Provision of an Online Tool for Real-Time Updating of the Kuppuswamy's Socioeconomic Status Scale

Rahul Sharma

Received: 4 June 2013 / Accepted: 27 June 2013 / Published online: 12 July 2013
© Dr. K C Chaudhuri Foundation 2013

To the Editor: Several of the research studies in the medical field require the assessment of the socioeconomic status (SES), cutting across various specialties. A revision for the widely used Kuppuswamy scale was made available through the journal earlier [1]. An inherent predicament with any print format update of an income scale is that inflation is a dynamic process. With passage of time, any income categories given in a printed text format start losing their validity and may soon lead to errors in classification of the SES.

For example, the base index of inflation on basis of which the Kuppuswamy scale has been updated has changed to a considerable extent when we compare with the available values in published texts. In fact this index keeps changing on a monthly basis. The base index (and consequently the income categories in the scale) has increased by 14 % to 76 % over the values published in latest editions of various textbooks of Community Medicine speciality [2–4]. Compared to the present value as of June 2013, the use of the scale values published in these sources would represent an error of 12 % to 43 % depending on the source referenced.

For this reason, the revision published earlier had given a formula to enable real-time update of the Kuppuswamy scale [1]. Following requests by researchers, an online tool has

been made available to enable a quick and handy real-time update of the scale [5]. This feature represents a novel and interesting linking of the published base article and an online interactive tool, to enhance the validity of the updated scale. The tool is available at the URL www.scaleupdate.weebly.com and the suggested citation has also been provided at the web resource.

References

1. Sharma R. Kuppuswamy's socioeconomic status scale–revision for 2011 and formula for real-time updating. *Indian J Pediatr.* 2012;79:961–2.
2. Park K. Park's Text Book of Preventive and Social Medicine. 22nd ed. Jabalpur: Banarsidas Bhanot; 2013. pp. 640–1.
3. Roy RN, Saha I, Mahajan & Gupta Text Book of Preventive and Social Medicine. 4th ed. New Delhi: Jaypee Brothers; 2013. pp. 134.
4. Lal S, Adarsh P. Textbook of Community Medicine. 3rd ed. New Delhi: CBS Publishers; 2011. pp. 17.
5. Sharma R. Online interactive calculator for real-time update of the Kuppuswamy's socioeconomic status scale. Available from: www.scaleupdate.weebly.com [Last accessed on 2013 June 04].

R. Sharma (✉)
Department of Community Medicine, University College of
Medical Sciences, UCMS & GTB Hospital, Delhi 110095, India
e-mail: studycorner@gmail.com