

Copyright of Afghanistan Recent Infringements and Developments

Sabghatullah Ghorzang¹, Ihsan Karli²

¹²Kocaeli University

ABSTRACT

This article looks at the complicated landscape of copyright law in Afghanistan, examining its historical development, current legal framework and current challenges. Focusing on recent infringements and developments, the study uses a mixed methods approach and involves 22 participants, including experienced writers and representatives of prominent publishing houses. The research questions guide the investigation, which aims to uncover notable developments and infringements, understand their impact on international copyright law and provide insights for improvement. The comprehensive literature review contextualizes the challenges and draws on global perspectives to illustrate the pervasive nature of copyright issues. The study examines Afghanistan's 2008 Copyright Law, which covers various creative works and emphasizes alignment with international treaties. The research methodology includes a carefully crafted questionnaire that addresses awareness, recent changes in the law, and strategies for improvement. Analysis of the participant data reveals a nuanced landscape, showing diverse insights from accomplished writers and influential publishing owners. The study identifies key themes, such as concerns about the implementation gap in existing copyright laws, the impact of socio-political conditions on infringement, and the need for greater public awareness. Comparisons between writers and publishers reveal nuanced emphases, with writers emphasizing the personal impact of plagiarism and publishers focusing on economic issues. In conclusion, the study highlights the complex challenges Afghanistan faces in enforcing copyright. The participants argue for stronger legal sanctions, more resources and education.

Keywords: Afghanistan, Intellectual property, Infringement, Enforcement, Publishing industry

INTRODUCTION

Intellectual property, of which copyright is an essential part, serves as legal protection for the creations of the human mind. (Hickey, 2022) In Afghanistan, the development of copyright law reflects a dynamic interplay between historical influences, legislative changes and current challenges. This paper addresses the nuanced landscape of copyright law in Afghanistan and examines current developments, awareness and perceptions of copyright infringement. It has been structured to uncover misconceptions and measure the depth of understanding of various aspects of copyright law and improvement strategies, with the aim of capturing participants' views on effective measures to improve copyright enforcement in Afghanistan.

The historical context shows that copyright law in Afghanistan was initially embedded in trademark legislation in 1967. (Naseh, 2018) However, this integration proved insufficient to protect the diverse interests of rights holders. A turning point occurred in 2003, when Afghan and US copyright experts collaborated to separate and expand copyright law. They drew inspiration from international models, including those of the United States, Germany, France and Islamic countries. (Patricia Wick & Jacqueline Klosek, 2003) The legislative milestones culminated in 2008 when President Hamid Karzai signed the "Law to Support the Rights of Authors, Composers, Artists and Researchers". This was a pivotal moment that underscored Afghanistan's commitment to fostering an enabling environment for creativity and innovation through the protection of intellectual property rights. Afghanistan's international engagement in copyright agreements underscores its commitment to aligning with global standards. (WIPO, 2008)

At the international level, Afghanistan has actively participated in important copyright agreements. Accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2016 and membership of the Berne Convention in 2018 demonstrate the country's commitment to international cooperation. (U.S. Copyright Office, 2019) In 2018, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) listed the 2008 Law to Support the Rights of Authors, Composers, Artists and Researchers (Saidi, Zamira, 2021) as Afghanistan's most important intellectual property law. The inclusion of this law in WIPO's Lex database not only consolidates Afghanistan's global position, but also ensures that foreign authors and copyright holders are protected within the country's borders. Conversely, Afghan rights holders now have a legal basis to claim infringement of their rights abroad.

This study explores key developments and cases of copyright infringement in Afghanistan and their relevance to international copyright laws. A literature review provides context, while a mixed-method approach gathers insights from experienced writers and publishers to assess awareness, recent legal changes, and strategies for strengthening copyright protection.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Afghanistan, a historically rich and culturally diverse country, faces major challenges in the protection of intellectual property, particularly in the area of copyright. For example, some scholars around the world have demonstrated that (Hosen, 2017) (Xia Liu¹, Yunfei Zha, 2018) Note a surge in copyright infringements in recent years, encompassing unauthorized reproduction, distribution, and digital piracy. The

proliferation of unregulated online platforms and informal markets has exacerbated the issue, enabling the widespread infringement of creative works.

Several cases underscore the gravity of copyright infringements in Afghanistan. Notable instances include: there have been instances of unauthorized electronic publications, such as the case of Dr. Rangin Datfar Spanta's book titled "Afghan Politics: The Inside Story". A significant incident of copyright infringement came to light in 2018 when Aazem Publication House took a stand against the sale of Dr. Rangin Spanta's memoir. This action was prompted by the illegal circulation of a scanned PDF version of the book among social media users. (Jawad Sukhanyar & Mujib Mashal, 2018) In the realm of copyright law in Afghanistan, recent literature has shed light on the challenges and advancements within the legal framework. The examination of scholarly articles, legal analyses, and reports reveals several key themes pertinent to copyright infringements and developments in the country.

Zamira in 2021 conducted research titled (What We Don't Know About Intellectual Property: A Comparative Review of Intellectual Property in The United States and Afghanistan) Building a strong intellectual property (IP) system requires a nation with a flourishing economy, technological access, and ample resources. Compliance with international standards enables the benefits of a well-structured IP framework. Afghanistan, facing unique economic challenges, encounters hurdles in aligning with global IP standards. Overcoming these demands, a tailored approach, considering Afghanistan's specific economic and technological context. A robust IP system is crucial for fostering innovation, safeguarding creations, and contributing to overall development. (Saidi, 2021) There were rightly highlights that a strong intellectual property (IP) system surpasses mere regulatory adherence. It serves as a driving force for innovation, protects creative endeavors, and assumes a pivotal role in the comprehensive landscape of national development.

Recent publications underscore the pervasive and unresolved challenges surrounding copyright, intellectual property, piracy, infringement, and plagiarism on a global scale. This issue transcends national boundaries, affecting not only developed nations but also posing significant challenges for developing countries. The pervasive nature of piracy and infringement indicates a lack of effective control mechanisms, implicating a collective inability among nations to address and mitigate these concerns. (Uchechukwu Uguru & Moses C. Umobong, 2022) (Yu Huang, Zhengyue Han, at all, 2022) (Okubor Cecil Nwachukwu & Omonemu Edewor Tony, 2022) Because the advent of the digital age has introduced new dimensions to copyright concerns. (Okubor Cecil

Nwachukwu & Kwubosu Ikechukwu, 2022) Research by (Farhad, 2017) In the present era, copyright stands out as a crucial facet of Intellectual Property, granting exclusive rights in areas like literature, drama, music, art, cinematography, and sound recordings. The significance of copyright is on the rise daily. However, the lack of necessary safeguards presents a growing challenge due to insufficient enforcement mechanisms and inadequate laws, further compounded by increasing instances of plagiarism.

