

Mahatma Gandhi College Thiruvananthapuram

Department of Economics

ADVANCED MICROECONOMIC THEORY AND ITS APPLICATIONS



Duration 30 hours

Faculty **Sruthi S.** Assistant Professor

Dept. of Economics MG College, Tvpm

Interested students may contact the department

Commencing from 01.06.2021 From

The HOD Department of Economics Mahatma Gandhi College, Tvpm.

31st March 2021

Thiruvananthapuram

То

The Principal

Mahatma Gandhi College, Tvpm.

[Request for the approval of Add on course for the next academic year 2021-2022]

Sir/Ma'am,

The department id planning to offer an add on course during the academic year 2021-2022 under the title "EC 31: Certificate course on Advanced Microeconomic Theory & its application". Smt Sruthi S, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Mahatma Gandhi college will be the course coordinator as well as the instructor. We have planned for a 30 hr course via online mode. The targeted group is the Economics Graduate students. The details of the course are attached herewith.

Thanking You

Yours' sincerely

HoD

EC 31: Certificate course on Advanced Microeconomic Theory & its application

Academic Year 2021-2022 Mahatma Gandhi College Thiruvananthapuram

Description of the course:

This is a course designed for students who are pursuing a degree in economics and have already taken introductory courses in micro. While these courses provide the basic toolkit of economics along with the standard results deemed important for a solid education in economics, applied economic analysis will help students in using the economics toolkit to address questions that they are interested in asking or see outside their classrooms in the real world. Why do investment bankers make so much money? Why is Delhi so polluted? Why do we have dowry system in India? Why do fish vendors sell fish at a lower price at night? Even seemingly noneconomic questions like: Why do people apologize? Why there exist sex selective abortions? And do religious rituals help enforce social contracts. Students will be encouraged to work and refine research questions, critically read literature, collect data and develop analytic frameworks to extract insights from data.

Course Material: There are no prescribed textbooks for this course. But to get started with the course, please go through:

1) What use is Economic Theory, an essay by Dr. Hal Varian.

2) Trial, Error and the God complex, a talk by Tim Hartford on the importance of empirics.

You would also do well to get a copy/ebook of Applied Economics-thinking beyond stage one by Thomas Sowell. This book will give a primer on how to think like an economist (and not just take exams like one).

The course is not based on the book, but you will benefit greatly from insights that it provides.

Further Information about the course: The rest of the material will be provided through the course in the form of slides, readings, videos and data sets. The content of these will depend on the specific topics/questions/issues that will be taken up in the course (in consultation with you).

Course Objectives

At the end of the course successful students should be able to:

1. Reduce real life problems to questions that can be evaluated using the toolkit of economics.

2. Set up simple economic models.

3. Identify good data sources, collect data, and perform basic statistical and econometric analysis.

4. Develop a sense of the standard of evidence required to make a strong claim.

Instructors and Hours (30 hrs)

Instructor: Sruthi S, Assistant Professor, Department of EconomicsPreferred Contact: sruthi@mgcollegetvm.org

Session plan	General Topic	Readings
1 (7 hrs)	 Introduction: course goal and objectives Economics of Public Goods and Policies The games are introduced Public goods provision game 	C.O.R.E and Sydnester
2 (10 hrs)	 Economics of Markets and role of game theory in analysing real world situations Introducing Game theory Market Game Prisoner's Dilemma 	C.O.R.E and Sydnester [Beautiful mind movie discussion is recommended]
3 (10 hrs)	 Economics of Markets and role of game theory in analysing real world situations. Discussions on a real- world issue. Preferably a current local issue. (Graded) 	Hal. R Varian and C.O.R.E
4 (3 hrs)	 Presentations and course overview. Submission of end-term research paper. 	

