



CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMICS
RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY



Special Lecture Series 2026-27

Lecture 25: **Measuring Economic Inequality: Alternative Approaches and Methodological Issues**

Measuring Economic Inequality

Alternative Approaches and Methodological Issues

Mofidul Hassan
Department of Economics, Gauhati University
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11th September, 2026

Time: 2.30 PM

Venue: Conference Hall
Department of Economics
Rajiv Gandhi University

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1.1 About Rajiv Gandhi University

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) is the premier institution for higher education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Ever since its inception, the university has been trying to achieve excellence and fulfill the objectives as envisaged in the University Act. The University started functioning from 1st April, 1985. Since then Rajiv Gandhi University then Arunachal University has carved a niche for itself in the educational scenario of the country following its selection as a University with potential for excellence by a high level expert committee of University Grants Commission from among universities in India. The University was converted into a Central University with effect from 9th April 2007 as per notification of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The University is located a top Rono Hills on a picturesque tableland of 302 acres overlooking the river Dikrong. It is 25 km away from Itanagar, the State capital.

The teaching and research programmes of the University are designed with a view to play a positive role in the socio-economic and cultural development of the State. The University offers Certificate Courses, Diploma, Post Graduate Diploma, Under Graduate, Post-Graduate and Ph.D. programmes. The Department of Education also offers B.Ed. programme. There are 45 (forty five) colleges affiliated to the University. The University has been extending educational facilities to the students from the neighboring States, particularly Assam. The strength of students in different Departments of University and in affiliated colleges has been steadily increasing. The Faculty members have been actively engaged in research activities with financial support from UGC and other funding agencies. Since its inception, a number of proposals on research projects have been sanctioned by various funding agencies to the University. The various Departments regularly organize Seminars, Workshops and Conferences. Many faculty members participated in national and international conferences and seminars held within the country and abroad. Eminent scholars and distinguished personalities have visited the University and delivered lectures on various disciplines. The academic year 2000-2001 was a year of consolidation for the University. The switch over from annual to semester system took off smoothly and the performance of the students registered a marked improvement. Various syllabi designed by Boards of Post-Graduate Studies (BPGS) have been implemented. In spite of infrastructural constraints, the University has been maintaining its academic excellence. The University has strictly adhered to the academic calendar, conducted the examinations and declared the results in time. The students from the University have

found placements not only in State and Central Government Services, but also in various institutions, industries and organizations. Many students have come out successful in the National Eligibility Test (NET). Since its inception, the University has made significant progress in teaching, research, innovations in curriculum development and developing infrastructure.

1.2 About the Department of Economics

The Department of Economics made its beginning in July 1991. The main objective of the Department has been to impart socially relevant education at the Post Graduate level by judicious mix of theory and empiricism. The course of study and research offering of the department has been designed to meet this objective. The Department of Economics has the distinction of acting as the nodal Department for the preparation of the First Human Development Report (HDR) of Arunachal Pradesh. The Department also has the distinction of preparing the First State Development Report of Arunachal Pradesh. The 7th, 17th and 22nd annual Conference of the North Eastern Economic Association Conference (NEEA) was organised by the Department in 2005, 2015 and 2022 respectively. Recognizing the contributions of the Department, the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in 2012 sanctioned grant-in-aid for establishing the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) attached to the department of Economics.

1.3 Centre for Development Studies (CDS)

The Centre for Development Studies (CDS) was set up in 2013 as a research adjunct at the Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), Itanagar, with a generous grant from the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), Government of India. The objectives of the Centre include the creation of high-quality research infrastructure for students, researchers and faculty members, in addition to sponsoring and coordinating research on various developmental issues having policy implications both at the regional and national level. Sponsoring national and international scholars for delivering lectures and other academic engagements and organizing national and international seminars, workshops, symposiums at periodic intervals on relevant topics and publishing working/policy papers on the research outcome of the Centre, monographs and edited volumes are other key activities of the Centre. The Centre so far has **organised many workshops** on different subjects such as Time Series Econometrics, Research Methodology and statistical analysis, Statistical Analysis and SPSS, and NSSO Data Handling and Research with Big Data Set. Additionally, this center organised the 63rd Annual Conference of **Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE)** in March 2023.

