

# Economic Reforms and Intellectual Property Law Enforcement in Pakistan for Public Health

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## ABSTRACT

Intellectual property (IP) laws and the economic reforms' enforcement is very critical for improving the standard of public health in any country especially the developing ones like Pakistan. Emphasizing the importance of these highly needed reforms, this article discusses the innovative aspect of pharmaceutical industry in view of the Pakistan's socio-economic context for better outcomes in the healthcare sector.

**Keywords:** Intellectual Property, Economic Reforms, Enforcement, Pakistan

### Introduction

Public health sector is crucial to the prosperity and the development of any country. There are several challenges that emerge during the efforts for national development. Therefore, for the effective management of these challenges, joint adaptation of legal and economic policy frameworks is required [1]. In countries, like Pakistan, where the public healthcare sector is already troubled with numerous issues, the enforcement of potential economic reforms and the IP laws is pivotal to its development.

### Economic Reforms

As Pakistan is facing severe economic challenges, economic reforms are the need of the hour to create a conducive and stable environment for economic growth and development. These economic reforms should be aimed at improving macro-economic stability, enhancing the productivity of the system, and fostering an encouraging environment for investment and innovation in this sector. These economic reforms include liberalization in trade for attraction of foreign investments, fiscal policy reforms for reduction in budget deficits and increasing revenue generation and simplified regulatory frameworks for improvement in the business environment and eliminating bureaucratic hurdles [2]. All these reforms will ultimately lead to a well-established public health sector in Pakistan through better public healthcare services, establishments of newer and modern healthcare facilities, and increased pharmaceutical production. In this regard, Belarus may serve as an example [3].

### IP Laws Enforcement

As we are talking about innovation in the public health sector, this objective cannot be fully achieved until and unless we are able to properly address the issues of IP laws breaches. For this reason, IP laws enforcement is the key towards fostering innovations in the public health field like the availability of new medical technologies and treatments [4]. Moreover, strong enforcement of IP laws is very important for incentivizing the research and development in the public healthcare sector. Such incentives encourage the researchers as

well as the investment of pharmaceutical companies in research and development ultimately paving the way for new treatments and technologies are improvised. It will enable the reach of these innovative technologies at the base public level [5].

However, there are some challenges as well that are associated with enforcements for IP laws. These challenges include the availability of limited resources, lack of proper awareness among the community, and weak institutional and governance system [6]. Moreover, there are also both the positive and the negative aspects of these enforcements. If the positive aspect is the introduction of new technologies, the associated negative point is higher prices of patented medicines and technologies [7]. However, these challenges may be managed through collaboration with international agencies, implementation of compulsory licensing, and allowing parallel imports.

### Conclusion

The implementation of economic reforms and the enforcement of IP laws are integral part of the efforts needed for the improvement of public healthcare system in Pakistan. This can be carried out through organized and collaborative efforts between different state departments which can create a conducive environment for the innovations, business, and public access to these facilities.

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