

**RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED AT THE TRIAL IN SRI LANKA: A
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH INDIAN JURISDICTION**

BY

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ABSTRACT

This research thesis compares the Sri Lankan legal system to that of India in order to assess the rights of the accused throughout their trial. This study aims to examine Sri Lankan legal frameworks, explore the impact of emerging technologies, draw lessons from Indian jurisdiction, and provide recommendations for promoting fairness and the rule of law in Sri Lanka's criminal justice system. It also examines the protection rights of the accused at trial under international human rights law. Making sure the rights of the accused are upheld throughout the trial process is the research problem. This study takes a qualitative stance while incorporating comparative and doctrine methodologies. The research intends to highlight the difficulties faced by accused people in Sri Lanka's criminal justice system and offer suggestions for their protection by an in-depth desk review of both primary and secondary sources. The study concludes that maintaining the accused's rights throughout the legal process is essential for creating a fair and just criminal justice system. Several proposals are made, taking into account both international norms and Indian legal precedents, to remedy the issues. The research's recommendations center on advancing the acquisition of pertinent information about suspects, promoting equality, recognizing the right to self-incrimination, and elevating the importance of dock comments during trials. It is advised to broaden rules governing electronic transactions, have educational institutions do extensive research, and give legal acknowledgment of privilege first priority. Other ideas include passing legislation to ensure fair hearings, raising awareness of rehabilitation initiatives, putting restrictions on military trials, and modifying the constitution to ensure an efficient trial. Additionally, it is advised to allocate funds, develop dispute resolution procedures, modernize infrastructure, promote the Legal Aid Commission, and set up safeguards. These recommendations can be put into practice to enhance due process, justice, and rights protection in Sri Lanka's legal system.

Keywords - Rights of the accused, Trial process, Equality before the Law, Presumption of innocent, Fair Trial.