

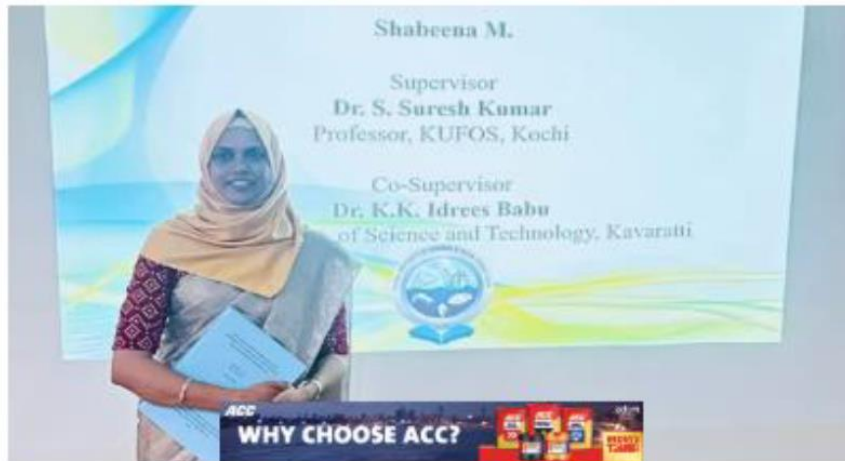
'Why study?': Lakshadweep's first woman PhD holder in marine sciences was once asked

In a befitting reply to naysayers, Shabeena M – who would not dare dream of doing higher studies as a child – successfully defended her thesis on macroalgae on November 5, 2024 and was felicitated by the Lakshadweep administration.

Written by [Anjali Marar](#)

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5 min read



Shabeena M, the first woman from Lakshadweep to earn a PhD in marine sciences. (Photo: Special arrangement)

"What will you, as a woman, do studying aquaculture and microbiology?" was the repeated question that Shabeena M, 35, would encounter during her college days growing up at Androth, one of the inhabited islands in the Union territory of

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