

Computer technology & future of Sri Lankan society

Computer & Information technologies are fast growing fields in the modern world. Developed countries are operating at the research and development level of these areas while we Sri Lankans are mainly operating at the "package-user" level. In our society students failing G.C.E.(O/L), G.C.E (A/L) and graduates with computer science also join as programmers (package users) mainly due to financial reasons. Society and universities too are geared to produce more and more IT people for the international market but not for national needs. For example, our university system fails to keep their own high quality computer science graduate as academics in the university system by preventing them from going to the industry. There is also a trend of learning to concentrate on computer related subjects while neglecting of other subject areas. Some parents are very much responsible in misguiding their children to follow computer courses even at the cost of neglecting higher studies.

With the current trend it is very likely that there will be an overflow of "package-user" level IT people in the country. The future of their jobs is under the control of countries that do research and development in the field. Therefore, Sri Lankan society needs to be more educated to go beyond user-level of IT due to mere financial reasons and keep a balance between the production of programmers and academics. Otherwise one day we will not have people in Sri Lanka to teach computer and information technology. We definitely need a balance. Finally, money oriented people should be reminded that all developed countries have sacrificed immediate financial gain, at some point of time, for the development that they have now.