



Knowledge Gap: A Frontiers for Knowledge Expansion

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Abstract: *This article examines the concept of knowledge and the various sources of knowledge, the impact to the growth and development of our society. Knowledge gap and types of knowledge gap, the view by various scholars were also discussed. It also explained the best way to expand knowledge must be scientific means. In conclusion, knowledge gap is a frontier for knowledge expansion.*

Key words: *Knowledge, types of knowledge, sources of knowledge and knowledge gap*

INTRODUCTION

Before we take into cognizance knowledge gap as elixir for knowledge expansion it is pertinent to know what is knowledge. Therefore, knowledge is the process of knowing something. Bergeron (2003) defined it as the formation which is very organized and summarized in other to enhance awareness, Comprehension or understanding.

According to Karlsen & Gott Shalk (2004). Buttressed that knowledge is the combination of information with experiences, interpretation, reflection, context, intuition and creativity. Davenport & Prusak (1998) defined knowledge as fluid mix of framed experience value contextual information, and expert insight that provides framework for accessing and incorporating new experiences and information. It also encompasses information principles facts skill and understanding which is acquired through education and experience. It can also be referred as tangible resources that can easily store, transferred and managed. Knowledge simply referred as a commodity (Tsoukas, 1996; Tsoukas & Viadimiron, 2001; Orlikowski 2002).

Knowledge can be view as occupational communities which involve the continuously interactions of people. In this context people in the society learn and share knowledge through the process of socialization and through conversation with old-times (Van maanen & Barley, 1984). Knowledge can be defined as the process of storytelling where working experiences are explained.

Knowledge can be defined as to verify true believe buttressed by western

epistemology. Epistemology is a branch of philosophy that emanated from a Greek word 'episteme'; which means knowledge. The various sources of knowledge is adumbrated and explained below in this paragraph.

Trial and Error: History has actually proved that knowledge can be acquired with a very simple technique of trial and error. If you try something, it does not work, you we continuous trying until the problem is solved.

One of the major problem with this method is difficult to ascertain which changes that actually brought the desired result. The trial and error approach produces an incongruous solution that may have a limited effect of the problem it intended to solve.

Experience: This is another way of acquiring knowledge. Experience can be acquired if someone does things consistently, it acquires experience. Therefore, knowledge from experience can be acquired by individual from their school, family, peers, work place etc. Despite the fact that experience is a means of acquiring knowledge, it has its own limitation. No two individuals are the same, because of their difference orientation and ideological predisposition. Two people may be in the same place have difference experiences. The experiences an individual got in one environment may not be the same of experiences he got from of another environment.

Authoritative Method: These are experts from various field of discipline such as lawyer, pastor, lecturers, medical practitioners, engineers, etc. It is also synonymous with expert power. They always feel they know everything better than others and their view or opinion is final. One of the problem of authoritative sources of knowledge is that they claimed they are always right never makes mistake. The authoritative are often in disagreement among themselves, which showed that their authoritative statement are more of personal intuition than facts.

Mystical Method: This involves seeking knowledge from diviners, prophets, gods and other supernaturally knowledgeable authorities. This sources of knowledge is synonymous with authoritative sources the disparity between both of them is the manifestations of supernatural signs and on the psychophysical state of the episteme consumer (Nachmias & Nachmias, 1976).

Scientific Method: This is also known as rationalistic method; knowledge is based on procedure that is done through scientific means. The ideas can be tested and verified that is obedient to formal logic, the item of the episteme are general accepted where deductive and inductive reason is applied. Example of formal logical procedures is adumbrated below.

All Ehor women are beautiful (major premises);

Mercy is a woman (minor premise); Therefore,

Mercy is beautiful (conclusion).

Knowledge provide the power to express our mind which enable people to understand who you are. It is an important tool to create positive changes in the growth and development of our society, knowledge application cannot take place without knowledge seekers. Knowledge is the process to know the unknown. Therefore, knowledge helps to alleviate intellectual poverty.

KNOWLEDGE GAP

Knowledge gap as a concept has been view by various scholar in difference perspective. According to (Tichnor, Donohue & Olien, 1970) who are founding father knowledge gap view it in mass media perspective. He and his colleagues asserted that as mass media information increase, in the population strata with higher socio-economic status we acquire information at faster rate than those with lower socioeconomic status in the population strata of the country. They further stressed that the gap in knowledge between the higher and lower socioeconomic status tends to increase rather than decrease. This socioeconomic status encompasses income or financial security, education and social positions. Knowledge gap is the disparity distribution of knowledge between various socioeconomic groups which is defined in term of the educational level (Kristofer gantti, 2014). It also means how various socioeconomic status acquire information from mass media. The mass media has the ability to have effect if individual level of knowledge and Pippa norries asserted that interactive process, which as positive virtuous circle, where-by those who have interest an current affair seek for current affair information from the media. The repetition of media exposure will actually increase the level of their knowledge. (holtz-Bacha & nowis, 2007). Knowledge gap referred to organizational episteme which the organization presently lacks but is identified to be very imperative for the growth of survival, that is need to be filled (Sajjad Haicher & Francesca Mariott). (Haider, 2003) organizational knowledge gap is the process of how employees interact with alliance partners employees to learn, transfer, disseminate and transform new knowledge to meet company needs.

