

## **Caste/Ethnicity and Financial Status of Family: Analysis from Functionalist Perspective**

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### **Abstract**

*The purpose of this research is to investigate the link between a family's financial position and their caste or ethnicity in Godavari Municipality. The study investigates how characteristics such as social status and cultural background intersect and impact a person's access to resources and opportunities by collecting data through a household survey. The study seeks information on a family's financial situation, including income and expenses through survey questionnaires. The functionalist viewpoint is used in this study to better understand the link between financial position and caste/ethnicity. According to functionalism, each aspect of society, including families, serves certain roles that help the greater system work. According to this viewpoint, a family's financial situation may be viewed as a reflection of the responsibilities and duties that they play within the greater society structure. Overall, the study finds no clear association between income and caste/ethnicity; it does discover a relationship between costs and caste/ethnicity. However, the statement emphasizes that these findings are based on a single study and that further research is required to validate any association between caste/ethnicity and financial status.*

*Keywords:* Ethnicity, caste, survey, goal, social, financial status

### **Introduction**

Thus according to McLaughlin, Ryder and Taylor (2017), the amount of resources and stability a family has to satisfy their fundamental necessities and engage in economic and social activities determines their financial standing. Access to education, healthcare, and career possibilities, as well as the capacity to purchase essentials such as food, housing, and clothes, can all be considered. Income, wealth, and social status are all factors that may contribute to a family's financial situation and have a substantial influence on their quality of life and general well-being. It is critical to understand that financial status is not a static term that may vary over time owing to a number of variables.

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Financial status, according to Sorensen et al. (2016), can also be impacted by family members' levels of education and career prospects, as well as social views on work and financial success. The financial situation of a family may have a substantial influence on their general well-being and quality of life, including access to healthcare, education, and housing. It can also have an impact on their capacity to fully participate in social and cultural events, as well as their social position and connections within their community.

According to Harding et al. (2018), a family's financial position includes the financial resources and stability it has to assist its members and fulfill their objectives and desires. These definitions emphasize the complex character of a family's financial condition and the significance of taking into account many elements such as income, wealth, resources, and stability when analyzing a family's financial situation.

In Weber's opinion, a person's social rank was determined by their social honor or prestige rather than their economic class. Caste systems in particular were viewed as exceptionally strict and inflexible, with people's social position established by birth rather than individual talent or accomplishments. According to Weber, this inflexible social order hampered social mobility and advancement. Weber's study of caste systems emphasizes the importance of cultural variables like honor and prestige in establishing social stratification and the allocation of power and resources within a community (Weber, 2013).

An individual's social status in a caste system is decided by their birth, and they are required to follow the vocation and social standards of their particular caste. Mobility between castes is sometimes restricted or outlawed, resulting in a rigid social hierarchy in which those in higher castes have benefits and opportunities not available to those in lower castes. This stratification structure has the potential to perpetuate inequality and social injustice. It is crucial to emphasize that the idea of caste is not restricted to certain cultural or geographical situations, but has been seen in a variety of communities throughout history (Macionis & Plummer, 2005).

Caste systems are most common in communities where there has been a history of discrimination and segregation based on race, ethnicity, or religion. People in these systems are born into a specific caste and are expected to follow the social norms and expectations of that group. They are frequently limited in their employment options and social connections, and they may encounter discrimination and prejudice from people in higher castes. Caste systems may have a substantial

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influence on a person's social, economic, and general quality of life. They can also contribute to the persistence of social inequality by reinforcing existing power disparities (Schaefer, 2008).

Structural factors are bigger social frameworks that shape a family's possibilities and resources. These may include the family's economic structure, the amount of income and poverty in their society, and the availability of education and career prospects. Cultural variables are the values, beliefs, and conventions held by a certain group or civilization. These may include things like the emphasis put on education, the value of hard labor, and the financial responsibility imposed on people and families. Both structural and cultural factors may have a considerable impact on a family's financial condition, with structural factors having a more immediate and palpable influence, whilst cultural factors can affect a family's attitudes and behaviors toward money and financial decision-making (Smith, Beaulieu, & Seraphine, 1995).

