

A survey about the awareness, knowledge and attitude towards Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among the dental researchers of SGT University, Gurugram

Abstract

With the advancements in modern science and technology, Intellectual Property Rights came in to existence to benefit and encourage innovative people for their work. The term intellectual property rights gained his strength from a long time and much expanded since then. These rights are applied to all innovation irrespective of educational qualifications and implies to all subjects, including the lawyers, judges, and also for engineers, scientists, artists, technicians, farmers, and as well as researchers. Dentistry in recent years has also developed interest in the field of intellectual property rights (IPR) and Patents due to extensive research in the fraternity. Therefore, it is need of the hour to check out the awareness about intellectual property rights. If people would aware about IPR than only can proceed for IPRs in future for their research findings. As the universities are the main hub of intellectuals therefore, aim of the present study was to determine the intellectual property rights (IPR) awareness level among the dental scholars of SGT University, Gurugram. Hence, this would be an advantage for dental researchers to explore and expand their scope of activities, with special privileges empowered for their work.

Keywords:

Intellectual Property Rights, Trademarks, Copyrights, Patents, Dental scholars

Introduction

Intellectual Property is a collection of ideas and concepts, which can be protected through trademarks, copyrights and patents. IPR, in literal sense, means something that emanates from human brain. IPR are the rights, which allow the patent holder, trademark carrier or copyrighted work to benefit them for their brainwork or investment.¹ These rights have been outlined under Article 27 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Intellectual Property Rights rewards ideas, resulting out of human brain work to achieve something, thereby boosting the progress of humankind.² These rights encourage humans to continue further in their endeavour to produce improved and effective products.

Need for Intellectual Property Rights –

- a) They protect and safeguard the capacity of human in their creativity and their invention of new works in different areas.
- b) It enhances the economic growth, thereby creating new jobs and opportunities.
- c) They legally safeguard and protect new inventions and motivating the resources for more novelty.

Intellectual property can be better understood with the terms, copyrights, trademarks and patents. Copyrights is the exclusive rights given to the creator, writer, artist, author or any one of their original works to publish or record for a fixed period of time. The main purpose of copyright is to ensure and reward the general benefit of authors produce work.³ A closely linked term is “Related Rights” which cover rights similar to copyright but are limited as they last for very short time. Trademarks is a distinguishable symbol, signature or design of goods or products representing a particular company. Basically, it deals with the reputation of the Company’s brand, essentially acting as a guarantor of the origin of the products or service provided, for example- Coca Cola. Patents can be termed as legal monopoly granted to an individual to make use of their brainwork by others, which can be done by selling their invention and making it a restricted property for use. The law of patents establishes a patent system which supports and encourages technological innovation and promotes economic development. The main purpose of patent system is to encourage innovation. Novelty, invention and industrial applications are the features of patency.³

There are three following conditions to recognise any invention:

- i) It has to be a new invention.
- ii) It should not be obvious.
- iii) Their needs should hold industrial application.

Intellectual property rights (IPR) and patents is getting very much importance nowadays in all the fields of sciences. In technical education almost all the scholars are aware about IPR. However, in medical education including all the streams, there is very less awareness about IPR and its importance in respective fields.

Dentistry in recent years has developed interest in the field of intellectual property rights (IPR) and Patents due to extensive research and existing competition. There have been various patent grants and applications in the field of dentistry abroad due to better understanding of IPR but India still has very few patent applications on the subject matter. This implies that Indian scenario for Patents related to dentistry still has a long way to go and

development is must for the progress of whole nation.⁴ Nowadays, numerous inventions are being performed in the field of dentistry, but due to the lack of knowledge related to IPR and Patents, it is unable to obtain its substantial value in the society.

This survey was therefore initiated with a prime focus to determine the intellectual property rights (IPR) awareness level among the dental scholars of SGT University, Gurugram. Hence, this would be an advantage for dental researchers to explore and expand their scope of activities, with special privileges empowered for their work.

Aim and Objective: The aim of the study is to know the level of awareness, knowledge and attitude towards IPR and patents among dental researchers/ scholars of SGT University, Gurugram.

Materials and Method: Self administered questionnaire was circulated among 100 dental researchers/scholars of SGT University, Gurugram. There were 8 questions in the questionnaire. The study was conducted by single observer and it was not influenced by any external sources. All the responses were recorded and subjected to suitable statistical analysis.

Data analysis and interpretation

The questions that were asked in the study and the result obtained from respondents after statistical analysis is mentioned below. Overall awareness of survey population is described using the graph (Figure 1), which showed that not many participants were aware about IPR and other methods of patents.

