An Analysis of General Education System and University Entrance in relation to Labour Force Participation (LFP) in Sri Lanka

The Department of Research and Development

Purpose of The Study

To study the recent statistics of general education, university entrance, and labour force participation data sets to see the picture education system in relation to human capital development towards developed Sri Lanka.

Problem Statement

Over the years, there has been a mismatch between education planning aiming at producing competent labour force for the development of this country.
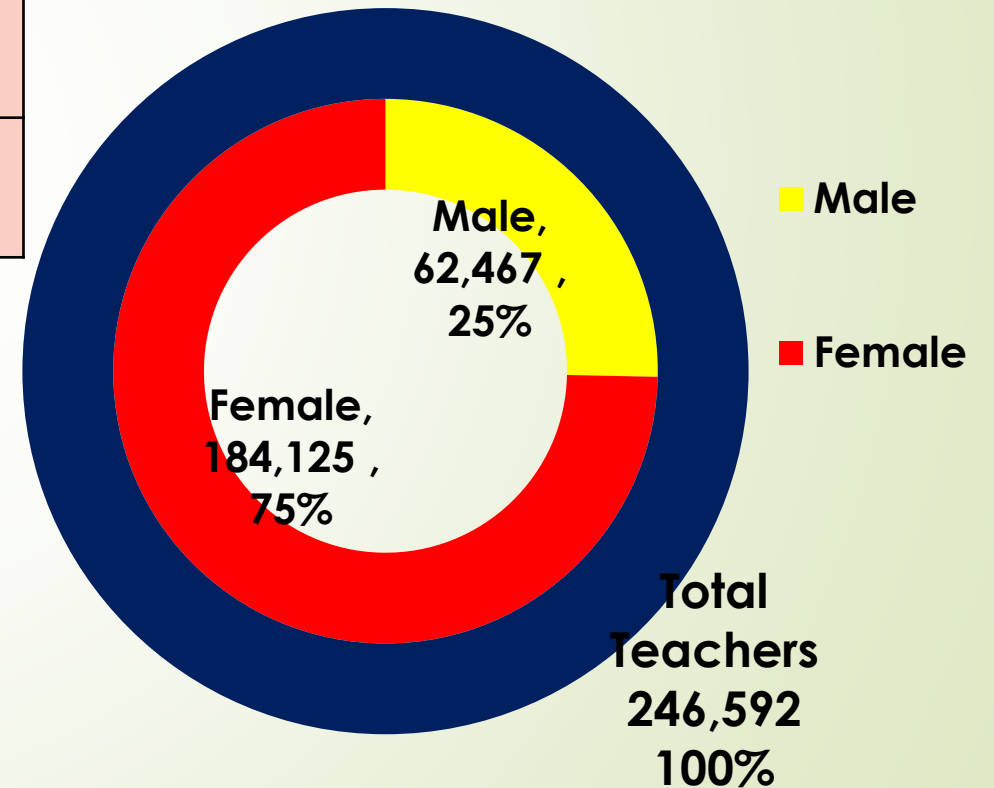
Main Reason is

- Lack of research-based evidence using reliable data sources
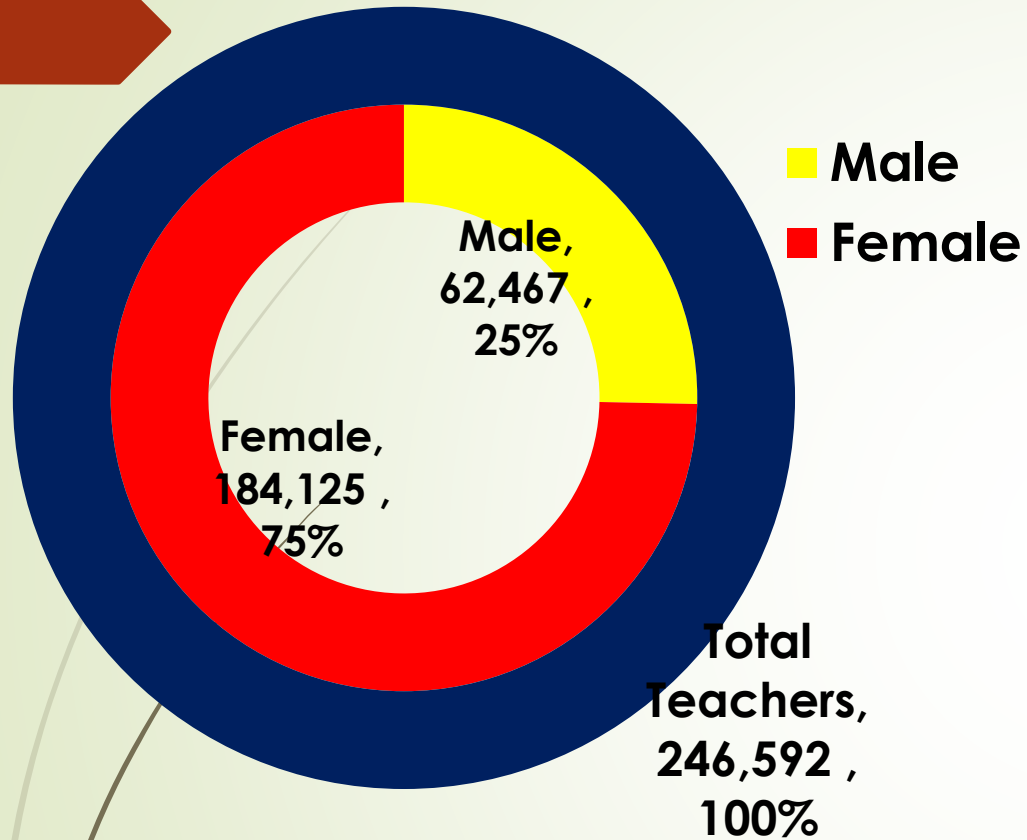
Overview of School System

- In Sri Lanka, 4,214,772 students are scattered in 10175 schools in the country (MoE,2018)

- These schools are categorized in to four different types : 1AB, 1C, Type 2 and Type 1

- 1AB schools are the most demanded with comparatively higher physical and human resources than the other three types.

- With respect to student population slightly more than half of the number of schools (50.50%) have less than 200 students. It is also notable that there are 3010 schools (29.58%) with less than 100 students.

- The total number of teachers working in the school system are 247,334 and almost three-fourth (73.99%) of them are females.

  - This has created disadvantageous learning environment for male students with limited male role-models in the school system

- In Sri Lankan school system there are 5640 teachers (2.28%) who are either untrained or trainee teachers.

