SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kurumbapalayam (Po), Coimbatore – 641 107

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Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND DESIGN

COURSE NAME : **19MC003 ESSENCE OF INDIAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE**

III YEAR / VI SEMESTER

Unit IV- **Traditional knowledge and intellectual property**

Topic 4 : **Patents and traditional knowledge**

Introduction

•Definition of Patents: Legal rights granted for inventions
•Definition of Traditional Knowledge (TK): Indigenous knowledge passed down generations
•Importance of understanding their relationship

What is a Patent?

•Exclusive rights granted for an invention
•Requirements: Novelty, Inventive Step, Industrial Applicability
•Duration: Typically 20 years
•Examples: Pharmaceuticals, technology, agriculture

What is Traditional Knowledge?

- Collective intellectual heritage of indigenous communities
- Includes medicinal knowledge, agricultural practices, folklore, and biodiversity-related knowledge
- Transmitted orally or through cultural practices

Differences Between Patents and Traditional Knowledge

Feature	Patents	Traditional Knowledge
Ownership	Individual/Company	Community-Based
Duration	Limited (20 years)	Timeless
Protection Type	Exclusive rights	Customary laws
Transmission	Formal (written)	Oral/Cultural

Issues Related to Patenting Traditional Knowledge

- **Biopiracy:** Unauthorized commercial exploitation of TK
- **Lack of Recognition:** TK often not considered in patent laws
- **Lack of Benefit Sharing:** Indigenous communities may not receive compensation
- **Ethical Concerns:** Misuse of sacred or cultural knowledge

The Role of Intellectual Property Laws

•Prevent unauthorized commercial use of TK
•Encourage fair benefit-sharing agreements
•Promote recognition and respect for indigenous knowledge
•Provide a balance between innovation and traditional rights

Any Query????

Thank you……