Huiyu Zhang conducted research in a developed nation characterized by a robust economic landscape, revealing a notable prevalence of copyright infringements within its domain. At the national level, the Beijing Internet Court serves as an illustrative example, having processed 64,000 cases from September 2018 to June 2020. Notably, a substantial 77% of these cases, totaling 50,000, pertained to copyright infringement, with a predominant focus on photographs, constituting more than half of all instances. (Zhang, 2023) This research sheds light on the significant issue of copyright infringements within a developed nation with a robust economy. The empirical evidence, exemplified by the substantial caseload handled by the Beijing Internet Court, underscores the pervasive nature of copyright infringement. The statistics, notably the prevalence of causes related to photographic materials, highlight the complex challenges faced in safeguarding intellectual property rights in this context.

The Current Copyright Law of Afghanistan

The current copyright law of Afghanistan, established in 2008, is a comprehensive and modern legal framework consisting of seven chapters and 49 articles. These chapters cover a range of essential aspects related to copyright, including General Provisions, Copyright Protection, Timeline for the Use of Copyright, Rights of Broadcasting Organizations and Performers of Work, Provisions on the Use of Joint Work, Corrective Provisions, and Miscellaneous. (Copyright Law of Afghanistan, 2008)

Notably, the significance of copyright in Afghanistan is underscored by its constitutional recognition. The guarantee of copyright protection is enshrined in the Constitution of Afghanistan under Article forty-seven. This constitutional provision reflects the country's commitment to fostering creativity, protecting intellectual property, and aligning its legal framework with international standards. (The Constitution of Afghanistan, 2021).

The foundational first chapter introduces key terms essential for understanding the subsequent sections, elucidating concepts such as "Work," "Audiovisual Work," and the crucial designation of national folklore as public property. This sets the stage for a comprehensive exploration of creative expressions, ranging from traditional arts and crafts to contemporary literary and musical works.

Moving into the second chapter, the law explicitly defines the scope of protection, encompassing academic, technical, and artistic creations, derivative works, and public culture. The reference to international treaties underscores Afghanistan's commitment to aligning its copyright standards with global practices, fostering an environment conducive to international collaboration and recognition.

The third chapter establishes a clear timeline for copyright protection, emphasizing the fifty-year duration following the death of an author. Addressing joint works and anonymous or pseudonymous creations, this chapter ensures that temporal aspects of copyright align with the nature of the work and the circumstances of its creation.

Chapter four delves into ownership based on contractual agreements, with a specific focus on the rights of broadcasting organizations. This section underscores the importance of formal agreements in determining ownership and reproduction rights, adding a layer of clarity to the complex landscape of intellectual property.

The fifth chapter navigates the realm of joint works, emphasizing the economic rights of contributors while allowing for the production and display of collaborative creations. This nuanced approach promotes artistic collaborations, balancing the interests of multiple creators.

Chapter six outlines the corrective provisions and legal measures applied to copyright violators, emphasizing the seriousness of infringement in Afghanistan. Penalties such as imprisonment and fines reflect the government's commitment to strict enforcement. Unauthorized publication, broadcast, or translation can lead to up to one year of imprisonment or fines between 50,000 and 100,000 AF. Repeat offenders face similar consequences. Chapter seven covers additional provisions, including authors' exclusive rights to publish their letters and certain exceptions for public broadcasting, highlighting the balance between protection and information access. Although aligned with international standards, enforcement remains challenging due to security conditions. (Copyright Law of Afghanistan, 2008)

METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

The combination of qualitative and quantitative data enables a more comprehensive understanding of the research problem. Qualitative data can provide insights into the context, while quantitative data allows for statistical analysis and generalization, increasing the credibility and reliability of the research findings. (Hafsa, 2019)

This study uses a mixed methods approach to investigate copyright infringement and legal developments in Afghanistan. The research design involves a sample size of 22 participants, including 11 writers and 11 owners of publishing houses. For data collection, a structured online survey containing closed-ended questions will be used to collect quantitative data on demographic information, copyright awareness, recent infringements and perceptions of legal changes. At the same time, open-ended questions in the survey will encourage participants to provide qualitative insights into their experiences, challenges and suggestions.

Data analysis will include both quantitative and qualitative techniques. For the quantitative data, descriptive statistics will be used to identify trends and patterns in participants' responses. For the qualitative data, a thematic analysis will be conducted, allowing meaningful insights to be gained and recurring themes to be identified. The integration of both types of data will provide a comprehensive understanding of copyright-related issues in Afghanistan and capture the different perspectives of writers and publishing owners.

Quantitative data gathered from the structured online survey, including demographic information, copyright awareness, recent infringements, and perceptions of legal changes, will be entered into Microsoft Excel spreadsheets for systematic analysis. The software is used to generate descriptive statistics such as mean, median, mode, standard deviation and frequency distributions that provide a comprehensive overview of the quantitative aspects of the study. Microsoft Excel's ability to create charts, graphs and visual representations is used to present the quantitative results in a clear and understandable way.

Sampling

The sampling approach for this research aimed to provide a nuanced understanding of copyright issues in Afghanistan by selectively engaging 22 participants. The participants were divided into two distinct categories: 11 accomplished writers and 11 representatives from notable publication houses. To ensure the inclusion of experienced and prolific writers, the selection criteria mandated a minimum of four published books and a history of academic paper contributions. Simultaneously, the publication house representatives were drawn from Alpa's 2022 research, which meticulously identified and assessed 12 active and reputable publication houses in Afghanistan. (Alpa Book Publisher, 2022) The participation of authors and publishing owners ensured a balanced representation of authors and stakeholders in the copyright landscape.

The sampling process encountered contextual challenges due to the evolving socio-political landscape in Afghanistan. In 2022, there were a total of 250 publication

houses in the country. However, the recent changes in government led to the closure and banning of many of these establishments. Particularly, a significant number of publication houses that were previously engaged in newspaper publications faced restrictions, impacting their ability to contribute to this research. (Haidari, 2022) Additionally, the banning of the film and music industries in Afghanistan limited the inclusion of professionals from these sectors, introducing further limitations to the overall representativeness of the study.

