



## Notice for the PhD Viva-Voce Examination

Ms Gloria M Babu (Registration Number: 1850070), 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, 17 October 2023 at 10.30 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

<b>Title of the Thesis</b>	:	<b>Thinking Beyond Empowerment: Understanding Autonomy in the Context of Kudumbashree</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	:	<b>Sociology</b>
<b>External Examiner (Outside Karnataka)</b>	:	<b>Dr Dev Nath Pathak</b> Associate Professor South Asian University New Delhi- 110068
<b>External Examiner (Within Karnataka)</b>	:	<b>Dr Samata B Deshmane</b> Professor Jnanabharathi Campus Manasa Bhavana Bangalore University Bengaluru - 560 056 Karnataka
<b>Supervisor</b>	:	<b>Dr Rajeev K</b> Associate 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-voce examination.

**Place:** Bengaluru  
**Date:** 05 October 2023



**Registrar**

## ABSTRACT

The concepts empowerment, agency and autonomy have gained a wider range of attention in the developmental research regimes. Amidst the conceptual drift these concepts are used interchangeably leading to uncertainty and proliferated meanings. The process of empowerment may not always lead to autonomy. Through an ethnography of Kudumbashree, an SHG in the South Indian state of Kerala, the current research focuses on how these women exercise agency to trouble the conventional boundaries between empowerment and autonomy. The transition of agency from the economic to the political domain is a subtle enterprise and is mediated by a number of factors including economic independence, decision making capability, mobility and political participation. Social - economic - political and cultural implications of women empowerment could be the first step in challenging and overcoming the relations of oppression in any society.

The stereotypical assumptions can be negotiated by solely apportioning responsibilities and re-engaging with the system through everyday practices. The nuances of empowered women's re-engagement with local power regimes lead to changes at the conceptual level that cuts beyond the individual and group level material transformations. The study figures how autonomy is a mediated process that is both agentic and subversive to the local patriarchal structures.

*Keywords: Empowerment, autonomy, agency, Kudumbashree, ethnography*

### **Publications:**

1. **Gloria M Babu**, Reconceptualizing Empowerment and Autonomy: Ethnographic narratives from a Self-Help Group in South India (ECS Transactions – Scopus Indexed)
2. **Gloria M Babu**, V- Notes an art of digital note taking and organizing in an innovative way. (Copyright-Government of India)
3. **Gloria M Babu**, Women in Higher Education Institutions: Challenges faced by Women in HEI and Emerging Opportunities (IGI Global – Book Chapter)
4. **Gloria M Babu**, Towards Economic Sustainability: An Ethnographic Study Among Kudumbashree Women (Shanlax Publications – Book Chapter)