

AWARENESS OF IPR AND PLAGIARISM ISSUES AMONG RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF BANGALORE UNIVERSITY: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract

Where the Current society is looking eagle eye on productive expansion for the ecological Growth, in task of Intellectual property rights are more influenced and recommended for the revolution of Information and Communication Technology. The copyright act has been depicted more seriously in predominant on Academic Institutions for research work and publications. The Scholarly writing or academic writing is one of the major criteria for quality research, in the present knowledge society. Where all the scholarly contents and Intellectual output of the host Institutes are facing difficulties while producing the quality of research. Where in researchers should have elementary knowledge about various Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and related issues. Flow of content is the preliminary Understanding for the IPR Regulations and sustenance, the research scholars are the main notice for extraction of relevant information from the Universe with regards to plagiarism issues. In observation of this study leads, low rate of participation of research scholars in IPR, is a major issue for the success of IPR Knowledge. Lack of awareness and confusion about copyright issues are the known barriers in research scholar's participation and their understandings. This paper reports the results of a survey among Research Scholars of Bangalore University and covering about different aspects of IPR.

Keywords: IPR, Copyright, Plagiarism, Research scholars, Bangalore University

1. Introduction

A vibrant picture of various aspects of IPR and Plagiarism are to know well to use the policies and protections in order to solicit of many problems. The Plagiarism has been circulating scholarly content greatly expanded through the internet and its capabilities for immediate and broad access to information. It enterprise towards open access (OA) Journals and repositories are prime examples of the way, the academies are trying to take advantage of this technology but IPR is stated challenges faced by faculty members in attempting to disseminate their research through the Internet and to utilize various forms of digital media for scholarly communications. In the present digital environment, the internet is described by WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) as “the world’s biggest copy machine” because an unlimited number of copies can be distributed instantaneously around the world with the click of a mouse. Digital content in public domain are not protected by copyright, and they can be used freely without paying royalties or fees, or asking permissions.

The main source of content for this IPR factors which leads to know mainly on the research scholars. It can be assumed that the lack of awareness about IPR and Plagiarism and its potential, and many other related issues are the main reasons for this low participation of scholar understandings.

2. IPR: An Overview

The term “IPR” has come to be internationally recognized as covering patent, Industrial design, trade mark, copyright, know-how and confidential Information. Intellectual property protection is the Key factor for economic growth and advancement in the technology sector. They are good for business, benefit the public at large and act as catalysts for technical progress¹. The three most common vehicles for protecting Intellectual property are patent, Trademark and Copyright. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) shaped by the law of a country that grants the numerous creators of original work limited rights for its use and distribution. Due to the rise of digital media and analog-to-digital conversion, there has been increased concerns of copyright owners of digital products, particularly music, movie and book industry.

3. Copyright and Plagiarism: Conceptual Framework

Copyright is a form of Intellectual property protection granted under the copyright Act to the creator/s of original works, dramatic works, musical works, artistic works, cinematographic films, sound recordings, computer programs, tables and compilations which may be expressed in words, codes and schemes or in any other understandable form including a Machine readable medium. (The copyright Act 1957) Copyright is an exclusive right given to an author for his scholarly work. According to WIPO, **Copyright** (an author’s right) is a legal term used to describe the rights that creators have over their literary and artistic works. Works covered by copyright range from books, music, paintings, sculptures and films, computer programs, databases, advertisements, maps and technical drawings². Plagiarism is an offence against the author, while copyright violation is an offence against the copyright holder³. Plagiarism applies where ideas are copied; whereas copyright occurs when a specific fixed expression (sentence/sequence of words) are copied⁴. According to OED **Plagiarism** is “the practice of taking someone else’s works or ideas and passing them off as one’s own⁵. As research scholars are facing incalculable of copyright catch every day as the copyright Act advances and new justifications emerge.

4. Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to understand, extract and suggest ways to overcome the problems faced by research scholars on IPR matters. This aims to study the following specific objectives.

- To study the level of awareness on various intellectual property rights among the research scholars of Bangalore University, Bengaluru.
- To assess research scholar’s knowledge about the copyright.
- To examine the level of awareness towards filling procedure of various Intellectual Property components among the Bangalore University’s research scholars.
- To analyze the awareness of plagiarism among the research scholars of Bangalore University.

