

## Factors Influencing the Effectiveness of English Medium Education in Government Schools (Grade 01 - 05) in Colombo District

JVMS Jayathilake<sup>1#</sup> and T Wijetunge<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Management and Finance, Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka

<sup>#</sup>veenavijayathilake@gmail.com

The study addresses the implementation of English medium instruction at government primary schools within the Colombo district from grades 1 – 5. The importance of this research lies in understanding how socio-economic background, teaching methods, learning resources, teacher qualifications, parental involvement, and school infrastructure impact students' English language proficiency. A mixed-method approach was employed, combining quantitative data from online surveys of teachers, parents, and administrators with qualitative insights to provide a comprehensive analysis. According to the results success of English medium instruction has a very high and positive correlation with the availability of resources for learning, qualification of the teachers, and school infrastructure. Other influential factors are socio-economic status, quality in methodology, approaches to teaching and learning, and the home influence. The researchers conclude that direct efforts via strategic steps should be taken to ensure improvement in the allocation of resources, teacher training, and infrastructure. Recommendations would be to increase the budget allocation for teaching resources, constant teacher training, and programmes to engage parents further in their children's education. The study advocates for future research to explore the long-term effects of English medium education through longitudinal studies. Incorporating qualitative data is also suggested to complement the quantitative findings, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the factors at play. The study emphasizes the need for targeted interventions to address the critical areas of resources, teacher qualifications, and infrastructure to enhance the effectiveness of English medium education in primary schools within the Colombo district.

**Keywords:** *English medium instruction, socioeconomic background, learning resources, teacher qualifications, parental involvement, school infrastructure*