

## THE COMPARISON OF SRI LANKA AND KOREA PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEMS

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to identify how the similarities of the Sri Lanka and South Korean public education systems. The Sri Lanka and South Korean education systems shared similarities due to a combination of modernization, colonization, and conservatism. Sri Lanka's elementary school education period is five years and middle school is four years, while in Korea, elementary school is six years and middle school is three years, the total is the same as nine years. The Senior Secondary (high school) education period in Sri Lanka is four years, while it is three years in Korea. Primary education in Sri Lanka lasts 5 years. Pupils aged 5-10 go through grades 1-5. Pupils are taught subjects in the 4 subject fields of the national curriculum: language, mathematics, environment related activities and religion. There is a wide variety of subjects taught in these schools including: First National Language, Second National Language, English, Health and physical education or Environment related activities, Religion, Co-curricular activities, Optional curricular. In Korea, the elementary school curriculum consists of subjects (or subject clusters) and Creative Experiential Activities. Subjects to be taught are Korean Language, Social Studies/ Moral Education, Mathematics, Science/Practical Arts, Physical Education, Arts (Music/Art), and English. Middle school subjects in Korea are Korean, English, Mathematics, Society / History/ Morality, Scientific/technical assumptions/information, Physical education, Art, etc. Korea and Sri Lanka have similar educational systems. However, In Sri Lanka, qualification exams [General Certificate of Education (G.C.E) Ordinary Level (O/Ls)] start in high school and exist for college entrance, but not in Korea.

**Keywords:** Public education systems, qualification exams, Sri Lanka, South Korean.