

**IMPACT OF COGNITIVE SKILLS ON ACADEMIC  
PERFORMANCE OF FINAL YEAR UNDERGRADUATES WITH  
THE MODERATING EFFECT OF EXTRACURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO UNIVERSITIES IN  
THE WESTERN PROVINCE**

Livera, W. M. I.<sup>1</sup> and Jayasinghe, C.<sup>2</sup>

The objective of this study was to analyze the impact of cognitive skills on academic performance of undergraduates in Sri Lanka and examine the moderating effect of university extracurricular activities on the relationship between cognitive Skills and academic performance of undergraduates in Sri Lanka. Under the cognitive skills was conceptualized in terms of creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking. Management Faculty undergraduate from Western Province state universities make up the population. In this study, out of the target population, 342 undergraduates were selected as the sample. This study used quantitative research methods and data were collected through a structured questionnaire distributed to final year undergraduates in Western Province. The findings of this study indicate, there is a significant impact of undergraduates' cognitive skills on academic performance. And higher levels of extracurricular activities strengthen the relationship between cognitive skills and academic performance. This study's findings provide better guidance for university undergraduates to become more productive and effective undergraduate through national universities in Sri Lanka. These results of the study could guide the creation of curricula by highlighting the value of encouraging creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking in management undergraduates. It is recommended to state universities to take necessary action to develop undergraduates' cognitive skills in an appropriate manner.

***Keywords:*** *Academic Performance, Cognitive Skills, Creativity, Critical Thinking Management Faculty Undergraduates, Problem-Solving*

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<sup>1</sup> Undergraduate, Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka [madukilivera@gmail.com]

<sup>2</sup> Senior Lecturer (GI), Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka [chathuni@kln.ac.lk]