Results and discussion

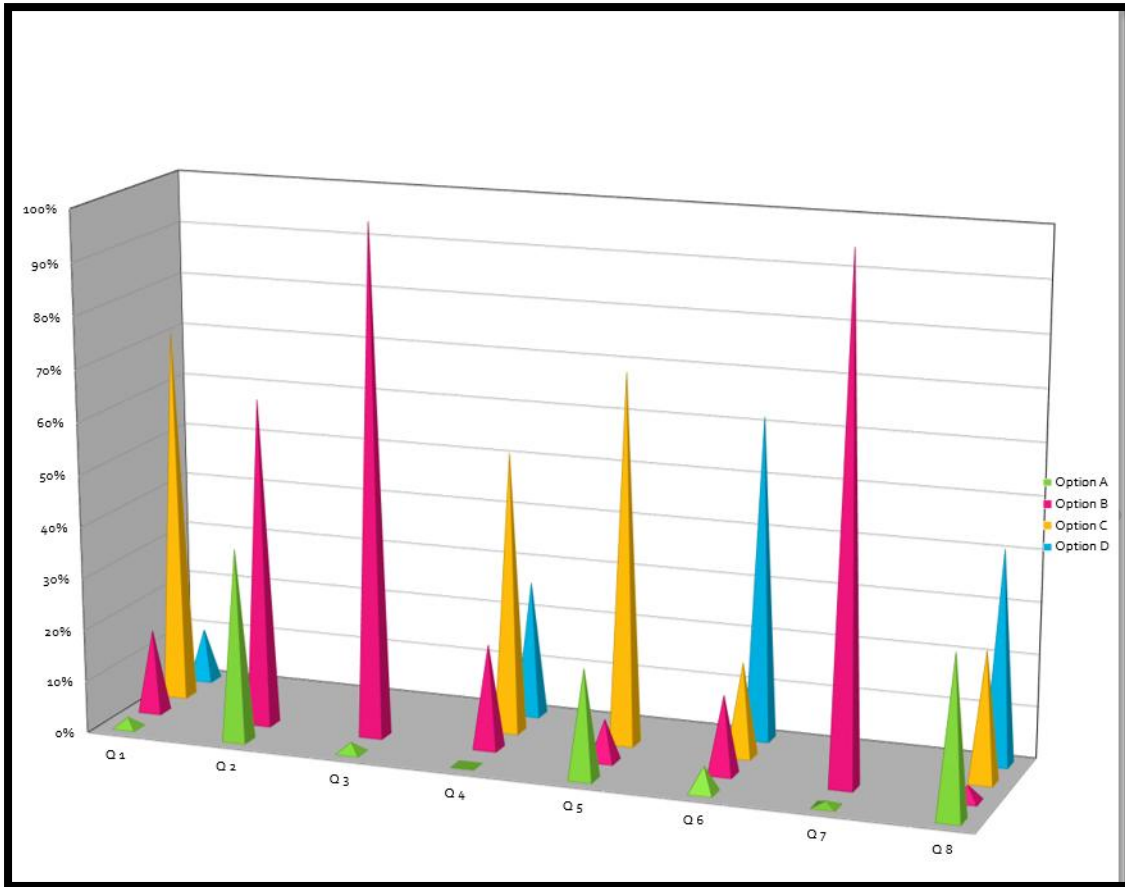


Figure 1: Graph showing overall awareness of survey population

Table 1:

Q1: What is the full form of IPR-	a)Intelligent property rule	b)Indian property rule	c)Intellectual property right	d)Intelligent property right
Response in %	2%	16%	72%	10%

The above Table no.1 illustrate that only 72% of dental scholars are aware about the full form of intellectual property rights.

Table 2:

Q 2: Have you ever hear about the term IPR before-	a) Yes	b) No
Response in %	37%	63%

Table no. 2 illustrate that 37% of dental scholars have heard the term IPR whereas other 63% of the scholars are unaware about the term IPR.

Table 3:

Q 3: Have you ever attended any workshop/seminar/conference on IPR-	a) Yes	b) No
Response in %	2%	98%

Table no.3 illustrate that only 2% of dental researchers have attended the workshop or seminar on IPR and other 98% of them haven't yet attended any conference or seminar on IPR.

Table 4:

Q4:IPR covers -	a) Patents	b) Patents and copyrights	c) Copyright, TM and Patent	d)Copyright, Trade secrets and patent
Response in %	10%	10%	54%	26%

Table no. 4 describe that 10% of dental scholars says that IPR covers only patents, whereas other 10% of scholars says that IPR includes both patents and copyrights, and according to 54% scholars IPR include copyright, TM and patent and rest 26% of says that copyright, trade secrets and patent are included in IPR.

Table 5:

Q5: Do our university has IPR cell-	a) Yes	b) No	c) I don't know
Response in %	21%	8%	71%

Table no. 5 describe that only 21% dental researchers knows that our university has IPR cell, whereas 71% respondent don't know about IPR cell of the University.

Table 6:

Q6: IPR cell deals with-	a) Patent	b)All intellectual properties	c)Books+ Journals	d)Patents+ Copyrights
Response in %	5%	15%	18%	62%

The above table shows that 62% of dental scholars said IPR cell deals with Patents and copyrights,5% of them says IPR deals with Patents only ,15% of them says it deals with all intellectual properties and remaining 18% of the scholars says it deals with books and journals.

Table 7:

Q 7: Have you ever applied for any patent:	a) Yes	b) No
Response in %	1%	99%

Table no. 7 illustrate that only 1% of scholars have applied for patent whereas remaining 99% of scholars have not yet applied for any patent.

Table 8:

Q8: IPR are applicable:	a)State wise	b) City wise	c)Country wise	d)Country and world wise
Response in %	31%	3%	25%	41%

According to table 8, 31% dental researchers says that IPR are applicable state wise, 3% says it city wise, another 25% says that it is country wise and remaining 41% says it is applicable both country and world wise.

Limitations of IPR

Intellectual property harms the public interest by its wide control of copyright extensions and other patents. As per the critics, it is harming health of new creations, preventing progress and providing benefits to concentrated masses only. It is also believed that if property rights in information and ideas are allowed, then artificial scarcity would be created.⁵ Another opinion is that intellectual property needs to be expanded in duration as well as in scope.

Conclusion

The conclusion of this study shows that large number of respondent are no aware of intellectual property rights. However, some of researchers have little knowledge of intellectual property rights. It was also seeing that the scholars have very few knowledge of patent and copyright in their research. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to understand IPR and Patents, especially for dental professionals involved in research and development. This research paper was initiated with the hope that an increased understanding of the process of IPR and Patent will eliminate some of the misconceptions held by the dentists and, to a lesser degree, the academic and dental research community. We must aware dentists to use these rights to protect their original work. Due to the small number of studies on IPR, inadequate data is available so more studies are necessary to assess awareness about IPR and to reach more conclusive results.

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