

## Abstract

Laws delays are phenomenon not limited to Sri Lanka but a historical and universal one which became a chronic and proverbial issue in the modern context. Prior to 1980s the international research on laws delays were mostly based on the courts operations, its resources such as numbers of available courts and ratio of judges to number of cases, technological infrastructure along with formal rules and procedures. Irrespective of the development level of a given country those empirical research on laws delays were not able to fully remedy the problem. Consequently, recent studies took a different orientation towards the laws delays with the attempts of exploring key human elements to understand and find the causes and consequences pertain to laws delays namely: lawyers, litigants and judges. These newer studies provide useful explanations for lack of success of previous research which were based on material or physical factors over human limitations. Thus, this study broadly explored on how laws delays were originated in the Sri Lankan context, its rise over the period and contemporary causes and consequences. While the primary focus of the study was aimed at the role of lawyer as one of the key decisive human factor in domestic laws delays and its implications on procedural justice. Furthermore findings of this study questioned the reasons for failures of previous attempts' to surrender the domestic laws delays as well as modern impediments prevail over the laws delays.

This research does not aim at leveling any form of criticism at any authority or any stakeholder, but aims to initiate a systematic study, to investigate into the nexus between laws delays, procedural justice and the members of the legal profession. The object of this research was to examine the issue of laws delays in Sri Lanka in relation to procedural justice and to the role and obligations of lawyers through critical legal research analysis. The research also attempted to provide some impetus for minimizing the impacts of this perennial issue in the context of Sri Lanka. The research findings revealed that ideally procedural justice laws delays and role of lawyers are well established in law, such nexus was absence within four corners of Sri Lankan law. Therefore, it has led to cause and sustain of domestic laws delays. Finally, international standards and effective measures adopted in other jurisdictions to control and defeat the same problem were discussed in order to develop a customize approach to mitigate the Sri Lankan laws delays.

**Key words: laws delays, lawyers, procedural law**