

5

A STUDY OF THE FACTORS AFFECTING THE
CONTINUATION OF STUDIES OF MUSLIM
GIRLS, AFTER YEAR 9

IN
KALMUNAI DISTRICT

BY

MOHAMED ISMAIL MOWLAVI SITHY FATHIMA ZULFIKA

REFERENCE ONLY

SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE
OF MASTER OF EDUCATION



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
OPEN UNIVERSITY
SRI LANKA

OCTOBER 1995

45532

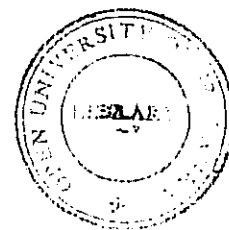
ABSTRACT

It is evident that the Muslim women in the Kalmunai district (Sri Lanka) are deprived in educational attainment. Discontinuation by dropping-out from studies is a more serious problem than the deprivation of education. This study is an attempt to find-out the actual causes for the discontinuation of studies of Muslim girls in the Kalmunai district after Year 9.

The necessary data for this research was collected through a field survey conducted by administering questionnaires, through interviews and observation. The assessment and evaluation of the assumed factors which cause drop-out, such as socio-economic status and attitudes of parents towards the girl's education, facilities available in schools, developmental status of the area and the attitudes of society, were made through quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data.

The findings of the study revealed that,

1. Poverty is the most influential factor in the drop-out phenomenon and that it operates at all levels of education of Muslim girls in the Kalmunai district.
2. Attitudes of parents is not favourable to the continuation of the education of Muslim girls after Year 9.



3. Socio-culturally constructed views regarding the role and status of women, and marriage have a negative impact on girls' education.
4. The level of school facilities does not have any direct bearing on the drop-out phenomenon of Muslim girls in the Kalmunai district.
5. The combined effects of poor economic levels, and parents' and society's negative attitudes towards the education of girls have aggravated the drop-out problem.

The poverty and attitudes of parents, and the socio-economic-cultural aspects related to marriage, have had a separate and a collectively negative impact on the education of Muslim girls in the Kalmunai district.

Short and long-term measures to encourage the continuation of studies of girls were identified as remedial and preventive measures. The main remedial measures were midday meals, a flexible time table, and a second chance to drop-out students. The main preventive measures suggested are awareness programmes for parents and interested groups of society.

Urgent intervention is suggested to overcome this problem.