Teachers of the School the System

Category	Total Teachers	% of Total	Male	Male %	Female	Female %
All Government Schools	246,592	100.0	62,467	25.3	184,125	74.67
National Schools	40,936	16.6	11,042	27.0	29,894	73.03
Provincial Schools	205,656	83.4	51,425	25.0	154,231	74.99

Male, 62,467 , 25%

Female, 184,125 , 75%

■ Male

■ Female

Total Teachers 246,592 100%

Teachers of the School the System

Male
Male, 62,467, 25%

Female
Female, 184,125, 75%

Total Teachers, 246,592, 100%

Teachers by Age

Age Group	Total Teachers	Male	Female
Less than 25 Years	207	49	158
25-34 Years	61,847	12,532	49,315
35-44 Years	74,267	19,339	54,928
45-54 Years	73,422	20,308	53,114
55-59 Years	35,493	9,808	25,685
60 & Above Years	1,356	431	925
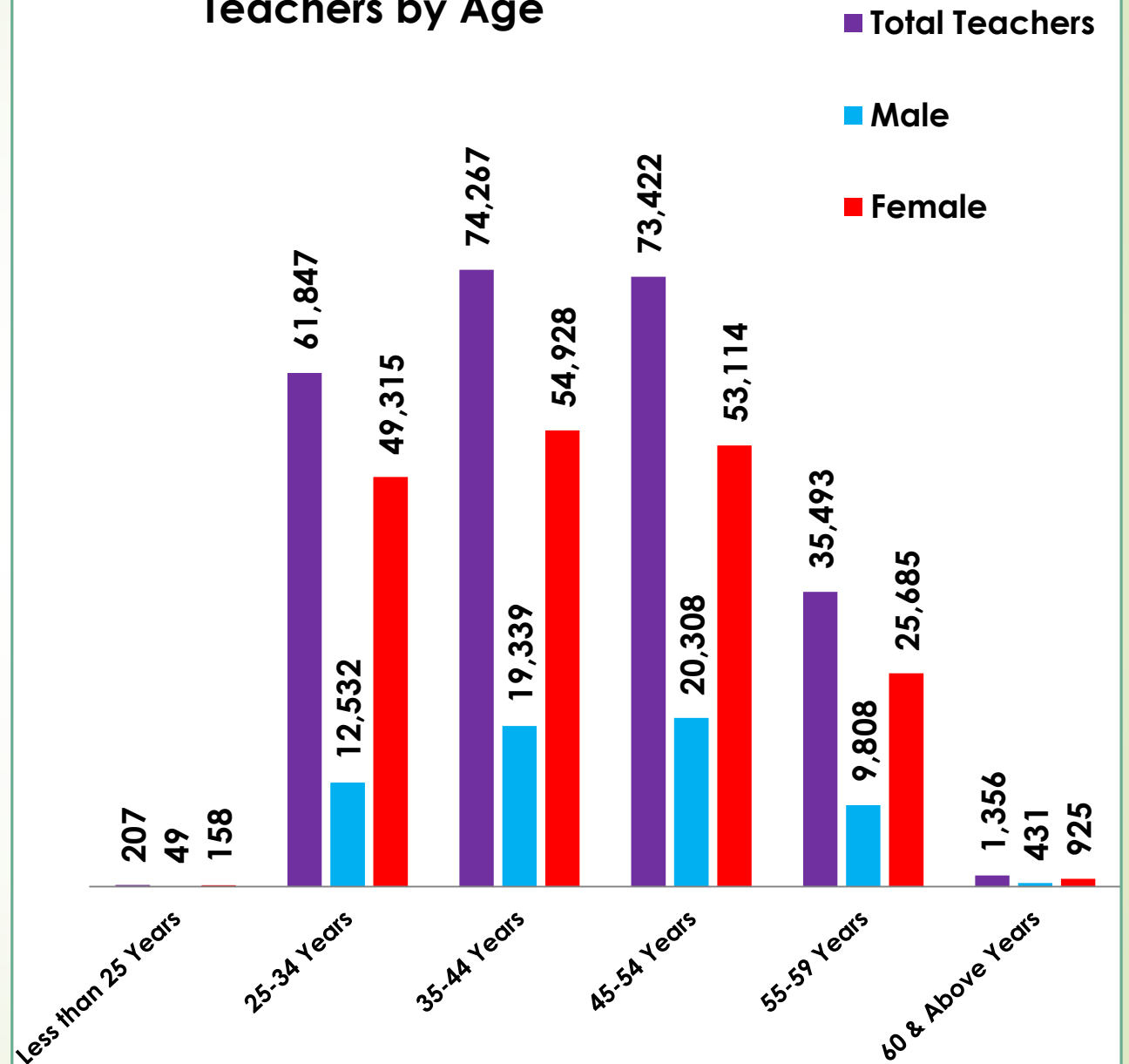
Teachers by Appointment Classification

	Total Teachers	% of Total	Male	Male %	Female	Female %
Graduate Teachers	119,323	48.4	33,031	27.7	86,292	72.3
Trained Teachers	120,848	49.0	28,079	23.2	92,762	76.8
Trainee Teachers	4,759	1.9	925	19.4	3,834	80.6
Untrained Teachers	1,518	0.6	396	26.1	1,122	73.9
Other Teachers	144	0.1	36	25.0	108	75.0

Trainee Teachers 4,759 2%

Untrained Teachers 1,518 0.6%

Other Teachers 144 0.1%

Graduate Teachers 119,323 48.4%

Trained Teachers 120,848 49%
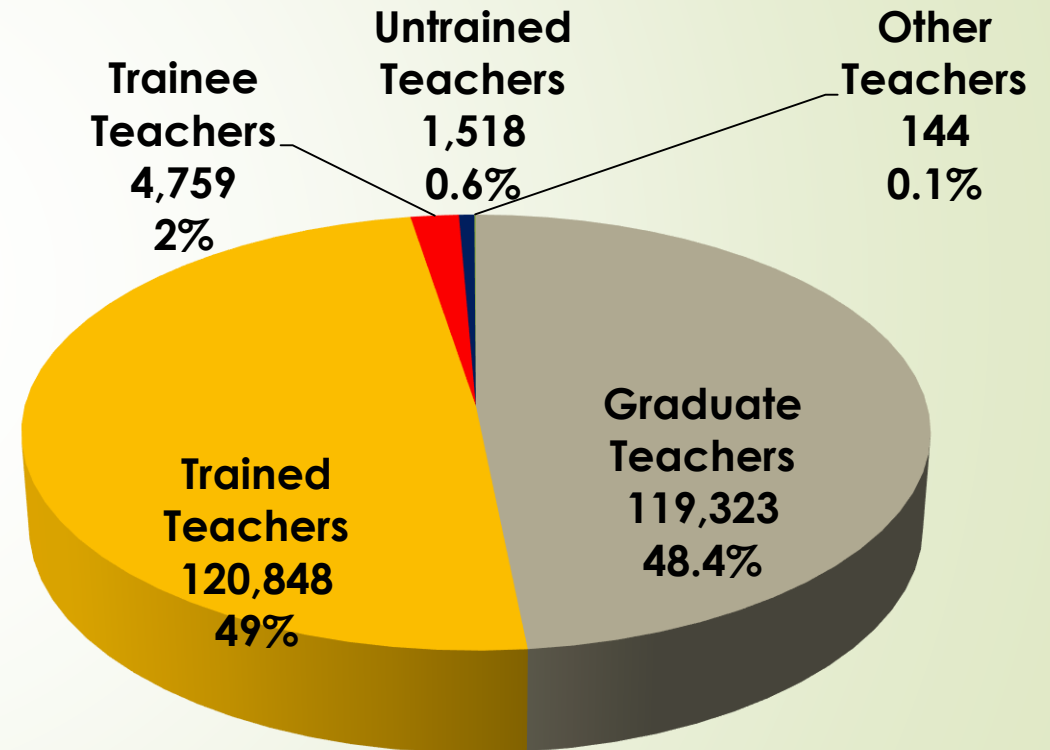
Students by Type of School

