The Relationship between Information Technologies with Knowledge Management of Islamic Azad University Staffs, Golestan Province, Iran

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ABSTRACT: The aim of this research was the Investigation of relationship between information technologies with knowledge management of Islamic Azad University staff in Golestan province, Iran. The study method was the descriptive-correlation. Statistical population was all staff of the Islamic Azad universities, Golestan province (Gorgan and Aliabad Katoul branches) with 400 individuals which individuals numbers were participated in this research according to the Morgan table, randomly. To collect data, the questionnaire of researcher was used made from information technology and knowledge management. The Spearman correlation was used to data analysis. The results showed that there were a significant relationship between information technology and knowledge management in Islamic Azad University unites of Golestan province, Iran. Likewise, other results showed significant positive relationship was found between information technologies with aspects of acquisition, creation, storage, distribution and maintenance of knowledge.

Keywords: Information technology, Knowledge management, Organization.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays that has been named as the era of change from industrial society to information society, it’s normal that the information and knowledge are considered as the more basic assets for human and human societies and one of the events that describes this era is the fast development of information technologies (Pour-atashi & Movahed-mohammadi, 2007). Today, the use and application of information technology in organizations has become imperative and inevitable. Information technology is including of collect, organize, store and information publication, such as sound, image, text or numbers that takes place with using the computer and telecommunications (Hamidi et al., 2011).

Also, applying of information technologies in organizations is expanded rapidly and organizations need to use information technologies for getting to their purposes. Dramatic and stunning progresses of information technologies are one of the effective threads on organizational knowledge management. This resulted in considerable attention and investment of organizations. The knowledge management is challenge of individuals’ awareness and converts it to a thread informational, so that can store it in informational bases, exchange with others and used in daily works process. In general, many definitions of knowledge management has been proposed including: knowledge management, create, interpret and use, preserve and refinement of knowledge in the covers.

Patrick and Sonia introduce knowledge management processes in 5 dimensions: I) the acquisition of knowledge, II) creation, III) storage, IV) distribution, V) maintenance of knowledge. Knowledge isn’t a new thing, but is something new is obvious acceptance as an investment company or organization, thus, today the need for better utilization of knowledge has been more important in organizations to achieve higher values in comparison with previous years (Davenport & Prusak, 2005).
Knowledge management is a process that help the organizations to identify, select, organize and publish the information and important skills that known as institutional memory, and usually, there is as not organized, this is able the organization to solving the Learning issues, strategic planning and dynamic decisions as efficient and effective. Knowledge management emphasizes on knowledge identify and its offering and also on method that can share normally and as a result re-used. Thus, this study seeks to answer this question whether there is a significant relationship between the information technology and knowledge management in Islamic Azad University of Golestan province, Iran.

METHODOLOGY

The study method was the descriptive- correlational. Statistical population was all staff of the Islamic Azad universities, Golestan province (Gorgan & Aliabad Katoul Unites) with 400 cases which 196 numbers were participated in this research according to the Morgan table, randomly. The independent variable and dependent variable were IT and knowledge management (acquisition of knowledge, create, storage, distribution, maintenance of knowledge), respectively. The study was performed after primary descriptions about measurement tools and purpose of the test, how to response to tests had been described in detail to participants. Regarding to the ethical considerations, they were assured that the information will be used only in this research and will be protected from any abuse after obtaining the consent of the people and giving the necessary knowledge. Following questionnaires were used to measure the variables.

**IT management questionnaire:** this questionnaire was prepared by researcher and professors and advisors.

Knowledge management questionnaire: this questionnaire was prepared based on the Patrick and Sonia 2009 model (Jafar-nejad & Ramezan, 2008).

The answering scale to the questionnaire was on the base of the five- point range of Likert. To determine the validity of this research, content method was used, the content of questionnaire was confirmed by a number of academic and organizations experts which designed based on the Foundations Theoretical. Then, the items were checked by professors and advisor to ensure more and was used their comments, some question removed and some reformed and in the end, the final questionnaire was designed. Cronbach’s alpha coefficient was used to determine reliability. The results of analysing Cronbach’s alpha coefficient was 0.83 and 0.82 for IT and knowledge management questionnaires, respectively. This showed favorable reliability measurement tools. The Spearman correlation was used to data analyses. Significant level in all analyses was p< 0.05.

RESULTS

The results of correlation analyses showed significant relationship between information technology and knowledge management in Islamic Azad University branches of Golestan province, Iran (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge management</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>r</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>196</td>
<td>0.531</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The relationship between information technology with dimensions of knowledge management was investigated. The results showed that there was positive and significant relationship between information technology and acquisition of knowledge in Islamic Azad University units of Golestan province. There was positive and significant relationship between information technology and create of knowledge in Islamic Azad University units of Golestan province, Iran. There is positive and significant relationship between information technology and storage of knowledge in Islamic Azad University units of Golestan province. There was positive and significant relationship between information technology and distribution of knowledge in Islamic Azad University branches of Golestan province, Iran. Also, there was positive and significant relationship between information technology and maintenance of knowledge in Islamic Azad University branches of Golestan province (Table 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information technology</th>
<th>Acquisition of knowledge</th>
<th>Create of knowledge</th>
<th>Storage of knowledge</th>
<th>Distribution of knowledge</th>
<th>Maintenance of knowledge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>r</td>
<td>0.331</td>
<td>0.401</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>p</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant difference at Level of P<0.05
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The aim of this research was the investigation of relationship between information technologies with knowledge management of Islamic Azad University staff in Golestan province, Iran. The results showed significant relationship between information technology and knowledge management in Islamic Azad University branches in Golestan province, Iran. Also, other results showed that there was positive significant relationship among information technology with acquisition of knowledge, create, storage, distribution, and maintenance of knowledge. The findings of this research were compatible with the results of Sohrabi (2010) and Shafia and et al, (2009).

For example, Sohrabi (2010) found out that applying of information technology had significant effect in component attitude toward maintenance knowledge. And Shafia and et al., (2009) found out there was significant relationship among the three dimensions of knowledge management, acceptance of knowledge, exchange of knowledge, and optimal use of knowledge with information technology. Based on findings of this research it can be recommended that it is necessary to consider adequate attention in all levels to establishment of appropriate information infrastructure, including computers, networks, information and communications, the internet and also training new informational technologies for staff.

Also, It is recommended that the university units should attempt to provide appropriate information systems for storage, transfer and exchange of knowledge such as: Internet, Intranet, Extranet, Groupware and providing necessary facilities for easy access to appropriate hardware for information sharing, for providing necessary facilities for easy access to appropriate software for information sharing such as SharePoint and …, and create necessary skills in use of informational systems such as: Intranet, Extranet, Groupware, … for partners through holding necessary trainings and spend more money on the development and application of information technology at all levels.

REFERENCES

Pour-atashi, Mohammadi M. 2007. Factors inhibiting the use of information technology, Iran Agricultural Extension and Education Sciences. 3(2).