

Reflecting on Biopiracy:

Legal Education and the
Protection of Biodiversity
and Traditional Knowledge

Dr. Prachi Motiyani

Assistant Professor of Law
School of Law, Gujarat University, India



Why This Topic Matters



80% of the world's biodiversity is located in indigenous and local communities territories.



Traditional knowledge contributes significantly to medicine, agriculture and food security.



Increasing commercialization and IPR claims have increased the risks of biopiracy.



■ Biodiversity Hotspots

What is Biopiracy?

The unauthorized appropriation and commercialization of biological resources and



Traditional
Knowledge

Commercial
Research

Patent
Application

No
Consent/
No
Benefit
Sharing

Biopiracy

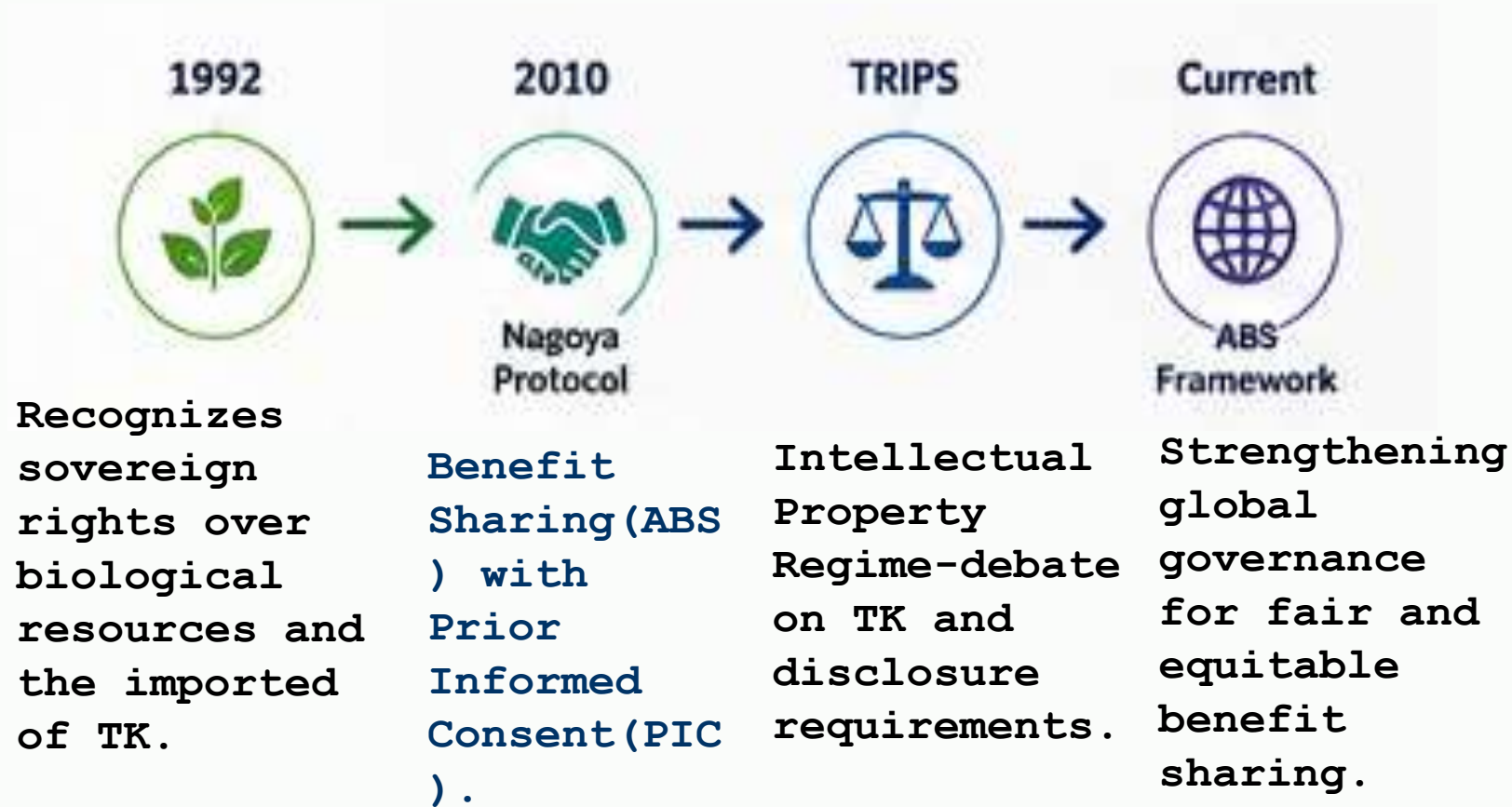
Example : Neem I Turmeric I Basmati I Hoodia I
Ayahuasca etc.

