

Abstract

The present study on “Discipline Problems arisen in Schools among Adolescent Students” is completed to fulfil a requirement of the M. Ed programme of the Open University of Sri Lanka. The sample of this study includes 100 students, 10 teachers and two principals selected from two schools in Jayawardena Pura Zone of Colombo District.

This study was directed under four objectives. They are : to identify the discipline problems rise in schools in line with adolescent students, to investigate whether the school related and personal factors have some bearing on the disciplinary problems, to investigate the steps taken by the schools to minimize the discipline problems and to make recommendations on the direct and indirect measures to be implemented in schools to minimize the problems .

In order to achieve above objectives, data had been collected from adolescent students and teachers using questionnaires. In addition, interviews were conducted with a selected group of teachers and two principals. Descriptive methods had been used for the data analysis.

Having analyzed data, it could be revealed that the disciplinary problems vary in different schools and the problem could be categorized as in-side classroom problems and out-side problems. Among the disciplinary problems, damaging desks and chairs (breaking them and writing on them), verbal harassment, unavailability in classrooms during teaching time and fashionable hair cuts were prominent.

Further, the disciplinary problems could be categorized into seven sets namely problems related to verbal harassment, classroom- based and learning based problems, disciplinary problems outside the schools, problems related to fashions, problems related to clothing, unlawful and immoral actions. In order to minimize those disciplinary problems, schools use some lenient punishments such as advising the adolescents, ignoring their acts, presenting the adolescents

to principal, keeping under the sun , asking to remove garbage, letting them sweep the floor, forcing to do religious activities and keeping them stand in front of the classroom and some tough punishments such as keeping them stand in front of the office, complaining to parents , hitting with the cane, hitting by hand, advising with a tough tone and expelling from the classroom. It was further revealed that the school administration had taken various steps to minimize disciplinary problems such as establishing disciplinary committees, investigating thoroughly about the school discipline, maintaining law and order with the support of school prefects, developing mental stability through meditation and Dhamma Dshana. Conducting workshops etc.

The recommendations for minimizing discipline problems have been presented under 7 areas. They are : recommendations related to school management, recommendations related to teacher-, recommendations related to Parents, recommendations related to prefects-, recommendations for educational authorities and recommendations related to school -environment.