

Shadow Education in Sri Lanka



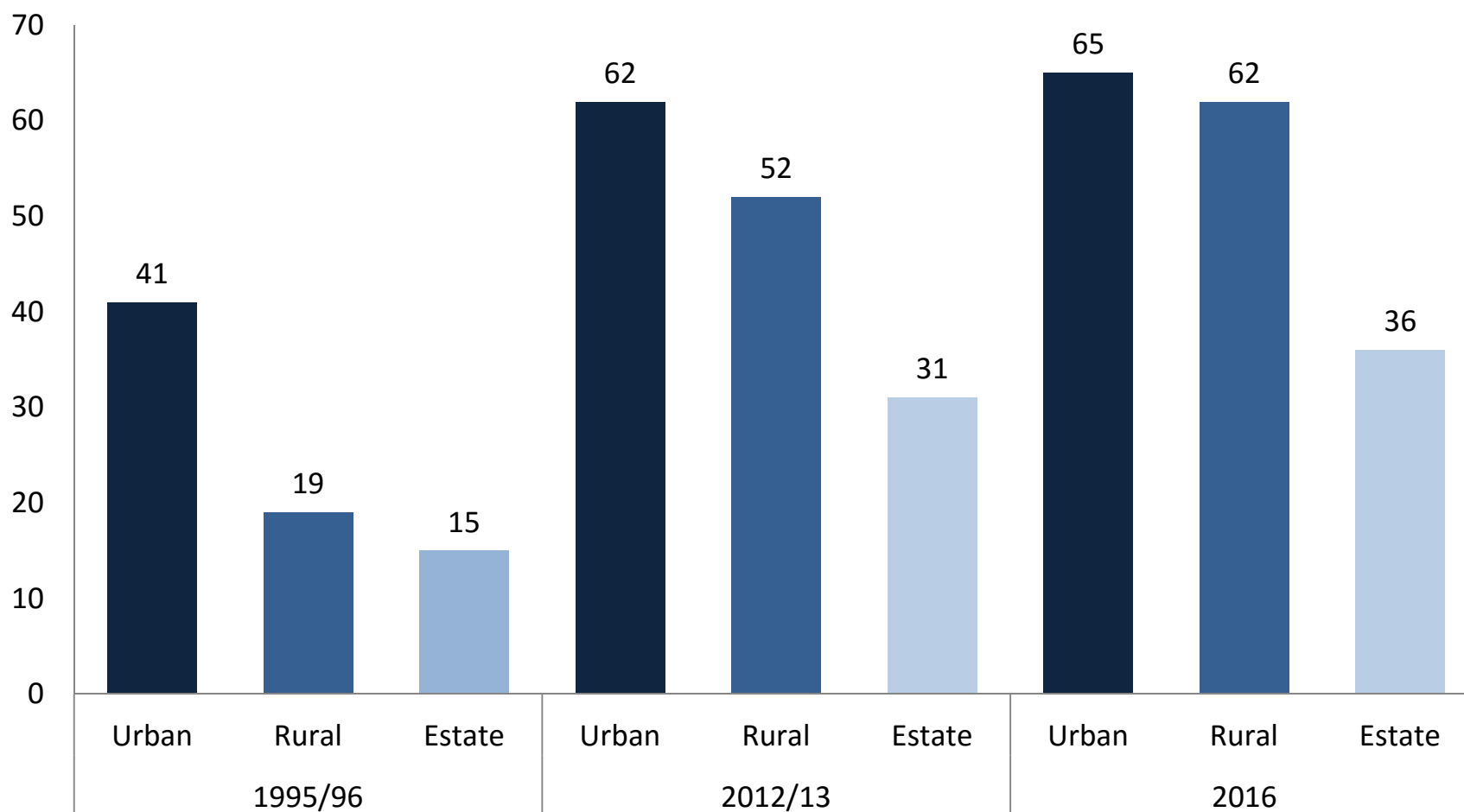
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24 April 2018

