

Analysis of School Dropout among Secondary School Students: Case of Sammanthurai Education Zone

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Abstract: Education is one of the basic needs as well as a human right. But, dropout is a more serious problem among Sri Lankan students. Therefore, this study was carried out with the aim to examine the causes of school dropout among secondary students of Km/ Str/Sennel Zahira Maha Vidyalaya, Sammanthurai. The study adopted descriptive survey design. Sample size of 80 students were drawn from a total population of 100 students through the random sampling techniques. A questionnaire was used to collect the needed details from the respondents. It includes independent variables: Age, gender, academic achievement, teaching support, family income, family members, motivation parent-child relationship, school environment, and neighbors. While, the dependent variable was: reasons for dropout. The collected data was analyzed by using descriptive method. The result showed that, there is a significant relationship between the dropout and student, family, school, community related factors. Based on the findings of the study, more girls dropped out from school. At the same time lack of parents' education, poverty, home environment, early marriage, and lack of interest in education like so many reasons take more important place in dropping out problems. Though the school pay more concentration, many students are dropping out from school in this rural village. Not only school but also family, community all are try to save the students from this problem with more suitable action and activities.

Keywords: Education, Dropout, Factors, Effect, Early marriage

1. INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the human needs and right. Any society can achieve progress only through education. Many studies have concluded that students who dropout from school is a great deal with economically challenges and burdens because of their inability to find adequate avenues for employment. According to Koedel (2008), the high school dropout problem had become such a damaging public concern that some urban schools were being tagged with the nick name –dropout factories because they were graduating fewer than 50% of their students. Even though, the schools have a dark side by the problem of drop out of the students. Farrant (1981) find that drop outs in education are pupils who despite having the ability to complete an education course fail to do so. Therefore, this study brings out an investigation of drop out on secondary student of Km/Str/Sennel Zahira Maha Vidyalaya, Sammanthurai. This school is located in a rural area which called Sennel Village in Sammanthurai divisional education zone. Here many families are living in poverty line without an occupation. This village is one of the backward areas in Sammanthurai divisional secretariat division. So mostly, children drop out from school because of poverty related issues such as lack of supplies of necessary needs, poor family environment. The entire people of this area laborers and most of them involve in paddy cultivation, producing bricks, breaking rubbles rearing livestock etc for their livelihood. This area is entailed with cultivation the requirement of drinking water for people is also lacking in this area. They tend to give their children work in the home or on the faddy field or on the farm that prevents them in attending school. The only one secondary school in this village is Km/Str/Sennel Zahira Maha Vidyalaya. The dropout is the serios and main issue in this school (School Report,2018). Further, girls drop out percentage is higher when compare with boys student's percentage, because of early marriage. According to that, this investigation attempts to identify the common variables (student age at entry in to school, student's attendance pattern, student self, image, student participation in extracurricular activities, poverty) which had a predicable impact on a student's decision to terminate his or her school attendance prior to high in their life.

The objective of this study is to identify the reasons which lead to the students' dropout from Sennel Zahira Maha Vidyalaya. such as Poverty, Distance, the parent's Illness, Student's bad influence, Influence of large family, Academic achievements, un development area, Learning difficulties. The main focus of this discussion will be around the reasons for dropping out of Str/Sennel Zahira maha vidyala and how this takes place. Here dropout is not presented as one distinct event, but rather a process of events, situation, and contexts which work together to produce dropout. Knowing the why students are dropping out from school, where evidence suggests it is an interplay of factors which pushes children out from school. Further, by this study find more preventing ways for this serious problem.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

UNESCO (2012) Global Report on education stated that, there was an urgent need to address the high numbers of children leaving school before completing primary education. But the valuable asset of a child called education is interrupted by dropout problem

which caused by many reasons. Many students face lot of problem without proper education in this world. Particularly the students who are in poverty line have to drop out their education before complete it.

Reasons for School Dropouts

Below factors which are contributing in the issue of dropout under four common factors.

