

## **Family Relations and the Problems of University Students**

**M. A. N. Rasanjalee Perera**

**Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura**  
*rasanjalee@hotmail.com*

Family influence on a person is greater than other institutions. Hence, family is a key determinant of students' education too. Family type, parental style, family members' life style, family members' education level and occupation status, rural/urban living pattern, demographic structure and parental problems etc are some facets of families that determine its members' socialization process. The way of socialization of family members and their personality types ultimately influence on how they face their life challenges. Accordingly, the main objective of this study is to investigate the university students' problems and relationship with their family backgrounds. This was achieved through examining students' personal backgrounds, university environment, and students' family backgrounds. This paper, however, discusses only the family related problems.

A stratified sample was selected from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, including 1000 undergraduates from all faculties. Questionnaire survey, group discussions, in-depth interviews, and experts' interviews were used for data collection. It was descriptively analyzed using elementary statistics. SPSS software was used for data tabulation and analysis.

While deeply investigating major problems faced by the students as personal, social, psychological, and economic and education problems, it could be clearly identified that the root causes of many problems were based on their family backgrounds. It was also revealed that 1/5<sup>th</sup> of students have to face various types of family problems frequently. Some prominent family problems identified are "economic difficulties", "broken families/single parent families", "fathers' addiction to drugs/alcohol", "parental conflicts", "illnesses", "problems of looking after younger siblings". However, most of students' problems were directly related with economic background of families.

***Key words:*** Education, Family, Relationship, Students' Problems, University Students