Questionnaire Design

The questionnaire was carefully crafted to gain nuanced insights into copyright infringement and legal developments in Afghanistan. Questionnaires frequently incorporate a mix of question formats, gathering information on both objective facts and individuals' attitudes and beliefs. (Taherdoost, 2016)

The first section gathered background information to create a detailed participant profile based on age, gender, occupation, and education, helping to understand how demographic differences shape views on copyright. The second section examined awareness and perceptions of copyright infringement, identifying misconceptions and knowledge gaps. The third section focused on recent legal developments, assessing participants' understanding of new laws and their opinions on technological integration, supported by open-ended questions for deeper insights. The final section explored future prospects and strategies for improving copyright enforcement in Afghanistan, with an "all" option to reflect the multi-dimensional nature of the challenges.

Platform and Distribution strategy

The questionnaire was delivered via Google Forms, which was chosen for its user-friendly interface and efficient data collection capabilities. The distribution strategy utilized both email and WhatsApp channels to meet the participants' preferences of the participants. The personalized and professional email included a clear call to action and a link to the Google form. At the same time, WhatsApp messages were sent to selected participants containing a brief overview of the study and the link to the questionnaire. This two-channel approach aimed to optimize accessibility and reach a large number of participants. In the sampling process, the 22 questionnaires were distributed to two different groups: 11 writers and 11 publishing house owners. Alpa Publishing, a well-known and respected company in Afghanistan, played a central role in this process. Alpa Publisher, known for its research on publishers, selected the top 12 publishers in 2022. (Alpa Book Publisher, 2022) This strategic selection ensured that the questionnaire reached individuals who play a direct and influential role in the Afghan publishing landscape.

Data Collection

The data collection period extended over three weeks so that the participants had sufficient time to respond. A reminder message after one week served to optimize the response rate. The data collected was comprehensively analyzed using both quantitative tools for the numerical responses and qualitative methods for the open-ended responses. The sampling approach, in which the questionnaires were split between authors and publisher owners, refined the analysis and provided a nuanced understanding of how the different roles perceive copyright issues. The inclusion of authors with extensive publication histories ensured that the study benefited from the perspectives of those deeply involved in creative endeavors. The concluding expressions of gratitude acknowledged participants for their valuable contributions, reinforcing the importance of their insights in advancing the understanding of copyright issues in Afghanistan.

Analysis of the data

Analyzing the participant data reveals a diverse and revealing landscape. In understanding the background information, the demographic mix, particularly the inclusion of prolific writers with a history of at least four books or academic articles, provides a solid foundation for understanding copyright prospects in Afghanistan. Examining awareness and perceptions of copyright infringement reveals a nuanced understanding. While some misconceptions persist, there is a commendable realization that copyright extends beyond books, with digital content piracy being unanimously recognized as a widespread infringement, demonstrating a collective awareness of the challenges of Afghan copyright law. Examination of recent developments and legislative changes reveals that levels of awareness vary, highlighting the need for clearer communication and greater dissemination of awareness. The analysis of this diverse dataset, which includes insights from accomplished writers and influential publishing owners, makes an important contribution to ongoing discussions about copyright protection, legal advances and strategies to promote respect for intellectual property in Afghanistan.

Demographic information:

This section focused on creating a comprehensive profile of the participants to ensure diverse perspectives. Details sought included age, gender, occupation, years of experience, and educational and professional background. The aim was to develop a nuanced understanding of how different demographic factors influence perceptions of copyright issues.

Table. 1. The frequency and frequency percentage of the background variables of the research.

Variables	Frequency	Frequency Percentage
Gender		
Male	22	100 %
Female	0	0 %
Age		
18-24 years old	0	0 %
25-34 years old	2	9.1 %
35-44 years old	20	90.9 %
45-54 years old	0	0 %
55 or above	0	0 %
Educational Background		
Bachelor's Degree	9	40.9 %
Master's Degree	8	36.4 %
Ph.D. or higher	5	22.7 %
Occupation		
Writer	11	50 %
Owner of the Publishing House	7	31.8 %
Worker of the Publishing House	4	18.2 %
Artist/Creative Professional	0	0 %
Years of experience		
0-2 years	0	0 %
3-5 years	6	27.3 %
6-10 years	15	68.2 %
11-15 years	1	4.5 %
16 or more years	0	0%
Authors Publications		
1-4 Publications	1	9.1%
5-10 Publications	3	27.3%
11-20 Publications	7	63.6%
More than 20 publications	0	0%
Total	22	100

Table 1. shows the profile of the participants, 100% of whom were men and the majority of whom were between 35and 44 years old. Educational background

varied: 40.9% had a bachelor's degree, 36.4% had a master's degree and 22.7% had a doctorate or higher. Professionally, participants were primarily writers (50%), followed by publishing owners (31.8%) and publishing staff (18.2%). In terms of professional experience, 68.2% of respondents had been working in the field for 6-10 years, 27.3% for 3-5 years and 4.5% for 11-15 years. It is particularly noteworthy that 63.6% of the authors have published 11-20 papers. This comprehensive snapshot indicates a mature and experienced group of predominantly male participants who are actively engaged in writing and publishing and have a significant number of published works.

It is important to note the absence of female participants, which is due to current government policy that excludes women from participating in professional activities. The new government's directive banning women from working has influenced the composition of the sample, highlighting those external factors shape the demographic profile. This unique circumstance adds complexity to the results and highlights the impact of the socio-political context on participant selection and the broader discussion of gender dynamics in the professional world.

Copyright infringement awareness and perception:

This section was carefully crafted to provide nuanced insights into participants' understanding of copyright law in Afghanistan. Each option in the multiple-choice questions was carefully designed to address common misconceptions and measure the depth of awareness about the breadth of copyright protection.