5. Research of Literature:

Related research/literature research is an essential part of the research, as it provides intuition into the research work to be carried out in the right path on a chosen topic. It cheers the researchers to explore the different aspects of the problem, inspect the study in the right channel, which will well-informed the latest developments of the study area, and the present study researcher has reviewed the following studies.

Cheema et al (2011)⁶ have conducted the study to assess the awareness and knowledge about Plagiarism and copyright issues among research scholars. Researchers adopted survey method and used questionnaire as a tool for primary data collection. The research finding clearly shows that the research scholars are partially aware about Plagiarism and copyright issues. Therefore, the study suggests that the library professional and concerned authorities need conduct periodic workshops and training program on plagiarism and copyright issues.

Reddy (2007)⁷ discussed laws related to copyright, objectives for the protection of copyright, history of copyright laws in India as well as in abroad. Study also concentrates on various international conventions and treaties of copyright law. Researcher studied about the term of copyright protection, infringement of copyright

and also exceptions to copyright infringement like fair dealing. Study has been concluded by quoting the lines “Knowledge is not only power but also property”.

Okere, Adam and Sanusi (2016)⁸ studied to know the level of knowledge about plagiarism as copyright violation with respect to various IPRs, among the final year students of selected universities in Nigeria. For this study has been conducted through interview method and discussed with the students. On the basis of response by the students, the study recommends that there is gap in the Intellectual Property Education among the students of higher learning centers hence it is necessary to introduce and implementation of Intellectual Property Rights Education in the curriculum itself irrespective of the discipline.

Jajpura et al (2017)⁹ the study provides basic information about the Intellectual Property Rights and their importance. It highlights the various concepts of IPRs, registration procedure, penalties for violation of the IPRs and IPRs in the context of Traditional Knowledge and biodiversity. The study has been concluded by expressing the importance of IPRs, which is essential for policy makers to include the IPRs in basic education system and encourage various IPRs registration through promoting innovations, which in turn helps to uplifting country’s share in the global trade.

6. Methodology

The present research titled “Awareness of IPR and plagiarism issues among research scholars of Bangalore University” to do this, in order to achieve the pre-determined objectives of the study, the researcher has planned the entire process of the work in terms of research design. For the purpose of the study, a total of 140 questionnaires were distributed out of 140 questionnaires the researcher has received, 125 filled questionnaires. These questionnaires were distributed among research scholars from university. The questionnaire consists of both open and closed ended 27 questions, among them 8 questions were used to collect the demographic information of the respondents, 11 questions were asked to know the awareness of intellectual property rights, 5 questions to study the knowledge about copyright law and remaining 3 were asked about the plagiarism.

7. Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

The examination of data is one of the most significant and core element of reliable research process. Researcher has distributed 140 questionnaires to the research scholars of Bangalore University during the period of October 2017 to February 2018. After regular follow up, researcher succeeded in collecting 125 filled questionnaires from the respondents. Out of 125 responses 76 (60.8%) are female respondents and 49(39.2%) are male respondents. Among of 125 respondents only 92 respondents have provided their email id, others may not be interested in providing their mail id.

7.1.Distribution of Respondents by Age:

The sample of 140 is drawn from different age group. The total respondents are classified into three age group. Since the respondents are research scholars at Bangalore university, the 64.80% of the respondents are fall in the age group of 21-30 years. 32.00% of the respondents are fall in the age group of 31 to 40 years and 03.20% of the respondents are falls in the age group of 41 to 50. The Table 1 represents the number of respondents in terms of age wise. It is observed from table.1 that the highest number of respondents are belongs to the age group of 21-30.

Table – 1: **Distribution of Respondents by Age**

Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
21-30	81	64.80
31-40	40	32.00
41-50	04	03.20
Total	125	100%

7.2.Membership in the Discussion Forum:

Table.2 represents the membership of the samples of the study in discussion forum. Out of 140 samples, 82(65.6%) respondents are not the members of online discussion forum and 78(62.4%) respondents are not the members of Professional association. 47(37.6%) respondents are members of Professional association and 43(34.4%) respondents are members of Online Discussion forum.

Table.2: Distribution of Respondent by Membership in Discussion Forum

Membership in Discussion Forum	Yes	No
Online Discussion forum	43 (34.4%)	82 (65.6%)
Professional association	47 (37.6%)	78 (62.4%)

7.3.Awareness of IPR

Out of 125 respondents 116 (92.8%) are aware about Intellectual Property Rights and Remaining 9 (7.2%) of the respondents yet to be known about the IPR.

