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Intellectual Property Rights in the Digital Age: A Scopus-Based Review of Research Literature

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Abstract

This study utilizes the Scopus database to examine the literature on intellectual property rights (IPR) authored by Indian researchers. The objective is to analyze the trends in publications over the years, document the sources, authors, institutes, types of documents, and subject areas of the literature. Through bibliometric analysis, a comprehensive collection of research articles, conference papers, and reviews authored by Indian researchers on intellectual property rights was identified and analyzed. The study explores the publication trends from year to year, documenting the growth and evolution of research in this field. The analysis further categorizes the literature based on the sources, providing insights into the journals, conference proceedings, and other publications that publish Indian research on IPR. Additionally, the study identifies the prolific authors contributing to the literature, highlighting their contributions and areas of expertise. Furthermore, the research documents the institutes affiliated with the Indian authors, shedding light on the institutions actively engaged in intellectual property research. The study also categorizes the documents by type, distinguishing between research articles, conference papers, and other document types. Lastly, the study examines the subject areas covered in the literature, identifying the key areas of focus within intellectual property rights research conducted by Indian authors. This research provides a comprehensive analysis of the literature on intellectual property rights authored by Indian researchers, presenting valuable insights into publication trends, sources, authors, institutes, document types, and subject areas. These findings contribute to a better understanding of the research landscape and serve as a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners interested in Indian perspectives on intellectual property rights. The study also highlights potential areas for future research and collaboration in this domain.

Keywords: Intellectual Property literature, Scopus, Data analysis

1. Introduction

Intellectual property (IP) is an integral component of human society, each and every nation has dedicated agencies for laying out the guidelines, implementation and enforcement of IPR related matters. Research on IPR helps to establish and maintain a robust system that incentivizes individuals and companies to invest time, resources, and expertise in developing new technologies, products, and artistic works. IP can be a significant driver of economic growth and competitiveness. Research on IPR helps policymakers and businesses understand the economic impact of intellectual property and develop strategies to leverage intellectual assets. Strong protection and enforcement of IPR can attract investment, spur entrepreneurship, create jobs, and foster a thriving innovation ecosystem. Research on IPR highlights the importance of protecting the rights of innovators and creators.[1] By granting exclusive rights, IPR ensures that innovators and creators can reap the benefits of their efforts, such as financial rewards, recognition, and market advantage. This recognition and protection incentivize future innovation and contribute to the progress of society as a whole. Research on IPR helps in understanding the complexities of technology transfer and collaborative research. It provides guidelines and frameworks for negotiating licenses, agreements, and partnerships, enabling the smooth exchange of knowledge, technology, and expertise between different entities. Clear IPR rules promote collaboration, foster innovation ecosystems, and accelerate the translation of research into practical applications.[2] IPR need to strike a balance between protecting private interests and facilitating access to knowledge and innovation for the public good. Research on IPR helps in developing policies and regulations that ensure fair and reasonable access to essential technologies, medicines, and cultural works, particularly in areas of public health, education, and cultural preservation. Research on IPR is crucial for addressing global challenges, such as climate change, public health crises, and food security. IPR can incentivize the development and dissemination of sustainable technologies, life-saving medicines, and agricultural innovations. Research on IPR provides insights into creating a balance between exclusive rights and the need to address urgent societal needs. IPR research sheds light on ethical considerations related to innovation and creativity.[3] It explores questions of fair competition, ethical implications of emerging technologies, and the social impact of intellectual property. Such research informs the development of ethical guidelines, policies, and regulations that ensure responsible innovation and protect societal interests.[4] In summary, research on IPR is essential for fostering innovation, promoting economic growth, protecting innovators, facilitating collaboration, balancing public interests, addressing global challenges, and ensuring ethical and responsible innovation. It plays a critical role in shaping policies, practices, and legal frameworks that support a vibrant and sustainable knowledge-based society.

1. Materials and Methods

To conduct this study, we utilized the Scopus database as a primary source to gather bibliographic data. Scopus is a comprehensive abstract and citation database that encompasses peer-reviewed scientific content. It boasts an extensive collection of 82.4 million records, positioning it as one of the largest curated bibliographic abstract and citation databases available today[5-9]. This database is equipped with intelligent tools designed to monitor, analyze, and visualize research output across various domains, including science, technology, medicine, social science, and arts and humanities [10-13]. In our research, we employed Scopus's "Analyze Search Results" feature

to examine the obtained data. This feature facilitated an in-depth analysis of the results based on several criteria, including the distribution of documents by year, document sources, authors, institutes, subject areas, and document types. By leveraging this functionality, we were able to extract valuable insights from the dataset. The search string utilized to retrieve the relevant data was: (TITLE, ABSTRACT, KEYWORD ("INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS")). This search query enabled us to focus specifically on scholarly articles, abstracts, and keywords related to the subject of intellectual property rights, ensuring the data collected was relevant to our study.

