

A Case Study of the Critical Thinking Skills Among the University Students in Sri Lanka

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Critical thinking skills are considered one of the most sought-after skills in almost every field such as education, finance, legal profession, research, and management etc. Developing the ability to think independently and rationally about what to do or what to believe in certain situations and formulate ones' own opinions and draw his or her own conclusions have been widely accepted as obviously important. In Sri Lankan context, there is an attitude among many people that the university undergraduates are not very good in critical thinking. Therefore the purpose of this study was to determine the critical thinking skills among the undergraduate students in Uva Wellassa University, Sri Lanka. The population was taken as all university 100 level students who are attached to the Faculty of Management, Faculty of Science and Technology, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture and Faculty of Technological Studies in 2018. The sample of 60 students was selected as 25 male and 35 female. The form of the California Critical thinking Skills questionnaire and an interview method were used to collect the data from the sample. The data were descriptively analyzed using SPSS 16. The results indicate that the respondents are quite confident in their critical thinking ability but according to the findings, there is a mild score of critical thinking skills in general. The score of Critical thinking skills in female students was higher than male students but that is not significant. Based on the findings it was suggested to increase students' ability in critical thinking, special training courses, programs, and workshops etc. are needed to be introduced and included in the university curriculum.

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