

ABSTRACT

The right of every person to be treated with equality and human dignity is globally accepted. However, this common acceptance has not been able to sufficiently protect vulnerable groups, who need special care and attention to stand up independently within society. Among them, as a world largest minority, disabled persons are significant. Therefore, to ensure their wellbeing and social security, in 2006, United Nation's convention on rights of the peoples with disabilities (UNCRPD) was formed. Accordingly, persons with all types of disabilities have a right to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedom without any discrimination. The convention specifically identifies the right to accessibility, medical treatment, rehabilitation and personal mobility as rights specific to develop their wellbeing and inherent dignity. Article 12 of the constitution of the Democratic socialist republic of Sri Lanka guarantees the right to equality and nondiscrimination as fundamental rights. Further, under Protection of the Rights of the People with Disability Act, National Council for persons with disability has formed as administrative body to protect rights of disabled People. Though the Sri Lanka has signed and ratified the said convention has been unable to comply the law system with aforementioned conventional provisions. Therefore, it is timely to make necessary legislative enactments to provide adequate safeguard for the said community. The objective is to identify the pros and cons of existing Sri Lankan disability rights legal framework, and submit suitable recommendations to form more disable friendly legislative enactment. In addition, the disability laws of USA, UK and Australia that have already adopted appropriate effective implementations nationally are reviewed. Some recommendations for further research and possible amendments to the disability law are provided.

Keywords— International Disability rights, Persons with disabilities in Sri Lanka, Law reforms
Legislation