

A study on influence of factors affecting educational achievement of students in Colombo district

D A D Withanage* and M R Sooriyarachchi

Department of Statistics, University of Colombo, Colombo 3

Increasing evidence indicates that education plays a crucial role in any nation's well being. For example an educated and skilled pool of workers is the key feature supporting a nation's effort to progress in the technological global environment. Then the question of how the education in the country can be improved arises. Can changing education systems in schools alone, achieve the goal? Some other factors that affect the education of a child are disclosed in this study. Those factors are categorized under three main sections as family influence, social influence and gender.

The data for this study was collected from a survey conducted throughout the district of Colombo using 400 students who are studying in year 12 of government schools. The students were given a questionnaire and an I.Q. test to answer within a limited time period. The sampling method was a two-stage cluster with proportional allocation of stratified sampling in stage one to select schools and quota sampling in stage two to select students.

The base of this research is to examine the possible role of family influence, social influence and gender influence on educational achievement of a student. At first, a preliminary analysis using descriptive methods was carried out to see the associations and then an advanced analysis was carried out on the ordinal variable, overall performance by fitting a proportional odds (PO) model in order to determine influential factors. The validity of the assumption of PO and goodness of fit of the model was checked.

The fitted model shows that the odds ratio of being in a better category of response is 0.031, 0.194 and 0.518 times lower for no parent passing O/L, at least one parent passing O/L and at least one parent passing A/L respectively, compared to at least one parent is a graduate. This quantity is 3.650 times higher for a suburb student compared to a city student. This quantity is 1.926 times higher for a student not participating in social activities compared to a student who participates. Thus it can be concluded that parent's education, living area and participation in social activities are the factors that affect the educational achievement of students in Colombo district.