2. Results and Discussion

1. Number of documents obtained

On July 13, 2023, a comprehensive search yielded a total of 15,742 documents. However, since the objective of the study was to analyze literature specifically related to intellectual property rights that were contributed by India, a filtering tool called "limit to" provided by Scopus was utilized. This tool allowed us to narrow down the search results and identify the number of articles directly connected to India's contribution. After applying the "limit to" tool, it was determined that out of the total pool of 15,742 documents, India had contributed a significant number of 1,028 documents. It is worth noting that India's contribution to the literature on intellectual property rights ranked fourth in terms of quantity. The country with the highest contribution to this field was the United States of America, which had a total of 3,764 documents. Following closely behind were China with 1,652 documents and the United Kingdom with 1,623 documents. India's contribution of 1,028 documents placed it in the fourth position, indicating a substantial presence in the scholarly discourse on intellectual property rights. Germany also made a noteworthy contribution with 685 documents. This analysis highlights the notable presence of India in the field of intellectual property rights, although it falls behind the United States, China, and the United Kingdom in terms of the sheer number of scholarly contributions (Figure 1).

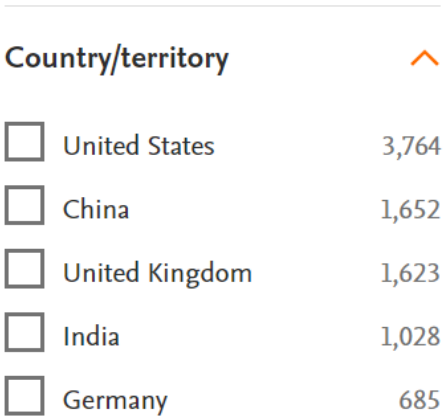

Figure 1: Number of Intellectual Property Rights documents contributed by top 5 countries (Source: https://www.scopus.com/results/results.uri?sort=plf-f&src=s&st1=Intellectual+Property+Rights&sid=85950cfdbde86bec234796d69dd93a6f&sot=b&sdt=b&sl=43&s=TITLE-ABS-

KEY%28Intellectual+Property+Rights%29&origin=searchbasic&editSaveSearch=&yearFrom=Before+1960&yearTo=Present&sessionSearchId=85950cfdbde86bec234796d69dd93a6f&limit=10)

2. Documents by Year:

In examining the year-wise contribution of Indian authors in the field of study, it was observed that the highest number of documents were published in the year 2021, with a total of 84 publications. This indicates a substantial output and interest from Indian authors in contributing to the literature on the subject during that particular year. Following closely behind was the year 2017, with 74 documents published by Indian authors. This suggests a significant level of scholarly engagement and research activity in that year, showcasing the sustained efforts of Indian researchers in the field of study. The year 2022 witnessed a slightly lower but still noteworthy contribution, with 69 documents published by Indian authors. This indicates a continued interest and involvement of Indian scholars in the field, maintaining a consistent presence in the academic discourse. Similarly, in the year 2020, Indian authors published 68 documents. This demonstrates a consistent level of scholarly activity and engagement in the subject matter, emphasizing the continued dedication of Indian researchers to contribute to the field of study. In the year 2018, Indian authors published 63 documents, representing another year of significant output and involvement. This further reinforces the sustained commitment of Indian researchers in generating knowledge and contributing to the scholarly literature related to the subject matter. Overall, this analysis reveals a fluctuation in the annual contributions by Indian authors, with notable peaks in 2021 and 2017. However, it is essential to consider other factors such as research trends, funding availability, and specific events that might have influenced the publication output during those particular years. Nonetheless, these findings highlight the active involvement of Indian authors in advancing knowledge and research within the field (Figure 2).

