

**STRENGTHENING LAW RELATING TO PREVENTION
OF CHILD ABUSE IN SRI LANKA**

by

KUKULE LIYANAGE IRESHA UPAMALI

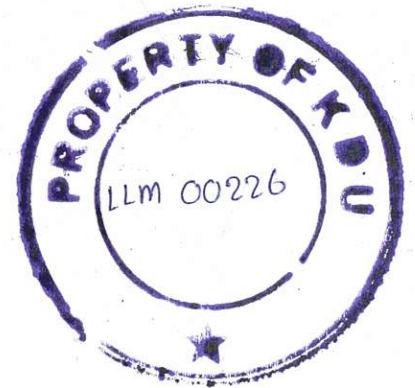
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KLI Upamali

ABSTRACT

Child abuses have become a contemporary, severe social issue in the current Sri Lankan society as many incidents have been reported recently and it shows mounting crimes against children. Child abuse may take different in its nature. They are called as categories of child abuse and physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect are within the sphere of child abuse. It directly causes the future of the country as well as children. Effects of child abuse causes not only physical damages but also deep damages for inner peace of children. Therefore, many psychological issues are arisen through child abuse incidents which could affect whole life of children. Specially, relationship issues, lack of trustworthiness, low level of self-worthiness, difficulty in controlling emotions may be developed in children in bad manner. Sri Lanka has already taken many attempts to verify the child protection preventing child abuse by imposing laws, procedures but the issue has not been solved yet. Therefore, my research problem was to o review whether the current legal framework is sufficient for prevention of child abuse in Sri Lanka. Therefore, scope of this research flows with how child is defined, nature and types of child abuse, legal framework relating to prevention of child abuse, its loopholes and experience of other jurisdictions and international values in order to search of parameters in establishment of more powerful law relating to prevention of child abuse in Sri Lanka. To examine the prevailing substantive and procedural legal frame work in relating to prevention of child abuse in Sri Lanka, to analyse the loopholes in the prevailing substantive and procedural legal frame work in relating to prevention of child

abuse in Sri Lanka and to make recommendations could be made to the prevailing substantive and procedural legal frame work in relating to prevention of child abuse in Sri Lanka with comparing jurisdiction of India were the objectives which I focused on. To reach its research objectives, this study employed a mixed methods approach. Text Books, journal articles, legal encyclopaedias, legal treatises, legal commentaries relevant to child abuse law in Sri Lanka and India were used as secondary resources while using primary sources like Constitution, statutes, regulations, and case laws. Further, both qualitative and quantitative data collections were utilized in succeeding research purpose. Interviews were conducted with legal expertise and other activists with related to child protection by preventing child abuse in Sri Lanka to gather more information, data in a practical way. Other important fact is using ideas of other researchers who conducted research under this burning issue. Therefore, this research was not unflinching to use ideas of other researchers. Finally, it was found that gaps with law and procedure as a severe issue which not sufficiently assisted in overcoming mounting crimes against children. Lack of sex education, delay in courts procedure, lack of qualified officers/ resources, lack of awareness and lack of collaboration and continuation with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and communities were the identified issues. Therefore, it was urgent for changes to be made in institutional framework rather than the substantive law since the same has been amended timely manner in prevention of child abuse in Sri Lanka.

KEY WORDS

Child abuse, Substantive Law, Procedural Law