



Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms M L Parvathy (Registration Number: 1730089), PhD scholar at the School of Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Tuesday, 11 April 2023 at 10.30 am in the Syndicate Room (Room No. 802), Ground Floor, Auditorium Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

Title of the Thesis	:	Perceived Morbidity, Health Seeking Behaviour and Health Care Utilisation among Inter-State Women Migrant Workers in Kerala
Discipline	:	Social Work
External Examiner (Outside Karnataka)	:	Dr Sonny Jose Associate Professor and Head Department of Social Work Loyola School of Social Sciences Trivandrum Kerala
External Examiner (Within Karnataka)	:	Dr E Aravind Raj Additional Professor Department of Psychiatric Social Work NIMHANS, Bengaluru Karnataka
Supervisor	:	Dr Hemalatha K Professor Department of Sociology and Social Work School of Social Sciences CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bengaluru – 560029 Karnataka

The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva.



Registrar

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 05 April 2023

ABSTRACT

Internal migrants in India is estimated to be 37% of the total population with Kerala estimated to host over 25 lakh, internal migrants. Migration, both internal and international can influence a country or region's socio-economic development. The interrelation between health and migration is highlighted in the Sustainable development goals where health is determined as an indicator of "people-centered, rights-based, inclusive, and equitable development" (UN, 2015). Though migrants as such are a vulnerable population, the Gender experience of migration differs, as women migrants often face triple discrimination of being a woman, unprotected worker and a migrant making them the most vulnerable within the migrant community. They are often overlooked while formulating schemes and policies depriving them of health and social security benefits. The present study aims to understand the perceived morbidity, health-seeking behaviors and healthcare utilization among Interstate Women Migrant Workers in Kerala. The sequential exploratory research design was employed to collect data from workers in the seafood processing and textile manufacturing sector. The qualitative phase had two focus group discussions with 8 participants each and four in-depth interviews while the quantitative phase had cross-sectional surveys with 300 respondents. The focus group discussion and in-depth interview paved way for understanding the issues and concerns of the respondent's regarding their health-seeking behaviors and health care utilization as well as hinted at their attitude towards health in general. Themes were able to provide insight into the factors underlying healthcare utilization as well as provided suggestions from the respondents which could have policy implications.

The quantitative data was elaborate and was able to address the various dimensions of health-seeking and determine the factors influencing healthcare utilization among interstate women migrants in Kerala. Inferential statistics also revealed a significant relationship among Health Status with Health Seeking Behaviors ($p=.042$) and with Health care utilization ($p=.023$) while Health care utilization with Perceived morbidity ($p=.000$) and with Health Status ($p=.007$). The sector-wise differences were also noted with the seafood processing sector showing higher healthcare service utilization (57.6%) than the textile manufacturing sector (42.4%). The binary regression carried out among 14 independent variables reported 10 independent variables making a statistically significant contribution to the model with the highest being Health Insurance 2.998 [95.0% C.I: 1.481- 5.287] and Educational Qualification 2.979 [95.0% C.I: 1.294 - 6.62]. The study finds its relevance in providing a gender centric lens to exploring women migrant worker's health profile, health-seeking behaviors, the challenges and barrier in availing health services and the changes that need to be adopted for improving healthcare facilities thereby improving their health and wellbeing and preventing a threat to public health and wellbeing. The study has both research and policy implications.

Keywords: Women Migrants, Interstate migrant workers, Healthcare utilization, perceived morbidity, Health seeking behaviors

Publications:

1. **Parvathy M L**, "Reproductive Health Vs Overall Wellbeing: Systematic Review of Studies On Women Migration and Healthcare Utilization" in the *International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care* with ISSN: 1747-9894
2. **Parvathy M L**, "Perceived Morbidity and Health Seeking Behaviour of Women Migrant Workers: A Public Health Focus" in the *Journal of Social Work Education and Practice*; listed under the Emerging Sources Citation Index under Web of Science Core Collection with ISSN: 2456-2068
3. **Parvathy M L**, "Perceived Morbidity and Healthcare Utilization of Women Migrant Workers: a public health focus" in DYUTI 2020 National Conference on Migration and social inclusion conference proceeding with ISBN 978-93-89515-16-9.
4. **Parvathy M L**, "Social work and Referral Services in Enhancing Migrant Health Services: A Conceptual Paper" in Educere- BCM journal of social work with ISSN 2249-1090