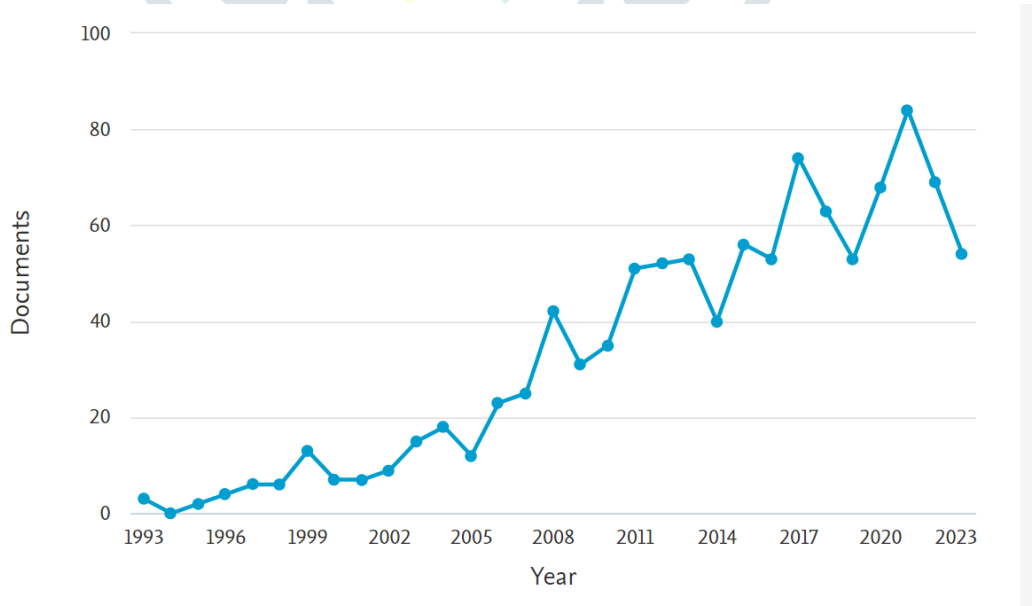

Figure 2: Year wise distribution of publication of intellectual property rights documents by India (Source: https://www.scopus.com/term/analyzer.uri?sort=plf-f&src=s&sid=85950cfdbde86bec234796d69dd93a6f&sot=a&sdt=a&cluster=scoaffilctry%2c%22India%22%2ct&sl=43&s=TITLE-ABS-

KEY%28Intellectual+Property+Rights%29&origin=resultslist&count=10&analyzeResults=Analyze+results)

3. Documents by source:

When analyzing the publication output of Indian authors, it is evident that certain sources have played a prominent role in disseminating their research. The following list comprises the top five sources that have published the highest number of documents authored by Indian researchers (Figure 3):

- **Journal of Intellectual Property Rights:** This source stands out as the primary platform for Indian authors, with a remarkable publication count of 123 documents. As a specialized journal in the field of intellectual property rights, it signifies the significant contribution of Indian scholars to this specific domain. The Journal of Intellectual Property Rights serves as a vital avenue for sharing research findings, theoretical advancements, and practical insights related to intellectual property.
- **Journal of World Intellectual Property:** With 26 documents published by Indian authors, this source emerges as another noteworthy platform in the realm of intellectual property. By offering a global perspective on intellectual property issues, this journal allows Indian researchers to share their insights and research outcomes on an international stage. The Journal of World Intellectual Property provides a platform for discussions on legal frameworks, policy implications, and emerging trends in the field.
- **Current Science:** This interdisciplinary scientific journal has been a preferred choice for Indian authors, with 23 documents published. Although not exclusively focused on intellectual property, Current Science serves as a reputable platform for disseminating research across various scientific disciplines. It highlights the diverse research interests of Indian scholars and their contributions to intellectual property-related topics from a multidisciplinary perspective.
- **Economic and Political Weekly:** This renowned social science journal has featured 19 documents authored by Indian researchers. While not solely dedicated to intellectual property rights, the Economic and Political Weekly serves as a platform for critical analysis, policy discussions, and empirical studies in social sciences. The inclusion of intellectual property-related research in this journal emphasizes the multidimensional nature of intellectual property and its intersections with broader socio-economic issues.
- **International Journal of Intellectual Property Management:** With 12 publications by Indian authors, this source specifically focuses on intellectual property management practices. It serves as a platform for sharing research on strategic management of intellectual property assets, technology transfer, innovation, and commercialization. The International Journal of Intellectual Property Management reflects the growing interest of Indian researchers in exploring practical aspects of intellectual property rights and their effective management.

The prominence of these sources indicates the significant contribution of Indian authors to the field of intellectual property rights, as well as their engagement with multidisciplinary perspectives. These platforms not only provide opportunities for Indian researchers to share their findings but also contribute to the global discourse on intellectual property, ultimately fostering innovation, policy development, and knowledge advancement in the field.

