



Evaluation of TIPE version 2

By Dr Nagaraj Naidu, Government Women's College, Trivandrum
(TIPE Participant 2007 version)

Teaching Innovations Programme for College Teachers in Economics (TIPE)-2007, was really innovative for college teachers with respect to the content, approach and dissemination techniques. A detailed evaluation of the four modules contained in the TIPE- 2007 is given below:

Module 1: Micro Economics

The module on Micro Economics attracted the attention of participants not only with respect to the extensive coverage of the subject, but also with respect to the depth and practical applications. Dr.Pushpangadan, Dr. Parameswaran and Prof. Anjan Mukherjee handled the various topics in the module. Dr.Pushpangadan dealt with certain topics in micro economics with practical wisdom and empirical research experience which helped the participants to assimilate theory with practical application. Such topics include the identification of supply and demand function in a competitive market, topics in agriculture, industry and environmental economics. The participants could also familiarise themselves with new text books in Micro Economics including the one by Paul Krugman. Dr. Parameswaran's class helped participants to understand the estimation technique of productivity and efficiency. In addition, the special sessions by Prof.Anjan Mukherjee of JNU on the working of competitive markets helped the participants to compare text book theory with actual practice. The interactive approach followed in the sessions helped the participants to clear doubts.

Module 2: Macro Economics

The module on Macro Economics helped the participants to learn the art of disseminating the complicated macro issues in a simplified manner among undergraduate students. Prof. Soumyan Sikdar from University of Calcutta made a comprehensive coverage of the subject Macro Economics which included the Micro foundations of Macro Economics, National Income Accounting, IS-LM policy analysis and current controversies in Macro Economics. His book on Macro Economics is very useful for teachers as a reference book for undergraduate students. His sincerity as a teacher is praiseworthy. He made the participants to write assignments and took pains in correcting them every day. His classes kindled the spirit of teaching and research among the participants.

Module 3: Econometrics

The topics covered in the module were extremely useful and sufficient for a teacher to handle Econometrics and basic statistics in an undergraduate class. Dr.M.Suryanarayana who handled the class was very friendly and tried to maintain personal relations with the participants. His class was a very interactive one and he showed keen interest in clarifying all questions and doubts of the participants. The peculiar pedagogical approach maintained throughout the class was praiseworthy. Most of the sessions were filled with practical examples of merits and pitfalls of using Econometric tools in Economics research and planning policy decisions.



Students very often find it difficult to follow certain advanced topics in Econometrics for the simple reason that they lack clarity in fundamentals. Dr.Suryanarayana started his class with certain fundamentals of Econometrics and Statistics which were really useful for the participants to assimilate the subject in a proper perspective. Because of the power point presentation the participants found it very easy to follow the class. The topics covered ranged from elementary probability to the estimation and interpretation of multiple regression. Though the class confined to this range, each topic received an extensive coverage along with real world examples. The practical exercise given with NSSO data was extremely useful to understand the probable pitfalls a researcher may commit if this data is not carefully used. Theory without practice is incomplete which was amply demonstrated in these classes. The reference materials and notes supplied in the class were highly useful for the participants to take stock of the current developments in the subject. As a suggestion, the organisers may consider to include one or two sessions for time series analysis in future. Overall this module was very useful and extremely good with respect to content, presentation and dissemination.

Module 4: Indian Economy

This module was handled by eminent resource personalities like Professor M.H.Suryanarayana, Professor K.L.Krishna, Professor Sunil Mani, Mr.Anil Sharma from RBI, Dr.H.Mallick, and Dr.J.Vinanchiarachi, UNIDO.

The important topics covered in this module include economic reforms and planning policy, inclusive growth, estimation of poverty, data bank for Indian economy, data searching through internet, performance of manufacturing sector, balance of payment situation of India and critical issues in industrial economics. With respect to the content, coverage and reference materials provided, the class was extremely useful for the teachers. The class on planning policy and estimation of poverty gave an opportunity to the participants to know the poverty in poverty studies. The participants understood that the lack of sufficient and reliable data set is the major problem that the planners face while framing policies. The class on data base of the Indian economy by Mr.Anil Kumar Sharma from RBI, provided an opportunity to see a new world of authentic data of Indian economy for researchers and teachers. The technique of tapping of resources is more important than keeping it idle and the class imparted the knowledge of how the data bank on Indian Economy could be effectively retrieved and used for various research purposes. The class on Internet browsing further sharpened the participants' skill in data management for effective learning and teaching process. The macro economic data will not speak much if they are not disaggregated, is the lesson the participants received from the class of Prof.Sunil Mani. The disaggregation of balance of payment data provided useful insights on various economic transactions, which generally go unnoticed. Dr.Vianachiarachi opened a vista of research problems in industrial economics. He also conveyed the message that a teacher without wisdom and commitment is useless to the society. Thus though all sectors of Indian economy were not included (such as agriculture sector, financial sector etc), what ever areas were included in the module were thoroughly evaluated. In short, this module enriched the awareness about the progress of Indian economy from the past to the present changes among the participants.