

**CHRIST**(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
BANGALORE • INDIA

Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Divya R (Registration Number: 1730083), PhD scholar at the School of Arts and Humanities, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Wednesday, 29 January 2025 at 2.30 pm in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

Title of the Thesis : **Challenges to Female Sexuality in Marital Relationships in *One Part Woman* and *Singarevva and the Palace***

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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.

Registrar**Place:** Bengaluru**Date:** 23 January 2025

ABSTRACT

Sensuality which is part and parcel of an individual's life is most often a suppressed realm and disconnected experience to women in a conjugal relationship. The gendered spaces of society have deprived women of their liberty for sexual exploration and have negated their existence as sexual beings. The current study aims to unearth challenges prevalent in the sexual lives of women within marital relationships, specifically within the Indian context. The present research has attempted to study female sexuality in the context of intersectionality to explore the difficulties that women encounter while fulfilling their desires.

This study with specific reference to *One Part Woman* and *Singarevva and the Palace* looks into the challenges that women face in their life, specifically in their sexual space. Perumal Murugan and Chandrashekar Kambar describe the lives of female protagonists in a social context to throw light on an array of challenges that hinder their desires and needs. Ponna and Singarevva experience unfulfilled self and marital dissonance due to their impotent husbands. These women perceive the attainment of motherhood as a vital aspect of their identity, not as a patriarchal requirement and yearn for a sense of fulfilment within marital relationships. The study of the two primary texts portrays the female protagonists' desperation for offspring and the travails they undergo to attain motherhood. The study has dealt with nuances of female sexuality and motherhood in the context of intersectional factors like class, caste, religion, community and gender to trace the untold sufferings in women's conjugal lives. The thematic analyses of the novels captures the similarities and differences in the female protagonists' journey to attain motherhood and also demonstrates their transgressive acts as their mode of assertion in the sexual space.

Keywords: *Identity, Intersectionality, Motherhood, Patriarchy, Sexual Agency, Suppression*

Publications:

1. R, Divya, and Sharmila N. "Patriarchy and Wifhood: A Feminist Reading of 'One Part Woman' and 'Singarevva and the Palace.'" *The IUP Journal of English Studies*, vol.19, no.1, 2024, pp.51-66
2. R, Divya, and Sharmila N. "Intersectionality and Challenges to Motherhood : A Study of 'One Part Woman' and 'Singarevva and the Palace.'" *Asiatic Society Journal*, vol. 65, no.3, 2023, pp. 161-178