

**EVALUATING CYBERCRIME LEGISLATION: AN  
ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL AND REGULATORY  
FRAMEWORK FOR CYBERCRIME AND ITS ADEQUACY IN  
SRI LANKA'S DIGITAL LANDSCAPE**

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## Abstract

With the increasing use of digital technologies, Sri Lanka has seen a surge in cybercrimes such as identity theft, data breaches, and online fraud. To address these issues, the government of Sri Lanka has enacted several laws related to cybercrime and cybersecurity. However, the adequacy of these laws has been questioned by legal experts and practitioners. This research study aims to analyze the existing cyber laws in Sri Lanka and assess their adequacy in addressing cybercrime and cybersecurity issues. The study utilizes a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data sources. The research findings indicate that while the existing cyber laws provide a framework for addressing cybercrime and cybersecurity issues, there are significant gaps and limitations that need to be addressed to effectively combat cybercrime. Based on the findings, the study provides recommendations for strengthening the existing cyber laws in Sri Lanka and highlights areas for further research. Sri Lanka, as a country has looked into some sections in the cyber space in forming its legislative framework, such as The Evidence (Special Provisions) Act, The Payment and Settlement Systems Act, The Electronic Transactions Act, The Payment Devices Frauds Act, The Computer Crime Act etc. are actively in force. Sri Lanka is a pioneer in terms of ratifying international and regional conventions related to ICT Law. However, the process of adopting and implementing those international laws, Sri Lanka is still lagging and should be addressed with more sophisticated approach. This study is aimed to analyze the practicality and the positive and negative impacts of present legal framework related to Cyberspace in Sri Lanka.

**Key words:** Cyber-crime, Cyber Crime Legislation, Legal Framework Adequacy, Cyber Security Challenges, Data Protection