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**The Causes Affecting the Low Level of Attainment in the
English Language of School Children with Special
Reference
to the Galenbindunuwewa Education Zone**

D. M. R. Upuldeniya

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Department of Sociology
University of Kelaniya
Sri Lanka

Abstract

The main object of this research work is to look into the main causes of the low attainment level of students in English language of the school children of Galenbindunuwewa Education Zone. The policy makers and administrators have understood that education as the main agent of development process. Short terms and long terms development plans have been focused their main attention to plan education according to the main objectives of development. That is to say that education and development is an interrelated process. In that interrelated process the education must be in a global level. To have that expected global level in the education; English language has become a must. And it has been understood by the whole society that as an international language, English plays an important role in the development process. Though necessary human and material resources are provided with the performances of students at General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination and other examinations in English is not satisfactory. Therefore, it is very essential to find out the causes behind this unsatisfactory situation and propose some remedial measures to overcome this problem of low attainment level in English of schools in the Galenbindunuwewa Education Zone.

As an access to understand, the prevailing problems in the field of English education, historical evaluation process of education from Education after the Independence up to the present day has been discussed in this study. And addition to that, the origin of English language and its expansion in the British Empire and beginning of English education in Sri Lanka after 1796 A. D. has been discussed in the study. And also, the special attention has been paid to socio-economic factors, cultural factors, school atmosphere and other factors which influence on the low attainment level in English of the school children. In order to achieve those objectives, questionnaires have been used particularly with teachers of English, students and parents when collecting data. Apart from that, the data and views which could not be found through the questionnaires were gathered by interviewing teachers of English, retired teachers of English and in-service

advisors, Zonal Director of Education in the study area. At the same time with the purpose of studying transport facilities under the infrastructure facilities the timekeeper of Ceylon Transport Board and the time keeper for private buses in the area were interviewed. By means of the above mentioned methods and techniques ,the effective causes behind the low attainment level in English language of the school children were spot lighted as follows;

01. Adverse attitudes of the society.
02. Disparity of distribution of human and material resources among rural and urban schools.
03. Defects on the part of teachers of English.
04. Prominence given to Mathematics and Science other than English in the society.
05. Lack of visual aids in the class room teaching.
06. Lack of motivation in the society to learn English.

In order to address the ever changing global socio-economic challenges to overcome the above mentioned causes and uplift the English education in schools, remedial measures have been proposed in the study too. And it will enhance the importance of this research attempt.