



## Exploring Awareness and Perception on Intellectual Property Rights among Research Scholars of Karnatak University, Dharwad: A Study

Savitha K. S

Research Scholar, DLISc, Karnatak University, Dharwad, Karnataka

**Prof. C. Krishnamurthy**

Professor, DLISc, Karnatak University Dharwad, Karnataka

### Abstract

The study measures the knowledge of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) issues especially about copyright law and plagiarism among the research scholars of science discipline at Karnatak University. The researcher employed adopted survey method and used Cochran formula for selection of sample size. A well structured questionnaire prepared to collect primary data from the respondents. The survey results reveal that though the respondents said they are aware of copyright law and Plagiarism meanwhile the respondents having contradictory opinions about the IPR issues. Knowledge of respondents regarding IPR issues was not satisfactory and hence it is most important to focus on certain areas such as copyright laws, cyber laws, and plagiarism etc., where the concerned authorities must initiate measures to raise the level of the understanding on the IPR and associated issues and to protect them from legal consequences during their research period. The growing importance of Intellectual property rights and related issues in the university

**Key words:** Copyright, Copyright Law, IPR, Intellectual Property Right, Plagiarism, Research Community

### 1. Introduction

Intellectual Property Right (IPR) broadly divided into two parts i.e., industrial right and copyright related right. Copyright is a legal term to delineate the creators' rights over their literary and artistic works which incorporating books, music, paintings, sculpture, films, computer programs, databases, advertisements, maps and technical drawings. Unauthorized use of copyright material which violates the creators' exclusive right to produce or to make derivative that build upon, it is known as

copyright infringement (Aboyade et. al, 2015). An example of a copyright infringement is plagiarism in which the original works of the creator was violated by using all or any part of the works, either verbatim or with trivial changes (Isiakpona, 2012). Copyright related issues destructive in nature among academic community as because of the Internet's influence, the academic world today relies on it to share information and expertise. Additionally, it caused the academic community to become involved in concerns involving IPRs, such as plagiarism and copyright law violation.



Obligation of IPRs in academic institutions indicates both positive and negative attitude of students. The negative attitude can be determined through commitment to infringement of copyright and plagiarism among students. The Internet has provided tremendous opportunities to academic community to access information without any barrier. It also made students to violate the IPRs issues and ignore the importance of plagiarism in academic setup (Park, 2003). In this view, the present study made an attempt to assess the understanding of research scholars at University regarding IPRs issues i.e., copyright and plagiarism during their research journey. The study focused in Science research community as they engaged in research process and tried to determine their level of knowledge of IPR issues.

The intention of the present study is to examine the awareness of the IPRs issues i.e. copyright law and plagiarism among the research scholars of science disciplines of the University. The academic community generates Intellectual Property through research publications. It is most significant to protect their contributions and also acknowledge others Intellectual Property by attributing them. The study will have immense impact on the enhancement and improvement of knowledge on the IPRs and associated issues which would help to increase the quality of research publications and also maintain the academic integrity.

## 2. Review of the Related Literature

Datig and Russell (2015) found that students were familiar with IPR and most of them connected the concept of copyright to the notion of IPR. Alvera, *et al.* revealed that all LIS professionals were aware of the Intellectual Property Rights and copyright law. Sufiya and Varun (2017) found that PG and PhD students have a poor degree of understanding of IPR, and an average number

of respondents were aware of the significance of IPR. Indrasari and Setiyawan (2018) found that students' legal understanding of copyright rights was low, and a small number of students know about Intellectual Property Rights. Luniachek, *et al* (2020) indicated that most of the students' were not familiar of Intellectual Property Rights, academic integrity, and their protection, which has a detrimental impact on the standards of internal education. Kumar, *et al* (2021) found that low level of awareness among PG students about IPR. Nawazish and Batool (2022) found moderate awareness among informational professions about Intellectual Property Rights. Winaya, *et al* (2023) revealed that an average level of awareness among SMEs employees on Intellectual property rights. Mony and Ikoha (2024) highlighted the significance of IPR and plagiarism in the era of Information technology research and also discussed the effect of Information Technology; easy availability of online resources and disruptive technologies on academic research. Negi and Pant (2024) studied the awareness and satisfaction of users towards RFID based circulation system in library.

## 3. Objectives of the Study

The study objectives as follows:

- ❖ To ascertain the awareness on Intellectual Property Rights among the respondents.
- ❖ To assess the respondents' knowledge of respondents on Copyright law
- ❖ To study the perception of respondents on Copyright law
- ❖ To study the awareness of science research scholars' on Plagiarism
- ❖ To know the perception of research scholars towards plagiarism.
- ❖ To ascertain the various factors responsible for infringement of IPR issues among the research scholars.



