

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ETHICAL VALUES OF INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY RIGHTS IN SOCIETY: A CASE LAW STUDY OF PAKISTAN**

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Abstract

Encouragement and praise of creativity in the fields of research and science is one of the most influential and vital contributor in “Socio-Economic and Cultural Development of the Society”. Adequate enforcement of Intellectual Property Law provides the necessary incentive for creator, inventor, and copy right holder in the legal regime of the WTO, such incentives help in overall promotion of skill, and disseminate knowledge based growth and socio-economic development. Ethically speaking, it is the responsibility of the society not to abuse the inventions of the originators without the prior permission of the holder in due course. Hence, “IP Law” aims to establish a balanced approach between public and private interest in society, the sociologist is of the view that the “Intellectual Property Law” acts as an instrumental force to promote the Socio-Economic and cultural development by introducing the new technologies, inventions and accelerate the commercial activities of the society. The “TRIPS Agreement” is one of the major multilateral trade agreements under the WTO regime. This Agreement covers intellectual property areas such as “copy right and related rights”, “trademarks including service marks”, “geographical indications”, “industrial designs”, “patents including the protection of new varieties of plants”, “the layout-designs of integrated

circuits”, and “undisclosed information”. Results of this research paper shows that a strong intellectual property regime in line with the aims and objectives of the “TRIPS Agreement” is a tool to promote Socio- Economic and ethical values in society. Moreover, this Agreement does not only protect and enforce the rights of the creators but also imposed social and ethical responsibilities on the part of the society. In this perspective the Courts of Pakistan may play a pivotal role for the enforcement and protection of “IP Rights” and also for the promotion of economic, social and ethical values in the country. A case-law study divulges that the Pakistani courts are now-a-days very much vigilant in reorganization of the intellectual property regime under the multilateral trading system. Moreover, the prevention of abuse of “IP Rights” is a highly encouraging factor for attracting foreign investment in Pakistan.

Keywords: *Social; Ethical; Values; Trips; Intellectual Property; Trademarks; Patents*

1.1. INTRODUCTION

Intellectual property creation of mind like music, literature and artistic work, it can be divided into two categories, first category is of intellectual property which includes “patents for inventions”, “trademarks”, “industrial designs” and “geographical indications”. Second category is of “copyrights” which consist of “literary work”, “electronic social media”, and creations of performing artist to ensure that such intellectual property is protected through law, intellectual property rights have been created as well as uphold so that the creator and owners of patents, trademarks or copyright works can benefit from their own work for society or to attract investment in a country. Such rights are universal in nature and they are envisaged in the article.27 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and are guarded by Local Governments and NGOs as well. Ethically protection of “IP Rights” prevents illegal production, distribution and use of products made by the original owner or inventor. It encourages a sense of responsibility on the part of the creator and stops others for taking credit

for his creation without his express permission. Consequently, strong IP protection regime strengthen the economic growth and act as an engine for Socio-economic and cultural development. Hence, it fuels the economic growth by incentivizing production through build-up in form of huge companies and encourages innovation, enhancing life quality and social values. Consumer can also confidently buy products with reliable trademarks to discourage counterfeiting and piracy and unethical practices in the market. However, an equitable IP rights regime catalyzes and strikes a balance between the interest of the inventor and public leading to a flourishing economy and ethical norms and value based society. This economic based society is further polished through the notion of mercantilism or market regulation by government in form of IP rights. De-legitimization of piracy allows a healthy merge between government and society in terms of economic market place participation. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is a fact of life. Since its establishment, it has become most significant actors in international economy and symbol of the efforts to set up a global system of international trade founded on the principle of equality, as revealed in its two basic rules: the most-favorite nation (MFN) clause and the principle of national treatment “(*International Economic Law, Globalization and Developing Countries by Julio Faundez & Celine Tan*)”. The preamble paragraph of the Marrakesh Agreement declared that:

“Recognizing that their relations in the field of trade and economic endeavor should be conducted with a view to raising standards of living, ensuring full employment and a large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective demand, and expanding the production of and trade in goods and services, while allowing for the optimal use of the world’s resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development, seeking both to protect and preserve the environment and to enhance the means for doing so in a manner consistent with their respective needs and concerns at different

levels of economic development”. (S. Akbar Zaidi P. 188 *Issues in Pakistan’s Economy Second Edition 2005*)”

Mr. Surendra Bhindari in his book ‘World Trade Organization (WTO) and Developing Countries’ states that:

“The Preamble aspires to take into account the special need of the least developed country Members in respect of maximum flexibility in the domestic implementation of laws and regulations in order to enable them to create a sound and viable technological base. The concession under TRIPS is not accorded on the special and differential treatment of subject matter nor to technological transfer but is limited only on the transitional arrangement as specified in Article 65 for developing countries and Article 66 for least developed countries”.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is dedicated to helping to ensure that the rights of creators and owners of intellectual property (IP) are protected worldwide and that inventors and authors are, thus, recognized and rewarded for their ingenuity. The intellectual property system offers a number of safeguards and incentives that act as a spur to human creativity, extending the boundaries of science and technology and enriching the world of literature and the arts. By providing a stable environment for the marketing of intellectual property products, it also helps to promote international trade. WIPO undertakes activities in three main areas, namely (i) the progressive development of international intellectual property law; (ii) assistance to developing countries to build intellectual property capacity at national and regional levels and encourage more effective use of IP as tool for economic development; and (iii) services to industry and the private sector to facilitate the process of obtaining intellectual property protection in multiple countries. WIPO works in close cooperation with

its 184 Member States to promote intellectual property around the globe and to ensure that all members are in a position to reap the benefits of an effective and affordable system of IP protection to promote wealth creation and economic development.

Like any other dispensation, it poses threats of loss and offers opportunities to enhance economic growth and development. There are/will be both failures and frontrunners. It would, therefore, be necessary among other things, to develop effective safety nets for those who are losing out. Pakistan has to manage the process so as to minimize threats and optimize opportunities. Pakistan in compliance with the TRIPS Agreement has enacted new legislations and has effectuated some amendments in the existing laws regarding enforcement and protection of “IP Rights”. Pakistan is duty bound to provide protection to intellectual property rights. Ergo, a fortified intellectual property regime in collaboration with intents of the TRIPS Agreement of the WTO is possible to have massive impact on Pakistan’s economy. This global regime is ultimately capable of accelerating technological innovation through transmission and dissemination of technology and is expected in the long run to serve for the benefits of producers and users as well, resulting in an overall social and economic progress in Pakistan. The TRIPS Agreement through its implications continues to be a challenge for Pakistan. The concerns that arise from it need to be addressed effectively, so as to extract the maximum benefits out of the global developments in the intellectual property rights regime. Pakistan needs to undertake a number of steps for promoting the required intellectual property protection culture in the country in line with its international obligations. The task is not an easy one, as it would have to be initiated right from the grass root level of the society. It is a high time that Pakistan begins to realize that there are certain products for which specific intellectual property protection must be provided. The area of geographical indications and traditional knowledge whether in the form of medicinal products or folklore, also needs to be given due protection under the present laws or through new legislation, so that Pakistan can commercially benefit out of the same, and restrict other member countries of taking undue

advantage out of them. Examples to learn from, for Pakistan, are the bio-piracy cases relating to Basmati, Turmeric and Neem. Pakistan's industrial and agricultural policies should become in consonance with the intellectual property regime as envisaged in new legislations, TRIPS Agreement and WIPO Conventions. Apart from the new intellectual laws on patents, trademarks and copy rights, Pakistan has also come up with laws for the protection of "integrated circuits" and "industrial designs". The process has been taken further with the recent past establishment of the Pakistan Intellectual Property Rights Organization (PIPPO). This is an important development in Pakistan's efforts to further protect to bring about a revolution in intellectual property rights. The Agreement has already resulted in revamping of Pakistan's intellectual property legislations [as in aforementioned paragraph]. Moreover, the creation of necessary infrastructure to enforce legislation is under process and is expected to be achieved in the course of time. One may also expect better incentives for Pakistan's local inventors and authors with stronger protection for their intellectual property rights.

