

**CHRIST**(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)  
BANGALORE | DELHI NCR | PUNE

## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Ringngheti Khenglawt, Registration Number: 2070603, PhD Scholar at the Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Tuesday, 14 July 2026 at 11.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

|                               |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Title of the Thesis</b>    | : | <b>Situating Hindi Soap Opera and Korean Drama among Mizos: An Ethnographic Study</b>                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Discipline</b>             | : | <b>Sociology</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>External Examiner - I</b>  | : | <b>Dr Intirenla Longkumer</b><br>Associate Professor<br>Department of Sociology<br>Pondicherry University<br>Bharat Ratna Dr B R Ambedkar Administrative Building<br>R V Nagar, Kalapet<br>Puducherry – 605014 |
| <b>External Examiner - II</b> | : | <b>Dr Ratheesh Kumar</b><br>Associate Professor<br>Centre for the Study of Social Systems<br>School of Social Sciences<br>Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi<br>Delhi - 110067                             |
| <b>Supervisor</b>             | : | <b>Dr Sudhansubala Sahu</b><br>Associate Professor<br>Department of Sociology<br>School of Social Sciences<br>CHRIST (Deemed to be University)<br>Bengaluru - 560029<br>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**

**Place:** Bengaluru  
**Date:** 06 July 2026

## ABSTRACT

The present research explores the way Mizos make sense of Hindi soap opera and Korean drama, and how this generates wider socio-cultural and political discourses. With the brief ban on airing Hindi soap operas by local NGOs in 2007, the gap was filled by Korean dramas. This trajectory, what it means and does is a crucial area to study as such concerns of popular culture have often been neglected in Mizo research. Using ethnographic fieldwork conducted between June 2022 to January 2024, the study is based on 60 semi-structured interviews (35 women and 25 male), participant observation in both public and private spaces, and titi (casual conversation) along the way. The research findings suggest that there are multiple intersecting interpretive communities based on gender, age, religion and historical context. However, interpretive communities are embedded in the larger context of cultural trauma, collective memories and a transnational aspiration. The study suggests that Mizos still live with a cultural trauma from the nation-state, and this not only reflects on how they engage with Hindi soap opera but also the issues concerning national belonging. It further highlights how Korean popular culture was viewed through the lens of aspiration, particularly among the youth. Finally, the research suggests that these converge in masculinities as a site of boundary-making in the context of the Mizo hnam (tribe).

**Keywords:** aspiration, cultural trauma, interpretive communities, masculinities, reception

### **Publications:**

1. **Khenglawt, R., & Sahu, S. (2025).** Masculinities, tlawmngaihna, and Mizo nationalism: Why soft, pretty Mizo men are perceived as a threat. *National Identities*, 28(1), 107- 123. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14608944.2025.2498589>
2. **Khenglawt, R., & Sahu, S. (2025).** From “my research” to “our research”: moving toward titi as an Indigenous method in Mizo research. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/11771801251388484>