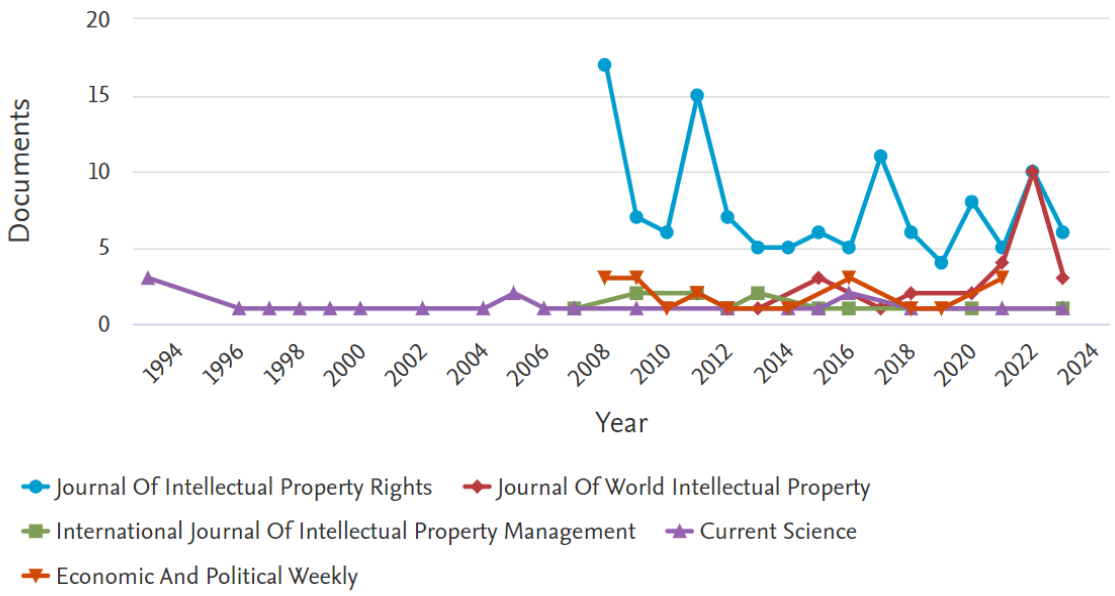

Figure 3: Different sources with maximum publications of intellectual property right documents by India (Source: https://www.scopus.com/term/analyzer.uri?sort=plf-f&src=s&sid=85950cfdbde86bec234796d69dd93a6f&sot=a&sdt=a&cluster=scoaffilctry%2c%22India%22%2ct&sl=43&s=TITLE-ABS-KEY%28Intellectual+Property+Rights%29&origin=resultslist&count=10&analyzeResults=Analyze+results)

4. Documents by author:

The list provided in table 1 and Figure 4 includes the top 10 authors who have made significant contributions through their publications. Let's delve into each author's affiliation and their notable involvement in their respective fields: Prabuddha Ganguli is affiliated with the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur. His prolific publication record suggests a strong focus on intellectual property research within the academic setting of the institute. Ganguli's contributions likely encompass a wide range of topics related to intellectual property, including legal frameworks, policy analysis, and innovation management. Mohan D. Nair's affiliation with SPIC Pharma in Chennai indicates his involvement in the pharmaceutical industry. As an author, he may have focused on intellectual property issues specific to the pharmaceutical sector, such as patenting strategies, drug development, or regulatory aspects. Nair's publications likely contribute to bridging the gap between industry practices and intellectual property rights. Sambit Mallick's affiliation with the Indian Institute of Technology in Guwahati suggests his research and publications are focused on intellectual property within the realm of engineering and technology. His contributions may include advancements in patenting methodologies, technology transfer,

or intellectual property management in engineering fields. Bhaduri's association with Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi indicates his involvement in academic research and teaching. Bhaduri's publications likely encompass a broad range of intellectual property-related topics, including legal aspects, cultural perspectives, and policy implications, contributing to the academic discourse on intellectual property rights. Biswapati Jana's affiliation with Vidyasagar University in Midnapore suggests his research and publications primarily focus on intellectual property within the academic setting. Jana's contributions may span various disciplines, including law, economics, or social sciences, with an emphasis on intellectual property rights and their impact on society and innovation. Sudhir Kochhar's affiliation with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in New Delhi indicates his involvement in agricultural research and intellectual property rights within the agricultural sector. His publications likely explore issues related to plant breeders' rights, biotechnology, and the protection of agricultural innovations. Sachin Chaturvedi's association with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) in New Delhi suggests his involvement in research and policy analysis related to intellectual property rights in the context of developing countries. His publications may encompass a wide range of topics, including access to medicines, technology transfer, and the socio-economic impact of intellectual property. Manthan D. Janodia's affiliation with the Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Manipal indicates his focus on pharmaceutical research and intellectual property in the context of the pharmaceutical industry. His publications likely delve into areas such as drug development, patent law, and innovation strategies within the pharmaceutical sector. Debasis Mondal's affiliation with the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi suggests his contributions to intellectual property research in the field of engineering and technology. Mondal's publications may explore intellectual property management in emerging technologies, innovation ecosystems, or the intersection of intellectual property with engineering disciplines. Raza's association with O.P. Jindal Global University in Sonipat indicates his research and publications likely encompass a wide range of intellectual property topics, including legal aspects, policy analysis, and international intellectual property frameworks. Raza's contributions likely contribute to the academic understanding and practical application of intellectual property rights. These top 10 authors represent a diverse range of affiliations and expertise, reflecting their contributions to the understanding, development, and implementation of intellectual property rights across various sectors and disciplines. Through their publications, these authors have significantly impacted the scholarly discourse and contributed to the advancement of knowledge in the field of intellectual property.