Trends of Shadow Education in Sri Lanka

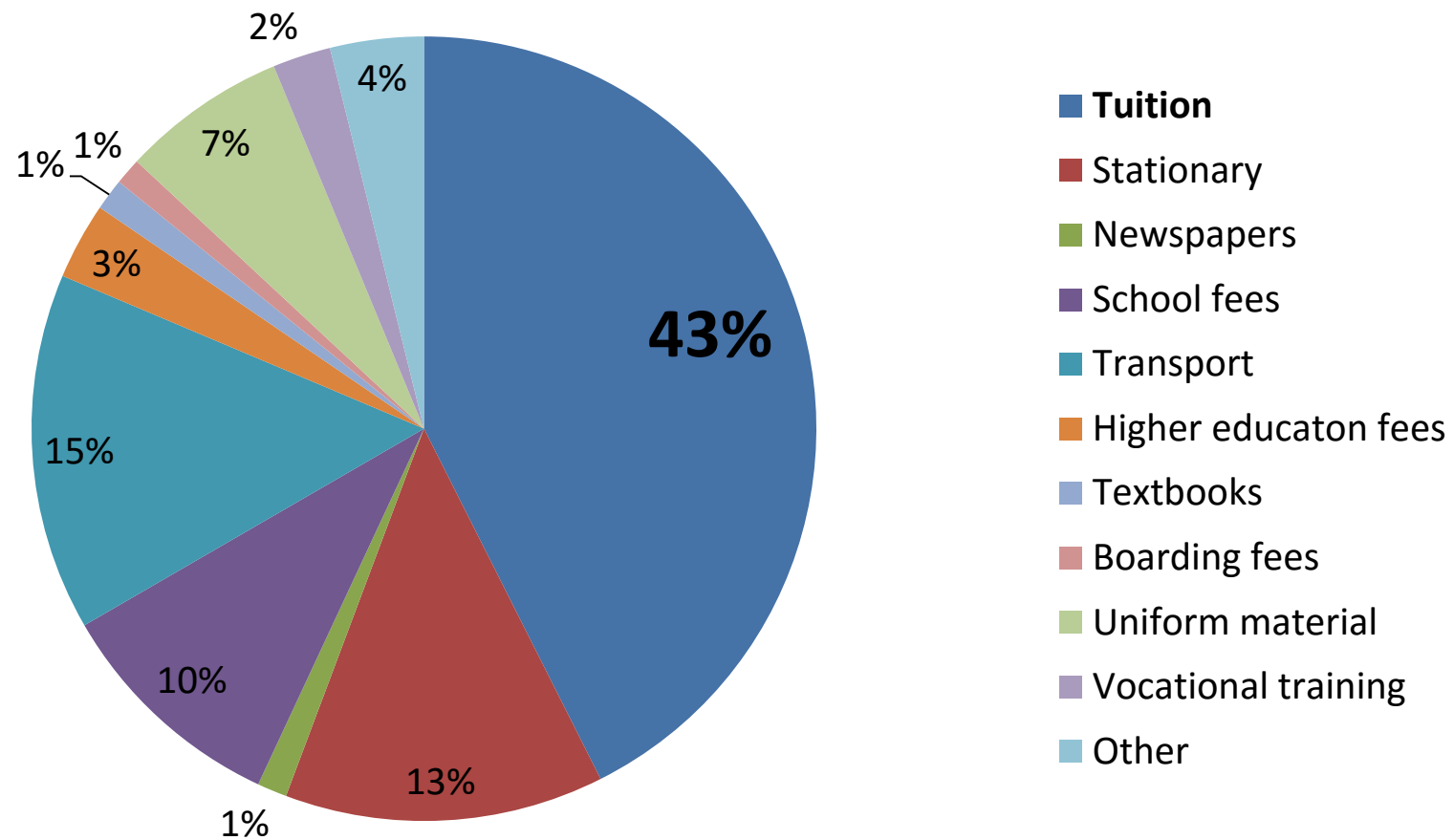
- Sri Lanka has long traditions of private tutoring
- Official documentation voicing concerns dates back to 1943
- Has become a social norm, as in many East Asian countries
- Expenditure on shadow education has risen significantly over time

Percentage of HHs with Positive Spending on Tuition



Sources: Pallegedara, A. (2011), "Demand for Private Tuition Classes under the Free Education Policy: Evidence Based on Sri Lanka", MPRA Paper no. 31969; Own calculations using HIES data

