

**IDENTIFICATION OF FACTORS INFLUENCING IN  
SELECTING DIFFERENCE STREAM FOR THE GCE (A/L) IN  
KALUTARA DISTRICT.**

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Thesis/Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master  
of Science

Department of Mathematics

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## DECLARATION OF THE CANDIDATE

I declare that this dissertation was done by me and the work has not submitted for any Degree or Diploma in any University or other institutes of higher learning. To the best of my knowledge and I believe that this study does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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*To my beyond*

*Amma*

*&*

*Thaththa*



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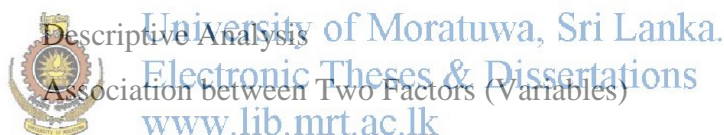
## ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to identify the factors influence in selecting four different subject streams ( Science, Arts, Commerce and Technological) in GCE (A/L) examination in Kalutara district through a survey. The sampling method was 2-stage stratified proportional random sampling and the sample size was 416 students from five national schools representation five educational zones in Kalutara district. The four most significant factors in selecting streams in GCE (A/L) found were performance of GCE (O/L) subjects such as Sinhala, Mathematics and Science, students' desire for the subject stream, parents' influence and the parents' monthly income are significant influential factors in selecting GCE (A/L) subject stream. Of the students who selected Science stream (Physical Science or Bio Science) 97.3% of students obtained "A" passes in Science and 83.5% of students obtained "A" passes in Mathematics. None of the students selected the Science stream, if their parents' monthly income was less than Rs.5,000 per month. Further, it was found that father's educational background is also a significant influential factor in deciding the subject stream, but the mother's educational level was found not a significant influential factor. Other factors influencing in deciding the GCE(A/L) stream were facilities of the school, student's view about the labour market and advices from pass-out students and teachers. However, about 60% of Science students have some certain idea about the labour market and also 60% of Science students have an idea about the higher study opportunities. About 50% of Arts students have no idea about the higher study opportunities. The results obtained in this study would be very useful in planning activities in educational reform. It is suggested to carry out similar studies in other districts.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Declaration of the candidate  | i   |
| Declaration of the supervisor                                       | ii  |
| Dedication  | iii |
| Acknowledgement   | iv  |
| Abstract  | v   |
| Table of Contents   | vi  |
| List of Figures   | ix  |
| List of Tables  | ix  |
| List of Annexure  | xi  |
| <br>  |     |
| 1 Chapter 1-Introduction  | 1   |
| 1.1 Background of the research                                      | 1   |
| 1.2 The GCE(A/L) Examination  | 2   |
| 1.2.1 Importance of the GCE(A/L) Examination                        | 3   |
| 1.2.2 Subject Stream  | 4   |
| 1.2.3 School Situation  | 5   |
| 1.2.4 Teachers Situation  | 5   |
| 1.2.5 Requirements needed for admission to G.C.E. (A/L) examination | 6   |
| 1.3 Primary Data Collection   | 7   |
| 1.4 Significance of the Research                                    | 8   |

|       |   |    |
|-------|---|----|
| 1.5   | Objective of the Research   | 9  |
| 1.6   | Structure of the Dissertation   | 9  |
| 2     | Chapter 2-Literature Review   | 11 |
| 2.1   | Significance of GCE (A/L) Examination in Other Countries  | 11 |
| 2.2   | Related Studies in Sri Lanka  | 12 |
| 2.3   | Related Studies in Other Countries  | 14 |
| 2.4   | Summary   | 17 |
| 3     | Chapter 3 – Materials and Methodology   | 18 |
| 3.1   | Materials   | 18 |
| 3.1.1 | Research Design   | 18 |
| 3.1.2 | Sampling Method   | 19 |
| 3.1.3 | Data Collection and Questionnaire Development   | 21 |
| 3.2   | Methodology   | 21 |
| 3.2.1 | Descriptive Analysis  | 21 |
| 3.2.2 | Association between Two Factors (Variables)   | 22 |
| 4     | Chapter 4 - Results and Discussion  | 24 |
| 4.1   | Preliminary Analysis  | 24 |
| 4.1.1 | Descriptive Analysis  | 24 |
| 4.2   | Association between the Response Variable and Other Explanatory Variable  | 26 |
| 4.2.1 | Association between grades obtained for Sinhala in GCE (O/L) examination and present selected subject stream                  | 26 |
| 4.2.2 | Association between grades obtained for mathematics in GCE (O/L) examination and present selected subject stream              | 28 |
| 4.2.3 | Association between grades obtained for science in GCE (O/L) examination and present selected subject stream                  | 30 |
| 4.2.4 | Association between most prefers subject stream and present selected subject stream   | 32 |
| 4.2.5 | Association between subject streams which is their parents wish to do in their GCE(A/L)'s and present selected subject stream | 35 |