Famous Biopiracy Cases

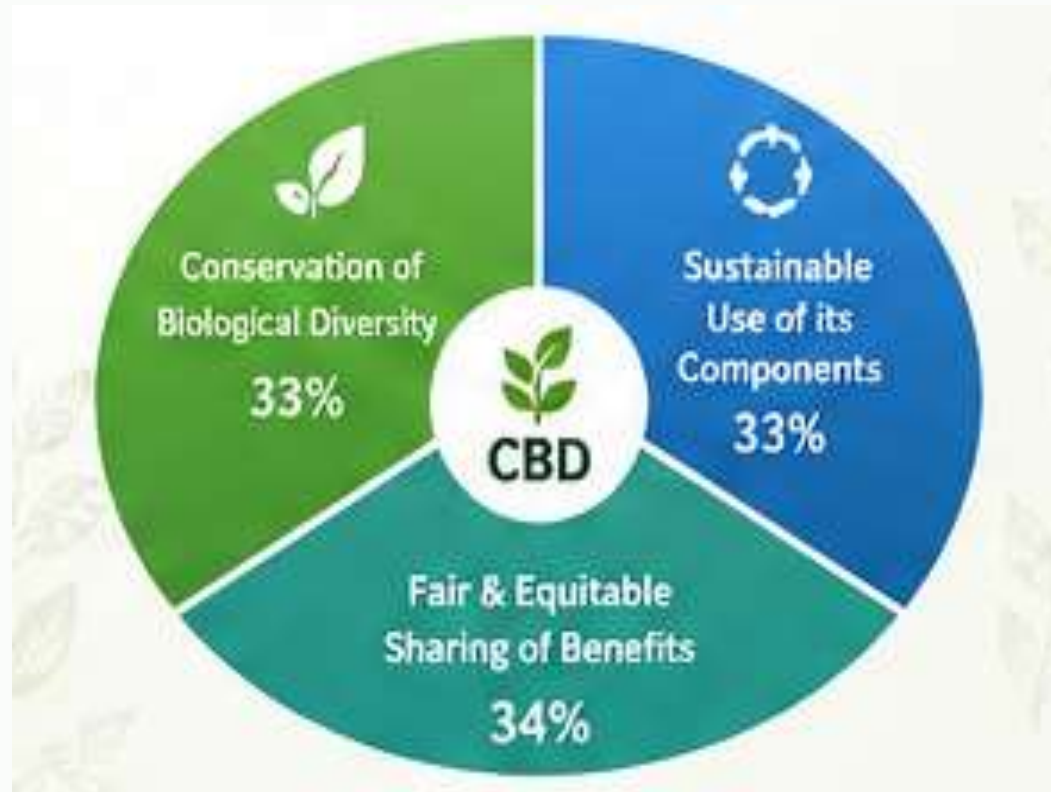


Case	Issue	Outcome
Neem	Us Patent on neem oil and extracts	Patent revoked
Turmeric	Us Patent on wound healing properties	Patent revoked
Basmati Rice	Us Patent on aromatic basmati rice	Patent challenged
Hoodia Cactus	Misappropriation by foreign companies	Benefit-sharing dispute