Type 3 Schools
674,957
16%

Type 2 Schools
760,957
19%

1AB School
1,570,177
39%

1C Schools
1,055,562
26%
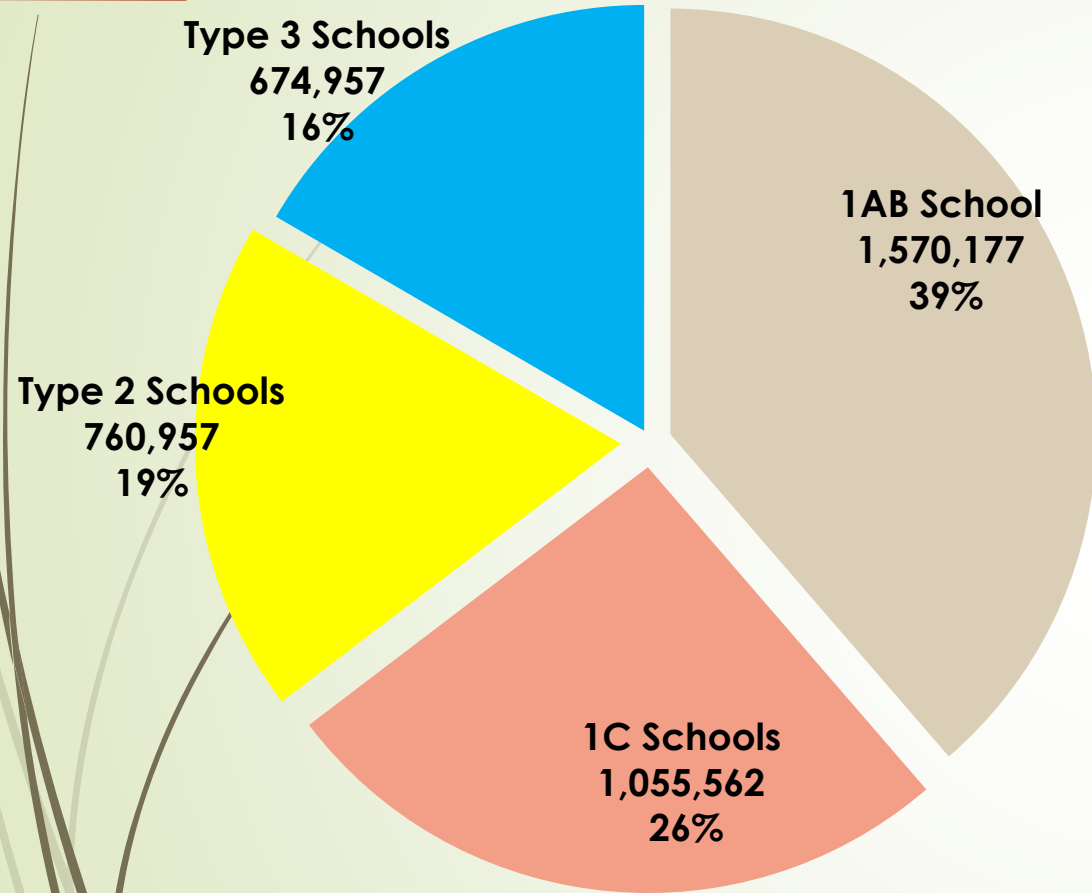
Teachers by Type of School

Type 3 Schools
38,564
16%

Type 2 Schools
61,138
25%

1AB School
81,428
33%
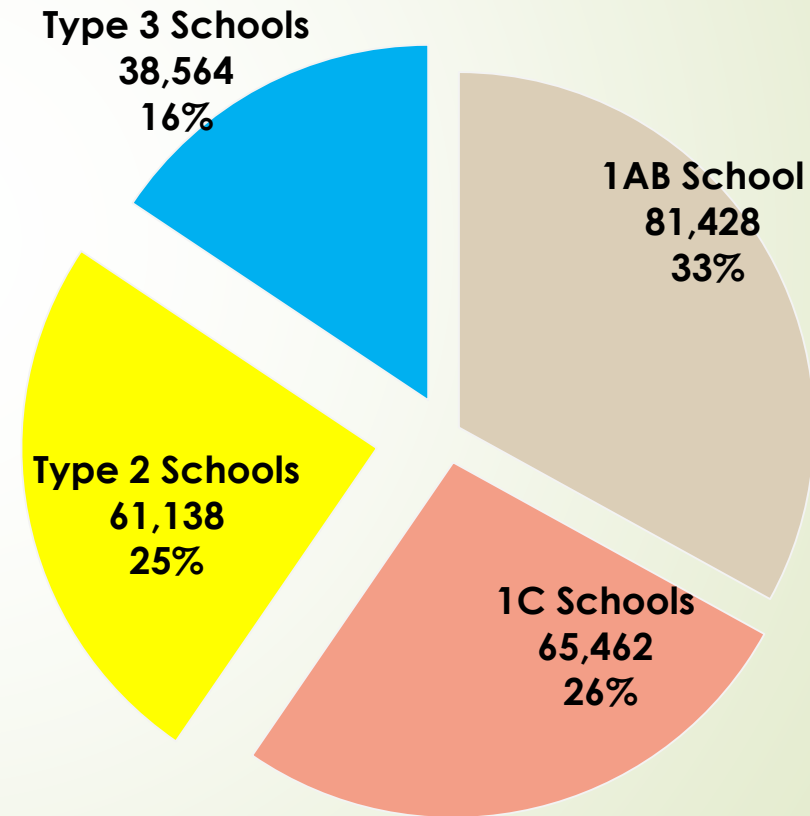
1C Schools
65,462
26%

