

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT IN SRI LANKA : A CASE FOR REASSESSMENT OF CURRENT VIEWS

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The paper critically analyses the currently accepted view that education in Sri Lanka has created a structural imbalance resulting in an imbalance between job expectations of the educated unemployed and the available job opportunities. The view is shown to be based on limited data and a simple view of the social situation in Sri Lanka. Educated youth are shown to accept any employment in some social situations. The data usually simply interpreted may in fact be explained by a time lag in the supply of employment and the opening of new avenues of employment to the generation under thirty during the previous decade. A simple cause and result view of education and job-waiting is shown to be capable of being misused for educational policy that may hinder the long-term development of the country, and a case is presented for a complex view allowing for dynamic man - power and educational planning with growth orientation for Sri Lanka.