



LIRNEASIA-SL2COLLEGE SURVEY OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES

Public university system in Sri Lanka clearly cannot fully meet the demand for higher education in the country. Advertisements that offer alternatives to the public university system are many, but, lacking is a single source that makes it possible for students and parents to compare the full spectrum of opportunities available. LIRNEasia is pleased to partner with SL2COLLEGE to fill the information gap.

LIRNEasia is a policy and regulation think tank based in Colombo and active across Asia. The survey of degree programs in Sri Lanka is the first in the series of surveys on further education opportunities in Asia to be carried out by LIRNEasia.

Our survey revealed two types of alternatives to the public university system – Private Institutions and ‘Public-Non-UGC’ institutions (or public institutions that are outside the purview of the UGC). Advertisements and other sources accessed during October 2011 revealed the presence of 46 private institutions and 10 public-non-UGC institutions. Of the private institutions, all 46 responded to our survey, some giving more details than others. Of the total, 29 had track records, i.e. they were able to produce one or more graduates in 2010/2011; 15 had students currently enrolled; and 2 are to start programs in 2012. Of the 10 ‘public-non-UGC’ institutions, 9 had track records of awarding degrees. Details can be found in the listing of institutions.

The higher education system in Sri Lanka in its totality comprises of 17 public institutions under the purview of the UGC and 56 institutions that makeup the alternative system, and produced 19,566 graduates in 2010/2011. The alternative system accounted for 36% of that output with private institutions accounting for 14% and public-non-UGC institutions accounting for 22%.

The directory details only the degree programs offered by the alternative system. There are 258 such programs and they are organized by four major fields of study – i.e. Commerce, Computer Science/IT, Engineering and Other, and 54 sub-fields or specializations. For each specialization, the name of the degree program, the length of study including foreign components if any, name of the degree-awarding body, track record and cost information are presented. The costs of the listed programs can range from under Rs: 200,000 to over in million for tuition and fees for the full program. The quality of the programs per se is not addressed in this directory. Given the emergent nature of the alternative higher education system, the recognition of the degree-awarding body by relevant authorities and the track record of having graduated one or more students are considered as adequate ‘starter’ indicators of quality. As the system matures additional indicators of quality will be added.

LIRNEasia is grateful to the institutions for providing the information. This directory should be used only as a guide. Relevant institutions should be contacted to verify the information, cost information in particular, before making decisions. For further information about the LIRNEasia survey visit www.lirneasia.net/projects/HCR.

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