

School Dropouts in Sri Lanka: A Sociological Analysis

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Education is a human right of nations, wealth of nations, and the might of nations ever in the world. Therefore, every country is obliged to protect this right. Many countries have included this right in their constitutions and also are practicing through their socio economic and cultural policies. Since independence, Sri Lankan governments, in their development efforts, have taken many progressive steps to improve education. As a result, the country has gained admirable achievements in education such as higher literacy rate i.e. 92% for adults and 97% for youths. Yet, it is impossible to evaluate the prevailing education system as “extremely well” due to some drawbacks among which “school dropout” is a serious issue. The objective of this study is to analyze the problem of school dropout in Sri Lanka from a sociological point of view. Secondary data gathered through available literature was used for the study. Sociological theories and concepts were applied to identify causes for the school dropouts.

In 2009, over 45,000 students dropped out of schooling. It is serious in plantation sector as 20% per year. Furthermore, boys’ dropout rate is higher than girls. Lack of facilities, socio-economic deprivations have been hurdles for education in lower class families. At the same time, this study mainly argues that as socio-cultural changes are severe in present society, a complex set of factors associated with the family context has mainly contributed to this problem in many families rather than poverty and lack of facilities.

Keywords: *Education, School Dropout, Socio-cultural Changes, Socio-economic Deprivation*