EC 31: Certificate course on Advanced Microeconomic Theory & its application

Course Intended Learning Objectives

(Aim) Course Intended Learning Outcomes

Teaching and Learning Activities

Basic understanding of Microeconomics in analysing the real-world scenarios

Class lectures, Games and group discussion

Assessment/Activities

- On line lecture
- One Term paper or Article
- One class presentation based on the research paper or any real world microeconomic issue.
- Class participation

Scheme of Evaluation1 and Grading

Evaluation is comprised of continuous assessment, all of which will be internal (100%). Internal evaluation is comprised of:

- Classroom participation (10%)
- End-term research paper (65% for undergraduate-level and 50% for graduate-level): The article or the term paper should have a maximum of 2 to 3 pages. The paper should include the following components:
- 1. Introduction/background: Present your research topic.
- 2. Relevant pictures should be included
- 3. The microeconomic concept given in the class should be explained with proper justification

[No two papers should address the same issue]

Academic Integrity:

Academic Honesty, Cheating, and Plagiarism: As per University policy. Attendance Policy: As per University policy

Faculty

SRUTHI S Assistant Professor Department of Economics Mahatma Gandhi College, TVPM

HOD

	2021-22	
Certi	ficate course on Advan	
	Theory & its app	
	Faculty:	SRUTHI S
	Start Date:	1st June 2021
	End Date:	5th July 2021
	Hours:	30 hours
	No of Days	10 days
	Total no of reg students:	53 4 pm to 7 pm
	Time:	Online via G-Meet
	Mode	Online via G-Weet
	STUDENT LIST	
sl no	Register number	Name
1	15020118001	ABHIJAYA V NAIR
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3	15020118003	ΑDΗΙΤΗΥΑ Κ Α
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Assistant Professor Department of Economics Mahatma Gandhi Chilege, TVPM

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Outline for the Term paper.

Due July 5th

A social dilemma is a collective action situation in which there is a conflict between individual and collective interest. Usually has two properties:

A. each individual receives a higher payoff for a socially defecting choice ... than for a socially cooperative choice, no matter what the other individuals do, but

B. all individuals are all better off if all cooperate than if all defect.

More technically, it is a collective action situation in which the Nash equilibrium results in outcomes below the Pareto optimal.

Pareto Optimal: an outcome is Pareto optimal if there is no alternative outcome that makes some individuals better off and leaves all other individuals at least as well off.

What is the Pareto optimal choice? What is the Nash equilibrium? Your work: Identify a social dilemma in your everyday life. Construct a simple model with special emphasis on how you derive the payoffs. Talk about the complexities that your model misses out on. Think of a 'social/cultural' mechanism that can help alleviate the dilemma. Either find examples of such mechanisms out in the world, or explain how will you go about setting up such a mechanism. Then address these questions: Will this be a fool proof mechanism? Will it always work? Will it create other problems that need to be solved?

Assistant Professor Department of Economics Mahatma Gandhi College, TVPM

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	End Date:	5th July 2021				
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Waste Dumping and Increasing Stray Dog Menace

Ganga P K

TAREE SAMPLE TERM PAPERS



Mini Muringatheri Thrissur: 14 August 2015 00:00 IST UPDATED: 29 MARCH 2016 16:11 IST

Waste dumping by people which resulted in increase in population of stray dogs is an explicit case of Social Dilemma. People dump waste in public areas in order to throw out garbage from private areas or from their homes which is out of self-interest. The main reason for dumping waste in public areas arise from the fear of adverse health effects caused by these waste and air contamination in their surroundings. Studies have proved that increase in number of stray dogs are the result of waste dumping by man in public places. Stray dogs feed on this waste and their population is increasing day by day. A female dog gives birth to around 5 - 10 puppies in a year and these puppies reproduce and this cycle goes on. Adequate food for these dogs is made available by man through unscientific methods of waste disposal and this act of man is creating enough menace to him. These pack of dogs roam around in cities and is creating road accidents; Street dogs run behind vehicles and end up in crash of vehicles which causes injuries to human as well as dogs. Attacks on pedestrians is another trouble caused by these wandering dogs and is spreading diseases like Rabies which is even fatal and is contagious as it spread much faster in human beings. Studies reports that there has been a 20% increase in dog bite cases in last one year. Stray dogs are fed on garbage that are thrown in open areas, during the hunt for food these dogs mess up this garbage and will scatter it in the entire area which makes that place polluted. Self-interest act of a person creates problem to rest of the society. This is how this turns as a social dilemma.

