

A sociological study on the impact of the family's economic background to arts faculty students.

(Based on Colombo, Kelaniya and Sri Jayewardenepura universities)

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Abstract: According to G.P. Murdock, Education and socialization are the main features of four common characteristics of the family corporation in all parts of the world. There is a drastic expansion in primary societies from non-formal education to modern formal education. A child who attracts to formal education will enter to higher education after successfully completing primary and secondary education.

The main objective of the study was to study on the impact of the family's economic background for primary, secondary and higher education of arts faculty students. Additionally it was studied the tendency to engage in extracurricular activities and the use of technology by them. It is a known fact that Students are concentrating on education, than social and economic activities.

The study sample was from University students of Colombo, Sri Jayewardenepura and Kelaniya Universities. 591 students from Sri Jayewardenepura, 457 from the Colombo and 276 from Kelaniya were selected as the total sample of 1324 for this study. This sample included both male and female students from all academic years.

A questionnaire based survey and interviews methods were used for data collection. Data were analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. Passing rate of the grade five scholarship examinations is only 22% of the total sample. In looking at the economic status of their parents, 72% of mothers are housewives, and some 30% of fathers are farmers. 24% have chosen the arts subjects for the GCE Advanced Level due to the poor economic situation of their family. When it comes to selection of the degree at the university, 16% from Jayewardenepura, 30% from Colombo and 23% from Kelaniya has chosen general degree instead of other degree programs. 37% of Jayewardenepura, 52% of Colombo and 42% of Kelaniya were employed as part time workers. This study revealed that the job market for art faculty students should be expanded by giving a respectable place for their degree.

Keywords: Economy, Education, Family, Student, University

I. INTRODUCTION

In Sri Lanka, students can get formal and informal education, while formal education consists of primary,

secondary and tertiary education. The student is a person who is studying in a school, college or university. Passes under Secondary Education the University Grants Commission chooses students to enter universities after passing the A/L within two years after the GCE O/L. Accordingly, the students who study Arts streams for the GCE A/L's will be entered to the Faculty of Arts in islandwide Universities .

Basically, education will be influenced by economic situation of parents. Prof. Nandasena Ratnapala who is an eminent Researcher of the Country has done many research on this sociological fact and he found that Economy of the family mainly contribute for the key areas their wellbeing. In Ancient SriLanka we experienced the Male Dominant societies. In which fathers contribute solely to the family economy . But in current situation as a result of free Education Female Literacy rate went up and most of the females are contributing for the Economy. Sometimes it is more than the Male Counterpart..In present situation all Parents are trying to Educate their children as much as possible. The level of their Economy mainly contribute for this.

The main objective of this research was to study impact of the family economy for students' basic and secondary education.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Ahmad and Najeemah studied the influence of parent's socio-economic status and educational background on their children's education in Nigeria in 2013. They revealed that Parents' personal educational backgrounds and economic backgrounds have a significant effect on their children's education. Suggestions for parents on how to overcome personal and economic challenges and to help in the Educational process of their children were presented. Conclusions from the literature were drawn, and the paper concludes that Parents' educational and socio- economic backgrounds influenced the Education of their children (Ahmad and Najeemah, 2013) the essential ingredient in most

children's success in school is a positive relation to his parents (Bettelheim, 1987).

Akanle and Basil (2007) also mentioned Parental income in his work to be a strong factor upon which the academic and vocational successes of secondary and junior secondary school students lie. According to his investigation, parental income cannot be sufficient to sustain the academic and personal social life of the student in sub rural school areas. And this can seriously affects the psychological balance or homeostatic balance in the classroom, which causes low concentration, low perception, frustration, sickness and emotional disability in academic performance of the students and can also lead to dropping out or withdrawal. Therefore a child may be found to perform poorly in his school work and even drop out of school, when he is deprived of essential needs (Akanle and Basil, 2007).

