

Abstract

The present investigation attempts to examine the effects of home and school environmental factors on the language attainments and social development of children in top primary grades. The sample is drawn from one educational region in Sri Lanka.

The relationship between environmental factors and attainments of children is mainly the concern of the educational psychologists. The nature of this relationship is explained by different psychological theories. Therefore, Part I of Chapter One deals briefly with the theoretical aspects of this problem.

On the other hand this problem arises from the educational practice (in Sri Lanka) which enhances provision of equal opportunity in education for all children. A brief review of the evolution of educational practice in Sri Lanka is given in Part II of Chapter One.

With these two aspects in the back-ground the problem is identified and explained in Part III of Chapter One.

The design of the investigation is detailed in Chapter 3, a larger sample would have been ideal and most revealing too. Due to limited resources, an island wide sample study was not attempted. But in this random sample, the findings are significant enough to draw the attention of

parents, teachers and educationists towards an issue which is of considerable relevance to all of them.

As this research is not decision oriented the findings were freely discussed and some suggestions based on these are given in Chapter Five. It is the wish of the investigator that more intensive research be undertaken in this field to help decision making in educational policy.

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