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Investigating the Impact of Future Study Development Indicators of Knowledge Management in Islamic Azad Universities of Tehran Province

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Abstract

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Purpose: Knowledge management plays an important role in the growth and development of various organizations, especially educational organizations. Therefore, the aim of this study was investigating the impact of future study development indicators of knowledge management in Islamic Azad Universities of Tehran province.

Methodology: The current research in terms of purpose was applied and in terms of implementation method was cross-sectional. The research population was all the members of the faculty and teaching staff of the faculties of educational sciences of the Islamic Azad Universities of Tehran province in the 2022-2023 academic years with number of 210 people. The research sample based on the Krejcie and Morgan table was estimated to be 160 people, who were selected by stratified random sampling method. The research tool was a researcher-made questionnaire of future study development of knowledge management (67 items), whose face validity was confirmed by academic experts and its reliability was calculated using Cronbach's alpha method 0.92. Data were analyzed with exploratory factor analysis and structural equations in SPSS version 23 and LISREL version 8.7 software.

Findings: The findings showed that the future study development of knowledge management has 67 items in 14 factors and 6 dimensions of organizational structure and information technology infrastructure as causal factors, effective cultural platforms on the development of future study and management strategies as underlying factors, alignment of the university with the changing needs of society and higher education as intervening factors, knowledge creation, knowledge sharing, knowledge application and knowledge policies storage as central phenomenon, transformation in the educational system and the institutionalization of foresight and policy making as strategies and the development of organizational awareness and human resource productivity as consequences; So that all factors had a content validity ratio was higher than 0.70, average variance extracted was higher than 0.5, and Cronbach's reliability was higher than 0.80. The model of future study development indicators of knowledge management in Islamic Azad Universities of Tehran province had a good fit. In this model, each of the factors has a direct and significant effect on the underlying factors, and causal factors had a direct and significant effect on the underlying factors, intervening factors and central phenomenon, underlying factors, intervening factors and central phenomenon had a direct and significant effect on the strategies and underlying factors, central phenomenon and strategies had a direct and significant effect on the consequences ($P < 0.001$).

Conclusion: The results of this study can be used by managers and officials of educational systems, especially in the higher education system with the aim of future study development of knowledge management in order to create a competitive advantage.

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Detailed abstract

Purpose: Today, knowledge for any organization regardless of the size and type of organization is considered a strategic asset, and this asset plays a key role in the success and survival of the organization and creating a competitive advantage. In the third millennium, knowledge is an important and key resource for competitive advantage in modern organizations, and organizations that have knowledge can benefit from it as a strategy. Therefore, knowledge is considered a strategic asset and a key competency for organizations, and the ability to acquire, organize, and disseminate knowledge helps organizations in quality decision-making, cost reduction, and customer satisfaction. In management literature, knowledge is the most important source of creating and increasing sustainable competitive advantage and accordingly, in recent years, knowledge management has attracted the interest of many experts and researchers. Knowledge management means the overall management of the organization's intellectual capital, creation, acquisition, sharing, maintenance and application of appropriate knowledge in the organization by human resources and through organizational, cultural and information technology infrastructures, which its achievement is the production of value from the intangible assets of the organization, updating and creating a learning organization. Knowledge management is a system of information technology systems that support the life cycle of organization management and these organizations create a competitive advantage for themselves by using unique knowledge. Also, knowledge management is an organized approach that establishes procedures for identifying, evaluating, organizing, storing knowledge, and applying knowledge to meet the organization's needs and goals. This construct is a mixed approach to identify, collect, evaluate, modify and share all knowledge and information with a variety of databases, documents, policies, methods, experiences and expertise. Knowledge management makes causes the organization to produce value and wealth through its intellectual and knowledge-based assets, act intelligently and by integrating the knowledge capital of the organization in different departments and directly influencing on concepts such as customer orientation, organizational learning, elevation of organizational culture, intelligent leadership and decision-making, and redesigning of processes will lead to proper promotion of activities and achievement of organizational goals. One of the most effective dimensions in the knowledge management of universities is the future study of knowledge management. Today, change and transformation has become one of the normal phenomena in society and has a continuous and long process. Change, evolution and transformation in all fields have been and will continue from the past to the present and the future, and future study is a wise and wisely answer to the challenges that have arisen in the wake of changes, evolutions and transformations. Futurists seek to discover, invent, test, and evaluate possible, probable, and desirable futures, and these people try to decipher the future, make their methods clear, behave systematically and rationally, and base the results of their investigations and studies build based on the experimentally observations. Future study with using a wide range of methodologies, instead of imagining only one future, engages in systematic and intelligent speculation about not just one future, but several imagined futures. The research future includes a set of efforts that use the analysis of sources, patterns and factors of change and stability to visualize potential futures and plan for them, and reflect how the reality of tomorrow is born from today's changes or not changing. Knowledge management plays an important role in the growth and development of various organizations, especially educational organizations. Therefore, the aim of this study was investigating the impact of future study development indicators of knowledge management in Islamic Azad Universities of Tehran province.

Methodology: The current research in terms of purpose was applied and in terms of implementation method was cross-sectional. The research population was all the members of the faculty and teaching staff of the faculties of educational sciences of the Islamic Azad Universities of Tehran province in the 2022-2023 academic years with number of 210 people. The research sample based on the Krejcie and Morgan table was estimated to be 160

people, who were selected by stratified random sampling method. In this sampling method, the list of all members of the faculty and teaching staff of the faculties of educational sciences of the Islamic Azad Universities of Tehran province, separated by units of Science and Research, Central Tehran, North Tehran, South Tehran, West Tehran, Robat Karim, Roudehen, Islamshahr and Varamin, and the volume ratio of each unit was prepared and calculated and in the same proportion, the sample was selected from among the members of the faculty and teaching staff, so that the desired sample size reaches 160 students. The research tool was including the form of demographic characteristics (including gender, position, service history and age) and a researcher-made questionnaire of future study development of knowledge management (67 items), whose face validity was confirmed by academic experts and its reliability was calculated using Cronbach's alpha method 0.92. Data were analyzed with exploratory factor analysis and structural equations in SPSS version 23 and LISREL version 8.7 software.

Findings: The findings showed that most of the samples were female (54.38 percent), professors of educational groups (56.88 percent), had 11 to 15 years of service history (39.38 percent), and had 36 to 45 years old (40.63 percent). The future study development of knowledge management has 67 items in 14 factors and 6 dimensions of organizational structure and information technology infrastructure as causal factors, effective cultural platforms on the development of future study and management strategies as underlying factors, alignment of the university with the changing needs of society and higher education as intervening factors, knowledge creation, knowledge sharing, knowledge application and knowledge policies storage as central phenomenon, transformation in the educational system and the institutionalization of foresight and policy making as strategies and the development of organizational awareness and human resource productivity as consequences; So that all factors had a content validity ratio was higher than 0.70, average variance extracted was higher than 0.5, and Cronbach's reliability was higher than 0.80. The model of future study development indicators of knowledge management in Islamic Azad Universities of Tehran province had a good fit. In this model, each of the factors has a direct and significant effect on the underlying factors, and causal factors had a direct and significant effect on the underlying factors, intervening factors and central phenomenon, underlying factors, intervening factors and central phenomenon had a direct and significant effect on the strategies and underlying factors, central phenomenon and strategies had a direct and significant effect on the consequences ($P < 0.001$).

Conclusion: The results of this study can be used by managers and officials of educational systems, especially in the higher education system with the aim of future study development of knowledge management in order to create a competitive advantage.