Student of the System

Category	Total Students	% of Total	Male	Male %	Female	Female %
All Government Schools	4,061,653	100.0	2,019,005	49.7	2,042,648	50.3
National Schools	798,372	19.7	415,993	52.1	382,379	47.9
Provincial Schools	3,263,281	80.3	1,603,012	49.1	1,660,269	50.9
Type of School						
1AB School	1,570,177	38.7	767,670	48.9	802,507	51.1
1C Schools	1,055,562	26.0	513,471	48.6	542,091	51.4
Type 2 Schools	760,957	18.7	389,812	51.2	371,145	48.8
Type 3 Schools	674,957	16.6	348,052	51.6	326,905	48.4

Student by Schools

National Schools
798,372
20%

Provincial Schools
3,263,281
80%

All Government Schools
4,061,653
100%

- National Schools
- Provincial Schools

Teachers by Schools

National Schools
40,936
17%

Provincial Schools
205,656
83%

All Government Teachers
246,592
100%
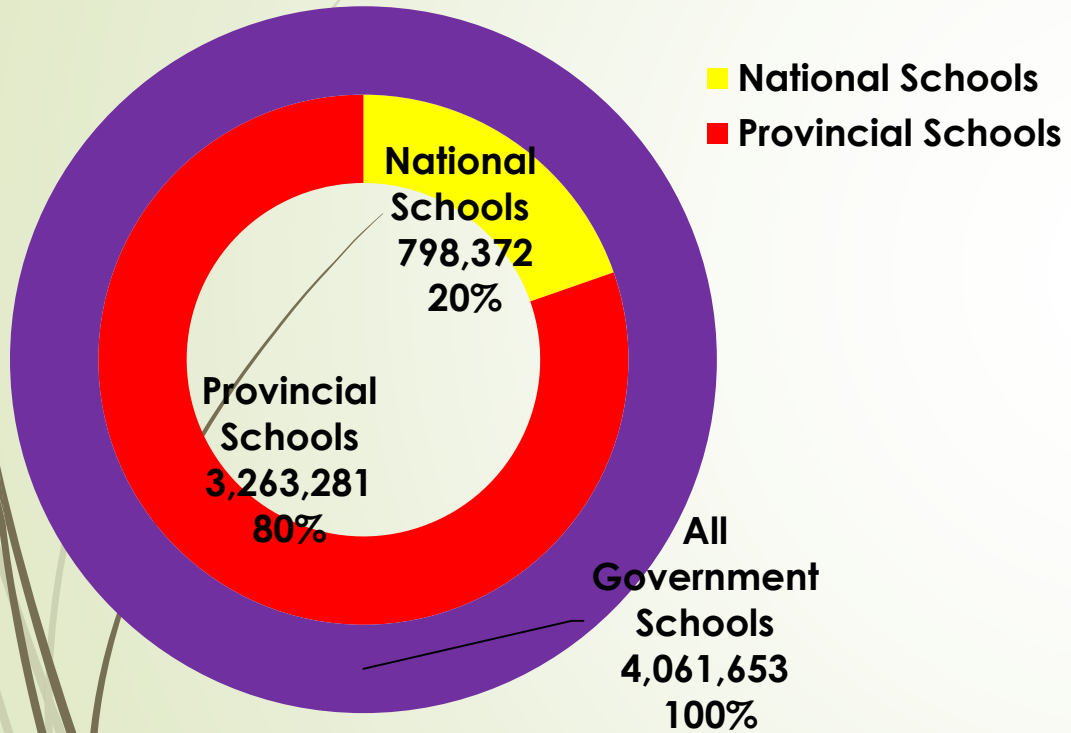
- National Schools
- Provincial Schools
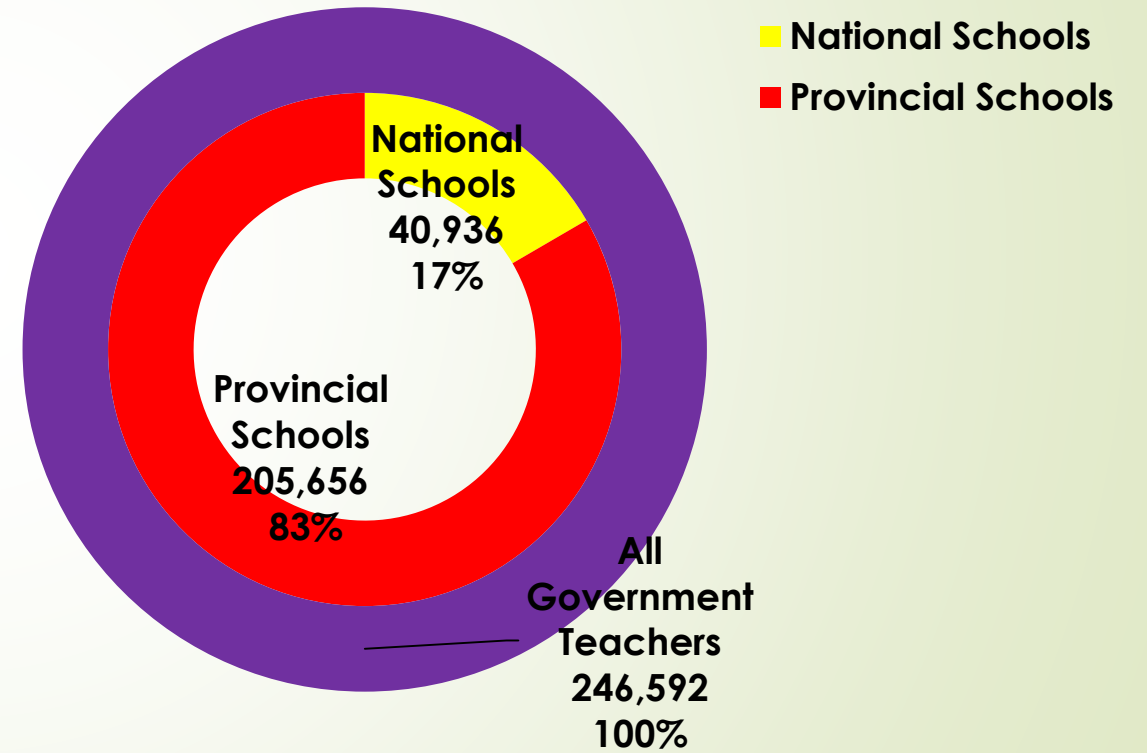
Student Enrolments in Grade 1 & Grade 6 from year 2014 to 2018

Trend of Grade 1 Admissions

Year	Grade1 Male	Grade1 Female	% M	% F	Total
2014	178690	172717	50.85	49.15	351407
2015	169585	165292	50.64	49.36	334877
2016	166112	160854	50.80	49.20	326966
2017	168572	164369	50.63	49.37	332941
2018	166753	161879	50.74	49.26	328632

Trend of Grade 6 Enrollment

year	Grade 6 Male	% Male	Grade 6 Female	% Female	Grade 6 Total
2014	166909	50.54	163331	49.46	330240
2015	170255	50.55	166565	49.45	336820
2016	171183	50.57	167343	49.43	338526
2017	174526	50.57	170567	49.43	345093
2018	176352	50.42	173429	49.58	349781

