6.0. Recommendations
PCR using MPB64 primers is rapid and a sensitive test which can be a useful adjunct for routine diagnosis of clinical tuberculosis, provided it is interpreted in a clinical context. It has potential as a cost effective diagnostic especially in Indian situations, where the reagent costs are substantially less as primers and reagents are not patented and labour costs are comparatively less, than that in developed countries.

PCR may increase diagnostic certainty amongst contacts of tuberculosis cases, individuals with HIV-TB, and amongst samples which are considered inappropriate for microbiological processing. Studies with larger numbers need to be taken up in order to validate these results.

Utility of PCR in a country like India with limited resources needs to be studied extremely carefully. PCR may not be directly applicable currently in the national program but its role in the private sector should be considered. In the future, laboratories at the State level, the National Reference Laboratories in India, along with laboratories in the major referral teaching hospitals may be able to take up molecular based methods.

Models could be proposed as an outcome of this work and be integrated in future studies to determine how this diagnostic may be used in a realistic set up of public health program in a developing country like India.