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Assessment of Knowledge Management Application in Banking Sector of Sudan: Case Study Farmer's Commercial Bank

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Abstract: Knowledge management is one of the contemporary developments that ensure today's institutions generate, distribute and apply knowledge to help in administrative decision making, encourage creativity, increasing competitiveness and improving their performance. The study aimed to identify the degree of application of knowledge management concept in Sudanese banks, "Case study: Commercial Farmer's Bank". The study focuses on knowledge management and the statistical differences related to gender, age, academic qualification and period of service at the bank. To achieve the aim of the study, the descriptive analytical approach was used. The research relied on the questionnaire as the main tool for data collection. The study population consisted of bank employees in their various positions. A total of 60 questionnaires were distributed, of which 58 were returned for statistical analysis. The results of the study followed standard methodology based on the state of the arts researches. The study found that the degree of application of knowledge management was medium in the field of knowledge creation and acquisition, reaching 68% and high in the field of knowledge storage 74%, knowledge sharing 76% and knowledge application 77%. The results also showed that there were no statistical differences related to gender, age, academic qualification and period of service.

Index Terms: Knowledge management, Banking Sector, Knowledge Application, Organization Performance

1. Introduction

Knowledge has been recognized as one of the most critical resources for all types of organizations, it's a source of creativity and innovation and one of the main factors for organizations success especially as it's the initiator and catalyst for development and achievement[1-4]. Therefore, the organizations that seek to achieve a good performance and gain a sustainable competitive advantage should take care of this essential resource[5-7]. Knowledge management has become one of the strategies adopted by various organizations to improve their activities; knowledge management is about managing the corporation's knowledge through a systematically and organizationally specified process for acquiring, organizing, sustaining, applying, sharing and renewing both the tacit and explicit knowledge of employees to enhance organizational performance and create value[8-11]. Knowledge management processes play an important role as potential enablers of working skills and to improve the capacity of the teams to enhance the ways as they share knowledge and the tools that they use. One of the key benefits of introducing knowledge management in organizations is its positive impact on organizational performance[12-14].

Knowledge management is a multidisciplinary concept so banks are not isolated from this concept, knowledge management is a viable means in which banks could improve their services through the creation of an organizational culture that support sharing of knowledge and experiences within the bank[15]. Banks need to become efficient in knowledge management to preserve and leverage knowledge in banking operations. This research tries to identify the extent to which knowledge management is applied at Sudanese banks[16-18].

Knowledge management has emerged as one the most important areas in management practices. Most decisions in banking sector are knowledge based, through knowledge management, employees can access, store and share various knowledge, as well as work to renew knowledge and exchange ideas and experiences at various levels of administration[19-21]. KM simplifies the delivery of effective information that are used in institution's processes from planning, consulting and decision making[22-24]. The study aimed to identify the degree of application of knowledge management concept in Sudanese banks, "Case study: Commercial Farmer's Bank". The study focuses on knowledge management and the statistical differences related to gender, age, academic qualification and period of service at the bank. To achieve the aim of the study, the descriptive analytical approach was used. The research relied on the questionnaire as the main tool for data collection. Despite the importance of knowledge management there is a lack of studies on the application of knowledge management in Sudanese banks. The research questions include: to what extent does farmer's commercial bank apply knowledge management? And are there any statistical differences relate to demographics data. The objective of the study is to shed the light on knowledge management concept and it processes[25, 26]. Furthermore, to identify the extent to which knowledge management is applied at Farmer's commercial bank and the statistical differences that relates to demographics data. The research significance lies on the importance of the subject which is knowledge management, KM can lead to performance improvements which have a positive effect to the bank. The research contributes in helping the staff to realize the concept of KM and its importance, the research also provides helpful information for decision makers that can be used in planning and strategies setting [23, 27, 28]. This paper has five sections, section two review the current literature. Section three describe the research methodology. Section four describe the results and analysis. We concluded in section five.

2. Related Works

In (2010) Charles JAMES KATUA presents A Framework for Applying Knowledge Management in Organizations[29]. The study aimed to find out how the organization went about capturing, disseminating, applying and creating knowledge, the four KM processes. From the results obtained through the statistical analysis it is evident that KM is being practiced at a minimal level. A general conclusion based on the findings obtained indicated that the level of KM in organizations was very low; to help organizations benefit from KM initiatives a framework is developed to assist organizations in applying knowledge management in their respective organizations [29]. A study by Joach et.al (2011) entitled: knowledge management practices by commercial banks in [30]. The objective of the study was to determine the extent to which commercial banks in Kenya have adopted knowledge management as well as to determine the various knowledge management practices by these banks the study used primary data collected through questionnaires with open and closed ended questions. The findings of the study revealed that most of the banks did not have a knowledge management strategy in place, despite the high level of appreciation of the concept of knowledge management[30]. Nasser (2012) presented a study entitled: knowledge management and the SECI model. The aim of this study was to investigate the use of the SECI model by Egyptian banks and its effect on innovation[31]. Therefore, the use of each process of SECI was investigated, followed by aspects of innovation in banks, and finally the relationship between the SECI model and innovation was examined. The four processes of the SECI model (socialization, externalization, combination and internalization) and two types of innovation (product and process) were considered in this study[31]. A study of Omer Mohammed (2015) entitled: Knowledge Management in Banks and Financial Sector Bangladesh perspectives: The aim of the study was to asses KM practices in Banks and financial institutions in Bangladesh. The more specific objectives of the study were to ascertain the followings: To analyze the different KM practices used in different Banks and financial institutions (FI) of Bangladesh. To identify and analyze similarities and differences between the KM priorities in Banks & FI"S of Bangladesh to explore the present state of KM usage and practices in Banks & FI"S of Bangladesh. The study reveals that there are few KM practices in Bank and FI'S of Bangladesh. In Khoualdi et.al (2019) a study amid at identifying the challenges of implementing knowledge management in the banking sector and determining the levels of competitive advantage in the banking sector in Jeddah -Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The study also aims at identifying the contributions and added value associated with the implementation of knowledge management in attaining competitive advantage. The analytical descriptive approach was used as a research approach. To collect data, a questionnaire was distributed to achieve the research objectives. The study sample included 300 individuals working in the banking sector in Jeddah. Results of the study show the impact knowledge management on the achievement and improvement of competitive advantage, on customer satisfaction, and on operational excellence.