Figure1. Public Perception of Copyright in Afghanistan: Common Misconceptions and Understanding

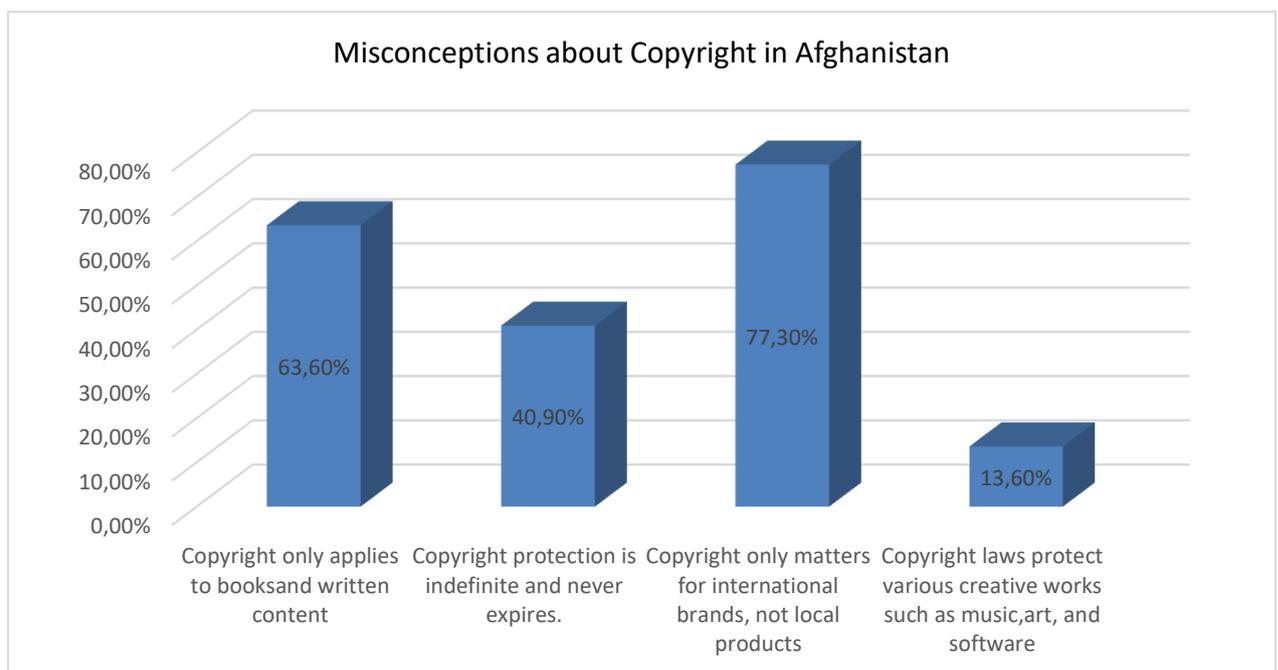
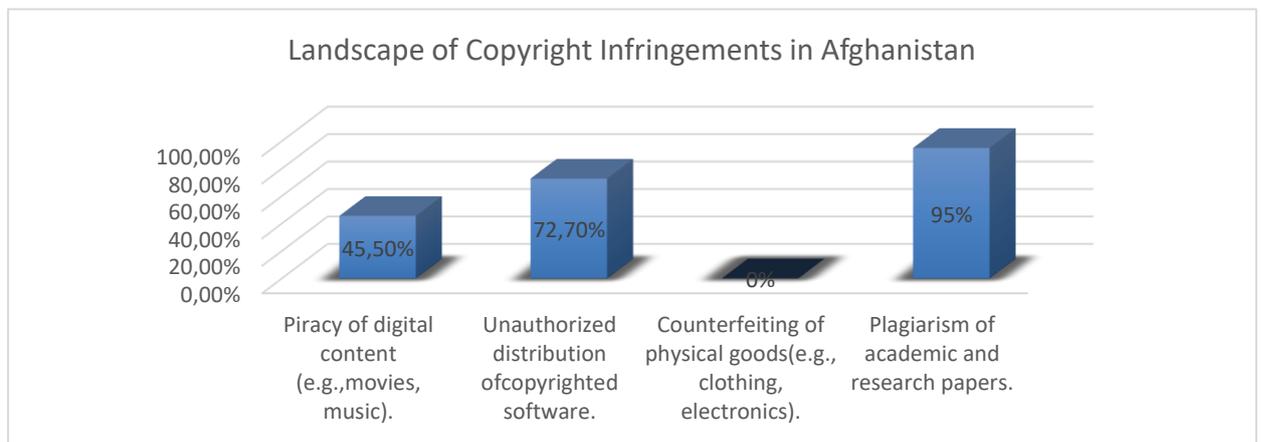


Figure 1. highlights common misconceptions about copyright among participants in Afghanistan. A majority (63.6%) incorrectly believed that copyright applies only to books and written content, while 40.8% thought copyright protection is perpetual, overlooking its limited term. Additionally, 77.3% assumed copyright is relevant only for international brands, underestimating its importance for local products. In contrast, only 13.6% correctly recognized that copyright covers various creative works, including music, art, and software. These findings reveal significant knowledge gaps, emphasizing the need for awareness campaigns and education to improve understanding of copyright’s scope and relevance across different creative fields in Afghanistan.

Figure 2 Perceived Common Forms of Copyright Infringements in Afghanistan: Insights from Survey Participants.

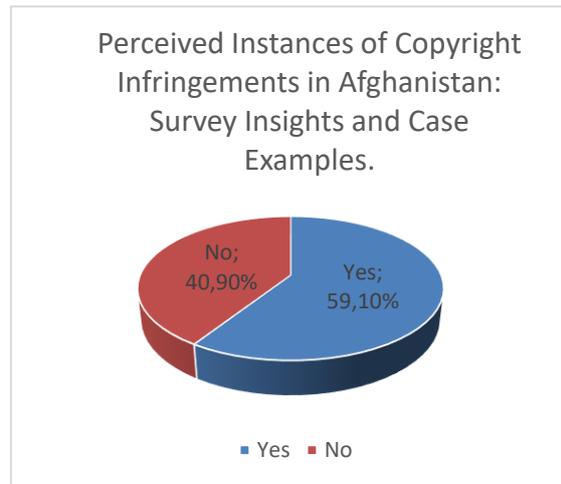


The results of Figure 2 provide information on the most common forms of copyright infringement in Afghanistan, which were determined by a multiple-choice question. 45.5% of respondents cited piracy of digital content, such as movies and music, as a widespread problem. This highlights the widespread problem of unauthorized distribution and copying of digital media and reflects the challenges that the digital landscape poses in protecting intellectual property.

In addition, 72.7% of participants stated that the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted software is a common form of copyright infringement. This underscores the importance of software piracy as a widespread problem, possibly caused by the problems of enforcing copyright laws in the digital realm. In addition, 95% of participants cited plagiarism of academic and research papers as a major form of copyright infringement. This finding points to a critical concern within the academic and research communities and highlights the need for increased awareness and action to combat intellectual property theft in the educational context.

Figure.3 Copyright Infringements in Afghanistan: Perceptions and Cases.

The results of Figure.3 on recent copyright infringements in Afghanistan show a differentiated picture. The majority of participants, 59.1%, confirmed the occurrence of copyright infringement, while 40.9% stated that they were not aware of any specific recent cases. Additionally, 48% of participants provided detailed examples in open-ended responses highlighting various instances of copyright infringement.



