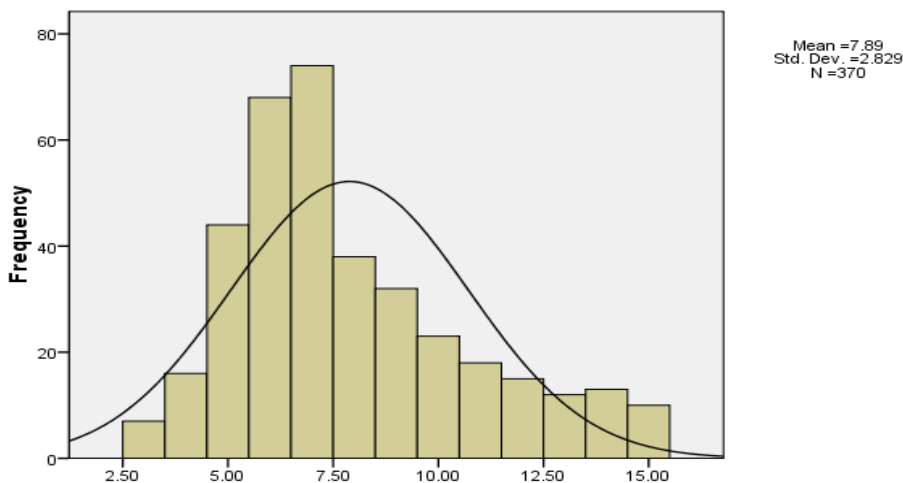
Socioeconomic Total Score Graded

N	Valid	370
	Missing	0
Mean		2.1432
Std. Error of Mean		.02381
Median		2.0000
Mode		2.00
Std. Deviation		.45802
Variance		.210
Range		2.00
Minimum		1.00
Maximum		3.00
Sum		793.00

With accordance to the Kuppaswamy's classification of Total Grade Scores of the socioeconomic status, the research data depicts through the above table that, 69 families (18.6%) belonged to upper middle socioeconomic status, while 285 families (77%) belonged to upper lower socioeconomic status, and only 16 families (4.3%) belonged to lower socioeconomic status.

Further, great majority of the urban below poverty line families were upper lower socioeconomic status, while few families were upper middle socioeconomic status and very few urban below poverty line families were lower socioeconomic status.

Therefore, the average scores were found to be 2.14 with the Standard Deviation of 0.45 and a large people got 2 modes. So, maximum proportion scores of SES of the urban below poverty line families were upper middle and Minimum proportion scores of socioeconomic of the urban below poverty line families were lower.



SES Total Score Graded

The above graph of table No. 2.5 shows the normal distribution of the socioeconomic status.

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