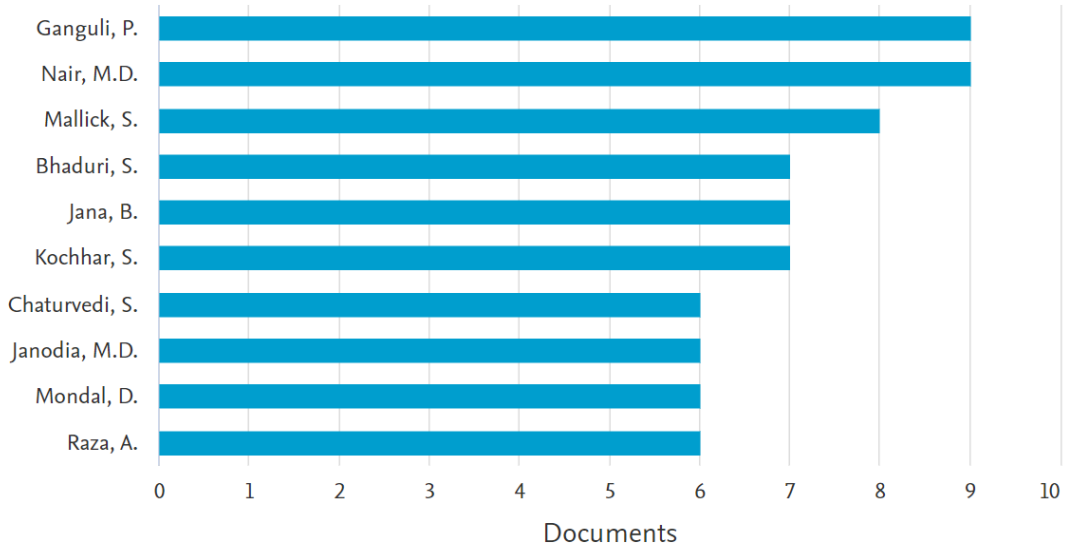

Figure 4: Authors with highest publications in the domain of intellectual property rights from India (Source: https://www.scopus.com/term/analyzer.uri?sort=plf-f&src=s&sid=85950cfdbde86bec234796d69dd93a6f&sot=a&sdt=a&cluster=scoaffilctry%2c%22India%22%2ct&sl=43&s=TITLE-ABS-KEY%28Intellectual+Property+Rights%29&origin=resultslist&count=10&analyzeResults=Analyze+results)

Table 1: List of top 10 authors with number of publications

S. No.	Author	Publications
1	Prabuddha Ganguli	9
2	M. D. Nair	9
3	Sambit Mallick	8
4	Saradindu Bhaduri	7
5	Biswapati Jana	7
6	Sudhir Kochhar	7
7	Sachin Chaturvedi	6
8	Manthan D. Janodia	6
9	Debasis Mondal	6
10	Aqa Raza	6

