

ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka is the first country in the world that introduced free education. This resulted in the expansion of the education system. Sri Lanka achieved a high literacy rate in par with the developed countries in the world. At the same time, Sri Lanka also introduced "Swabasha" education system where the majority of the population were educated either in the Sinhala or Tamil languages. As a result of this change the importance given to English education significantly dropped, which in turn had far-reaching implications in terms of advancement in every field along with the rest of the world. However, among the population affected due to the change of the medium of instruction were from rural areas.

As such, this study focuses on a rural district namely Anuradhapura, and examines the factors that affected the English education in the primary schools in the district. This study is based on an empirical research. The data were collected from a number of respondents: students, teachers and parents in the Anuradhapura district. The data were collected by administering a self-administered questionnaire among the respondents.

This study, having examined and analysed the factors, demonstrates the importance of improving English education in the Anuradhapura district and makes recommendations to improve English education in the primary schools in Anuradhapura district.