

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, STUDY PREFERENCE
AND FUTURE PLAN OF THE NEW
UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS WHO FOLLOW SCIENCE COURSES

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This paper is a study on the family background, academic aspirations and intended occupation of the new entrants of the science faculty of the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Questionnaires, were distributed among the students to obtain particulars regarding educational qualifications of parents and relatives, financial assistance for university education and intended occupation etc. The answers were analysed and general remarks were formulated in order to determine the students' point of view with regard to the above matters.

On analysis of the educational background of the parents of the students, it was found that not more than 19.04% of the fathers and 2.38% of the mothers of the students had university education. Only 23.01% of the students have their brothers/sisters studying at the University. 29.36% of the students' relatives had higher education. Majority of the students knew neither the University Grants Commission (58.73%) nor any persons working in the University (80.95%). Although 30.95% of the students had visited the University already, 73.8% of them did not know the University set up.

Only 37.3% of the student body received endowment/scholarship as part of the university expense. But 91.26% depends on parents and 8.7% depends on others for financial support for their university education. 88.8% of the students wish to do a special degree. The most popular subject is Chemistry (44.44%) 88.88% wish to go for higher education and 23.01% want to secure employment.

The students have various choices for their jobs such as Professor, research worker, accountant, technical officer. But the majority of them like to be in the teaching profession either in school or in University.

The orientation course has helped them to know the university better.

It is concluded that the background of the students do not have any impact on their admission to the university and the students have their study preferences and job aspiration when they enter the university.