Most of the previous studies focused on knowledge management and its effect on creating creativity and creating a competitive advantage[32-34]. The current study agreed with previous studies as it aimed to identify the concept of knowledge management, its importance and the importance of its application in institutions. It also agreed with previous studies in the use of the analytical descriptive approach and the questionnaire as a study tool. The current study differed from previous studies as it used the four basic processes of knowledge management to assess the application of the concept of knowledge management in Sudanese banks, and that the study population included all employees working in the bank, not only those with administrative and supervisory positions.

3. Research Methodology

This section aimed to explain the methodology of the study and the procedures and tools used to achieve its objectives.

3.1 Study Approach

Based on the nature of the study and the objectives it seeks to achieve, the researcher used the analytical descriptive method, which is based on the study of the phenomenon as it is in fact and is concerned as a precise description and expressed in quantity and quality. This approach not only collects information about the phenomenon, but rather analyzes and interprets it in order to arrive at conclusions.

3.2 Study Population

The study was applied at farmer's commercial bank in 2019. The study population consisted of the employees of farmer's commercial bank with their different positions, where 60 questionnaires were distributed and 58 were returned.

3.3 Study Instrument

To achieve the goal of the study, the researcher relied on the questionnaire as a main tool to collect data. The questionnaire consisted of two sections; the first section is the personal information (gender, age, academic qualification, and years of experience). The second section was the knowledge management processes which consisted of 25 statements distributed in four dimensions (knowledge acquisition, knowledge storage, knowledge dissemination, application of knowledge).

3.4 Quality of Measures

As the questionnaire supposed to provide accurate and repeatable measures of the research hypotheses, validity and reliability tests were used to establish the quality of any social research.

3.5 Reliability Test

Reliability means that the scale gives the same results if it is re-applied to the same sample. The researcher verified the reliability of the questionnaire through the Cronbach alpha coefficient and the results were as in the table below.

Table 1. Cronbach Alpha Coefficient

Axes	No	Reliability	Validity
knowledge acquisition and creation activities	6	0.710	0.842
knowledge storage activities	6	0.760	0.872
knowledge sharing activities	7	0.764	0.871
knowledge application activities	6	0.721	0.849
All axes	25	0.897	0.947

Validity: The positive square root of Alpha Cronbach

(i) Validity Test

To ensure the validity and objectivity of the study instrument, the validity of the questionnaire was tested. This means that the instrument is valid for measuring what it aims to measure. The researcher presented the questionnaire to three arbitrators who are specialists in the field. The researcher responded to their opinions and made the necessary changes in the light of the recommendations offered.

The results from Table 1 shows that the value of the Cronbach alpha coefficient was high where the values were (0.710, 0.760, 0.764, and 0.721) and the value of the alpha coefficient for all the axes of the questionnaire were (0.897). The value of validity was also high for all questionnaire axes where the values were (0.842, 0.872, 0.871, and 0.849); the value of the overall validity was high (0.947) which means that the instrument is valid and reliable.

(ii) Spearman Correlation Analysis

Spearman rank correlation is a test that is used to measure the degree of association between variables. Spearman rank correlation test does not assume any assumptions about the distribution meaning that the above data has a non-normal distribution. Spearman Correlation analysis was used to determine the relationships between the various knowledge management practices, which are identified as knowledge acquisition, knowledge storage, knowledge sharing and knowledge application. The table below shows their relationships.

(iii) Correlation Coefficient

The correlation coefficient between all axes was calculated to study the relationship between them, and know which factors are stronger and less relate. The correlation coefficient is a statistical measure that calculates the strength of the relationship between the relative movements of two variables. The values range between -1.0 and 1.0. A calculated number greater than 1.0 or less than -1.0 means that there was an error in the correlation measurement. A correlation of -1.0 shows a perfect negative.

Table 2. Spearman Correlation Matrix

Correlations	t1	t2	t3	t4
t1	1.000	.764**	.533**	.553**
t2	.764**	1.000	.514**	.685**
t3	.533**	.514**	1.000	.638**
t4	.553**	.685**	.638**	1.000

From Table 2 the value of spearman correlation coefficient for the four factors were positive and it is between 0.5 and 0.7 indicates that all the knowledge management practices are significantly correlated to each other.

4. Data Analysis & Hypothesis Testing

This section presents the analysis of data collected by questionnaire the section also aims to test the hypotheses of the study using the appropriate statistical tests using the statistical packages of social studies SPSS. The following subsection describes the frequencies and percentages of respondents' responses to knowledge management processes.

