

## **ABSTRACT**

Child Abuse is a state of emotional, physical, economic, and sexual maltreatment meted out to a person below the age of eighteen and is a globally prevalent phenomenon. The escalation of Child Sexual Abuse in Sri Lanka may have been due to many factors and complex reasons, but it has undoubtedly caused considerable Human Rights violations on our children. The objective of this study is to investigate judicial reviews, factors, forms, causes and effects of child abuse prevalent in our country and it also marginally examines the international framework through proceedings, policies and also some of the relevant domestic laws enacted for the role of protection of the child.

The observations made on Child Sexual Abuse together with a point of view from the respondents may reveal the horrendous situation of the children in Sri Lanka. The most predominant forms of child abuse reported in our country were Child Rape or Incest and Grievous Sexual Abuse or Unnatural Offences. Some of the major causes of Child Sexual Abuse have been identified as inadequate protection, poverty, family separation, and alcohol and drug abuse. Neglecting the rules, regulations, policies and customary achievements by parents, caretakers and sometimes even the entire community have also contributed to this situation.

The Government of Sri Lanka has taken many steps towards the prevention of child abuse and there have been many Acts presented in the form of rules, regulations, policies and proceedings enacted for implementation through the many relevant authorities established.

The latter part of the study presents some researcher recommendations that may be useful for policy makers, implementers and enforcers of the law, institutions, and also government officials, towards protection of children and upholding of their rights. It is anticipated that it would also benefit the parents and caregivers, in understanding what the darker side of child abuse is and eventually contribute to the flourishing of a healthy community.

Seven chapters are presented for a better understanding of the study. Chapter One introduces the study, Chapter Two is the Literature Review, Chapter Three outlines the Methodology adopted, Chapter Four identifies governing Legal Standards, Chapter Five carries Discussions, and Chapter Six produces the Findings and Recommendations while Chapter Seven serves as the Conclusion.