1.4 CDS Special Lecture Series:

As a part of its academic activities, the Centre for Development Studies has been organising special Lecture series from time to time with the objective to inform students and researchers regarding the recent development in economics and social science research. Academicians from across the country and abroad are invited to deliver such lectures. Some of the speakers of the previous lectures were Prof. Seema Bathla, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi; Prof. Rajarshi Majumder Department of Economics, University of Burdwan, West Bengal; Dr. Uma Rani, The Research Department, International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva; Dr. Ambika Aiyadurai, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, Prof. Mrinal Kanti Dutta, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati, Guwahati and Prof. Indranil Mukhopadhyay, Department of Human Genetics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. This present lecture is the twenty fifth lecture of this lecture series.

2.0 Organising Committee

Advisors: Prof. Sushanta Kumar Nayak Department of Economics Prof. Vandana Upadhyay Department of Economics
Organizing Chairman Prof. Lijum Nochi Head, Department of Economics & Coordinator, CDS, Department of Economics Organizing Secretary Dr. Prasenjit Bujar Baruah Associate Professor Department of Economics
Members Dr. Ashi Lama Associate Professor Department of Economics Dr. Anup Kumar Das Associate Professor Department of Economics Dr. Dil Bahadur Gurung Assistant Professor Department of Economics

3.0 About Special Lecture Series 2026-27: Lecture 25

3.1: Themes: **Measuring Economic Inequality: Alternative Approaches and Methodological Issues**

3.2: **Details of the Resource Persons:**

	Resource Person: DR. Mofidul Hassan Assistant Professor Department of Economics Gauhati University Guwahati
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3.3: **Sponsoring Agency:** Centre for Development Studies, Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University

3.4: **Expenditure Incurred:** Rs.18,200/-

4.0 Detail Programme:

2.30 pm - 2.35 pm	Welcome Address	Dr. Prasenjit Bujar Baruah, Programme Organising Secretary
2.35 pm - 2.40 pm	A few words by Head	Prof. Lijum Nochi , Head, Department of Economics & Coordinator, CDS, Department of Economics
2.40 pm - 3.30 pm	Lecture by the Speaker	Dr. Mofidul Hassan, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Gauhati University Guwahati
3.30 pm - 4.00 pm	Question- answer and discussions	
4.00 pm - 4.10 pm	Concluding remarks by the Chair person	Dr. Ashi Lama, Associate Professor, Department of Economics
4.10 pm - 4.15 pm	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Anup Kumar Das, Associate Professor, Department of Economics

5.0 Outcome of the Program (Main points of the Lecture):

Measuring Economic Inequality: Alternative Approaches and Methodological Issues

The selection of an inequality measure can substantially influence how the extent, structure, and distributional location of inequality are interpreted. This lecture provided an overview of alternative approaches to measuring economic inequality, with particular emphasis on their application in empirical research and doctoral-level research design.

The lecture begins by examining the conceptual foundations of inequality measurement. It then critically discusses the **Gini coefficient**, highlighting its strengths as a widely used summary measure as well as its limitations in capturing where within a distribution inequality is concentrated. The lecture subsequently introduces **ratio- and share-based measures**, including top-to-bottom income ratios, percentile shares, and the **Palma ratio**, to demonstrate how tail-sensitive measures can complement conventional summary indices.

The final part of the lecture focused on methodological issues, including the appropriate choice of inequality measure, treatment of household size, comparability across time and space, interpretation of classification thresholds, and theory-driven robustness checks. The lecture aimed to equip PhD scholars with a critical understanding of inequality measurement and a practical framework for making defensible methodological choices in social-science research. Finally, the lecture concludes with the following points:

- Inequality measurement starts with a clearly defined distribution.
- Gini coefficient is powerful, popular and useful—but it is not a complete description.
- Ratio/share measures reveal where inequality is concentrated.
- Palma is especially useful as a tail-sensitive complement to Gini.
- Axioms provide the theoretical discipline for choosing an index.
- Lorenz curves are essential when a single-number ranking may conceal distributional differences.
- A credible inequality analysis triangulates measures and explains the methodological choices behind them.

