

Employment status of science graduates who have entered the job market in Sri Lanka within the period of 2000-2002

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A study was conducted to analyze the employment status of the Science graduates who have entered the job market in the period of 2000-2002 from the thirteen national universities in Sri Lanka. The data were collected as two consecutive studies in year 2003 and 2004. The employment status of the graduates was recorded after the elapse of two years since obtaining their degree. The targeted group of the study was the graduates passed out in years 2000, 2001 and 2002. The study was conducted through a survey by mail and the targeted group consisted of a number of 3,475 B.Sc. science graduates. The response rate recorded was 58%. The responded sample consisted of 85% of B.Sc. general science graduates and 15% B.Sc. special science graduates.

The employment status recorded has fluctuated within years. In year 2003 the employment rate was 58.9 % while in year 2004 it increased up to 68.7%. The employment rate of the graduates with B.Sc. special science degree was slightly higher than graduates with B.Sc. general science degree. Accordingly, in year 2003 the employment rate of B.Sc. special science graduates was 68.8% while for B.Sc. general science graduates it was 57.4%. Similarly in year 2004, the employment rate recorded for B.Sc. special graduates was 78.6% and for B.Sc. general science graduates 66.6%. The highest employment rate was recorded for the graduates specialized in the area of Statistics (100%), Industrial Management (100%), Botany (95.4%), Computer Science (94%) and Chemistry (92%). Highest unemployment rate was recorded for the graduates specialized in the area of Geology (45.5%). Majority of the graduates was employed as school teachers (18.4%). Other areas were Administration and Management activities (9.7%), R&D activities (7.5 %), Clerical jobs (5.0%) and the field of Information Technology (4.7%). The study also was extended to test the rate of the employment in different sectors, employment activities and income level of the employed graduates are also discussed.

The financial assistance by the STPRD/ADB project of the Ministry of Science and Technology is gratefully acknowledged.