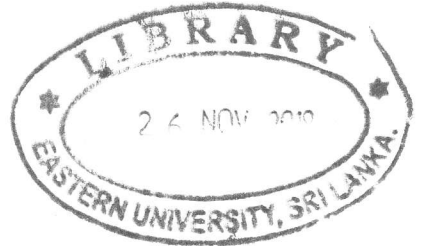


**HOW ORDINARY LEVEL (O/L) AND ADVANCED LEVEL (A/L)  
QUALIFIED YOUTHS MANAGE THEIR CAREER SELECTION  
IN NUWARA ELIYA DISTRICT**



By

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**REG NO: EU/IS/2013/MS/10**

**INDEX NO: MS 1540**



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A project report submitted to the Faculty of Commerce and Management, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA).

**DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT  
FACULTY OF COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT  
EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA**

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## ABSTRACT

Choosing the right career path is becoming more and 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 factors, personal factors and social factors.

In Sri Lanka context, there is lack of studies deals with O/L & A/L qualified youths get their career selection. 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. 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 1<sup>st</sup> job, 2<sup>nd</sup> job, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, ethnicity, age group, religion, stream, experience.

A questionnaire was developed to identify what factors that may have influenced youths when selecting a career. The questionnaire was completed by 180 O/L and A/L qualified youths in Nuwara Eliya district. Univariate analysis, independent sample t tests and ANOVA test were used to attain research objectives.

The findings shows that most of youths have got their 1<sup>st</sup> job due to personal interest, 2<sup>nd</sup> job by self-search, 3<sup>rd</sup> job due to work experience and due to political support. The levels of family factor influence are high level, personal factor and social factor influence level is moderate level. On the other hand, there is no significant difference of mean scores of factors influencing on career selection between genders, civil status, education level, and ethnicity, age group, religion, stream and work experience. 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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement.....	i
Abstract.....	ii
Table of Content.....	iii
List of Table.....	viii
List of Figures .....	x
Abbreviations.....	xi
<b>Chapter - 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.3 Research Questions .....	4
1.4 Research Objectives.....	4
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	5
1.6 Scope of Study .....	5
1.7 Organization of Chapters .....	6
1.8 Chapter Summary.....	6
<b>Chapter – 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Introduction .....	7
2.2 Career .....	8
2.3 Career Selection .....	8
2.4 Impact of Family Factors for Career Selection & Management .....	9
2.5 Impact of Personal Factor for Career Selection & Management .....	11
2.6 Impact of Social Factor for Career Selection & Management .....	12
2.7 Relationship Between Family Factor & Career Selection and Management.....	14
2.8 Relationship Between Personal Factor & Career Selection and Management ..	15
2.9 Relationship Between Social Factor & Career Selection and Management .....	17

2.10 Formation of Conceptual Model .....	18
2.11 Chapter Summary.....	18
<b>Chapter – 3 CONCEPTUALIZATION &amp; OPERATIONALIZATION</b>	
3.1 Introduction .....	19
3.2 Conceptualization.....	19
3.2.1 Conceptual Framework.....	19
3.3 Definition of Key Concepts.....	20
3.3.1 Family Factor.....	20
3.3.2 Personal Factor .....	21
3.3.3 Social Factor .....	22
3.3.4 Career Selection and Management .....	23
3.4 Operationalization .....	24
3.5 Chapter Summary.....	25
<b>Chapter – 4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>	
4.1 Introduction .....	26
4.2 Research Philosophy .....	26
4.3 Research Approach .....	27
4.4 Research Strategy .....	27
4.5 Time Horizon .....	27
4.6 Population and Sample.....	27
4.6.1 Population.....	27
4.6.2 Sample .....	28
4.7 Data Collection.....	28
4.7.1 Primary Data.....	28
4.7.2 Secondary Data.....	28
4.8 Data Processing .....	29
4.9 Method of Data Analysis .....	29

4.9.1 Descriptive Statistics and Frequency .....	30
4.9.2 Univariate Analysis .....	30
4.9.3 Independent Samples <i>t</i> Test .....	30
4.9.4 ANOVA Test .....	31
4.10 Reliability Test .....	31
4.11 Data Presentation .....	32
4.12 Method of Data Evaluation .....	32
4.13 Chapter Summary .....	32

## **Chapter – 5 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

5.1 Introduction .....	33
5.2 Reliability Analysis .....	33
5.3 Data Presentation for Personal Information .....	34
5.3.1 Frequency Distribution of Age .....	34
5.3.2 Frequency Distribution of Gender .....	34
5.3.3 Frequency Distribution of Civil Status .....	35
5.3.4 Frequency Distribution of Ethnicity .....	35
5.3.5 Frequency Distribution of Religion .....	36
5.3.6 Frequency Distribution of Educational Level .....	36
5.3.7 Frequency Distribution of Stream .....	36
5.3.8 Frequency Distribution of Professional Course .....	37
5.3.9 Frequency Distribution of Experience .....	37
5.3.10 Frequency Distribution of Number of Family Members .....	38
5.3.11 Frequency Distribution of Parent's Jobs .....	38
5.3.12 Frequency Distribution of Average Monthly Income .....	40
5.3.13 Frequency Distribution of Social Association .....	40
5.4 Data Analysis for Research Information .....	40
5.4.1 Descriptive Statistics and Frequency .....	41

