

*Theme: "IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future"*

## **IP and Youth: Problems and Solutions for Innovating a Better Future**

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Younger minds require innovation, bringing their energy and inventiveness, as well as their curiosity and imagination, to the world for a brighter future. Three aspects have been identified to enhance Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) awareness among them: appropriate information, active engagement of government entities and university authorities, and IPR awareness activities. Actually, education is critical in improving awareness among students, researchers, academicians, and the general public about the need to appreciate and honour the intellectual effort of others.

Assignments given by the subject teachers at schools and colleges play a vital role in improving creativity and innovation among the students. But it has not been used properly by the students. Students used to copy the assignments from books, websites, and their friends. So, the thinking ability has been affected even by the school days. Further plagiarism is the biggest threat to youth today. Every institution must have a licensed plagiarism checking software. Every assignment submitted by the students should be checked for plagiarism, and an assessment should be made based on the percentage of similarity. The most important thing is to improve critical thinking and creativity, which will improve research and innovation-related activities.

Plagiarism and piracy were viewed as infringements of intellectual property rights by university and high school students. Students have the habit of photocopying books and journals, which are also violations of intellectual property rights, particularly when they are copyrighted. It is always a good habit to read from the library or purchase the book for studying purpose. Downloading books and journals from pirated websites is an unethical practice that should be avoided. Authors and publishers are facing serious issues and heavy losses as they put up a lot of time, money, and effort to bring it out, and easily infringing their intellectual property rights is not fair. If the photocopying services are not available, CDs, DVDs, pen drives, hard disks, and online/cloud storage are the primary ways to store and access pirated items, and this immoral piracy effort should be detected and prevented with the help of some sort of technology, which is needed for society with the utmost urgency. Engineers or researchers have to come forward to identify certain technologies and implement them with the permission of the government. Students should be properly monitored and the expense of monitoring and disciplining people who do not respect IPR will be reduced if there is a clear knowledge of its value. The active participation of government and non-governmental organizations and higher education institutions in protecting IPR is very important in communicating the proper message to the youth about how to preserve their own IPR while also respecting the rights of others.

People want to try and learn about new products without the inconvenience of owning them. In particular, young people want to use digital content and software, which have become increasingly important in their lives. People want to listen to music, watch movies, and play games without having to purchase the song, movie, or game. Students use pirated software for their academic activities or for learning purposes. Several software companies provide the

student version for educational purposes, but some only offer the commercial full version. Though the student version is available, it will have only limited features and functionalities. So, students are using cracked or pirated commercial full versions to enjoy the full features of the software. There is a lot of open-source alternative software available that is suggested by the government. Also, there are a lot of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) that are also being initiated by the government for learning at no cost. Students are encouraged to use those facilities instead of using pirated ones.

The Internet is usually overloaded with information and some articles or digital content are published online by an unknown source. Youth, in particular, enjoy online audios, videos, movies, web series, and sporting events that require a subscription. Some used to watch legally and some utilized virtual private networks and untrusted mobile applications to find those contents to watch somehow without spending money. They end up on sites they are unfamiliar with, and they have no way of knowing if the content they are accessing is lawful or not. However, because they are unaware of the consequences, they continue to use that method without the knowledge of parents. These kinds of unauthorized websites may redirect to unsafe websites, which will create new illegal pathways and destroy them. Moreover, harmful malware and spyware will get into their mobiles, laptops, and personal computers due to unauthorized websites and applications. This will lead to tracking of personal information, can destroy data and resources, cause errors and slow down the performance of the device. Ultimately, the user will get trapped, threatened by an anonymous group of people, and thereby, in some cases, lead to the loss of money and lives. Suitable parental control is required for all the internet-based devices. There are a lot of applications available legally to monitor children and prevent their use of those sites and applications.

There are a lot of hidden talents who are unable to find the proper channel to showcase their talent, nor are they encouraged by parents or someone close to them. Students are the younger minds who, while having lots of creativity and innovation in their ideation level, cannot be transformed into IPR due to a lack of awareness. Even many educated people are not aware of the importance of IPR, and it requires a lot of awareness and motivation. The initiatives taken by the government are impressive, like SSIP scheme. However, students need to grab those opportunities like filing patents, copyrighting their works, and registering trademarks for their brands. It is observed that there are a lot of start-ups that have emerged in recent years and there is a tremendous growth of young people in research and innovation due to government policies. Ideas are emerging in the budding minds of young students. It is the responsibility of parents and teachers to make it happen by throwing lights. There are lots of scopes and modes available to know, learn and acquire intellectual property rights. Unlike in old times, we have internet facilities and online tools to research and file IPR. Student centric learning and outcome-based education will give a lot of flexibility to the students, but Problem-Based Learning (PBL) leads to innovation and acquiring IPR. A few institutes have already followed problem-based learning and students are filing patents with the help of faculties. The collaboration of students with faculties and with other experts will give a more robust thinking process due to the involvement of more brains. As a result, it is not too far-fetched for young people to lead the world in terms of intellectual property rights.