1.2. DISCUSSION-(A) SOCIO-LEGAL AND ETHICAL APPROACH

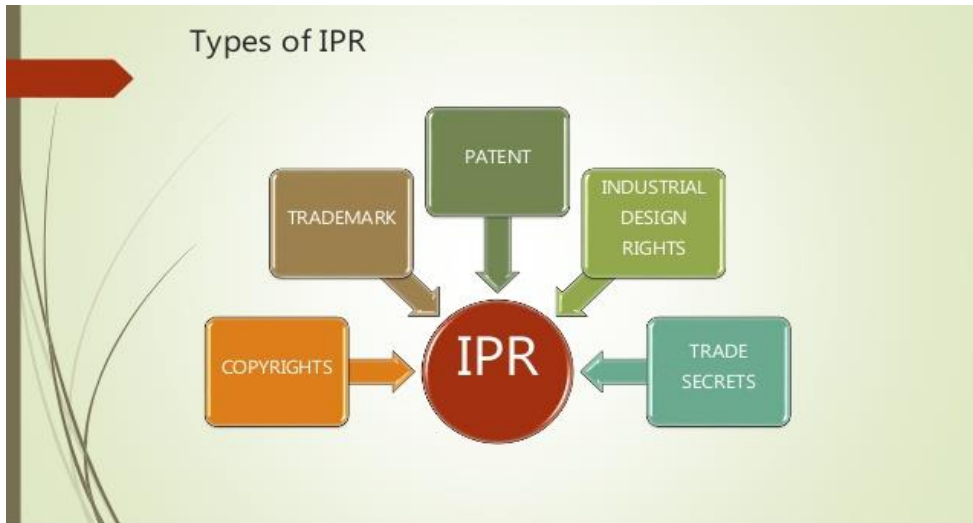
We are all living directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally under the influence of brand culture which is reshaping our life standards. Everyone can observe specific signs, symbols, words and phrases on the walls of the Malls which belong to someone somewhere. The wave of globalization has brought tremendous and drastic change in every walk of life. The relation between consumer and producer has completely changed. But the matter of belonging still exists. In this scenario, we know owner via his products or creations. The right of property is the right in practice since primitive time but its scope has been expanded. Now it covers not only tangible property but also intangible property and based on the theory of honor belongs to the owner. The property of signs, symbols, words and phrases come under the umbrella of intellectual property. The scope of intellectual property has been expanded

with the passage of time and now it has become an important subject of global economy. It is considered as domestic property and enjoys same rights as other fundamental rights enjoy.

The eminent Scholar '**William Fisher**' in his book chapter titled "THEORIES OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY" enlightened the importance of encouragement of intellectual property rights in following words:

"The economic and cultural importance of this collection of rules is increasing rapidly. The fortunes of many businesses now depend heavily on intellectual-property rights. A growing percentage of the legal profession specializes in intellectual-property disputes. And lawmakers throughout the world are busily revising their intellectual property law"

Socially speaking, no one can claim that the WTO is an unmixed blessing for Pakistan. There are both positive and negative implications of Pakistan's membership of the WTO. In this connection, Pakistan has to face many challenges and threats under the WTO regime. Equally important is the fact that a variety of opportunities are available to Pakistan, which can lead to an increase in international trade, investment and economic growth. There is also ever-present possibility to convert threats into opportunities. Much depends on our policies and action not by the government alone but also on responses of the other stakeholders. The WTO obligations, among other things, have placed new demands on the protection of "IP Rights" in Pakistan. Therefore, "Protection and enforcement of IP Rights" are the critical issues and the failure of Pakistan to measure up to these demands at international level would make challenges more discouraging and opportunities elusive. The classification of IPRs is given in the diagram below.