Source: Data Management Branch, MoE

The total student enrolment in year 2014 is 351407 and when that student batch passes to grade 6, the total student enrolment in is 349781. There for 1626 students have been dropped out in year 2018.
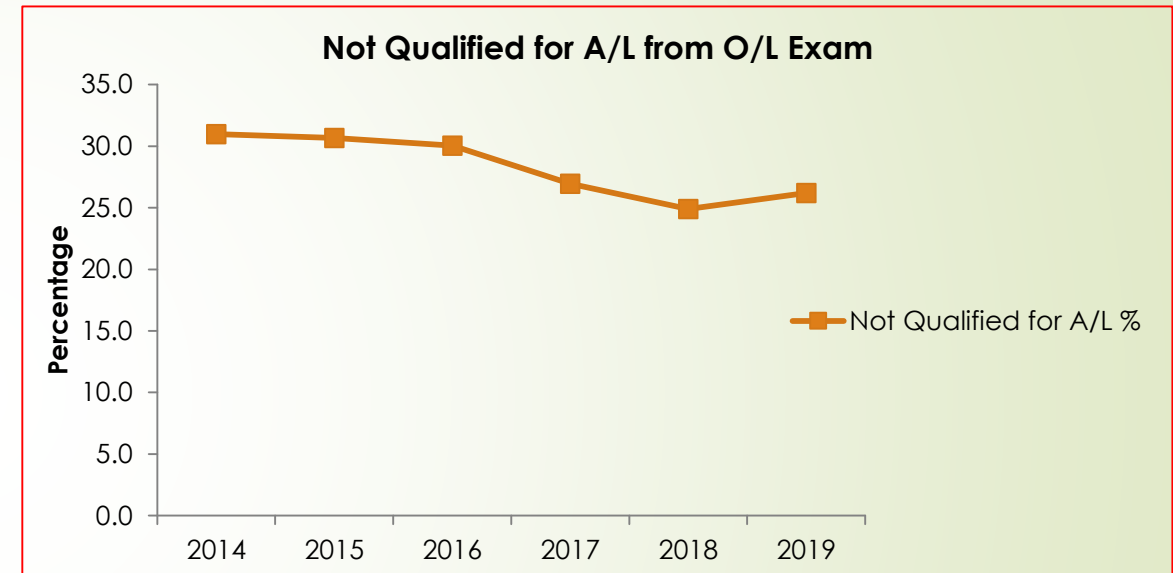
GCE (O.L) Enrollment and Performance (2014-2018)

Trend of GCE (O.L) performance (2014-2018)

Percentage of students not qualified for G.C.E (A/L)

Description	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
No of Sat (5or more subjects)	305,633	296,029	296,812	286,251	273,224
Qualified for A/L	225,539	222,281	216,815	200,208	189,428
Not Qualified for A/L	79888	73,748	79997	86043	83,796
Not Qualified for A/L %	26.15	24.91	26.95	30.05	30.67
Qualified for A/L %	73.8	75.1	70	73	69.3

Not Qualified for A/L from O/L Exam

Source: Department of Examination, 2019

▪ The above table shows that during the period of five years (2014-2018) about (25-30) % of the total number of students who faced the G.C.E. (O/L) examination have not been qualified for the G.C.E. (A/L) stream.

▪ From the statistics, before facing the G.C.E. (O/L) examination, around (35-40) % students who enrolled in Grade-1 classes are dropped out from the system without G.C.E. (O/L) qualifications. These dropouts should either join in the labour force or other vocational educational avenues available for them.

Performance of Students at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination

Trend of G.C.E. (A/L) performance (2014-2019)

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		2019(NEW) 2019(OLD)
No. Sat	207304	210340	211865	206630	218191	173781	61769
Passed in 3 subjects(no)	126971	131137	134238	136421	141172	108353	46552
Passed in 3 subjects (%)	61.25	62.35	63.36	66.02	64.7	62.35	75.36
Obtained 3A's (No)	5400	5690	6468	7489	4912	5424	1161
Obtained 3A's (%)	2.6	2.83	3.05	3.62	2.25	3.12	1.88
Failed all subjects (No.)	16610	18183	17702	16967	18203	15490	2855
Failed all subjects (%)	8.01	8.64	8.36	8.21	8.34	8.91	4.62

Number of Students Selected to Universities

Year	Total Sat	Eligible UA	Unv. Admis	%W.R.T. Eligible	%W.R.T. All sat
2014	207304	126971	25643	17.15	10.37
2015	210340	131137	27204	18.31	11.22
2016	211865	134238	28590	19.18	12.00
2017	206630	136421	29148	19.10	12.37
2018	218191	141172	0	0.00	0.00
2019 (New)	173781	108353	0	0.00	0.00
2019 (old)	46552	46552	0	0	0

Percentage of University Admissions and All 3 Subject Pass students in G.C.E. (A/L)

Total Percentage Eligible for University from A/L Exam

- Eligible for Uni (3S or Upper)
- University Admissions

(Chart showing years 2014–2019 on x-axis, percentage 0–70 on y-axis. Eligible for Uni line around 61–66%, University Admissions line around 10–13%.)
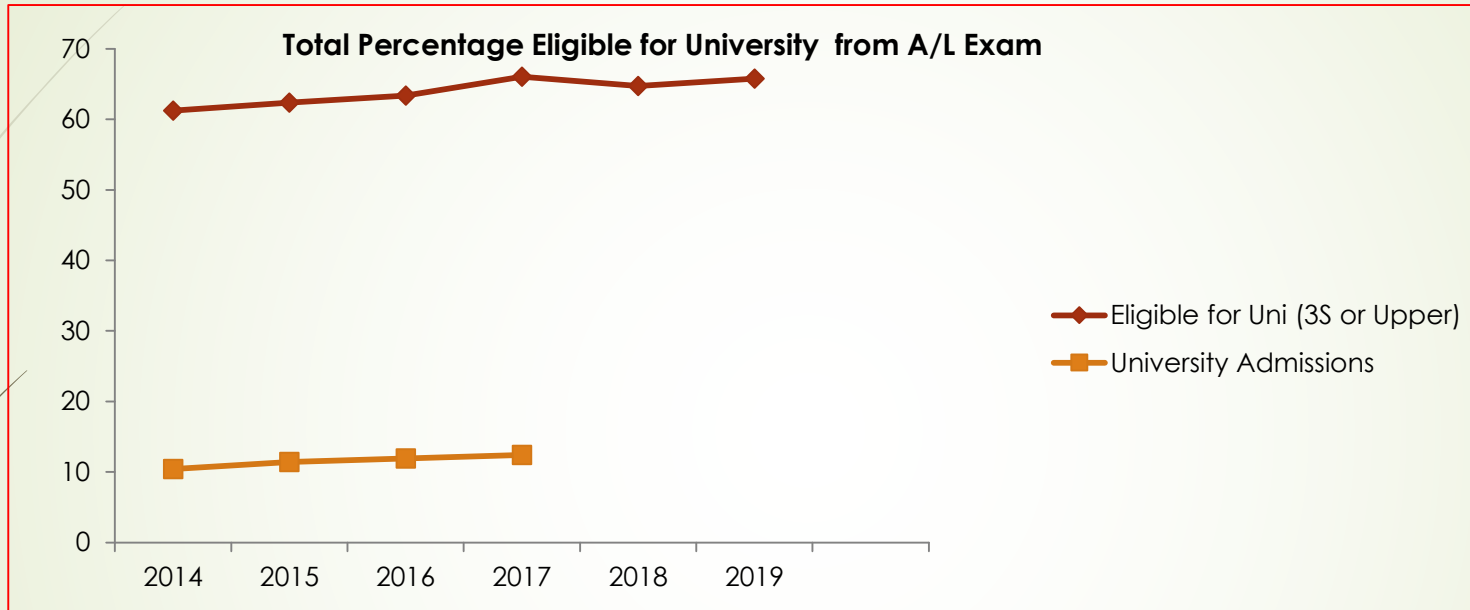
- Average 11.5% of the students who sit for the G.C.E. (A/L) examination and is selected for the various undergraduate courses available in Sri Lankan universities.

