



## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Mr Prakat Karki, Registration Number: 1951069, PhD Scholar at the School of Psychological Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 18 May 2026 at 10.30 am in Room No. 628, 6th Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

<b>Title of the Thesis</b>	:	<b>Exploring Influence of Individual, Interpersonal and Environmental Factors on Substance Use among Indian College Students</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	:	<b>Psychology</b>
<b>External Examiner - I</b>	:	<b>Dr Ajay Kumar</b> Additional Professor Department of Clinical Psychology National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences Bengaluru - 560029 Karnataka
<b>External Examiner - II</b>	:	<b>Dr Varsha Singh</b> Professor Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT) New Delhi - 110016
<b>Supervisor</b>	:	<b>Dr Madhavi Rangaswamy</b> Professor School of Psychological 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.

Registrar (Academics)

**Place:** Bengaluru  
**Date:** 13 May 2026

## ABSTRACT

The rates of substance use initiation and dependence has persisted over time in most societies and still contributes significantly to mortality and socioeconomic costs in most societies. In India, tobacco, alcohol and cannabis are the most commonly used substances and there has been sparse research on substance use among community samples of young people. The period of adolescence and young adulthood are critical periods for substance use, and use of multiple substances during young age can lead to negative consequences related to substance use. Polysubstance Use (PSU), i.e. the concurrent use of more than one substance is a key indicator of substance use progression; however, research on PSU in India is limited. In this quantitative cross sectional study, the prevalence of tobacco, alcohol and cannabis use among Indian college going youths was examined, along with a number of interpersonal, psychological and environmental variables using self reported questionnaires. Latent Class Analysis (LCA) was used to determine distinct classes or profiles of substance users; and differences between the emergent classes were explored. There were 3101 total respondents from across India. After initial screening, complete data of only 1949 individuals was considered for data analysis. The lifetime use of alcohol (38.2%) and tobacco (32.4%) was higher than cannabis (19.5%); however, tobacco (11.7%) was more regularly used than alcohol (9.7%) and cannabis (6.4%). LCA revealed that a five class model was the most suitable one for the data, and it included distinct groups of non users, alcohol experimenters, low tobacco/alcohol users, low polysubstance users and regular polysubstance users. There were significant differences between the five classes on sociodemographic measures and scores on social, psychological and environmental factors. Parental substance use, age, education, social network substance use, home environment and parental monitoring were found to be significant predictors of substance using classes and the overall regression model to predict substance use classes was a strong one.

**Keywords:** *substance use, polysubstance use, tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, Latent Class Analysis, lifetime use, previous month use.*

### Publications:

1. **Karki, P., & Rangaswamy, M. (2023).** A Review of the Historical Context and Current Research on Cannabis Use in India. *Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine*, 45(2), 105-116. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02537176221109272>
2. Parthasarthy, D., **Karki, P., & Rangaswamy, M. (2025).** Exploring the Patterns of Recreational Polysubstance Use and Executive Functions in Indian Young Adults: A Cross-Sectional Study. *Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02537176251325280>
3. **Karki, P. (2024).** Book Review: Dynamics of Drug Addiction and Abuse in India: Socio-economic Profiles of Individuals in Treatment for Drug Addiction in Northwest India, *South Asian Journal of Social Studies and Economics*, 21(9), 40-46. <https://doi.org/10.9734/sajsse/2024/v21i9880>