

**ABSTRACT**

**DEFINING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE**

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Traditional knowledge is a very diverse concept that encompasses within its meaning varying field that range from agriculture to medicine to clothing to cosmetics. Due to its diverseness, it has become very difficult to define the concept. However, many International Bodies and Conventions have worked towards forming a defining. No definition so far has been approved by global leaders as a universal definition. Therein lies the problem. The lack of a definition makes it harder to protect it. This is because how can you protect something if you do not fully understand its scope. An Act may contain provisions to protect traditional knowledge, however, without a proper definition, it would become very difficult to understand what kind of information falls within the scope of the Act.

This article analyses various International Bodies and Instruments along with the legislations in India which deals with traditional knowledge in one form or another. It showcases the merits and fallacies in the definitions given in these legal instruments. Furthermore, it analyses the demerits that arise in a Convention which deals with traditional knowledge but does not provide for a definition for the same.