

## **The seventeenth constitutional amendment and good governance in Sri Lanka**

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This paper examines good governance in Sri Lanka. Good governance is seen by many as a nebulous concept, which can be interpreted to mean almost anything. However, the Board of Independent Advocacy Project has defined good governance as a political and institutional environment based on respect for democratic principals, the rule of law human rights and the participation of civil society. Good governance allows responsible economic and financial management of public and natural resources, for the purpose of economic growth, social development and poverty reduction in an equitable and sustainable manner.

It encourages the use of clear participatory procedures for public decision -making, transparent and accountable institution, primacy of law in the management and distribution of resources. With this there will be effective measures to prevent and combat corruption, support for leadership development and empower men and women.

The objective of the study is to analyses how far the present constitution is successful in creating good governance in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is a parliamentary democracy with an active multi-party system. The separation of powers is vested in the constitution. Since the adoption of the constitution in 1978, Sri Lanka has an Executive Presidential Polity. The 1978 constitution reduced parliamentary control over the presidency. As a result of societal pressure, the 17th amendment of the constitution created the Constitutional Council (CC) on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2001. The CC has to recommend appointments on several commissions, which serve to safeguard the integrity and independence of the public sector and control the power of the president.

Secondary data formulates the qualitative research and basic facts were gathered through literature reviews.

**Key words:** Constitutional amendments, Good governance, Polity, Constitutional Council (CC), Sri Lanka

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