#### 4. Hypotheses

Null Hypothesis ( $H_0$ ): There is no significant difference in the level of awareness among the research scholars on the IPRs and Alternative Hypothesis ( $H_1$ ): There is a significant difference in the level of awareness among the research scholars on the IPRs.

Null Hypothesis ( $H_0$ ): There is no significant difference about the awareness of Plagiarism among the respondents and Alternative Hypothesis ( $H_1$ ): There is a significant difference about the awareness of Plagiarism among the respondents.

#### 5. Research Methodology

To determine the sample size the study used Cochran's formula for sample size. Among the total size of 345 units, 182 units were selected for the study. The present study employed survey method along with simple random sampling. The questionnaire was administered to regular PhD scholars of Science discipline at Karnatak University Dharwad. Based on the objectives, the

questionnaire was prepared into 5 parts (using Likert scale) i.e. I. General information, II. Awareness of IPR, III. Awareness and perception of Copyright law, IV. Awareness and perception of Plagiarism, V. Factors responsible for infringement of IPR issues. The questionnaires were distributed by visiting personally to each department and collected primary data from the research scholars of the Karnatak University campus. For the analysis of collected data the researcher used SPSS version 21 and analyzed data presented in tabular form.

#### 6. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The study analyzed the collected data and hypothesis testing by using Statistical package for social Sciences (SPSS) version-21. The data is represented in tabular form as under

##### 6.1 General details of the respondents

Table 1 shows the majority of the respondents (53.3%) are male and 46.7% of respondents are of female category.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents by Gender-wise**

Gender	Total	Percentage (%)
Male	97	53.3
Female	85	46.7
Total	182	100.0

##### 6.2 Awareness of Intellectual Property Rights

From the table 2 it is noticed that, a large number of respondents (90.6%) indicated

their awareness about IPR is positively, while 17 (9.4%) of them said they were not aware of the same. The table makes it obvious that most of the respondents are aware of concept of Intellectual Property Rights.

**Table 2: Awareness of Intellectual Property Rights**

Parameters	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	165	90.6
No	17	9.4
Total	182	100.0

**Table 2a: Result of ANOVA test**

Groups	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	235.309	8	29.414	21.772	0.000
Within Groups	2201.280	1629	1.351	-	-
Total	2436.589	1637	-	-	-

df = Degrees of freedom, F = F-distribution, Sig. = at 5% level of significance

The one-way analysis of variance results and test for difference are both very significant at the 5% level of significance, and the null hypothesis is rejected, as shown in table 2a. To know the factor/ factors which are varying significantly it tested with tukey's post hoc test. From the test we have found three homogeneous subsets with p-value 1.000, 0.105 and 0.523, here the first subset

p-value is 1.000 and it has single factor in that subset which indicates that the factors such as copyright, and patent have got completely different kind of responses from the respondents and these two are significantly varying from all other factors. In these factors found non-significant within the subset. The test shows that respondents' knowledge of Intellectual Property Rights not satisfactory.

**Table 2b: Post Hoc Test of Homogeneous Groups**

Type of IPR	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05		
		1	2	3
Copyright	182	1.95	-	-
Patents	182	1.97	-	-
Trade marks	182	-	2.42	-
Industrial designs	182	-	2.72	2.72
Plant variety protection	182	-	2.77	2.77
Trade secrets	182	-	-	2.82
Geographical Indications	182	-	-	2.88
Integrated Circuits on Layout Design	182	-	-	2.96
Significance		1.000	.105	.523

Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed. Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 182.000.

### 6.3 Respondents' awareness on Copyright Law

From the table 3 it is found that a highest number of respondents (90.6%) said they are

aware of Copyright Law, whereas 9.3% of respondents are not aware of the same. The above result reveals that most of the respondents are familiar of concept of Copyright Law.

**Table 3: Respondents' Awareness regarding Copyright Law**

Awareness	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	165	90.6
No	17	9.3
Total	182	100.0





#### 6.4 Respondents' perception towards Copyright Law

The moderate number of research scholars (41.2%) of the University perceived 'Copyright helps to control the reproduction of copyrighted work', while 40.7% of them opined that "Copyright is the exclusive right

given to the owner of an original work for a specific period" (Table 4). The results indicate that an average number of respondents believe that copyright law is a tool to protect the original work of copyright owner and the most of them are not aware of benefits of copyright law.

