

## ASPIRATIONS, CURRICULUM PREFERENCE AND CHOICE OF A/L ENTRANTS

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The study was based in the context of the "non-traditional sixth form" concept<sup>1</sup> with the ever increasing student numbers entering A/L and perhaps with wider ability range.

The study hypothesised (a) that a preponderance of O/L students would wish to enter A/L classes (b) the majority of these students would wish to enter University (c) that, in the Sri Lankan Context, the A/L curricular streams of Science, Arts or Commerce preferred while still at O/L, would not be significantly different from that actually chosen upon entering A/L.

Data were collected by questionnaire from 484 girls (in 7 schools of diverse

social strata) pending O/L results. Later, actual curriculum choice was noted. All three hypotheses received support in the study. Regarding the first, nearly all (99.5%) wished to enter A/L classes.

Analyses regarding hypotheses (b) and (c) are set out below.

	n	Chi Sq.	Sig.
Univ. Edn	365	62.50	$p < .01$
<u>Aspiration</u>			
Non-Univ. Edn	119		
Total	484		
<u>Preferences &amp; Choice</u>			
Same	258	53.86	$p < .01$
Different	70		
Total	328		

Results suggest that the current A/L retains the features of the traditional sixth-form, though students have increased in number and ability range. Similarity of preference and actual choice suggest the need of guidance procedures.

Reference

Stubb, M (1985). Curriculum choices; general (academic) qualifications  
School Science Review 239 (67), pp380-7.