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## Computer Literate

Our students going abroad for higher education find themselves disadvantaged due to their lack of knowledge of computer applications and higher academic standards stretch the length of study required to complete their degrees and some never make it. Looked at from this point of view the prospect of sending youngsters abroad for higher studies becomes frightening, not to speak, of the increasing costs.

Being a poor nation we are not in a position to treat computer education as an integral part of university education but if we neglect this area now we shall suffer in the same way as we have suffered by neglect of English and the gap between ourselves and advanced nations will continue to widen perceptibly and sooner or later we shall be unable to benefit from sending students abroad.

Although we speak glibly of transfer of technology we have not been able to effect this mainly because we do not value our own talents and expect other nations to give us their advances on a silver platter and here too we are falling behind as everything becomes computerised. Those among us who were fortunate to have obtained exposure to modern methods and technological advances return to find a resistance to new ideas and it is the nation who is the loser for our failure to utilise such talents effectively and the fields of higher education is just one of the potential areas where they can be productive.

We can still effect a meaningful transfer of technology from those who have feelings for us and even at the risk of perpetuating an elitist class of educated youth we can make sure that those proceeding abroad for higher training and higher studies are sufficiently computer literate to benefit from the exercise. However, computer education must be thorough if the computer is to be the tool it was meant to be. We do not have time to repeat the mistakes of others by introducing it at the lower stages too early to be effective.