Artificial Intelligence as an Inventor: Legal and Ethical Dilemmas in Patent Law

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Abstract: *The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) as a tool capable of independently generating inventions and creative works has posed significant challenges to traditional patent law frameworks, particularly in defining inventorship. This study investigates the legal and ethical dilemmas associated with recognizing AI as an inventor under Indian patent law. It critically examines the **Patents Act, 1970**, with specific reference to **Sections 2 and 6**, which define "person" and govern the filing of patent applications, highlighting how current legislation is limited to human inventors and does not account for autonomous AI systems. The research further analyzes administrative rulings, including the rejection of applications such as those involving the AI system DABUS, demonstrating the Indian Patent Office's stance in alignment with global trends that emphasize human-centric inventorship. Beyond legal frameworks, the study explores ethical concerns surrounding AI exclusion, including questions of fairness, accountability, and the equitable allocation of rights when AI significantly contributes to the inventive process. Utilizing case studies, comparative analyses, and statistical insights into AI-driven innovation, the study emphasizes the urgent need for legislative and policy reforms that accommodate AI-generated inventions while maintaining ethical balance and safeguarding human creative contributions. The findings provide a foundation for developing adaptive legal frameworks capable of responding to the rapidly evolving landscape of AI-assisted innovation.*

Keywords*: Artificial Intelligence, Inventorship, Patent Law, Patents Act 1970, DABUS, Intellectual Property, Ethical Dilemmas, Legal Reform, AI-Generated Inventions, India*