***Source: www.tutorialspoints.com**

The TRIPS Agreement is an effort to respond to the concerns of not only the developed countries' copyright industry, but any industry, wherever located, whose product relies on a copy right, semiconductor mark work and patent or trade mark etc. Indeed, it is important to realize that IP can be produced anywhere if there is a creative human capital. That means that developing countries ought to see themselves not only as consumer of IP products from the west, but also as producers of IP exporters for the rest of the world or at least, they have the potential to enter into the markets of developed countries. Article 7 of the 'TRIPS Agreement' specified the overall objectives of 'IP LAW' in the following words:

".....to contribute to the promotion of technological innovation and to the transfer the dissemination of technology, to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge and in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare, and to a balance of rights and obligations".

On the other hand, Article 3 and 4 are the cornerstones of the of the “TRIPS Agreement”. Article 3 mandates National Treatment (NT) for intellectual protection. Article 4 creates most favored nation (MFN) obligation for such protection. However, these core principles do not establish a specific level of protection. National Treatment or MFN treatment has little value if such treatment provides poor protection. It is pertinent to mention here that, the “TRIPS Agreement” is not the first attempt of cross-border intellectual property protection. There are many multilateral accords prior to Uruguay round dealing with the protection of specific types of IPRs that continue to be in force. Therefore, TRIPS Agreement supplements and strengthens the earlier accords and promotes the social and ethical values in the society.

This Paper endeavors to focus on the fundamental characteristics of the “TRIPS Agreement” of the WTO and to establish a nexus in the promotion of Socio-Economic and ethical values in society and highlights the evolving jurisprudence of the Pakistani courts in order to promote the social and ethical values with respect to the “IP rights” of the stake-holders and impact of their decisions on the economic activities in Pakistan. This paper, among the other things elucidates the legal, social and ethical obstacles being faced by the developing countries and their possible solutions to eradicate all these barriers. It is worthwhile to note that, there is an urgent need to arrange socio-legal reforms programs in order to change the mindset of the society on the abuse of “IP Rights” of the owners, in areas of “Patents”, “Copy rights”, “Trademarks”, “Industrial Designs”, “Integrated circuits”, “Geographical Indications”, “Trade secrets and plant breeders’ rights”. Moreover, the prevention of abuse of “IP Rights” is a strong encouraging factor for attracting foreign trade and investment in Pakistan. One may also expect better incentives for Pakistan’s local inventors and authors with stronger protection of their intellectual property rights.

This regime is eventually capable of promoting technological innovation for the benefits of the society and is expected to ultimately serve for the mutual advantages of both producers and

users resulting into overall social and economic welfare in Pakistan. This paper also appreciates the role of PIPRO (Pakistan Intellectual Property Right Organization) that has been recently established to stream line the intellectual property rights of the Pakistan. Special attention has been paid to social compliance issues such as “food security” and “access to health care” etc., and in the light of these issues, strategies have been recommended for proper implementation of the “TRIPS Agreements” within Pakistan.

The WTO is playing significant role to effectively protect these rights internationally. For example, in the case titled *United States v. China*, United States complained against China for violation of intellectual property rights. The panel observed that:

“..... although auctioning of goods is not prohibited by Ar. 59, however, the way in which China’s customs auctioned these goods was inconsistent with Art.59, because it permits the sale of goods after the simple removal of the trademark in more than just exceptional cases. China’s failure to protect copyright in prohibited works is, therefore inconsistent with Art. 5(1) of the Berne Convention as incorporated in Art.9.1, as well as with Art. 41.1, as the copy right in such prohibited works cannot be enforced.....”

