



## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Sneha Vinay Haritsa (Registration Number: 1951073), 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 Wednesday, 2 August, 2023 at 10.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

- Title of the Thesis** : **Development of Family Intervention for the Management of Psychogenic Seizures: A Qualitative Study**
- Discipline** : **Psychology**
- External Examiner** (Outside Karnataka) : **Dr Sibnath Deb**  
Professor and Director  
Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development  
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports  
Sriperumbudur  
Tamil Nadu
- External Examiner** (Within Karnataka) : **Dr Sreenivas M**  
Professor  
Department of Psychology  
Bangalore University  
Bangalore – 560056  
Karnataka
- Supervisor** : **Dr Jayasankara Reddy K**  
Professor  
Department of Psychology  
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:** 27 July 2023

  
**Registrar**

## ABSTRACT

Family functioning has been poorly understood in Psychogenic Non-Epileptic Seizures (PNES). An attempt to study different aspects of family functioning and its ability to influence the manifestation of the disorder is yet to be made. This study attempted to understand different family functions qualitatively by interviewing both the patients and family members of these patients. Nine patients and seven families of these patients participated in the study. Braun and Clarke's thematic model was used. Latent thematic analysis was used to analyse the data. Major and sub-themes were used to develop family intervention and a family psychoeducational model with the help of the GUIDED Checklist to report health interventions, the TIDieR format and the Delphi technique. Two sets of results and analyses were compiled with qualitative data, including patients and families. Major themes and sub-themes were developed for both, including family interaction, attachment, poor communication, structural-systemic aspects, distressful family aspects, negative expressed emotions, cultural aspects, nature of the illness, family's views of the illness and coping mechanisms. Results indicated the importance of family functioning and its impact on the manifestation of the disorder. The researcher concludes that family dysfunction can impact the manifestation of the disorder. Hence, an additional family intervention or psychoeducation is essential for holistic treatment.

*Keywords: Psychogenic epilepsy, family functioning, family intervention, and family psychoeducational intervention*

### **Publications:**

1. Randomized Trials of Psychotherapeutic Treatment for Psychogenic Seizures: Scoping Review. **S V Haritsa**, KJ Reddy, A Rafiq, M Gupta Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine 43 (6), 469-472
2. Family Functioning in Psychogenic Nonepileptic Seizures: Qualitative Study **S V Haritsa**, K J Reddy, M Gupta. Annals of Indian Psychiatry.
3. Psychogenic Non-epileptic Seizures in Children: Prevention and Intervention Strategies K JReddy, **S V Haritsa**, A Rafiq. Child Safety, Welfare and Well- being, 577-590
4. Epileptic Resilience: Towards an integrative approach **S V Haritsa** Resilience, Psychoneuroimmunology, Neuropsychology: Applications in Clinical settings, 82-120.