In Chennai 17,848 cases on attacks by stray dogs has been reported. The main reason for this is the large population that is around 50,000 of stray dogs which depends on waste dumping for their food. Another evident example is the case of Kochi. Kochi population dumps garbage that can feed 10,000 stray dogs a day this proportionately increased the road accidents in Kochi. The same is in the case of Srinagar and Shalimar where cases of dog bites increased and pedestrians find it difficult to move in the presence of dogs near garbage on roads and authorities are requesting the residents to practice proper waste management.

From the above said examples it is clear that waste dumping and increasing stray dog menace is a perfect case of social dilemma where actions taken independently by individuals result in negative outcome for others. Dumping of waste by one person and when others also practice the same this will create difficulties for them as well as to the entire society. If everyone jointly worked for a common interest it would have been resulted in a better solution but, due to the conflicting interest between individuals they do not end up in a better solution.

Evaluated by

SRUTHI S Assistant Professor Department of Economics Mahatma Gandhi College, TVPM

Verified by

PRIVALG Head of the Department PG Department of Economics Mahatma Gandhi College Thiruvananthapuram

IS PANIC BUYING A RESULT OF SOCIAL DILEMMA? -Adhithya K.A



COVID-19 has become a pandemic with its rapid spread around the world. It has changed the attitude and behaviour of people in various ways. One of the most notable change is their change in consumption patterns. COVID 19 pandemic has seen an unequal level of panic buying globally. We can relate this panic buying as a classic example of a situation of social dilemma; that is, here the actions taken by individuals for their own self interests result in an outcome which is inferior to other people. Here the decision taken by an individual affects the society as a whole .A feasible outcome might have occurred if people had acted together rather than as individuals.

This way of thinking which is adopted by each individual adversely affects the society. It results in the shortage of resources. It also creates negative externalities to the society. Other people are deprived of consuming goods when perishable goods and household essentials are bought in excessive amounts and are left to waste. As goods like food items will be decayed after stocking for a long period it will be left to waste. Stockpiling is a normal behaviour that many people practice in preparation for a known or anticipated shortage. The goal of stockpiling often means to create a reserve in case if there is a future need. It has also been seen that the shortage of essential needs due to panic buying, the sellers are forced to sell the essential goods at higher prices than minimum retail price. An article of the similar case has been reported in the magazine INDIA TODAY https://www.indiatoday.in/business/story/coronavirus-panicbuying-in-chandigarh-results-in-shortage-of-essential-items-1662738-2020-04-03

The main reason for this situation of panic buying is that people worry about regretting not buying something. This will leads to a situation of social dilemma which is followed by everyone. 'panic buying'comes from fears that the supply of necessities will be cut due to a halt in daily lives. This chaos comes from people's fear that they'll be left out and exposed to danger if they don't follow others. The aggressive videos and

[Type here]

posts in social media has further worsened the situation. The recent reports had shown that, even with increasing covid cases South korea hasn't experienced panic buying like other countries. The diversity of places to buy essentials is an important factor. The Korean neighbourhoods had convenience stores every 100 metres as well as local supermarkets.people also followed the instructions of the government to stay calm. The following steps can be followed to ease the situation. The one of the way for reducing this cycle of panic buying is to have an altruistic mentality. However, it is not as simple in practice. Beacause it is not possible for every individual to have such an attitude. But if we think deep into it, a person who is having an altruistic attitude in in the case of panic buying he/she will save the essential necessities for others after consuming for their needs. This is only one way which we can ease the problem. Meanwhile, the government should also generate awareness campaigns as well.

