

DEMYSTIFYING ECONOMICS WORKSHOP 2023

Outline of Sessions

DAY 1, WEDNESDAY 16TH

9:00 -
9:45

SESSION 1

WELCOME NOTES
AND INTRODUCTION

SESSION 2

WHAT IS ECONOMICS? WHO
ARE ECONOMISTS? A
DISCUSSION FROM THE
PERSPECTIVE OF
PARTICIPANTS. IS THERE
ANYTHING CALLED GOOD
ECONOMICS?

9:45 -
10:30

TEA BREAK 10:30-10:45

10:45 -
12:30

SESSION 2

SESSION 2 CONTINUED

RESOURCE PERSON:
PROF. SATISH
DESHPANDE, RETIRED,
DELHI UNIVERSITY

LUNCH 12:30-1:30

SESSION 3

MICROECONOMICS

RESOURCE PERSON:
TEJASWINI TABHANE,
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE,
JPAL-SOUTH ASIA

IN MAY 2023, FARMERS IN
MAHARASHTRA WERE THROWING
AWAY THE TOMATOES THEY
PRODUCED, AS THE MARKET PRICES
WERE NOT ENOUGH TO COVER EVEN
THE PRODUCTION COSTS. WITHIN
TWO MONTHS, THE PRICE OF
TOMATOES EXCEEDED ₹150 PER KG.
HOW DO ECONOMISTS EXPLAIN SUCH
PRICE FLUCTUATIONS?

1:30 -
3:00

TEA BREAK 3:15-3:30

3:15 -
4:45

SESSION 4

THE COST OF A KG OF WHEAT IN
A FAIR-PRICE SHOP IS SET AT
₹7.50. THE PRICE OF WHEAT IN
THE MARKET COULD BE FIVE
TIMES HIGHER. WHAT DOES AN
ECONOMIST HAVE TO SAY ABOUT
THIS?

MICROECONOMICS (CONTINUED)

RESOURCE PERSON:
TEJASWINI TABHANE,
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE,
JPAL-SOUTH ASIA

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN B2FG05

DAY 2, THURSDAY 17TH

9:00-
10:30

SESSION 5

DO ALL ECONOMISTS THINK OF PEOPLE AS RATIONAL INDIVIDUALS? OR, DO SOME ECONOMISTS THINK OF PEOPLE AS CITIZENS AS WELL? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUCH THOUGHTS?

INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT

RESOURCE PERSON:
ALEX THOMAS,
FACULTY, AZIM
PREMJI UNIVERSITY

TEA BREAK 10:30-10:45

OVERVIEW OF INDIAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

RESOURCE PERSON:
RAHUL DE,
FACULTY, AZIM
PREMJI UNIVERSITY

SESSION 6

10:45-
12:15

IF ECONOMISTS DIFFER IN TERMS OF THEIR THOUGHT, WHAT ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES IN THOUGHT AMONG THOSE WHO MAKE ECONOMIC POLICIES IN INDIA? HAS ANYTHING ABOUT INDIA'S ECONOMIC POLICIES CHANGED SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE? IF SO, WHAT ARE THOSE CHANGES AND HOW DID THEY HAPPEN?

LUNCH 12:15-1:30

1:30-
3:00

SESSION 7

SOME ECONOMISTS HAVE CALCULATED THAT IN 2018-19, A MEDIAN WORKER IN INDIA EARNED LESS THAN ₹10,000 PER MONTH. WHAT IS THE MEDIAN? HOW DID THESE ECONOMISTS ARRIVE AT THE NUMBER ₹10,000? WHY SHOULD A CITIZEN CARE ABOUT THESE DEFINITIONS AND NUMBERS?

INTRODUCTION TO DATA AND STATISTICS

TEA BREAK 3:15-3:30

INTRODUCTION TO DATA VISUALIZATION

RESOURCE PERSONS: DR. GOVINDAPURAM SURESH, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, KREA UNIVERSITY; PABITRA CHOWDHURY, RESEARCH ANALYST, INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE; AND SHRAVAN MK, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT, AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY.

SESSION 8

10:45-
12:15

RECENTLY, SOME INDIAN ECONOMISTS PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE WITH A GRAPH WHERE THE X-AXIS DID NOT START FROM 0 AND THE UNITS ON THE AXIS WERE NOT UNIFORMLY DISTANCED. WHAT IS A GRAPH? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO READ GRAPHS?

DAY 3, LECTURE + ACTIVITY DAY, FRIDAY 18TH

9:00-
11:00

SESSION 9

WE TALKED ABOUT MEDIAN WORKERS AND ASKED THE QUESTION, WHAT IS MEDIAN? HOWEVER, WHO IS A WORKER AND WHAT IS CONSIDERED AS WORK ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA? HOW DO WE CALCULATE HOW MANY PEOPLE WORK IN INDIA? DO MEN AND WOMEN WORK EQUALLY?