If the parent rides the children to such great lengths that they begin to abhor education there is a problem. There needs to be a healthy support, not a lack of support or an over exertion of parental authority pushing children to their exhaustion. Peers are another factor in gaining an education. If the child has trouble socializing or has friends that are bad influences they could be under achieving due to peer pressure. Also they could become distracted by the values of the peers away from education. It is important for parents to know the friends of their kids and help their children navigate through any problems (Yusuf, 2008).

Memon, Muhammad and Muhammad examined the process of how socioeconomic status, specifically parents' education and income, indirectly relates to children's academic achievement through parents' beliefs and behaviors There was significant relationship between parent's occupational status and academic performance of the students at matriculation examination. Similarly a significant relationship was found between family income and educational achievement (Memon, Joubish and Khurram, 2010). In 2017 Islam and Khan intended to examine and explore the impact of Socio-economic Status on Academic Achievement of Senior Secondary School Students. The findings of the study showed that there is positive correlation exists between Socio-economic Status and Academic Achievement of Senior Secondary School students (Islam and Khan, 2017).

III. METHODOLOGY

Sri Jayewardenepura, Colombo and Kelaniya universities were selected as the field of study which had 1324 students as the sample. Under simple random sampling, 591 out of 2956 from University of Sri Jayewardenepura, 457 out of 2286 from University of Kelaniya, 276 out of 1384 from Colombo University have been selected. Both males and females from first year to fourth year were in this sample. Data was collected using interviews and questionnaires. SPSS software has used for analyzing data.

IV. RESULTS AND SUMMARY

In sociological study on the impact of the family's economic background to art faculty students, 81% of all samples were women and 19% were men. 22% of them were failed The Grade Five Scholarship Examination. In studying the form of the primary education, 0.8% of students who studied GCE O/L examination have obtained 10 A passes at the examination. According to the data analysis, 19.2 % of students who obtained 03 A's were became majority of the sample. According to the three universities, the percentage of students who received high results for the O/L was higher in university of Colombo more than other two universities. When choosing arts streams for GCE A/L, 72% were chosen on self-will and 24% due to economic inconvenience. The percentages of attending tuition classes for their education were 32% in Sri Jayewardenepura, 47% in Colombo and 21% in Kelaniya. Most of the students who qualified for universities were from low income families. Their parents' incomes influence their education. Accordingly, fathers of majority of students were farmers in the sample. It was 30.3% of the sample. It was 38% in Sri Jayewardenepura, 26% in Colombo and 36% in Kelaniya. The business group was 13.3%. The fathers of the 9.8% were government employees and fathers of 54 students were passed away. The number of people living without jobs was 6.4%. Mothers of 72.7% from the total sample were housewives. 5.9% were teachers and it was clear that they have employed in the private sector and overseas. 16% from Sri Jayewardenepura, 30% from Colombo and 23% from Kelaniya were chosen general degree program. It was found that they were attending short-term jobs to earn money for their external courses and other expenses during their studies. 37% from Sri Jayewardenepura, 52% from Colombo, and 42% from Kelaniya were living from short-term employment.

V. CONCLUSION

According to the above data, the education of the children was influenced by the family's economic status from the very beginning of their education to the high school level. It also influenced to their other educational qualifications relevant to their field such as courses of English, IT, Human resource management, Tamil, and ect.

Study revealed that majority of the participants had Financial difficulties on their Education.

Majority of their families did not have any fixed Monthly income. Most of them are from Rural SriLanka in which still the Male dominant economy exists and mothers are house wives who look after the family well. Due to Globalization even rural societies understand the value of Education of their children. But their choices of Tertiary Education mainly depend on their financial status not on their skills. Other fact is while continuing their Education in Stream of Arts they need to have extra knowledge on Information Technology and English. Otherwise they will be speied out from current Job Market. But family financial status will not allow them to

achieve this target. Their earning through part Time Job will affect their current degree programme and there is a risk of losing their Degree

Ministry of Education/Universities should conduct research or situational analysis of the students who are their Undergraduates. A relevant programmes/activities should be introduced to address the wellbeing of the students rather than mainly focusing on the Education.

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