

The Workshop on Predictive Analytics with R

Centre for Research Studies (CRS), Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) organised a workshop on “Predictive analytics with R” during 2nd and 3rd September, 2017 at the Greater Noida campus. The workshop was an attempt to empower the budding researchers, academicians and faculty the "R programming language". R is a user friendly and open source language, which has become a vehicle of choice for researchers to conduct data analysis. It is widely used among researchers for statistical analysis (linear and nonlinear modelling, classical statistical tests, time-series analysis, classification, clustering) and graphical presentation. It is also utilized for data mining and text mining applications. The strengths of “R” are its well-designed publishing quality with mathematical symbols, formulae, organized documentation, high quality plots, designs and graphics. The workshop was an initiative by the CRS to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge of R for faculty and research scholars in their journey to conduct high quality research.

The workshop was conducted by two facilitators, Prof. Amarnath Bose and Prof. Amrendra Pandey both being faculty members of the Institute. The introduction of “R” and Structure Equation Modelling was moderated by Prof. Amarnath Bose, who is an alumnus of ISI Kolkata and a faculty in Decision Sciences at BIMTECH. His research interests lie in the areas of statistical modelling, operations research and artificial intelligence (AI) techniques including genetic algorithms and neural network. The text mining session was moderated by Prof. Amrendra Pandey, Fellow of BIMTECH and faculty in the area of Economics. His research interests lie in macroeconomics, financial risk, retail economics and text mining techniques.

The workshop attracted a mixture of participants from academia and industry. There were 18 participants in total, out of which four were from industry, and the rest from academics including four research scholars. The proceedings on day one, started with a welcome address from Dr. A Sahay, Dean Research, BIMTECH whose support was instrumental in making this workshop possible. In his address he extended a hearty welcome to all and delivered an insightful speech highlighting the importance of “R”, its functionality, and relevance in the research ecosystem. Thereafter, the first two sessions covered the background of “R”, a quick brief on the importance of “R” and factors that distinguish it from other software such as Python. Post lunch sessions covered Text Mining, extraction of data from Facebook and cleaning of data.

On day two, morning sessions continued with Text mining using Twitter as a data source and approach to modelling . In the second half of the day the sessions covered Structured Equation Modelling. The valedictory session commenced with participants expressing overwhelming praise for the experience during the workshop. This was followed by presentation of certificates and concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. A.V Shukla, Chairperson, Center for Research Studies. The chairperson also expressed the Center’s desire to organize more workshops for facilitating researchers with the necessary knowledge to

conduct their research. He invited suggestions on probable topics/themes for future workshops

