

ACHIEVEMENT AND UNDER-ACHIEVEMENT IN SRI LANKA—SURVEY OF NAVODAYA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

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This paper is based on a longitudinal study of the Navodaya Scholarship winners of 1970 undertaken by the Department of Social Science Education of the University of Colombo in 1978-79. This study investigates the academic and vocational activities of these grade 7 scholarship students in order to ascertain whether the objectives of the scholarship scheme to provide for the development of scholastic aptitude has been realized. These students were selected on the basis of an all island examination and presumably represent a high ability group in their age cohort. Theoretically they should be in the second year of their university career in 1978-79. It seemed opportune to examine the school and post-school records of these students in the current context of high incidence of early school leaving, frustration and tension at the point of entry to University education and limited opportunities for other avenues of tertiary education.

Questionnaires were sent to 2,446 students in 650 schools who had been awarded scholarships in 1970. This paper is an analysis of achievement and under-achievement based on data collected relating specifically to—

- (i) early school leaving,
- (ii) performance at the G.C.E. (O/L) and (A/L) examinations.
- (iii) admission to Universities and other further education institutions.
- (iv) post-school activities of secondary school leavers.

The data points to considerable educational wastage, absence of adequate personal fulfilment and under-utilization of human resources.