

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND SHARING

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Communities of practice (CoP) plays a key role in knowledge sharing. This helps to acquire tacit knowledge from the domain experts. The use of technology in CoP has a lot of implications through virtual communities of practice.

Virtual communities practice- Benefits and Challenges

1. Operate across geographical boundaries with no limits on time and distance. The time differences reduced the synchronous interaction, and the response time increased.
2. Technical support for a problem is received from world-wide. The greater time to respond indicates the lower problem-solving ability and insufficiency of knowledge among the members of CoP.
3. Contribution towards the understanding of the discipline in depth and width is huge. Tacit knowledge sharing is key in CoP. This is a lot of it is not recorded. So the need for information technology is mandatory.
4. The tracking of the history of the development of the concept and problem is easier. Virtual teams are temporary and can be disbanded leaving troubles when tracking the history of such teams
5. Online access becomes important for virtual CoP. The creation of online repositories is easier.
6. Cultural diversity adds to the complexity of communication among virtual CoP members. Misunderstanding happens when all the individuals fail to understand the terms on the same platform.

WEB LINK: Communities of practice: The organizational frontier

<https://hbr.org/2000/01/communities-of-practice-the-organizational-frontier>