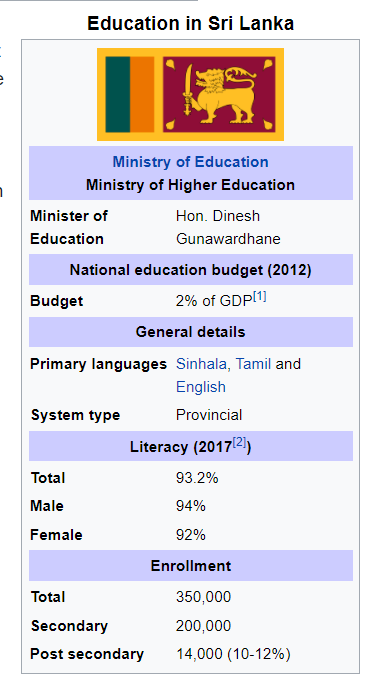
1. **EDUCATION IN SRILANKA (WIKIPEDIA)**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education\_in\_Sri\_Lanka**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka)



Education currently falls under the control of both the [Central Government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Sri_Lanka) and the [Provincial Councils](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka), with some responsibilities lying with the Central Government and the Provincial Council having autonomy for others.

In 1942 a special committee was appointed to observe the education system and, among the suggestions that followed, the following play an important role:

* i. Make available to all children a good education free of charge, so that education ceases to be a commodity purchasable only by the urban affluent.
* ii. Make national languages the media of instruction in place of English so that opportunities for higher education, lucrative employment open only to small number of the urban affluent, would become available to others as well.
* iii. Rationalize the school system so that educational provision is adequate, efficient and economical.
* iv. Ensure that every child is provided with instruction in the religion of his/her parents.
* v. Protect teachers from exploitation by managers of schools.
* vi. Make adequate provision for adult education.

## Primary and secondary education[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_Sri_Lanka&action=edit&section=5)]

### Structure[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_Sri_Lanka&action=edit&section=6)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jaffna_Hindu_Ladies_College.jpg)

School Girls of [Jaffna Hindu Ladies' College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffna_Hindu_Ladies%27_College)

Sri Lanka's education structure is divided into five parts: primary, junior secondary, senior secondary, collegiate, and tertiary. [Primary education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_education) lasts five years (Grade 1 to Grade 5) and at the end of this period, the students may elect to write a national exam called the Scholarship exam. This exam allows students with exceptional skills to move on to better schools. After primary education, the junior secondary level (referred to as middle school in some schools) lasts for 4 years (Grades 6-9) followed by 2 years (Grades 10-11) of the senior secondary level which is the preparation for the [General Certificate of Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Certificate_of_Education) (G.C.E) [Ordinary Level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordinary_Level_(SL)) (O/Ls). According to the Sri Lankan law, it is compulsory that all children go to school till grade 9 (age 14) at which point they can choose to continue their education or drop out and engage in apprenticeship for a job or farming. However, the Ministry of Education strongly advises all students to continue with their studies at least till the G.C.E Ordinary Level. Students who are pursuing [tertiary education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tertiary_education) must pass the G.C.E O/Ls in order to enter the collegiate level to study for another 2 years (grades 12-13) to sit for the [G.C.E Advanced Level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Level_(SL)). On successful completion of this exam, students can move on to [tertiary education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tertiary_education), there for the GCE A/Ls is the university entrance exam in Sri Lanka.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-MOE-14)

* Grade 5: 9-10 year olds - [Scholarship Examination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scholarship_Examination)
* Grade 11: 15-16 year olds - [G.C.E Ordinary Level Examination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GCE_Ordinary_Level_in_Sri_Lanka)
* Grade 13: 17-19 year olds - [G.C.E Advanced Level Examination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GCE_Advanced_Level_in_Sri_Lanka)

### Government schools[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_Sri_Lanka&action=edit&section=11)]

Most of the schools in Sri Lanka are maintained by the government as a part of the free education. Currently there are 10,012 government schools with a student population of 4.2 million and 235,924 teachers, 736 [Pirivenas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirivenas" \o "Pirivenas) and also 104 private schools with 127,968 students.<> With the establishment if the provincial council system in the 1980s the central government handed control of most schools to local governments. However the old schools which had been around since the colonial times were retained by the central government, this creating three types of government schools;

* National Schools
* Provincial Schools
* Pirivenas-Schools for Buddhist priests

### Non-government schools[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_Sri_Lanka&action=edit&section=15)]

#### Private schools**[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_Sri_Lanka&action=edit&section=16)**]**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:C.M.S._Ladies%E2%80%99_College_grounds.jpg)

C.M.S Ladies College one of Sri Lanka's private girls' school as seen from its grounds

There has been a considerable increase in the number of [private schools in Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_schools_in_Sri_Lanka#Private_schools), due to the emergence of the upper-middle class during the colonial era. These private schools follow the local curriculum set up by the [Ministry of Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Education_(Sri_Lanka)) in the local language mediums of [Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhalese_language), [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language) or [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language). Many of the private schools have access to newer facilities than state run schools. Currently there are 66 Private schools (registered before 1960 and not since then) of these, 33 non-fee-levying Assisted Private Schools (also known as semi-government schools) and 33 fee levying autonomous [Private Schools](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_School), in addition to the Government Schools.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-MOE-14)

