

**An Analytical Study of the General Arts
Degree Curricula Offered by Two Selected Universities in
Sri Lanka**



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Abstract

Numerous problems have arisen in regard to relevance of the curricula offered for the Arts Degree Programme in view of the high rate of unemployment among educated persons and particularly among those who have completed their General Arts Degree Programme. Hence an attempt has been made in this study to examine the curriculum of the General Arts Degree Programme. For this purpose, two national universities in Colombo district have been selected as samples. The study has been carried out in association with 226 sample units targeting four aims as outlined below;

1. To identify the various subjects offered by different universities for the General Arts Degree Programme.
2. To examine the nature of the demand of students for different subjects for the General Arts Degree Programme.
3. To examine the attitudes of students, lecturers and curriculum developers regarding the curriculum introduced.
4. To examine ways and means of curriculum innovations to enhance the relevance and the quality of the General Arts Degree Programme.

For the purpose of ascertaining answers to the research questions formulated to cover these aims, the researcher have made use of questionnaires, discussions, attitudes tests as well as studying reports and documents. The data so collected have been analyzed by means of percentage, tables and graphs. For the purpose of analyzing the responses obtained in connection with the Attitude Test, attitudinal value of each sample unit has been measured making use of a numerical value offered for the task.

recommendations and suggestions were arrived at, through the analysis of data
and out accordingly.

When taken as a whole, it revealed that the student demand for several selected
subjects of the curriculum meant for the General Arts Degree Programme has taken
an upward trend. Majority of the students sample had positive attitudes in
regard to the importance of such subjects of the curriculum. It also revealed that the
students demand for several other subjects was in the decrease. Further, majority of
the students sample had negative attitudes in regard to the practical validity of the
curriculum. Hence it has been revealed that there is a necessity for revision of the
present curriculum and it has to be accepted that the curriculum offered for the
General Arts Degree Programme needs revision for maintenance of quality and
efficiency of the programme.