

# **Intellectual Property Rights (IPRS) for/against Inventive Activity? Case Studies of IPRs Related to the Cutlery Industry.**

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## **ABSTRACT**

My research object is the identity of IPRs in relation to inventive activity. Given that ICTs and corporations of all kind are increasingly caught in a frenzied scramble for the right to new patents, patent has become a ground of competition for expanding the market share. In recent examples of patent wars, most legal corporations would purchase such rights to every patent they can lay their hands on in order to prevent rivals from using the method the patent covers. As such, I am curious about the way in which a specific industry like cutlery emphasizes the significance of patents in competitions as well as its involvement in innovation incentives.

The purpose of this research is to explore the philosophy of IPRs and assess both the merits and demerits that IP rights have on inventive activities. This paper will scrutinize the functions of a patent system through examples in the cutlery industry. That will be explored from three main aspects: 1) The value of a signature patent to a business, 2) consumer interest in the morality of a product design and 3) the impact of counterfeit products. In addition to textual analysis of online forums, this research will draw on in-depth interview of collected feedbacks from respondents in the cutlery industry. This paper seeks to answer the leading question: What is the philosophy of IPRs and its implication on human development?

**Keywords:** IP law, Inventive Activity, Cutlery Industry, Philosophy of IPRs