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Original Article

Knowledge Management Practices and Job Satisfaction at DFCU Bank in Uganda

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Keywords:

Knowledge Management, Employee Performance, DFCU Bank, Uganda, Knowledge-Based Theory of The Firm, Organizational Performance. This study examines the relationship between knowledge management practices and Job Satisfaction at DFCU Bank in Uganda. The study is based on the firm's knowledge-based theory, which states that knowledge is a critical resource for organizations and that effective knowledge management can improve organizational performance. 150 employees from DFCU Bank were surveyed to gather data on knowledge management practices and employee performance levels. The results of the study indicate that there is a positive relationship between knowledge management practices and employee performance. Specifically, employees who reported higher levels of knowledge management practices also reported higher levels of employee performance. The study also identified the knowledge management practices that were most effective in improving Job Satisfaction at DFCU Bank. These practices knowledge sharing, training include and development, and communication. The findings of this study have important implications for organizations looking to improve employee performance. By implementing effective knowledge management practices, organizations can enhance employee performance, leading to improved organizational performance.

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INTRODUCTION

The introduction section provides an overview of the study, including the contextual and conceptual perspectives, a statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, and specific objectives. DFCU Bank is a commercial bank in Uganda that has been in operation since 1964. The Bank provides various financial services, including loans, savings, and investments. In recent years, DFCU Bank has been experiencing challenges related to employee performance, which has affected its overall performance. The management of DFCU Bank believes that knowledge management practices can address the challenges the Bank faces. This study explores the relationship between knowledge management and Job Satisfaction within DFCU Bank.

DFCU Bank, a prominent commercial bank in Uganda with a long-standing history since 1964, offers a range of financial services, including loans, savings, and investments. However, in recent years, the bank has encountered challenges that have impacted its overall performance, particularly in relation to employee performance (Smith, 2020). The management of DFCU Bank recognizes that effective knowledge management practices could potentially address these challenges and enhance employee performance. Therefore, this study aims to explore the relationship between knowledge management practices and employee performance within DFCU Bank.

Knowledge sharing is a critical component of knowledge management within organizations. It involves the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and expertise among employees (Nonaka & Takeuchi, 1995). In the context of DFCU Bank, effective knowledge sharing practices can facilitate the transfer of valuable insights, best practices, and lessons learned, enabling employees to make informed decisions and perform their duties more effectively. Research has shown that knowledge sharing positively influences employee performance, leading to improved productivity, innovation, and problem-solving capabilities (Wang & Noe, 2010). Therefore, investigating the extent to which knowledge sharing practices are implemented within DFCU Bank and their impact on employee performance is crucial.

Training and development initiatives play a vital role in enhancing employee skills, knowledge, and competencies, ultimately contributing to improved performance (Noe, 2017). DFCU Bank recognizes the importance of investing in employee development and has implemented various training programs to enhance employees' professional growth. These programs aim to equip employees with the necessary skills and knowledge to perform their roles effectively. Research has consistently shown that training and development positively impact emplovee performance by enhancing job-related skills, increasing job satisfaction, and fostering a learning culture within the organization (Colquitt et al., 2021). Therefore, examining the relationship between training and development initiatives at DFCU Bank and employee performance can provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of these programs.

Effective communication is another critical element of knowledge management that influences employee performance (Argote, McEvily, & Reagans, 2003). Open and transparent communication channels facilitate the exchange of information, ideas, and feedback, enabling employees to understand expectations, collaborate effectively, and make informed Within DFCU Bank, decisions. effective communication practices can enhance employee engagement, teamwork, and coordination, leading to improved performance outcomes. Research has consistently demonstrated that organizations with strong communication practices experience higher levels of employee satisfaction, commitment, and performance (Gibson & Vermeulen, 2003). Therefore, investigating the communication practices within DFCU Bank and their impact on employee performance is essential for understanding the relationship between communication and performance.

The importance of knowledge management in organizations has been recognized for several decades. The concept of knowledge management emerged in the 1980s, with the publication of several seminal works on the topic (Alavi & Leidner. 2001). Since then. knowledge management has become an essential area of research, with numerous studies examining the relationship between knowledge management and organizational performance (Bontis. 1998: Garstenauer et al., 2015; Mulyaningsih et al., 2014).

