



A Study on the School's Contribution to Raise Student Awareness of Basic Child Rights (by Imbulpe Education Division)

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Abstract

According to the United Nations, everyone under the age of 18 are children and the adult community's responsibility is to care and nurture them. But their rights are violated at various times. Various sets of laws have been adopted to protect and secure them. But children need knowledge about the basic rights of them to resist those misdeeds that happen to them or to seek help from the law. It is important to ask whether the contribution of schools to create that knowledge is sufficient. This study was conducted to find solutions to the problem “whether the awareness of the students in the grades of senior secondary I and II about basic children's rights is sufficient?”. The primary objectives of this study were to investigate the students' understanding of basic children's rights and to study the activities carried out by the school for the student's awareness. Exactly 100 students and 14 teachers involved in citizenship education, political science, and counseling were selected from 3 schools representing types 1AB, 1C, and 2 in Imbulpe Education Division, Rathnapura District, Sabaragamuwa Province. Information was collected using primary and secondary sources and interviews and questionnaires were used. School classification did not influence these differences in knowledge levels, but different types of resource contributions targeted only Type 1AB. Although it is expected to increase that knowledge through concurrent subjects, it has not been done at a satisfactory level. It cannot be seen as minimum knowledge for living or direct actions taken either co-curricular or extra-curricular to produce these knowledge levels. It was recognized that there is a special need to prepare children with knowledge about basic rights to provide the minimum protection of children at the national level. It can be concluded that it is timely to introduce “Law” like subjects in the school curriculum.

Keywords: Children's rights, Students, Awareness, Violation, Teachers