4.1 Frequencies and percentages of respondents' responses to knowledge creation and acquisition activities

Table 3. Frequencies and percentages of respondents' responses to knowledge creation and acquisition activities

No	The bank knowledge acquisition and creation activities	Scale	Strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	Strongly agree
	The bank concerns with developing abilities	Frequency	2	0	5	23	28
1	and skills of employees	Percent	3.3	0	8.6	39.7	48. 3
2	The bank concerns with new ideas, thought and	Frequency	0	1	10	27	20
	suggestions proposed by employees	Percent	0	1.7	17.2	46.6	34.5
	The bank motivate and reward creative	Frequency	1	1	15	23	18
3	employees	Percent	1.7	1.7	25.9	39.7	31.0
	The bank gives its employees the freedom to	Frequency	1	5	18	21	13
4	organize and carry out their job by methods and means they believe appropriate	Percent	1.7	8.6	31.0	36.2	22.4
	The bank seeks the help of external experts and	Frequency	2	13	24	0	19
5	specialists to transfer their knowledge and experience to employees	Percent	2.4	22.4	41.4	0	32.8
	The bank is concerned in participating in	Frequency	3	1	6	22	26
6	conferences and workshops inside and outside as a method of obtaining knowledge	Percent	5.2	1.7	10. 3	37.9	44.8
	Result of first axes	Frequency	1	0	4	29	24
		Percent	1.7	0	6.9	50.0	41.4

From Table 3. above its clear that the bank is concerned with developing abilities and skills of employees, where the percentage of those who approved and strongly approved was 88%. It is also clear that the Bank is concerned with new ideas, thought and suggestions proposed by employees as the percentage of those who approved and approved strongly was 81.1%. While the percentage of the approved and strongly approved for the third statement was 70.7%, The fourth statement, which stated that The bank gives its employees the freedom to organize and carry out their job by methods and means they believe appropriate, the percentage of those who approved and strongly approved was 58.6%, while the percentage of neutrals and non-approved was 41.3% and from the researcher's point of view, this indicates that the bank gives freedom but to a limited extent. As for the fifth statement, the percentage of neutral and non-approved was 63.8% this indicates that the bank does not seek the help of external experts and specialists to transfer their knowledge and experience to employees. As for the last statement the sample members confirmed that the bank is concerned in participating in conferences and workshops inside and outside as a method of obtaining knowledge where the percentage of respondent who approved and strongly approved was 82.7%.

4.2 Frequencies and percentages of respondents' responses to knowledge storage activities.

Table 4. Frequencies and percentages of respondents' responses to knowledge storage activities

No	The bank knowledge storage activities	Scale	Strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	Strongly agree
	The bank saves knowledge in an	Frequency	0	0	6	28	24
1	accessible way	Percent	0	0	10. 3	48. 3	41.4
2	The bank documents new acquired	Frequency	0	0	12	25	21
	knowledge for each accomplished project.	Percent	0	0	20.7	43.1	36.2
	Employees document problems they face	Frequency	0	2	9	28	18
3	and methods used to solve these problems for future benefits.	Percent	0	3.4	15.5	48. 3	31.0
	In each department, experts' knowledge is	Frequency	0	7	17	14	20
4	documented and organized it as stories of success to be used as basis for problem solving.	Percent	0	12.1	29. 3	24.1	34.5
	The bank has a comprehensive, adequate	Frequency	1	1	13	20	22
5	database or (knowledge base) which is available for all employees	Percent	1.7	1.7	22.4	34.5	37.9
	The bank is concern in retaining	Frequency	3	2	13	17	23
6	employees who have high knowledge to prevent their transfer to other institutions	Percent	5.2	3.4	22.4	29. 3	39.7
	Result of second axes	Frequency	0	0	10	23	25
		Percent	0	0	17.2	39.7	43.1

Table (4-5) shows that the bank saves knowledge in an accessible way, the percentage of those who approved and approved strongly was 89.7%. The second statement, which stated that the bank documents new acquired knowledge for each accomplished project, the percentage of those who approved and strongly approved was 79.3%. Also 79.3% of the respondents confirmed that employees document problems they face and methods used to solve these problems for future benefits. The fourth statement, which stated that In each department, experts' knowledge is documented and organized it as stories of success to be used as basis for problem solving., the percentage of respondents who approved and strongly approved was58.6% and the percentage of neutrals and non-approved was 41.4%; from the researcher point of view this shows that the documentation of expert knowledge needs more attention by the bank. The fifth statement, which stated that the bank has a comprehensive, adequate database or (knowledge base) which is available for all employees, has received an approval rate of 72.4%. As for the Bank's concern in retaining employees who have high knowledge to prevent their transfer to other institutions, the percentage of those who approve and strongly agree with the statement was 69% while the percentage of neutral and non-approved was 31% this may indicate that The bank needs more attention to staff retention policies.

4.3 Frequencies and percentages of respondents' responses to knowledge sharing activities

Table 5. Frequencies and percentages of respondents' responses to knowledge sharing activities

No	bank knowledge sharing activities	Scale	Strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	Employees don't face difficulty in accessing any	Frequency	4	15	10	18	21
1	information they need in work	Percent	6.9	8.6	17.2	31.0	36.2
2	The bank foster and promote training courses to develop	Frequency	2	3	7	24	21
	employees' skills in sharing and exchanging new ideas.	Percent	3.4	5.2	12. 3	42.1	36.8
	Employees don't hesitate to ask for help or advice from	Frequency	1	2	6\5	18	32
3	my managers or colleagues at work.	Percent	1.7	3.4	8.6	31.0	55.2
	employees have enough time to interact and work with	Frequency	6	4	8	28	12
4	colleagues to discuss work related issues	Percent	10. 3	6.9	13.8	48.	20.7
	The bank general policy encourages employees to present	Frequency	1	4	12	27	14
5	their new ideas related to their work.	Percent	1.7	6.9	20.7	46.6	24.1
	The Bank uses written publications to disseminate	Frequency	1	1	8	29	19
6	knowledge associated with its activities among employees	Percent	1.7	1.7	13.8	50.0	32.8
	The Bank has a means of communication that ensures	Frequency	0	4	5	25	24
7	professional communication that disseminates the knowledge associated with activities among Bank employees at all levels	Percent	0	6.9	8.6	43.1	41.1
	Result of third axes	Frequency	0	5	4	25	24
		Percent	0	8.6	6,9	43.1	41.4

