

Education in Sri Lanka



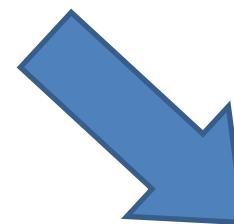
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27 February 2018



Economic Policy Outlook on Education

“Education and skills development are currently inadequate to sustain growth through knowledge-based, competitive economic activities” (Vision 2025, p. 29)

‘Three-pronged approach’




13 years of education:

- STEM education 
- Teacher development 

World class university education

- S&T education 

Market oriented vocational training:

- Soft skills and technical knowledge 

Performance at O-Level Mathematics, 2015



45% failed math

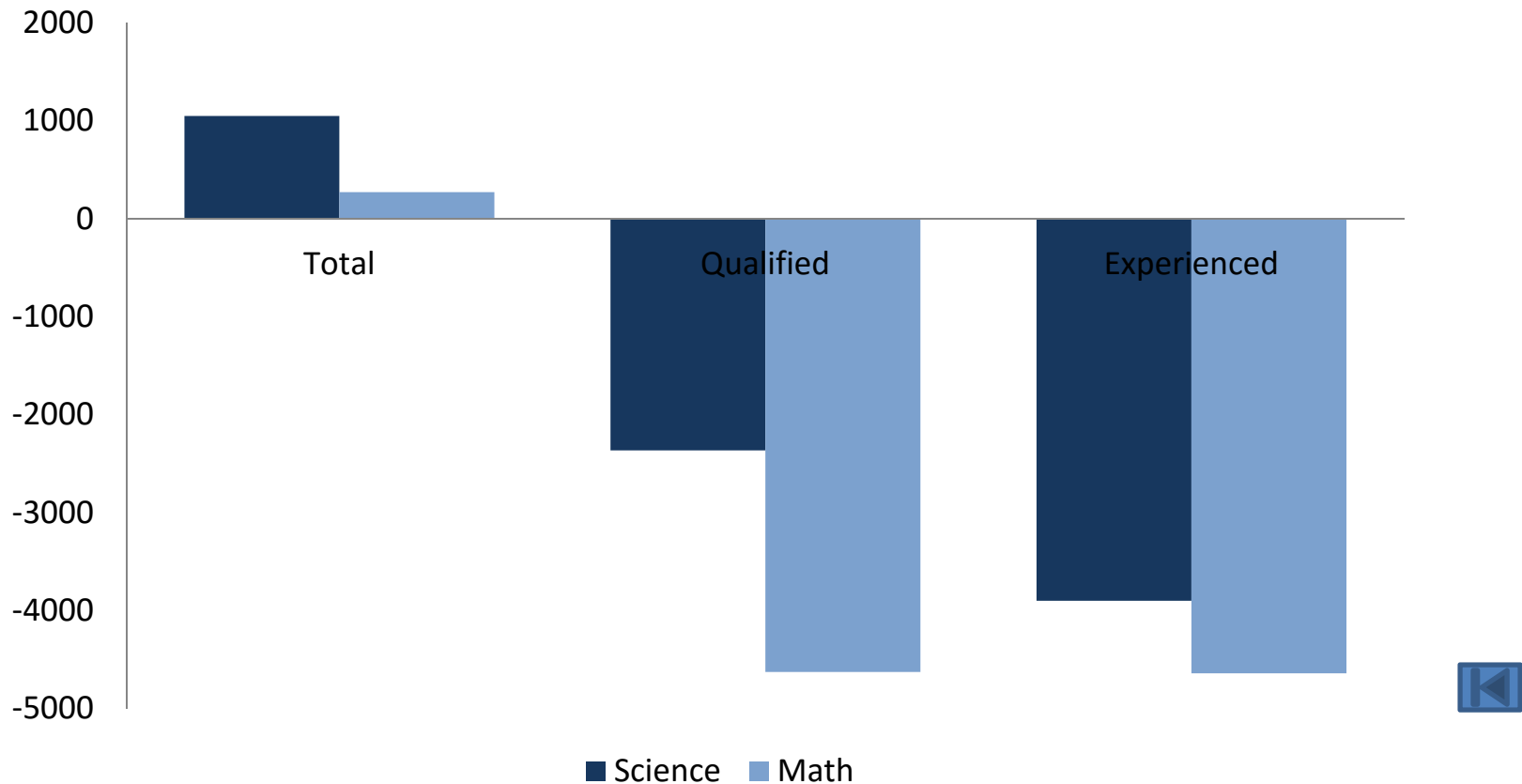
■ Passed (55%) ■ Failed (45%)



Source: Abayasekara, A. & Arunatilake, N. 2017. *Better Schools for Better O-Level Results in Sri Lanka*. Colombo: IPS.

