

## **F-11 : STUDENTS (INTER-CLASS) MOBILITY**

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In Sri Lanka a University degree enables a person to find employment which elevates his/her social status. Only a limited number (24% in 1990/91) of those who seek admission are able to enter the University.

Social and economic characteristics of students admitted to the University in 1990/91 such as the educational backgrounds of father/mother, number of siblings receiving Tertiary Education, have been analysed.

The analysis has revealed the following :

(1) More than half of the entrants (60%) are children whose parents are equipped only with GCE (O/L) Education.; (2) Only 10% of the students are children of graduates/professionals; (3) Very few students (7%) have a brother/sister at the University; (4) More than half the students (57%) who are children of graduates/professionals are either at University of Colombo or University of Peradeniya; (5) Majority of the students (78%) who are children of graduates/professionals study science based courses.

These results lead us to infer that there is a mobility of students from lower classes to middle/upper middle class. At the same time there is a mobility of students of middle class graduates/professionals to the upper middle class.

Study is aimed at comparing the results of Academic year 1990/91 with the preceding year 1989/90 and ensuing year 1991/92 to find out whether there is evidence for any significant differences over the years.