# Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Kirti (Registration Number: 2071022), PhD scholar at the Department of Psychology, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR Off-Campus will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Wednesday, 11 September 2024 at 1.30 pm in the Idea Lounge, Block-A, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR -201003.

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| **Title of the Thesis** | : | **Moral Injury among Healthcare Professionals during the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Exploratory Intervention Trial** |
| **Discipline** | : | **Psychology** |
| **External Examiner- I**<br>(Within Uttar Pradesh) | : | **Dr Rashmi Singh**<br>Professor<br>Department of Psychology<br>Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth<br>Varanasi<br>Uttar Pradesh - 221002 |
| **External Examiner - II**<br>(Outside Uttar Pradesh) | : | **Dr Poonam Phogat**<br>Associate Professor<br>Department of Applied Psychology<br>Gargi College<br>University of Delhi<br>Siri Fort Road<br>New Delhi - 110049 |
| **Supervisor** | : | **Dr Surekha C**<br>Professor<br>School of Psychological Sciences<br>CHRIST (Deemed to be University)<br>Bengaluru<br>Karnataka - 560029 |

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: 03 September 2024

# ABSTRACT

The declaration by WHO of "COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of National Concern" marked the onset of unparalleled challenges for healthcare workers. The challenges including enforced changes, ethical dilemmas, and resource scarcity, imposing profound emotional and moral burdens. While recent attention has been directed towards "guilt and shame related to moral injury among doctors and nurses, the factors linked with moral injury have remained relatively overlooked, thereby perpetuating the issue." The present study aims to study moral injury and establish an intervention for healthcare professionals in India. The study was conducted in three phases. Phase I focused on validating the "Moral Injury Symptom Scale for Indian healthcare Professionals." Phase II aimed to understand the role of locus of control and guilt-shame proneness in predicting moral injury among healthcare professionals. Phase III aimed at adapting the Cognitive Processing Therapy for moral injury among healthcare professionals. The sample comprised a total of 806 healthcare professionals, including 406 doctors and 400 nurses. Cronbach alpha demonstrated high internal consistency, while the item-total correlation values for each item indicated good discrimination. Results from confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) suggested a good fit to the data. Healthcare professionals exhibited a significant presence of moral injury, alongside a moderate belief in an internal locus of control and a propensity for guilt and shame proneness. A significant "positive relationship between moral injury and guilt-shame proneness, as well as the locus of control was indicated by the Pearson Correlation Coefficient." Regression analysis underscored the significant role of guilt-shame proneness and locus of control in predicting moral injury. Gender differences in moral injury were not significant among doctors and nurses, indicating similar exposure to ethical dilemmas and trauma. However, a notable difference in moral injury was observed among various healthcare roles, such as medical interns, nursing interns, resident doctors, consultant doctors, and nursing officers, likely influenced by varying levels of autonomy and decision-making authority. Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) demonstrated effectiveness in reducing moral injury scores among doctors and nurses, highlighting its potential as an intervention to mitigate psychological distress associated with moral injury.

*Keywords: Moral Conflict, Ethical Dilemma, Pandemic, Healthcare Workers.*

## Publications:

1. Singhal, K., & Surekha Chukkali. (2023). Psychometric Properties of the Moral Injury Symptom Scale Among Indian Healthcare Professionals. Psychology Research and Behavior Management, Volume 16, 1439–1444. https://doi.org/10.2147/prbm.s404094
2. Singhal, K., & Surekha Chukkali. (2023). The role of guilt-shame proneness and locus of control in predicting moral injury among healthcare professionals. Cogent Psychology, 10(1). https://doi.org/10.1080//23311908.2023.2264669