PROCEEDINGS



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OF

IPR Management in Biodiversity Conservation: Implications of Access Benefit Sharing, TRIP/CBD and Biodiversity Acts

January 17-18, 2020





In collaboration with

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board





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17-18 January, 2020

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Public Health and Intellectual Property Rights

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Abstract

Pharmaceutical industry occupies an important place in Indian economy as a major emerging research-oriented and research-based industry. Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) has brought new challenges and opportunities for this sector and proper analysis of all the factors responsible for successful gains from the market is essential for the researchers. The Indian pharma industry's success and survival will depend on how strategically and effectively it faces the upcoming challenges and opportunities in this sector. Till 2005 drugs for medical purposes were not patentable in India. Therefore, it was apprehended that the switchover from the non-patent regime to the patent regime would not be a smooth one. Comparing the price for same medicine among countries with and without patent regime for medicines, it was found that in some countries with patent right, the drug price was higher up to 41 times than in India prior to 2005 (with no drug patents). There is option for controlling the price by even provisions available in the TRIPs itself like compulsory licensing and parallel import (which requires political will). In this regard proper measures are required to be taken to protect indigenous knowledge mainly in the fields of traditional Indian System of Medicine. This would help in achieving a balance between corporate and communities by balancing the return on investment (ROI) approach and returns to community (RTC) approach to intellectual property issues. Many issues have come to the fore to influence the trade patterns. The traditional concept of the factors of the production in economics is changing in the present era of liberalized economy, particularly with coming into force of World Trade Organization in 1995. The role of knowledge as potential contributor to production is increasingly being recognized, thus assuming the status of a factor of production. This has significantly increased the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in the developmental process in the modern world. However, the general perception is that IPRs play a significant role only in the case of globalize industrial economy and has not worthwhile place in the area of social development. The Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) includes Copyright and Related Rights, Trademarks, Geographical Indications, Industrial Designs, Patents, Layout-Designs (Topographies) of Integrated Circuits, Protection of Undisclosed Information, and Control of AntiCompetitive Practices in Contractual Licenses etc. within the scope of IPRs.

Keywords: Intellectual Property Rights, TRIP, Pharma Industry, Copyright

Introduction

In developing countries, the issues of traditional knowledge have assumed a critical dimension in the area of intellectual property rights. The phrase "Traditional Knowledge" implies the development and transmission of the knowledge from generation to generation within a system, held by local individuals, families, lineages or indigenous communities. From time immemorial, these local individuals or communities have a store-house of knowledge about their geographical flora and fauna. However, the

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