5.4.2 Univariate Analysis .....	45
5.4.3 Independent Sample t test.....	48
5.4.4 ANOVA Test.....	52
5.5 Chapter Summary.....	56

**Chapter – 6 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

6.1 Introduction .....	57
6.2 Discussion about Personal Information.....	57
6.2.1 Gender .....	57
6.2.2 Age.....	57
6.2.3 Civil Status .....	58
6.2.4 Ethnicity.....	58
6.2.5 Religion .....	58
6.2.6 Educational Level.....	58
6.2.7 Stream.....	58
6.2.8 Professional Course .....	58
6.2.9 Experience .....	58
6.2.10 Number of Family Members .....	59
6.2.11 Parent’s Jobs.....	59
6.2.12 Average Monthly Income.....	59
6.2.13 Social Association .....	60
6.3 Discussion of Research Information .....	60
6.3.1 Discussion – Objective 1 .....	60
6.3.2 Discussion – Objective 2 .....	61
6.3.3 Discussion – Objective 3 .....	63
6.3.4 Discussion – Objective 4 .....	64
6.5 Chapter Summary.....	66

## **Chapter – 7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 Introduction.....	67
7.2 Conclusion.....	67
7.2.1 First Objective of the Study.....	67
7.2.2 Second Objective of the Study .....	68
7.2.3 Third Objective of the Study .....	69
7.2.4 Forth Objective of the Study .....	70
7.3 Contribution of this Study .....	70
7.4 Recommendations and Direction for Future Studies .....	71
7.5 Limitation of the Study .....	72
7.6 Chapter Summary.....	72
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Appendix – A</b> The Questionnaires used for the study .....	<b>82</b>
<b>Appendix – B</b> The Output of the Data Analyses .....	<b>91</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1: Performances of Candidates - G.C.E. (O/L) and G.C.E. (A/L) .....	4
Table 3.1: Summary of Operationalization.....	24
Table 4.1: Data Analysis Methods for Objectives .....	29
Table 4.2: Decision Attributes of Cronbach's Alpha Co-efficient .....	31
Table 4.3: Evaluation Method.....	32
Table 5.1: Reliability Statistics of Family Factor, Personal Factor and Social Factor	33
Table 5.2: Frequency Distribution of Age .....	34
Table 5.3: Frequency Distribution of Gender .....	34
Table 5.4: Frequency Distribution of Civil Status .....	35
Table 5.5: Frequency Distribution of Ethnicity .....	35
Table 5.6: Frequency Distribution of Religion .....	36
Table 5.7: Frequency Distribution of Educational level .....	36
Table 5.8: Frequency Distribution of Stream .....	37
Table 5.9: Frequency Distribution of Professional Course.....	37
Table 5.10: Frequency Distribution of Experience .....	38
Table 5.11: Frequency Distribution of Number of Family Members.....	38
Table 5.12: Frequency Distribution of Parent's Jobs.....	39
Table 5.13: Frequency Distribution of Average Monthly Income .....	40
Table 5.14: Frequency Distribution of Social Association.....	40
Table 5.15: Frequency Distribution of the Way they got their 1 <sup>st</sup> Job.....	41
Table 5.16: Frequency Distribution of the Way they got their 2 <sup>nd</sup> Job.....	43
Table 5.17: Frequency Distribution of the Way they got their 3 <sup>rd</sup> Job .....	44
Table 5.18: Mean and Standard Deviation of Family Factors and its' Indicators .....	45
Table 5.19: Decision Attribute of Family Factor .....	46
Table 5.20: Mean and Standard Deviation of Personal Factor and its' Indicators .....	46
Table 5.21: Decision Attribute of Personal Factor .....	47



Table 5.22: Mean and Standard Deviation of Social Factor and its' Indicators .....	47
Table 5.23: Decision Attribute of Social Factor .....	48
Table 5.24 Independent Sample T Test for the Gender .....	49
Table 5.25 Independent Sample T Test for the Civil Status .....	50
Table 5.26 Independent Sample T Test for the Educational Level.....	51
Table 5.27 Independent Sample T Test for the Ethnicity .....	52
Table 5.28: ANOVA Test for Age Group .....	53
Table 5.29: ANOVA Test for Religion.....	54
Table 5.30: ANOVA Test for Stream .....	55
Table 5.31: ANOVA Test for Work Experience .....	55
Table 5.32: Robust Tests of Equality of Means.....	55

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3.1: A Conceptual Model of Factors Influencing on the Career Selection and Management.....	20
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