EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project is focused on the dropout rate of bilingual students who study in ordinary-level classes in Kalutara Balika Vidyalaya. The Sri Lankan education system is very competitive and has faced many changes during the last few decades. Bilingual education is mandatory to prepare students to engage with the globalized world in the education system. The students have to be prepared to work globally, therefore proficiency in international languages creates more opportunities for that. This is the significance of this project. Bilingual education has moved forward with many challenges since it was started in the year 2001 to Sri Lanka. The dropout of bilingual students has been identified as a major problem. This project was targeted at recognizing the internal and external factors related to this problem and finding solutions. The mixed method was used, with discussions and surveys. Questionnaires were given to selected samples including students, parents, and teachers to gather details.

The SWOT analysis provided a clear view of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the school. The qualified management and the academic staff, collaborative SDS, and the Old Girls' Association were identified as some of the vital strengths. The renown of the school, support of the well-wishers, and various organizations were opportunities available. These strengths and opportunities were used to minimize the weaknesses and the threats. Lack of new knowledge of the staff, a high dropout rate of the bilingual students, less use of formative assessments, and relatively low results in the A/L Science section were identified as the weaknesses. Political inference and adverse effects of social malpractices were noticed as the threats. The key problem of the high dropout rate of bilingual students was discussed with background and graphical interpretations. Performance of the students, complaints regarding the teaching style and methodologies used, and internal supervision sessions were the three main associated problems. These problems were described with sufficient data and the performance gaps to be filled.

The literature review focused on the key problem and the major components, process management, training and development, and monitoring and supervision with the related factors of those components. The relevant studies have pointed out that the factors for the dropout are related to the subjective and institutional factors. There should be an implementation plan to support the learners. Process management can be implemented with

useful frameworks, new technologies, and strategies to enhance performance. The performance of the students, teaching and learning process, facilities provided, and the fulfilment of the requirements of the students by using different methods of techniques. Training and development can be used to improve the skills through different tools and techniques. The opportunities for the teachers to develop the skills and competencies in understanding the capacities of the students with individual differences and improving them can be enhanced by providing suitable teacher training and development opportunities. The whole process of bilingual education has to be monitored and supervised systematically. Monitoring and supervision, the methods being used, and the challenges faced are also worthy to be concerned.

The current situation was analyzed and the solutions were introduced to solve the key problem and achieve the overall objective. The detailed analysis of the current situation of the components provided the requirements for the solutions. The solutions of process management arranged with a support system to improve learning, awareness about the process, and an educational counselling mechanism to solve the matters in learning. The training and development rescheduled with a training need analysis. A new training design was introduced with a series of training sessions. The solutions of the monitoring and supervision organized with an internal supervision committee, supervision plan and criteria. The whole process was planned to be monitored and supervised periodically and changes have to be aligned with the results and decisions of the progress meetings. A budget was estimated and the benefits of the project were also calculated. By considering the estimated cost and the benefits the benefit-cost analysis was done.

The discussion of the theoretical basis and the solutions presented with the link between those two areas. This has clarified the solutions presented under each component and that arranges a clear basis for the solutions. The implementation of the project is supported by these discussions. The recommendations reveal the strategies to be considered to have a smooth implementation of the project. These recommendations are presented aligned with the three main components. The outcomes are also introduced in the short-term and long-term highlighting the critical factors. Articulating a learning culture, improving awareness, providing sufficient resources, and conducting progress meetings, are some of the short-term recommendations. The long-term recommendations are focused on, integrating technological solutions, getting the corporation and contribution of the well-wishers, and introducing solutions considering the feedback of the related parties.