



# Intellectual Property Law and Technology Transfer Practices in Egyptian Universities: An Ethnographic Study

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## Abstract

Egyptian universities play a significant role in research and development, often partnering with private sectors to commercialize their intellectual property (IP). However, there is limited empirical data on how these universities manage IP law and technology transfer practices within the African context. The study employs qualitative research methods including participant observation, semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders (university administrators, researchers, industry partners), and document analysis of university policies and agreements. Data was collected over a period of six months in . University IP departments reported that the main challenges to technology transfer were related to intellectual property disputes and inadequate funding for research projects. The proportion of universities with formalized IP management systems varied significantly, ranging from 40% to 75%. A notable theme was the lack of standardization in agreements between universities and industry partners. The study highlights the need for improved legal frameworks and standardised technology transfer processes to enhance collaboration between Egyptian universities and industries. There is a critical gap in formal IP management systems that needs to be addressed by both academic institutions and government bodies. University administrators should prioritise developing robust IP policies and engaging with industry partners to create more sustainable and equitable partnerships. Government support for research funding and legal guidance could also facilitate smoother technology transfer processes.

**Keywords:** *African, ethnography, jurisprudence, intellectual property, legal studies, methodology, transfer of technology*

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