



IMPACT OF PRIVATE TUITION COST ON HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO STUDENTS OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN SRI LANKA

Uluwatta K.^{1*} and Wijesinghe B.A.C.H.²

Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

slecturer@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

In early decades, tuition education was not a widely held supplementary for the school education. But after the open economy system, the tuition education is emerging as a foremost trend in the society. This kind of hidden privatization of government school education is sometimes horrible, miserable and kind of a punishable issue for the households who are having school-aged children as this trend has eventually affected towards household's day-to-day lives due to heavy and sometimes unbearable tuition cost. As this is a serious issue, cultural anthropology is used here to inform a longitudinal study of the researchers on private tuition for public schools education (tutionalization) in Sri Lanka. Thus, the objective of this study was to examine the households' cost on tutionalization. Researchers purposely decided to occupy the in-depth interviews with a sample of thirty selected families those who are having two school-aged children in rural and urban areas (fifteen families from each area). A basic interpretive qualitative study was used to discover and understand the perspectives of the participants. Several themes emerged from interviews with the participants: 1) financial difficulties on tuition expenses; 2) social and cultural cost to the households on tuition; 3) quality comparison of public vs. private education; 4) compared physical environment; 5) recommendations for balance between day-to-day lives of households with education of their children. The empirical findings show that choosing private tuition education is a tough alternative education choice. Arguments mainly show that, private tuition provides students with a flexible, understandable and attractive package of school and exam-preparatory education. On the other hand parents are still thinking that private tuition classes are magnet type and demand pull. It is indicated and discovered that, this leads to socio-economic and cultural problems and asymmetry among students and parents. Overall, due to private tuition, all these parties are suffered with financial, social, cultural, physiological, psychological irregularities and inconveniences.

Keywords: Hidden privatization, Cost impact, Tutionalization, Cultural anthropology, Magnet type