

**CHRIST**(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Mr Jineesh Cyriac, Registration Number: 2290044, PhD Scholar at the Department of Social Work, School of Psychological Sciences, Education and Social Work, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 30 March 2026 at 12.00 pm in Room No. 628, 6th Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

Title of the Thesis	:	Psychological Well-Being in Inter-Religious Marriages: Examining the Predictive Role of Individual and Relational Factors in Indian Context
Discipline	:	Social Work
External Examiner - I	:	Dr Paul G Aquinas Professor Department of Social Work Mangalore University Mangalagangothri - 574199 Karnataka
External Examiner - II	:	Dr Baiju P Vareed Associate Professor School of Social Work MacEwan University Edmonton Canada
Supervisor	:	Dr Mathew P M Associate Professor Department of Social Work School of Psychological Sciences, Education and Social Work 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: 17 March 2026


Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

Inter-religious marriages in India involve social integration and cultural tensions. While they reflect acceptance of religious diversity, they often encounter family, social, and religious rejection leading to financial instability, limited support, identity conflicts, conversion pressures, reduced marital satisfaction, and dissolution, all affecting psychological well-being. This study examines how marital satisfaction, social and financial well-being, social and religious support, and the Actor-partner effects on psychological well-being influence inter-religious married individuals. An explanatory sequential mixed-methods design was used. Phase one employed an Ex-post Facto Correlational Research Design with a sample of 254 inter-religious married individuals (127 dyads) from Hindu, Christian, and Muslim backgrounds. Quantitative data were collected using validated and standardised scales assessing psychological well-being, marital satisfaction, social and financial well-being, social support, and religious support. Analyses included ANOVA, Pearson's correlation, multiple linear regression, and the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM). Qualitative data from 20 purposively selected individuals were analysed using Reflexive Thematic Analysis, leading to meta-inference and a joint display table.

Marital satisfaction, social well-being, and financial well-being significantly predict psychological well-being. Dyadic analysis identified actor and partner effects, with individual and relational factors influencing both partners' well-being. Qualitative findings showed that couples with strong support, satisfaction, and stable finances reported greater resilience and harmony, while those facing rejection, disapproval, conversion pressures, marital dissatisfaction, or financial difficulties experienced increased psychological strain and relational challenges. These findings hold implications for social work practice, policymaking, and community interventions aimed at mitigating stigma, promoting resilience, and strengthening social and religious support networks.

Keywords: *Psychological well-being, social well-being, financial well-being, marital satisfaction, social support, religious support, inter-religious marriage*

Publications:

1. **Cyriac, J., & Mathew, P. M.** (2025). Individual and Relational Outcomes of Inter-religious Marriage: A Scoping Review. *Journal of Religion and Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-025-02505-1>
2. **Cyriac, J., Mathew, P., & Rajan, S. K.** (2024). Interaction of generational differences with gender and residential nature in attitudes toward interfaith marriages. *Marriage & Family Review*, 60, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01494929.2024.2402472>
3. **Cyriac, J., Mathew, P., Rajan, S. K., & Thomas, S.** (2025). Interfaith Marriage: The Impact of Well-being Indicators on Marital Satisfaction. *Indian Journal of Natural Science*, 16(93)