

STUDY OF IMPORTANCE OF COPYRIGHT IN THE CONTEXT INDIAN ANCIENT LITERATURE

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Abstract :

Copyright is a legal right under Intellectual Property Right (IPR). Copyright is a legal right which can protect our original creation so that others cannot copy, distribute or commercially exploit without prior permission. India has diversified culture and tradition. Many people are creating their many novel things but their creation was copied by others without their acknowledgement. Thus it is necessary to spread awareness about copyright amongst youngsters so that everyone's creation would be protected and the owner can get benefits of it. In India many ancient treasures are available; which are not even known to the common people.

Keywords : IPR, copyright, ancient text

Introduction :

In order to foster creativity and innovation, copyright plays a vital role in protecting the rights of creators, ensuring fair use of intellectual property, and protecting the interests of creators. In India, copyright laws are essential in safeguarding artistic, literary, and scientific works. However, awareness about copyright among the general public remains limited, leading to widespread infringement and undervaluation of intellectual property. This paper explores the significance of copyright in India, the level of public awareness regarding it, its role in protecting Indian literature, and the challenges faced in preserving the country's rich ancient texts.

Importance of Copyright in India Copyright law in India is governed by the Copyright Act of 1957, which has been amended multiple times to align with international treaties such as the Berne Convention, TRIPS Agreement, and WIPO Copyright Treaty.

The primary objectives of copyright law in India include:

- **Protection of Intellectual Property:** Copyright act grants exclusive rights to creators and prevent unauthorized reproduction, adaptation, and distribution of their works.
- **Encouragement of Creativity:** By safeguarding financial and moral rights for authors and artists, copyright law inspires innovation and the production of new works.
- **Legal action against Infringement:** Copyright owner can take legal action against individuals or entities that misuse their content without prior permission of creator.
- **Improving Economic Growth:** The industries such as film, music, publishing, and software contribute expressively to India's GDP and employment.



Public Awareness of Copyright in India :

Despite the legal framework, public awareness of copyright laws in India remains inadequate. Several factors contribute to this:

- **Lack of Education on Copyright Laws :** Copyright awareness is not included in most educational institutions' curriculums, leaving students and professionals unaware of their rights.
- **Easy Access to Pirated Content :** It is difficult for people to recognize the importance of copyright protection due to the availability of pirated books, movies, and software.
- **Low Enforcement of Copyright Laws :** A lack of enforcement mechanisms and lengthy legal processes often result in copyright violations going unchecked.
- **Limited Understanding Among Content Creators:** Several independent artists, writers, and researchers do not register their work under copyright, making claiming ownership difficult.
- **Role of Copyright in Protecting Indian Literature :** Literature in India ranges from ancient scriptures to contemporary works in multiple languages.

Role of Copyright :

- **Safeguarding Native Writing:** Indian writing, from old Sanskrit works to current local stories, needs copyright protection to stop unauthorized copying and changes.
- **Motivating Fresh Writers and Academics:** Writers and researchers are more likely to add to Indian writing if their work is safe from copying and illegal sharing.
- **Helping Digital Storage:** Copyright laws make it legal to digitize rare and old texts ensuring people can access them without breaking rules.
- **Not Knowing Much About Old Indian Writing :** People are unaware about the original writing
- Even though India has a rich writing history many Indians don't know much about their old texts. This happens for several reasons:
- **Hard to Get Old Manuscripts:** Many old works are kept in libraries or monasteries where not everyone can see them.
- **Language Problems:** Old texts in Sanskrit, Pali, or other ancient languages are hard for today's readers to understand.
- **Selling Knowledge:** Some foreign publishers have translated and copyrighted old Indian texts, which brings up ethical and legal questions.
- **Schools Don't Pay Attention:** Majority of the Indian schools and universities don't teach classic Indian writing so fewer people read and study it.

Challenges in Protecting Ancient Texts :

Ancient Indian literature is the treasure for the civilization. It caters the need of every individuals and includes texts like the Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Buddhist scriptures, is part of the country's cultural identity. Copyright laws can help protect these invaluable ancient works, but many challenges exist which includes :

- **Legal Challenges Copyright Expiry:** Many ancient texts are in the public domain, that



means anyone can modify and republish them without accountability.

- Unauthorized Translations and Reinterpretations: Several publishers misinterpret Indian scriptures, which leads to misinformation.
- Digital Piracy Unregulated Online Distribution: Numerous ancient texts are available online lack of proper authentication, leading to misrepresentation of original content.
- Difficulty in Tracking Infringements: Because digital piracy is a global phenomenon, identifying and addressing copyright violations is challenging.
- Cultural and Ethical Concerns Misuse of Texts for Commercial Purposes: A cultural and ethical concern is the misuse of ancient texts for commercial purposes, without acknowledging their cultural significance.
- Loss of Traditional Knowledge: It is possible for foreign entities to patent or copyright indigenous knowledge contained in ancient texts without proper legal protection.

