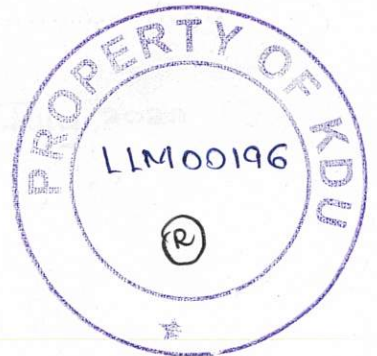


**THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON CHILD
LABOUR IN SRI LANKA: ENSURING
PROTECTION TO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL
EMPHASIS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
CONCERNING CHILD LABOUR**

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Child labour is a serious problem and a challenge for many developing countries as well as in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has enacted various laws and has taken initiative to eradicate Child labour, but still the problem is remaining throughout the country. This Dissertation mainly based on the following research problem. "Why could not eliminate Child Labour in Sri Lanka although so many Laws, Regulations and Policies implementing relation to preventing Child Labour.?" This study has endeavored to identify areas of high incidence of child labour, identify the Causes of child labour, Legislation presently in place governing the subject of child labour as well as encountered in enforcement. Since most of the local legislation has been guided by internationally accepted principles, this study has also been concerned with the Conventions Sri Lanka has ratified as well as those that we ought to consider ratifying. The Legislation seems to distinguish between the concept of 'Permissible' and 'Prohibited' employment. The number of working children in the 'formal sector' is very much less when compared to the earlier situation. Exploitation of children is at its highest in the 'Informal Sector', such as the recruitment of children as domestic work, child prostitution & trafficking. It is hidden sector. By enacting new laws, Sri Lanka has made a significant effort to combat child labour and conform to international principles governing the employment of Children and Young Persons. And also developing free education facilities effort to prevent Child Labour as well as eliminate worse form of Child Labour. The research concludes the research identifying that the Child labour cannot eliminate completely, but it can be prevented. Child Labour can be found in both Urban and Rural areas. But without providing remedies to the poverty and other causes of child labour, cannot prevent the issue of the child labour from Sri Lanka. As well as there are weakness points and conflict situations in legislation in Sri Lanka and problems in the enforcement. Therefore, although so many laws implemented based on international standards relating to prevent child labour, it is difficult to prevent Child Labour in Sri Lanka due to another significant factors like poverty. Finally this dissertation make suggestions and recommendations to prevent the Child labour considering the identified issues.

Key Words – Children, Child Labor, Education, Poverty, Legislation,