

A Qualitative Analysis on Distance Education around Tea Estates in Sri Lanka. (Special Reference to Uva Province)

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Education plays a key role in the life of an individual throughout the life journey. Being equipped with essential skills and knowledge improves the personality of an individual which will in return results in the upliftment of the standard of living. This research is with the prime motive to investigate the impact of on the lives of children from the tea estates. As the main source of primary data collection, the data collected from the direct interviews through a set of structured questionnaires covering five estates from the Uva province had been utilized to collect data. The main objective of the research is to identify the factors that hinders the motive of students from tea estates to be educated. The qualitative analysis uses descriptive, as the main analytical technique, in identifying the Impact of Distance Education around tea estates in Sri Lanka. The results of the qualitative analysis indicate that, parents with a reasonable educational background, motivates their children to focus on studies compared to uneducated parents. In general parents employed in tea estates are with a low level of education or uneducated. There is a trend of internal migration of younger generation to city areas as job seekers in order to overcome poverty. Further the percentage of school dropouts are high due to poverty, knowledge on the importance of education is lacking from both the parents and children, poor infrastructure and absence of proper transportation facilities. These findings have shown the significance of education for a better standard of living in achieving that they require proper guidance, motivation and adequate facilities to enhance the commitment of children and to uplift their standard of living by raising their bars on education.

Keywords: Education, Life standards, Uva Province, Poverty, Children