Pursuant to the notion of social stratification, societies are split into many strata or levels depending on characteristics such as money, power, and status. These strata, or social classes, frequently have uneven access to resources and opportunities, resulting in a privilege and disadvantage hierarchy. This hierarchy may have a considerable influence on a family's financial condition, with those at the top often having greater resources and opportunity to better their financial situation. Those in lower socioeconomic strata, on the other hand, may encounter additional problems and hurdles to financial stability. It is critical to evaluate the influence of social stratification in understanding and managing financial challenges in families (Haug, 1977).

Based to the notion of social stratification, a family's financial condition is determined not just by their own actions or decisions, but also by the society institutions in which they reside. The social class of a family can influence their access to education, career prospects, and other resources, with those in higher social classes frequently having better access to such resources. Furthermore, cultural norms and beliefs might have an impact on a family's financial condition. A culture that prizes money and material things, for example, may place a larger premium on financial success, putting additional pressure on families to reach a specific degree of

financial stability. Understanding the structural and cultural forces at work can aid in our understanding (Luhmann, 2013).

Cultural values and beliefs can also have an influence on a family's financial condition. A society that sets a high emphasis on education and hard effort may have more people who are financially successful. A society that lays less emphasis on these principles, on the other hand, may have fewer people who can achieve financial security. Furthermore, cultural traditions such as discrimination based on race or gender can impact a family's access to resources and opportunities, resulting in varying degrees of financial success across various groups. Overall, it is obvious that structural and cultural variables both influence a family's financial condition.

#### Theoretical Framework

The theoretical foundation for a research on the financial position of Godavari Municipality families depending on caste/ethnicity might be based on a variety of sociological ideas. One such theoretical framework, for example, may be based on the functionalist viewpoint, which sees society as a complex system made up of diverse pieces that work together to preserve a state of balance and stability.

According to functionalism, each part of society, including families, performs certain roles that contribute to the general stability and functioning of the social system. This viewpoint is based on the work of sociologists such as Emile Durkheim, who maintained that social structures and institutions, including families, play critical roles in ensuring society's stability and cohesion.

According to functionalism, the financial condition of Godavari Municipality households may be regarded as a product of the responsibilities and functions that these families play within the wider society system. For example, if particular castes or ethnicities are more likely to hold specific sorts of employment or have greater levels of education, this may result in inequalities in financial status between different groups. These disparities in financial standing may be interpreted as a reflection of the diverse roles that these groups play within the greater socio-cultural framework.

However, functionalism acknowledges that the operation of social systems and institutions may result in dysfunctions or undesirable outcomes. For example, if certain families within the municipality are unable to fulfill their anticipated responsibilities and tasks owing to discrimination or other societal restrictions, this

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might lead to financial imbalances and potentially disturb the entire functioning of society.

According to the functionalist viewpoint, a family's annual income and costs might be tied to caste/ethnicity in a variety of ways. One hypothesis is that particular castes or ethnicities are more likely to have higher-paying professions or vocations, resulting in economic disparities between these groups. For example, if particular castes or ethnicities are more likely to occupy professional or management positions, their yearly wages may be higher than those who work in low-wage occupations or are jobless.

Furthermore, a family's spending may be impacted in a variety of ways by their caste/ethnicity. Certain cultural or religious rituals, for example, may necessitate families allocating a bigger amount of their budget to specific sorts of costs, such as food, clothes, or other culturally specialized products. Families belonging to specific castes or ethnicities may also encounter cultural obstacles that make it more difficult for them to receive certain products or services, resulting in cost disparities between these groups.

Overall, the functionalist viewpoint suggests that a family's annual income and costs may be determined by the roles and functions they play within the wider societal structure, as well as the manner in which these elements intersect with their caste/ethnicity. We acquire a better grasp of the manner in which income and spending may be connected to caste/ethnicity within the Godavari Municipality by investigating these characteristics.