7.3.1. Level of Awareness of various IPRs:

In table.3 shows the level of awareness about various intellectual property rights. Majority of respondents are aware compare to fully aware, namely 75 (60%) of the participants aware about patent followed by 65 (52%) are aware about copyright, 56 (47.2%) about trademark, 42 (33.6%) are responded as aware to geographical indicators. Majority 40(32%) of the respondents are not aware trade secrets followed by 42(33.6%) of the scholars are not aware about industrial designs.

Table – 3: Level of Awareness of various IPRs

Level of Awareness	Patent	Copyright	Trade Marks	Geographical Indicators	Trade Secretes	Industrial Designs
Fully Aware	25(20%)	39(31.2%)	18(14.4%)	11(8.8%)	14(11.2%)	08(6.4%)
Aware	75(60%)	65(52%)	59(47.2%)	42(33.6%)	35(28%)	37(29.6%)
Somewhat Aware	20(16%)	16(12.8%)	35(28%)	40(32%)	36(28.8%)	38(30.4%)
Not Aware	05(4%)	05(4%)	13(10.4%)	32(25.6%)	40(32%)	42(33.6%)
Total	125	125	125	125	125	125

7.4.Familiar with Filing Procedure of IPR

Out of 125 respondents, 79 (63.2%) are not familiar with the filing procedure of IPR and only 46 (36.8%) are familiar with the filing procedure. Some of scholars have filled few IPR, details as follows in the Table 4. Among 125 responses, 14(11.2%)scholars have registered copyright, 02 filled Patent, 02 filled Trademarks and 01(single)scholar have filled Copyright & Patent, 3 were filled Trademark & Industrial Designs and 01 have filled both Copyright & Geographical indicators. other 2 scholars have filled 3 IPRs namely Copyright, Patent & Trademark. Remaining 100 scholars were not yet filled any of the IPR. It clearly states the responses of research scholars are not more familiar with the filling procedure of IPR.

Table: 4 - Familiar with Filing Procedure of IPR

C-Copyright, P-Patent, T-Trademark, I-Industrial Designs, G-Geographical indicators.

Not Yet	Copyright	Patent	Trade Marks	C & P	T & I	C & G	C, P & T	Total
100 (80%)	14 (11.2%)	02 (1.6%)	02 (1.6%)	01 (0.8%)	03 (2.4%)	01 (0.8%)	02 (1.6%)	125 (100%)

7.5.Researcher raised a question, is this desirable that **research scholar should be provided with Information or guidelines on?**

- Keeping records of research – 125 (100%) said Yes. As the respondents are Researchers, all are willing to keep the research records safe.
- Protection of confidential information – 118(94.4%) were agreed.
- Handling IPR issues in national and international collaborative projects – 119 (95.2%) said yes.

For option b, 07 & for c 06 respondents said no, this may be because, among 125 scholars, some respondents are new research scholars in the group of respondents hence they may not aware of the above issues.

7.6.Intellectual works are the commodity

Among 125 respondents 111(88.8%) were agreed to this statement intellectual works are the commodity is enhancing the individual as well as institutional reputation and remaining 14(11.2%) respondents are of different opinion.

Table.5: Intellectual works protected under Copyright law

L- Literary work, M- Musical work, S-Software's, N-New inventions

Works	All	LMS	LNS	MSN	LN	SN	LS	MS	LM	L	N	S	M	Total
Use (%)	37 (29.6)	29 (23.2)	10 (8)	01 (0.8)	11 (8.8)	02 (1.6)	03 (2.4)	04 (3.2)	08 (6.4)	11 (8.8)	07 (5.6)	01 (0.8)	01 (0.8)	125 (100)

A query was raised to scholars that the various works which are protected under the copyright law, the table.5 indicates that only 29 (23.2%) of the respondents are have knowledge about, the combinations of literary works, Musical works and software's are the different kinds of works which are protected under the copyright act and new inventions can be filled as a Patent.

7.7.Durability of copyright in India:

Duration of the copyright protection will vary based on the law of the land, in different countries have varying period for the protection of the copyright. In India, copyright term will count 60 years after the death of the author. For this query only 54 (43.2%) of the respondents provided the right answer. This shows that remaining 71 (56.8%) of the respondents are unaware about the duration of the copyright of an author.

