

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION
FINAL EXAMINATION - 2007
ESP 2323 – CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN EDUCATION
DURATION : THREE (03) HOURS



DATE : 15th July 2007

TIME: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

ANSWER THREE (03) QUESTIONS ONLY.

01. i. Explain the factors that led to the emergence of the following issues at secondary school level in Sri Lanka.
- a. Competition in national level examinations.
 - b. Expansion of private tuition classes.
 - c. Irrelevance of formal school education to the world of work.
- (6 x 3= 18 marks)
- ii. What steps could be taken at national and school level to minimize the above issues?
- (15 marks)
02. i. Define the term political socialization.
- (10 marks)
- ii. Describe briefly the agents of political socialization.
- (10 marks)
- iii. Explain the role of the school as an agent of political socialization.
- (13 marks)
03. 'Sri Lanka can be proud of the success achieved during the past few decades in the field of Primary Education..... However, there are still short comings that require new policy directions' – Primary Education Reforms.
- Three such shortcomings are listed below.
- a. Non-participation and dropouts at primary education level.
 - b. Low quality of education that children receive at primary school level.
 - c. Lack of a proper management system for primary sections in most schools.
- i. Discuss why the above shortcomings have emerged in the field of primary education in Sri Lanka.
- (5 x 3 = 15 marks)
- ii. Propose strategies to overcome the shortcomings you identified.
- (18 marks)

04. i. Explain the extent to which 'The Right to Education' has been ensured in Sri Lanka in respect of children from following groups.
- a. Children from disadvantaged areas.
 - b. Disabled children.
 - c. Displaced children.
- (6 x3 = 18 marks)
- ii. Discuss 4 main factors that continue to obstruct the achievement of the right to education for all.
- (15 marks)
05. 'Gender equity in education is not achieved merely by providing equal access to boys and girls in education. It is achieved through equal access to all types of education, equal levels of performance in examinations and equal outcomes such as employment and career mobility'
- i. Define 'gender equality' as analysed in the above statement.
- (10 marks)
- ii. What are the factors that facilitated the entry of girls and women to education in Sri Lanka?
- (10 marks)
- iii. Explain why women have still not succeeded in obtaining equal access to employment and career mobility even after attaining the same level of education as men in Sri Lanka.
- (13 marks)
06. i. Analyse the relevance of quality in higher education for the development of a country.
- (07 marks)
- ii. Identify the factors that affect the quality of higher education in Sri Lanka.
- (08 marks)
- iii. What are the measures that are being taken by the university system to improve quality?
- (08 marks)
- iv. In your opinion, what factors facilitate and impede the implementation of the above measures?
- (10 marks)

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