

**Teaching Innovations Programme for College Teachers in Economics
(TIPE), Version 3.0**

June 23- July 18 2008

**Centre for Development Studies
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Motivation: The Teaching Innovations Programme (TIPE) for economics instructors working in various Indian universities seeks to improve their research skills in applied developmental problems through innovations in teaching. This is because studies have shown ‘that teaching plays a far more important role in enhancing research than the existing literature suggests, that this influence is recognized by a very large fraction of active researchers, and that this positive effect of teaching on research occurs through a wide variety of channels’ (Becker and Kennedy, 2006). This nexus between teaching and research is best summed up by Gregory Mankiw- whose text books on Macro and Micro Economics are now standard textbooks in universities across both the developed and developing world. According to Mankiw (1998), preparing for a lecture or drafting a textbook chapter reveals holes in one’s understanding and as you try to fill in these holes, you get ideas for research. In other words, imparting knowledge and creating knowledge are complementary activities. There are many cases of teachers stumbling upon good ideas for research while preparing for classes. In the context the purpose of the programme is to improve research skills of teachers through systematic innovations in teaching. The programme seeks to accomplish this by introducing participants to some of the recent advances in economic theory, econometrics and Indian economic issues and pedagogical techniques as well. In fact practice of good pedagogy not only improves one’s teaching skills but also will lead to a more refined and disciplined research strategy as well.

The Centre conducted the first version of this programme during July-August 2006, a second one in June-July 2007. Between the two versions about forty lecturers from Universities and colleges from across Kerala has been trained in the programme. A thoroughly revised and updated third version of the programme is to be offered during June-July 2008.

Programme objectives: After attending this programme the participants are (i) to be sensitized to researchable issues in micro, macro and Indian economy topics; (ii) to use mathematical modes of expression in a careful and relevant manner as a means to achieving desired results; (iii) to make the teachings of these topics more interesting and relevant to actual life situations; and (iv) to adapt teaching strategies presented in the programme for developing researchable issues.

Structure of the programme: The programme is structured in such a way that participants are introduced to researchable area in macro, micro and Indian economy topics. There are four modules of five working days each. The modules range from topics in economic theory to quantitative techniques to selected issues in Indian economy. A participant has to choose all the four modules. Under each of the modules lectures are conducted in an interactive mode during the morning session. The afternoon session, on the contrary, will be devoted to the examination of various concepts and issues in a workshop mode. All the modules will also focus on using new technologies such as computer based exercises and the Internet to make the topics livelier and up-to-date. In fact introducing the participants to a whole host of web-based teaching and research resources is an important feature of this programme. Module 4 dealing with selected issues in Indian economy will introduce the participants to the database of Indian

economy and also to techniques in data analysis. The details of the modules are given below:

Module 1	Period	List of topics
1. Macroeconomics	Week 1: (June 23-June 27)	Topic 1: Tracking the Macroeconomy Topic 2: The IS-LM Model Topic 3: Aggregate Supply and Aggregate Demand Topic 4: Inflation Topic 5: Open economy macroeconomics
Module 2	Period	List of topics covered
2. Microeconomics	Week 2: (June 30-July 4)	Topic 1: Consumer theory Topic 2: Production and cost theory Topic 3: Price-output determination under various market structures Topic 4: Game theory and strategic behaviour Topic 5: Externalities and public goods
Module 3	Period	List of topics
3. Selected topics in Econometrics	Week 3: (July 7-11)	Topic 1: Correlation and Regression Topic 2: Tests of Significance Topic 3: Sampling
Module 4	Period	List of topics
4. Selected topics in Indian economy	Week 4: (July 14-18)	Topic 1: Overall performance of India's economy since the reforms and how integrated is India's economy with rest of the world Topic 2: Growth performance of agriculture Topic 3: Growth performance of the manufacturing sector Topic 4: Understanding India's Balance of Payments Topic 5: Foreign capital inflows and capital account convertibility Topic 6: Performance with respect to the social sectors (education and health)

Target clientele: Lecturers of Economics from Universities and affiliated colleges from across India.

Number of participants: Maximum number of participants for the programme will be 20.

Application form and selection of the candidates: The application form can be downloaded from the CDS website (<http://www.cds.edu>). The candidate's qualification and experience will be the main criteria for selection. Preference will be given to younger instructors.

Co-ordination and course faculty: The course will be co-ordinated by Professor Sunil Mani. Dr M. Parameswaran will be the associate co-ordinator. The core faculty is drawn from the CDS research staff. Scholars such as Professor P L Mehta (Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi), Professor Soumyen Sikdar (University of Calcutta), Professor Errol D'Souza (Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad), Professor Pulapre Balakrishnan (Nehru Memorial Museum and Library), Professor R Nagaraj (Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR)) will supplement them. The course faculty for Micro and Macroeconomics are selected from among prominent Indian textbook authors on the subject.

Course Fee: The course is fully funded by CDS. The participants will be provided with boarding and lodging, courseware, access to CDS Library and to the Computing Centre free of charge during the entire duration of the course. All other expenses, including traveling to and from CDS, Trivandrum will have to be borne by the selected participants.

Duty leave: The Department of Higher Education (F) of the Government of Kerala has recognized the programme vide its order 12454/F2/07/H.edn dated 14/06/07, so that the lecturers (from the state of Kerala) who attend this programme are provided with duty leave for the entire duration of the course.

Course completion certificate: All participants who successfully complete the course will be given a course completion certificate of the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum.

Outreach: The programme is admittedly of limited duration. However, the participants are to be encouraged to continuously be in touch with CDS through the course blog, <http://tipe.wordpress.com>. The blog is continuously updated with useful teaching and research resources. It is a once-stop-place where the participants can discuss difficulties wrt research and teaching problems and can also refresh themselves with new resources (databases, bibliographic databases, reports, text books etc) that may become available from time to time. Thus the participants continue to interact with CDS through this blog.

Important Dates:

Announcement of the Course: April 10 2008

Last date for receipt of completed application forms: May 5 2008

Announcement of the selection list: May 26 2008

Module 1 begins: June 23 2008

Module 4 ends: July 18 2008

References

Becker, William E and Kennedy, Peter (2005), 'Does teaching enhance research in Economics ?', *American Economic Review*, American Economic Association, vol. 95(2), pages 172-176,

Mankiw, Gregory(1998), 'My rules of thumb' in M.Szenberg(ed.) *Passion and Craft: Economists at Work*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 176-186.

Completed application forms should be sent, before the 5th of May, to:

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