

**DEMAND FOR THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND  
THE RECENT STRUCTURAL CHANGES INTRODUCED  
TO THE SYSTEM OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN  
SRI LANKA**

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## Abstract

Technical education, the academic and vocational preparation of students for jobs involving applied science and modern technology. It emphasizes the understanding and practical application of basic principles of science and mathematics, rather than the attainment of proficiency in manual skills that is properly the concern of vocational education. Technical education has as its objectives the preparation of graduates for occupations that are classed above the skilled crafts but below the scientific or engineering professions. People so employed are frequently called technicians. Since 1893 Department of Technical Education and Training (DTET) plays an integral role as the pioneer in the field of technical education. Accordingly under DTET there are 9 College of Technology (COT) and 29 Technical Colleges (TECH) all over the Island. In 2005, the DTET introduced the National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) framework which was an important milestone for the education, economic and social development of Sri Lanka. The NVQ system seeks to resolve the perceived mismatch between training offered and the requirements of the labor market, the duplication of training provided by institutions and the lack of consistent training standards and delivery. In this research researcher tries to identify the effectiveness of the NVQ system and to increase the demand of the technical courses by introducing new NVQ courses and converting existing courses to NVQ system. Accordingly this study utilized both Inductive method and Deductive method to assess the demand for technical education and the recent structural changes introduced to the system of technical education in Sri Lanka. According to the results obtain from the survey conducted regarding the courses, by the view of the 98% of respondents it has been evident that the technical education can be expanded in accordance with the NVQ system. The students those who are and were engaged in for their career development hope to continue degree level and therefore all the existing courses may be organizes according to NVQ system , and it is a bounden duty of the government to introduce relevant courses to enable them to follow the courses in the respective field to obtain a degree.

**Key Words:** *Department of Technical Education and Training, College of Technology, Technical Colleges, National Vocational Qualification, Tertiary Vocational Education Commission, Technical Education*