

F-19: Cost of students in different faculties in Universities

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Annually, around 0.3% of GNP is disbursed among the universities in Sri Lanka. The objective of the study was to ascertain whether this grant was allocated proportionately among the universities according to their student numbers.

The cost per student in different faculties in the 8 conventional universities was computed for 1986 and 1990. The Open University was excluded since its instruction is mainly by the distant method. There was a variation in the cost per student of the same disciplines between different universities.

The cost per student in Eastern University was much higher than that of other universities in 1986 as well as 1990. The Eastern University which was established in 1981, was unable to bring down the cost per student to the level of other universities, even after 10 years. The cost per student at the Eastern University in 1990 compared with that of other universities was as follows:

	<i>Eastern University</i>	<i>Other Universities</i>
Arts/Social Science	51,043	14,024
Management studies	38,479	7,082
Science	50,573	24,307
Agriculture	92,504	36,283

The Agriculture Faculty had only 72 students but a cadre of 24 teaching staff, which was far above the approved norm of 10 students to 1 Academic staff.

The cost per Engineering Student at Moratuwa (Rs.37,000) was much higher than that at Peradeniya (Rs.25,000).

It is necessary to monitor the cost effectiveness in different faculties of universities of Sri Lanka. It would then be possible to avoid unnecessary duplication of courses as well as allocating the grant on a more rational basis.