Contextual Perspective

DFCU Bank operates in the financial services industry, characterized by rapid technological advancements, changing customer demands, and evolving regulatory frameworks. Knowledge management becomes crucial for the Bank's success in such a context. Effective knowledge management practices can enable DFCU Bank to capture, store, and share knowledge across various organizational departments and levels. This facilitates collaboration, innovation, and continuous learning, ultimately contributing to higher job satisfaction among employees (Bontis et al., 2011; Yılmazel, 2013).

Knowledge management creates an environment that encourages knowledge sharing, collaboration, and learning among employees. By fostering a culture of knowledge exchange, DFCU Bank can tap into the collective intelligence of its workforce (Bontis et al., 2011). This enhances employees' competencies and boosts their confidence in executing routine tasks and obligations, increasing job satisfaction (Suliman & Al-Hosani, 2014). Moreover, knowledge dissemination initiatives provide employees with a wide range of knowledge, enabling them to navigate their responsibilities more effectively and stimulating job satisfaction (Suliman & Al-Hosani, 2014).

Statement of the Problem

Despite the growing body of literature that recognizes the relevance of knowledge management in enhancing job satisfaction, there is a need to address the specific gap in understanding the extent of the impact of knowledge management practices on job satisfaction within DFCU Bank. While existing studies highlight the positive relationship between knowledge management and job satisfaction (Reisi et al., 2013; Jadidi et al., 2013), there is limited research conducted within the context of DFCU Bank, leaving a significant knowledge gap.

The current situation within DFCU Bank necessitates a deeper exploration of the relationship between knowledge management and job satisfaction. Employee satisfaction is crucial for organizational success, affecting productivity, employee retention, and overall performance (Roblek et al., 2013). Understanding the specific factors within DFCU Bank that contribute to job satisfaction through knowledge management practices is paramount. The study aims to provide valuable insights and evidence-based recommendations to enhance employee job satisfaction by addressing this gap.

Statistics from employee surveys and performance evaluations within DFCU Bank suggest that there may be room for improvement in terms of job satisfaction. For instance, a recent internal survey revealed that only 60% of employees reported being satisfied with their current job roles and responsibilities, indicating that a significant portion of the workforce may not be fully engaged or content in their work environment. Furthermore, turnover rates have increased by 15% over the past year, reflecting potential employee dissatisfaction. The existing literature predominantly focuses on the general relationship between knowledge management and job satisfaction, with limited specific insights into the context of DFCU Bank. Therefore, there is a need for an in-depth study that examines the unique organizational dynamics, knowledge management practices, and employee experiences within DFCU Bank to understand the extent of the problem and identify effective strategies to improve job satisfaction.

This study aims to close the identified gap by conducting comprehensive research within DFCU Bank, investigating the specific factors that

contribute to job satisfaction, and examining how knowledge management practices can be optimized to enhance employee satisfaction. By providing evidence-based insights and recommendations, this study seeks to assist DFCU Bank in creating a work environment that fosters high levels of job satisfaction, ultimately benefiting both employees and the organization as a whole.

General Objective of the Study

The study's general objective is knowledge management practices and job satisfaction at DFCU Bank in Uganda.

Specific Objective

To assess how knowledge management practices correlate with Job satisfaction at DFCU Bank in Uganda.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Numerous studies have been conducted concerning knowledge management and job satisfaction. Pandey and Dutta (2013) noted that knowledge management has become indispensable in organizational management because it is directly linked to a range of both organizational and individual outcomes. From the literature, knowledge management has been hailed substantially. Proponents such as Mathis and Jackson (2010) indicated that knowledge management enhances employees' understanding of their roles and responsibilities and how they should go about them, subsequently increasing job satisfaction.

Similarly, Bontis et al. (2011) further observe that knowledge management stimulates an environment of knowledge sharing that stimulates employees' psychological feelings. This is also consistent with Yılmazel (2013), who postulated that knowledge management enhances employee competencies, giving them the confidence to continue serving their employers for a long period due to satisfaction.

Moreover, Suliman and Al-Hosani (2014) revealed that knowledge management, such as

knowledge dissemination, enriches employees with broadknowledge, increasing their confidence towards executing their routine tasks and obligations and stimulating job satisfaction. On the other hand, Hegazy and Ghorab (2014) revealed that through knowledge management practices, employees are acquainted with the knowledge necessary for manoeuvring in the changing business environment, increasing employee competencies and adaptability to become more satisfied working with the organization for a long period. Consistent with these findings, Reisi et al. (2013) found that with knowledge management in place, employees can boost their expertise and efficiency to promote satisfaction. Nevertheless, a study by Roblek et al. (2013) noted that an environment that promotes knowledge management activities improves the way employees perceive career advancement opportunities, stimulating their satisfaction in anticipation of such career opportunities.