Types of Knowledge Gaps

Haider (2003) identified the various type of knowledge gap, which is correspondent to the various types of knowledge requires in the organization. The first type is the physical capital related knowledge gaps.

This involve machinery and equipment, building and departments, plants, departmental and production plant layouts, standard and critical tests, production, infrastructures and production technology. This types of knowledge gap also concern how to operate machine and understanding drawing.

The second type is intellectual capital related knowledge gaps encompasses organizational skills important to management know-how, operational, decision making and problem solving know-how from lower to top level of the organization. The imperative of intellectual capital related to knowledge gap is the ability to know the knowledge exists. The third of knowledge gap is the relationship management knowledge gap, which include relations with contractors or sub-contractors, customers and market. This types of knowledge gaps does not only involve maintaining good

cordial relationship with existing customers, also involve the knowledge to develop relationship with new customer.

The fourth and the final type of knowledge gap is social capital related knowledge gaps. Social capital related knowledge gaps, it involves knowledge of building trust and trustworthiness that encompasses with partners. This organizational knowledge gap is to know the organization which is presently dealing with many partner or want to form more alliance in future time this type of knowledge gaps also means acquisition of knowledge and how to learn from social network. To fill this knowledge gaps explained above employees acquire knowledge which the organization lacks and transforms it in order fill existing company knowledge gaps.

According to the general argument of knowledge gap is that people with higher level of education gain more knowledge than those with low level of education.

I disagreed with (Tichnor, et al, 1970). Their owned perspective of viewing knowledge gap. They believe that people with higher socioeconomic status acquire knowledge faster than those in the lower socioeconomic status. But in real situation, there are many rich people in the society who is not even interested to acquired knowledge. Those who have acquired knowledge want to have financial security. Those who are in social position are always interested in financial power not even knowledge. And those who are rich are interested in power or social position not even knowledge. They believe that higher socioeconomic status gets information at faster rate than those at lower socioeconomic status. Therefore, there is a knowledge gap between both of them. That is a myopic perspective of viewing knowledge gap. Information from social interaction or through mass media, most of these information is based on personal intuition rather that fact. They also believe that people with higher level of education gain more knowledge than those with lower level of education. Most of the investors in this word to day did not acquire higher level if education. For example, Bill Gates drop out from Harvard college 1975 after he has spent two years in the institution to be the father of Microsoft. Steve Job the father of apple computer was a drop out of Reed college. To acquire and contribute to knowledge it based on individual self-determination.

However, the behaviour scientist which encompasses the management and social sciences, view knowledge gap in difference perspective. In these field of discipline, for you to generate knowledge to bridge knowledge gap, it must be scientifically proved and it must based on fact not intuition. The term knowledge gap is the process of doing thorough assessment of the existing literature, which encompasses empirical and theoretical review by various scholars, the relationship between predictors variable with criterion variable that have been discussed by them, from that existing literature, you will identify point of their departure, which the knowledge gap you intended to fill. To fill this knowledge gap, you must have a good researchable topic that show the relationship between the independent and dependent variable. And you must identity a problem you intended to solve. Without a problem there is no need for research. you must start with introduction, the statement of the problem, research question and research hypothesis must be clearly states. Your theoretical foundation and literature review which consist of empirical and theoretical

view of various scholars as well as expert association in that areas of study. State your research methodology that we show how you are going to collect and analyze data for the study. Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) must use to analyze the data. Through which you get your findings, conclusion and recommendation are made.

Therefore, it is at this junction, you will now say have bridge the knowledge gap which serves as a frontier for knowledge expansion.

CONCLUSION

Knowledge gaps has review to us as a frontier for knowledge expansion. The concept of knowledge has shown it enhance the growth of development of our society. Knowledge application cannot take place without knowledge seekers. Knowledge is the process to know the unknown which help to alleviate intellectual poverty. Knowledge acquired through occupational communities by the interaction of individual that is learn and share through socialization or by mass media postulated by (Tichnor, Donohue & Olien, 1970) is not the best way to fill knowledge gap. Most of this social interaction and information on mass media is based on personal intuition rather than fact. To fill knowledge gap, it must be scientifically proved and generally accepted.

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