Table 5. shows that the percentage of those who approved and strongly approved for the first statement was 67.2% while the ratio of neutral and non-approved was 32.7%. It is also clear that the bank foster and promote training courses to develop employees' skills in sharing and exchanging new ideas, with a percentage of approvals reached 78.9%. The third statement, which stated that the employees don't hesitate to ask for help or advice from their managers or colleagues, the percentage of those who approved and strongly approved was 86.2%. 68.7% of the respondents

agreed that the employees have enough time to interact and work with colleagues to discuss work related issues. 70% of respondents show their approval on the fifth statement, which stated that the bank general policy encourages employees to present their new ideas related to their work. And 82.8% confirmed that The Bank uses written publications to disseminate knowledge associated with its activities among employees. 84.2% of the respondents show their approval on the last statement which stated The Bank has a means of communication that ensures professional communication that disseminates the knowledge associated with activities among Bank employees at all levels.

4.4 Frequencies and percentages of respondents' responses to knowledge application activities

Table 6. Frequencies and percentages of respondents' responses to knowledge application activities

no	bank knowledge application activities	Scale	Strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
1	The bank works to transform knowledge into action plans.	Frequency	0	0	10	31	17
1	prans.	Percent	0	0	17.2	53.4	29.3
2	When new methods to improve work emerged,	Frequency	1	3	7	29	17
	employees adopt them instantly.	Percent	1.8	5.3	12. 3	50.9	29.8
	The bank employ knowledge by converting it to new	Frequency	0	1	11	22	24
3	services	Percent	0	1.7	19.0	37.9	41.1
	Employees always use and apply methods gained	Frequency	0	1	12	17	27
4	during training courses.	Percent	0	1.8	20.7	29.8	47.4
	When evaluating the performance of employees, the	Frequency	0	1	13	23	21`
5	extent to which they apply knowledge acquired in their field of work is taken into account	Percent	0	1.7	22.4	39.7	36.2
	The Bank works to remove difficulties that limit the	Frequency	3	1	12	30	12
6	ability of employees to apply knowledge	Percent	5.2	1.7	20.7	51.7	20.7
	Result of forth axes	Frequency	0	0	7	26	25
		Percent	0	0	12.1	45.6	42.1

From Table 6. it is clear that the bank works to transform knowledge into action plans, where the percentage of those who approved and approved strongly was 82.7%. It can also be said that when new methods to improve work emerged, employees adopt them instantly, where the percentage of those who approved and approved strongly was 80.7%. As the bank employment of knowledge and converting it to new services, the percentage of approved and strongly approved respondents was 79%. The fourth statement the percentage of those who approved and approved strongly has reached 77.2% which stated that employees always use and apply methods gained during training courses. The fifth statement, which stated that When evaluating the performance of employees, the extent to which they apply knowledge acquired in their field of work is taken into account the percentage of those who approved and approved strongly was 75.9%, and It is clear from the sixth statement that the Bank works to remove difficulties that limit the ability of employees to apply knowledge, where the percentage of approved and strongly approved 72.4%.

4.5 Hypothesis Analysis

The first hypothesis claims that there is an application of knowledge creation and acquisition processes in the bank. To answer this, the chi-Square test was used as in Table (4-9) and the results were as follows

Table 7. The First Hypothesis

To what extent does the bank performs knowledge creation and acquisition activities?	Mean	Std. Deviation	Pearson Chi- Square	Sig	Result
The bank concerns with developing abilities and skills of employees	4.29	0.899	34.552	0.000	Strongly agree
The bank concerns with new ideas, thought and	4.14	0.760	26.929	0.000	
suggestions proposed by employees	4.14	0.760	26.828	0.000	Agree
The bank motivate and reward creative employees	3.97	0.898	35.103	0.000	Agree
The bank gives its employees the freedom to organize and carry out their job by methods and means they believe appropriate	3.69	0.977	24.759	0.000	Agree
The bank seeks the help of external experts and specialists to transfer their knowledge and experience to employees	4.03	0.837	18.552	0.000	Agree
The bank is concerned in participating in conferences and workshops inside and outside as a method of obtaining knowledge.	4.16	1.040	45.966	0.000	Agree
Result of first axes	4.2931	.74947	40.897	0.000	Strongly agree

Table 7. shows the analysis of the first hypothesis, where mean was 4.2931, standard deviation was 0.74947, Chi-Square was 40.897 and critical probability Sig was 0.000, its less than 0.05 its means that, there are significant differences at significant level of 0.05 with 95% confidence where it was favor for those who responded to strongly agree to the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities.