### **Objective**

The purpose of this study is to look at the relationship between caste/ethnicity of families and their economic position in the studied region. The purpose of this study is to learn how elements like social status and cultural background might interact and affect people's access to resources and opportunities. The objective of this paper is to explore and explain the relationship between caste/ethnicity and financial status at household level.

### **Method**

The research was conducted by having a household survey to obtain primary data for the study on the financial situation of households in connection to their

caste/ethnicity in Godavari municipality. This entailed conducting interviews or distributing questionnaires to a sample of families in the municipality in order to collect information about their financial situation and caste/ethnicity. The poll might have asked about a range of issues, including income, expenses, assets, debts, and other elements that could affect a family's financial situation.

The survey was most likely carried out by professional enumerators hired to assist with data collecting. To collect data from participants, the research team may have utilized a structured questionnaire or a more open-ended interview method. It's also feasible that the poll comprised a mix of self-reported and scientifically assessed data.

Because it provides for in-depth and thorough data gathering directly from participants, the home survey was chosen as the major data collecting method for this study. This can offer a more accurate and thorough knowledge of the financial situation of households within the municipality based on their caste/ethnicity. However, it is critical to note the method's possible drawbacks, such as response bias and the time and resources necessary to gather data from a large number of participants.

### **Sample Size Calculating**

The sample size for the Godavari Municipality research was determined by taking into account numerous parameters, including the overall population size, the desired confidence level and interval, and the predicted distribution of answers. The sample size of 793 was computed to correctly reflect the population's characteristics with a confidence level of 100% and a confidence interval of 5%. The computation employed a 50% response distribution, which resulted in the biggest sample size. This sample size is seen to be adequate because it is large enough to offer reliable and accurate estimates of demographic characteristics while being practical and practicable to gather data from. Overall, the sample size calculation for this study was aimed to guarantee that the results are representative and reliable.

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**Table 1:**

Calculating Sample Size at Godavari Municipality

Factors	Factors description	Number
Household Size (no.)	The total population that your sample will present	2954
Confidence level (%)	The probability that your sample accurately represent the characteristic of the population	100%
Confidence interval (%)	The range that yours population responses may deviated from your sample	5%
Response distribution	use 50%, which gives the largest sample size	50%
	Sample Size Calculated	793

Source: Anon. 2018. "5 Most Common Sampling Errors." Qualtrics AU. Retrieved April 8, 2022 (<https://www.qualtrics.com/blog/calculating-sample-size/>).

### Sample Technique

To estimate the size of the sample in this study, a purposive sampling strategy was utilized. Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling strategy in which the researcher chooses a specified subset of the population on the basis of certain features or criteria. The sample was chosen from four separate wards in this example, and the household size (N) and population proportion in each ward were reported. A random sample size (n) was computed for each ward based on these parameters. The study's overall sample size was 793, which was derived by summing the random sample sizes for each ward.

This sampling approach was most likely chosen because it allowed the researcher to focus on certain locations or groups of interest within the population. The researcher was able to collect data from a more focused and representative subset of the population by selecting certain wards and houses. Purposive sampling, on the other hand, might add bias into the research since the sample may not be

representative of the total population. The sampling technique must be carefully considered by the researcher to ensure that it is appropriate for the study issue and environment.

**Table 2:**

Determine Size of Sampling

Ward Number (Purposive Sampling)	Household Size (N)	Proportion (%) of Population	Random Sample Size (n)
5	1069	4	287
6	753	4	202
7	577	4	155
8	555	4	149
Total	2954	4	793

Source: Centre Bureau Statistic (RM Profile) 2011

### **Hypothesis Setting**

A hypothesis is a statement or prediction made before performing a statistical test that is used to guide the data analysis and interpretation. The hypothesis of a chi-square test states the predicted relationship between two category variables (Morgan, Leech, Gloeckner & Barrett, 2004).

