

Course Name - Empirical Techniques for Development Economics

Course Code – N/A

Credits- 4.5

Faculty Name – Manini Ojha

Faculty Biography - Please find the biography [here](#).

Description:

Empirical Techniques for Development Economics

The global economy is marked by persistent challenges like income inequality, weak institutions, exclusion of marginalised groups, health crises, and environmental shocks. This course asks how economists measure and understand these phenomena rigorously? Students will engage with empirical research spanning poverty and inequality, household consumption and dynamics, gender, health, education, social norms and the design and evaluation of development interventions. A central theme is causal inference, moving beyond correlation to ask whether a policy, program, or shock actually caused an observed change. To that end, students will study experimental and quasi-experimental techniques, including randomized controlled trials, and will discuss issues of replicability and pre-analysis plans. Much of the course is organised as a seminar around reading, dissecting, and debating published empirical papers. Students will also gain hands-on exposure to accessing and working with real-world datasets, building the practical skills needed to engage with development research independently. Essentially, this course offers the tools and frameworks to begin answering questions like: *Does a cash transfer actually reduce poverty? Do girls' education programs change outcomes beyond school? Can we measure women's agency in a way that is credible and comparable?*

Prerequisites- Statistics, Quantitative techniques, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics

Scheme of Evaluation and Grading (tentative) –

Evaluation is comprised of 70% internals and 30% end-term. The break-up is as follows:

Class participation	10%
Referee report/ Critical Summary / Written assignment	10%
Data based exercise	10%
3 paper presentations + research project	40%
End Term assessment	30%