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# Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Leena Philip (Registration Number: 1730076), PhD scholar at the School of Arts and Humanities, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Thursday, 21 December 2023 at 10.30 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

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| **Title of the Thesis** | : | **Role of Humanoid Robots in Enhancing Communication and Social Skills among Students with Mild Autism** |
| **Discipline** | : | **Media Studies** |
| **External Examiner** (Outside Karnataka) | : | **Dr Manisha Shelat**<br>Professor<br>MICA School of Communication Studies<br>Sarkhej- Gandhinagar Highway, Ahmedabad<br>Gujarat - 380058 |
| **External Examiner** (Within Karnataka) | : | **Dr Richard Rego**<br>Professor and Director<br>Center for Media Studies<br>St Joseph's Autonomous College<br>Bengaluru<br>Karnataka |
| **Supervisor** | : | **Dr Aasita Bali**<br>Associate Professor<br>Department of Media Studies<br>School of Arts and Humanities<br>CHRIST (Deemed to be University)<br>Bengaluru – 560029<br>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-voce examination.

**Registrar**

**Place:** Bengaluru

**Date:** 13 December 2023

# ABSTRACT

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) face significant challenges in social interaction, which can lead to isolation and antisocial behaviours if not properly addressed. Assistive Technologies (AT), including emerging technologies like humanoid robots, have shown promise in bridging the learning gap for students with disabilities, including those with autism. However, the use of emerging technologies by special tutors to develop vital skills in children with autism has not been thoroughly explored. Therefore, this research aims to investigate the benefits of using humanoid robots in inclusive classroom settings to enhance social and communication skills in students with mild autism.

The study employs qualitative methods, such as semi-structured interviews with special tutors and counsellors, to understand the positive impact of child-robot interaction. Observations and focus group discussions with parents provide insights into the transferability of skills learned through robot interaction in various social settings. The effectiveness of a social skills training program facilitated by special tutors and a humanoid robot is recorded over the Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ). The results demonstrate the positive effects of humanoid robots on the social and communication development of students with mild ASD, enhancing their communication abilities and social skills for future interactions. The findings indicate improvements in skill application within specific social contexts.



*Keywords: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Humanoid Robots, Social and Communication skills, Special Educational Needs, Inclusive Education*


**Publications:**

1. **Philip, L.** (2021). An exploratory study on the representation of transgender characters as disgraceful and disabled beings in gaming media. *Journal Of Tianjin University Science and Technology, 54* (11:2021). doi: 10.17605/OSF.IO/VBG3W
2. **Philip, L.** (2022). Teaching Special Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Exploratory Study. *World Journal of English Language, Vol 12*(Issue 1). https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.5430/wjel.v12n1p246
3. **Philip, L.** (2022). Growing popularity and impact of food-related visual and social media content. *Central Asia and The Caucasus, Volume 23*(Issue 1), 1-25. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.37178/ca-c.23.1.01