

A Study on the Contribution of China for Enhancing Quality of Chinese Language Degree Program in Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

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The popularity of the Chinese language has reached its climax with the rising number of investments in Sri Lanka by China. As a result, demand for learning Chinese has also increased among the local young generation. They are interested in learning the language to acquire better communication skills, expecting to market themselves in reputed professional bodies seeking fluent, competent Chinese communicators. To provide them with the necessary language knowledge and supply Chinese language speakers to the required industries, Sri Lankan higher educational institutes have started promoting Chinese as a Foreign Language. Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka has also joined this journey for more than ten years. The Chinese Language degree program has undergone many revisions, which led graduates to become fluent, competent, and efficient communicators wherever they are rooted as employees. Taking this as an opportunity to promote and spread their language, China is giving its patronage well enough to comprehensively facilitate Chinese language learners and teachers. The main objective of this study is to find out the contribution given by China to enhance the quality of the Chinese language degree program at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Based on online surveys, interviews, observation, and personal experiences, the study found out that China has given an immense contribution in diverse ways, such as establishing Confucius classroom and test center, providing volunteer native Chinese teachers, training for the preparation of the “Chinese Bridge Competition,” granting scholarships to study in China for both local Chinese language teachers and students, donating relevant textbooks, organizing the Chinese language education-related cultural programs and initiating joint academic projects. Based on the results of the study, it is undeniable that the Chinese Language Degree offered by the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka has benefitted a lot from China in various means.

Keywords: *Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, Contribution of China, Enhancing Quality*