As far as the Pakistan is concerned, Pakistani courts have played a significant role in the protection of “IP Regime” and acted as a catalyst in the promotion of social and ethical values on the use of the rights of the owner. In “*Hotel Metropole Ltd. v. Performing Rights Society*, (PLD 1967 Kar 168)”, the Pakistani court protect the copyrights in musical works. In another case titled as “*Societe De Fabrication v. Deputy Registrar of Trademarks and another*, (PLD 1979 Karachi 83 at p,87)” The Honorable Sindh High Court, in order to protect an international trademark, observed on the conduct of the Respondent that:

“The conduct of the respondent in appropriating trademarks of foreign owners

is not proper..... It is common knowledge that trade in French perfumery is of international character. With the revival of International Trade and international publicity, the rights of owners of foreign Trade Marks ought to receive some safeguard unless it is clear from the evidence that the foreign owners have abandoned their intention of marketing their products under the mark in this country”.

in case of “**Alpha Sewing Machine v. Registrar of Trademarks and another**, (PLD 1990 SC 1074)” Supreme Court of Pakistan approved the following observation of Honorable Lahore High Court:

“.....With the proliferation of means of communication media the names and products of world renowned big companies are catching the eyes and ears of the public at large in all civilized countries of the world and Pakistan is no exception. Extensive travelling abroad in the recent past has made it possible for the people of Pakistan to have knowledge of the internationally renowned companies and their products”

Moreover, in another case of “**Morphy Richards Ltd v. Registrar of Trademark and another**, (1992 MLD 2506 at p 2513)” the court observed that:

“An enactment on Trade Marks is essentially an international statute, catering to national and international sensibilities.... We are living in an information age where the Earth has veritably become a global village”.

This case law study elaborated the attitude of the courts vis-à-vis social and ethical values.

In the light of the above said judgments, one may safely conclude that the courts in Pakistan

have been strengthening the intellectual property regime and promoting the social and ethical values on the use of intellectual rights of the owners. This was the outcome of court's interpretation related to provisions of Intellectual Property laws and overall jurisprudence of the commercial laws in Pakistan.

1.3. ECONOMIST APPROACH

According to the economist point of view, the business assets have two categories, Tangible ("Buildings, Machinery, infrastructure traditionally responsible for bulk of the value") and Intangible Assets ("Goodwill, Know-how, Brands, Designs, Inventions"). It is considered that the value of intangible assets is more than the tangible assets, and "Intellectual property (IP)", being part of intangible assets, adds a lot to our national and state economies. The eminent scholar (R. Bhala, 2001 at p 1175) in his book expressed the economics of IPRs protection in these words:

"A critical driving force behind the TRIPS Agreements was dollar that is profits lost by US companies because of infringements of their IPRs by foreign producers-particularly those in NICs and less developed countries LDCs-of pirated products. The economic importance of strong Intellectual Property Protection cannot be overstated. Roughly \$150-200 billion of the world market for goods consisted of pirated are counterfeit goods".

As per facts, top five companies of the world have greater value of Intangibles Assets as compare to Tangibles Asset. Numeric figures are as under:

Rank	Brand (Country of origin)	Brand Value \$
1	APPLE (US)	154.1 B
2	GOOGLE (US)	82.5 B
3	Microsoft (US)	75.2 B
4	Coca-Cola(US)	58.5 B
5	Facebook (US)	52.6 B

***Source: <http://www.forbes.com/>**

It is considered that Intellectual property rights are worth protecting, both nationally and internationally. Following are the points in its favor:

- i. “Intellectual Property” generates and ropes High-Paying Jobs
- ii. “Intellectual Property” makes out the Economic Growth and its Competitiveness
- iii. Well-built and obligatory “Intellectual Property Rights” Protect the rights of consumers
- iv. “Intellectual Property” helps to create solutions to the global challenges
- v. “Intellectual Property Rights” give a boost to innovation and rewards the entrepreneurs

Making the sense of all these important and diverse arguments together results in concluding that protecting Intellectual property is an unbiased issue which is shared among the stake holders, There is no doubt, these rights are recognized in each sector of global economy, “labor organizations”, “consumer groups”, and other “trade associations” which fetch together (“GIPS, *Global Intellectual Property Center, U.S Chamber of Commerce,*

2016”). Therefore, the protection of “IP Rights” acts as a catalyst for the Socio-economic and cultural development in a country.

