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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Nagare Rutuja Ramesh, Registration Number: 2190160, PhD Scholar at the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Saturday, 21 February 2026 at 1.00 pm in Seminar Hall (Room No. 2208), Management Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Pune Lavasa Off-Campus, Pune - 412112, Maharashtra, India.

Title of the Thesis : **An Empirical Study of Rights of Women Prisoners of Maharashtra with Special Reference to Pune District**

Discipline : **Law**

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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: 16 February 2026


Registrar

ABSTRACT

Prison is a vital constituent of the Indian criminal justice system. Since ages, it is considered as an institution which puts the offender in jail and is primarily focused on isolation and control. Several punishments are awarded to different types of offenders for the various types of offences committed by them. The punishment given shows the gravity of the offence committed. Punishments were based on moral and religious codes and gradually evolved with changing time. Primarily, these institutions exercised control over the prisoners and later it was realized that control is not the mere function of the correctional institution but it shall also ensure and focus on reformation, rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners. The entire structure being pervasively masculine or patriarchal in nature never understood and initiated the framing of a gender-specific legislation for the specific and unique needs of women prisoners. As the number of women prisoners is globally rising, one needs to evaluate the different socio-economic and political reasons, which lead to a spike in this rate. As women are a vulnerable minority compared to the entire prison population, their rights remain violated and unvoiced. They need special care and attention as the societal stigma is much more than that of male prisoners. Considering this scenario, the researcher took the challenge of an empirical study of women prisoners of Maharashtra with special reference to Pune district to document their experiences and evaluate the systemic deficiencies in addressing their gender-specific requirements, including healthcare, childcare facilities for children born and raised within prisons, and trauma-informed psychological support. Crucially, the researcher argues that the State alone is ill-equipped to provide the comprehensive, specialized care required for effective reformation. Therefore, the study investigated the potential for a collaborative solution through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), a new governance model. Some instances of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) are observed but it lacks a clear governing and well-structured legal framework.

This researcher carried the research to investigate the challenges in the existing prison system and explore a structured, legally sound Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Model in India that can leverage private sector efficiency and non-governmental sector expertise particularly in welfare measures such as vocational training, emotional counseling, and resettlement to ensure effective, gender-responsive rehabilitation and successful social re-entry for women prisoners, thereby reorienting the purpose of incarceration and punishment from mere isolation to genuine correctional justice, which respects dignity of every prisoner.

Keywords: *prison, women prisoners, reformation, rehabilitation, public-private partnership (PPP)*

Publications:

1. Nagare, R. R., & Bang, S. S. (2024, December 13–14). *Harnessing AI in prisons: Balancing security, efficiency, and ethical challenges*. In Proceedings of the 4th IEEE International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICTBIG-2024). IEEE MP Section & Symbiosis University of Applied Sciences (SUAS), Indore, India.
2. Nagare, R. R., & Bang, S. S. (2024, December 13–14). *SecurAI: Leveraging edge computing and large language models for intelligent surveillance*. In Proceedings of the 4th IEEE International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICTBIG-2024). IEEE MP Section & Symbiosis University of Applied Sciences (SUAS), Indore, India.
3. Nagare, R. R., & Bang, S. S. (2023, March 2–4). *Juvenile Justice Act in India and South Korea: A comparative analysis*. In Criminal Justice Systems in South Asia: Legal Framework, Contemporary Issues and a Way Forward. Centre for Criminal Justice Administration, Shankarrao Chavan Law College, Pune, India, in collaboration with Nepal Law Campus, Faculty of Law, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.
4. Nagare, R. R., & Bang, S. S. (2023, November 19–20). *Public-private partnership: A foundation for a progressive prison system*. In Proceedings of the World Innovative Research International Conference on Science and Engineering (WIRIC LSBMHSE-2023). Global Research Conference Forum, in academic collaboration with IDM International University, United Arab Emirates.