

A226

A preliminary study on the relationship between performance at GCE (A/L) and at MBBS examinations

With the introduction of Higher Educational Reforms, there is much concern over the criteria for selection of students to the Medical Faculties. The key criterion used for this purpose in Sri Lanka has been the aggregate score obtained at the GCE advanced Level (A/L) examination. The objective of this study is to determine the relationship between the GCE (A/L) aggregate score and performance at the pre-clinical, para-clinical, and clinical examinations of the undergraduate medical course of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, university of Sri Jayawardenepura.

The study sample consisted of 124 out of 138 students from the first (91/920 batch of students of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura. Data relating to GCE (A/L) and MBBS examination marks was collected on a coded basis maintaining student anonymity. A detailed statistical analysis using Pearsons correclation and canonical correlation was done to determine possible relationships between GCE(A/L) and MBBS examination performance .

The correlation coefficients between the aggregate scores at GCE(A/L) and at each of the four MBBS examinations, displayed a decline from 2nd MBBS to Final MBBS, and was not statistically significant at Final MBBS examination.

The high scorers at the GCE(A/L) examination perform well at MBBS examinations in general, but they do not necessarily constitute the best performers at the final MBBS examination. Performance of this study sample at GCE(A/L) examination does not correlate with their performance at final MBBS examination.