IPRs Enforcement in Pakistan- A Case Law Development and Jurisprudence In Pakistan, Intellectual Property Rights are in a process of strengthening in the regime through legislation and proper implementation. The government has taken measures towards its commitment for the protection of IP Rights and in 2005, established Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) 2005, under the supervision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the implementation of TRIPS Agreement. However, due to poor infrastructure, fruitful results could not be achieved till to-date.

There are number of cases in Pakistan like *TABAQ Restaurant vs TABAQ Restaurant* (1987 SCMR 1090), *SmithKline and French Laboratories Ltd. v Ferozsons Laboratories Ltd.* (1992 MLD 2226), *Philips case* (PLD 1990 SC 1074), *Toshiba Case* (PLJ 1991 SC 57), which reflect that Pakistani courts are not reluctant in granting full protection to intellectual property rights (*Intellectual Property Law and Globalization by Khawaja Mansoor*).

After the enforcement of WTO regime 1995, Pakistani courts have developed jurisprudence regarding the importance and protection of intellectual property rights. The courts have realized that a strong intellectual property legal system has a close nexus with Foreign Trade and Investment. The reason is that these sectors are engines of economic growth and development. In these following cases the superior courts of Pakistan adopted the socio-legal and economic approach in order to strengthen the intellectual property regime in Pakistan:

“Lever Brothers Pakistan Limited vs Ms. Atiqa Odho and another (2000 CLC 872)*Dabur India Ltd vs Hilal Confectionery (PVT) Ltd* (PLD 2000 Karachi 139)*Tapal Tea (Private) Limited vs Shahi Tea Company* (2002 CLD 1113) *Khwaja Tahir Jamal vs Messrs A.R Rehman Glass* (2005 CLD 1768)*Shan Food Industries Vs Eastern Products (Pvt.) Ltd and*

others. [SC 2012 SCMR 1504]M/s Farooq Ghee and Oil Mills (Pvt.) Ltd. Vs Registrar of Trade Marks, Trade Marks Registry and others. [SC 2015 CLD 124].Wella Aktineesellschaft vs Shamim Akhtar (2015 CLD 1231)Global Quality Foods Private Ltd vs Hardees's Food Systems INC (PLD 2016 Sindh 169)Aldo Group International AG Vs The ALDO Shoes [Sindh, 2016 CLD 229].M/s Shaukat Soad and Ghee Industries (Pvt.) Ltd. Vs M/s Shaukat Brothers Soad Manufacturers (Pvt.) Ltd (Lahore, 2016 CLD 1036)”

Therefore, in the light of the above facts, it is expected that the confidence of the International Business world will also increase, opportunities will come, and new foreign investments will flow in to Pakistan along with the overall approval of the international business community generating growth of export of Pakistani products in several other markets. However, in the perspective of the developing countries a scholar from Pakistan expressed his views as under.

“GSP programs have been a mixed success with reference to developing countries. Most rich countries have adhered to the obligation to generalize their programs by offering benefits to large beneficiaries, including almost every non-OECD (---) member state. However, certain restrictions have been imposed by every GSP program. For example, the United States has excluded countries from GSP coverage for reasons such as being communist, being placed on the U.S. State Department's list of countries that support terrorism, and failing to respect the U.S. intellectual property laws.” (*Dr. Z. Mehmood, 2016*).

1.4. RESULTS

1. Effective and adequate legislation act as an instrumental force for the protection of intellectual property rights and to promote socio-economic and cultural development in society.
2. Protection of the owner’s work encourages them to create more innovations and help

in the betterment of the society.

