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CRD: 24IC - INDIGENEITY, CULTURAL RIGHTS AND HERITAGES
SUB-DOMAIN: 3. INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

SYMPOSIUMS: TRIBAL CULTURE: VULNERABILITIES, PROTECTION AND THE FUTURE

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ABSTRACT

The cultural heritage of the world includes crucial components of tribal cultures. The rituals, traditions, beliefs, and practices of these cultures are distinctive and have been handed down from one generation to another over many years. Yet, several threats, such as cultural appropriation, land grabs, eviction, and environmental deterioration, pose a threat to tribal traditions. By establishing legal frameworks that preserve tribal people's rights to their land and resources- governments, NGOs, law schools and other stakeholders can play a significant part in preserving tribal cultures. Intellectual property rights help protect traditional knowledge and cultural expressions of tribal communities from misuse and exploitation by others. Moreover, intellectual property rights provide a mechanism for tribal communities to gain economic benefits from their traditional knowledge, skills, and products, thereby improving the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities, providing a livelihood for people living in remote areas, and promoting sustainable development. Geographical Indication (GI) tag is a unique kind of intellectual property where a legal recognition is given to products originating in a specific geographical region. Producers of geographical regions can apply for a GI tag for food products, agricultural products, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, textiles. Similarly with the help of patent the medicines prepared by traditional healers for curing various diseases can be given IPR protection. Tribal cultures need to strike a balance between preserving their traditions and adapting to new challenges. Education, awareness about legal protection, proactive approach from administration and community oriented developmental programmes is crucial in shaping the future of tribal cultures.

Keywords: Geographical Indication, Protection under IP Laws, Tribal Culture, Tribal Heritage, Tribal Art and Artifacts

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