

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Newsletter, September-2020

T. SUNDARA VARDHAN (DEPT. LEAD)
M.V.D. ASWATHY (CO-FACULTY)

**“It is difficult to have a more interesting *task*” –
Witold Kula**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Note.....	1
Expert Conversation.....	2
Student Corner	3
Upcoming Events.....	4

KUMARAGURU COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE (KCLAS)
CHINNAVEDAMPATTI, COIMBATORE, TAMIL NADU-641049.

Write to us: info@kclas.ac.in

Call us: +91 422 266 1555;

For Admission Contact:+91 7094483783

Dear all,

Hearty and warm welcome to the Department of Economics! We are excited to have our first batch of students kicking off the first academic year - 2020-21 of the Economics department at KCLAS!!

The Economics department is firmly rooted in the KCLAS liberal arts framework of Trivium and Ad-trivium and inspired by the KCLAS year wise academic approach of Foundation (Year 1), Exploration (Year 2) and Integration (Year 3) and Beyond (Alumni connect). At this outset we wish to share the following Vision and Mission of Economics Department.

Dept. of Economics: Vision and Motto

❖ **Nurturing Critical Perspectives and Holistic Methodologies**

❖ **Pluralism of Approaches to Address Real World Economic Problems**

It is said, “An out-dated economic structure is endangering our planet, but new approaches could save it”.

Fig.1 Comparison of Broad Schools/Systems of Economic Theory

Systems of Economic Theory	Nature of Inquiry	Basic Premise	Conclusion	Methodology	Explanatory Power/Internal Consistency
A	B	C	D	E	F
Classical/ Marxian	Growth of Resources and Development of Society	Production sphere contains key relationships of the economy	Growth is a conflict-ridden process. The state and politics are an integral part of the economy	Historical/institutional analysis. Dynamic analysis. Limited Scope for mathematical/statistical methods.	Good
Neoclassical/Marginalist	Allocation of given resources under conditions of scarcity	Exchange sphere contains key relationships of the economy	There can be no conflict over distribution. A free-enterprise economy is self-regulating	Primarily deductive. Static Analysis. Extensive use of formal mathematics and statistics.	Poor
Keynesian	Level of activity in the short period.	What is true of individual economic agents is not true of the economy as a whole.	A free-enterprise economy is not self-regulating.	Hybrid methodology. Limited dynamics.	Mixed

Source: Omkarnath, G. (2012), Economics: A Primer for India, Hyderabad: Orient BlackSwan

Hence, we emphasise on Methodological Holism and Pluralism of Approaches. In this regard Figure 1 above gives an interesting comparison of broad schools/systems of economic theory.

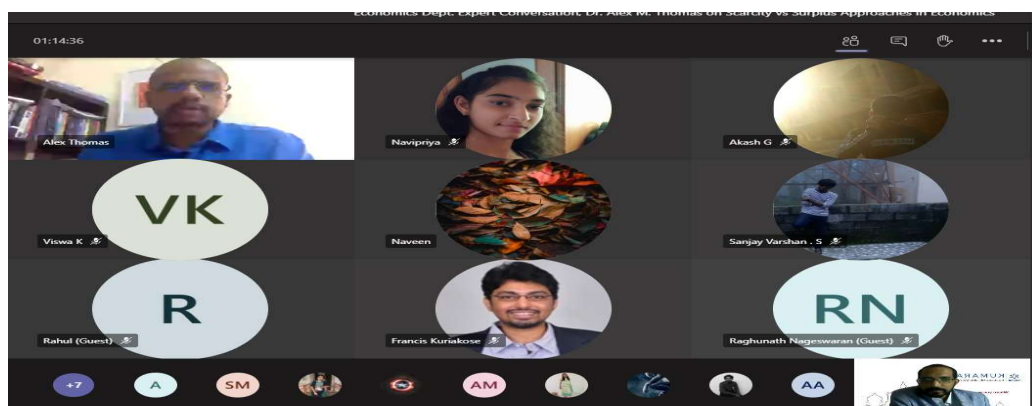
As part of its **Expert Conversation series**, the Department of Economics conducted its first guest talk on the topic “Scarcity vs Surplus Approaches in Economic Theory” with Dr. Alex M. Thomas of Azim Premji University as the resource person. This session was co-ordinated by the Faculty T. Sundara Vardhan and supported by student coordinators Ms. Paridhi Modi and Mr. Logesh Raja S. Dr. Alex obtained his PhD from the University of Sydney and is specialized in the areas of History of Economic Thought and Classical Economics.



The speaker explained the scarcity and surplus approaches by drawing 10 key differences with reference to supply and demand, prices, employment, wages etc. The key points are that the Scarcity Approach, which is mainly called as Marginalist Economics/Neo-classical Economics lacks the notion of surplus and with its restrictive notion of perfect competition the theory is static. However, the Surplus Approach which is in the tradition of Adam Smith, Ricardo, Marx and Sraffa is open ended to make space for the role of history, politics and power relations to explain the economic variables. The speaker also underscored the importance of abstraction while doing economic theory for the students.

The session was open for discussion for about 20-25 minutes where clarificatory questions were asked by the students related to Alfred Marshall's contribution to scarcity approach, notion of market prices, equilibrium prices the problem of neo-classical economics to address the economic reality. The session was overall fruitful in contributing to the conceptual understanding for the attendees, especially students. Ms. Paridhi, the student coordinator submitted vote of thanks.

Session Photograph:



The Students of Department of Economics started ***Economics Club*** exclusively dedicated to the stream of economics. This helps the students to have their own platform to give shape to their aspirations as budding Economists.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To create an opportunity for students to debate about economics
- 2) To understand and relate economics with real world scenarios

ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED

- Open Forum Discussions (Group Discussions)
- Book Discussion
- Quiz
- Economic Debates
- Model united nation
- Infographic poster making
- Creative Writing
- Model NITI Aayog

Student Coordinators:
Aditi Magesh, Logesh Raja S, Gowtham
R Paridhi Modi

ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED

- Expert Conversation on **“Indian Economic Service (IES): Role, Importance and Aspirant Strategy”** on October 1st, 2020.
- Expert Conversation on **“Covid-19 and Indian Economy”** – Proposed.
- Others in the Pipeline.
