

13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka: Impacts and Challenges

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The 13th Amendment (13A) to the Constitution of Sri Lanka, certified on November 14, 1987, has become controversial for many reasons, including the influence of India. 13A is a topic that surfaces from time to time until a sustainable solution is implemented for the issues arising from the amendment. The objective of this study was to critically analyse the impacts and the future challenges of the amendment. In this study, data was mainly collected through qualitative approaches such as interviews, case studies, and literature reviews. The amendment has not been fully implemented to date and there have been many arguments and criticisms; especially concerning the devolution of 'Police' and 'Land' powers to the Provincial Councils (PCs). The collected data on diverse views on the amendment and its proposed devolution of powers will be discussed in this paper. The observed negative and positive feedback on the opinions such as "13A", "13-plus," or "13-minus" will also be discussed. The main findings of the study includes the lack of financial autonomy given to the Provincial Councils and the overriding powers granted to the central government concerning the devolved legislative and executive powers. This study tried to analyse the existing issues with the 13th amendment to the constitution and to identify viable solutions to be agreed upon by all.

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