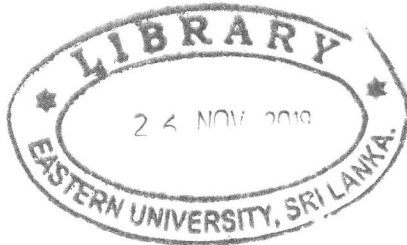


**HOW ORDINARY LEVEL (O/L) AND ADVANCED LEVEL (A/L)
QUALIFIED YOUTHS MANAGE THEIR CAREER SELECTION
IN KEGALLE DISTRICT**



By

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ABSTRACT

Choosing the right career path is becoming more important for youths today and youths have to take into account many things when selecting a career. Many factors can influence a youth's career decision, including family, personal and social factors.

In Sri Lanka context, there is lack of studies deals with O/L & A/L qualified youths get their career selection and management. It is very difficult to find any studies related to factor influencing youths career selections. Hence, there is an empirical knowledge gap exists with regard to how O/L & A/L qualified youths manage their career selection and management. Hence, this study conducts to fulfill this empirical knowledge gap.

The objectives of this research study were to explore how O/L & A/L qualified youths get their 1st job, 2nd job, 3rd job in the job market, To investigate the levels of influence of family, personal and social factors on career selection of O/L & A/L qualified youths, To determine whether there are significant differences of factors influencing career selection between gender, civil status, education level, religion, ethnicity, age group, stream of A/L and work experience.

A questionnaire was developed to identify what factors that may have influenced youths when selecting a career. The questionnaire was completed by 181 O/L and A/L qualified youths in Kegalle district. Univariate analysis, independent sample T-test and ANOVA test were used to attain research objectives.

The findings shows that most of youths have got their 1st job due friends network, 2nd job due to personal interest, 3rd job due to family business. The levels of family factor, personal factor and social factor influence level are high. On the other hand, there is no significant difference of mean scores of factors influencing on career selection between genders, civil status, ethnicity, age group, religion, stream of A/L and work experience. When considering education level there is no significant difference of family and social factors but there is a significant difference of personal factors. These findings are useful to responsible parties to develop career guides for youth before them entering in to the job market and also for the job providers to take their decisions and manage.

Keywords: *Family Factors, Personal Factors, Social Factors, Career Selection*

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