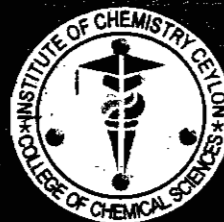




**College of Chemical Sciences
Institute of Chemistry Ceylon**



PROCEEDINGS

of

International Conference on Chemical Education

Theme
**Chemical Education & Research
for Industrial Development & Sustainable
Growth in a Knowledge Based Economy**

ABSTRACTS

**April 3 & 4
Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Sponsors & Collaborators



Survey on Science Education at the G.C.E (O/L)

C .Deepal Mathew, Jayantha Wijerathna

*Science education committee, Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, Vidya Mandiraya, 120/10,
Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07.
E: preethiathew@lycos.com*

There is a general trend in Sri Lanka for students to not to select science subjects for the GCE. (A/L). To study why student are not doing science for higher studies, the science education committee of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) did a survey in nine leading schools in the western province. A multiple choice questioner was distributed among 50 randomly selected students from each school sitting for the GCE (O/L) Examination in 2013. The result showed that 56% of the students want to do the Advanced Level in the science stream. However 79% of the students like science subjects. The reasons for not selecting science for the advanced level are a). Difficulty in obtaining admission to a university (35%) b). Difficulty in obtaining employment (17%) c) does not like science subjects (43%). The student's favorite sections are 46% biology, 21% physics, 30% Chemistry and 16% like all three sections. Regarding the syllabus 65% wanted a reduction in the syllabus. 72% wanted to study science as three separate subjects of physics, chemistry and biology. Students preference for graduate studies are medicine (41%), engineering (33%), 16% will not be doing science after the A/L and only 4% want to obtain a B.Sc. degree . This clearly indicates that the students do not know the numerous job opportunities available for science graduates. 89% of the students attend tuition classes for science and 72% spend 2 to 4 hours a week at tuition classes. 58% of the students spend Rs. 800 to 1000 for science tuition. This is a heavy burden on parents as a conservative calculation indicates that parents spend 1.2 billion rupees a year for tuition classes for science. Students attend tuition classes a) to obtained good results (51%) b) to study questions and answers (29%), c)16% because the time allocated for science in the school is inadequate. The result from the survey indicates there is urgent need for popularization of science at schools. The science syllabus for the GCE (O/L) has to be reduced to enable students to study science without the help of tuition classes. In addition books have to be printed which explain science in a student friendly manner. In conclusion it is apparent that the wide science syllabus is driving the students to tuition classes. The main objective of students is to study questions and answers at tuition classes to obtain high grades. This trend will result in producing students who have a very poor understanding of basic scientific principles