3. “The IP System must maintain an equitable balance of interest between public goods and private interests, and should help to promote socio-economic improvement, the general prosperity of society through the advancement and worldwide application of beneficial technology, the promotion of competitive trade and encouragement of innovators and creators”.
4. Pakistani Courts have recognized the value of “IP Rights”. Their approach, when dealing with issues relating to Intellectual Property Rights, has been forward looking and futuristic. The Courts of Pakistan have recognized globalization and international trade, and encourage enforcement of rights based on such principles.
5. It is high time that Pakistan begins to realize there are certain products for which specific intellectual property protection can be provided. For instance, by attaching intellectual rights to geographical indications under law, Pakistan can restrict the global exploitation of certain products originating in Pakistan by other countries. Significant in this regard is the case of Basmati rice, which despite having its origin in the Punjab region of both Pakistan and India, is also claimed by a Texas-based company in United States as its product. Moreover, other products such as Sindhri Mangoes, Shikarprui Achar, Kasuri Methi, Multani Sohnhalwa, etc. can also be protected under the category of geographical indications, if appropriate steps are taken in this regard. A proper geographical indications law in place is likely to provide the necessary protection for the said products
6. As per The Special 301 Report (USTR Report, 2016) of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) states that due to several changes in the past 12 months to the IP approach of the Pakistan Government and to the immediate implementation of

several requirements, Pakistan has been moved from the USTR Priority Watch list to the USTR Watch list. Therefore, it is expected that the confidence of the International Business world will also increase, opportunities come, and new foreign investments will flow in to Pakistan, along with the overall approval of the international business community generating growth of export of Pakistan products in several other markets

7. Protection and enforcement of “IP Rights” as provided in the TRIPS Agreement is a strong encouraging factor for attracting foreign investment and trade in Pakistan, This leads towards positive indicator, Such as Intellectual Property generates and ropes High-Paying Jobs, Intellectual Property make out the Economic Growth and its Competitiveness, Well-built and obligatory Intellectual Property Rights Protect Consumers and Families, Intellectual Property Helps to create Breakthrough Solutions to the Global Challenges, Intellectual Property Rights give a boost to Innovation and Reward the Entrepreneurs

1.5. CONCLUSION

Today, the enforcement and protection of “IP Rights” have become a social and moral issue. A comprehensive strategy is required to create awareness about social and ethical values regarding the respect of the “IP Laws” because it is the need of the society to build the good citizens with strong moral character and it is the responsibility of the states to educate people about intellectual property rights and duties between the owner and the user. In order to achieve the benefits of the “IP Laws” the foremost thing that Pakistan needs to rapidly upgrade its institutional and human resources capacity and to promote moral and ethical values on the use of the rights of the owner. There are several ways of doing it, however, with regard to intellectual property, it could be best achieved by providing sustainable high quality public administration, offering effective enforcement of intellectual property rights through establishment of specialized courts for intellectual property in the country, and along with that

providing opportunities for training of not only police and customs officials but also lawyers, judges and the members of the civil society. In recent past intellectual property Rights Tribunals have been established in Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar and Islamabad, there is imperative need that the well-trained judges in the area of intellectual property and its implications under the WTO regime be appointed. In this context, the Training Programs for the proper education of the Judges may be initiated with immediate effect in collaboration with Law colleges and sociology departments of the various public and private sector universities of the Pakistan. It is pertinent to mention here that, no detailed specific study has ever been conducted as to the Socio-Economic and Ethical Values of Intellectual Property Rights in Society, The authors of this article are agreed with the observation of the eminent sociologist with the words “There are alternatives to the way we currently handle intellectual property (for example, not acknowledging its existence), and they would be part of a comprehensive pursuit towards a more ethical legal and/or social system. Anything short of discussing the ethical implications of intellectual property in the context of evaluating its worth would be short-sighted”.

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