

ABSTRACT

Attention was paid to study the relationship between the vocational expectations of school adolescents and modern world of work in this study.

This research study was implemented through 5 main objectives. According to the sample, identifying the nature of vocational expectations of school adolescents in relation to types of employments and vocational fields, identifying the understanding of school children, teachers and employers about National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) and Vocational Training Institutes implementing in Sri Lanka, observing the relationship between the vocational expectations of school adolescents and the new trends prevailing in the world of work, and finding what could be done through the system of schools, world of work and Vocational Institutes in strengthening that relationship are important among them.

This study was implemented based on 3 samples, a sample consisting 50 G.C.E.(O/L) students of 60 schools Division under Education Division of Ratnapura District and 200 G.C.E.(A/L) students comprising 250 students in all, a sample of 12 teachers comprising class teachers, a sample of world of work comprising industrialists and 26 other officers.

As the techniques of collecting data in this study questionnaires and interview methods were used relevant to the survey lay out. For the analysis of data in relation to the main aim of this study in addition to the quantitative analysis methods such as graphs, response ranking, qualitative analysis methods were too used for information analysis.

Among the main revelations of this study it is clear when selecting employments they show a tendency to types of employments with higher economic benefits and main attention of all the students was not focused on main types of employments in craft and Technological service prevailing in abundance in the world of work. And also a higher percentage of both male and female expecting employments in the public service is still a specific feature. It was revealed that when students selecting employments, there is no significant relationship between fathers' employments and students future selections of employments and they have built up their vocational expectations through the main subjects stream in G.C.E.(A/L).

And also as a whole the understanding in the sample of world of work as well as students and teachers about National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) prevailed at a lower level and also it was revealed that their understanding about the Vocational Institutes is limited. It was revealed that there wasn't a quantitative source of information to give an understanding about the world of work to students in the school system and also they were made to get their vocational understanding through the sources such as newspapers and peer groups.

There are a few proposals presented in this study. That is an awareness should be implemented to ascertain teachers as well as students through the school about the types of employments in crafts and Technological field, the demand there in the world of work, the existing main industrial fields and National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) system. And also as there is no difference for male and female for



employments in the Vocational field, by identifying the adolescents with skills for such employments, necessary guidance should be shown to them through the school instead of the limited main employments in the public sector in the world of work , it is important to widen the students understanding about employment opportunities prevailing for new vocations in private sector which is developing by changing and career guidance to develop vocational pride about such employments in them.

As a main common proposal, it can be shown that it is important to implement by coordinating the fields such as secondary education in Sri Lanka , Higher education and Skills Development education among the world of work.