

ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka's RTI Act was enacted on 24 June 2016. The law serves as a key entry point to strengthen transparency and accountability in the government, addressing corruption and increasing the trust between people and the state. The purpose of this research was to examine whether the implementation of the RTI Act pose a threat to national security, to determine what extent the law has acted to combat corruption and to measure the government officials' awareness of the information law. Based on the review of literature, these areas have not been researched so far in relation to Sri Lanka. This dissertation is based on a mixed research methodology, which comprises a combination of data analyses and interviews with the semi structured questionnaire. Data analysis involves RTI applications received by the Tri Forces and 200 cases of Appeal Inquiries concluded by the RTI Commission. One of the findings of this study was that the term "national security" has not been precisely defined under the RTI Act; the public authority uses different definitions of the term. Interviews and data analysis revealed that the implementation of the RTI Act does not pose a threat to national security. The enactment of the RTI Act has resulted in a considerable degree of control over the corruption. It has however, only been benefitted the individual's personal interests and is barely used to eliminate corruption in the society as a whole. There is a widespread perception in society that the public is unable to obtain maximum benefit out of the RTI Act due to lack of awareness of the act among government officials. This study revealed that this is not entirely true; government officials are aware of the RTI act but are not motivated or interested enough to take the act seriously.

Keywords: National Security, Corruption, Awareness.