ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION THROUGH JUDICIAL REVIEW IN SRI LANKA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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Today, the environment is constantly being harmed resulting in a multitude of global environmental problems stemming from human activities. The environment in Sri Lanka which possesses an extensive biodiversity, is also deteriorating. One main reason for that is Sri Lanka's failure to recognize the justiciable right to protect the environment and maintain a clean and healthy environment. The Fundamental Rights Chapter in the 1978 Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka does not have any Fundamental Right to a clean and healthy environment. Though Directive Principles recognize the importance of the environment and the corresponding duties of the citizens of the country to protect and safeguard the environment, it is not justiciable, i. e., it is not enforceable in a Court of Law. As evidenced by the above, there is insufficient implementation relating to this subject area. Accordingly, the main objective of the proposed study is to examine as to what extent judicial review be used to protect the environment in Sri Lanka.

Key Words: Environmental protection, Judicial review, Environmental Law, Sri Lanka