




Notice for the PhD Viva-Voce Examination

Ms K Katini (Registration Number: 1810071), PhD scholar at the School of Commerce, Finance and Accountancy, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Friday, 10 November 2023 at 3.00 pm in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

- Title of the Thesis** : **Role of Financial Literacy and Digital Financial Inclusion on Sustainable Development among the Mao-Naga Tribe of Northeast India**
- Discipline** : **Commerce**
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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: 20 October 2023



Registrar

ABSTRACT

This research empirically analyses the influence of financial literacy and digital financial inclusion on sustainable development. The notion of financial literacy, adopted from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, combines financial awareness, attitude, knowledge, and behaviour to achieve financial well-being. Digital financial inclusion is the process by which individuals or households in the underserved or unprivileged section of society have access to formal financial services through innovative digital technologies. The main features of digital financial inclusion include reduction of costs, security, ease of access, usefulness, and actual usage of digital financial services. The current study collected data from the Mao-Naga tribe of Manipur and Nagaland, Northeast India using a convenient and purposive sampling method. The research method is quantitative in nature, and primary data were collected from adult individuals who were 18 years old or above. These respondents were eligible and able to manage their own bank accounts independently. The study has a cross-sectional time horizon with a deductive approach. The data consisted of 1147 samples of Mao-Naga tribe adults using a structured questionnaire on a seven-point Likert scale. The statistical technique of Statistical Packages of Social Science (SPSS) software was utilised to ascertain the descriptive result of the study. The hypothesis testing was conducted using the Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) statistical model. The SMART-PLS 4.0 software was employed to test the hypotheses of PLS-SEM, explanatory variance, effect size, PLS predict, and importance-performance map analysis (IPMA). Financial literacy and sustainable development were analysed from a reflective-formative approach of higher-order constructs.

This research indicates that financial literacy and digital financial inclusion can positively influence sustainable development among the Mao-Naga tribe. The results reveal individuals who are financially literate and adopt digital technology for financial transactions could improve sustainable development. However, this comprehensive empirical analysis is not exempted from limitations, as the study involves only the Mao-Naga tribe, which restricts generalisation to the entire tribal population of India. This study provides valuable insights for policymakers, digital technology providers, financial service providers, and academics to implement financial education programmes that widen financial competency and enhance awareness of financial products and services. At the same time, tribals are apprehensive about risks related to digital finance. Therefore, policymakers should augment their perceived edge of security by implementing stricter laws and regulations to protect newcomers to digital finance from fraud and scams. The outcomes of financial literacy and usage of digital finance could reduce poverty, eliminate gender-caste-based division, subside income disparity, accelerate economic growth, and promote ecological quality among the tribal population.

Keywords: financial literacy, digital financial inclusion, Mao-Naga tribe, sustainable development, Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM)

Publications:

1. **K Katini**, "Exploring relationships between financial literacy and environmental sustainability among the tribals through structural equation modelling", *Journal of Positive School Psychology*; 2022, Vol. 6, No. 8, 5940-5959
2. **K Katini**, "Achieving Environmental Sustainability through Digital Finance: Possibilities and Challenges", Publisher: Nitya Publications
3. **K Katini**, "Probable benefits of Human-nature relationship during Covid-19 Pandemic", Publisher: The Native Tribe
4. **K Katini**, Digital financial inclusion stakeholders' role in eradicating extreme poverty: Possibilities and challenges", Publisher: The Native Tribe
5. **K Katini**, "Covid-19 repercussions on the socioeconomic life of Northeast Indian tribals and the importance of financial literacy", *Impact of covid 19 on economy, business, education, and social life* (vol 10)