Lack of Qualified and Experienced Teachers

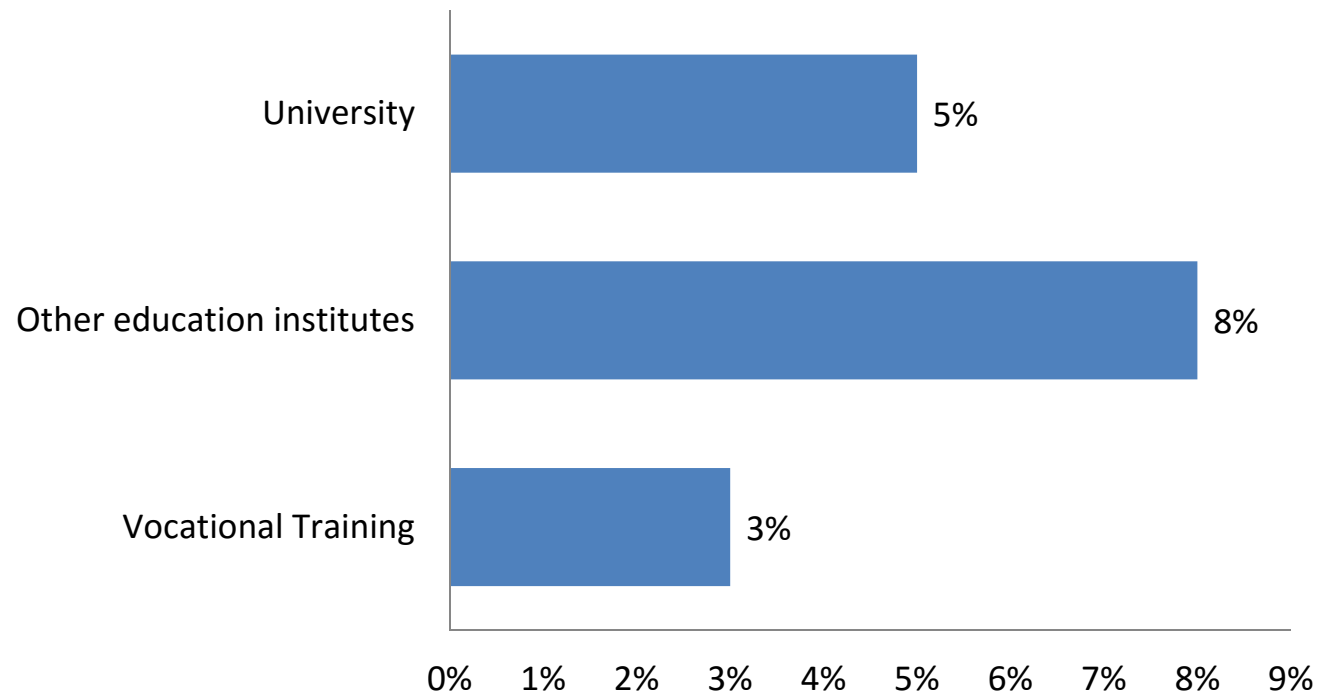
Difference between **Existing** and **Recommended** Teachers, 2016



Source: Arunatilake, N. and Abayasekara, A. 2017. *Are there Good Quality Teachers for All Classrooms in Sri Lanka?* Colombo: IPS.

Low Tertiary Enrolments

Education Enrolments of 20–24 year olds, 2014



Source: IPS, *State of the Economy 2017*.

