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Proposal for a student selection method for university admissions in Sri Lanka

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According to the current admission policy students can select three subjects in any one particular stream for their GCE (A/L) examination, based on their GCE (O/L) examination results and their preferences. The Z Score system has been introduced to select students to universities by adjusting different difficulty levels of the subjects they offered at the examination. However it has now been identified that there are ambiguities in the Z Score system. This study aims to develop an improved method to Z Score system to select students who offer different subject combinations at the GCE (A/L) examinations for admission to Universities in Sri Lanka. It is a fact that intelligent students select competitive subjects in GCE (A/L) examination while less intelligent students select easy combinations of subjects. Course contents and examination papers of the subjects they offer consist of many uncontrollable problems like different levels of difficulties, mistakes, unclear parts, examiner differences while marking etc. Nevertheless, these factors should not have any favorable or unfavorable effects on the student selection process. The selection should be performed independent

from those factors, which are beyond the control of students. The objective of this study is to propose a selection method, named as Common Currency Index (CCI) Method, which has been designed to eliminate all the above problems as far as possible. In this method different course wise marks are converted to one type of course marks, similar to conversion of currency. Once all the marks are converted, selections can be performed following the usual procedures. In this method students will not experience discrimination due to selection either from within a course or between courses with different subject combinations. This new method was tested using simulations. Further it was revealed that it is an improved method to the currently used Z score method.

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