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https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/grocers-scramble-to-restock-after-nightof-panic-buying/article31167791.ece

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Evaluated by

SRUTHI S

SRUTHIS Assistant Professor Department of Economics Mahatma Gandhi College, TVPM

Verified by

PRIYALG Head of the Department





BURNING PLASTICS on open fires and stoves will release a cocktail of TOXIC POISONS. These poisons harm us, our families, in fact all living creatures. Some toxins last many years in the environment. Social dilemmas occur when the members of a group, culture, or society are in potential conflict over the creation and use of shared public goods. Social dilemmas such as the commons dilemma are arranged in a way that make it easy to be selfish because the personally beneficial choice (such as using water during a water shortage or driving to work alone in one's own car) produces benefits for the individual, no matter what others do.

Burning inorganic waste in the open with uncontrolled fire is very dangerous. It may release many toxic gases, resulting in air pollution.Particularly, plastic waste may contain styrene and PVC, which may cause dangerous emissions such as styrene gas and highly toxic chemicals.The styrene gas can be absorbed by the skin and lungs. Toxic gases emitted by plastic waste burning can also cause cancer, asthma, and other diseases.Over the past 60 years, plastics production and waste have dramatically increased, part of a global waste crisis whose drivers have included rapid urbanization, increasing consumption in both high- and low-income countries, and increased production of "throw-away" products. Indeed, the vast majority of plastics are not recycled at the end of their useful life, ensuring that this multiplication in production results in multiplication of harmful waste. From raw material extraction through to

plastic polluting the ocean, plastics represent the failure of a predominantly fossil fuel based, linear economic system. It will increase the risk of heart disease, aggravates respiratory ailments such as asthma and emphysema and cause rashes, nausea or headaches, and damages the nervous system. Often this includes killing plant life and posing dangers to local animals. Plastic is an incredibly useful material, but it is also made from toxic compounds known to cause illness, and since it is meant for durability, it is not biodegradable.

Emphasizing the social effect of contribution to pollution is not very effective persuation to prevent pollution. In order to explain why this is the case, we use our modified version of Umino's (1985, 1990) social dilemma model of pollution to investigate how individuals' perception of the harm of pollution affects the process and the outcome of their social decision-making.

Burning plastic is one of the most serious environmental disasters affecting our health. Fortunately it is a problem that has simple solutions. If we really care about our health and the well being of our environment, we will help stop the burning of plastic. We should reduce; if that's not possible then we should reuse; and if we can't reuse it lole in this either, we should recycle it; and if nothing else can be done, then yes, send it to for incineration

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Verified by

PRIVALG Head of the Department PG Department of Economics Mahatma Gandhi College Thiruvananthapuram

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Evaluated by

Assistant Professor Department of Economics Mahatma Gandhi College, TVPM

TERM PAPER DETAILS

Adhithya sankar 1 A A	people using crackers during Diwali and increasing air pollution in Delhi
2 Abhijay R	Improper Mask Wearing leading to more spread of the virus
3 Abhijaya V Nair	in the city
4 Abhijith MS	Watching crime related cinemas can increase the crime attitude in our society
5 Abhinand Sa	The addiction of using games in youth and loss of productivity
Abhinav Krishna 6 D P	Tax evasion by individuals and rising trends in gross national debt and weaken the economy
7 Adhithya K A	panic buying and stocking during covid 19 lead to shortage of resources
8 Aiswarya V S	wedding celebrations and rising covid cases
9 Ajesh A I	No one reacting to crimes aginst women thinking others will do will lead to anarchy
10 Akash B Manohar	Opening of shops during covid leading to a wide spread
11 Akash RM	underground water extraction via tube wells will adversely affect the water tables
12 AKHIL S	Dilemma and dynamics of religious worship during pandemic
13 Amitha.A.J	Illegal fishing during the time of trolling leads to scarcity of marine wealth
14 amithrajith ss	Hindrance to natural drainage of the river affects the settlements nearby.
15 Anandu. A. S	Improper construction of sewage and drainage channels due to water pollution and spreading diseases
16 Anjana.V	family think benefit by having many children's to gets more income. This situation leads to unemployment.
17 Anuja. A. J	Self-interest v/s Public goods leading to a social deilemma situation
18 Arathi B S	Normalising dowry system leads to deterioration of social values
Arathychandran 19 VB	Now one person in the community thinks I do not vote if others thinks so how can our govt form
20 Aravind A.S	Destroying of fields in order to construct houses leads to flood during rain in Manacaud and nearby areas of Thiruvananthapuram
21 arun krishnan	excess use of social media adversely affecting the mental health of youth
22 Athira .s	someone is cutting trees for their own use and if others are doing same that create deforestation
23 Bhagya S	Increasing consumption of alcohol and drugs among youth and its after effects in the society