Recommendations for Better Copyright Protection :

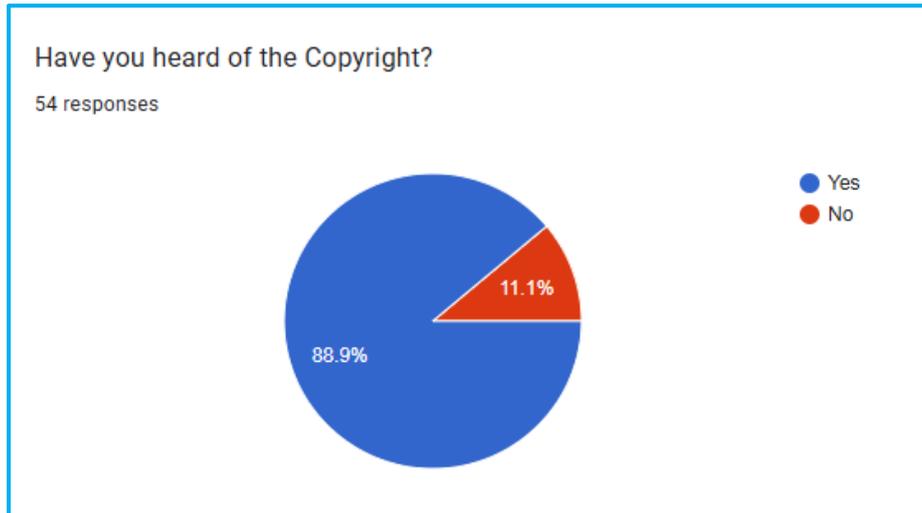
- To make copyright laws in India more effective and safeguard our rich literary heritage, here are some key suggestions:
- Boost Public Awareness: The government and educational institutions need to step up efforts to teach copyright literacy to students, artists, and businesses alike.
- Tighten the Legal Framework: We should introduce tougher laws to crack down on copyright infringement, especially in the digital realm.
- Support Digital Preservation: The government ought to invest in digitizing ancient texts, ensuring they are protected under copyright to prevent misuse.
- Foster Indigenous Publishing: Indian publishers should take the lead in republishing and translating ancient works, making them accessible to today's readers while keeping them legally protected.
- Enhance International Cooperation: India should work closely with global copyright organizations to stop foreign entities from wrongly claiming ownership of our literary treasures.

Analysis and Interpretation :

In India people are less aware about the IPR and copyright act. The youngsters who are the pillar of modern India are also unaware about the benefits of copyrights. Thus, the survey was conducted to analyze the awareness of youngsters about the copyright act. Following are the observations of survey :

Graph No. 1 :

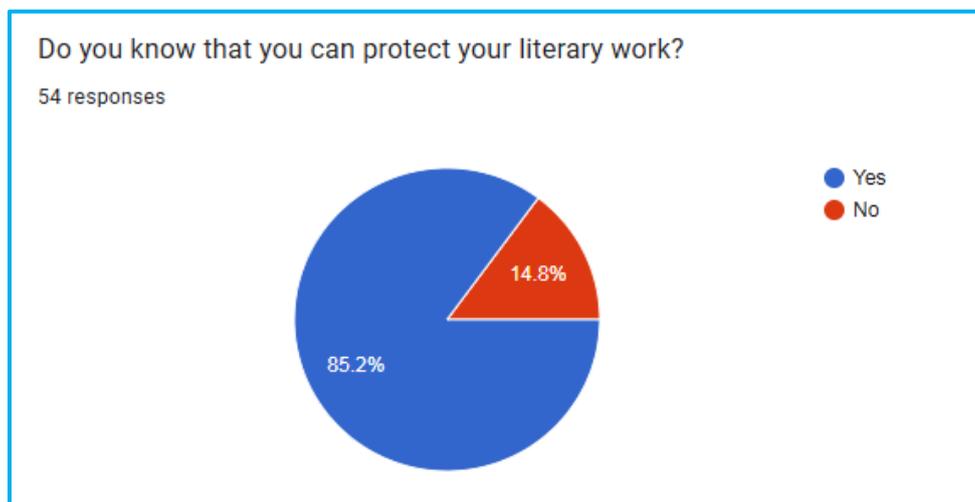




From the above graph it is found that 88.90% youngsters are aware about the copyright whereas 11.1% are not aware about the copyright act.

Thus it is found that majority of the youghsters are aware about the copyright act.