Skewed Tertiary Enrolments



55% in arts, law,
commerce,
and management



28% in science,
engineering, architecture
and computer science

Source: UGC, *Sri Lanka University Statistics 2015.*

Low Numbers of S&T Graduates

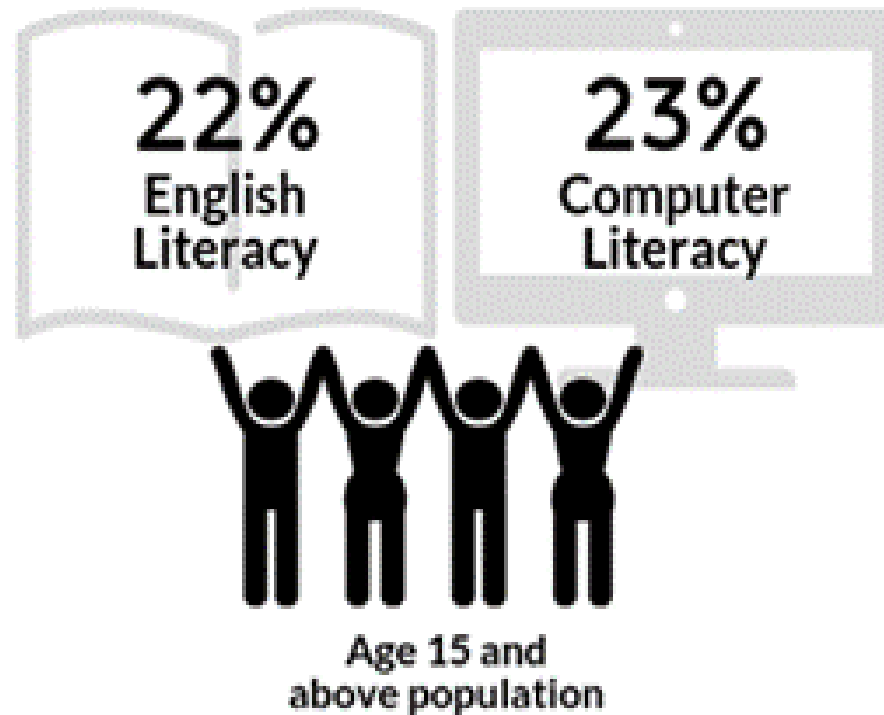


- Only **3.1%** of 15 & above population are tertiary educated & engaged in S&T jobs
- **Over 50%** of S&T jobs done by unqualified persons



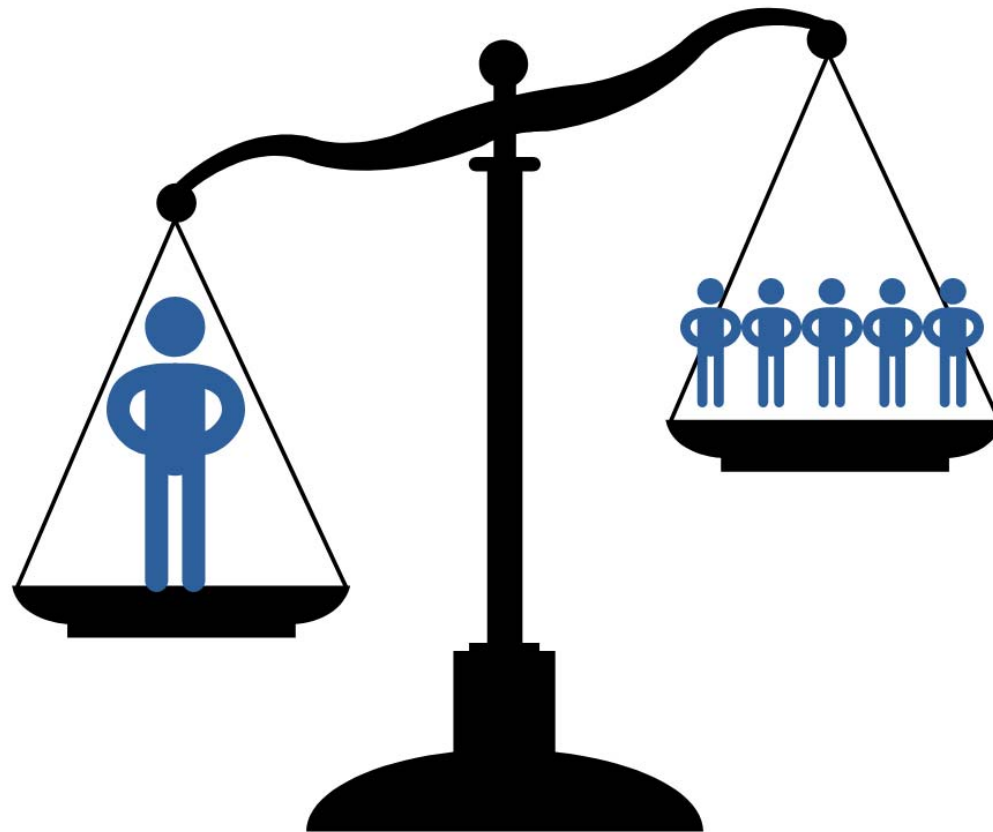
Source: Arunatilake, N. 2016. *Labour Market Analysis using Census Data*.
Colombo: UNFPA

Poor Soft Skills



Source: IPS, *State of the Economy 2017*.

Inequities in education outcomes and opportunities need more attention ...