Hypothesis testing is a statistical strategy for determining if there is enough evidence in a sample of data to infer a given attribute of a population (Figueiredo Filho, Paranhos, Rocha, Batista, Silva Jr, Santos, & Marino, 2013). The approach employs two hypotheses: the null hypothesis, which asserts that there is no significant difference between the actual data and the predicted findings, and the alternative hypothesis, which states that there, exists.

H<sub>0</sub> (null hypothesis): There is no relationship between caste/ethnicity and financial status of household.

H<sub>1</sub> (alternative hypothesis): There is relationship between caste/ethnicity and financial status.

In this study, I employ the chi-square test to examine hypotheses. According to Ugoni and Walker (1995), the chi-square test is a commonly used hypothesis testing method for determining whether there is a significant difference between an



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actual frequency distribution and an anticipated frequency distribution. The chi-square test statistic is calculated by squaring the differences between actual and anticipated frequencies and dividing by the expected frequencies. The calculated value is compared to a critical value from the chi-square distribution table, and the null hypothesis is rejected if it exceeds the critical value.

### **Caste/Ethnicity and the Annual Income of the Family in Godavari Municipality**

The table depicts the link between a family's caste/ethnicity and annual income. The information appears to have come from a field survey completed in 2022. The poll includes 793 households, who are classified into five categories depending on their caste/ethnicity: Brahman, Chhetry, Dalit, Janajati, and Madeshi. The table also provides three categories for the family's annual income: high, medium, and poor.

**Table 3:**  
Relationship between Caste/Ethnicity and the Annual Income of the Family

Caste/Ethnicity	Annual Income of the Family			Row Totals
	High	Medium	Low	
Brahman	33 (31.87)	16 (12.18)	22 (26.95)	71
Chhetry	154 (158.47)	63 (60.54)	136 (133.99)	353
Dalit	31 (31.87)	8 (12.18)	32 (26.95)	71
Janajati	137 (131.54)	47 (50.25)	109 (111.21)	293
Madeshi	1 (2.24)	2 (0.86)	2 (1.90)	5
<b>Column Totals</b>	356	136	301	<b>793 (Grand Total)</b>

Source: The Table Demonstrates Relationship between Caste/Ethnicity and the Annual Income of the Household from Field Survey, 2022.

\*The chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistic is 7.5078. The degree of freedom d.f. is 5, The p-value is .482961. The result is not significant at  $p > .05$ .

The table displays the number of families in each category of annual income (e.g., 33 Brahman households have high yearly income) and the percentage of families in each category (e.g., 31.87% of Brahman families have high annual income) for each caste/ethnicity. The numbers in square brackets are the standardized residuals, which reflect how much the observed and predicted values diverge.

The chi-square statistic is used to determine the association between two categorical variables. The chi-square statistic in this situation is 7.5078, with a degree of freedom of 5 and a p-value of 0.482961. The p-value is used to evaluate the

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statistical significance of the two variables' connection. The p-value of 0.482961 is bigger than 0.05, indicating that there is insufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis that no relationship exists between the two variables. As a result of the data in the table, it can be claimed that there is no significant difference in the yearly income of the household based on their caste/ethnicity.

The conclusion that there is no appreciable variation in a household's annual income depending on their caste or ethnicity shows that the society under study may be operating more successfully in terms of equality and economic mobility from a functional standpoint. This may imply that people of all castes and ethnicities have comparable access to resources, employment possibilities, and educational opportunities, which results in similar incomes regardless of caste or ethnicity.

This is evidence that the society under study treats all of its members fairly and gives them equal opportunity to achieve economically. To be confident that the null hypothesis is accurate, extra research and caution should be taken before drawing this conclusion.

### **Caste/Ethnicity and the Annual Expenses of the Family in Godavari Municipality**

The table depicts the association between a family's caste/ethnicity and their annual expenses. The information appears to have come from a field survey completed in 2022. The poll includes 793 households, who are classified into five categories depending on their caste/ethnicity: Brahman, Chhetry, Dalit, Janajati, and Madeshi. The table also provides three categories for the family's annual expenses: high, medium, and low.