5. Documents by different affiliations/institutes:

Figure 5 highlights the institutes with the highest number of publications in Scopus indexed journals. The top institute was found to be Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) with 30 publications, JNU stands out as a premier institute for higher education and research in New Delhi, India. Known for its academic rigor, JNU covers a wide range of disciplines, including social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. The institute's publications likely cover diverse topics related to intellectual property, including legal aspects, policy analysis, and socio-economic implications. It was followed by University of Delhi with 28 publications, the University of Delhi, one of India's oldest and most prestigious institutions, demonstrates its commitment to research and scholarly contributions. The university encompasses various faculties and

research centers, allowing for interdisciplinary collaborations and a wide range of intellectual property-related publications across multiple disciplines. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has made significant contributions to intellectual property research. With 24 publications, IIT Kharagpur's research likely focuses on technological advancements, patenting strategies, innovation management, and other related areas within the domain of intellectual property. Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) contributed 24 publications. ICAR plays a crucial role in agricultural research and development in India. Its publications likely delve into various aspects of intellectual property rights in the agricultural sector, including plant breeders' rights, biotechnology, genetic resources, and innovation management. Amity University: Amity University, with 18 publications, has established itself as a prominent private educational institution in India. Its contributions to intellectual property research likely encompass diverse areas, including legal aspects, technology transfer, entrepreneurship, and innovation ecosystems. O.P. Jindal Global University with 17 publications, has made noteworthy contributions to intellectual property research. As a multi-disciplinary institution, its publications likely cover a wide range of intellectual property-related topics, including legal frameworks, policy analysis, and international intellectual property issues. Jadavpur University, with 16 publications, has a strong research focus across various disciplines, including engineering, technology, and social sciences. Its publications likely explore intellectual property aspects in fields such as engineering innovation, technology transfer, and legal implications. With 16 publications, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in New Delhi showcases its expertise in intellectual property research within the domain of engineering and technology. Its publications likely emphasize areas such as patent analysis, technology commercialization, and intellectual property management strategies in the engineering field. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research India (CSIR) with 15 publications, has made significant contributions to intellectual property research in various scientific and industrial domains. Its publications likely focus on technology transfer, patent analysis, and innovation management. With 14 publications, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has demonstrated its research prowess in intellectual property-related fields. BHU's publications likely encompass a wide range of disciplines, including law, social sciences, and humanities, with a focus on intellectual property issues within these domains. These institute’s high publication counts signify their commitment to research and their contributions to the academic understanding of intellectual property rights. Their publications offer valuable insights and advancements, contributing to the broader discourse on intellectual property in India and beyond.

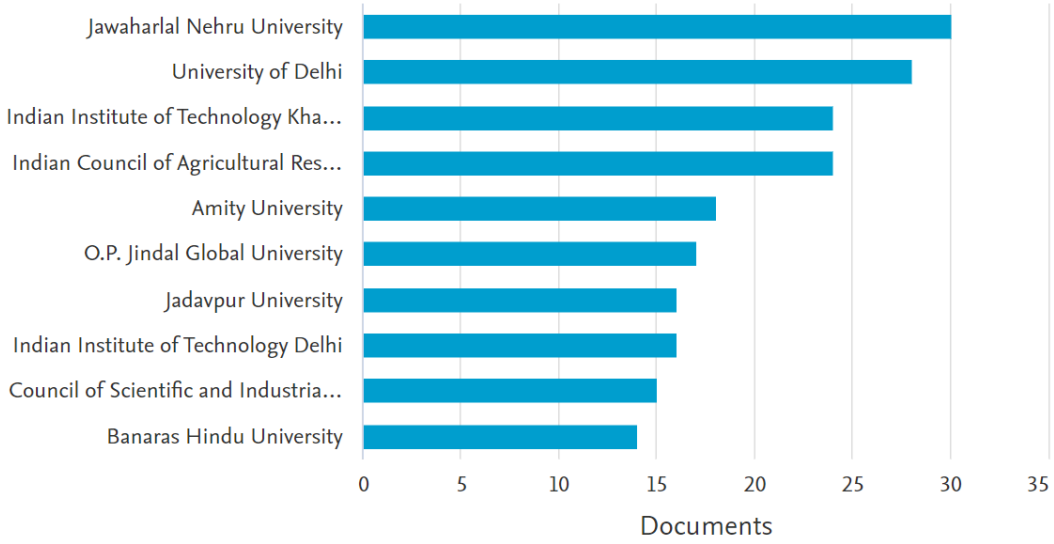

Figure 5: Indian Institutes with highest publications in the domain of intellectual property rights (Source: https://www.scopus.com/term/analyzer.uri?sort=plf-f&src=s&sid=85950cfdbde86bec234796d69dd93a6f&sot=a&sdt=a&cluster=scoaffilctry%2c%22India%22%2ct&sl=43&s=TITLE-ABS-KEY%28Intellectual+Property+Rights%29&origin=resultslist&count=10&analyzeResults=Analyze+results)

