

**UNDERSTANDING DIGITAL PIRACY THROUGH THE LENS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL,
SOCIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS**

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Abstract: Digital Piracy has become a salient topic in legal, economic and political milieu. World's leading reports on piracy published by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), BSA, have not explicitly explained the act of digital piracy from a behavioural, psychosocial, cultural and criminological perspective. The role of psychological, sociological and cultural factors in the context of digital piracy has seldom been discussed in developing nations, although considerable amount of research is done in developed nations.

A total of 624 studies were identified, which discussed the digital piracy phenomenon, its prevalence and various factors ranging from economic, political, legal, cultural, psychological, behavioural, criminological and sociological factors leading to downloading and uploading of unauthorized content. Relevant papers were further shortlisted from the identified studies by following an inclusion criterion of psychological, sociological and cultural factors that impact the behaviour of the perpetrators of digital piracy. Based on these criteria, 98 studies were included in this review which included following factors: **Social Learning theory, Neutralizing techniques and justification of perpetrators, Ethical, moral and religious predisposition of digital piracy, Theoretical constructs in explaining digital piracy and Collectivistic and Individualistic Economies**. This paper aims to critically review the research concerning psychological, sociological and cultural factors affecting behaviour towards digital piracy in the last two decades. It also identified potential area of future research based on critical construct of existing literature.