Several participants reported specific cases ranging from the unauthorized distribution of books in PDF format via social media to plagiarism and the free distribution of published works. These examples illustrate the complexity of copyright infringement in Afghanistan, which encompasses both digital and traditional media. The cases also highlight the financial and reputational impact on authors, publishers and content creators. For example: The owner of a publishing house said *“As the owner of our publishing company, we invest substantial resources in the production of books with the anticipation of generating revenue and sufficient returns. However, our expectations are consistently undermined when, just two weeks later, the PDF version of the book is released for free. This has a direct impact on our bookstore sales, as potential customers opt for the freely available digital version, resulting in a significant loss of revenue.”*

As well as the writer said *“Frequently, I contribute written content, particularly on political matters, to social media platforms. Unfortunately, I've observed instances where others have copied my text and posted it on social media, claiming it as their own. This unauthorized use of my work not only raises concerns about intellectual property but also diminishes the integrity of the content.”*

Figure.4 Challenges in enforcing Copyright Laws in Afghanistan: A Comprehensive Survey Overview

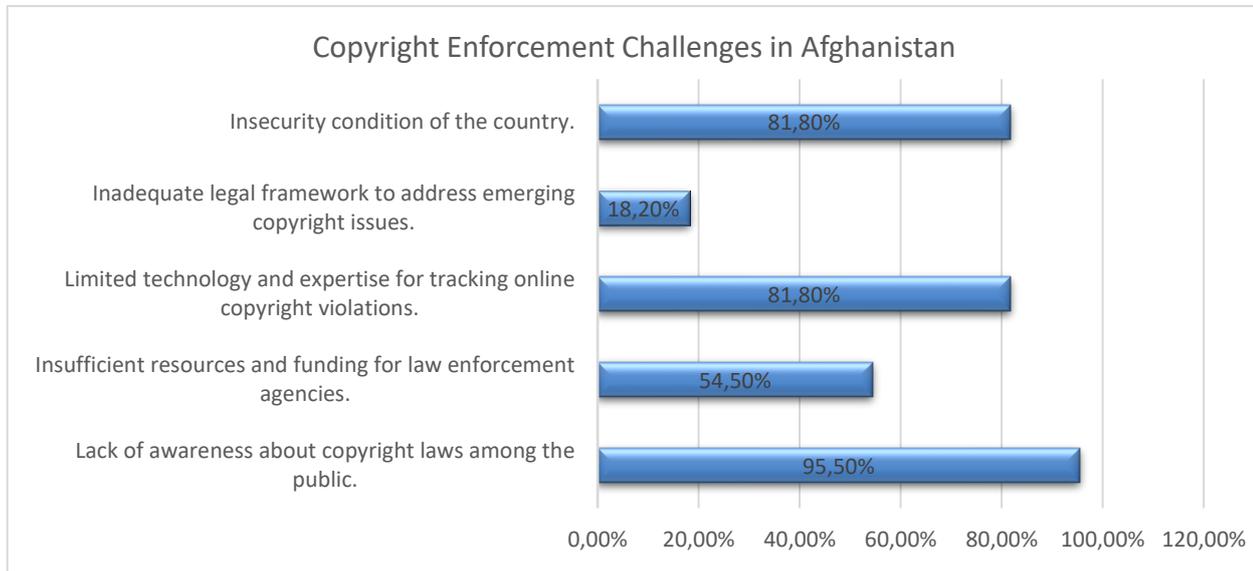


Figure 4 shows the major challenges authorities face in enforcing copyright laws in Afghanistan. A vast majority (95.5%) identified the public’s lack of awareness of copyright laws as the biggest obstacle, highlighting the urgent need for widespread education campaigns. Additionally, 54.5% pointed to insufficient resources and funding for law enforcement, which limits manpower, technology, and overall enforcement capacity. Concerns about limited technology and expertise to address online infringement were noted by 81.8% of respondents, emphasizing the growing challenges of the digital age. Furthermore, 18.2% mentioned an inadequate legal framework for emerging copyright issues, while another 81.8% cited the country’s unstable conditions. Overall, effective enforcement requires improved awareness, resources, technology, and legal adaptability.

Recent developments and legislative changes

In this section, participants were asked about their knowledge of recent changes in copyright laws in Afghanistan. This section also asked participants' opinions on the integration of new technologies such as block chain or digital watermarking into copyright protection. Open-ended questions allowed participants to express their thoughts in detail.

Figure.5 Public Awareness of Recent Copyright Law Changes in Afghanistan

Figure 5 highlights a significant lack of awareness regarding recent changes to Afghan copyright laws. A majority of participants (81.8%) reported being unaware of any updates, while only 18.2% acknowledged knowledge of recent amendments. This gap indicates potential shortcomings in the communication and dissemination of information about legal developments. The findings suggest that many stakeholders, including the public, may not be informed about important changes in copyright regulations. These results emphasize the need for effective outreach and education strategies to ensure that legal updates are widely communicated. The next figure presents technological initiatives addressing copyright infringement in Afghanistan.

Awareness of Recent Afghan Copyright Law Changes

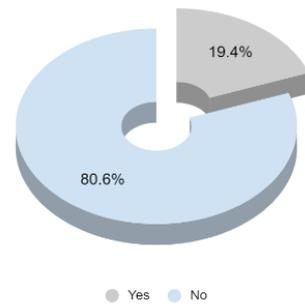


Figure.6 Perceptions on the Effectiveness of Technological Initiatives in Curbing Copyright Infringements in Afghanistan

Figure 6 shows mixed perceptions regarding technological initiatives to curb copyright infringement in Afghanistan. Only 8.3% of participants acknowledged the existence of successful initiatives, while 30.6% expressed skepticism, believing there are none. The largest group, 60.1%, responded “maybe,” indicating uncertainty about the effectiveness of such measures. These results reveal limited awareness and possible doubt among participants concerning technological interventions. The findings underscore the need for greater transparency and public awareness about existing efforts. Additionally, they suggest that further exploration and development of effective technological solutions are essential to address copyright challenges and strengthen enforcement in Afghanistan.

