

English Language Teaching for the Underprivileged Children in Rural Areas: A Scenario and Problems and Prospects in Context of a Few Remote Villages in Kurunegala

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Abstract – Language is one of the media of expressing our ideas, feelings and emotions. When talking about languages, English can be considered as one of the most commonly used languages in the present world. In Sri Lankan curricular, English is introduced at the primary level and is taught until the tertiary level of education. The villages of Dethilianga, Mudunduwa and Moragolla, are situated around the well-known ancient reservoir Bathalagoda Lake. These three villages are just 15km away from the main city of Kurunegala. Most of the students in these villages are weak in English and they come from underprivileged families. They also lack resource people, other than the village teachers to contribute to the pool of teaching and learning. The present researcher based this study on an interview with a principal of one of the leading schools and a few parents who are very concerned about the standard of education of their children.

Through this paper the researcher has attempted to identify who these underprivileged children are and how to teach them the global language of English. This is a wide scope and I believe this attempt to bridge the gap between the privileged and underprivileged may be fruitful to some extent. Further, this paper attempted to highlight the main reasons why these students perform badly in English language and how to improve this scenario.

Keywords: Sri Lanka, underprivileged, English