

F-10 : STUDENT (INTER-LINGUISTIC) MOBILITY

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In Sri Lanka students educated in their mother tongue (Sinhala/Tamil) have to pursue professional courses such as Medicine and Engineering in the English medium. Lack of proficiency in English has handicapped their performance at the University. Studies have revealed high drop out rates at the University.

Hence GCE (O/L) English Language results of students selected for the Academic Year (1990/91) were analysed. Analysis revealed the following :

(1) Half of the students (52%) had obtained either a 'D' or 'C' pass at the GCE (O/L) Examination. Of the 52% students who obtained a 'D' or 'C' pass, 42% were either from Colombo/Jaffna districts with facilities for English Education.

(2) Only 18% of the students had obtained a 'D' pass in English at GCE (O/L). Of these students, very few (17%) were admitted for Arts based courses (Art; Management; Commerce; Law).

(3) Very few (7%) students admitted for the Arts Degree had obtained either a 'C' or 'D' pass in English language.

The results show wide disparities in the standards of English of students admitted to our Universities. The availability of Teaching facilities for English education at school level has to be studied in detail to ascertain the disparities in English Education.