Table.6: Concepts of Copyright

Concepts	Known	Unknown	Total
Fair Use	72(57.6%)	53 (42.4%)	125(100%)
Copyright Infringement	71(56.8%)	54(43.2%)	125(100%)
When-Copyright Infringed	51(40.8%)	74(59.2%)	125(100%)

It is seen from table.6 that among 125 respondents 72(57.6%) respondents are aware of concept of fair use. 71(56.8%) scholars are knowing the Copyright Infringement and only 51(40.8%) scholars are aware that when Copyright Infringed.

7.8.Plagiarism and its types

Table.7 depicts the awareness of plagiarism and its types among Bangalore university scholars, 107 (85.6%) of the respondents are aware of the term plagiarism and Different types of plagiarism are known to 74 (59.2%) of the scholars and remaining 51 (40.8%) are yet to aware. This shows that, there is a need of conducting seminars or workshops related to Plagiarism, its types and related concepts.

Table.7: Plagiarism and its types

Concepts	Known	Unknown	Total
Plagiarism	107 (85.6%)	18 (14.4%)	125(100%)
Types of plagiarism	74 (59.2%)	51 (40.8%)	125(100%)

7.9. Copyright Rules and Plagiarism

Researcher asked a question! As Does Copyright Rules will stop Plagiarism? Among 125 respondents, majority 36 (28.8%) of the respondents are strongly agree, 60 (40%) of the respondents are agree and 19 (15.2%) are in dilemma between yes or no and remaining 10 (8%) are completely disagree to the statement copyright Rules will stops Plagiarism. This may be because of scholars are not aware of this or else they might have faced the issues related to this.

7.10. Role of IPR in teaching and research

Table.8 explains that majority of the respondents that is 45 (36%) are strongly agree and 68 (54.4%) agree that copyright and other IPRs plays an important role in teaching and research.

Table – 8: Role of IPR in teaching and research

Statements	Responses
Strongly Agree	45 (36%)
Agree	68 (54.4%)
Uncertain	10 (8%)
Disagree	1 (0.8%)
Strongly Disagree	1 (0.8%)

7.11. Protection of Research Work:

Among 125 respondents 37 (29.6%) strongly agree, 67 (53.6%) agree that IPR Acts in India are protecting researcher's intellectual works and 20 (16%) are uncertain towards the IPR Acts of India in protecting researcher's intellectual works. This is tabulated in table 9.

Table 9: Protection of Research Work

Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
37 (29.6%)	67 (53.6%)	20 (16%)	00	1 (0.8%)	125 (100%)

7.12. Workshop/Seminar/Conference related to IPR?

Among 125 respondents 59 (47.2%) are attended various events related to IPR and 66 (52.8%) are not attended any event. Followed by 112 (89.6%) of respondents prefer that their institute should organize Workshop/Seminar/Conference related to IPR and remaining 13 (10.4%) are not preferring any events to be organized related to IPR. This is because they may not acquaint the importance of those kinds of events.

8. Suggestions:

Based on this study many suggestions are enlisted as below to promote the awareness of IPR and plagiarism issues at research scholars in Bangalore University. The suggestions are in brief and drawn only on available data collected during the present study.

- Since total/ majority respondents are research scholars of Bangalore University their awareness towards IPR and plagiarism issues are significantly low, hence the induction or orientation program is needed to create awareness about IPR in Bangalore university.
- A detailed study can be planned to analyze IPR issues and Each and every researcher should follow the research ethics.
- Institutions and R&D organizations should open anti-plagiarism cell to help researchers.
- Library professionals handle many software tools with their support, it is suggested to have a study on the copyright, plagiarism and other IPR aspects of various software licensing and IT related issues.
- One of the major findings of the study is call for integrating the common stage for all research scholars with the direction for solving problems of IPR
- An in depth research study can be conducted in the area of academic institutions /universities and IPR issues to explore wider scope

9. Conclusion:

In order to overcome copyright footraces, basic comprehensive standards set out in the copyright act that cannot be over hidden by technological protection measures or licensing terms. Violation of copyright has becoming a worldwide problem, it's mainly because less awareness/unawareness among students and scholars about intellectual property rights (IPR) and especially about copyright in academic world, due to which, most of the researchers are becoming victim of this. Hence, it becomes necessary for the institutions to keep students aware about the IPR, which can reduce the plagiarism and promote academic integrity and ethics. Where Copyright is protruding as digital access, offers new opportunities for sharing contents also increases exposure to potential infringement.

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