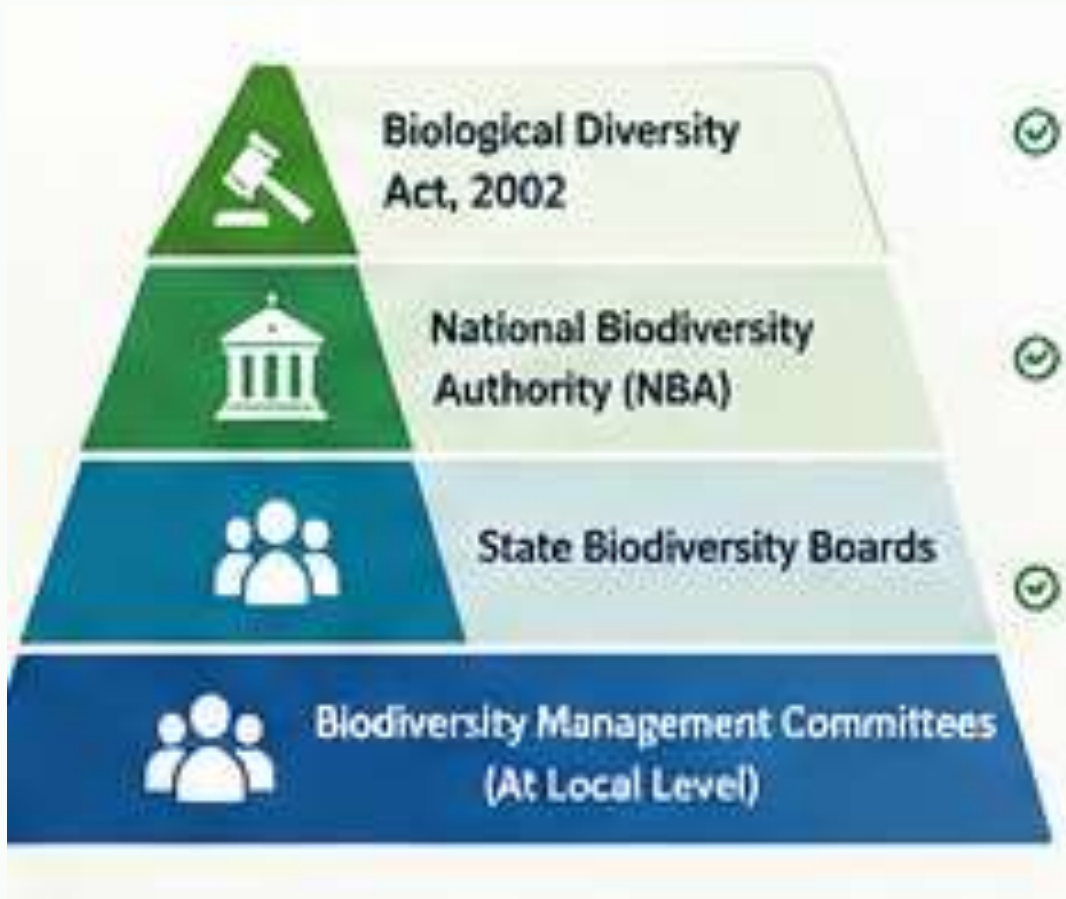
International Legal Framework



CBD Objectives



Indian Legal Framework



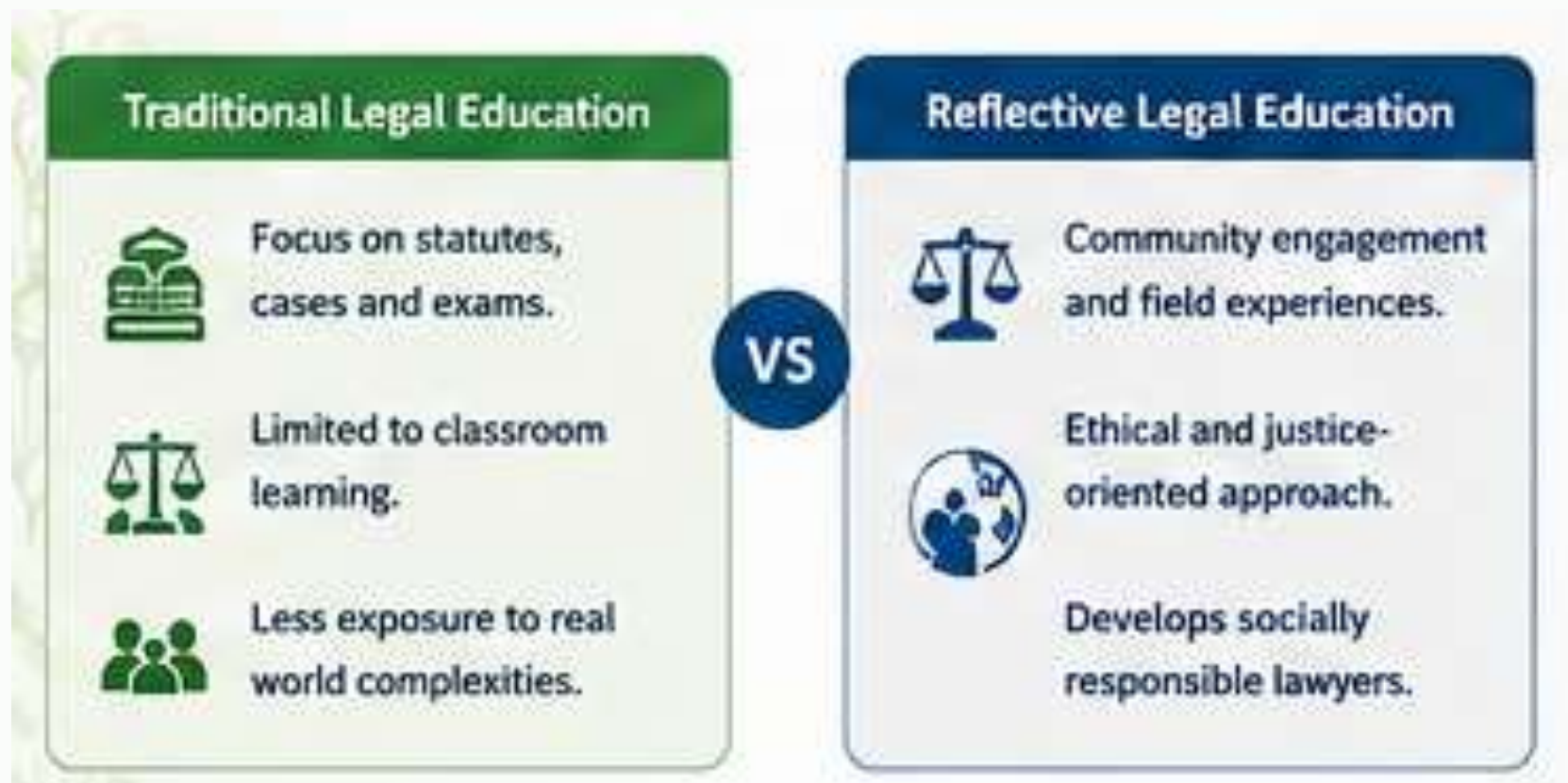
Regulated access to biological resources and associated knowledge conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing
Decentralized governance with community participation.

Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)



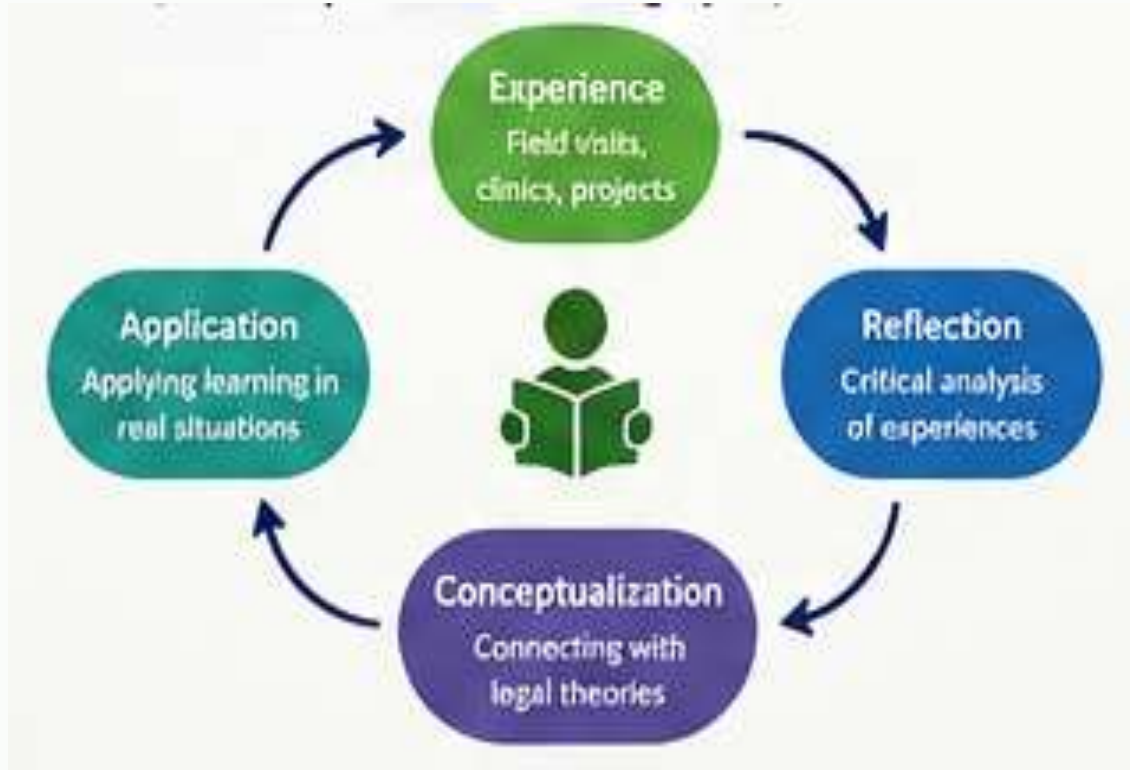
- ✓ Initiative by CSIR, India.
- ✓ Documents traditional knowledge in multiple languages.
- ✓ Prevents wrongful patent grants in foreign justification.
- ✓ Defensive protection tool against biopiracy.

