



Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Parvathy Viswanath (Registration Number: 2090151), PhD scholar at the School of Psychological Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 15 July 2024 at 9.30 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

Title of the Thesis	:	Opportunity Recognition, Career Decision-Making, Self-Efficacy and Social Entrepreneurial Intention among Higher Education Students
Discipline	:	Psychology
External Examiner - I	:	Dr K Manikandan Professor Department of Psychology University of Calicut Calicut University Post Kerala - 673635
External Examiner - II	:	Dr Pooja Purang Professor Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay Powai, Mumbai – 400076 Maharashtra
Supervisor	:	Dr Aneesh Kumar P Assistant Professor Department of Psychology School of Psychological 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.

Registrar

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 05 July 2024

ABSTRACT

Building on the entrepreneurship cognition literature, the present research aims to develop a model to examine the direct and indirect effects of opportunity recognition, career decision making and self-efficacy on social entrepreneurial intention. The research adopted a cross sectional design. The research was divided into three distinct studies, each conducted with a specific objective. The data collected for three studies included higher education students across India. Studies 1 and 2 aimed to develop and validate two scales, namely social entrepreneurial opportunity recognition and social entrepreneurial career decision-making following steps in tool construction. The sample size was 600 for study 1 and 845 for study 2. The social entrepreneurial opportunity recognition scale had 24-items that measures opportunity recognition with six motivating factors as the lower order constructs which are life experiences, social awareness, social inclination, community development, institutional voids, and natural option for a meaningful career.

The social entrepreneurial career decision scale had 20 items focusing on the appraisal components in pre-entry social entrepreneurial career decision-making and has four factors, which are relevance, coping potential, knowledge and resources, and normative significance. Study 3 examined the direct and indirect effects of opportunity recognition, career decision-making and self-efficacy on social entrepreneurial intention using a sample of 605 students. The findings show that opportunity recognition influences social entrepreneurial intention and is partially mediated by career decision-making. Furthermore, self-efficacy moderates the mediating role of career decision-making between opportunity recognition and intention. This research facilitates a profound understanding of social entrepreneurial cognition and pre-entry decision-making. The findings provide empirical evidence for the significance of decision-making and self-efficacy in strengthening social entrepreneurial intention among students. The findings of this research can be useful for educators, policymakers, and practitioners to foster social entrepreneurial career aspirations among students and develop complementary learning strategies.

Keywords: career decision-making, entrepreneurial cognition, higher education students, opportunity recognition, self-efficacy, social entrepreneurial intention

Publications:

1. **Viswanath, P., Kumar, A. (2024).** Development and Validation of Social Entrepreneurship Career Decisions (SECD) Scale among Higher Education Students. *Asia Pacific Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship*.
2. **Viswanath, P., Reddy, S., Kumar, A. (2024).** Social Entrepreneurial Opportunity Recognition among Higher Education Students: Scale Development and Validation. *Social Enterprise Journal*, 20(3), 339-363.
3. **Viswanath, P., & Reddy, A. (2024).** Exploring the motivating factors for opportunity recognition among social entrepreneurs: a qualitative study. *New England Journal of Entrepreneurship*, 2574-8904.
4. **Viswanath, P., Reddy, A. (2023).** The Role of Cognitive Appraisal in Informed Decision-Making among Social Entrepreneurs: A Thematic Analysis. *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*, 1-21.