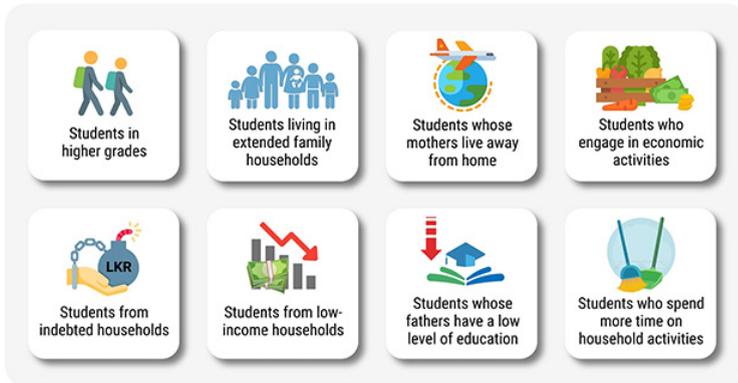


BUSINESS

Rising School Dropouts: The Plight of Estate Children in Sri Lanka

Published 1 month ago on 2022/11/22

Estate Sector Students: Who is More Likely to Drop Out?



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By Himani Vithanage

Moreover, gender-wise, more boys (than girls) drop out, mainly because of their higher engagement levels in economic activities.

Financial difficulties, engagement in economic activities, changes in attitudes and behaviours of children during the prolonged school closure, the shift in students' priorities and interests away from education mainly towards earning, non-supportive parents, and low academic performance are several reasons identified to have worsened the issue of school dropouts in the estate sector ever since the outbreak of the pandemic. Although dropping out is generally an issue most prevalent among students in higher grades, currently, students in lower grades have also become vulnerable to dropping out.

Way Forward

Accordingly, there is a rise in the number of children dropping out of school in estate regions. The main reason for this is the worsened financial difficulties suffered by these estate children after the pandemic, along with the ongoing economic crisis in the country, which has led them to engage in economic activities to earn income so that they can afford their basic needs. Thus, introducing special programmes to increase the income sources of adults in deprived regions would be beneficial in discouraging their children from engaging in economic activities while encouraging them to attend school.



Estate Sector Students:

TRENDING

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