Components of Household Education Budget, 2016



Source: Own calculations using HIES 2016

Drivers of Shadow Education



Highly competitive nationally qualifying examinations



Social competition to enroll in popular schools



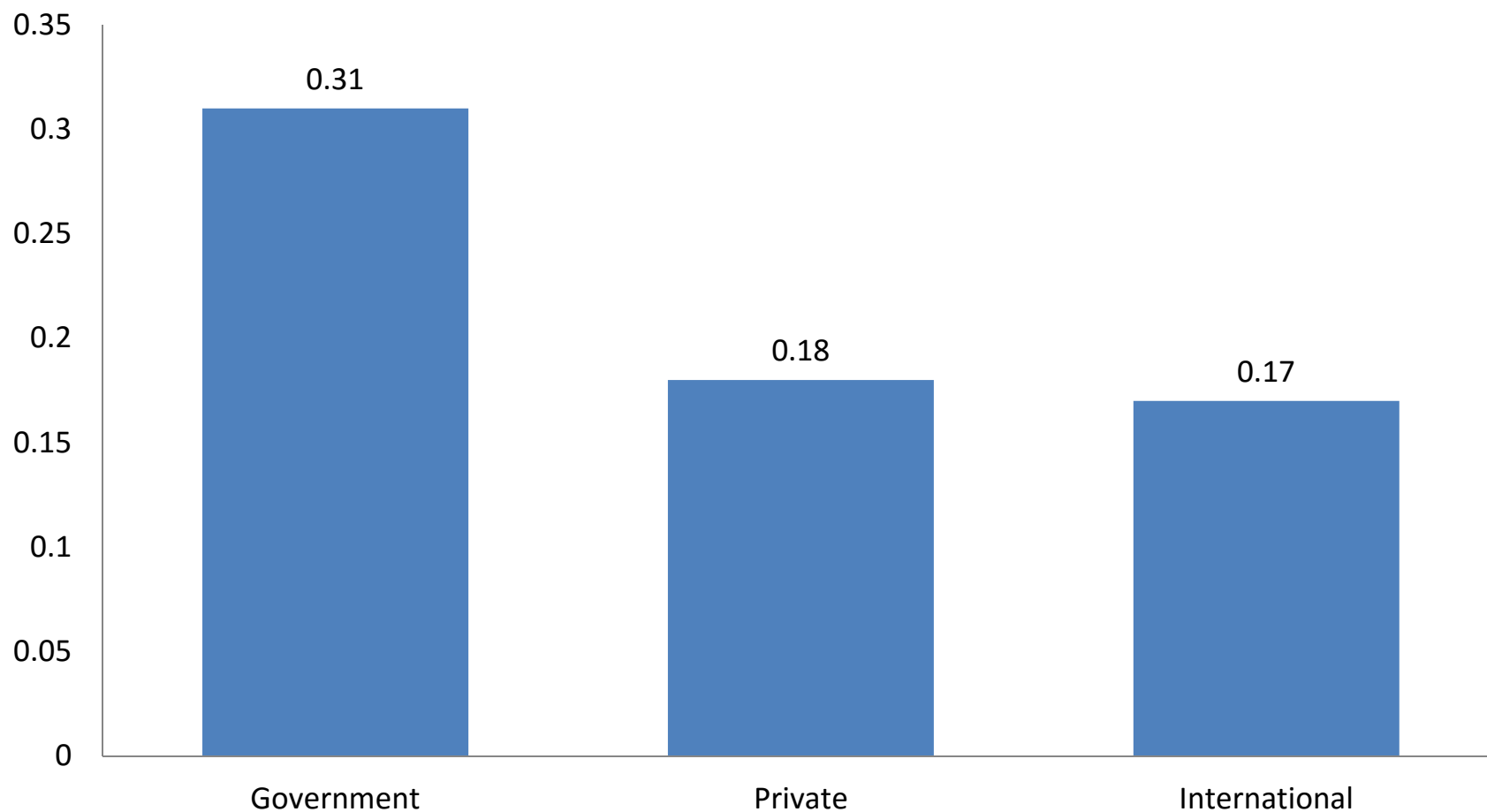
Overloaded school curriculums



Low teacher salaries



Share of Education Budget Spent on Tuition by HHs with only Primary School Children, 2016