Why Legal Education Matters?



Reflective Learning Model

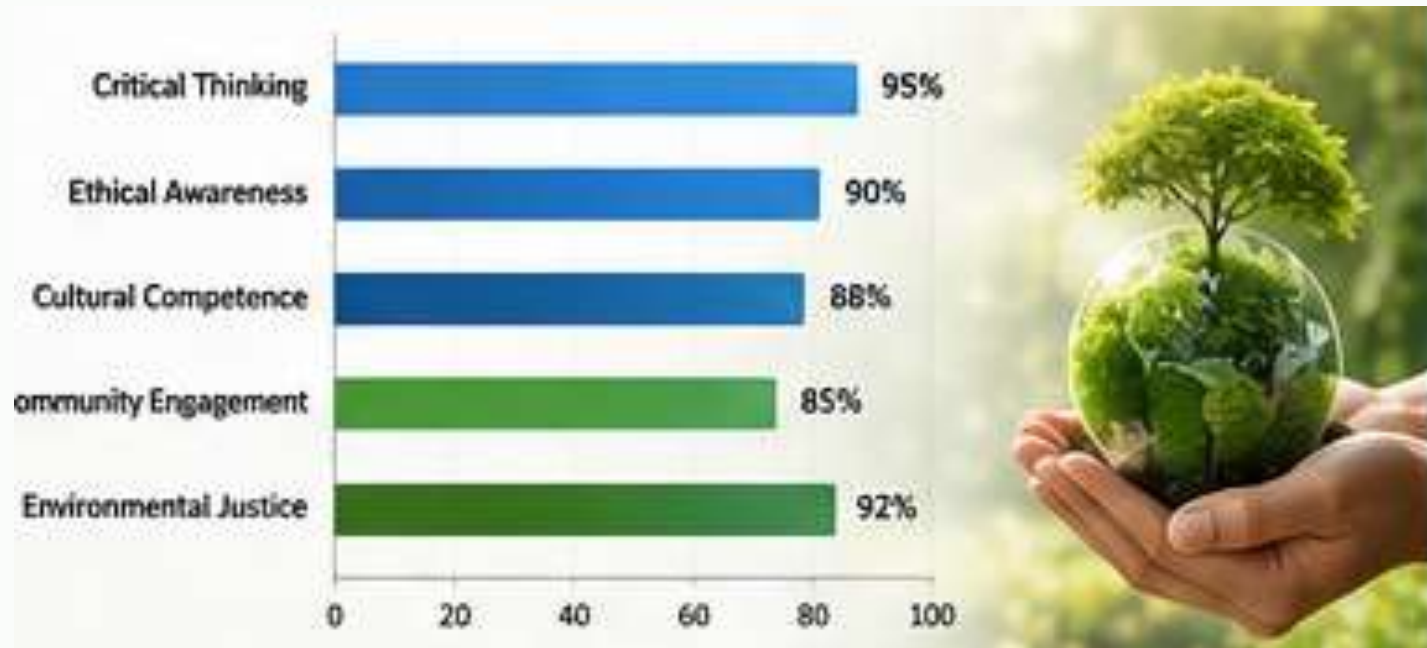
(Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle)



