

## AN ANALYSIS OF TEAM BASED LEARNING PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH IN INTRODUCTORY ECONOMICS CLASSES

Neetu Kaushik, LAGCC, City University of New York, New York, U.S.A.

[dx.doi.org/10.18374/JIMS-21-1.2](https://doi.org/10.18374/JIMS-21-1.2)

### ABSTRACT

*This paper emphasizes the effectiveness of Team-Based Learning (TBL) as a pedagogical approach in introductory economics classes. TBL is an instructional strategy that can help students master difficult concepts with ease, usually in small group settings, simultaneously developing their critical thinking skills. There is limited research in the area of TBL's effectiveness in economics and social science in general. This study was conducted on two introductory courses, namely, Introduction to Macroeconomics, and Introduction to Microeconomics. Both courses followed regular classroom trainings. Students' grades in individual quizzes were compared with their group quiz results. Further, students' grades in three tests were compared to the grades of a controlled group that did not use the TBL strategy. The results indicated a mixed concoction. While some tests showed an indication of improvement among students under the purview of the TBL approach; other tests showed insignificant difference in performance when compared to a controlled group. In the controlled group, a regular pre-test review was provided.*

**Keywords:** Team Based Learning, Group Learning, Flip Learning, Introductory Economics

### 1. INTRODUCTION

As per the Oxford Dictionary of Business Research Methods, Team Based Learning (TBL) involves "Structured training methods that use small groups with an emphasis on autonomous preparation by the individual group members, with the expectation of group support and learning enhancement by interaction effects and positive group dynamics" (Duignan, 2016). Duignan further emphasized the importance of this approach in certain types of professional learning, where working in team environment is essential.

Simply put, Team Based Learning is a teaching strategy that asserts working in small groups, and usually involves three steps: Preparation Before the Class, In Class Readiness Assurance Testing, and Application Focused Exercise. The central idea behind this pedagogical approach is to promote and strengthen peer evaluation and promote team work.

### 2. STUDY BACKGROUND

This study was conducted in a community college in the *Introduction to Macroeconomics* and *Introduction to Microeconomics* courses in Spring 2019 with prior IRB approval. Sixty-seven percent of the students who participated in the study were 25 years or below.

Twenty-three students were in the age range of 26-30 years. The male to female student ratio was approximately 1:1. Ninety-three percent of the students were full time students, either freshman or sophomore.

### 3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Team Based Learning has gained a lot of traction since it was first introduced. Most studies found this learning approach quite effective depending on various factors such as, how the groups are formed, the targeted courses, and the size of the class. The effectiveness of this strategy has been analyzed on aspects,