- 18.43% of those who eligible for university education is selected.

- Considerable number of students becomes frustrated without having chance to enter Sri Lankan universities. Some students who can afford leave the country for higher education other countries

Total A/L Students Enrollment by Stream
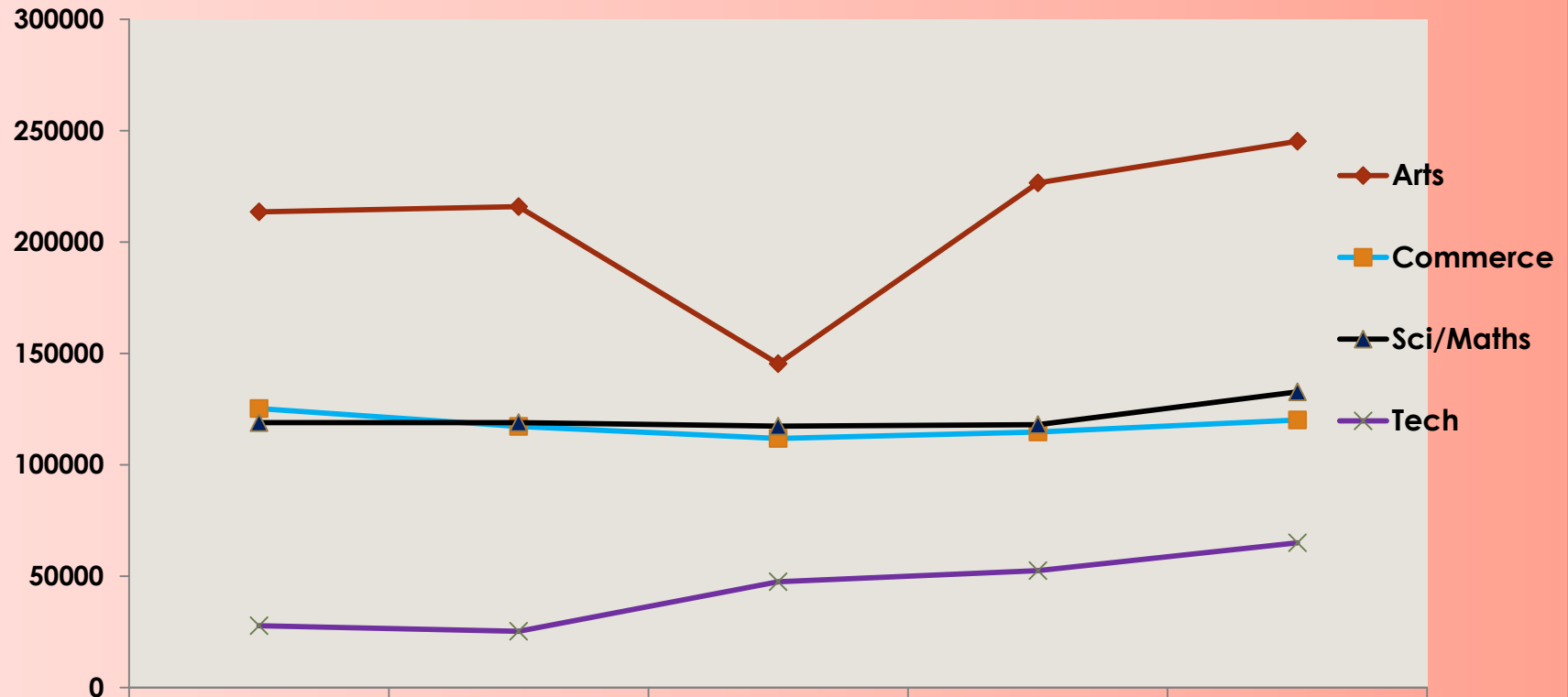
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Arts	213547	215944	145408	226572	245260
Commerce	125236	117218	111883	114726	120075
Sci/Maths	118985	118901	117382	118032	132832
Tech	27794	25270	47473	52473	65032