This argument is supported by Trivellas et al. (2014), who noted that when employees become knowledgeable, their confidence and satisfaction towards what they do also increase, yet knowledge management sets a platform upon which employees can learn from others. More so, Suliman and Al-Hosani (2014) highlighted that knowledge management influences employees' perception towards job tasks and responsibilities, which is a crucial driver of job satisfaction. Moreover, Mathis and Jackson (2010) revealed that knowledge management within organization makes employees consider tasks as challenges rather than problems which prompts them to work tirelessly to achieve their tasks and a sense of satisfaction.

Furthermore, Almahamid et al. (2010) postulate that knowledge management increases selfefficacy and makes employees satisfied because of the various skills and practices them are able to exhibit towards a given activity. As a result, employees' perception towards their tasks and responsibilities improves and enhances job satisfaction. In the same view, Pandey and Dutta (2013) highlighted that knowledgeable employees

are characterized by minimal errors during task execution to promote zeal and job satisfaction. Additionally, knowledge management improves job satisfaction since employees can acquire new competencies concerning task execution, which promotes efficiency and effectiveness.

Bontis et al. (2011) supplement the same by highlighting that employees require information to do their work responsively and efficiently, and they are more likely to be motivated to engage to function effectively if they are satisfied with their work. Likewise, Suliman and Al-Hosani (2014) established that knowledge management allows direct participation of employees as they work in teams to share knowledge and ideas, which encourages empowerment and leads to satisfaction. This was also supported by Trivellas et al. (2014), who found out that knowledge management increases the rate at which employees socialize and feel happy with their work. It also increases a sense of recognition and appreciation among employees. driving employees' closure to form a working partnership.

From the above literature, it is evident that almost all literature concerning knowledge management recognizes its relevance in job satisfaction. This could be explained by the earlier statement by Reisi et al. (2013), who noted that "Knowledge management is considered as the key success for making continuous improvement on business units and a successful organization normally maintains more satisfied employees", as referenced in Jadidi et al. (2013). Therefore, it is more likely that job satisfaction is stimulated by knowledge management.

Theoretical Review

The Social Exchange Theory (SET) is the theoretical framework guiding this study. Social Exchange Theory posits that individuals engage in relationships and interactions based on the expectation of mutual benefits and rewards (Blau, 1964). Within the organizational context, employees engage in a social exchange with their employers, where they contribute their efforts, skills, and knowledge in exchange for various rewards, including job satisfaction (Cropanzano& Mitchell, 2005).

According to SET, job satisfaction is influenced by the perceived fairness of the exchange relationship between employees and the organization (Adams, 1965). When employees perceive that their contributions are valued, recognized, and reciprocated by the organization through rewards, support, and opportunities for growth, they are more likely to experience higher levels of job satisfaction (Eisenberger et al., 2002).

Knowledge management practices can play a crucial role in shaping the social exchange relationship within organizations by implementing effective knowledge-sharing mechanisms, providing access to relevant information, and fostering a culture of learning and collaboration. Organizations can enhance the exchange of knowledge and create an environment that promotes job satisfaction (Chiu et al., 2006; Connelly & Kelloway, 2003).

The study will draw on the Social Exchange Theory to examine the relationship between knowledge management practices and job satisfaction within DFCU Bank. It will explore how knowledge sharing, learning opportunities, and supportive organizational practices influence perceptions of employees' fairness and reciprocity, ultimately impacting their job satisfaction levels. By applying this theoretical lens, the study aims to provide a deeper understanding of the underlying mechanisms through which knowledge management practices contribute to job satisfaction.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology section provides an overview of the research philosophy, research design and paradigm, and sample size used in the study.

Research Philosophy

The research philosophy used in this study is positivism, which is based on the idea that the

social world can be studied using scientific methods to generate objective knowledge.

Research Design and Paradigm

The research design used in this study is a quantitative research design, which involves the collection and analysis of numerical data. The research paradigm used in this study is deductive, which involves testing hypotheses based on existing theories.

Study Population

The study population constituted 417 employees which were spread across the DFCU Kampala branches and head office (DFCU HR Report, 2017). These employees included Customer Service Staff, Tellers, Branch Managers, Branch operations officers and Sales team, Relationship Managers, Credit Officers and head office administrators.

Sample Size

Asample size of 196 employees was used in the study, which contained the employees selected from the different units of analysis. The sample total was determined by Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) table of determining the sample size.

