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## 'Better Schools for Better O-Level Results in Sri Lanka' draws attention to the shortage of qualified and experienced teachers

November 29, 2017, 9:41 pm



IPS Research Fellow, Nisha Arunatilake (L) and IPS Research Officer, Ashani Abayasekara (R)

Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) Research Fellow, Nisha Arunatilake, recently noted that while Sri Lanka had a surplus of teachers, the country was experiencing a shortage of qualified and experienced teachers, especially in subjects of mathematics and science.

Given the recent budget proposals to improve STEM education in the country, she said this was an area that needed urgent attention when it comes to education sector reforms. In 2015, 45% of students who sat for the G.C.E. Ordinary Level (O-Level) examination either failed the exam or only conditionally passed due to failing mathematics.

She noted that one of the main reasons behind the shortage of qualified teachers could be attributed to the lack of proper teacher training in the tertiary education sector. Dr. Arunatilake pointed out that only two out of the 17 state universities had Faculties of Education, while only three had Departments of Education.

She made these remarks on Tuesday (28), at the press conference held to launch IPS' latest publication, 'Better Schools for Better O-Level Results in Sri Lanka,' authored by IPS Research Officer, Ashani Abayasekara and herself.

The authors recommended that Sri Lanka should expand the tertiary education sector to produce more education degree holders, while taking measures to improve pre-service teacher training programmes.

They also noted that Sri Lanka should systematically recruit teachers, as the number of teachers in privileged schools – that report better O-Level results – exceeded the number of recommended teachers, while underprivileged and low-achieving schools did not have enough teachers, leading to an inequitable allocation of teachers.

The experience and the qualifications of the teachers are reflected in the students' O-Level results, according to the study.

This publication is available for sale from the IPS premises at No. 100/20, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07, and bookshops island-wide. For more details, contact the IPS Publications Unit (Tel: +94-11-2143107 Amesh – Publications Officer, +94-11-2143100 General).

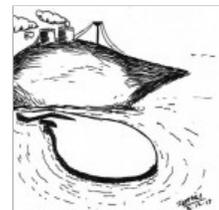
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