

Report
One day Workshop on
“Awareness on Intellectual Property Rights”
30th November, 2021

Intellectual Property is the product of a person’s intelligence, creativity, hard work, and skill. It results from an idea that comes to one’s mind and is given creative expression.

There is no age to create your own Intellectual Property. In fact, every time you compose a poem, write an assignment, make a painting or sketch that is original, you are creating your own Intellectual Property!

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Awareness is critical to shaping an environment that is conducive to fostering creativity & innovation in the country. One of the key focus areas is students and research scholars of Universities, as it is essential to nurture creativity and the ability to innovate from a young age. Universities and public research institutions are among the direct contributors towards innovation and research, particularly in developing countries. The University Grants Commission (UGC), the nodal authority for determining and maintaining of standards of university education in India, issued a letter for inclusion of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) as a generic elective subject under the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS).

In addition, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), a ranking system adopted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), ranks institutions of higher education in India. These rankings act as mechanism for the institutions to include promoting innovation, research and development while assessing their performance beyond academics. One of the parameters considered while ranking and which is significant to our discussion is Research and Professional Practice that includes IPR and patents - both published and granted, by students and faculty members which has a weightage of about 15 marks. Publications and patent applications have been found to be highest from engineering and technology institutes. The ranking of top educational institutions was found to be proportional to the number of applications filed for patents. As people who will soon be joining the workforce, it’s important for university students to understand the nuances of IPR and its benefits.

Hence, P.G. Dept. of Biosciences and Biotechnology, Fakir Mohan University, Balasore, Odisha, India organized a One day Workshop on “Awareness on Intellectual Property Rights” on 30th November, 2021. This workshop was basically designed for postgraduate students and early researchers. The aim was to provide a platform to understand many benefits of IPR as well as students can learn about the ways in which they can safeguard their creations, giving them a competitive edge over their peers.

Dr. Vijeta Sharma, Technical Specialist, Lexpert Consilium LLP was invited as the Resource person for this workshop. Dr.Sharma provides consultation on IPR related to Engineering, software team as well as Life Science. She is involved with patent searching, providing patentability opinion, patent application drafting, creating patent ready drawings, creating response to office action, providing freedom to operate opinion, providing invalidity opinion, generating technology landscape etc.

The Workshop started with an Inaugural session with address by Head of Department, Dr. Bhaskar Behera. The organizing secretary Dr. Shubhashree Mahalik introduced the guests and resource persons to the audience, followed by address of Chairman, Post Graduate council, Prof. Munesh Ch. Adhikary. The Chief Guest of the Workshop, the Vice Chancellor of Fakir Mohan University addressed the participants and encouraged the faculties and research scholars to translate their research into patentable products. He emphasised that filing patents will not only protect their original research, but also give boost to their career and also the University would be benefitted.

The workshop had 107 participants from across the country. There were two technical sessions followed by feedback and valedictory session. In the first session the resource person discussed on the basics of Intellectual Property rights and how to identify our rights. In the second session she spoke on Fundamentals of Patent for Scientists and Engineers. All the sessions were followed by extensive and interesting discussion sessions where participants posted their questions and queries. The discussion session was moderated by Dr. Dhanesh Kumar. The workshop ended with the submission of feedback by participants and Valedictory session.