University Admission % W.R.T All Sat Students to A/L
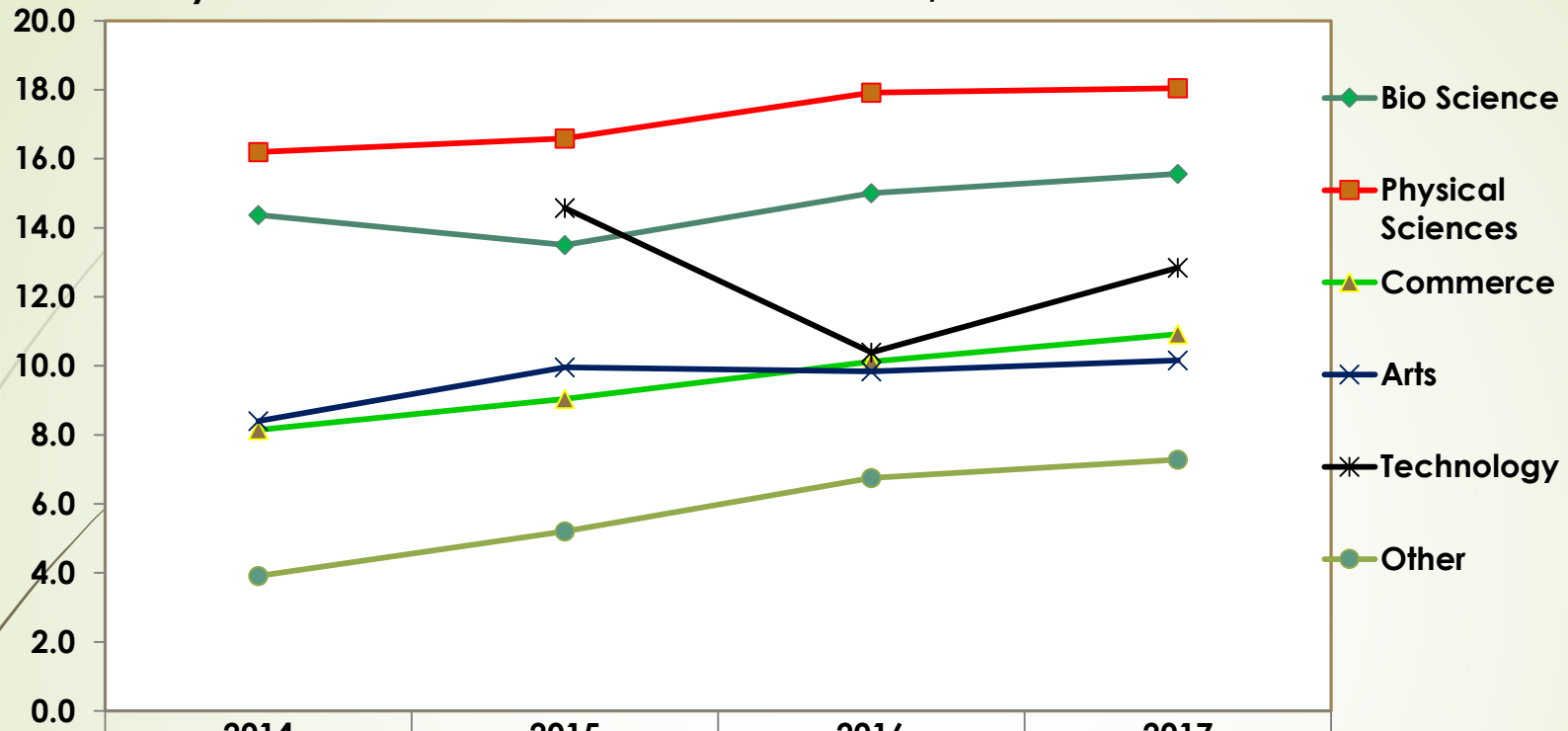
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bio Science	14.4	13.5	15.0	15.6
Physical Sciences	16.2	16.6	17.9	18.0
Commerce	8.1	9.0	10.1	10.9
Arts	8.4	10.0	9.8	10.2
Technology		14.6	10.4	12.8
Other	3.9	5.2	6.8	7.3

Legend:
- Bio Science
- Physical Sciences
- Commerce
- Arts
- Technology
- Other

University Admission % W.R.T All 3 Subject Pass Students
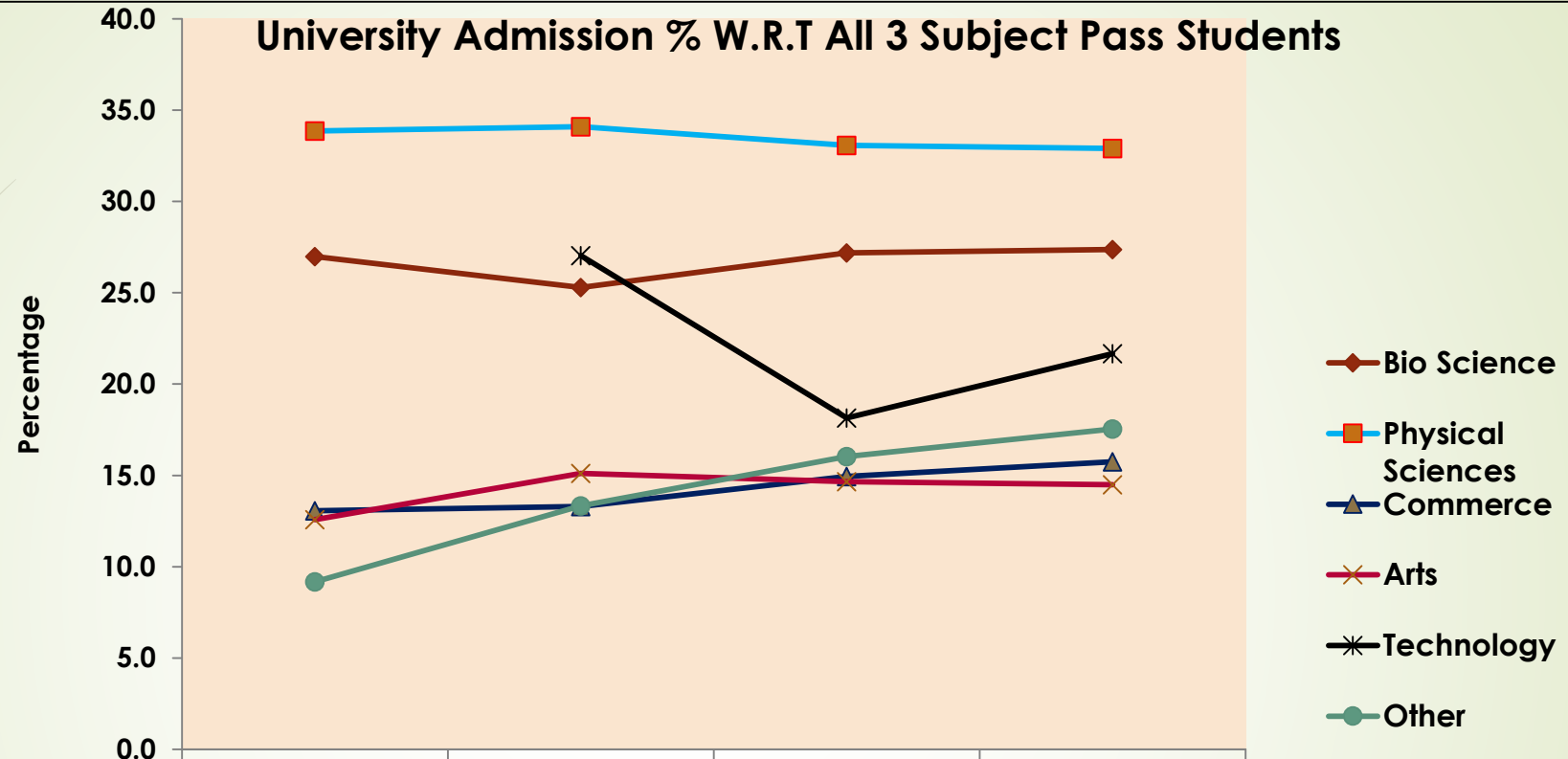
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bio Science	27.0	25.3	27.2	27.4
Physical Sciences	33.9	34.1	33.1	32.9
Commerce	13.1	13.3	14.9	15.7
Arts	12.6	15.1	14.7	14.5
Technology		27.0	18.1	21.7
Other	9.2	13.3	16.0	17.5

