

Xavier University Bhubaneswar
University Dialogue Series (UDS)

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Academic Integrity and Law Relating To Copyright in India

Speaker:

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Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. It is a concept deeply entrenched in morality and ethics, which ultimately expects that academic stakeholders like teachers and students should ensure that all academic work should result from an individual's own efforts. However the reality is quite contrary to this moralistic proposition.



In the real world, the temptation to pass on somebody else work as our own is overwhelming, which also happens at regular intervals in academic world. This deviant conduct is visited by retribution as permitted under law. In India, the operating law is the Copyright Act, 1957, which provides for protection of copyright, right to fair use as well as penal consequences for transgression of copyright materials.

The ever increasing sphere of influence of ICT has now challenged the domain of traditional concept of copyright. With the advent of concepts like e-books/libraries, search engines like Google and universal accessibility to education, the challenge before the stakeholders to draw a line whereby the legal rights of a copyright holder shall be protected and at the same time society at large should not be deprived of the benefit of knowledge for betterment of fellow human beings.



This paper is an attempt to synthesize the concepts of academic integrity, its connection with copyright act without losing focus on new challenges facing the traditional domain of copyright law. It seeks an answer to this huge but perennial question of individual's economic rights versus larger goal of greater good of the highest number in a Society. The law and context discussed is Indian and reliance has been placed on various pronouncements made by the Indian Judiciary to advance the proposition.

Key Words: Academic Integrity, Copyright, Case Laws, Fair Use.

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