STUDENT DROP OUT OF GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS: BADULLA EDUCATIONAL ZONE, SRI LANKA

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A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION (EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT) FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY 2011

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine the factors towards student drop out of the government secondary schools in Badulla educational zone, Sri Lanka, as well as to compare significant differences on student drop out by not drop out and drop out students in relation to their family, student, school, and social factors. The sample size was 362 grade ten not drop out students and 31 drop out students. Interviews were held with ten drop out students. The data were collected by a descriptive questionnaire and analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics such as mean, standard deviation, and independent sample t-test.

The findings of the study revealed that family factors, student factors, and school factors were affected by student drop out with a high influenced on economic status, grade retention, and difficulty to access to schools. It was also found that there was a significant difference of perception level between not drop out and drop out students on factors affecting student drop.

It is recommended for educational authorities and parents to pay more attention on completing compulsory education of children between the age of 5-14 years. From the findings of the study it is recommended for educational authorities to provide provincial level assistance service to students who were faced with crucial economic problems. Also zonal educational officers need to conduct more counseling and psychosocial intervention programs for the parents.

KEY WORDS: DROP OUT/ FAMILY FACTORS/ STUDENT FACTORS/ SCHOOL FACTORS/ SOCIAL FACTORS/ SRI LANKA

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