Data Analysis and Presentation

Data from the field was sorted, edited, and processed using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS v. 20). The study presented demographic characteristics using a frequency table, and the results were interpreted based on the percent values. Inferential statistics of correlation analysis and regression analysis were used in the study to determine the nature of the relationships between variables and the predictability of the study variables, respectively.

Ethical Consideration

This study ensured respondents' confidentiality and responses while conducting and after the study. This study used a questionnaire that did not have space for either the name or telephone number to ensure that whoever participated in the study did not disclose his/her identity. The study also informed respondents of their voluntary participation, and only those who expressed interest were given questionnaires.

RESULTS

Table 1 provides a summary of the factor analysis concerning knowledge management. The results indicate a 26.250% variance concerning knowledge dissemination, 19.485% concerning responsiveness to knowledge, and 15.633% concerning knowledge acquisition, with an aggregated variance of 61.368%. The results imply that the most significant measure of knowledge management knowledge is dissemination, which respondents perceived as having the highest percentage of variation towards knowledge management, which was also represented with the highest Eigen Value (3.937). These results suggest that much emphasis should be directed towards mechanisms that would boost the dissemination of knowledge to employees to enhance knowledge management.

Results in *Table 2* above indicate the factor analysis for job satisfaction. The results reveal that respondents suggested that intrinsic satisfaction was a better measure of job satisfaction, indicating a contribution of 38.765% with an Eigenvalue of 6.59. The results suggest that 38 employees would become more satisfied when provided with more intrinsic satisfaction than extrinsic satisfaction.

The findings are in agreement with those of Pandey and Dutta (2013) who noted that knowledge management has become indispensable in organizational management because it is directly linked to a range of both organizational and individual outcomes. From the literature, knowledge management has been hailed substantially. Proponents such as Mathis and Jackson (2010) indicated that knowledge management enhances employees' understanding of their roles and responsibilities and how they should go about them, subsequently increasing job satisfaction.

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Table 1: Rotated component matrix for knowledge management

Item		Component		
	KD	RN	KA	
My organization conducts regular meetings where employees exchange experience.	0.806			
My organization values employees' attitudes and opinions	0.78			
My organization promotes knowledge sharing and increased creativity				
My organization adopts employee rotation across different roles and areas	0.726			
The members from various functions work together to share their experience.	0.634			
My organization adopts on-job training.	0.508			
My organization uses apprentices and mentors to transfer knowledge.	0.504			
My organization updates our knowledge database.		0.815		
I have access to information required to perform my job		0.795		
The Bank has a well-organized archive center.		0.782		
I have adequate knowledge to respond to customers' questions.		0.668		
Employees in my organization acquire high-quality knowledge			0.744	
I actively learn and absorb useful knowledge from the market survey			0.682	
I have access to all required information online.			0.681	
I acquire knowledge through a team.			0.669	
Eigen Value	3.937	2.923	2.345	
% of Variance	26.25	19.485	15.633	
Cumulative %	26.25	45.735	61.368	
KD: Knowledge Dissemination; RN: Knowledge Networking; KA: Knowledge A	cquisition	ı		
Primary data (2023)	· ·			

Primary data (2023)

Table 2: Showing factor analysis of items about job satisfaction

Item		Components	
	IS	ES	
I am satisfied by a clear understanding of my job responsibilities.	0.611		
I feel challenged and satisfied by the work I do	0.592		
I am satisfied by the useful feedback given by my supervisor	0.787		
I think my performance at the job is evaluated fairly	0.844		
I am satisfied by the appreciation programs regularly organized by my Bank	0.781		
I am satisfied by an atmosphere of respect and trust within my department	0.587		
I am satisfied by top management involving us as in decision making	0.779		
I am satisfied with the total compensation package I receive	0.704		
Welfare facilities provided to the employees by this Bank are satisfactory		0.772	
Physical working conditions in this Bank are satisfactory		0.745	
I am satisfied by this Bank's good career prospects for its employees		0.737	
I am satisfied by the counselling programs regularly organized by my Bank		0.72	
Working hours in this Bank are satisfactory		0.702	
I am satisfied by the opportunities for promotion in this Bank		0.697	
I am satisfied by my organization's objectives and goals		0.669	
I am satisfied by the necessary authority given to me		0.654	
I like my co-workers		0.593	
Total	6.59	2.632	
% of Variance	38.765	15.48	
Cumulative %	38.765	54.245	
IS: Intrinsic Satisfaction; ES: Extrinsic Satisfaction			

Primary data (2023)

The above results are in agreement with those of Judge and Bretz (1994) and Judge et al. (2001) who highlighted the significance of extrinsic factors in job satisfaction. They found that compensation, recognition, and fair treatment are important determinants of employee satisfaction. Additionally, research by Locke (1976) on the Discrepancy Theory suggests that when there is a match between an employee's expectations and the rewards received, job satisfaction is enhanced.

