

**A STUDY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IRQUE PROJECT
ON THE QUALITY OF THE UNDERGRADUATES OF THE
EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA**

Special Reference to Institutional Block Grant I of the IRQUE Project

AMARASINGHAM PAHIRATHAN



PGDM13



Thesis
Library - EUSL

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME
FACULTY OF COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT
EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA**

2007

PROCESSED
Main Library, EUSL

ABSTRACT

In the today's globally competitive environment Sri Lanka needs a new generation of its own educated young people to better contribute to its economic development and social well-being. The project on Improving Relevance and Quality of Undergraduate Education or IRQUE, has recognized the potential of our youth to lead the country towards the reliable goal. In order to fulfill this need of the country its youth have to be well equipped with knowledge and skills necessary to face today's global competition. Under the IRQUE project, all universities in Sri Lanka are encouraged to ensure quality and relevance to all their undergraduate courses.

The project envisages improving the relevance of the undergraduate education by enhancing the institutional capacity through resource development and supporting programmes for addressing quality issues related to the improving the Information Technology (IT), enhancing Student Learning Environment, and English Language skills of students and promoting Social and Intercultural Harmony.

This study empirically investigated the main four variables of the IBG I of the IRQUE project (Improvement of Information Technology, English Language Competency, Students Learning Environment, Social Harmony among the students) that could influence the improvement of the quality of the undergraduate of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

The study was conducted among the sample of 200 students who were randomly selected from the all four faculties from main Campus of EUSL. Of which only 172 students responded to the survey. Data were collected through questionnaires and analyzed using the software SPSS version 11.0. The data analysis included the univariate analysis. The frequency distribution analysis was done for all variables.

The results of the analysis indicated that all the variables significantly contributed for improving the relevance and quality of the undergraduates of EUSL. Finally it was concluded that the IRQUE project implemented successfully at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka had contributed considerably on the quality of the undergraduates of the EUSL.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Acknowledgement	i
Abstract	ii
Abbreviations	iii
Table of contents	iv
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
Chapter 01 : Introduction	01 - 09
1.1 Background of Study	
1.2 Problem Statement	
1.3 Research Questions	
1.4 Objectives of the Study	
1.5 Significance of the Study	
1.6 Scope of the Study	
Chapter 02 : Literature Review	10 - 44
2.1 Introduction	
2.2 The Higher Education System in Sri Lanka	
2.3 Impact of Globalization on Higher Education	
2.4 Improvement of the Information Technology at the EUSL by the IRQUE Project	
2.5 English Language Competency for quality of Education of the Undergraduates of the EUSL	
2.6 Improvement of Social Harmony Activities at the EUSL under IRQUE Project	
2.7 Improving Students Learning Environment at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka	
2.8 Summary	

Chapter 03 : Conceptual Framework	45 – 53
3.1 Introduction	
3.2 Conceptualization	
3.3 Operationalization	
3.4 Summary	
Chapter 04 : Methodology	54 - 60
4.1 Introduction	
4.2 Study setting, Design and Method of Survey	
4.3 Sampling	
4.4 Data Collection	
4.5 Methods of Measurements	
4.6 Methods of Data Analysis and Evaluation	
4.7 Summary	
Chapter 05 : Data Presentation and Analysis	61 - 78
5.1 Introduction	
5.2 Univariate Analysis	
5.3 Analysis of the variables of the IRQUE Project	
5.4 Analysis of the variables of the Research Study at the Faculty Level	
5.5 Analysis of the impact of the activities by the Year of Study	
5.6 Analysis of the impact of the activities by Gender	
Chapter 06 : Discussion	79 - 82
6.1 Introduction	
6.2 Discussion on the research variables	
Chapter 07: Conclusions and Recommendation	83 - 85
7.1 Introduction	
7.2 Conclusion and Recommendations	
7.3 Limitations of the Study and Suggestions for future studies	
7.4 Implication of the Study	