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Gender Imbalance in Maritime and Logistics Sector: A case study



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1. Introduction.

Gender inequality in education takes many forms depending on the context. Though gender inequality affects girls and boys, women and men alike, girls and women are still more often disadvantaged [1]. The maritime and logistics education is not exclusive from this factor. Some time back the maritime and logistics industry particularly the shipping sector in Sri Lanka were perceived as industries that generate employments for males rather than females. Of course one cannot totally deny the fact that certain social and cultural factors in the country do not act in favour of women

engaging in operational activities related to various transport and logistics industry. Factors affecting female participation in education are geographical, socio-cultural, health, economic, religious, legal, political/administrative, and educational and initiatives [2]. However, this phobia has gradually eased with shipping and logistics jobs proved to be more academic or professional centric than skilled or technical centred in the past. The technology has played a major role in this evolution while globalization made possible to see through what is happening in the transport and logistics industry overseas. This awareness of many opportunities available for women and that many females have developed successful carriers in the transport and Logistics industry created the confidence among the women in Sri Lanka.

This case study is a combination of desk research and interviews with various professionals in maritime and logistics as well as academia. The secondary data were obtained from the Department of Census and Statistics, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka, University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka, and CINEC Maritime Campus of Sri Lanka. Past researches on gender imbalance, education and training methods have been referred to ascertain the relevance and potential impact of the factors with respect to the scenario explained in the study. The primary data have been obtained from the academic and non academic staff, parents and students of various government and private education institutes through interviews. The convenient sampling method has been deployed to gather data. The paper proposes an extended research based on the results of this case study, Therefore, no questionnaire or statistical analysis were carried out at this stage.

2. Gender Parity

The Global Competitiveness Report 2014–2015 of World Economic Forum (WEF) reveals that the discrimination according to gender is , inter alia, a typical example of social exclusion that have a considerable negative impact on the competitiveness of a nation. The report also suggests that the international community has made significant progress in defining inclusive growth. However, agreeing on a