**Table 4: Perception of respondents on Copyright Law**

Statements	SA	AG	UC	DA	SD
Copyright is the exclusive right given to the creator of a original work for a limited time	74(40.7)	66(36.3)	36(19.8)	5(2.7)	1(0.5)
Copyright is produced automatically to everyone who make their work as unique	47(25.8)	71(39.0)	56(30.8)	4(2.2)	4(2.2)
Any online or print translated works are covered under copyright protection	32(17.6)	65(35.7)	65(35.7)	12(6.6)	8(4.4)
Copyright law makes the creator of the work to control the reproduction by means of unauthorized downloading of electronic contents	45(24.7)	75(41.2)	49(26.9)	10(5.5)	3(1.6)
If a student makes unauthorized production of copyrighted material this act terms to Copyright law violation	45(25.3)	66(36.3)	63(34.6)	1(0.5)	6(3.3)

#### 6.5 Respondents' Awareness towards of Plagiarism

It is not surprising that, all the respondents (100%) were determined to be

aware of concept of plagiarism (Table 5). The statistics show that every research scholar reported that they were aware of concept of plagiarism.

**Table 5: Respondents' awareness on Plagiarism**

Awareness	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	182	100.0
No	Nil	Nil
Total	182	100.0

**Table 5a: Results of ANOVA**

Group	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	15.966	7	2.281	0.873	0.527
Within Groups	3781.302	1448	2.611	-	-
Total	3797.269	1455	-	-	-

df = Degrees of freedom, F = F-distribution, Sig. = at 5% level of significance

The table 5a demonstrate that a one-way analysis of variance was performed, and the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) i.e. "There is no significant difference in respondents' awareness of plagiarism" was accepted because the level of respondents' awareness

of plagiarism was determined to be non-significant at a 5% level of significance.

#### 6.6 Perception of respondents on Plagiarism

The moderate number of respondents



(36.2%) felt that submitting someone else's work as if it is our own is account to plagiarism (Table 6), followed by 28.0% of them strongly disagreed that "To use most of the content from someone else's source and changing the order is not considered as plagiarism". While 23.6% of them strongly

agreed to the statement 'to take a part of text from a book and submit is as without credit is considered as act of plagiarism'. The study found that contradictory opinion among respondents which lead them towards violation of such activities.

**Table 6: Perception of Plagiarism among respondents**

Perception	SA	AG	UC	DA	SD
To submit someone else's work as if it is our own	48 (26.3)	31(17.0)	22(12.0)	15(8.2)	66(36.2)
To take a piece of text from a book and submit it as yours without giving proper reference	43(23.6)	36(19.7)	21(11.5)	17(9.3)	30(16.4)
To use most of the content from someone else's source and changing the order	39(21.4)	38(20.8)	33(18.1)	21(11.5)	51(28.0)
To extract your main points from a text you read, but write it in your own words	30(16.4)	44(24.1)	49(26.9)	26(14.2)	33(18.1)

*SA-Strongly agree, AG- Agree, UC- Uncertain, DA-Disagree, SD- Strongly disagree*

### 6.7 Factors responsible for violation of IPR and allied issues

In the Table 7, Most of the respondents (46.7%) opined Bad time management is compel towards violation of IPR issues, followed by Lack of understanding of the concepts (46.2%), Lack of good

understanding of using the Internet ethically (44.5%). Although the respondents' aware of concepts of IPR but some reasons which were led them towards infringement of Copyright and plagiarism during the research activities so it is most vital to enhance awareness on such areas through training and other awareness programs.

**Table 7: Factors responsible for Copyright infringement and Plagiarism among respondents**

Factors	SA	AG	UC	DA	SD
High cost of textbooks/ Journals	41(22.5)	80 (44.0)	36 (19.8)	15 (8.2)	10 (5.5)
Lack of understanding of the concepts of Copyright and Plagiarism	48 (26.4)	84 (46.2)	40 (22.0)	8 (4.4)	2 (1.1)
Options to easily download from websites facilitates violation Plagiarism	39 (21.4)	72 (39.6)	51 (28.0)	15 (8.2)	5 (2.7)
Pressure of academic performance	26 (14.3)	74 (40.7)	53 (29.1)	18 (9.9)	11 (6.0)
Lack of good understanding of using the Internet ethically	45 (24.7)	81 (44.5)	39 (21.4)	13 (7.1)	4 (2.2)
Lack of citation and reference skills	40 (22.0)	79 (43.4)	50 (27.5)	11 (6.0)	2 (1.1)
Bad time management	26 (14.2)	85(46.7)	41 (22.5)	25 (13.7)	5 (2.7)
Scarcity of Information resources in the library	39 (21.4)	61 (33.5)	48 (26.4)	22 (12.1)	12 (6.6)
Lack of knowledge about Plagiarism detection tools	47 (25.8)	79 (43.4)	32 (17.6)	16 (8.8)	8 (4.4)

*SA-Strongly Agree, AG- Agree, UC- Uncertain, DA-Disagree, SD- Strongly disagree*

## 7. Discussion

The present study found significant insights on the knowledge of research

community regarding IPR issues. The researcher asked a question to respondents regarding awareness of concept of Intellectual