Public Views on Technology's Role in Curbing Copyright Violations in Afghanistan

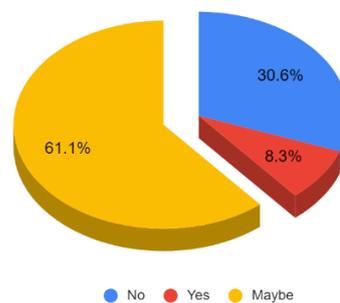
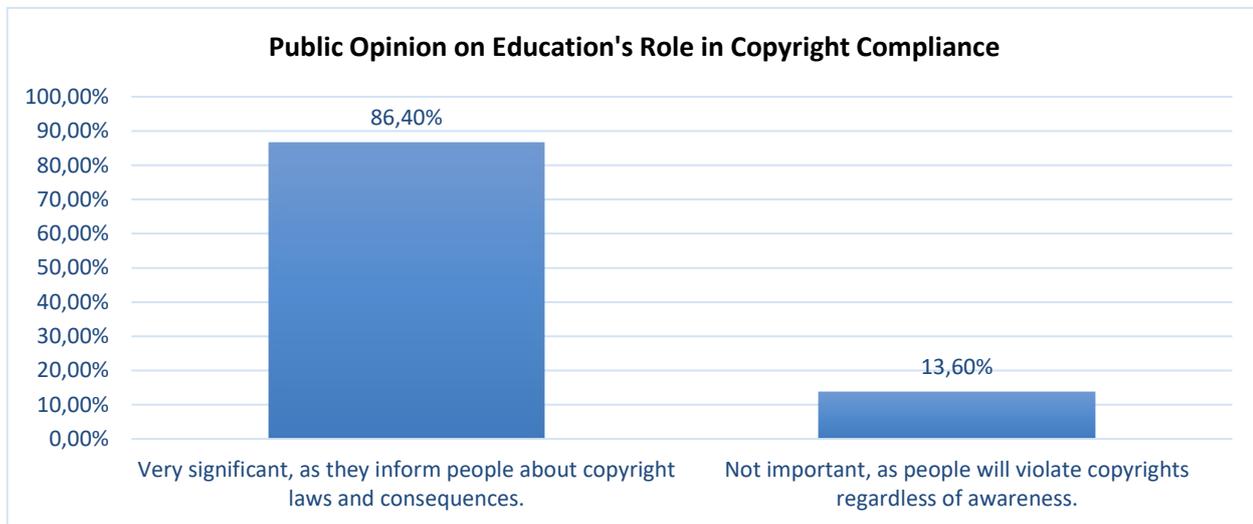


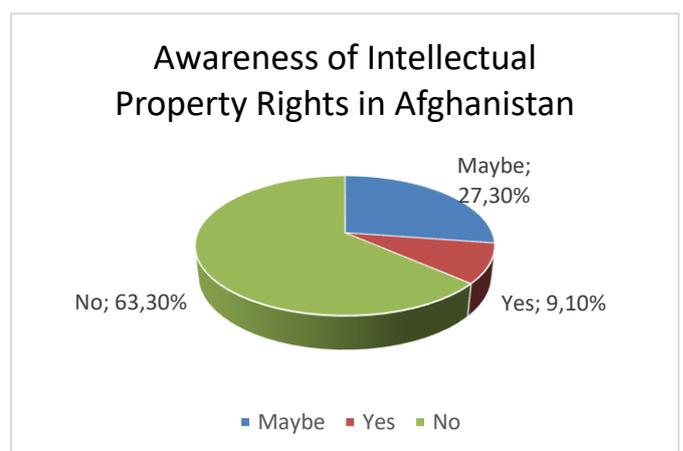
Figure. 7 Public Views on Education and Awareness in Reducing Copyright Infringements in Afghanistan



The survey shows a strong consensus: 86.4% of participants consider public education and awareness campaigns to be very important in order to reduce copyright infringements in Afghanistan. This reflects the widespread belief that informing the public about copyright laws and their consequences is crucial for compliance. However, 13.6% of respondents are skeptical about the importance of such campaigns, suggesting that targeted strategies are needed to address specific issues. In summary, while the majority of respondents recognize the importance of educational campaigns, tailoring campaigns to different viewpoints remains a critical factor in effectively reducing copyright infringement.

Figure. 8 Perceptions of Intellectual Property Rights Awareness in Afghanistan

The results of Figure 8 show that there are different views on the effectiveness of IPR awareness programs in Afghanistan. Only 9.1% of participants have observed such programs, while 63.6% have not, suggesting that there is a lack of effective initiatives. The "Maybe" category with 27.3% reflects the uncertainty of the participants. Overall, the results indicate a potential need for increased and more visible IPR awareness initiatives in Afghanistan to address the current gaps in public awareness and knowledge.



Future prospects and improvement strategies

This section was future-oriented and intended to capture participants' views on strategies to improve copyright enforcement in Afghanistan. The inclusion of the "all of the above" option in some questions allowed for a holistic view and reflected the multifaceted nature of the challenge.

Figure. 9 Strategies to improve copyright enforcement in Afghanistan: Insights from survey respondents