Increasing consumption of alcohol and drugs among youth and its after effect in the society Social media & Technology Abuse 24 Bhagya S Inhibition in taking COVID vaccine among the people and general 25 Bhavya.J.S Although vaccines are effective, international travel should be 26 Bimal S S avoided Burning plastics leads to toxic air pollution 27 Devika R.H Waste Dumping leading to increase in number of stray dogs in 28 Devika y s residential areas Consuming toxic drugs among youth will adversely affect the 29 Ganga P K Gautham B Fast food addiction and increasing obesity among people society 30 Chand Spitting Of Tobacco in Public Places during Covid 19 ,a health 31 Gayathri SA hazard to the Society. Drainage problem leading to the falling of living standards in a 32 GOKULA Dumping waste in street drains and moats which lead to water residential area 33 Gourigp logging near my house Dumping waste in parvathi puthannaar which leads to water 34 GOWRI, M. R. Excessive and unnecessary vehicle consumption for selfish interest 35 Gowthamlal and pollution 36 karthika p nair Increasing mobile transactions and rising online scams 37 Lakshmi Suresh Air pollution in thiruvananthapuram leading to health problems Excessive use of technology especially in household lead to health **38 LEKSHMI. S 39 Malavika AS** issues 40 Megha S Krishnan Waste dumping in lake leads to water pollution in village Mismanagement of waste disposal near my house and its affect on neighborhoods 41 Mekha.S Fake news on social media creates a panic society ; study based on pandemic period Conducting Elections During Pandemic and huge spike in COVID-42 Nandana A S 19 cases 43 Nikhil P Syam dumping waste in a pond near my house leads to viral diseases Excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides causes soil 44 Niva A S degradation 45 PL Kaasinathan Normalising Bullying and its traumatizing effect on people 46 Pranay Prasanth Unnecessary Traveling during lockdown leads to increase in virus 47 Radhika R S

spread

48 Reshma, RG	Electoral Malpractices which deny the rights of the common man
49 Sandra, A, S	Misuse of social media and rising social dilemma
50 Shini MS	improper covid precautions and rising covid cases
51 Sreelekshmi.V.S	Waste dumping near nedumangad and deterioration of living standards
52 Thirtha	Discovery of bodies in and near the Ganga leading to serious concerns on extent of covid 19 embedding into rural areas
53 Vishnu M	Effects of Steroids and antibiotics among sports persons.

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SRUTHI S Assistant Professor Department of Economics Mahatma Gandhi College, TVPM

REPORT

EC 31: Certificate course on Advanced Microeconomic Theory & its application

The course started on 1st of June 2021. It was scheduled as a 30 hrs, 10 days course with 3 hr sessions on each day. The course aimed at bridging the gap between the regular classroom course and the world outside. To help students in their process of thinking like an Economist was the main objective. 53 undergraduate students participated in the course. The classroom participation was very good. The students after few sessions of the class started connecting the dots and were able to point out the economics behind many real-world scenarios in their daily life.

Existence of dowry in our society and the economics behind was the **topic chosen** for classroom interaction. Many students expressed their views and insights. Why Is Delhi so polluted? Why do we have dowry system in India? Why do fish vendors sell fish at a lower price at night? Even seemingly noneconomic questions like: Why do people apologize? Why there exist sex selective abortions? And do religious rituals help enforce social contracts. Were the other set of problems that were discussed as part of the course.

There were 53 students and hence the group were able to identify 53 different topics of current relevance. The students were encouraged to think outside the box and go local in addressing the social dilemma problems.

SRUTHI S Assistant Professor Department of Economics Mahatma Gandhi College, TVPM

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