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Background

• Sinhala and Tamil as National languages
• Learning a Second National Language in the school system is compulsory
• If sufficient number of teachers available to teach a Second National Language
Background, cont’d....

• Non-expert teachers teach the subject

• Short term training course was conducted to train the non-expert teachers to teach a Second National Language.
Objectives

To find out the percentage of the teachers (Course followers) involved in the learning-teaching process of Second National Language in the school system.

To identify the perceptions of teachers regarding the learning-teaching process of Second National Languages in schools.

To suggest ideas for further improvement of the teachers teaching Second National Language.

Research Questions

What is the percentage of the teachers (Course followers) involved in the learning-teaching process of Second National Language in the school system?

How do the teachers feel regarding the learning-teaching process of Second National Languages in schools?

What are the suggestions for further improvement of the teachers teaching Second National Language?
Who and Where?

- 43 Teacher Center Managers
- 300 participants of the course conducted

<table>
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<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1C</td>
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<td>Type 3</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>292</td>
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How?

• Teachers
• Questionnaire

• Teacher Centre Managers
• Interview (Semistructured)

• Teachers
• Observation
Themes identified for analyzing

• Background information of the teacher and the school
• Professional Information
  • Perceptions of teachers regarding the course conducted
  • Perceptions of teachers regarding the process of Second National Language in Schools
• Suggestions for further improvement of the teachers teaching Second National Language
Findings

• 94% are teaching Second National Language
Findings, Cont’d……

• 51% are teaching the subject as they are interested in the subject
Findings, Cont’d……

• Only 62% of the teachers feel that the parents are interested in the teaching of a Second National Language to their children
Findings, Cont’d……

• The teachers find difficulties in teaching the Second National language grammar to the students

• The teachers agree that the course has been designed to promote understanding and appreciation of the cultural differences of different ethnic groups in Sri Lanka

• The time allocated to teach a Second National Language in the school timetable is lacking
Recommendations

• The time duration of the course should be increased
• All the teachers in the system should be given the opportunity to follow this course
• The resource persons of the course should be trained to use new technology in teaching
• More emphasis should be given to develop the speaking skills of the teachers
Recommendations, cont’d….

• The course should be conducted based on a placement test
• The teachers should be given more practice on model exam papers
• The school text books for the Second National Language should be simplified
• All the teachers who have completed the course must teach the Second National Language. An action should be made for this
Recommendations, cont’d….

• Teachers should be motivated for self-directed learning
• The Principals should be informed to appoint these Second National Language teachers to teach from 1-11 classes beyond the usual procedure
• The parents should be given opportunities to increase awareness regarding the importance of learning the Second National Language
What are your suggestions to improve our teachers teaching Second National Language (Sinhala / Tamil) in Schools in Sri Lanka?
Thank You