

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR SRI LANKAN UNIVERSITIES

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Although performance measurement approach has been developed throughout the world as part of an extensive public sector reform, until recently there had been no formal system of evaluating the performance of the Sri Lankan universities using quantifiable indicators. At present, performance indicators have been identified as a salient feature in corporate plans of universities and other Government institutions, on which the budgetary allocations for future years are expected to be made. As such, output-based control used in the private sector has to be introduced to the public sector also.

Three categories of performance indicators, namely the internal, external and operational indicators that can be used to evaluate the performance of the universities in Sri Lanka are identified in this paper. The internal performance indicators include those concerned with undergraduate and postgraduate education, research and staff. The external performance indicators include those concerned with national and regional effectiveness of the universities and acceptability of graduates in employment. The operational indicators those associated with smooth functioning of the universities.

Performance indicators are classified as input, process and output/outcome indicators and also as the teaching/learning, scholarship/research/management and service/outreach indicators.

Some examples for each of these categories of performance indicators that can be used in Sri Lanka are presented in this paper.

INTRODUCTION

Current concerns on the effectiveness and efficiency of public sector institutions including universities have emphasized the need for a thorough examination of their performance throughout the world. Global demographic and social changes, increasing economic interdependence and public concerns have led to major changes in the higher education sector worldwide. The Government of Sri Lanka has also given high priority to tertiary education