The table displays the number of families in each category of yearly expenditures (e.g., 35 Brahman households have high annual expenses) and the percentage of families in each category (30.8% of Brahman families have high annual expenses) for each caste/ethnicity. The numbers in square brackets are the standardized residuals, which reflect how much the observed and predicted values diverge.

#### **Table**

**4:**

Relationship between Caste/Ethnicity and Annual Expenses of Family

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Caste/ Ethnicity	Annual Expenses of the Family			Row Totals
	High	Medium	Low	
Brahman	35 (30.80)	7 (4.48)	29 (35.72)	71
Chhetry	148 (153.13)	25 (22.26)	180 (177.61)	353
Dalit	32 (30.80)	2 (4.48)	37 (35.72)	71
Janajati	128 (127.10)	14 (18.47)	151 (147.42)	293
Madeshi	1 (2.17)	2 (0.32)	2 (2.52)	5
<b>Column Totals</b>	344	50	399	<b>793 (Grand Total)</b>

Source: The Table Demonstrates Relationship between Caste/Ethnicity and the Annual Expenses of the Household, fFieldSurvey, 2022.

\*The chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistic is 16.1809. The degree of freedom d.f. is 5, The p-value is .039863. The result is significant at  $p < .05$ .

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The chi-square statistic is used to determine the association between two category variables. The chi-square statistic in this situation is 16.1809, with a degree of freedom of 5 and a p-value of 0.039863. The p-value is used to evaluate the statistical significance of the two variables' connection. The p-value of 0.039863 is smaller than 0.05, indicating that there is sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis that relationship exists between the two variables. As a result of the data in the table, it can be claimed that there is significant difference in the yearly expenses of the household based on their caste/ethnicity.

According to a functional point of view, the discovery that a household's annual costs change significantly depending on its caste or ethnicity raises the possibility that the society under study is not operating as well as it could. This may be the result of structural inequality, which denies some groups of people access to resources and opportunities and impairs their ability to prosper economically.

A lack of socioeconomic mobility, a rise in poverty, and decreased overall productivity are just a few examples of how this might cause social dysfunction in society as a whole. It may be required to address the underlying structural disparities and expand access to opportunities and resources for all members of society, regardless of caste or ethnicity, in order to solve these problems and build a functioning society.

### **Conclusion**

In this study, data shows there does not appear to be a statistically significant relationship between a family's caste/ethnicity and annual income, as demonstrated by the p-value of 0.482961. However, the p-value of 0.039863 indicates that there is a statistically significant relationship between a family's caste/ethnicity and their yearly costs. In a variety of ways, the functionalist approach might be used to explore the link between income, spending, and caste/ethnicity within the Godavari Municipality.

Functionalism believes each aspect of society, including families, serves certain roles that help the greater system work. In this view, a family's income may be viewed as a reflection of the responsibilities and tasks that they play within the greater society structure. If particular castes or ethnicities are more likely to hold specific sorts of employment or have greater levels of education, this may result in financial disparities between these groups. These economic disparities may be regarded as a

result of the varied tasks that these groups play within the wider societal structure, as well as the ways in which they contribute to the society's general stability and functioning.

A family's spending, on the other hand, might be determined by a variety of factors, including their income, cultural customs and beliefs, and the possibilities and resources accessible to them. According to the functionalist viewpoint, these costs are reflection of the numerous roles and tasks that families play within the wider socioeconomic system, as well as the manner in which these elements intersect with their caste/ethnicity.

Though the study did not discover a clear correlation between income and caste/ ethnicity, it does reveal a correlation between costs and caste or ethnicity accordingly. . The statement also makes clear that more researches are required to confirm any association between caste/ethnicity and financial status as these results are based on a single study and should not be taken as conclusive.

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