The second hypothesis claims that there is an application of knowledge storage process in the bank. To answer this, the Chi-Square test was used as in Table 8. and the results were as follows

Table 8. The Second Hypothesis

Please show to what extent does the bank perform knowledge storage activities?	Mean	Std. Deviation	Pearson Chi-Square	Sig	Result
The bank saves knowledge in an accessible way	4.31	0.654	14.207	0.004	Strongly agree
The bank documents new acquired knowledge for each accomplished project	4.16	0.745	4.586	0.101	Agree
Employees document problems they face and methods used to solve these problems for future benefits.	4.09	0.786	26.719	0.000	Agree
In each department, experts' knowledge is documented and organized it as stories of success to be used as basis for problem solving	3.81	1.051	6.414	0.093	Agree
The bank has a comprehensive, adequate database or (knowledge base) which is available for all employees	4.07	0.923	35.544	0.000	Agree
The bank is concern in retaining employees who have high knowledge to prevent their transfer to other institutions	3.95	1.115	28.207	0.000	Agree
Result of second axes	4.2586	0.73890	6.862	0.032	Strongly agree

Table 8. shows the analyses of the second hypothesis, where mean was 4.2586, standard deviation was 0.73890, Chi-Square was 6.862and critical probability Sig was 0.032, its less than 0.05 its means there are significant differences at significant level of 0.05 with 95% confidence where it was favor for those who responded to strongly agree to the bank application of knowledge storage activities.

Third Hypothesis claims that there is an application of knowledge sharing process in the bank. To answer this, the chi-Square test was used as in Table 9. and the results were as follows

Table 9. The Third Hypothesis

Please show to what extent does the bank perform	Mean	Std.	Pearson Chi-	sig	result
Knowledge sharing activities?		Deviation	Square		
Employees don't face difficulty in accessing any information					
they need in work.	3.81	1.221	20.103	0.000	Agree
The bank foster and promote training courses to develop					
employees' skills in sharing and exchanging new ideas.	4.04	1.017	37.649	0.000	Agree
Employees don't hesitate to ask for help or advice from my	4.34	0.909	60.793		Strongly
managers or colleagues at work				0.000	agree
employees have enough time to interact and work with					
colleagues to discuss work related issues	3.62	1.197	32.000	0.000	Agree
The bank general policy encourages employees to present					
their new ideas related to their work.	3.84	0.933	35.621	0.000	Agree
The Bank uses written publications to disseminate knowledge					
associated with its activities among employees	4.10	0.831	51.310	0.000	Agree
The Bank has a means of communication that ensures					
professional communication that disseminates the knowledge	4.19	0.868	27.655	0.000	Agree
associated with activities among Bank employees at all levels					
Result of the third axes	4.1724	0.90103	27.655	0.000	Agree

Table 9. shows the analysis of the third hypothesis, where mean was 4.1724, standard deviation was 0.90103, Chi-Square was 27.655and critical probability Sig was 0.000, its less than 0.05 its means there are significant differences at significant level of 0.05 with 95% confidence where it was in favor of those who responded to agree to the bank uses knowledge sharing activities.

The fourth hypothesis claims that there is application of knowledge application process in the bank. To answer this, the chi-Square test was used as in Table 10. and the results were as follows

Table 10. The Fourth Hypothesis

To what extent does the bank perform knowledge	Mean	Std.	Pearson	sig	result
application activities?		Deviation	Chi-		
			Square		
The bank works to transform knowledge into action					
plans.	4.12	0.677	11.828	0.003	Agree
When new methods to improve work emerged,					
employees adopt them instantly.	4.02	0.896	47.298	0.000	Agree
The bank employ knowledge by converting it to					
new services	4.19	0.805	23.517	0.000	Agree
Employees always use and apply methods gained					
during training courses.	4.23	0.846	24.614	0.000	Strongly agree
When evaluating the performance of employees,					
the extent to which they apply knowledge acquired	4.10	0.810	20.621	0.000	Agree
in their field of work is taken into account					
The Bank works to remove difficulties that limit					
the ability of employees to apply knowledge	3.81	0.963	45.276	0.000	Agree
Result of fourth axes	4.2982	0.68046	11.474	0.003	Strongly agree

Table 10. shows the analyses of the fourth hypothesis, where mean was 4.2982, standard deviation was 0.68046, Chi-Square was 11.474and critical probability Sig was 0.003, its less than 0.05 its means there are significant differences at significant level of 0.05 with 95% confidence where it was in favor of those who responded to strongly agree to the bank uses knowledge application activities.

4.6 Summary of research hypotheses

Table 11. The Summary of research hypotheses

Hypothesis	Mean	Std. Deviation	Pearson Chi-Square	importance	Sig
Knowledge creation and acquisition	4.2931	0.74947	40.897	69	0.000
Knowledge storage	4.2586	0.73890	6.862	74.6	0.032
Knowledge sharing	4.1724	0.90103	27.655	76.8	0.000
Knowledge application	4.2982	0.68046	11.474	77.9	0.003
Result of fourth axes	4.25	0.76	21.72	74.57	0.0008

From Table 11. the results of the analysis show that the majority of the sample members strongly agree with all the statements that measure the first hypothesis with a relative importance of 69% and a significant level of 0.0000 in favor of those who agree with a high degree. It's concluded that the hypothesis of the study, which stated that there is an application of the processes of creating and acquiring knowledge, has been validated in all statements that measure the hypothesis, meaning that there is an application of knowledge creation and acquisition process at a rate of 69%.

Table 11. shows the results of the analysis revealed that the majority of the study population strongly agrees with all the statements that measure the second hypothesis with a relative importance of 74% and a significant level of 0.032 in favor of those who strongly agree. It's concluded that the hypothesis of the study, which stated that there, is an application of the processes of creating and acquiring knowledge has been validated in all statements that measure the hypothesis, meaning that there is an application of knowledge storage processes within the bank at a rate of 74%.

The results of the analysis as shown in Table 11. showed that the majority of the study population agrees with all the statements that measure the third hypothesis with a relative importance of 76.8% and a significant level of 0.000 in favor of those who agree. It's concluded that the hypothesis of the study, which stated that there, is an application of the processes of creating and acquiring knowledge has been validated in all statements that measure the hypothesis, meaning that there is an application of knowledge sharing processes within the bank at a rate of 76.8%.

