

Factors Affecting the Academic Performance in Ordinary Level Students of Junior Schools at Galle District

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Students' academic performance is crucial in any country. Taken as a whole, junior schools' Ordinary Level students' academic performance is less when compared to the other schools' Ordinary Level students' academic performance in Sri Lanka. 321 students failed the 2019 Ordinary Level examination in Galle district, which is the highest number of students who failed the Ordinary Level examination within a year in the Southern province. On the other hand, Southern province had recorded the highest number of students that are eligible for Advanced Level 2019. Therefore, the main objective of this study was to identify the factors that affect the academic performance of Ordinary Level students in junior schools at Galle district. Better academic performance is measured by having an "A" grade in 6 main subjects in the Ordinary Level exam. 200 students were selected as a sample using multistage cluster sampling technique while primary data were collected using the questionnaire method. Binary logistic regression was used to analyze the main objective of the research. The data were analyzed using the statistical software SPSS and 21 variables were used for analysis. Through all these variables, number of tuition classes and study hours per day were positively significant at 0.05 significant level respectively to students' academic performance. Students at junior schools receive fewer facilities than students of other schools. But the variables that were used to measure the students' facilities were not significant. Therefore, it is clear that fewer facilities had no effect on the academic performance of junior school students. Social media usage, sports and extra-curricular activities, romantic relationship, test anxiety, stress level, motivation, sanitation facilities, insufficient light, inappropriate classroom, over-crowded classes, misplaced boards, health, school attendance and gender were not significant on the students' academic performance.

Keywords: *Academic Performance, Binary Logistic Regression, Ordinary Level Students, Junior Schools*