INTRODUCTION TO EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

RESOURCE PERSON:
ROSA ABRAHAM,
FACULTY, AZIM
PREMJI UNIVERSITY

TEA BREAK 11:00-11:30

NOTE: REST OF THE SESSIONS WILL BE ACTIVITY ORIENTED

**COORDINATORS:
PABITRA, SURESH,
SHRAVAN**

ACTIVITY 1

THIS WILL ALL BE GROUP WORK. IN THE FIRST HALF PARTICIPANTS WOULD GET FAMILIARISED WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF DATASETS, EXPLORE SUMMARY STATISTICS, AND CREATE GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATIONS.

11:30-
1:00

LUNCH 1:00-2:00

2:00-
3:30

ACTIVITY 2

USE PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (PLFS) TO CALCULATE EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, SUCH AS LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ETC.

TEA BREAK 3:30-3:45

ACTIVITY 2

ACTIVITY PART 2 CONTINUED

3:45-
4:15

DAY 4, SATURDAY 19TH

9:00-
10:30

SESSION 10 & 11

WHY DO PRICES OF SOME GOODS KEEP RISING? DO WAGES GO UP BY THE SAME AMOUNT ALL THE TIME? WHAT DO ECONOMISTS AND POLICYMAKERS SAY ABOUT RISING PRICES?

**MACROECONOMICS:
INFLATION AND
UNEMPLOYMENT**

TEA BREAK 10:30-10:45

RESOURCE PERSON:
DAWA SHERPA,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMICS, KURSEONG
COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY
OF NORTH BENGAL GTA

SESSION 10 & 11

10:45-
12:15

SESSION 10 AND 11 CONTINUED

LUNCH 12:15-1:30

1:30-
3:00

SESSION 12 & 13

THINKING ABOUT ECONOMIC POLICIES GIVEN INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT. GIVE EXAMPLES OF RECENT LEGISLATIONS IN RAJASTHAN ON MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE AND THE GIG WORKERS' LAW

RESOURCE PERSON:
SHANKAR SINGH,
FOUNDER MEMBER,
MAZDOOR KISAN SHAKTI
SANGATHAN

TEA BREAK 3:00-3:15

SESSION 12 & 13

3:15-
4:45

SESSION 12 AND 13 CONTINUED

SUNDAY 20TH, AUGUST.
SIGHTSEEING TRIP OF BANGALORE

DAY 5, MONDAY 21ST

9:00-
10:30

SESSION 14

IS THERE A WAY TO KNOW HOW MANY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRES ARE THERE IN A VILLAGE OR TEHSIL? OR, HOW MANY SCHOOLS? HOW MANY PEOPLE IN A VILLAGE HAVE RECEIVED THEIR WAGES FOR NREGA WORK? CAN DATA HELP IN VERIFYING CLAIMS MADE BY DISTRICT OFFICIALS, OR FOR ORGANISING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS?

DATA FOR THE PEOPLE

RESOURCE PERSON:
NEERAJ HATEKAR,
FACULTY, AZIM
PREMJI UNIVERSITY

TEA BREAK 10:30-10:45

APPLIED MICROECONOMICS

RESOURCE PERSON:
ANAND SHRIVASTAVA,
FACULTY, AZIM PREMJI
UNIVERSITY

SESSION 15

10:45-
12:30

WHY SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT CARE TO GUARANTEE SOME KIND OF EMPLOYMENT? CAN'T THE MARKET FORCES TACKLE UNEMPLOYMENT? AND IF PRIVATE EMPLOYERS HAVE TO PROVIDE A MINIMUM LEVEL OF WAGES, WOULDN'T THEY STOP HIRING MORE PEOPLE ANYWAY? WOULDN'T THAT INCREASE UNEMPLOYMENT?

LUNCH 12:30-1:30

AUGUST 21ST, MONDAY, SECOND
HALF IS OFF.

DAY 6, HALF-DAY LECTURE, HALF-DAY ACTIVITY, TUESDAY, 22ND AUGUST

9:00-
10:30

SESSION 15

WE OFTEN HEAR, "INDIA IS SET TO BECOME A TRILLION DOLLAR ECONOMY". WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? HOW DO ECONOMISTS CALCULATE SUCH NUMBERS?

MACROECONOMICS: GDP & NATIONAL ACCOUNTS MEASUREMENT

RESOURCE PERSON: ZICO DASGUPTA, FACULTY, AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY

TEA BREAK 10:30-10:45

SESSION 15

10:45-
12:15

SESSION 15 CONTINUED

LUNCH 12:15-1:15

1:15-
3:15

ACTIVITY

DATA ANALYSIS USING THE DATASETS INTRODUCED THE PREVIOUS DAY. DIFFERENT GROUPS WORK WITH DIFFERENT DATASETS OR WITH THE SAME DATA WITH DIFFERENT QUESTIONS.

ACTIVITY DAY MAIN COORDINATOR: JAPNEET SINGH, RESEARCH ANALYST, DEVELOPMENT DATA LAB.

