



## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Bhagyalakshmi K C (Registration Number: 1630089), 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 Friday, 16 June, 2023 at 11.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

<b>Title of the Thesis</b>	:	<b>Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse: A Protection Motivation Theory-Based Intervention for Mothers of Preadolescents</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	:	<b>Psychology</b>
<b>External Examiner (Outside Karnataka)</b>	:	<b>Dr Baby Shari P A</b> Professor Department of Psychology University of Calicut Kerala - 673635
<b>External Examiner (Within Karnataka)</b>	:	<b>Dr Ashok H S</b> Professor and Dean Chanakya University School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru – 560072 Karnataka
<b>Supervisor</b>	:	<b>Dr Aneesh Kumar</b> Assistant Professor Department of Psychology School of Social Sciences CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bengaluru - 560029 Karnataka

The members of the Research Advisory Committee, 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.

**Place:** Bengaluru  
**Date:** 13 June 2023

**Registrar**

# ABSTRACT

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a growing concern in the world. Prevention of CSA in India is challenging due to deep rooted traditional values and beliefs. Sex and related matters are difficult topics for parents to discuss. Lack of parental awareness leads to increased risk for CSA. Maternal care is the most influential aspect of child rearing and they need information and skills to educate children on sexual abuse. The literature review was based on Bloom's taxonomy for academic writing. The need for systematic and evidence-based approach in primary prevention was identified. The aim of this study was to test the efficacy of Protection Motivation Theory (PMT)-based psycho education program in enhancing mothers' knowledge, attitude and sense of parental competence among mothers. An interactive mixed-method design embedding quantitative and qualitative methods selected 72 mothers as participants from Kannur, Kerala. Mothers aged between 30-40 years who had preadolescent children (8-12 years) were assigned to control and experimental group. A facilitator's psycho education manual was developed embedding PMT constructs for the intervention.

The quantitative results indicated significant differences between the groups for CSA knowledge and attitude. The impact of the intervention was moderate to high. The qualitative results indicated the benefits of intervention. Mothers have overcome communication blocks, misconceptions regarding CSA education are cleared, are aware of risks and warning signs and are confident to deal with CSA disclosure. The involvement of mothers in the prevention program was found to be effective in this study. The findings of this study have important implications for developing theory-based interventions for CSA prevention. The application of systematic evidence-based interventions promotes active engagement of participants for applying the learnt skills effectively. The culturally sensitive issues like CSA needs more contextual understanding of the problems to find effective solutions. The evaluation of the intervention indicates feasibility, acceptability and application to different population groups.

**Keywords:** *Child Sexual Abuse, Mothers, Protection Motivation Theory, Prevention, Mixed-Methods.*

## **Publications**

1. **Bhagyalakshmi, K. C., B., & Kumar, A. (2022).** Child sexual abuse prevention involving mothers: A Quasi experimental study with Protection Motivation Theory based intervention. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22868>