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A STUDY OF ATTITUDES OF TEACHERS
IN STATE SCHOOLS TOWARDS WORK
SATISFACTION — IN RELATION TO
DIFFERENT AREAS OF OCCUPATIONAL
SITUATIONS WITHIN THE TEACHING
PROFESSION

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BY

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ABSTRACT

Of the many factors which influence the quality of education and its contribution to national development the character competence and quality of teachers are the most important. Radical changes in the field of education during the past few years have presented many new problems and professional challenges to teachers. If teaching is to make a positive contribution towards healthy classroom relationships and the whole life of the school, then attempts should be made to build up the teacher's professional self confidence. It is therefore necessary that teachers should be properly motivated. For these reasons it is relevant to find out teacher attitudes and opinions towards work satisfaction, and his own evaluation of teacher status in the occupational structure of society.

The basic motivation for this investigation was to find out the attitudes of teachers towards work satisfaction in the teaching profession. To arrive at a general picture of the attitudes towards the teaching profession, six areas were considered. Teachers would have different experiences when placed under different occupational situations, under these main areas. The areas studied were social and professional status in teaching, economic conditions affecting the teaching profession, the work environment in schools, teacher relationships with the community, political factors affecting teachers and teacher relationships with the administration.

A Likert type attitude scale was used to measure the attitudes of a sample of 350 teachers drawn from both urban and rural schools. The attitudes of the sample were studied in relation to the variables of geographical location of schools, teacher qualifications, sex, age and teaching experience. The study attempted to find out whether the different sub groups categorised under these variables displayed different attitudes towards work satisfaction.

The results obtained from the study pointed to the following conclusions.

1. Teachers displayed less favourable attitudes towards the six main areas studied.
2. The study of the six areas pointed to a general picture of teacher attitudes. It could be stated that teachers in general displayed less favourable attitudes towards work satisfaction.
3. Different attitudes were however observed among the different sub groups studied.

The above conclusions were however subject to the following limitations.

- i. The teacher sample studied was selected from one educational region.
- ii. Tamil medium schools and private schools were not included in the study.

The study however highlights the fact that teachers are on the whole a dissatisfied group and therefore relevant reforms in teacher administration is an urgent need if Sri Lanka is to establish a system of education that will develop political, cultural, economic and social stability.