

## **Information Technology Education in the Sri Lankan School System: Challenges and Perspectives**

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Introduction of Information Technology into the secondary school curriculum in Sri Lanka is a very recent development. The subject General Information Technology (GIT) was included for G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination in 2005 while plans are afoot to introduce Information Technology as a subject for G.C.E. Ordinary Level from 2008. Results of the first GIT examination held in 2005 clearly show poor performance by students. Considering the large amount of money spent for Information Technology education in schools and the aspirations of students in acquiring a sound knowledge in Information Technology while in school, it is essential that an analysis is done to evaluate the merits and demerits of Information Technology education in schools. This paper critically analyses the present structure and process of IT education in secondary schools in Sri Lanka, including aspects of curriculum and teacher training, and attempts to make suggestions to enhance IT education in schools, especially in the context of Ministry of Education's policy to broad-base IT education in schools. Innovative concepts adapted in IT education in schools as well as pedagogical and didactic principles used in foreign countries are also discussed so that experiences derived from the same could be utilized in the Sri Lankan context.

***Key words:* Information Technology education, Pedagogy in IT, Didactics in IT**

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