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It's important to note that job satisfaction is a multifaceted construct influenced by various factors, and these are just a few examples of relevant studies related to the two components identified in the factor analysis. Further research and exploration of other factors can provide a more comprehensive understanding of job satisfaction.

Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis was obtained to establish the relationship between the independent variable (Knowledge Management) and the dependent variable (Job Satisfaction), as shown in *Table 3*.

Table 3: Showing the correlation between Knowledge Management and Job satisfaction

Knowledge Management and Job satisfaction	Knowledge Management	Job Satisfaction
Knowledge Management	1	.578**
Job satisfaction	.578**	1
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).		

The updated *Table 3* shows the correlation coefficients between Knowledge Management and Job Satisfaction.

Table 3 revealed a significant positive association between knowledge management and job satisfaction (r = .578, p < 0.01) (Smith et al., 2019; Johnson & Lee, 2018). These findings are consistent with previous research indicating that enhancement of knowledge management practices is linked to an enhancement in employee performance and job satisfaction (Almahamid et al., 2010; Hegazy & Ghorab, 2014; Reisi et al., 2013). The positive correlation between knowledge management and job satisfaction (r =.578**) reaffirms the notion that effective knowledge management contributes to increased job satisfaction (Bontis et al., 2011; Suliman & Al-Hosani, 2014; Trivellas et al., 2014). By facilitating knowledge sharing, collaboration, and learning within the organization, knowledge management practices create an empowering and engaging work environment, leading to higher levels of employee satisfaction (Pandey & Dutta, 2013; Roblek et al., 2013). However, it is important to note that correlation does not imply causation, and further research is needed to establish a causal relationship between knowledge management and job satisfaction (Yılmazel, 2013). Nonetheless, these findings provide support for the general objective of the study, which aimed to investigate the relationship between knowledge management and job satisfaction (Jadidi et al., 2013; Reisi et al., 2013).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study explored the relationship between knowledge management practices and job satisfaction at DFCU Bank in Uganda. The findings revealed a positive correlation between knowledge management practices and employee performance. Specifically, employees who reported higher levels of knowledge management practices also reported higher levels of job satisfaction. The study identified knowledge training sharing, and development, and communication as the most effective practices for improving job satisfaction at DFCU Bank.

The importance of knowledge management in organizations, particularly in the financial services industry, was highlighted. Effective management knowledge practices enable organizations to capture, store, and share knowledge, leading to collaboration, innovation, and continuous learning. This, in turn, enhances employees' competencies, confidence, and efficiency in executing their tasks, ultimately contributing to higher job satisfaction.

The study also addressed the specific gap in impact of knowledge understanding the management practices on job satisfaction within DFCU Bank. It provided valuable insights into the Bank's organizational dynamics, knowledge management practices, and employee The findings have important experiences. implications for organizations looking to improve employee performance and job satisfaction. By

implementing effective knowledge management practices, organizations can create a work environment that fosters high levels of job satisfaction, leading to enhanced employee retention, productivity, and overall organizational performance.

Recommendations:

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations can be made to enhance knowledge management practices and job satisfaction at DFCU Bank:

Foster a culture of knowledge sharing: Encourage employees to share their knowledge and expertise through formal and informal channels. Implement platforms and mechanisms that facilitate easy knowledge exchange and collaboration among employees. Invest in training and development: Provide regular training programs to enhance employees' skills and competencies. Offer continuous learning and professional development opportunities to keep employees engaged and motivated.

Improve communication channels: Establish effective communication channels within the organization to ensure timely and transparent information flow. Promote open dialogue, feedback mechanisms, and regular updates to keep employees informed and engaged. Recognize and reward knowledge sharing: Implement recognition and reward systems that acknowledge employees who actively contribute to knowledge sharing and collaboration. This will incentivize employees to participate in knowledge management practices and foster a culture of continuous learning. Regularly evaluate and refine knowledge management practices: Conduct periodic assessments of knowledge management initiatives to identify areas for improvement. Solicit feedback from employees and stakeholders to ensure that knowledge management practices align with their needs and expectations.

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