2.1 Student Related Factors:

Student related factors are defined as those the reasons influence in the student side. Most often they are associated with negative student behavior such as: drug abuse, violent action. According to Allens Worth (2005), students are higher achievement are less likely to leave school. However, there are studies which do not indicate a correlation between academic achievement and dropping out of school. More precisely, authors believe that students' academic achievement is not related to dropout, but has an indirect effect. Furthermore, studies point to early childhood development and aggressive behavior as the strongest determinant of dropping out of a school. In a longitudinal study following 248 girls and 227 boys from 7th grade until 12th grade, Ekstrom, Goertz, and Rock (2006) examined behavioral, cognitive, and demographic factors relating tom dropping out of school. He found that, students who dropped out were earlier noted to have exhibited high level of aggressiveness and lower academic performance. According to his study, student who perform well in school never try to stop their education. But poor performance student feel that we cannot study well. Hence, they try to stop their study before completion.

According to Jarjoura (1996), the study based on a large- scale nationally representative probability sample revealed that the propensity to engage in delinquency after early school leaving depends on the reason for leaving and the poverty status of the youth involved. The study found that only those who leave education early for personal reasons were more prone to display offending behavior; those leaving for economic reasons in fact appeared less inclined to offend than those who graduate, independent from their poverty status.

usually students tend to dropout owing to different reasons such as:

- No interesting in education
- Getting poor marks in examinations
- They have to help to their parents and their families
- Individual problems
- Lack of facilities for education

2.2 Family Related Factors:

Family environment is a more important one to improve an individual education well. It can encompass qualities such as family composition, poverty level, and responsibility of a child like many causes are take place in a child education. So many researchers talk about it through their research. Croft, (2002) said that, Household income is linked to a range of factors: when children start school, how often they attend, whether they have to temporarily withdraw and also when and if they drop out. His opinion was that, household income is found to be an important factor in determining access to education as schooling potentially incurs a range of costs, both upfront and hidden. Upfront cost includes school fees, while more hidden costs of sending a child to school.

Family, as the place to providing basic physical and mental needs for children by their families to have better achievements in education. Mostly many students have to face lot of family problem in their life. Such as:

- Impact of family size and siblings.
- Parents' occupational level
- poverty
- Environment of home
- Lack of parents' education

2.3 School Related Factors

Easton (2011), found that, attendance was a strong predictor of success in school. The number of absences a student accumulates is an easy to obtain measurement and one proven to be a strong indicator of school success. Still he found that, absence rates were particularly significant in transition years from elementary to middle school and middle to high school. Absenteeism was also seen as a primary indicator to measure student engagement. Many studies conformed that, the attrition risk is lower if schools offer more extracurricular activities, if teachers' expectations are higher, if the quality of teaching and learning support is better, if cohesion is stronger, if students' participation in school activities is higher and if students are taught to have the feeling of belonging to the school.

If students' participation in school activities is higher and if students are taught to have the feeling of belonging to the school. Still he remains that the school is a better selection of student exhibit a lower rate of student dropout compared to the schools available to a larger number of students, which implies a greater percentage of children from poor and minority communities. De Witte et al (2013) indicates on his research of "critical review of the literature on school dropout. That, a set of factors regarding school characteristics include many different factors such as: school size and type, variety of courses, school resources, school equipment, Number of staff and so on. According to these very important school factors which are lead dropout are social and academic climate, teachers' practice and the quality of teaching.

2.4 Community Related Factors:

Wells et al. (2009) found that community factors played a role in whether students dropped out. They defined community – related factors as those that are supported by the current environment or the community support the students may have available. Poverty is a community – related factor that has a strong correlation with the likelihood of dropping out. Poverty is often connected with activities that compete with time spent in school. For example, students who work more than 20 hours a week have been found to have a higher likelihood of dropping out. Maglad (1994) employs the distance to school as a means of the price of schooling. He gives an example of society like Masai who require land resources to their cattle, their villages are constructed far apart each other. As the results one school must serves several villages typically within a 15-20 kilometers radice. There are no cars, buses horses or even bicycle available to Masai children, so they must walk this great distance. Many girls are denied on education solely because of parental concerns for their safety during these long walks. Even for those who make it to school, the long walks undermine education. The same finding added that children who have spent two or five hours walking to school in the morning, often having had anything to eat are tired and their ability to concentrate is imparted.

