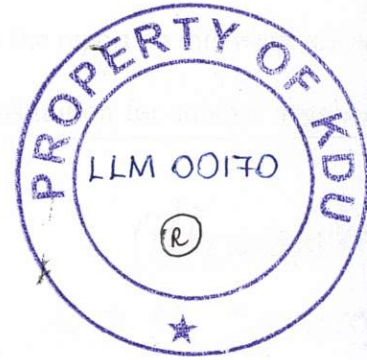


**IMPROVING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF CHILD  
LABOUR IN PLANTATION SECTOR IN SRI LANKA:  
A CRITICAL ANALYSIS**

By

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## ABSTRACT

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Child Labour is a burning issue not only in Sri Lanka but also most of the countries in the world. Children employed in plantation sector in Sri Lanka fall into a special category of child labour. The main objective of this study to presents a critical analysis of legal framework of child labour in plantation sector, focusing on the gaps and loopholes in the existing legal framework and the practical difficulties of implementing the law.

This study is based on both primary data and secondary data. The primary data were collected from household survey conducted in the randomly selected two large scale tea estates in the district of Rathnapura. It was decided to select 625 households from both and the survey was constructed 31 households for the analysis. The systematic random technique was used to select the sample. The secondary data were collected from published documents. This research has found important facts in related to child labour in plantation sector.

Even though statistics show a very low percentage of child labour, it is noteworthy that there are many unreported cases of the use of child labour. Due to the general public lack of knowledge concerning labour laws, people are reluctant to report and to complain about violations

Sri Lanka has ratified many international conventions and incorporated the legislative enactments to eliminate Child Labour. However the statistics indicate that child labour issues are still existing. Especially in plantation sector several cases in related to child labour were reported in near past. Although the existing legal frame work is sufficient in some extent, it seems the legal and institutional mechanism is insufficient to address the issue and it is necessary to improve the existing legal frame work together with the mechanism in par with international standards.

Also this study analyzed the legal frame work in related to child labour. It discussed the mechanisms, short comings and practical barriers for the implementation of improvements. Through the survey, interviews and observation conducted for the purpose of gathering information. Then it was identified the inadequacy of existing law and their practical applicability.

**Key Words: Child Labour , Plantation Sector , International Standards , Existing legal framework**