

## **Effect of Engaging in Part Time Jobs by University Students on Grade Point Average: Evidence from University of Sri Jayewardenepura**

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Although the government grants Mahapola bursary for undergraduates at present, there is a tendency of engaging in part time jobs of undergraduates while studying in universities because of two main reasons; to overcome financial difficulties and aiming at getting job experience. While the effect of these part time employments may be detrimental to academic achievement in some contexts, part time job may not always be detrimental to some others giving inconclusive results in the literature. The main objective of this study is to investigate the influence of engaging the university students in part time jobs and how it affects their academic achievement in the Sri Lankan context. A sample of 112 students, with equal number of male and female students relevant to the 4 study years of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was applied under stratified random sampling for this study using a questionnaire as the main tool. Other than the descriptive analytical method, independent samples t test was used for the mean comparison. It was found that the majority of (51%) students engaged in part time jobs because of economic hardships of the family while the delays of starting academic year and pausing factors are other motivations. The majority of part time employees receive Mahapola Scholarship and they perceive that it is not adequate to cover their expenses. Average GPA for the students who engaged in part time jobs was 3.3 while average GPA of students who didn't engage in part time jobs was seen as 3.4. The mean difference is statistically significant showing that the effect of part time employment is detrimental to academic achievement. It was found that, if the students work less than 10 hours per week, their GPA was not affected while more than 10 hours negatively impacted on GPA. An interesting finding of the current study is that work has a positive effect on both satisfaction and GPA, when students did work fewer than 10 hours. Additionally, it was found that there is a positive association between attendance to lectures and GPA. Further, although majority of the students earn a wage of Rs.5000-10000 weekly their academic achievement, sports, extra-curricular activities, social cultural relationships have rigorously deteriorated.

**Keywords:** part time job; university; grade point average (GPA)

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