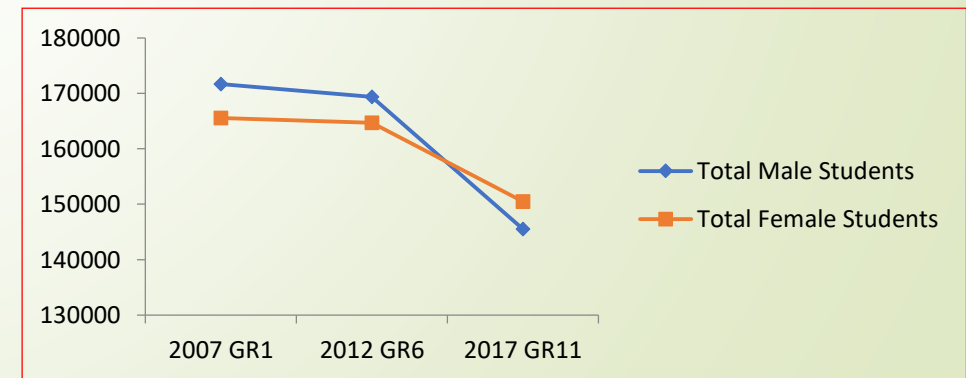# Education VS Participation in the Labour Force

Change in student enrollment in Grade 1(2007) cohort (2007-2017)

	Total Male Students	% Males	Total Female Students	%Female	Total School Students	Student dropout
2007 (GR.1)	171650	50.90	165528	49.10	337178	
2012 (GR.6)	169335	50.69	164663	49.31	333998	3180
2017 (GR11)	145494	49.15	150502	50.84	295996	38002

Students

When this cohort of students move to grade 6 it has decreased to 333,998, and in Grade 11 further decrease to 295996. That means during the period of 11 years (2007-2017) 41,182(12.21%) students were dropped out from the system without earning G.C.E. (O/L) attainment.

Students enrolment (Male vs. Female students)

Student enrollment figures in Grade-6 (in 2013) Grade-11(in2018)

Change in student enrollment in Grade 1(2007) cohort (2007-2017)

	Total School Students	Chang in % in Successive Grades
2008 GR1	331847	100.0
2013 GR6	330240	99.5
2018 GR11	294220	88.7
2018 O/L (Qualified for A/L)	222281	67.0

Yr(Grade)	Total Male Students	% Males	Total Female Students	%Female	Total School Students	Student dropout	
2008 (GR.1)		50.90	165528	49.10	331847		
2013 (GR.6)		50.69	164663	49.31	330240	1607	
2018 (GR11)		49.15	150502	50.84	294220	36020	
2018(O/L) pass					222281		

Student admission is not significantly different when they were first admitted Grade 1 in 2008.

Students who have move to grade 6, has decreased to 330,240, and in Grade 11 further decrease to 294220

During the period of 11 years (2008-2018) 37627(11.33%) students were dropped out from the system without earning G.C.E.(O/L) attainment.
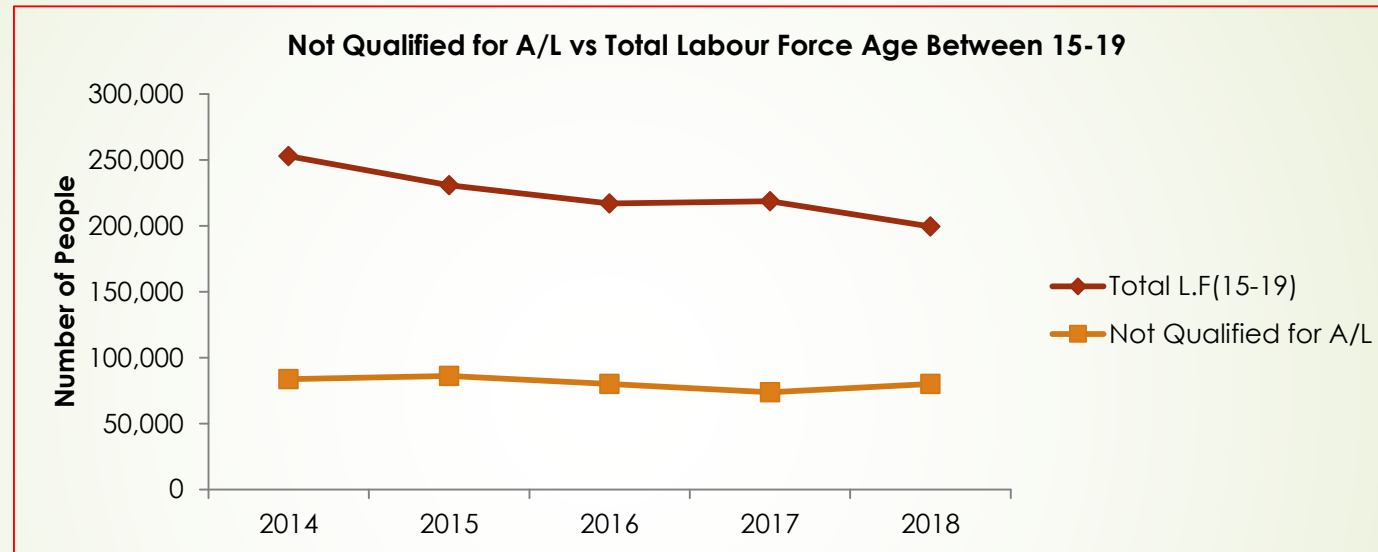
Pattern of the Behavior of two Case Studies

Two data sets of case studies follow the similar trend in student enrollment in successive grades.

Labour Force Participation and Education

Summary of educational attainment level in Sri Lankan school leavers

Not Qualified for A/L vs Total Labour Force Age Between 15-19

- From the active population 8.6 million in the first quarter of 2019, 64.1% are male and 35.9% are female.

- The economically inactive population is about 7.7 million. Out of the economically inactive population 25.7% are male and 74.3 % are female.

- Students leave the system in the Grade 6, GCE(O/L), before GCE(A/L), some with GCE(A/L) qualifications.

Conclusion

Potential LFP and their predicted educational attainment level

No.	Educational qualifications	No. potential employees	% potential employees	Criteria used in the estimation
1	Below Grade 6	318	0.09	Based on case study
2	Between Grade (6-11)	40864	12.12	Based on case study
3	Upto G.C.E. (O/L)	80887	23.99	Based on case study
5	G.C.E. (O/L) pass	78812	23.39	Analysis of G.C.E. (O/L) Performance
6	GCE(A/L) pass	111,744	33.16	Analysis of G.C.E. (O/L) Performance
7	Degree	24431	07.25	Analysis of Uni. entrance figures
8	Total	337,056		

Assumption : All the dropouts/ school leavers join labour force

The school leavers should be trained in the respective fields they may have selected to work in for better output

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Thank You !