6.0 Annexure

6.1: Brochure:



RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS



Special Lecture Series 2026-27

Lecture 25

Measuring Economic Inequality: Alternative Approaches and Methodological Issues



11 September 2026
(Friday)



2:30 PM



Conference Hall
Department of Economics

ALL ARE WELCOME

Resource Person



DR. Mofidul Hassan
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Gauhati University
Guwahati

About the Lecture

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Organising Committee

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 Prof. Vandana Upadhyay Department of Economics	 Organizing Secretary	 Dr. Anup Kumar Das Associate Professor Department of Economics, RGU
	 Dr. Prasenjit Bujar Baruah Associate Professor Department of Economics, RGU	 Dr. Dil Bahadur Gurung Assistant Professor Department of Economics

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6.2: Photographs:





6.3: List of Attendance:

25th Lecture of Date-11-09-2026 Special Lecture Series 2026-27			
<u>Measuring Economic Inequality:</u> <u>Alternative Approaches and Methodological</u> <u>Issues</u>			
Centre for Development Studies			
Department of Economics			
Sl. No.	Name	Department	Signature
①	Ananya Sonowal	Economics	Ananya
②	Lakshmi Rajkhowa	Economics	Lakshmi
③	Shilpi Chandra	Economics	Shilpi
4	Thipten Pema Gyel	"	Thipten
5	Siya Devi	"	Siya
6	Kalish Borah	"	K. Borah
7	Dinobachar Mili	"	D. M.
8	Nusmi Bati Gaitan	"	Nusmi
9	Jumir Riza	"	Jumir
10	Puja Kothala	"	Puja
11	Nang Sangita Mungkan	"	Nang
12	Aastha Kaulik Agonacharya	"	Aastha
13	Hemanta Sonowal	"	Hemanta
14	Rinchin Dorjee	"	Rinchin
15	Xonon Mossang	"	Xonon
16	Pabitra Borah	"	Pabitra Borah
17	Karmin Maza	"	Karmin
18	Sita Geta	"	Sita
19	Ani Borah	"	Ani
20	Pinky Anjo	"	Pinky
21	Bengia Payer	"	Bengia
22	Likshita Gaitan	"	Likshita
23	Kamihan Tangpan	"	Kamihan
24	Rido Yula	"	Rido
25	Pannam Rilling	"	Pannam
26	Wangjai Loso	"	Wangjai
27	K. Shina Rangdang	"	K. Shina
28	Tatu Lingga	"	Tatu

^4 Media Coverage:

 **The Arunachal Times**



Workshop on AI, special lecture held at RGU

RONO HILLS, 13 Sep: The Centre for Development Studies (CDS) of Rajiv Gandhi University's (RGU) economics department organised a workshop on 'Artificial Intelligence in Social Science Research' here recently.

Addressing the participants, RGU Vice-Chancellor (i/c) Prof SK Nayak appreciated the CDS for organising the workshop on the use of AI. He called on the scholars to use AI carefully, such that its use does not hamper their thinking ability. He urged the CDS to organise such workshop on a larger scale.

Social Sciences Dean Prof Nani Bath said that "we are very late in adopting new technologies. When the world is talking about super artificial intelligence, we are talking about the use of artificial intelligence."

He informed the gathering about the huge extent of investments being made on AI by multinational companies. Expressing apprehension that AI may be used "in a wrong way" by scholars to save time and energy, he advised the scholars to use AI for generation of new ideas and not just for minimising their efforts and creativity.

Prof Bath also questioned the relevance of ILP in the era of artificial intelligence and globalisation.

Prof Vandana Upadhyay and Economics HoD Prof Lijum Nochi also spoke.

The resource persons of the workshop were RGU CSE Department Assistant Professor Dr Rupam Kr Sharma and Dr Mofidul Hassan from Gauhati University.

The workshop was attended by research scholars and delegates from different departments of RGU's social sciences faculty.

A special lecture was also organised by the CDS on 11 September on the topic 'Measuring economic inequality: Methodological issues and alternative approaches'. The lecture was delivered by Dr Mofidul Hassan, who dwelt on different concepts of welfare and different types of economic inequality. He also presented the various methods that can be used for measuring economic inequality, and the merits and limitations of each method.

He advised the scholars not to draw conclusions based on the result of just one method, and asked the scholars to supplement the result of one method with the result of other methods. He stated that Gini ratio is the most widely used method for measuring overall inequality, "but it needs to be complemented by Lorenz curve and Palma ratio."