Disparities in Exam Performance



60% passed O-Levels and A-Levels
in richest group in 2012/13

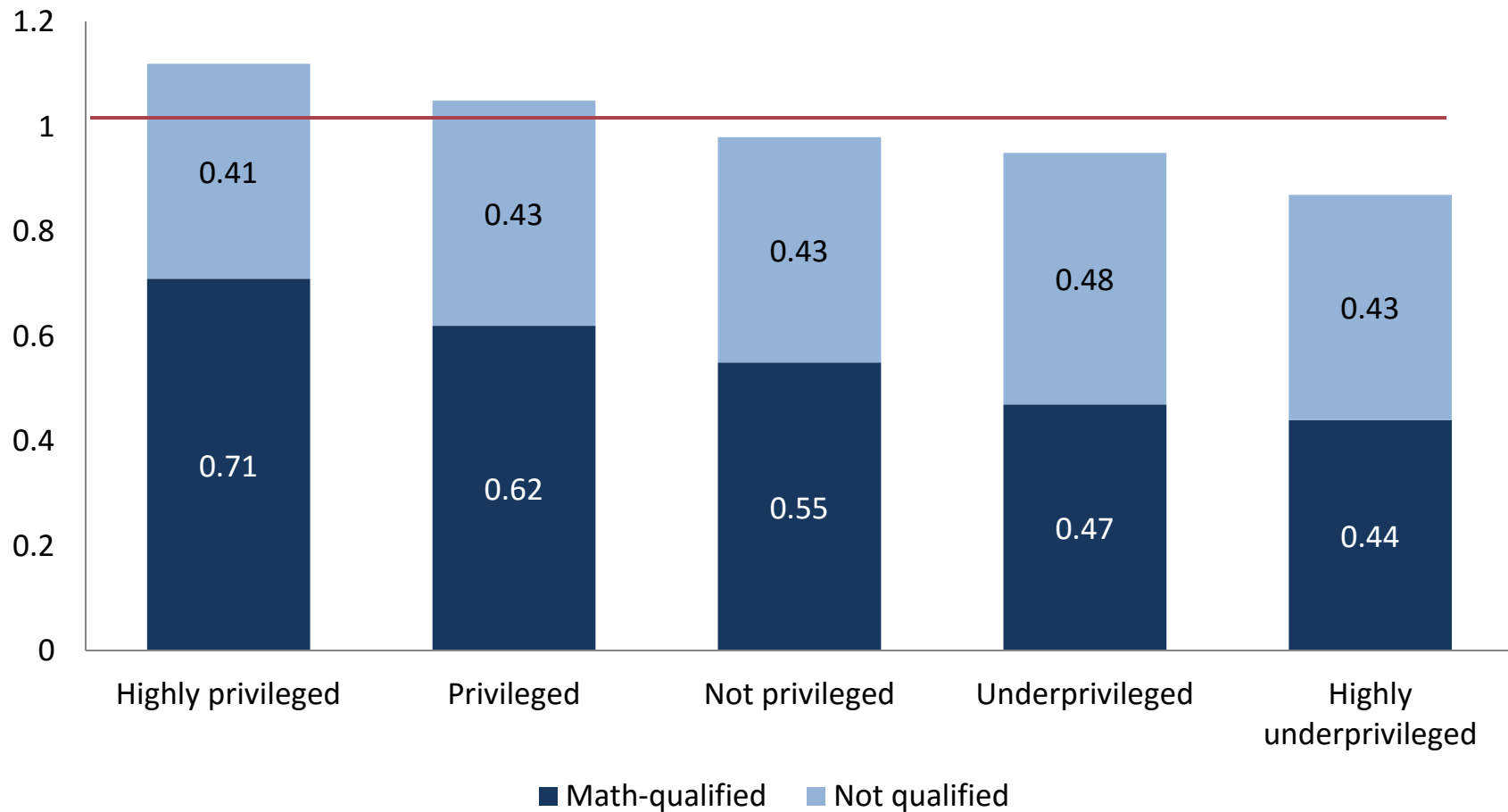


Only 20% passed O-Levels and A-
Levels in poorest group in 2012/13

Source: Jayawardena, P. & Miller, R. 2017. "Bridging Skills for Employment in Sri Lanka" in *Sri Lanka Fostering Workforce Skills Through Education - Employment Diagnostic Study*. ADB and ILO.

Unequal Distribution of Teachers

Available Math Teachers as a Share of Recommended, 2016



Source: Abayasekara, A. & Arunatilake, N. 2017. *Better Schools for Better O-Level Results in Sri Lanka*. Colombo: IPS.

Measures to Improve Education Equity



Devote resources to improving school facilities in underprivileged areas

- Education Sector Development Framework Programme: 2012–2016 (MOE, 2011)



Improve teacher allocation

- Provide sufficient incentives to attract & retain quality teachers in disadvantaged schools

Thank you!

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