#### International schools**[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_Sri_Lanka&action=edit&section=17)**]**

[International schools](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_international_schools_in_Sri_Lanka) in Sri Lanka are not restricted to the expatriate community, anyone with the ability and willingness to pay can join these schools. Starting in the late 1980s these schools have no regulation or control by the Ministry of Education as it comes under the Board of Investment (BOI),[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-MOE-14) due to this the standard of education varies greatly between schools. The schools are mainly for the children of the expatriate community, charge high tuition fees and can therefore provide good facilities and high standards.

The majority of International schools prepares students for the [Edexcel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edexcel" \o "Edexcel) [General Certificate of Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Certificate_of_Education) (IGCSE) Ordinary, Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced (A2) Level examinations, which is the most popular qualification. Preparation for [Cambridge International Examinations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambridge_International_Examinations) is also offered by a few schools but it is less popular. Both exams are offered under the supervision of the [British Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Council), whereas some schools offer a direct partnership with the examination body in order to improve standards.

#### Madrasas**[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_Sri_Lanka&action=edit&section=18)**]**

As of 2013, there are 205 [madrasas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madrasas) registered under the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs providing [Islamic education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) in Sri Lanka.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-15) These have been built and maintained by independent Islamic foundations such as [All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Ceylon_Jamiyyathul_Ulama) and the Thareeqathul Aroosiyyathil Qaadhiriyyah Association in Sri Lanka which propagate [Sunnah wal Jamaah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahlus-Sunnah_wa%E2%80%99l-Jama%E2%80%99ah).[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-16) This is in addition to the 749 Muslim Schools in Sri Lanka.

#### Semi Government Schools**[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_Sri_Lanka&action=edit&section=19)**]**

There are quite a few semi-government schools in Sri Lanka that are run as a government-private collaboration, where the government provides the textbooks, uniforms, and other facilities such as the ability to sit for [national exams](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=National_exams&action=edit&redlink=1) and the government-paid teachers.

The prominent semi-government schools are [Zahira College, Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zahira_College,_Colombo" \o "Zahira College, Colombo), [Wesley College, Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wesley_College,_Colombo), [St. Joseph's College, Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Joseph%27s_College,_Colombo) and [St. Peter's College, Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Peter%27s_College,_Colombo)

## Tuition[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_Sri_Lanka&action=edit&section=20)]

Due to the high competitive nature of exams such as [year 5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scholarship_Examination), [GCE O/L](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordinary_Level_(SL)) and [GCE A/L](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Level_(SL)) as well as [London O/Ls and A/Ls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Certificate_of_Education); parents seek additional help at home and at group/mass classes to improve their children's grades and performance. In recent years this has become a lucrative enterprise, which has resulted in successive governments attempting to regulate it. Many scholars have also accused tuition classes of robbing the childhood and having a negative impact on the child's health.

These Private Educational Institutes or Tuition Centers are concentrated in Major cities of Sri Lanka: Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Negombo, Kurunegala, Kandy, Galle, Matara, Tangalle, Kegalle, Badulla and Ratnapura.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-17)

## Tertiary education[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_Sri_Lanka&action=edit&section=21)]

*Main articles:*[*Higher education in Sri Lanka*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_education_in_Sri_Lanka)*and*[*List of universities in Sri Lanka*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_universities_in_Sri_Lanka)

Undergraduate education in state universities is free but extremely competitive, limited and standardized. Fewer than 16% (less than 16,000 students) of those who qualify get admission to state universities[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-18) and of that only half graduate.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-19) Admission to the university system is based on the highly competitive [GCE Advanced Level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Level_(SL)) examination. Selection of students is done on the basis of rank order on average Z Scores obtained by candidates at the [GCE Advanced Level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Level_(SL)) under a transparent national policy to replicate a district basis representation. Only the top students from each district get admissions.

The top students from urban and rural districts get the chances of having tertiary education. However, top students who got qualified under the minimum Z Scores requirements for admissions from remote districts may get in with relatively lower marks than those from urban districts. As a result, many students who are not granted admission find other means of higher education. Around 8% those qualified but could not get admission for higher education go abroad to pursue their studies,[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-20) others enroll themselves at the [Open University of Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_University_of_Sri_Lanka)

Some study for entrance/membership for [professional bodies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional_bodies) both foreign (such as [CIMA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chartered_Institute_of_Management_Accountants), [BCS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Computer_Society), [ACCA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_of_Chartered_Certified_Accountants), etc.) and local (such as [ICASL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institute_of_Chartered_Accountants_of_Sri_Lanka), SLIM) or do studies at vocational [technical colleges](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technical_college) that specialize in mechanical and electronic subjects. Government has schemes to provides financial aid in addition to free education to financially support to those qualified to get admission to state universities.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-21)

There are only 15 state universities in Sri Lanka. The prominent ones are [University of Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Colombo), [University of Peradeniya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Peradeniya), [University of Kelaniya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Kelaniya), [University of Sri Jayawardhenapura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Sri_Jayawardhenapura) , [University of Moratuwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Moratuwa) and [University of Ruhuna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Ruhuna). In recent years, with changes to the University Act, a few institutes have been given permission to grant their own degrees: The most prominent is the government-owned [Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka_Institute_of_Information_Technology).[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-ravgaya-22)

Still, there are [unemployed graduates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graduate_unemployment) in Sri Lanka, except in the fields of medicine, information technology, commerce, law and engineering disciplines. Many claim that if state university graduates are unemployed or causes [brain drain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brain_drain) that is because of limited exposure in the country for the degrees they have.