The results of the analysis in Table 11. revealed that the majority of the study population strongly agrees with all the statements that measure the fourth hypothesis with a relative importance of 77% and a significant level of 0.003 in favor of those who strongly agree. It's concluded that the hypothesis of the study, which stated that there, is an application of the processes of creating and acquiring knowledge has been validated in all statements that measure the hypothesis, meaning that there is an application of knowledge application processes within the bank at a rate of 77%.

From the results of the analysis, it can be said that the bank applies knowledge management processes in a high rate of 74%.

4.7 Testing The Differences Between Groups

The research hypothesis regarding group differences state that: There are no differences between the average respondents' responses about knowledge management processes due to demographic data (gender, age, qualification and period of service at bank).

(i) Gender

To find out if there is a statistically significant relationship, the chi-square test was used and the test results were as follow

Table 12. Gender and bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities

Gender	To what extent does the bactivities?	Total	Chi-Square	Sig			
	Strongly disagree	neutral	Strongly agree				
Male	0	0	16	12	28	5.248	0.155
Female	1	4	13	12	30		
Total	1	4	29	24	58]	

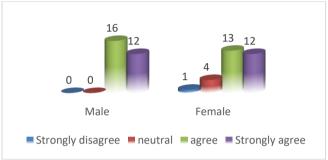


Fig.1. Gender and bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities

Table 12. and Figure 1. show independent Chi-Square test for gender and the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities where the value of Chi-Square was 5.248 and critical probability Sig was 0.155, as Sig is greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between Gender and The bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities.

Table 13. Gender and the bank application of knowledge storage activities

	To what exten	t does the bank perfori	m knowledge storage activities?			
Gender	neutral	agree	Strongly agree	Total	Chi-Square	Sig
Male	3	11	14	28	1.937	0. 380
Female	7	12	11	30		
Total	10	23	25	58		

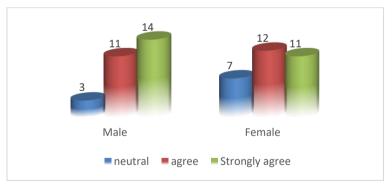


Fig.2. Gender and the bank application of knowledge storage activities

Table 13. and Figure 2. show independent Chi-Square test for gender the bank application of knowledge storage activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 1.937 and critical probability Sig was 0.380, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between Gender and The bank application of knowledge storage activities.

Table 14. Gender and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities

Gender	Please show to activities?	o what extent d	oes the bank perfor	rm knowledge sharing	Total	Chi-Square	Sig
	disagree	neutral					
Male	0	1	13	14	28	6.646	0.084
Female	5	3	12	10	30		
Total	5	4	25	24	58		

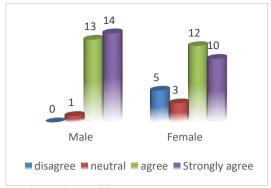


Fig.3. Gender and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities

Table 14. and Figure 3. show independent Chi-Square test for gender and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 6.646 and critical probability Sig was 0.084, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between gender and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities.

Table 15. Gender and the bank application of knowledge application activities

Gender	Please show tapplication as	to what extent does the ctivities?	Total	Chi-Square	Sig	
	neutral	agree	Strongly agree			
Male	3	12	13	28	0.446	0.800
Female	4	14	11	29		
Total	7	26	24	57		

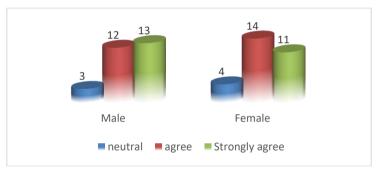


Fig.4. Gender and the bank application of knowledge application activities

Table 15. and Figure 4. show independent Chi-Square test for gender and the bank application of knowledge application activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 0.446 and critical probability Sig was 0.800, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between Gender and The bank application of knowledge application activities.

(ii) Age

To find out if there is a statistically significant relationship, the chi-square test was used and the test results were as follow

Table 16. Age and the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities

Age	Please show to what exacquisition activities?	tent does the	Total	Chi-Square	Sig		
	Strongly disagree						
Less than 30	1	1 1 15 11					0.767
30 – less than 40	0	0 3 9 8					
40 – less than50	0	0	5	4	9		
more than 50	0	0 0 0 1					
Total	1	4	29	24	58		

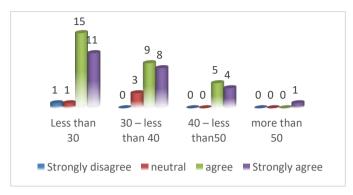


Fig.5. Age and the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities

Table 16. and figure 5. show independent Chi-Square test for age and the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities, Where the value of Chi-Square was 5.713 and critical probability Sig was 0.767, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there are no relation between age and the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities.

Table 17. Age and the bank application of knowledge storage activities

Age	Please show to activities?	o what extent does the l	Total	Chi-Square	Sig	
	neutral	agree	Strongly agree			
Less than 30	4	13	11	28	3.318	0.768
30 – less than 40	5	6	9	20		
40 – less than50	1	4	4	9		
more than 50	0	0	1	1		
Total	10	23	25	58		

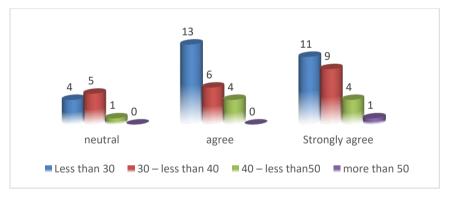


Fig.6. Age and the bank application of knowledge storage activities

Table 17. and Figure 6. show independent Chi-Square test for age and the bank application of knowledge storage activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 3.318 and critical probability Sig was 0.768, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variables are independent and there is no relation between age and the bank application of knowledge storage activities.

