

Attitude Difference between Advanced Level Students and Currently Joined Students towards the Technical and Vocational Education Sector in Sri Lanka

K.A.I.M. Amarasekara*

Department of Management Studies, University College of Matara, No. 690, Tangalle Road, Meddawaththa, Matara, Sri Lanka

The government of Sri Lanka incurs considerable expenditure on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system in the country and has made significant progress over the past decades through different strategies. Although this sector has been well organized to give opportunities up to degree level qualifications, the sector engages with three major problems such as low enrollment, high dropout rates, and a lower rate of job placement. Therefore, this study was carried out to investigate whether there is a significant attitude difference between Advanced Level (A/L) students and currently joined students towards the TVET sector. Eighty (80) students in TVET Institutes and A/L students in Matara District were the populations of this study. The data was collected through a questionnaire from all four TVET institutes, 10 students from each TVET institute and 10 students from each Educational zone covering all four educational zones. Independent Simple T-Test was used to compare the attitude difference between the students in two streams. According to the results, there was a change in variance between two groups but there was no significant difference in group means. The standard deviation of attitude of currently joined students was 0.52 and A/L students was 0.83. Accordingly, A/L students are having higher variance than the students who follow TVET programs. This indicated that currently joined students are having less variance towards attitudes in following TVET programs. Since A/L students are having a higher variance in their attitudes towards TVET than currently joined students, TVET sector needed to introduce appropriate actions and programs to change the A/L students thinking pattern and make a positive image on TVET.

Keywords: Attitudes, Technical and vocational education, TVET