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# **IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS: A LEGAL ANALYSIS**

AUTHORED BY – INDHUMATHI & NAKSHATHRA

## **Abstract**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force in the modern technological landscape, significantly influencing various sectors including intellectual property rights (IPR). The ability of AI systems to autonomously generate creative works, inventions, and innovations raises complex legal questions concerning authorship, ownership, liability, and protection. Traditional IPR frameworks, which are fundamentally based on human creativity and inventorship, face serious challenges in accommodating AI-generated outputs. This paper critically examines the impact of AI on copyright and patent laws, particularly in India, while also comparing global approaches. It highlights legal gaps, judicial responses, and policy considerations, and suggests reforms to balance innovation with legal protection. The study concludes that a restructured and adaptive legal framework is essential to address the evolving dynamics of AI and IPR.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, Intellectual Property Rights, Copyright, Patent Law, AI-generated works

## **1. Introduction**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the way knowledge, creativity, and innovation are produced. Unlike traditional technologies, AI systems can independently create music, art, literature, and even inventions without direct human intervention. This development has disrupted the conventional understanding of intellectual property rights (IPR), which historically attribute ownership and authorship to human creators.

The Indian IPR framework, governed by statutes such as the Copyright Act, 1957 and the Patents Act, 1970, does not explicitly address AI-generated works. As a result, legal uncertainties arise regarding whether AI can be recognized as an author or inventor, and who

should own the rights over such creations. This paper explores these complexities and evaluates the adequacy of existing laws in addressing AI-related challenges.

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## 2. Objectives of the Study

The primary objectives of this research are:

- To analyze the impact of AI on intellectual property laws.
  - To examine the applicability of copyright and patent laws to AI-generated works.
  - To identify legal challenges relating to authorship, ownership, and liability.
  - To compare international approaches to AI and IPR.
  - To suggest reforms for strengthening the legal framework.
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## 3. Research Methodology

This study adopts a **doctrinal research methodology**, relying on secondary sources such as statutes, case laws, journal articles, reports, and international conventions. Comparative analysis is used to evaluate different jurisdictions.

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## 4. AI and Copyright Law

### 4.1 Concept of Originality

Copyright protection requires originality, traditionally understood as the product of human intellect. AI-generated works challenge this principle, as they may lack direct human creativity. Indian law defines an “author” as a person who creates a work. Since AI lacks legal personality, it cannot be recognized as an author. This creates ambiguity regarding ownership of AI-generated content.

### 4.2 Ownership Issues

There are three possible claimants:

- The **developer** of the AI system
- The **user** who operates the AI
- The **AI system itself**

Currently, Indian law does not clearly specify ownership in such cases, leading to legal uncertainty.

### 4.3 Judicial Approach

In recent developments, Indian authorities have shown openness to recognizing AI contributions, as seen in cases involving AI-generated artworks. However, full legal recognition of AI as an author is still absent.

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## 5. AI and Patent Law

### 5.1 Patentability Criteria

For an invention to be patentable, it must satisfy:

- Novelty
- Inventive step
- Industrial applicability

AI-generated inventions may fulfill these criteria, but the issue arises in identifying the “inventor.”

### 5.2 Inventorship Challenges

Indian patent law requires a “true and first inventor,” implying a natural person. AI systems, being non-human entities, do not fit this definition.

This raises questions:

- Can AI be an inventor?
- Should the developer or user be recognized instead?

### 5.3 Global Perspective

Countries like the United States and the United Kingdom have rejected AI as inventors, emphasizing human involvement. However, discussions continue on adapting laws to accommodate AI innovations.

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## 6. Comparative International Approaches

### 6.1 United States

The U.S. maintains that only natural persons can be inventors. AI is considered a tool rather than an independent creator.

### 6.2 United Kingdom

The UK allows copyright protection for computer-generated works but assigns authorship to the person who made the necessary arrangements.

### 6.3 European Union

The EU focuses on regulating AI through risk-based frameworks, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and human oversight.

### 6.4 South Africa

South Africa has taken a progressive approach by granting a patent where an AI system was named as the inventor, marking a significant shift in global IPR discourse.

## 7. Challenges in AI and IPR

### 7.1 Legal Challenges

- Lack of clear definitions for AI authorship and inventorship
- Absence of liability frameworks
- Difficulty in enforcing rights

### 7.2 Ethical Concerns

- Accountability for AI-generated harm
- Bias and discrimination in AI outputs
- Transparency in AI decision-making

### 7.3 Economic Impact

- Risk of monopolization by tech companies
- Impact on human creators and employment

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## 8. Role of International Conventions

International agreements such as the Berne Convention, Paris Convention, and TRIPS Agreement play a crucial role in shaping IPR laws. However, these frameworks were developed before the advent of AI and require modernization to address current challenges. Organizations like the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) are actively engaging in discussions to develop global standards for AI and IPR.

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## 9. Analysis and Findings

Based on the study:

- Existing IPR laws are **inadequate** to address AI-generated works.
- There is **significant ambiguity** in ownership and authorship.
- Courts are gradually adapting but lack consistent guidelines.
- Public opinion supports the need for **AI-specific regulations**.

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## 10. Suggestions and Recommendations

To address the challenges posed by AI, the following measures are recommended:

### 10.1 Legal Reforms

- Introduce **AI-specific IPR laws**
- Define authorship and inventorship clearly
- Recognize AI-assisted works with shared ownership models

### 10.2 Policy Measures

- Develop ethical guidelines for AI usage
- Promote transparency and accountability
- Encourage collaboration between developers and creators

### 10.3 Institutional Mechanisms

- Establish regulatory bodies for AI governance
- Strengthen enforcement mechanisms
- Conduct awareness programs on AI and IPR

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## 11. Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence represents both an opportunity and a challenge for intellectual property law. While it enhances innovation and creativity, it also disrupts traditional legal concepts. The current IPR framework, particularly in India, is not fully equipped to address the complexities introduced by AI.

A balanced approach is essential—one that encourages technological advancement while protecting the rights of human creators. This requires proactive legal reforms, international cooperation, and continuous dialogue among stakeholders.

The future of IPR in the age of AI depends on the ability of legal systems to evolve alongside technological progress. By adopting adaptive and inclusive frameworks, societies can harness the benefits of AI while ensuring fairness, accountability, and justice.

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