

# OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM: ITS CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE

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Sir Ivor Jennings, the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, lucidly explained the goal of modern University Education as follows:

*"The fundamental task is to produce men and women who are capable of fulfilling any function in the world that may fall to their lot, citizens of high intelligence, complete moral integrity and possessing energy, initiative, judgment, tact and qualities of leadership" (Jennings, 1948)"*

This statement provides a yardstick against which the modern university education can be measured. The purpose of this article is to evaluate the current education system briefly and identify the challenges and potential for future development.

In order to evaluate the existing system we need to focus on the gradual transformation and the growth of our education system.

Sri Lanka had a dual system of education before independence. The English medium schools, which initially