

PARENTAL SATISFACTION WITH THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN SRI LANKA

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The purpose of this paper is to explore parental satisfaction with the current education services for their children with special needs in the Northern, Southern and Western Provinces of Sri Lanka. A qualitative study consisting of 67 semi-structured interviews was conducted with parent participants. Four major themes emerged from the interviews: (a) appreciative of/supports and benefits from the special education; (b) barriers and negative impacts of the special education system; (c) future expectations, hopes, and fears; and (d) recommendations. Majority of these parents across all the three provinces shared similar views. The results of this study can have significant impact on future special education services in Sri Lanka.