

Understanding Demotivating Factors in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language among Advanced Level Students

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Chinese language is the most widely spoken language in the world. In order to expand cross cultural learning, Sri Lanka has stepped towards teaching Chinese language to the local community. In the late 20th century, Chinese language was included in the Advanced Level (A/L) school syllabus. This study focuses on understanding the demotivating factors in teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (CFL) in schools. The study analyses data collected from questionnaires given to A/L students who are studying Chinese and teachers who are teaching CFL for A/L. Results reveal that lack of qualified teachers, inadequate teaching and learning supportive materials and limited access to Chinese text books and manuals are the main demotivating factors in teaching and learning CFL. These demotivating factors are directly connected to the inadequate number of well-qualified teachers. It is recommended that responsible authorities should assign qualified teachers to schools and provide supportive materials and teaching equipment to motivate the students and teachers. Further, professional development is necessary to keep teachers updated on new research, technology, and tools for the classroom.

Keywords: teaching, Chinese as a foreign language, Advanced Level, school

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