

IPR Seminar Report

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Bionote: Dr. Mahuya Hom Choudhury is Scientist C(Senior Scientist) and Nodal Officer in Patent Information Centre, West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology (WBSCST), Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Biotechnology, Govt. of West Bengal. She graduated in Chemistry from Calcutta University and did his B.Tech and Integrated Ph.D (Engg.) from Jadavpur University. She holds Ph.D in Engg. (Food Technology and Biochemical Engg.) from Jadavpur University.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell of Bhairab Ganguly College Conducted One Day Seminar on "Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation in Today's Technology



Frontier" dated 13th May, 2022 in Collaboration with IQAC, Bhairab Ganguly College, West Bengal. On that day the programme started at 10:30 am by spot registration of participants, which was all most all 60 of the college teachers and more than 25 PG students. At 11 am the programme was started by the inaugural speech of the member of the IPR Cell Mr. Satchidananda Sardar. Afterwards felicitation of honourable resource persons for this seminar was held. At 11:10 am Dr. Santanu Chakraborty, Convener of IPR Cell, on behalf of Honourable Principal of Bhairab Ganguly College, Dr. Shuvranil Som, delivered welcome address. Dr. Shuvendu Dhara has given formal introduction of the honourable speaker Dr. Mahua Hom Chowdhury.



Dr Hom Chowdhury opened her discussion pitching the objective of this seminar. She addressed everyone as intellectuals and made it clear that the discussion on intellectual property rights should concern all present. She announced that the crux of the entire discussion should be: “we need to protect our thoughts”. She further established her statement by citing an example to demonstrate the gravity of the topic. She took the example of Prof. Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose who was more interested in devoting all his intellectual resources for the well-being of the society which somewhere suppressed the idea of protecting innovative thoughts. Instead of taking full credit for his own innovation, he opened it for everyone on humanitarian grounds. Innovators from the USA however took credit for these inventions and made it compulsory for future generations of India to pay extravagantly for what was supposed to be a lot cheaper. The moral of the story is, one must value the prospect of protecting intellectual properties not only for himself, but also for their future consumers.

Dr Hom Chowdhury also mentioned that on the request of Swami Vivekananda, Acharya Bose finally consented for having patent for some of his later inventions. Dr Hom

Chowdhury then pointed out the comparatively better awareness in relation with intellectual properties in states like Karnataka, Maharashtra and some other parts of India. She also pointed out that in West Bengal, despite having many intellectual properties, a lack of knowledge and inclination prevents our state from ascending the ladder of overall patent index in the country.

Then using a large number of PPT slides, she demonstrated the need for technology in order to understand and evaluate the culture of intellectual property. She pointed out the importance of patent information and how it is under-utilized. The process of applying for copyrights or patenting might be prolonged, but it has to be done accordingly to stop piracy. She shifted the idea towards content of technology transfer. She further talked about technology dependency. She further talked about IPR. She talked about infringement of copyright issues. She further talked about the success of using copyright and its effect on examination proficiency. The special opportunities enjoyed by women entrepreneurs were also reflected in the seminar. She talked about many examples of patent information through real life examples (like the history of patenting Basamati rice and Turmeric in India, and GI for Rasagolla in West Bengal).

She focused on using simple invention and encouraged sustainable approach rather than lab infrastructure. She talked about the industrial design and focused on the shape and conservation of intellectual property. She also pointed out the concepts of trademark, copyright, design, patent through the example of smart watch run by solar battery. She explained each of the concepts explicitly as well.

She ended the discussion with the patent law and the innate concepts used for the protection of intellectual properties. She alluded to a quotation from *Alice in Wonderland* and tried to emphasize the directions that need to be followed to handle excellence.

In a span of 1 hour of his interesting talk the seminar was ended by a question-answer session conducted by Dr. Surajit Sengupta, joint convener of IPR Cell; followed by formal vote of thanks given by Dr. Dhananjay Halder, Coordination IQAC.

Dr. Santanu Chakraborty & Dr. Surajit Sengupta

Joint Conveners

IPR Cell