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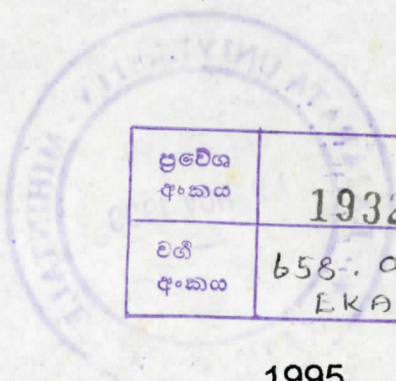
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ASSESSMENT OF THE EXTENT OF
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
FOR THE STUDENTS OF AFFILIATED
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

The education system in Sri Lanka has made great strides in the past few decades. However, there has been little contribution from the education towards economic development in the country. There has been a widening gap between the traditional educational courses and the changing needs of the Sri Lankan developing economy. This has brought about a mismatch between the different courses in the education system and the jobs resulting from the changing needs of the economy.

The pervading thread running through out the text has been the failure of the courses conducted by the Affiliated University College (AUC) of the North Central Province (NCP) in accelerating the agricultural development and generating employment opportunities.

Emerging from the defective curriculum of the AUC of the NCP has been the need to incorporate into it appropriate courses such as those on Agricultural Extension Services, Water Management, use Planning and Marketing Management. These courses have to be designed to suit the needs of the area. In addition to these courses, agricultural research and practical mechanical work concerning agricultural machinery repairs have to be incorporated into the curriculum of the AUC of the NCP.

Together with the Diploma Courses, Short-term Courses are to be developed to suit the different levels of education. The need for matching different levels of qualifications with different courses arises from the fact that there are different levels of jobs in the

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agricultural sector in the NCP.

The AUC should cater primarily to the job market in the NCP in disposing of the products of these courses. The job market will rest upon the needs of the NCP economy.

The formulation of the courses of the AUC of the NCP in consistency with the needs of an agricultural economy like that of the NCP will contribute towards achieving the twin objectives of agricultural development and provision of employment opportunities.

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