|        |   |    |
|--------|---|----|
| 4.2.6  | Association between parents' monthly income status and present selected subject stream                              | 37 |
| 4.2.7  | Association between father's education level and present selected subject stream                                    | 39 |
| 4.2.8  | Association between mother's education level and present selected subject stream                                    | 42 |
| 4.2.9  | Association between school facilities sand present selected subject stream  | 45 |
| 4.2.10 | Association between student's views about the labour market and present selected subject stream                     | 47 |
| 4.2.11 | Association between student's views about the higher study opportunities and present selected subject stream        | 49 |
| 4.2.12 | Association between student who have taken any advice for the pass-out students and present selected subject stream | 52 |
| 4.2.13 | Association between student who have taken any advice for the teachers and present selected subject stream          | 54 |
| 4.3    | Summary of the Analysis   | 56 |
| 5      | Chapter 5 – Conclusions and Recommendations   | 58 |
| 5.1    | Conclusions   | 58 |
| 5.2    | Recommendations   | 59 |
| 5.3    | Suggestions for Future Research   | 60 |



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 4.1: Selected number of students in the GCE (A/L) classes in year 2012 in the selected five national schools in the Kalutara district 25



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## LIST OF TABLES

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Table 3.1: Number of grade 12 students in 2012 of selected five national schools in Kalutara district                                  | 19 |
| Table 3.2: Distribution of grade 12 students in 2012 among three subject stream of selected five national schools in Kalutara district | 19 |
| Table 3.3: Selected sample of grade 12 students in 2012 with their subject stream of selected five national schools in Kalutara        | 20 |
| Table 3.4: Typically frequency table association between two factors   | 22 |
| Table 4.1: The frequencies of each subject streams   | 25 |
| Table 4.2: The frequencies of grade of Sinhala in GCE (O/L) examination  | 26 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Table 4.3: The cross tabulation of the grade of Sinhala in GCE (O/L) examination * selected subject stream                | 27 |
| Table 4.4: The frequencies of grade of mathematics in GCE (O/L) examination   | 28 |
| Table 4.5: The cross tabulation of the grade of mathematics in GCE (O/L) examination * selected subject stream            | 29 |
| Table 4.6: The frequencies of grade of science in GCE (O/L) examination   | 31 |
| Table 4.7: The cross tabulation of the grade of science in GCE (O/L) examination * selected subject stream                | 32 |
| Table 4.8: The frequencies of most prefer subject stream  | 34 |
| Table 4.9: The cross tabulation of most prefer subject stream *selected subject stream                                    | 35 |
| Table 4.10: The frequencies of subject stream which is parent wish to do in their child in GCE (A/L)'s                    | 36 |
| Table 4.11: The cross tabulation of parents most prefer subject stream *selected subject stream                           | 37 |
| Table 4.12: The frequencies of parent's monthly income status   | 38 |
| Table 4.13: The cross tabulation of parent's economical condition per month *selected subject stream                      | 38 |
| Table 4.14: The frequencies of father's education level in selected students  | 39 |
| Table 4.15: The cross tabulation of father's education level in selected students * selected subject stream               | 41 |
| Table 4.16: The frequencies of mother's education level in selected students  | 42 |
| Table 4.17: The cross tabulation of mother's education level in selected students * selected subject stream               | 44 |
| Table 4.18: The frequencies of view of the facilities of their school in selected students                                | 45 |
| Table 4.19: The cross tabulation of view of the facilities of their school in selected students * selected subject stream | 46 |
| Table 4.20: The frequencies of views about the labour market in selected students   | 47 |



|   |    |
|---|----|
| Table 4.21: The cross tabulation of views about the labour market in selected students * selected subject stream                                | 48 |
| Table 4.22: The frequencies of views about the higher study opportunities in selected students  | 49 |
| Table 4.23: The cross tabulation of views about the higher study opportunities in selected students * selected subject stream                   | 51 |
| Table 4.24: The frequencies of students who have taken any advice for the pass out students   | 52 |
| Table 4.25: The cross tabulation of students who have taken any advice for the pass out students in selected students * selected subject stream | 53 |
| Table 4.26: The frequencies of students who have taken any advice for the teachers  | 54 |
| Table 4.27: The cross tabulation of students who have taken any advice for the teachers in selected students * selected subject stream          | 55 |
| Table 4.28: Summary of the significance of the considerable factors   | 57 |



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## LIST OF ANNEXURE

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Appendices – 1 - Research Survey on Identification of Factors Influencing in Selecting Difference Stream for the GCE (A/L)'s in Kalutara District | 64 |
|---|----|