Many intellectuals express the need for [private universities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_University) in the country, where students who chose not to attend or do not gain admission to state universities could study in their home country at a lower cost. The [North Colombo Medical College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Colombo_Medical_College) (NCMC) was one such institute. But efforts to establish private universities have been blocked due to protests conducted by many parties claiming that it would create more competition for state university students. In recent years this has become a reason for students who do not attend state universities to prefer going abroad or study at other institutes and [professional bodies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional_bodies).

There are three types of Degree Awarding Private Higher Education Institutes in Sri Lanka[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-23)

## Criticisms[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_Sri_Lanka&action=edit&section=23)]

Critics of the education system, including [academics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic) and [parents](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parent), state that the education system is too competitive and rigid unlike education systems in other societies.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sri_Lanka#cite_note-24)

Efforts to establish private universities have been blocked, resulting in only state universities awarding local degrees.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] Opponents of private universities claim that private universities as privatization of education and damaging the standard of the education. However the demand for higher education has created several private institutions that conduct courses for degrees in foreign universities, these are not regulated or evaluated for proper standards by the government or independent organizations.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

# [**Sri Lanka’s Education System Needs an Overhaul**](https://groundviews.org/2021/01/24/sri-lankas-education-system-needs-an-overhaul/)

https://groundviews.org/2021/01/24/sri-lankas-education-system-needs-an-overhaul/

Achieving a 92 per cent literacy rate, universal primary education, gender parity and free education including at the tertiary level, Sri Lanka should have literate, numerate and confident young people ready to take on the world.

But despite these impressive statistics, the fact remains that 15 per cent of the over 300,000 students who enter school each year drop out before they sit for their O’Levels and only 60 per cent of the original 300,000 plus pass their O’Levels and go on to do A’Levels,

On average, there is one teacher for every 16.4 students and 48 per cent of the teachers are trained. Yet, student to teacher ratios in less popular, smaller schools are as low 4.5 percent, according to the [Education Ministry’s School Census of 2019](https://moe.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/National-Level-Tables-Part1.pdf). Popular schools benefit from well-to-do parents and old girls or old boys who bring additional resources and more oversight.

The 30-year war dealt a severe blow to education by destroying infrastructure, displacing pupils and teachers and diverting much needed funds for weapons and fighting. Today, 11 years after the war has ended, the budget allocation for the Defence sector far exceeds that of education

“The present education system faces several major challenges related to poor quality, mismatch of curriculum with existing labour market demands, lack of training for school teachers and inefficient administration,” [wrote I. M. Kamala Liyanage](https://www.ide.go.jp/library/Japanese/Publish/Download/Report/2013/pdf/C02_ch7.pdf) in a study on the strengths and weaknesses of the education system of Sri Lanka.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic- Affluent students in city schools were able to get on their devices and access online lessons while out in the villages pupils had to climb hills or walk many kilometres to catch a signal.

Provincial schools make up a majority of the [10,165 government schools](https://moe.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/National-Level-Tables-Part1.pdf) and are funded and controlled by local governments. They are in need of financial support and more teachers.

“One of the biggest issues remains the need for education to be decentralized. A minister sitting in Colombo does not know how provincial schools function. The provincial schools should be able to make their own decisions,” said Dr. Sujata Gamage, Senior Research Fellow, LIRNEasia and Co-Coordinator, Education Forum Sri Lanka,

The whole education system was stuck in a time warp. While many countries have moved on to progressive teaching methods that enable students to think and make independent decisions, children here still learn by rote and regurgitate at exams.

“School education should include social emotional learning and personality development. If children learn to manage their inner selves, they will become reasonable people in their own communities,” she pointed out.

In many public schools, learning during the pandemic occurred online with teachers sending large volumes of material as PDF documents to students on WhatsApp and Viber. However[, a survey by LIRNEAsia indicated that in 2018](https://lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/LIRNEasia-AfterAccess-ICT-access-and-use-in-Sri-Lanka-and-the-Global-South.pdf), only 48 per cent of households with school-aged children owned a smartphone or computer and only 34 per cent had an internet connection, primarily via mobile phones. This meant that less than half of all households could benefit from e-learning.

1. Strenghts and Weaknesses

<https://www.ide.go.jp/library/Japanese/Publish/Reports/InterimReport/2013/pdf/C02_ch7.pdf>

