



Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Vaishali Manoj Gurav, Registration Number: 1982014, PhD Scholar at the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Pune Lavasa Off-Campus will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Thursday, 27 November, 2025 at 2.00 pm in the Seminar Hall (Room No. 2208), Management Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Pune Lavasa - 412112, Maharashtra, India.

Title of the Thesis	:	A Critical Analysis of the Role of Protection Officers in the Implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, with Special Reference to Women Protection Officers in Mumbai City
Discipline	:	Law
External Examiner - I	:	Dr Sushma Sharma Associate Professor National Law Institute University Bhopal, Kerwa Road Bhopal - 462043 Madhya Pradesh
External Examiner - II	:	Dr Amoldev Chavhan Professor Maharashtra National Law University 2nd Floor, CETTM MTNL Building Technology Street Powai, Mumbai - 400076 Maharashtra
Supervisor	:	Dr Sanjay Satyanarayan Bang Associate Professor School of Law CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Pune Lavasa Off-Campus Pune - 412112 Maharashtra

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.

ABSTRACT

Domestic violence represents a widespread issue affecting women across the globe. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) has revealed that domestic violence incidents in India frequently go unreported. This underreporting occurs because domestic abuse continues to be perceived as a 'stigma' within India's social and cultural frameworks. Women experiencing domestic violence often internalize beliefs that they are subordinate to their husbands and male family members. The enforcement mechanisms established under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA) have proven inadequate in encouraging and supporting domestic violence victims to report their experiences. Women from lower economic backgrounds, who lack the financial means to hire private attorneys, might feel more at ease reporting incidents to female Protection Officers appointed under the PWDVA.

The number of Protection Officers appointed under Section 8 of the PWDVA, who should preferably be women, remains inadequate, while those currently serving face overwhelming caseloads in handling domestic violence matters. Magistrates frequently fail to direct victims toward Protection Officers, and judicial orders are often issued without the submission of Domestic Inquiry Reports. When divorce proceedings and domestic violence cases occur simultaneously, Magistrates typically consolidate domestic violence cases with divorce proceedings in family courts. Limited awareness regarding PWDVA provisions among Magistrates, Lawyers, and Police personnel contributes to ineffective Act implementation. Consequently, monitoring of the Act's application by enforcement agencies becomes essential.

Research literature specifically addressing the necessity of appointing greater numbers of women Protection Officers remains limited. While substantial literature exists highlighting the importance of increasing female representation in police and enforcement agencies generally, this study specifically examines the need to appoint more Protection Officers, particularly women Protection Officers, as the PWDVA recommends for effective implementation. The researcher employed a mixed methodology combining doctrinal and empirical approaches. Secondary data sources include legal provisions, articles, and available literature on the subject. Law reports, statutes, and decisions from the Supreme Court and High Courts of India were consulted. An empirical analysis through comprehensive interviews was designed involving key stakeholders including Protection Officers, Service Providers, Police Officers, NGO members, and Advocates to develop evidence-based recommendations. A descriptive methodology was adopted for critical analysis and evaluation of legislation and judicial pronouncements. Standard citation and reference formats were utilized throughout the research. The seven chapters examine the theoretical and conceptual framework of the PWDVA, Protection Officers' roles in PWDVA implementation, and implementation shortcomings and challenges, supported by significant judicial decisions.

Keywords: *Domestic violence, Protection Officers, under-reporting, monitoring, implementation.*

Publications:

1. **Gurav, V. M.** (2021). Challenges and issues faced by law enforcement personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic: A human rights perspective. *KALA SAROVAR*, 24(2).
2. John, S., & **Gurav, V.** (2021). Policing for social change: Tracing the historical evolution of policing and the role of police in society. *International Journal of Law Management and Humanities*, 4(4), 200. <https://doi.org/10.1000/IJLMH.111288>
3. **Gurav, V. M.** (2022). A critical study of enforcement agencies and institutional responses towards survivors of domestic violence with reference to monitoring and implementation of Domestic Violence Act, 2005. *Journal of Women Law & Policy*, 2(2). <https://www.slsnagpur.edu.in/jwlp2>
4. **Gurav, V. M.** (2023). An analytical study on whether Domestic Incident Report by Protection Officers should be mandatory or obligatory under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005. *Res Militaris*. <https://resmilitaris.net/menu-script/index.php/resmilitaris/article/view/3533/2770>
5. **Gurav, V. M.** (2023). Substance abuse and domestic violence: Enhancing healthcare and overcoming under-reporting through a comprehensive literature review. *European Chemical Bulletin*, 12(10). <https://eurchembull.com/uploads/paper/fc16216d5058f175b335fc2a2dddacca.pdf>
6. **Gurav, V. M.** (2024). New criminal law reforms: Focusing on offenses against women. *AKSHARGATHA*.
7. **Gurav, V. M.**, Satyanarayan, B. S., & Gurudev, S. (2025). Ensuring equality: A gender-neutral approach to Domestic Violence Law in India. *Interacción y Perspectiva: Revista de Trabajo Social*, 15(1), 285–291. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14031881>
8. **Gurav, V.**, & Bang, S. (2024). Opinion mining and sentiment analysis in legal AI research. In *2024 IEEE 4th International Conference on ICT in Business Industry & Government (ICTBIG)* (pp. 1–5). IEEE. (Indexed in Scopus, April 2025.)