Table 18. Age and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities

Age	Please show to activities?	what extent does the	ne bank perform	Total	Chi-Square	Sig	
	disagree	2 2, 5					
Less than 30	3	2	13	10	28	4.283	0.892
30 – less than 40	2	2 7 9 2		20			
40 – less than50	0	0	4	5	9		
more than 50	0	0	1	0	1]	
Total	5 4 25 24					1	

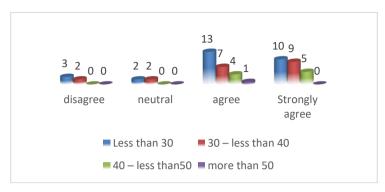


Fig.7. Age and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities

Table 18. and Figure 7. show independent Chi-Square test for age and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 4.283 and critical probability Sig was 0.892, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between age and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities.

Table 19. Age and the bank application of knowledge application activities

Age	Please show to what application activities	nt extent does the ban es?	Total	Chi-Square	Sig		
	neutral	agree	Strongly agree				
Less than 30	2	27	10.288	0.113			
30 – less than 40	2	2 10 8 2		20			
40 – less than50	2	2	5	9			
more than 50	1	1 0 0 1		1			
Total	7	26	24	57			

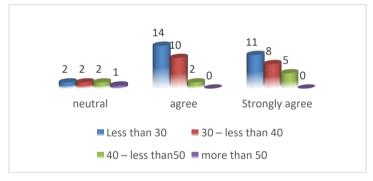


Fig.8. Age and The bank application of knowledge application activities

Table 19. and figure 8. show independent Chi-Square test for age and the bank application of knowledge application activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 10.288 and critical probability Sig was 0.113, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variables are independent and there is no relation between age and the bank application of knowledge application activities.

(iii) Qualification

To find out if there is a statistically significant relationship, the chi-square test was used and the test results were as follow

Table 20. Qualification and bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities

	Please show to and acquisitio	o what extent do n activities?	Total	Chi-	Sig		
Qualification	Strongly disagree	neutral	agree	Strongly agree		Square	
Secondary	0	0	1	0	1	8.883	0.180
University	0	2	25	18	45		
post graduate	1	2	3	6	12		
Total	1	4	29	24	58		

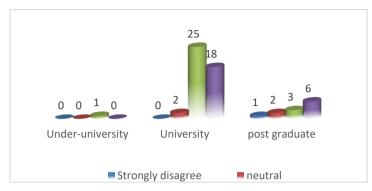


Fig.9. Qualification and bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities

Table 20. and Figure 9. show independent Chi-Square test for qualification and the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 8.883 and critical probability Sig was 0.180, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between qualification and the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities.

Table 21. Qualification and the bank application of knowledge storage activities

Qualification	Please show to what e activities?	xtent does the bank perform k	Total	Chi-Square	Sig	
	neutral					
Secondary	1	0	1	8.518	0.074	
University	5	20	20	45		
post graduate	4	12				
Total	10	23	25	58		

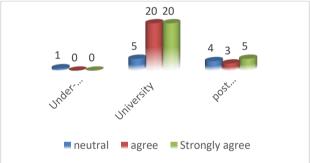


Fig.10. Qualification and the bank application of knowledge storage activities

Table 21 and Figure 10. show independent Chi-Square test for qualification and the bank application of knowledge storage activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 8.518 and critical probability Sig was 0.074, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between qualification and the bank application of knowledge storage activities.

Table 22. Qualification and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities

Qualification	Please show to activities?	what extent does you	vledge sharing	Total	Chi-Square	Sig	
	disagree	neutral	agree	Strongly agree	1		
Secondary	0	0	1	0	1	3.775	0.707
University	3	3	18	21	45		
post graduate	2	1	6	3	12	1	
Total	5	4	25	24	58]	

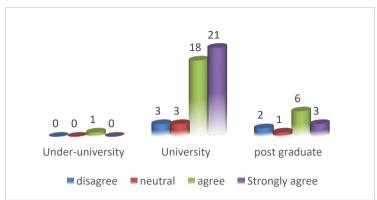


Fig.11. Qualification and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities

Table 22. and Figure 11. show independent Chi-Square test for qualification and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 3.775 and critical probability Sig was 0.707, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between qualification and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities.

Table 23. Qualification and the bank application of knowledge application activities

Qualification		o what extent does oplication activities	your bank perform ?	Total	Chi-Square	Sig	
	neutral	agree	Strongly agree	1			
secondary	0	1 0		1	7.798	0.099	
University	3	20	21	44			
post graduate	4	5 3		12			
Total	7	26	24	57			

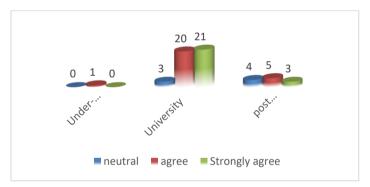


Fig.12. Qualification and the bank application of knowledge application activities

Table 23. and Figure 12. show independent Chi-Square test for qualification and the bank application of knowledge application activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 7.789 and critical probability Sig was 0.099, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between qualification and the bank application of knowledge application activities

(iv) Period of service in Bank

To find out if there is a statistically significant relationship, the chi-square test was used and the test results were as follow

Table 24. Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities

Period of service in bank		Please show to what extent does your bank perform knowledge acquisition and creation activities?					Sig
	Strongly disagree	neutral	agree	Strongly agree	1		
Less than 3 years	1	0	12	10	23	4.833	0.585
3 – less than 7	0	2	6	7	15		
more than 7	0	2	10	7	19		
Total	1	4	28	24	57		

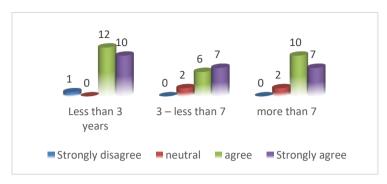


Fig.13. Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities

Table 24. and Figure 13. show independent Chi-Square test for period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 4.833 and critical probability Sig was 0.585, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge acquisition and creation activities.