3. METHOD

The design for this study is the descriptive survey research design. And also, simple random sampling technique is used in my research. In this sampling techniques every element in population are considered and has an equal chance of being chosen as the subject. This research use questionnaire for collecting information from the respondents. The main tools for collection of data school survey schedule. Some stuffs are collected from research papers, wikipedia, and from other internet resources. So, this study gathered the necessary primary and secondary data which want following method.

Primary Data: It is used as the major instrument in this study to collect primary data via questionnaire. Secondary Data: This study collected some secondary data from students' attendance registers to make an investigation on factors which are contributing in the problem of secondary students drop out in a rural school. The major instrument, uses on this study is a questionnaire intended to gather information from respondent. It is prepared with the help of adopted questionnaire which was created by N.Vijay to do Ph.D research. The questionnaire composes the opens ended questions. Open ended questions will give respondents freedom on their opinions. The aim of questionnaires for pupils is to collect precise and sufficient needed information for this research. The questionnaire is translated in Tamil language, because many students not understand the questionnaire. The population of the study is drop outs students from Km/Str/Sennel Zahira Maha Vidyalaya from 2015-2018. According to the school record 108 students droup out during this period. From this population, 80 sample selected based on simple random sampling technique.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The below table 1 shows the sample of the population of the study.

Table 1. Grade Distribution

Serial No	Grade	Amount
1	Grade 7	3
2	Grade 8	13
3	Grade 9	20
4	Grade 10	20
5	Grade 11	24

Findings show that out of 80 students 30% were grade 11 students. This is the highest number of students in range of dropout. But the grade 10 and 9 are same in range of dropout 25%. The amounts of both are same according to that, 20 students are dropout from every grade. Although Grade 7 has lower percentage in dropout from school.

Table 2. Gender

Grade	Gender	
	Male	Female
Grade 7	2	1
Grade 8	3	10
Grade 9	8	12
Grade 10	10	10
Grade 11	16	8
Total	39	41

Result revealed that, the dropout students who are stop their education before the completion of education among secondary students most of them are females. According to this chart total 41 student's dropout in out of 80 students. Therefore, many female students force to early marriage. Hence, they had to stop their education in early age. Particularly in grade 8, 9, and 10 many of them stop the school education by early marriage. In this above chart also indicates that grade 9 students mostly face this problem. So, gender also contributes in

Table 3. Main reason for dropout

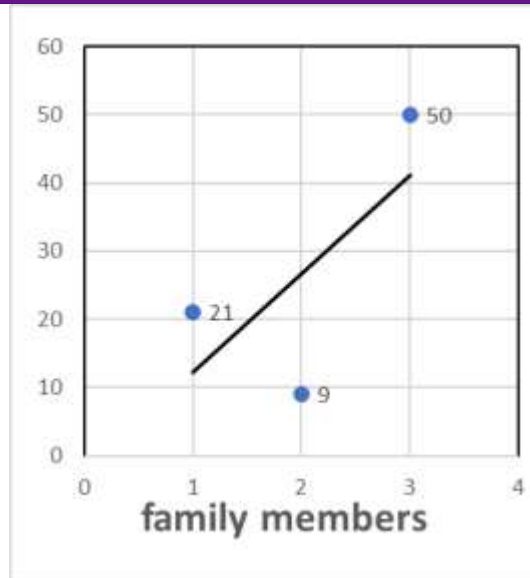
Grade	Gender	student related	Family related	School related	community related
Grade 7	male	2	1	0	0
	female	1	1	0	0
	total	3	2	0	1
Grade 8	Male	3	2	0	0
	Female	10	1	6	0
	Total	13	3	6	0
Grade 9	Male	8	0	3	2
	Female	12	1	8	0
	Total	20	1	11	2
Grade 10	Male	10	0	1	2
	Female	10	2	2	1
	Total	20	2	3	3
Grade 11	Male	16	1	6	3
	Female	8	0	7	1
	Total	24	1	13	4

dropout problem. It is one of the determine variable which are related to student related

factors. According to table 3 in grade 7 three students dropout from school. Still 13 students dropout from grade 8. Furthermore, both Grade 9 and grade 10 same amount of students dropout from school 20. But in grade 11 the highest level of students dropout which is 24. Therefore, the above table shows that, students who dropout from school stop their education by students related factors (Gender, age,). So, results conclude that, student related factors have significant effect on dropout in the school.

