



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

## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Manika Singh (Registration Number: 2072018), PhD Scholar at the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR Off-Campus will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Tuesday, 01 April 2025 at 11.30 am in the Discussion Room, Second Floor, A Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR Off-Campus, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201003, India.

<b>Title of the Thesis</b>	:	<b>Aggrieved Persons' Access to Justice vis-a-vis Accountability of Legal Functionaries under Domestic Violence Act, 2005</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	:	<b>Law</b>
<b>External Examiner - I</b>	:	<b>Dr Anurag Deep</b> Professor Law Centre I, Faculty of Law University of Delhi Chhatra Marg (North Campus) Delhi - 110007
<b>External Examiner - II</b>	:	<b>Dr Manoj Kumar Sinha</b> Professor Dharmashastra National Law University BRBRAITT Campus, South Civil Lines Ridge Road, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh Madhya Pradesh - 482001
<b>Supervisor</b>	:	<b>Dr Meera Mathew</b> Associate Professor School of Law CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Delhi NCR Off Campus Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Uttar Pradesh - 201003

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: 14 March 2025

  
Registrar (Academics)

## ABSTRACT

Gender equality is the fundamental aspect of a society that assures equitable distribution of rights, resources, opportunities, and safeguards, free of patriarchal power imbalances. Women have long been seen as the embodiment of love, kindness, care, and 'the mother of mankind'. However, she is subjected to the most heinous and awful cruelties. Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence or spousal violence, is the most common kind of violence perpetrated against women. According to the WHO, nearly one-third, or 27%, of women aged 15 to 49 who have been in a relationship report experiencing physical or sexual violence from their intimate partner. The issue of domestic violence has been addressed both at the international and national level, but still, there exists a persistent gap in enforcing and implementing them. This can be easily proved by the continuous rise in the cases of domestic violence worldwide, especially during the COVID-19 times. The problem that needs to be addressed at hand is the role of several accountable stakeholders involved in the process of providing access to justice to the women affected by domestic violence. According to the PWDV Act, 2005, in India, the several stakeholders or legal functionaries include the Protection Officers, Magistrates (Judges), Police Officers, Service Providers, Counsellors & Shelter Homes. These are the people with whom the power to protect and help the women is vested, but instead, the affected women fall prey to this system due to various reasons like fewer resources, lack of autonomy, lack of coordination amongst legal functionaries, inefficiencies in the Act due to no case-based solutions provided, overburdened functionaries & lack of institutional support and many more which will be further discussed & proved in the thesis. Its judicial relevance is underscored by the Supreme Court's recognition in *We the Women of India vs. Union of India & Others*, highlighting the severe under-appointment and workload burden of Protection Officers, with over 4.41 lakh pending cases across 801 districts. To address these issues, the study recommends legislative amendments for emerging abuses like cyber harassment, improved victim-centric support services, and enhanced autonomy for legal functionaries through specialized training and resource allocation. To summarize, while the PWDVA is an important legislative step toward protecting women from domestic violence, its success is heavily dependent on the responsibility and efficiency of the legal functionaries tasked with enforcing it. Through this thesis the researcher identified significant legislative gaps in the PWDV Act, 2005 including its lack of alignment with contemporary theories of violence, absence of preventive strategies, and failure to mandate behavioral interventions for perpetrators. Implementation challenges, such as inadequate training for legal functionaries, resource constraints, and weak inter-agency coordination calls for enhanced coordination among stakeholders, stable postings of legal officials, and collaboration with civil society organizations to improve case management and survivor support.

**Keywords:** *Domestic violence, legal functionaries, accountability, married woman.*

### Publications:

1. **Manika Singh**, Meera Mathew - A comparative study of Domestic Violence in BRICS nations- Pre and Post Covid-19: with special emphasis on Indian Laws. BRICS Law Journal 10(4) (SCOPUS) 2023 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21684/2412-2343-2023-10-4-68-97>
2. **Manika Singh**, Meera Mathew - The Accountability of Stakeholders in Combating Domestic Violence with Women in India - Law and Emerging Issues [Proceedings of the International Conference on Law and Emerging Issues (ICLEI 2023)] (SCOPUS) 2023, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003428213>