

Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Minu Mary Mathew (Reg. No. 1444603), PhD scholar at CHRIST (Deemed to be University), will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva voce examination on Tuesday, 15 September 2020 at 3.30 pm. The defense will be conducted online on the Webex Meeting platform.

Title of the Thesis : **Attitude towards the Medical Profession among Higher Secondary Students in Relation to Medical Aptitude, Parental Influence, Peer Influence and Perceived Social Expectations**

Discipline : **Education**

External Examiner
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Since it is an open viva, faculty members and research scholars of all branches of research are cordially invited to attend.



Registrar

Place: Bengaluru

Date: 12 September 2020

ABSTRACT

Attitude towards the Medical Profession includes concepts, motives or beliefs associated with the profession of medical science. Medical science is a profession that challenges the intellectual competency of the aspirant owing to the strenuous demands of the career. It is essential that possession of an appropriate attitude and a realistic understanding of the demands of medical science be a pre-requisite, especially if the higher secondary adolescent aspires this as his or her vocation for life. As the formation of attitude is based on several intrinsic and extrinsic factors, a profession like medical science faces stiff competition among candidates to qualify with high expectations from family and society. The current study throws light on the attitude of higher secondary students towards the profession of medical science in relation to medical aptitude, parental influence, peer influence and perceived social expectations, as the independent variables. It aimed to explore the role played by medical aptitude, parental influence, peer influence and perceived social expectations in the formation of attitude towards the medical profession and the differences in the formation of this attitude among higher secondary students based on their gender and type of preuniversity college that they belonged to. The study adopted was a descriptive studycum-survey that employed a quantitative approach using the paradigm of postpositivism. The participants for the study comprised of 396 second-year higher secondary students from pre-university colleges of Bangalore South, who were selected by convenience sampling method. These students had studied Physics, Chemistry and Biology as their core subjects.

The findings of the study reveal a close positive correlation of attitude towards medical profession with the independent variables. Peer influence is seen to be essential in the development of professionalism towards medical science as well as in advancing a sense of service mindedness. It is here where professional forums in educational institutions act as a common platforms to enable like-minded medical aspirants in undertaking activities that promote these dimensions implicitly in their curriculum. Parental influence towards the medical profession and the higher secondary adolescent's perceived social expectations act as significant predictors in formation of favourable attitude by the adolescent towards the profession. This implies that the emotional support rendered by parents and the society to the higher-secondary medical aspirant is vital to significantly influence the decision of the ward in embarking this profession. However, gender of higher secondary students and the type of pre-university colleges that they belonged to, bears no significant difference with respect to the attitude of students towards the medical profession. The study has set a base on what is to be focussed in our country on the next generation medical professionals in order to nurture them into getting admitted to this profession. It is also hoped that educational and medical institutions, policy and curriculum drafters, parents and teachers realise that a combination of sound medical aptitude, parental influence, peer influence and perceived social expectations resonates in the formation of a favourable attitude towards the profession of medical science, amongst higher secondary adolescents. Assessing those higher secondary students qualifying into medical science would enable to analyse differences that existed, if any, in their entry-level and post-qualifying attitude towards the medical profession.

Keywords: attitude, medical profession, medical aptitude, parental influence, peer influence, perceived social expectations