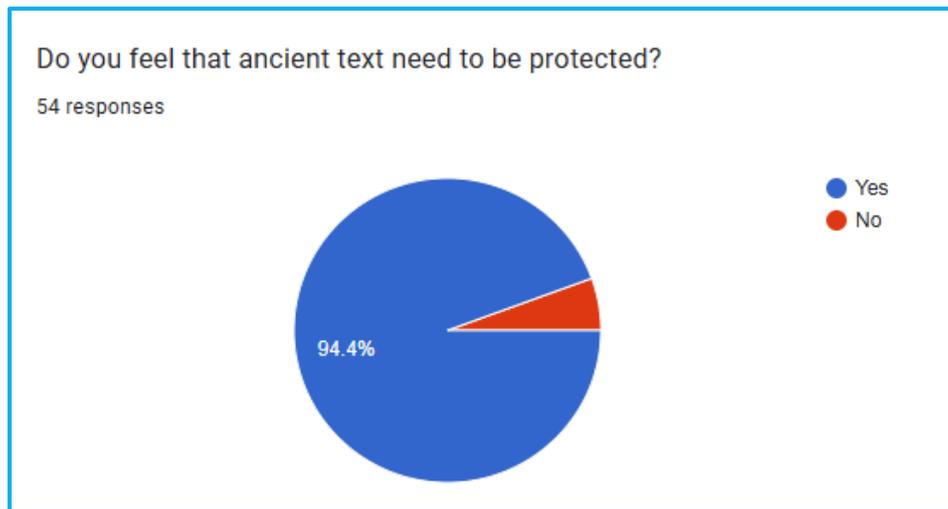
Graph No. 2 :



From the above graph it is found that 85.20% youngsters are aware that they can protect their literary work whereas 14.8% are not aware about the protection of literary work.

Thus it is found that majority of the youghsters are aware about the protection of their literary work.

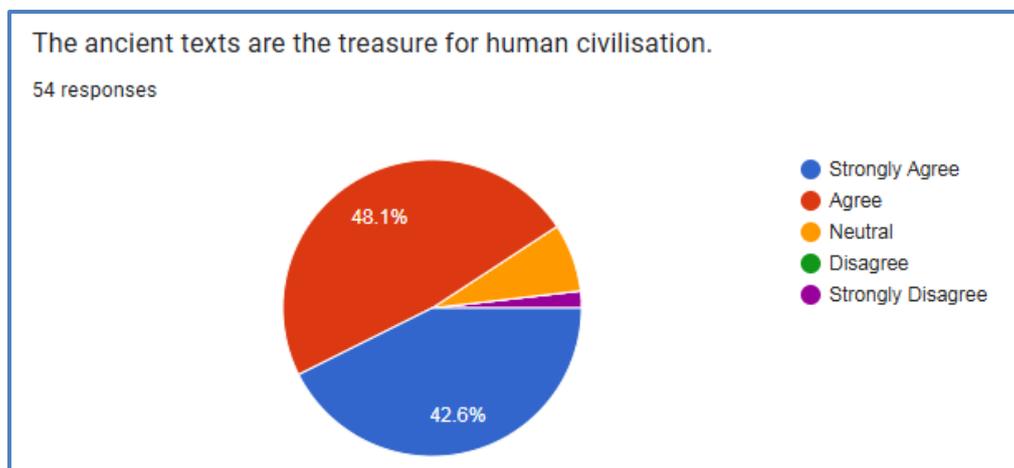
Graph No. 3 :



From the above graph it is found that 94.4% youngsters feels that ancient text need to be protected whereas 5.6% are not feel so.

Thus it is found that majority of the youghsters feels that Indian ancient text need to be protected.

Graph No. 4:



From the above graph it is found that 42.6% youngsters are strongly agree about the statement ‘The ancient texts are the treasure for human civilisation’ whereas 48.10% are agree, 7.4% are neutral about the statement, 1.9% are disagree about the statement.

Thus it is found that majority of the youghsters feels that ‘The ancient texts are the treasure for human civilisation’ and it need to be protected.

Conclusion :

Copyright is essential for protecting India’s rich literary and artistic heritage. It not only offers support and financial advantages to today’s creators but also plays a vital role in safeguarding the country’s ancient literature. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of copyright laws, and enforcement is often weak, which creates significant hurdles. By enhancing legal structures, raising public awareness, and focusing on digital preservation, India can make

sure that both its contemporary and historical literary gems are secured for generations to come. Some people use this treasure and write it in the modern language; which directly impacts on the Indian treasure. This should also need to be protected. The government should take stringent action to protect the Ancient Indian treasure and also awareness drive should be done to make youngsters aware about the importance of copyright protection.

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