TEA BREAK 3:00-3:15

SESSION 16

3:30

NITIN SETHI, SENIOR JOURNALIST & FOUNDER, REPORTERS' COLLECTIVE

(SH 1 AT 3.30 PM)

ON ELECTORAL BONDS & POLITICAL ECONOMY

DAY 7, WEDNESDAY, 23RD AUGUST

9:00-
10:30

SESSION 17

DO ECONOMISTS CARE ABOUT WHAT THE CONSTITUTION SAYS? SHOULD THEY?

CONSTITUTION AND THE INDIAN ECONOMY

RESOURCE PERSON:
GANESH KAMBLE,
SECONDARY SCHOOL
TEACHER, VIKASA
VIDYA VANAM (AND
JAPNEET SINGH)

TEA BREAK 10:30-10:45

INEQUALITY AND POVERTY

RESOURCE PERSON:
MRINALINI JHA, FACULTY,
JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
AND AMIT BASOLE,
FACULTY, AZIM PREMJI
UNIVERSITY

SESSION 18

SOME ECONOMISTS CLAIM THAT THE RICH IN INDIA HAVE BECOME RICHER DURING COVID WHILE SOME CLAIM OTHERWISE. SOME ECONOMISTS SAY, "POVERTY IS SIMPLY A FUNCTION OF THE POVERTY LINE". HOW DO ECONOMISTS MEASURE INEQUALITY AND POVERTY? WHICH MEASUREMENT TO TRUST? ARE POVERTY AND INEQUALITY ONLY ABOUT MEASUREMENT?

10:45-
12:15

LUNCH 12:15-1:30

1:30-
3:00

SESSION 18

SESSION 18 CONTINUED

TEA BREAK 3:00-3:15

PUBLIC LECTURE

NITIN SETHI, SENIOR
JOURNALIST &
FOUNDER, REPORTERS'
COLLECTIVE

SESSION 19

JOURNALISM'S FRAYED
SOCIAL CONTRACT WITH
INDIA /TELLING TRUTH
THROUGH JOURNALISM IN
TODAY'S INDIA

3:30-
4:30

DAY 8, THURSDAY, 24TH AUGUST

9:00-
10:30

SESSION 20 & 21

CAN ECONOMISTS QUANTIFY ALL KINDS OF INEQUALITIES? IS THERE A WAY TO MEASURE THE LIFE EXPERIENCE OF A WOMAN WHO WORKS IN THE MORNING, COOKS FOOD FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY IN THE EVENING, AND FACES VIOLENCE IN THE HOUSEHOLD? OR, DO SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AND DISCRIMINATION BASED ON CASTE GO AWAY IF ONE BECOMES ECONOMICALLY WELL-OFF?

APPLIED POLITICAL ECONOMY

RESOURCE PERSONS:
SRISHTI YADAV AND
DONTA PRASHANTH.
BOTH ARE FACULTY
MEMBERS AT AZIM
PREMJI UNIVERSITY.

TEA BREAK 10:30-10:45

SESSION 20 & 21

SESSION 20 AND 21 CONTINUED

10:45-
12:15

LUNCH 12:15-1:30

1:30-
3:00

SESSION 22

HOW DOES IDENTITY DETERMINE ECONOMIC INEQUALITY IN INDIA? WHAT ARE SOME WAYS IN WHICH DIFFERENT KINDS OF ECONOMISTS THINK ABOUT IT? CAN ECONOMISTS PLAY A ROLE IN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND RESISTANCE? IS THERE AN UNDERLYING ECONOMIC PHENOMENON BEHIND SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS?

ECONOMICS OF IDENTITY AND RESISTANCE

RESOURCE PERSONS:
TAMOGHNA HALDER,
FACULTY, AZIM PREMJI
UNIVERSITY AND FIZZA
SUHEL, RESEARCH
ASSOCIATE, CECFEE,
INDIAN STATISTICAL
INSTITUTE.

TEA BREAK 3:00-3:15

APPLIED MACROECONOMICS

RESOURCE PERSON:
ZICO DASGUPTA,
FACULTY, AZIM PREMJI
UNIVERSITY

SESSION 23

WHY DO COUNTRIES REQUIRE A BUDGET? WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS OF IT? HOW TO READ A BUDGET? HOW MUCH OUT OF THE CRORES OF RUPEES ON A BUDGET ITEM REACH OUR VILLAGES AND BLOCKS?

3:30-
4:30

DAY 9, ACTIVITY DAY, FRIDAY, 25TH AUGUST

PREPARE A BUDGET FOR AN IMAGINARY COUNTRY KEEPING THESE IDEAS IN MIND AND/OR PREPARE AN EXPLAINER ON ANY OF THE THEMES TAUGHT IN THE WORKSHOP.



DAY 10, SATURDAY, 26TH AUGUST

SUMMARIZE AND WRAP UP.

