



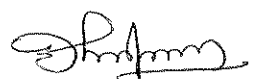
## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Shivani Giri, Registration Number: 2090048, 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 Tuesday, 16 September 2025 at 2.30 pm in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

- Title of the Thesis** : **India's Middle Class in Transition: Patterns of Vulnerability, Inequality and Socio-Economic Mobility**
- Discipline** : **Economics**
- External Examiner - I** : **Dr Ashish Singh**  
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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:** 11 September 2025

  
**Registrar (Academics)**

## ABSTRACT

The middle class in India serves as a vital economic and social pillar, bridging the aspirations of the wealthy with opportunities for the less privileged. Despite its growing importance, this group faces significant challenges, including vulnerability to economic shocks, intra-class mobility barriers, and persistent inequality. This study delves into the complexities of the Indian middle class, analysing its heterogeneity and examining the underlying factors contributing to its vulnerabilities and mobility. Utilising data from the NSSO's Consumption Expenditure and Employment Unemployment surveys across 1993-94, 2004-05, 2011-12, and 2022-23, the research employs an absolute consumption-based approach to classify the middle class into distinct subgroups.

The findings reveal that while the middle class has expanded, its lower segments remain precariously close to poverty, facing heightened risks due to rising costs of healthcare, education, and limited access to stable employment. Vulnerability and inequality within the middle class are influenced by factors such as education levels, occupational structure, and asset ownership. The study highlights the stark disparities between rural and urban middle-class households, with urban segments demonstrating greater upward mobility and economic stability. Additionally, the research identifies significant shifts within consumption thresholds, illustrating the evolving socio-economic dynamics of the middle class over time.

By addressing these challenges through targeted policy measures, such as enhanced access to quality education, healthcare, and social security, this research emphasises the need for a more inclusive approach to strengthening the Indian middle class. These interventions can foster resilience, reduce inequality, and ensure that the benefits of economic growth are equitably distributed across all segments of this socio-economic group.

**Keywords:** *Middle-class, Vulnerabilities, Class Inequality, Vertical Mobility, NSSO, Consumption Expenditure, SES Model*

### Publications:

1. **Giri, Shivani & S, Subramanian.** Middle Class in India: Trends and Patterns. *Economic & Political Weekly* (Scopus Indexed). <https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/23/perspectives/middle-class-india.html>.
2. **Giri, Shivani & S, Subramanian.** Woes of Poverty Estimation. *Economic & Political Weekly* (Scopus Indexed). <https://www.epw.in/journal/2023/42/letters/woes-poverty-estimation.html>.
3. **Giri, Shivani.** Achieving Accurate Poverty Estimates. *Economic & Political Weekly* (Scopus Indexed). <https://www.epw.in/journal/2024/5/letters/achieving-accurate%20poverty-estimates.html>.
4. **Giri, Shivani.** Poor Economics: Book Review. *Current Science Journal* (Web of Science and Scopus). <https://www.webofscience.com/wos/woscc/full-record/WOS:001255245900038>.