



Notice for the PhD Viva-Voce Examination

Ms Annesha Biswas, Registration Number: 2070301, PhD Scholar at the Department of Economics, School of Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Friday, 31 October 2025 at 9.15 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru – 560029, Karnataka, India.

Title of the Thesis	:	Empowerment of Tribal Women through Entrepreneurship: Evidences from Jharkhand
Discipline	:	Economics
External Examiner - I	:	Dr Neetha N Professor Centre for Women's Development Studies 25, Bhai Vir Singh Marg New Delhi – 110001
External Examiner - II	:	Dr Chanamma Kambara Associate Professor Centre for Research in Urban Affairs (CRUA) Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi (P.O.) Bengaluru - 560072 Karnataka
Supervisor	:	Dr Mahesh E 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: 15 October 2025

Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship is a key driver for harnessing youth potential, generating employment, and advancing inclusive economic growth. The rising emphasis on female entrepreneurship emerges as both an economic strategy and a pathway to Empowerment and social change, particularly in developing regions. Tribal women entrepreneurs in Jharkhand, a state with a significant Scheduled Tribe population, engage in diverse entrepreneurial activities shaped by cultural context, geographic marginality, and structural constraints. Despite their critical role, their contributions remain largely invisible in mainstream policy and academic discourse. However, empowerment among tribal women is multidimensional, encompassing economic gains, agency, decision-making, mobility, and social recognition, yet remains constrained by persistent challenges like limited access to markets, finance, training, and registration, exacerbated by geographic isolation and institutional neglect.

Employing a mixed-methods design, this study integrates both quantitative and qualitative analyses, drawing from primary surveys and secondary data sources. Utilising the NSSO's 73rd Round on Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises, it investigates key operational and economic attributes of female-owned enterprises and their influence on enterprise performance, specifically measured through Gross Value Added (GVA). Complementing this, the primary survey focuses on tribal women entrepreneurs in Jharkhand, exploring their motivations for pursuing entrepreneurship, the extent to which entrepreneurial engagement fosters Empowerment, and the multifaceted challenges encountered along their entrepreneurial trajectories. Using exploratory factor analysis, regression, and thematic analysis, the study offers a nuanced, intersectional understanding of female entrepreneurship among tribals in Jharkhand's socio-economic context. Key findings of the study show that factors such as enterprise registration, account maintenance, and operating outside the household positively impact enterprise GVA. Many tribal women in the state view entrepreneurship as a necessity rather than a choice. In line with this, the Exploratory Factor Analysis reveals that introducing new products is a primary motivation for tribal women to establish businesses. In contrast, personal passion plays a lesser role, reflecting the tension between family responsibilities and entrepreneurial aspirations. The empowerment index reveals significant gains in financial and managerial decision-making, though barriers like formal credit access, production constraints, gender norms, and inadequate policy persist, which continue to restrict entrepreneurial growth. The study recommends targeted, region-sensitive interventions to improve infrastructure, finance access, training, mentorship, and market linkages. Addressing these structural barriers through intersectional policies is crucial for advancing tribal women's economic empowerment and inclusive development.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurship, Empowerment, Tribal Women, Women Entrepreneurs, Informal economy, Jharkhand*

Publications:

1. **Biswas, A., Roy, N. S., & E, M. (2025).** Gendered Informality: An Assessment of Operational Attributes and Entrepreneurial Performance of Female-Owned Enterprises in Jharkhand. *International Journal of Rural Management*, 21(1), 101-120. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09730052241292409>
2. **Biswas, A., & E, M. (2025).** Recent Trends in Female Labour Force Participation. *Economic & Political Weekly* 59(18).
<https://www.epw.in/journal/2024/18/letters/recent-trends-female-labour-force-participation.html>
3. **Biswas, A., Dam, T., Kureethara, J. V., & Varma, S. (2022).** Political economy inside the strategy of Line Game. In M. B. Nunes & P. Isaías (Eds.), *Handbook of research on acquiring 21st century skills through game-based learning* (pp. 832–845). IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-7998-7271-9.ch042>