CHAPTER - 6
IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATION & FUTURE RESEARCH

6.1: Implemented Recommendation:
There is a recommendation given by the researcher which has been implemented during the period of research work. Formation of Community Of Practice (COP) namely IT Forum for knowledge sharing and development is an implemented recommendation of the research.

During a syllabus revision meeting under faculty of Management of University Of Pune, Dr.(Capt) C.M. Chitale, Dean invited the concerned faculty members teaching various subjects in different MCA institutes for revising the syllabus of the course. During this meeting, a need was expressed by the faculty members to have a professional forum for the development of IT teachers keeping in view that enhancing quality of syllabus by introducing contemporary or latest subjects is not the only solution to maintain the quality of education. However enhancing knowledge on the part of especially, IT faculty is inevitable. As a result, the researcher with the support of the Dean, Faculty of Management initiated the formation of an IT forum for knowledge sharing and development on 18th February 2008. The objective of the study will help to study the impact of the pilot deployment of collaborative knowledge sharing strategy through formation of an on line forum for knowledge sharing and development. The IT forum formed is a true representation of Communities Of Practice. Communities of Practice are defined as a collection of individuals bound by informal relationships that share similar work roles and a common context. First, the term “community” highlights the personal basis upon which the relationships are formed. Second, the word “Practice” implies “Knowledge in action”.

Yahoo! Groups is a community-driven Internet communication tool, a hybrid between an electronic mailing list and an Internet forum. Group messages can be posted and read by e-mail or on the Group homepage, like a web forum. Members can choose whether to receive individual e-mails or daily digest e-
mails, or to read the posts at the web site. Some Groups are simply announcement lists, to which only the Group moderators can post, while others are discussion lists.

As well as providing e-mail relaying and archiving facilities for the many lists it hosts, the Yahoo! Groups service provides additional functions on the web site, such as voting and calendar systems and file uploading. The basic mailing list functionality is available to any e-mail address, but a Yahoo! ID is required for access to other features.

After reviewing the features of Yahoo Group a thought came forward to start a group named **IT_Forum_Pune_University** with objective **Knowledge Sharing and Development of Teacher**. The group details are

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**IT_Forum_Pune_University**

IT forum for Knowledge Sharing and Development of Teacher.

- **Members:** 10
- **Archive:** Public
- **Created:** 1 year ago
- **Moderated:** No

Join This Group!

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**Group Email Addresses**

- **Post message:** IT_Forum_Pune_University@yahoogroups.com
- **Subscribe:** IT_Forum_Pune_University-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- **Unsubscribe:** IT_Forum_Pune_University-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
- **List owner:** IT_Forum_Pune_University-owner@yahoogroups.com

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The e-mail addresses of IT teachers were collected in various workshop and FDP and were invited through this group invitation. For the purpose of simplicity we have invited HODs of various institutions. The member list contains profile of the member, e-mail address and yahoo id for chat communication. This helps in interaction amongst the members any time anywhere.
The members are posting the messages related to discussion of syllabus topics, new technologies, Seminar and Workshops. Besides this the document attachment is available so that the knowledge can be shared through documents, articles, presentations.
One member acts as a moderator and reviews messages, posts and attachments. The message history is available to the moderator.

The forum members have decided to meet once in a quarter for interaction and discussion on various topics. Viz.

**IT_FORUM MEETING for Discussion of Departmental Courses - RM, DAA**

Dear Colleague,

IT_Forum meeting for discussion of Departmental Courses - Research Methodology, Design and Analysis of Algorithm. The meeting is scheduled on 18th June 2009 at SIMCA (Sinhagad Institute) Nurbe Campus @ 14:00 Hrs (02:00 PM). In this meeting we will share our knowledge on these departmental courses. Your presence is solicited.

The members meet at one place and share their views and knowledge. The minutes of meetings are circulated to members through e-mail.

This forum has initiated

- Interaction amongst various teachers at least once in a quarter.
- Knowledge sharing on various topics viz. Research, Technologies, Teaching Methodologies.
- Invitation and Communication regarding various local, national and international workshops.
- Documents and Article Sharing
Currently Heads Of Department (HOD) of all the institutes are members of this group. The idea is the HOD of respective institute will interact and will pass on the knowledge to down level.

This group has helped the IT teacher community especially MCA teachers. The activities will continue to expand with interaction with other IT teachers under University of Pune.

6.2 Utility of the study:
Knowledge sharing is widely acknowledged as indispensable for the socio-economic growth in the light of rapid advancements in information technology across the world. Many current day applications of knowledge sharing are happening in the corporate sector. So, it is necessary to assess and enhance knowledge sharing culture in academic institutes which are non corporate structures.

1. The study is helpful to assess collaborative knowledge sharing culture in academic institutes.
2. The study focuses on how useful and to what extent the faculty Development programs are helping the faculty.
3. The implemented recommendation of the research helped to study the impact of Collaborative Knowledge sharing strategy through formation of an online IT forum for Knowledge Sharing and Development.
4. The study is useful to find the appropriate collaborative knowledge sharing practice to enhance the following factors of teaching methodology:
   - Depth of knowledge
   - Quality of teaching
   - Content enrichment
   - Delivery
   - Pedagogy/Methodology
   - Dissemination of information
   - Level of confidence
• Development of innovative teaching practices
• Helped in understanding the requirements of students
• Helped in understanding the Industry requirement.

The Online participation rate is lowest amongst the faculty members of academic institutes related to IT education. The faculty members are reluctant to explore the IT tools for knowledge sharing in academic institutes in spite of having access to the latest and best forms of IT infrastructure. Further there is no interaction amongst the faculty members of various institutes even at intra institute level.

6.3 Scope for future research:
The recommendations in this study focus on the factors influencing collaborative knowledge sharing culture and also the practices of collaborative knowledge sharing to enhance organizational learning in an academic institute. Further, it is also important to study the following
1. How, and to what extent collaborative knowledge improves the performance of the academic institutes.
2. The impact of collaborative knowledge sharing on the quality of higher education.