

F-17: Level of scientific literacy in Sri Lanka

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The objective of this study was to identify the level of scientific literacy in Sri Lanka, since a proper standard of scientific literacy in any society contributes to maintain its healthy wellbeing.

A questionnaire with 12 questions, based on fundamentals of the universe, infectious diseases, environment, basic health care, genetics, evolution and energy was distributed among a sample of 750 participants belonging to age groups 10-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41- 50 and over 50 years, chosen from all parts of Sri Lanka, except North and East.

The level of scientific literacy was observed to be 71.68%. There was a significant difference of scientific literacy among the various age groups.

Knowledge on the universe, environment, the nature of matter, basic health care and energy, among the 5 age groups was not significantly different from each other.

However, knowledge on infectious diseases, genetics and evolution, significantly varied among different age groups.

Knowledge on various disciplines was also found to vary within the same age group.