

Research Day at School Level:

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Ministry of Education has introduced a Research Day at school. This started in 2017 and to the 2nd time again the 14th March 2019 is to have this activity at all schools. Although Sri Lanka is an educated nation having over 70% of the population completing Junior Secondary Education, we are not accustomed to develop a research culture in learning. All teachers and parents have got into the culture of motivating students to study for the purpose of passing examinations. Learning has become passive. Almost all students after school go for tuition classes and taking notes and studying notes for the examinations is sadly become the culture of learning from primary school to senior secondary school. Though such passive learning helps to pass examinations, this culture has not helped new generations to construct knowledge through learning of realities of knowledge or to transfer knowledge to realities. Sri Lankan society too have not learnt to examine evidence in a rational manner in making decisions. Evidence comes only if one examines, analyze and research. The active learning brings diversified experience in the learner and contributes to the development of divergent thinking in place of the convergent thinking that dominates the school learning in Sri Lanka today. Such divergent thinking and learning produces generate rational behavior in the learner. Learn gets motivated to construct knowledge than just memorizing knowledge. When knowledge is searched, researched and constructed by the student, learning becomes meaningful. Such learning enables the learner become rational and mature in behavior. Education is to bring about a meaningful positive behavioral change in the learner. The Research Day is a good addition. All principals and teachers should find meaningful and useful activities for the primary student, junior secondary students and senior secondary students to engage them in active learning to experience knowledge and make learning meaningful. Rather than just listening to a guest lecture all students should be motivated to explore their environment, school surroundings, home and village etc. in a meaningful manner to develop a research attitudes and motivate the learner to search knowledge and develop curiosities, natural learning and construct their own knowledge to achieve meaningful learning outcomes.