6. **Documents by Type:**

Out of the total of 1,028 documents contributed by India, they can be categorized into different types of publications. Research Articles (Figure 6): The largest category consists of 579 documents, accounting for 56.3% of the total. Research articles are comprehensive scholarly papers that present original research findings, methodologies, and analysis; Book Chapters: With 162 documents, book chapters make up 15.8% of the total. Book chapters are scholarly contributions within edited volumes or compilations, focusing on specific topics or areas of research. These chapters are often written by experts in the field and provide in-depth analysis or specialized perspectives on intellectual property issues; Conference Papers: This category includes 128 documents, making up 12.5% of the total. Conference papers are research papers presented at conferences or academic gatherings. They offer opportunities for researchers to share their findings, engage in discussions, and receive feedback from the academic community; Review Articles: With 103 documents, review articles account for 10% of the total. Review articles provide critical assessments, summaries, and analyses of existing research and literature in a specific field. They offer valuable insights into the state of knowledge, emerging trends, and gaps in intellectual property research; Books: This category comprises 28 documents, representing 2.7% of the total. Books are comprehensive works that provide in-depth coverage of intellectual property-related topics. They often serve as reference materials or textbooks, presenting a comprehensive understanding of a specific subject within intellectual property rights; Notes: With 12 documents, notes account for a small portion of the total. Notes are shorter research papers or publications that provide brief insights, updates, or commentary on specific intellectual property topics. They are typically concise and serve as a means to share

noteworthy information or perspectives; Editorial: This category includes 8 documents, representing 0.8% of the total. Editorials are written by experts or editors in the field and typically express their viewpoints, opinions, or commentary on intellectual property-related matters. They serve as a platform to stimulate discussion and debate within the academic community; Short Survey: This category comprises 5 documents, making up 0.5% of the total. Short surveys are brief research papers that present the results of limited-scale studies or surveys related to intellectual property. They offer a snapshot of specific aspects or trends within the field; Letters: With 2 documents, letters represent 0.2% of the total. Letters are concise communications that express opinions, comments, or responses to previously published articles or research findings. They provide a platform for discussion and exchange of ideas within the intellectual property community; Retracted Document: This category includes 1 document, accounting for 0.1% of the total. A retracted document refers to a publication that has been officially withdrawn or retracted due to issues such as ethical concerns, errors, or misconduct. Retracted documents are rare but are included here for completeness. This breakdown of publication types demonstrates the diverse range of contributions made by Indian authors in the field of intellectual property. It reflects the multidisciplinary nature of intellectual property research and highlights the variety of platforms available for sharing knowledge and insights within the academic community.

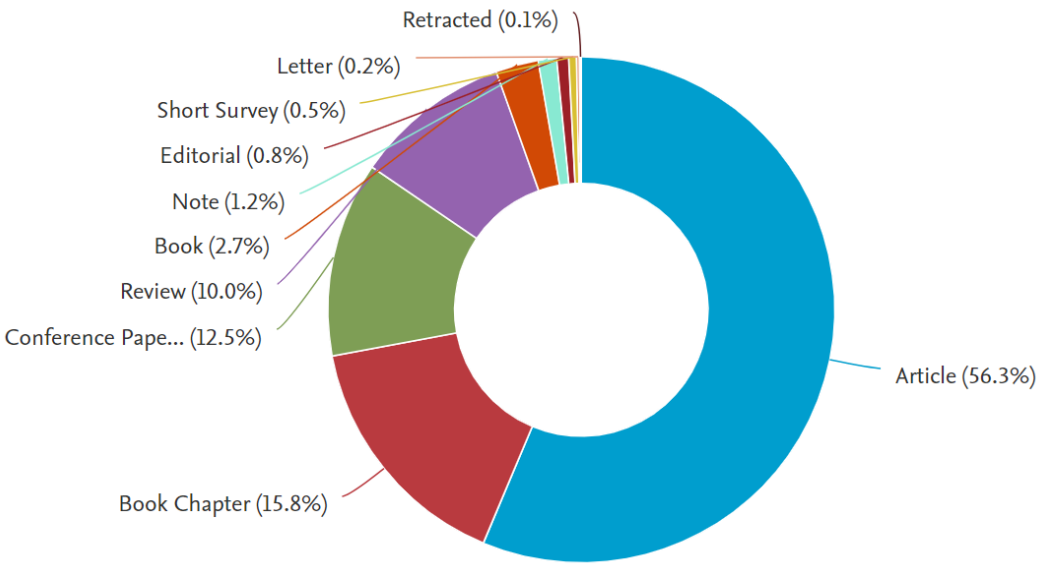

Figure 6: Types of Documents published in the domain of intellectual property rights from India (Source: https://www.scopus.com/term/analyzer.uri?sort=plf-f&src=s&sid=85950cfdbde86bec234796d69dd93a6f&sot=a&sdt=a&cluster=scoaffilctry%2c%22India%22%2ct&sl=43&s=TITLE-ABS-KEY%28Intellectual+Property+Rights%29&origin=resultslist&count=10&analyzeResults=Analyze+results)

