FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION
7.1 Introduction

The importance of information in the field of fashion and fashion designing is recognised in India, and it is an accepted fact that the Government also understood the value the fashion field and its role in socio-economic development of the country. With this background the National Institute of Fashion Technologies emerged to cater to the requirements of the fashion industry. As a backbone to NIFTs the seven Resource Centres emerged and provided the information support to the fashion professionals. The role each Resource Centre exhibited in fulfilling the information desire of the variety of users is noteworthy. However, the present information based activities can be taken to new high through consortium of information resources from all seven Resource Centres to integrate and to make available the valuable arts and crafts documents, rich material resources for inspirational study, valuable project reports, and many more resources may be seamlessly accessed from the proposed NISFDT across the country.

7.2 Findings

The following are the findings of the study:

- Famous and celebrated fashion designers are increasingly depending on the fashion information services of NIFT Resource Centres;
- The data collected from all seven Resource Centres indicate that more and more garment industries and being enrolled for information services of the Resource Centres;
Individual professionals like fashion merchandisers, apparel quality controllers, production managers and others extensively use the services of the Resource Centres;

NIFT Resource Centres support the information needs of the Artisans and Craftsmen of the country on demand and in anticipation;

Fashion forecast services are widely used by the garment industry of the country and the individual professionals; and

Fashion colour services of the NIFT Resource Centres are the main source for individual and industrial information requirements.

7.3 Conclusion

The study done here is describing the present information services practiced by NIFT Resource Centres in India. The study highlighted the lacuna in information services to the users in the vast country like India. The data collected indicate that the strong information system for fashion design technology is the need of the hour in view of emerging fashion design technology era. It is true in context of globalisation and liberalisation of the economies of the world. The protectionism policy practiced for the garment and fashion industry by various Governments of the world is came to an end by December, 2004. The emerging open marketing system posed the serious challenges to Indian fashion industry. The industry should evolve the competitive attitude imbibing latest technology, bringing the standardisation in the production to sustain the competition. The role of Resource Centres of
NIFTs in India in a changing scenario is crucial and the proposed information system for fashion design technology would be the right answer to make the professionals take on the challenges while using the information services of such system.

The result of this study provides rich source of data from which further investigations could be undertaken on various lines. It is true that the fashion designers and other related professionals are hard pressed for time. They depend heavily on filtered formal and informal information sources. The activities of the fashion designers are ruled by "time" factor and linked with seasons. The proposed information system for fashion design technology would be able to facilitate the accurate information services at required speed.

The study showed the shortage of professional manpower to handle the fashion information in each Resource Centres of NIFTs. It also indicated the limited IT infrastructure in each Resource Centres in order to undertake the new information based activities. Keeping this in view, the Head Librarian, NIFT, Mumbai made a presentation "Resource Centre: Towards Digitazation". The presentation was designed to make the authorities understand the value it carries, the importance for preservation of resources, seamless accessibility across the platforms, steps involved in digitization process, infrastructure requirements alongwith cost factor. The NIFT authority understood the need and agreed in principle to extend the infrastructural facility to launch the digitisation process at individual centre level.

The comparison effected in the study about the IT infrastructure available in each NIFT centre shows that the proposed
information system for fashion design technology (ISFDT) has an advantage as the NIFT centres are equipped with strong IT base at their disposals.

The study further emphasised the fact that each Resource Centre was practicing similar procedures and functioning as per the set norms with similar aims and objectives having common goal. The sources of information like fashion forecast journals, books and material resources are very costly, and all the resource centres procure the materials overlap. And thereby the financial resources are wasted. With the high cost of information resources procured and supplied at the individual resource centre level can be optimised and the financial resources may be channelised for other developmental activities while avoiding at the same time the duplication via consortium.

The target users of the proposed fashion design technology information system comprises individual practicing fashion designers, students and faculty of NIFT, apparel quality controllers, fashion merchandisers, fashion buying houses, artisans, craftsmen, production managers, and others. All these need the information instantly at a given time to execute their activities faster. The system should be in a position to analyse and disseminate the required information without loss of time. Such proposed fashion design information system is a medium through which the rich arts and crafts of the various regions of the country can be exchanged and utilised to promote the local creativity at both national and international levels.
The prevailing situation and the procedures adopted by NIFT Resource Centres are possibly advantageous to implement the proposal as there cannot be any ambiguity about the ownership issue for the shared information resources, financial confusions or any other issues existing in other information systems working in the world. National Institute of Fashion Technology centres in India are functioning under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, having common goal with similar aims and objectives, which is an additional factor for considering the implementation of the proposal.