This three-point classification scheme reflects the socioeconomic status of the child's family. The teacher classifies each student according to the father's occupation: professional, skilled, or unskilled. Detailed guidelines for classification are included. Studies in which this scheme was used are listed. (MS)
CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS ACCORDING TO FATHER'S OCCUPATION
(OCCUPATION OF MOTHER OR GUARDIAN IF FATHER IS ABSENT)

Robert B. Frary
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This classification scheme reflects the socioeconomic status of the child's family. To obtain this information, each teacher classifies each student according to the father's occupation on a three point scale. Category I includes those whose occupation might generally be classified as "professional." For the most part, these occupations are ones which required at least a bachelor's degree for admission. Category 2, which may be referred to as "skilled," includes occupations requiring substantial training and ability for success but not at the level of the first category. Category 3, "unskilled," included those jobs which require little preparation or training, are relatively low-paying and offered little security.

This classification scheme does not offer the degree of differentiation available from scales demanding higher levels of training for the rates, such as the Hollingshead (1958) or Warner (1949) scales. Nevertheless, teachers knowing the community as they do can place their students quite accurately as coming from homes representing one of the three categories just described. It is felt that the additional effort required to obtain a more precise classification would not result in a substantially more accurate classification in field research and for most purposes for which such a classification system might be needed by public school teachers and administration to make analyses, decisions, and judgments.

This scheme was used in analyses of variance in the following studies:

2) Goolsby, Thomas M., Jr. and Robert B. Frary, "Use of an Individualized Reading Program Under Voluntary Complete Integration: Effects on Third Grade Pupils and Teachers," Center for Educational Improvement, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 30601.

References


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The following guidelines are present with the realization that in some cases the teacher may have to make a judgment without full command of the facts regarding the occupational status of a parent or guardian. In such cases, no additional investigation should be made. Rather the teacher should classify the student according to her perception of the student's family background based on observation throughout the year. Because an occasional rating may therefore be inaccurate, it is essential that the finished rating sheet be shown only to personnel directly involved in processing the research findings. Of course, all responses will be held in strictest confidence and will be used only for group evaluation.

Classification 1: The student's father (or guardian if the father is absent) holds a professional or managerial position. Such jobs usually but not always require at least a bachelor's degree. Examples are:

- Accountants (senior or CPA)
- Clergymen
- Commissioners of officers
- County agents
- Engineers or scientists
- Lawyers
- Medical doctors
- Nurses (registered)
- Proprietors or managers or substantial businesses or farms
- Teachers

If in doubt as to whether a person belongs in this classification, the holding of a bachelor's degree is the best criterion on which to base the decision if this fact is known. If not, try to judge the level of association in the community. For example, a life insurance salesman who sells mainly large policies to the financially affluent segment of the community probably belongs in this classification. One who sells mainly small policies (perhaps on a weekly collection basis) would not.

Classification 2: The student's father (or guardian) holds a regular, full-time job which requires training, knowledge and skill but not at the college level. Examples are:

- Agricultural specialists (not college trained)
- Automobile mechanics or other skilled tradesmen
- Bookkeepers
- Clerical and related workers
- Draftsmen
- Police officers
- Postmen
- Practical nurses or other non-professional health therapists
- Sales personnel in retail stores (if training and knowledge are required, but not lower level sales clerks)
- Service personnel (barbers, beauticians, bartenders, cooks, but not lower level waiter or waitress positions)
- Supervisory personnel for lower level workers (foremen, etc.)
Classification 3: The student's father (or guardian) holds a job (or jobs) which require only casual or short-term training. These jobs are usually of low prestige and relatively low paying. Examples are:

- Agricultural workers (field hands, etc.)
- Domestic workers (household servants)
- Laborers (construction, etc.)
- Laundry workers
- Service and sales personnel in lower positions

If in doubt as to whether a job belongs in this category, the primary criteria are lack of any requirement for prior training, a short training period and little raise in pay following training.