7. Documents by Subject Area:

Figure 7 represents the top ten subject areas in which the documents contributed by Indian authors were published. Each subject area and its corresponding number of publications are as follows:

Social Science: With 417 documents, social science emerges as the leading subject area, accounting for 24% of the total. This category encompasses a broad range of disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, economics, political science, and psychology. The publications in this subject area likely cover various aspects of intellectual property, such as its societal impact, legal frameworks, policy analysis, and cultural perspectives.

Engineering: With 189 documents, engineering accounts for 10.9% of the total. This subject area encompasses various engineering disciplines, including civil, mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering. The publications likely focus on intellectual property aspects within engineering fields, such as patent analysis, technology transfer, innovation management, and legal considerations.

Computer Science: With 175 documents, computer science represents 10.1% of the total. This subject area covers a wide range of topics, including algorithms, artificial intelligence, software development, and data science. The publications likely explore intellectual property issues specific to computer science, such as software patents, copyright, and open-source licensing.

Business Management and Accounting: With 140 documents, this subject area constitutes 8.1% of the total. Publications in this field likely revolve around intellectual property management strategies, innovation in business, legal aspects of intellectual property in commercial settings, and accounting practices related to intellectual property valuation.

Agricultural and Biological Sciences: With 106 documents, this subject area represents 6.1% of the total. The publications likely focus on intellectual property aspects related to agricultural innovations, biotechnology, genetic resources, plant breeders' rights, and the intersection of intellectual property with biological research and innovation.

Medicine: With 93 documents, medicine accounts for 5.4% of the total. Publications in this subject area likely explore intellectual property issues within the medical field, such as pharmaceutical patents, biotechnology patents, clinical research, and the impact of intellectual property on healthcare access and innovation.

Biochemistry, Genetics, and Molecular Biology: With 82 documents, this subject area constitutes 4.7% of the total. The publications likely delve into intellectual property aspects within the realm of biochemistry, genetics, and molecular biology, including patenting genetic inventions, gene therapies, biotechnological advancements, and the legal and ethical dimensions of intellectual property in these fields.

Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Pharmaceutics: With 78 documents, this subject area represents 4.5% of the total. Publications in this field likely focus on intellectual property issues related to pharmaceutical research, drug development, patent analysis, regulatory considerations, and intellectual property strategies in the pharmaceutical industry.

Environmental Science: With 54 documents, this subject area accounts for 3.1% of the total. The publications likely explore the intersection of intellectual property with environmental issues, including

patents for environmental technologies, intellectual property and sustainability, legal frameworks for protecting environmental innovations, and the socio-economic implications of intellectual property in environmental contexts.

These top ten subject areas reflect the interdisciplinary nature of intellectual property research and the diverse range of disciplines and fields where intellectual property plays a crucial role. The publications within these subject areas contribute to the academic understanding, policy development, and practical application of intellectual property rights within their respective domains.

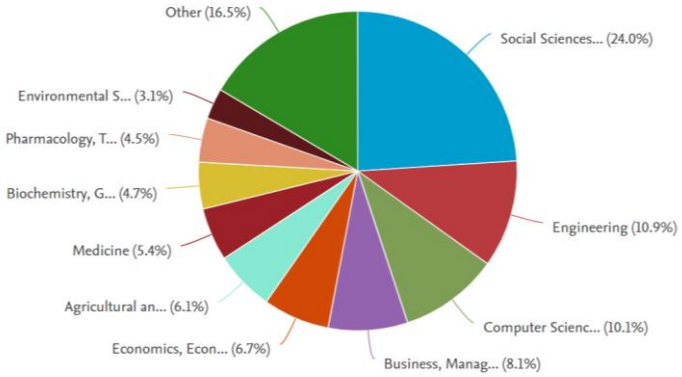

Figure 7: Subject area with highest publications in the domain of intellectual property rights from India (Source: https://www.scopus.com/term/analyzer.uri?sort=plf-f&src=s&sid=85950cfdbde86bec234796d69dd93a6f&sot=a&sdt=a&cluster=scoaffilctry%2c%22India%22%2ct&sl=43&s=TITLE-ABS-KEY%28Intellectual+Property+Rights%29&origin=resultslist&count=10&analyzeResults=Analyze+results)

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgement

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