Source: Own calculations using HIES 2016

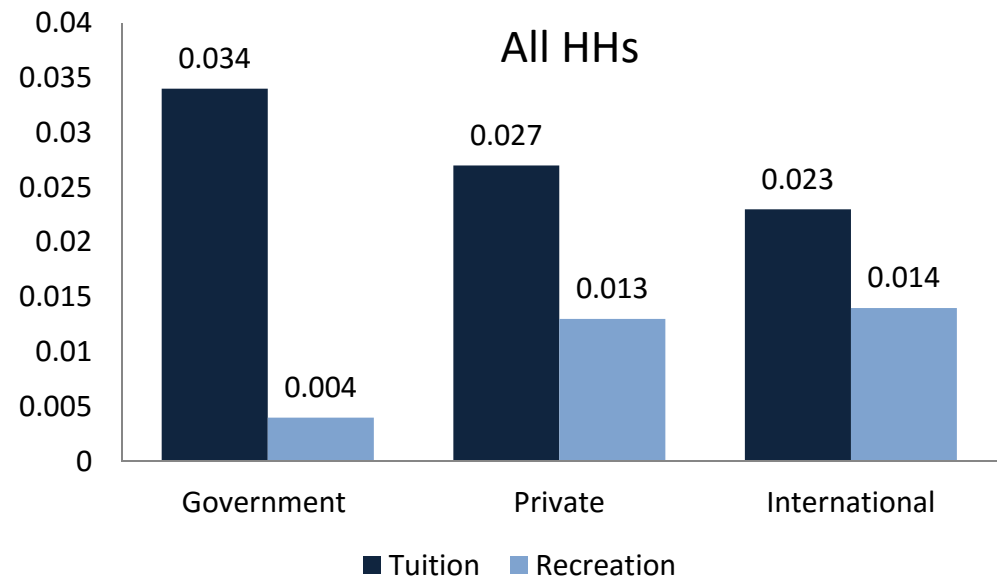
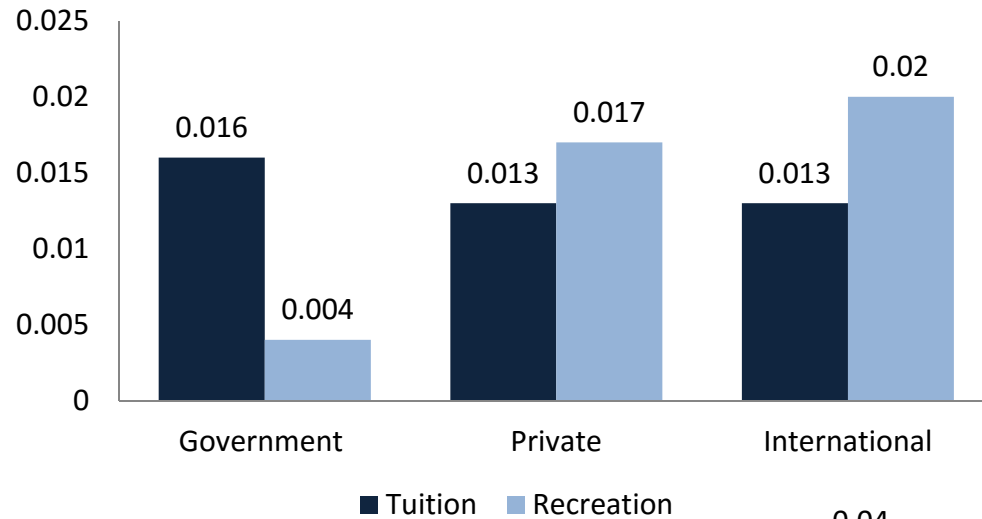


Impact of Shadow Education

- Academic achievement
- Broader skills and values
 - Risk of reducing education to mere academic achievement ▶
 - Exposure to immoral behaviour
 - Can help in developing self-esteem and sense of achievement
- Economic and social inequalities ▶

