

**CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT  
IN SRI LANKA: LESSONS FROM SELECTED JURISDICTION**

By

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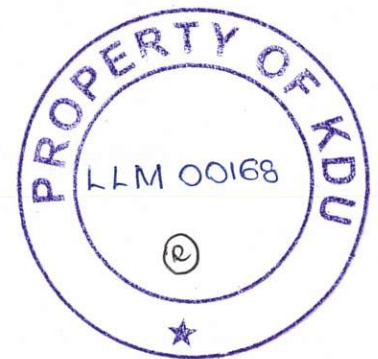
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**ABSTRACT**

Right to Information can be identified as a right of establishing democracy through accountability, transparency and good governance. This enhances the good governance values of the public authorities and in order to implement the Right to Information in Sri Lanka, the establishment of Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016 can be recognized as a milestone of Sri Lankan legal regime. The recognition through the Constitutional amendments of this Right has made the legal implementation and interpretation so strong. Even though this was introduced in year 2016 after experiencing the implementation from many countries, it is observed that, the Sri Lankan Right to Information mechanism has several gaps in practical implementation. This study has focused on identifying the areas to improve by conducting a thorough literature review on the historical background of the Right to Information, Sri Lankan and Indian context. The Doctrinal legal research, non-doctrinal legal research, as well as the comparative legal research methodology have been adopted to identify the theoretical perspective, public awareness and the challenges as well as the findings with recommendations from the selected jurisdiction, India. This study has mainly focused on discussing the Sri Lankan legal context on Right to Information by analyzing the evolution of judicial activism, selected provisions and importantly about the provisions pertaining to the Proactive Disclosure. It is identified by the comparative analysis, that Indian legal regime has pros and cons. Further, it is recognized that, the public authorities along with the supervision and guidance of Right to Information Commission should take steps to minimize the barriers in implementing and complete identification of Right to Information within Sri Lankan jurisdiction. This study has identified the challenges pertaining to the implementation of Right to Information in Sri Lanka and has provided possible recommendations to overcome the challenges by introducing appropriate amendments to the Right to Information Act and regulatory framework.

**Key words:** Right to Information, Proactive Disclosure, Accountability, Transparency, Good governance