Proposed Pedagogical Framework

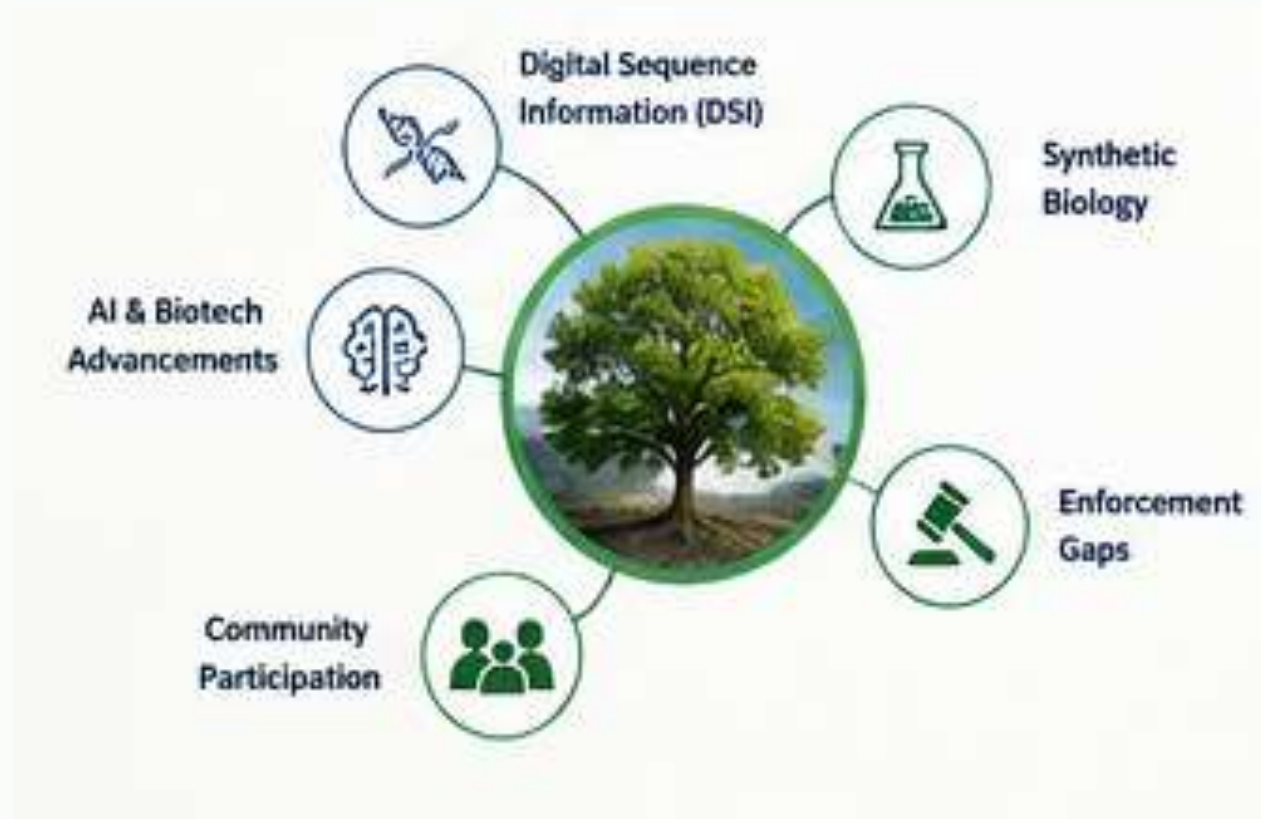


Benefits of Reflective Pedagogy



Impact Level (%)

Challenges & Emerging Issues



Conclusion

“

Protecting biodiversity
requires protecting
the communities
that preserve it.

”

- ✓ Biopiracy threatens biodiversity, culture and justice.
- ✓ Laws and policies are essential but not sufficient.
- ✓ Reflective legal education empowers future lawyers to build equitable and sustainable governance.

References

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- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (2010).
- Agreement on TRIPS (1994).
- Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (India).
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- R. V. Anuradha, *Traditional Knowledge Governance in India*, 65 J. Indian L. Inst. (2023).
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Publications (2024).
- Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat (2024).
- Various academic journals, reports and UN publications.



Thank you