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The relationship between status and happiness: Evidence from the caste system in rural India

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Highlights

- In both regions under study, we find that economic well-being in rural India is clearly increasing across castes.
- We also find that the highest castes are happier than the lower and middle castes.
- The happiness pattern across the low and middle castes is either flat or even downward sloping, which we attribute to the dynamics of downward and upward comparisons.

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