

**Tracer study of Science and Technology postgraduates who graduated from
Sri Lankan universities during the period 2000-2002**

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The study was conducted for the graduates who had graduated from the faculties of Agriculture, Engineering, and Science of the national universities in the period 2000-2002. The surveyed sample consisted of 768 postgraduates. The response rate was 36%. The total sample consisted of 74% M.Sc. graduates, 21% M.Phil. graduates, 3% of Ph.D. graduates and 2% of M.Eng. graduates. The sample consisted of 56% male and 44% female graduates. The age of the graduates achieving post graduate qualifications varied between 24 to 55 years. However, this varied with the type of postgraduate degree. The average age recorded in the survey of getting Ph.D. degree was 35.8 ± 3.03 years while for M.Phil. this was 33 ± 4 years and for M.Sc., 34.6 ± 5.9 years. The results showed that a very few completed their postgraduate degrees in the given minimum time period. Therefore, the average time taken by graduates to complete Ph.D. was 5.4 ± 1.1 years, M.Phil. 4.5 ± 2 years and M.Sc. 2.8 ± 1.3 years and for M.Eng. 2.8 ± 0.9 years. At the time of the survey, 92% of the sample were employed while 4.9% were unemployed, 0.6% self employed and 2.5% involved in further education. Highest employment rate was recorded for the graduates that have Ph.D. (100%) followed by M.Sc. graduates having 94% employment rate and M.Phil. graduates having 88.2% employment rate. The unemployment rate of the graduates with M.Phil. degrees was 5.9% and M.Sc. degree 5.1%. The proportion of male (62.5%) doing postgraduate degree while employed was higher than that of the female (37.5%).

50% of the graduates were employed in the government sector while 33% in semi - government sector jobs, 9% private sector and 8% in other organisations like NGOs. Most of them were employed in middle management level employment (37.4%) followed by non executive level jobs (26.5%), junior management level employment (21.8%) and senior management level employment (14.3%) The income level and the obstacles they encountered when finding jobs also was investigated.

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