Share of HH Non-Food Expenditure on Tuition and Leisure, 2016

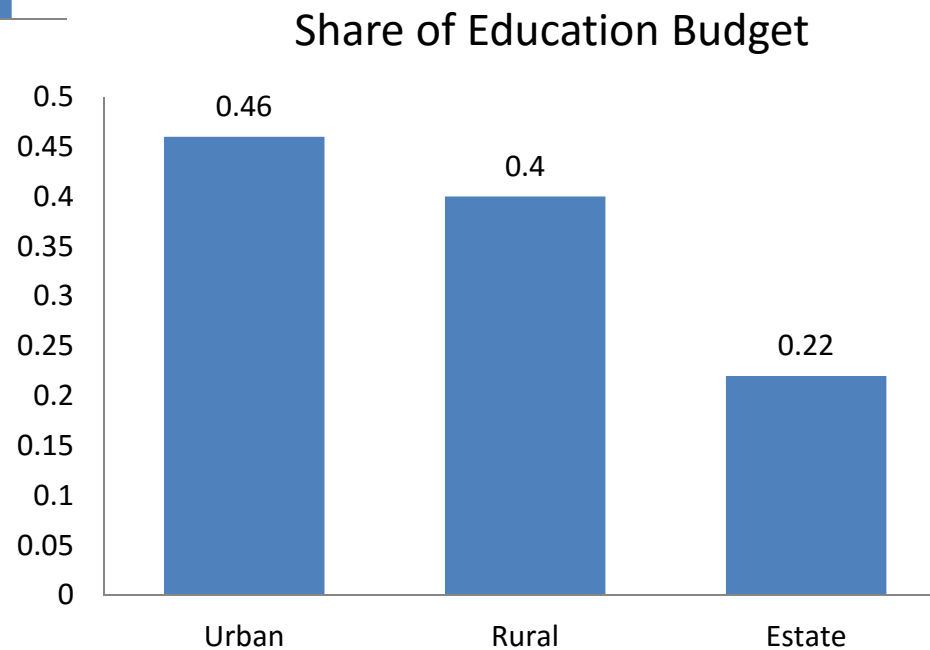
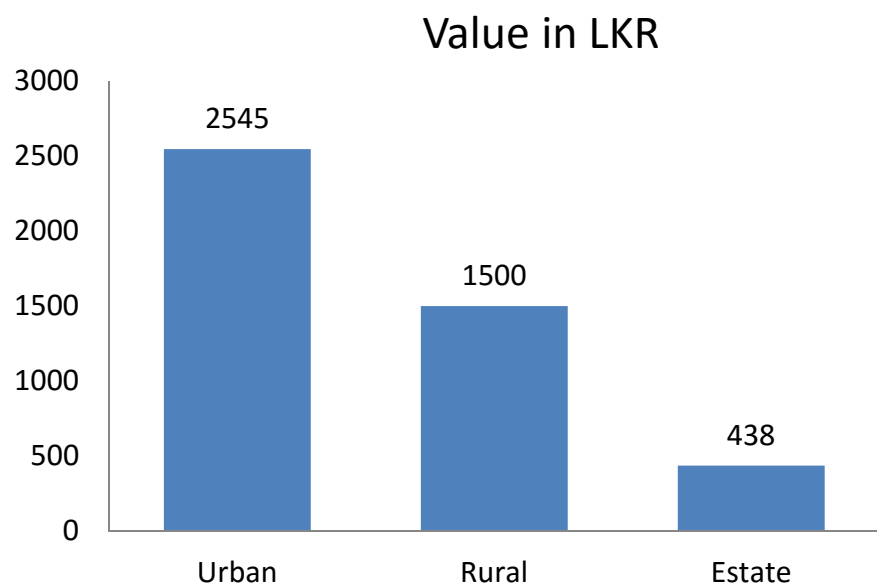
HHs with only primary school children



Source: Own calculations using HIES 2016



Monthly HH Tuition Expenditure by Sector, 2016



Source: Own calculations using HIES 2016

Some Measures Taken

- Prohibition of private tutoring of children aged 5-16 between 8am-2pm on Sundays and Poya holidays by several Provincial Councils
- New proposal to ban tuition classes from 7.30am-1.30pm on weekdays
- Recent NEC proposals to monitor and regulate private tutoring

Other Recommended Measures

- Obtain data and monitor trends
- Revise education curricula and assessment systems
- Lessons from Singapore:
 - Revamp or eliminate competitive exams at primary level
 - Change emphasis of education outcomes
 - Broaden school and university admission criteria

Thank you!

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