Property Rights and the respondents said that they know the concept of IPR meanwhile the study also noticed that most of the respondents not well aware about various types of IPR which indicate lack of understanding on IPR i.e., Patent, trademark, Trade secrets, copyright, Geographical Indications etc., among respondents which is most essential in the present day context. The researcher has attempted to study the knowledge of respondents' on copyright law and found that although most of the respondents agreed that they are aware of concept of copyright law but the study also found that contradictory opinions among respondents' regarding perception of copyright law (with 5% level of significance). One of the study objective's is to find the knowledge of respondents' on plagiarism and the result reveals that though the respondents mentioned their level of awareness on plagiarism as good but they perceived differently about plagiarism with 5% level of significance (Table 5 & Table 6). The study focused on to trace the factors which lead the research community to get into involve in plagiarism activities and found that (Table 7) lack of proper understanding of concepts of IPR and allied issues compel them towards violation of copyright law and plagiarism.

## 8. Conclusion

The present study attempted to assess the knowledge of research scholars' on IPR issues and reveals that respondents' level of awareness on IPR issues is not satisfactory as the respondents lagging behind the thorough understanding of various types of IPRs such as Patents, trademarks, geographical indications, copyright etc. The present trend of IPR issues for academic and research community in University and other higher educational institute is very significance as it uphold the quality of research and also assist to enhance their personal as well as professional reputations during the ranking

frameworks such as THE ranking (Times Higher Education ranking), NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) etc. The lack of Knowledge of IPR and allied issues will effect academic community to not to get financial assistance, enhance their academic as well as professional reputations and other privileges could be benefited if one must be aware of IPRs and associated issues.

## References

- Aboyade, W. A. et. al. (2015). Copyright Infringement and Photocopy Services Among University Students and Teachers in Nigeria. *International Journal of Arts & Sciences*, 08(01), 463–472.
- Ahmed, S., & Varun, P. K. (2017). Awareness regarding intellectual property rights a survey amongst the PG and Ph. D. students of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. *International Journal of Law*, 3, 184-90.
- Alvera, S., Zaidi, S. M., Ali, K., & Fatima, N. (2016). Cognizance of Intellectual Property Rights and Digital Rights Management among Library Professionals and Research Scholars in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Aligarh Muslim University. *International Research: Journal of Library and Information Science*, 6(3). 397–410.
- Datig, I., & Russell, B. (2015). “The fruits of intellectual labor”: International student views of intellectual property. *College and Research Libraries*, 76(6), 811–830.
- Indrasari, F., & Setiyawan, A. D. (2018). Students Awareness on the Regulation of Intellectual Patent Rights on their Writing Products (a case study on the students of State Polytechnic of Madiun). *Jurnal Jurisprudence*, 8(1), 8–17.
- Isiakpona, C. D. (2012). Undergraduate students' perception of copyright infringement: A case study of the university of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 2012(FEB), 1.
- Kumar, V., Aranha, V., Bhanushali, N., Jain, R.,



- Atre, S., & Singh, S. (2021). Assessment of knowledge, attitude and practice regarding intellectual property rights among dental task force attending private dental colleges in Navi Mumbai: a cross-sectional study. *Journal of Medicine and Life*, 14(1), 93–99.
- Luniachek, V., Brovdii, A., Kulakovskiy, O., & Varenko, T. (2020). Academic Integrity in Higher Education of Ukraine: Current State and Call for Action. *Education Research International*, 2020.
- Mony, V. O., & Ikoha, A. P. (2024). Intellectual Property Rights and Plagiarism in Information Technology Research. *Journal of Legal Subjects*, (42), 13–23.
- Nawazish, M., & Batool, S. H. (2022). Framing the New Role of Information Professionals: investigating Copyright Literacy Levels and Awareness of Academic Librarians in Pakistan. *New Review of Academic Librarianship*, 28(1), 61–78.
- Negi, U. & Pant, M. K. (2024). Awareness and satisfaction of users towards RFID based circulation system: A study. *College Libraries*, 39(1), 65-74
- Park, C. (2003). Assessment & evaluation in higher education in other (people' s) words□: plagiarism by university students-- literature and. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 28(5), 241–288.
- Uakarn, C., Chaokromthong, K., & Sintao, N. (2021). Sample size estimation using Yamane and Cochran and Krejcie and Morgan and Green formulas and Cohen statistical power analysis by G\* power and comparisons. *Apheit International Journal*, 10(2), 76-88.
- Winaya, A., Maftuchah, M., Arif, S., Neimane, L., & Ekawati, I. (2023). The Awareness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) Regimes on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) of Agricultural Products Processing at Malang Area, East Java Province, Indonesia. In *E3S Web of Conferences*: Vol. 374. *EDP Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202337400004>