

Use of Patents in Public Research: Strategic or Traditional? A Study of Public Funded Research Organizations in India

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Abstract

Over the years public funded research organizations (PFROs) have started showing considerable interest in protection and commercialization of their intellectual assets within their native countries and abroad. Patent filing in PFROs is taking the necessary pace which is also reflected in several emerging nations. Countries like India are gradually getting into the business of patent filing. Patents filed and patents granted over the years show an upward trend. In such scenario, it is imperative to develop an understanding of patent filing behavior and patent portfolio management in PFROs in emerging economies. The sample focus of this study is public funded autonomous institutes and laboratories (PFROs) in India. Taking the case of Indian PFROs, this study attempts to contribute and bridge the gap in the literature on the patent filing behavior of PFROs in emerging economies. Various types of professionals require different types of stimulants to perform. PFRO researchers also differ in their productivity and performance. Various factors govern their research behaviors. Data were collected from 43 PFROs in India during the period 2005-2010. Using Count Data models, the impact of patent filing motives on the patent portfolios in PFROs is first evaluated to understand their importance in PFROs. Using Ordered Probit Models, the study, further, attempts to explain the importance of various factors, vis-à-vis seniority level, commercialization experience and patent filing experience of researchers in PFROs, on patent filing behavior of researchers in Indian PFROs and derive policy and managerial implications based on these results.

Key Words: Patents, Public Funded Research Organizations, Intellectual Property Rights, Emerging Economies, Patent filing Behavior.

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