4.1 Family Related Factors:

Family related factors include more variables such as: family members, method of house, parents support, parents' education level and income of family. It refers the information in details with help of below chart, it shows how factors affect the education of a child



According to this study, it finds an important matter that, here many students are live with more family members. Therefore, they have to face lot of socio-economic problem. In this chart the highest point is indicates 50. It is the number of students who are live in above 5 family members. But 9 students only live in 3 to 5 amount of family members. 21 students have less than 3 members in their family.

So here, many families are very poor they mostly live under poverty line therefore the parents tend to move abroad for employment. Therefore, their elder child takes the responsibilities to look after the siblings. As a result, so many Females students stop their education due to poverty and look after the siblings. Further Male students also have to go to work as a child labor. So, they also give up their valuable education.

Accordingly, a greater number of students give up their education because of lack of understanding of teaching. They all face lot of learning problem. Therefore, they use the dropout as a technique to escape their learning difficulties. According to above table, it shows the 29 students' dropout by lack of understanding teaching. Furthermore, the teachers also guide the students with differential – treatment. So many students did not take more interest in learning in classroom. Still, Because of other reasons which are related to school also such: school environment, distance between school and home, also contributing in dropout problem of a child. This information shows in details in table below. According to that, 19 students are responds to any other reason. Many female students face some misuse of teachers. On other hand many boys involved in punishment of teachers. So, they feel to give up their education before completion of education. So many school related factors also contributing in dropout from school.

Table 4: School Related Factors

Being dropouts due to school related reasons							
Grade	differential treatment by teachers	lack of understanding among students	lack of understanding of subject taught	misuse of students by teachers	sexual harassment by teaching and non-teaching staff	Any other	total
Grade 7	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
Grade 8	3	1	3	2	0	4	13
Grade 9	2	1	8	2	0	7	20
Grade 10	4	0	8	3	1	4	20
Grade 11	6	2	9	3	1	3	24

Total	16	4	29	10	2	19	80
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Furthermore, results reveal that, students who dropout from school. Based on the result out of 80 students 55 students never get motivation to continue their education. Like that, higher number of students (46) did not get counselling. Only 25 students' lower rate of students get motivation. Furthermore 34 students get counselling. So according to this chart many students also effected by community related factors. Still in community related factors neighbours relationship also included. So, if the neighbors are good the students also go to school and get motivation by them. So, they can continue their education. But neighbors and other friends are bad they had to give-up their education. So, the finding reveals that, community related factors also effect the student's education before completion of education.

5. CONCLUSION

Generally, abilities and opportunities are basic requirements to have education. Hence, it is a nutshell the study has centered on the causes of school dropout among secondary students of Str/Sennel Zahira Maha Vidyalaya. This research focused on the four main factors which are contributing in school dropout of students such as: students related factors, family related factors, school related factors, community related factors. Every common factor affects the student's dropout ratio. Essential to have sufficient physical and human resources to improve abilities and provide opportunities for better education. Lack of such resources the education is stopped by students. Mostly many students stop their education in this school due to early marriage, poverty, family problem, and distance, lack of motivation, lack of interesting in learning and peer groups like so many variables are contributing in their dropping out from school. Findings further established that, students who did not get teachers support and parents support definitely dropping out from school. And this area is a backward area so, many students were dropped out from school because of their poor life style. And particularly more boys had to go to work for assirring their family difficulties. So many of that kind of students dropped out from school.

According to available data about the overall population of this study in Str/Sennel Zahira Maha Vidyalaya indicates that, in this area in grade 8,9,10 more female students are dropout from school. Because of the family background and home environment and parents' education level also effect the female education (51.22%). So here many girls are getting early marriage.it is a cause to dropout from school. Several options were offered to the students to escape from the dropping out problem. Therefore, school find a solution in causes of students' financial problems, for example scholarship to poor students. Still organizing more social events and unification measures. Hold more parents meeting to promote cooperation between schools and parents. Improve the teaching and learning methods.

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