Table 25. Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge storage activities

Period of service in bank	Please show to what extent does the bank perform knowledge storage activities?			Total	Chi-Square	Sig
	neutral	agree	Strongly agree	1		
Less than 3 years	2	11	10	23	2.988	0.560
3 – less than 7	4	4	7	15	1	
more than 7	4	7	8	19	1	
Total	10	22	25	57	1	

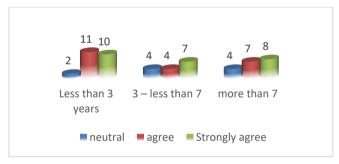


Fig.14. Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge storage activities

Table 25. and Figure 14. show independent Chi-Square test for period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge storage activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 2.988 and critical probability Sig was 0.560, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge storage activities.

Table 26. Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities

Period of service in bank	Please show to what extent does the bank perform knowledge sharing activities?				Total	Chi-Square	Sig
	disagree	neutral	agree	Strongly agree			
Less than 3 years	2	1	11	9	23	1.154	0.979
3 – less than 7	1	1	6	7	15		
more than 7	2	2	7	8	19		
Total	5	4	24	24	57		

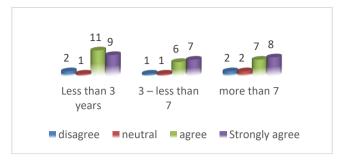


Fig.15. Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities

Table 26. and Figure 15. show independent Chi-Square test for period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 1.154 and critical probability Sig was 0.979, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge sharing activities.

Table 27. Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge application activities

Period of service in bank	Please show to what extent does the bank perform knowledge application activities?			Total	Chi-	Sig
	neutral	agree	Strongly agree]	Square	
Less than 3 years	0	12	10	22	7.169	0.127
3 – less than 7	4	4	7	15]	
more than 7	3	9	7	19	1	
Total	7	25	24	56	1	



Fig.16. Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge application activities

Table 27. and Figure 16. show independent Chi-Square test for period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge application activities, where the value of Chi-Square was 7.169 and critical probability Sig was 0.127, as Sig greater than 0.05 so the two variable are independent and there is no relation between Period of service in bank and the bank application of knowledge application activities.

(v) Results Summary

The research relied on the questionnaire as the main tool for data collection. The study population consisted of bank employees in their various positions. A total of 60 questionnaires were distributed, of which 58 were returned for statistical analysis. The results of the study followed standard methodology based on the state of the arts researches. The study found that the degree of application of knowledge management was medium in the field of knowledge creation and acquisition, reaching 68% and high in the field of knowledge storage 74%, knowledge sharing 76% and knowledge application 77%. The results also showed that there were no statistical differences related to gender, age, academic qualification and period of service.

5. Conclusion

Knowledge has been recognized as one of the most critical resources for all types of organizations to achieve competitive advantage and to be innovative. Knowledge is not easily measured or audited, so organizations need to efficiently manage knowledge to take full advantage of their skills and experience inherent in their systems and structures, as well as the knowledge of the employees of the institution. Knowledge management is the ability to link structured and unstructured information with the changing rules by which people apply it, it's not a technology, but a strategic solution that applies information technologies. The aim of this study was to assess the extent to which knowledge management is applied in Sudanese banks. The four main processes of knowledge management were

considered in this study (knowledge creation and acquisition, knowledge storage, knowledge sharing and knowledge application). The study used the descriptive analytical approach to investigate the research questions. The study population consisted of bank employees in their various positions. A total of 60 questionnaires were distributed, of which 58 were returned for statistical analysis. The results of the study followed standard methodology based on the state of the arts researches. The results of the study showed that the application of knowledge management concept practices is high; there is an application of the concept of knowledge management in the Farmer's Commercial Bank with a high rate of 74%.

The study recommends:

- Employees should be given the freedom to organize and carryout the job by methods and means they believe appropriate.
- The bank should seek the help of external experts to transfer their knowledge to employees.
- The knowledge of experts in each department should be documented and organized to be used as base for problem solving.
- Knowledge management strategy: to initiate knowledge management program in the bank, it is very important to formulate a knowledge management strategy with a clear vision, expected outcomes and an evaluation plan.
- Management support and commitment: management should consider knowledge management as one of their
 priorities and allocate the necessary KM infrastructure including technological infrastructure and sufficient
 budget.
- Staff training: it is necessary to held training courses to employees to recognize knowledge management concept and its importance to better understand their role in KM.
- Rewards and incentives: rewards and incentives are the biggest motivations, so there should be an appropriate rewards and incentive to encourage employees to create and share knowledge to improve services.
- Culture: developing the right culture for knowledge sharing, this could be done by maintain trust, respect
 between employees. Knowledge sharing culture is very important for the success of knowledge management
 program because it encourages staff to create, share, and participate. The success of any knowledge
 management project depends on the strong collaboration between staff.

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