



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

## Notice for the PhD Viva-Voce Examination

Mr Manoj Morais (Registration Number: 1830072), PhD scholar at the School of Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Tuesday, 28 January 2025 at 11.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

<b>Title of the Thesis</b>	:	<b>Influence of Religion on Economic Decision Making: A Study of Working Professionals in Bengaluru</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	:	<b>Economics</b>
<b>External Examiner</b> (Outside Karnataka)	:	<b>Dr Anand Kumar Shrivastava</b> Professor School of Management OP Jindal University Raipur Punjipathra, Raigarh Chhattisgarh - 496109
<b>External Examiner</b> (Within Karnataka)	:	<b>Dr Vinod B Annigeri</b> Professor & Director Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research Dr B R Ambedkar Nagar Near Yalakki Shettar Colony Dharwad - 580004 Karnataka
<b>Supervisor</b>	:	<b>Dr Joshy K J</b> Associate Professor Department of Economics 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:** 22 January 2025



**Registrar**

# ABSTRACT

The economics of religion is an area of economics research that is still in its infancy. Studies of religion have the potential to broaden economics on a number of aspects, including shedding light on a neglected area of non-market behaviour, exhibiting how economic models can be modified to address issues of belief systems, conventions, and principles, and looking at how religion affects people's attitudes and behaviours in dealing with money. In this context, this study explores the influence of religion on economic decision making among urban working professionals in Bengaluru. Data was collected through a questionnaire employing a snowball sampling technique, with an emphasis on capturing diverse perspectives. Additionally, unstructured interviews were conducted to further probe the research questions and provide deeper insights into participants' beliefs and experiences. The sample consisted of 320 working professionals from various industries in Bengaluru for the quantitative data and about 10 participants for the qualitative data.

The findings reveal that religious beliefs significantly influence economic decisions, including investment preferences, spending patterns, and charitable giving. Hinduism and other religions tend to favor stock markets and have more diversified portfolios, while Christianity and Islam lean towards real estate investments. The impact of religion is more pronounced in savings and investments than in spending habits, with Islam showing the strongest agreement on religious influence. Respondents believe that religion plays a crucial role in encouraging charitable behavior. The research highlights the importance of religion in shaping financial decisions and proposes the Religion-Economic Behaviour Nexus, urging further exploration in diverse populations.

*Keywords: Religion, Decision making, Religiosity, Rational choice theory, Secularisation hypothesis, Economic decisions*

## Publications

1. **Manoj Morais**, Joshy Karakunnel Joseph, Sebastian Perumbilly, and Guydeuk Yeon – Well-Being and Prosperity: Multidirectional Disciplinary Interactions with Religion. *Journal of Dharma*; 2022, <https://dvkjournals.in/index.php/jd/article/view/3803/3326>