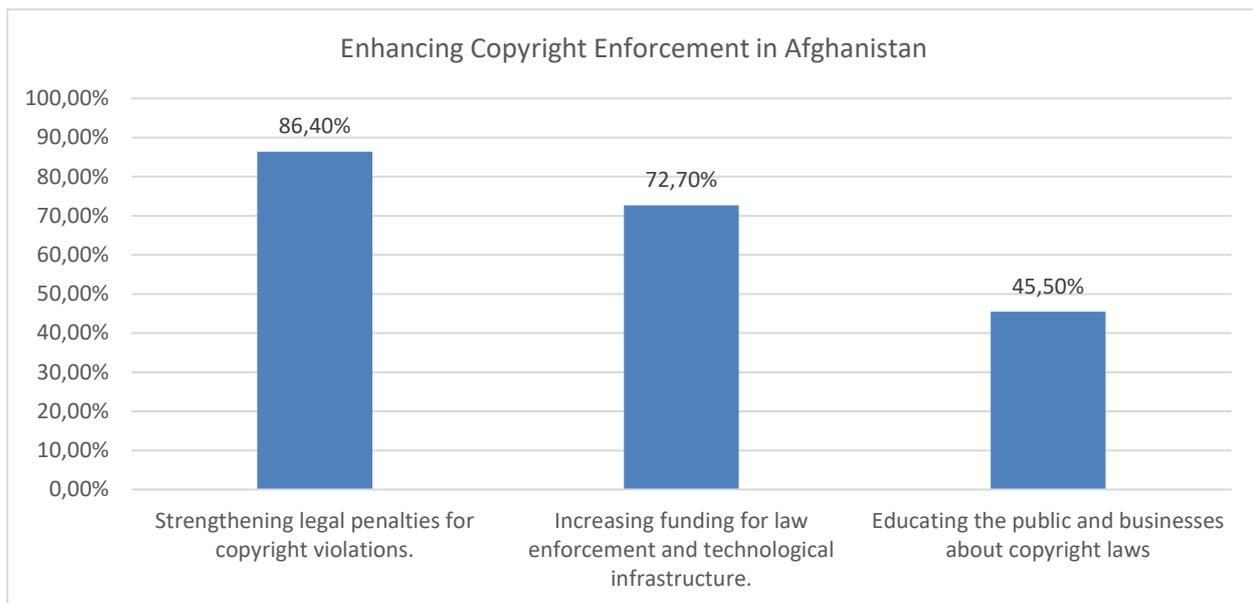
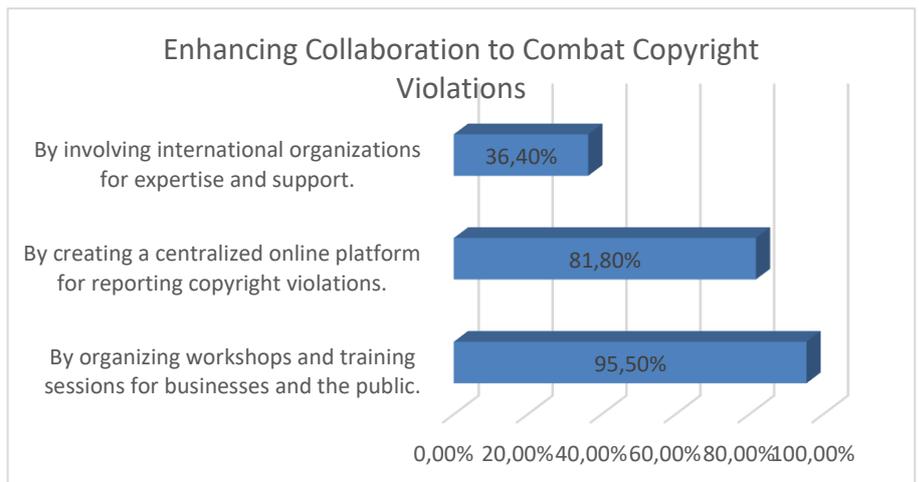


Figure 9 presents participants' views on strategies to improve copyright enforcement in Afghanistan. Most respondents (86.4%) support strengthening legal penalties for infringement, suggesting that stricter consequences could deter violations. Additionally, 72.7% favor increasing funding for law enforcement and technological infrastructure, recognizing that limited resources weaken enforcement capacity. In terms of public awareness, 45.5% believe educating individuals and businesses about copyright is essential for promoting compliance. Overall, the findings show that improving copyright enforcement requires a comprehensive approach that combines stronger legal measures, better funding, and educational initiatives to enhance respect for intellectual property rights in Afghanistan.

Figure. 10 Strategies for Effective Collaboration in Combating Copyright Infringements in Afghanistan: Survey Insights

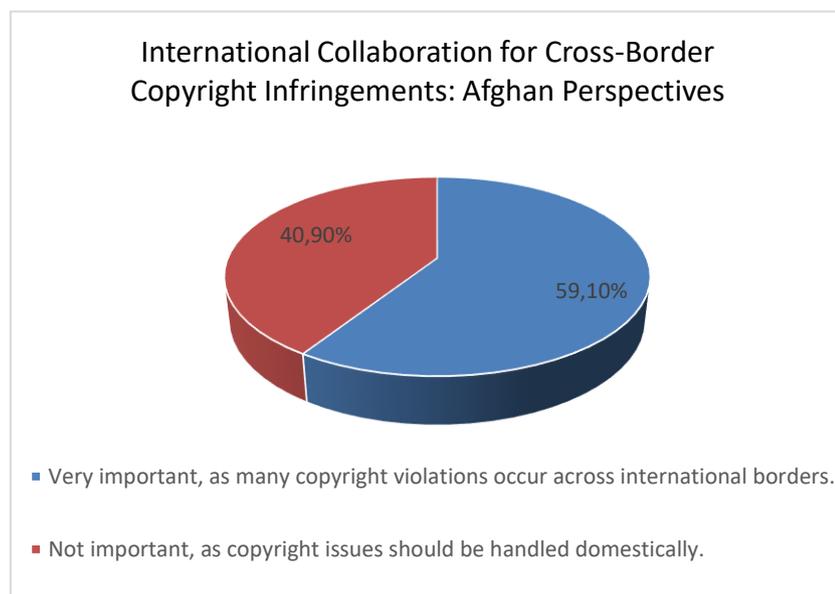
Figure 10 illustrates strong support for strategies to enhance cooperation between government, industry, and the public in combating copyright infringement in Afghanistan. A majority of participants (95.5%) advocate organizing workshops and training for



businesses and the public, highlighting the importance of education in promoting awareness and compliance. Additionally, 81.8% support creating a central online platform for reporting infringements, emphasizing the need for streamlined communication and coordination among stakeholders. A smaller portion (36.4%) recommend involving international organizations, reflecting the perceived value of global expertise. Overall, the findings suggest that education, technology, and collaboration are key to improving copyright enforcement.

Figure. 11 Perceived Importance of International Collaboration in Addressing Cross-Border Copyright Infringements: Survey Insights from Afghanistan

The figure 11 shows the responses of the participants and provides information on the perceived importance of international cooperation in combating cross-border copyright infringements in Afghanistan. A majority, 59.1%,



consider it "very important," underlining the realization that many copyright infringements transcend national borders. This view emphasizes the need for

cooperation between Afghanistan and other countries to effectively address and curb copyright infringement with cross-border implications.

In contrast, 40.9% believe that international cooperation is "not important" and that copyright issues should be dealt with domestically. This view suggests a belief in the effectiveness of national frameworks and regulations to tackle copyright infringement without relying heavily on international cooperation. This figure illustrates the divided view of participants regarding the importance of international cooperation in combating cross-border copyright infringement in Afghanistan. While a substantial majority recognizes the importance of this cooperation, a significant minority maintains a domestic-centric approach. Balancing these perspectives will be crucial in developing effective strategies to deal with the complexity of copyright enforcement in a globalized context.

