



Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Sharmila H S, Registration Number: 1860081, PhD Scholar at the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 29 June 2026 at 02.00 pm in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

- Title of the Thesis** : **Women Judges and Judicial Decision-Making with Specific Reference to the Supreme Court of India: A Critical Study**
- Discipline** : **Law**
- External Examiner - I** : **Dr Yashomati Ghosh**
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National Law School of India University
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- External Examiner - II** : **Dr Garima Tiwari**
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- Supervisor** : **Dr Sunitha Abhay Jain**
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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: 13 June 2026

Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

This is a critical study of the women judges and judicial decision-making with specific reference to the Supreme Court of India. Indian judiciary especially apex court has a long-storied history of judicial activism, in protecting the rights of citizens and advancing social justice. Today, scholars and practitioners keenly examine how women judges contribute to the jurisprudence and canons of interpretation. Against this backdrop, around 268, out of which 127 judgements have been analysed qualitatively. The underpinning of this study is both women judges' presence alongside of male judges and participation in authoring or pronouncing a concurrent judgement, or by a dissenting judgement. The results show that, greater the presence of women the more likelihood of women judges voicing out. In appointment, promotion related cases, they adhere to legal formalities and adopted formalistic approach. In the matters of marriage and divorce cases, maintenance cases violence against women cases, dowry death, equality cases feminist approach is adopted in their legal reasoning and outcomes. The findings suggest for a change in approach in judicial decision-making encompassing systemic inequalities without compromising to the objectivity and standards of judiciary.

Keywords: *Women Judges, Judicial Decision- Making, Feminist theory, Formalism Supreme Court of India..*

Publications:

1. **Sharmila, H. S.,** and Sunitha Abhay Jain, (2024). Women judges and Feminist Jurisprudence: Shaping equitable Judicial Outcomes. *Cochin University Law Review*, 48(2), 354-373.
2. **Sharmila HS** and Sunitha Abhay Jain *Evolving Justice: A Triangulated Analysis of Women-Centric Rulings by the Indian Supreme Court* *SCIENTIFIC CULTURE*, Vol. 12, No. 1.1, (2026), pp. 4945-4956, <https://sci-cult.net/index.php/cult/article/view/4036/2375>