



ABSTRACT

This study explores the provisions relating to Right to Information and its implementation in Sri Lanka. Basically right to information means, the right to access to the information which are in the possession of public officials and right to receive such information. Prior to the introduction of Right to Information Act and Article 14A of the Constitution, this right was already identified by the judiciary in a very creative manner, through the process of interpretation. But in some instances judiciary reluctant to identify the same right by highlighting the absences of exact provisions with this regard. Though Sri Lanka had signed and ratified most of the key international instruments which identified the right to information, it was incompetent to enact an enabling statute in Sri Lanka, until the end of 2010's. As a result of several endeavors, the Right to Information Act and Article 14A to the Constitution was introduced in 2016 by placing an inimitable victory in the Sri Lankan legal regime on Fundamental Rights, while establishing democracy, good governance, accountability, public trust doctrine, transparency and enhancing public participation to the governing system. It was observed that not only the legal provisions but also the practical implementation should be discovered to have better understanding about the whole system, though World rankings are totally based on the legal provisions. Hence the literature on this topic were critically examined, statistics were analyzed and opinions of the selected group of people were considered, since there is no adequate literature on the contradictions of legal provisions, which are perceived. It was noted that, still there cannot be seen any giant conflict on the legal provisions since, only few years were left from the introduction of Right to Information Act and Article 14A. If such issue would be aroused, final determination

must be vested with the Judiciary as per the provisions of the Constitution. Further for a smooth promulgation of this right, the awareness level must be improved while changing the mind-set of the people. According to the findings, it can be concluded that, there is an effective implementation of provisions relating to right to information which enhance the rights of the people in Sri Lanka.

Key words: Right, Information, Democracy, Good governess, Accountability