Participants' Insights at the End of the Questionnaire

Out of the participants, 50% provided feedback, and the researcher identified the four most significant comments for further analysis, such as: Participant.1 said *"The insecurity situation of Afghanistan is the main factor of the copyright infringement."* Participants. 2 said *"Afghanistan has developed copyright law but they don't act related to Law."* Participants. 3 said *"Most of the people don't aware about copyright and even they do something different for example some consumers come to bookstore and buy a book after buying a book they take photos from book and make PDF file then publish this PDF file from their social media account to get a lot of viewers and like their social media page."* Participant.4 *"The government should take action about copyright infringements if it will be continued like nowadays no one writes books and articles. Because I write books for my own benefits but no one cares about my benefits."*

The opinions expressed by the participants reveal several important themes in relation to copyright infringement in Afghanistan. First, the discrepancy between the existing copyright laws on paper and the lack of effective enforcement is repeatedly criticized. Participants emphasize that despite the existence of developed copyright laws, there is a significant gap in their practical implementation. This feeling is confirmed by the perception that the legal system, which is crucial for the protection of copyrights, does not consistently address problems such as plagiarism.

Another important topic is the impact of the security situation in Afghanistan on copyright infringements. Some participants attribute the prevalence of copyright infringement to the general instability in the country, indicating a complex relationship between socio-political conditions and the protection of intellectual property. In addition, participants are concerned about the lack of awareness and diligence

regarding copyright among the general population. Participants point to instances where individuals, including consumers and authors, commit acts that disregard the principles of copyright law. This lack of awareness is seen as a major obstacle to the effective protection of copyright. The comments also emphasize the importance of preserving copyright in Afghanistan. Participants recognize that a strong copyright framework not only protects the rights of creators, but also serves as a catalyst for economic growth, innovation and investment in the creative industries.

Finally, the opinions of the participants underline the need for a multi-layered approach to tackling copyright infringement in Afghanistan. This includes strengthening law enforcement, raising public awareness and taking into account the broader socio-political context to effectively protect intellectual property rights and create an enabling environment for creativity and innovation.

Differences between the responses of authors and publishers

When comparing the data collected from the two different groups, namely the successful writers and the representatives of well-known publishing houses in Afghanistan, several similarities and differences emerged. While both groups shared the prevailing concern about copyright issues in their country, nuanced differences in their focus emerged.

Emphasis on plagiarism by writers: The writers' group placed a stronger emphasis on the issue of plagiarism. Writers were very concerned about the unauthorized use of their content on social media platforms and instances of others passing off their work as their own. This highlights the personal impact of plagiarism on individual authors.

Focus on revenue and economic issues among publishing owners: In contrast, the group of publisher owners emphasized their own revenue and economic concerns. In particular, they pointed to cases where books were converted to PDF formats and distributed for free via social media platforms. This practice had a direct impact on book sales and led to considerable financial losses for publishers.

The impact of socio-political conditions on copyright infringement: Some participants, especially from the writers' group, pointed out the impact of the insecure situation in Afghanistan on copyright infringement. This perspective added another layer of complexity and showed that the overall socio-political conditions in the country contribute to the challenges in enforcing copyright laws.

Discrepancies in legal implementation: Both groups acknowledged the existence of copyright laws on paper, but writers in particular pointed out the discrepancy between the existing laws and their effective implementation. The

discrepancy between the legal framework and practical enforcement was a concern more emphasized by the writers.

To summarize, while both writers and publishing owners in Afghanistan have the same concerns about copyright infringement, their focus is different. The writers' group focused more on the personal impact of plagiarism, while the publishers' group emphasized economic aspects, especially the impact on revenue due to digital distribution practices. In addition, the writers' group pointed to the broader socio-political context that influences copyright issues, indicating a multi-layered understanding of the challenges of protecting intellectual property in Afghanistan.

CONCLUSION

To summarize, this study provides insight into the complex landscape of copyright infringement and developments in Afghanistan and sheds light on the challenges of protecting intellectual property, particularly in the area of copyright. The study captures the perspectives of experienced writers and representatives of prominent publishing houses, providing a nuanced understanding of the multi-layered issues at stake.

The findings reveal a number of notable developments and violations in the Afghan copyright landscape. Cases such as the unauthorized electronic publications of Dr. Rangin Spanta's work underscore the seriousness of the situation. The proliferation of unregulated online platforms adds to the challenges and underscores the urgent need for a robust legal framework and effective enforcement mechanisms. The closure and banning of numerous publishing houses due to the evolving socio-political landscape further complicates the situation and limits the representativeness of the study. The impact of these infringements goes beyond national borders and also affects international copyright laws and treaties.

The study is in line with global perspectives that emphasize the pervasive nature of copyright challenges and highlight the need for concerted efforts to strengthen the legal framework, improve enforcement mechanisms and promote a culture that respects intellectual property rights not only in Afghanistan but on a global scale.

The study is based on a comprehensive sample and research methodology, engaging accomplished writers and publishers' representatives to provide a comprehensive understanding of copyright challenges. Despite the contextual challenges of sample selection, the demographic information paints a vivid picture of a mature and experienced group of predominantly male participants who are actively engaged in writing and publishing. Analysis of the participant data reveals a diverse and

revealing landscape that exposes the widespread misconceptions about copyright laws in Afghanistan. Widespread piracy of digital content, unauthorized distribution of software, and plagiarism of academic works are cited as major problems. The participants agree that greater awareness and educational initiatives are needed to address these issues effectively.

The study examines the latest developments and legislative changes and reveals differences in the level of awareness and perception of the participants. The integration of new technologies such as blockchain and digital watermarking is met with a degree of uncertainty, pointing to the need for further exploration and transparency in technological interventions. Respondents' insights at the end of the questionnaire add a qualitative layer to the research by highlighting concerns about the gap between existing copyright laws on paper and their practical enforcement. The differences between the responses of authors and publishers highlight the particular importance each group places on issues such as plagiarism and commercial concerns. Although the study provides valuable insights, it is not without limitations. The lack of female participants due to regulatory restrictions and the focus on a specific industry limit the generalizability of the results. Suggestions for future research include a broader range of perspectives, a gender impact analysis and a comparative analysis with international standards.

Finally, this research contributes to the ongoing discourse on copyright infringement in Afghanistan by providing a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and perspectives of key stakeholders. The findings serve as a basis for informed policy recommendations and pave the way for future research efforts to further explore and address the intricacies of copyright law in Afghanistan.

Limitations and suggestions for future research

1. Diversify perspectives: Include other industries besides literature and publishing, such as film and music, to get a broader view of copyright challenges. Explore the perspectives of consumers and the public.

2. Gender impact analysis: Conduct a gender impact analysis to understand how gender dynamics influence perceptions of copyright. Explore the perspectives of female creators, if accessible.

3. Comparative analysis: Compare copyright laws and enforcement in Afghanistan with international standards. Evaluate best practices from other countries to identify possible improvements. Considering these suggestions will deepen our understanding of copyright issues in Afghanistan and provide insights for informed policy recommendations.

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