

2/2

A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY OF IMPACT OF PRIVATE TUITION  
AND RELATED SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS ON  
UNIVERSITY ADMISSION IN SRI LANKA

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Problem

The formal education in Sri Lanka from kindergarten through university is institutionalized on a national scale under the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The present system of Free Education for all was introduced in 1945 and since then the state has been holding the sole authority over education. Even Private Schools and Pirivenas for Buddhist "Bikkhu Education" comprising less than 0.5% of the total number of schools are also aided by the state. Free Education has since then, been an invaluable right of the people and hence a serious responsibility of national significance. The spirit and the aims of the free education in "education for all" irrespective of various disparities in wealth and status is to ensure maximum benefits to all the citizens leading to greater equality of opportunity and social mobility.

Gaining admission to university at the end of General Education is becoming competitive year by year and Private Tuition (PT) has achieved a significant status as a supplementary learning strategy for the students to face this competition successfully. In the economic context, Private Tuition is opposite to free education and the ability to meet the expenses of PT is not possible for most of the people in low income classes. Therefore, the current trend of Private Tuition seems to cripple the aims and objectives of Free Education for all in Sri Lanka.