Jaina System of Knowledge Management
A Comparative Study with Modern Knowledge Management System

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Abstract

Modern definitions of data, information and knowledge explain them in these words, " and Data are unorganised and unprocessed fact.Information means shaping the data to arrive at a meaning in the eyes of the perceiver.Knowledge is human understanding of information based on its perceived importance or relevance to a problem area." The author was able to find a sililar path of guidelines in Jaina Knowledge Management system and modern management system. Origin of Jaina KMS is at least 2500 years back while modern KMS is in its infancy stage yet. A comparative analysis of top attributes of both the KMS – one ancient and one modern, has been done in this study. Architecture in Jain literature and user Training in Jaina Agamic System has been studied. In Jaina KMS निक्षेप, प्रमाण and ज्ञान etc. are the tools to know anything.Jain community has been treated as The Knowledge Organisation. Knowledge Creation and Knowledge Post system evaluation of the knowledge in Jainism is kaiwalya (Self realisation after gaining all the knowledge). According to Awad and Ghaziri, Knowledge Management system is developed to gather, organize, refine and distribute knowledge. This process takes place in Jaina Knowledge Management System through 'स्वाध्याय, वाचना,पृच्छना,अनुप्रेक्षा, धर्म कथा etc. The comparison has been done by quoting modern management scholars and ancient Jaina scriptures like Uttradhyayan Sutra and Nandi Sutra. All the members of Jain Community have been treated as members of an organisation.In fact the whole coomunity is treated as an organisation.Then the theory of modern knowledge management system has been tested on Jain treasure of knowledge to verify that a sound knowledge management system used to exist and still exists in Jain community, which has helped in safety and security of the knowledge in its dispersion to other followers

Keywords

Knowledge, Information, data, knowledge management, knowledge management system, Jain community, Jain scriptures, Jaina knowledge management system, modern knowledge management system,

Research Question

1. Was some sort of knowledge Management System used by ancient Jain Ascetic teachers to save and spread the knowledge among other memebers of the community?
2. What are top attributes of Jaina knowledge Management system?
3. What are top attributes of modern knowledge management system
4. Is there any similarity between the two sets of attributes of knowledge management system?

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Materials and Methods

The study starts with above research questions in the author's mind.Literature review on knowledge management from modern management books and journals was done. Then Jain scriptures and their preservation for last 2500 years brought up the curiosity of analysing the knowledge management system of Jaina scriptures.Uttaradhyayan Sutra and Nandi Sutra are the origin of Jaina KMS system used by the author in this study.

What is Knowledge

According to Elias , "Knowledge needs to be defined in relation to intelligence, experience and common sense." According to him intelligence refers to the capacity to acquire and apply knowledge.Ability to understand and use language is another attribute of intelligence .memory or the ability to store and retrieve relevant experience at will is part of intelligence.Learning is skill that is acquired by instruction or study.While experience relates to what we have done and what has historically happened in a specific area of work.Common sense refers to the unreflective opinions of ordinary humans which comes naturally to a child as young as 3 or 4 years old."

Historical Overview of Jaina System of Knowledge Management

Knowledge management was originated the moment knowledge was created or gained. Though its systematic recording as a management system may not be that old. The author has made an effort to analyse the system of Jain knowledge treasure and its management by the members of Jain community.In fact Jain community is divided into four 'sanghas'- sadhu, sadhvi, shrawaka and shrawika. Out of these four, first two have been great contributors of a sound knowledge management system. But contribution of the other two sanghas is not to be ignored as they also helped this knowledge management system by learning, asking question, revising etc. It seems that Elias had not come across Indian systems of knowledge management otherwise he would have never written this statement in his book " The recorded history of knowledge dates back to Plato and Aristotle, but its modern day understanding is credited to scholars like Daniel Bell (1973), Michael Polanyi (1958, 1974), Alvin Toffler (1980),….."

Six top attributes of Knowledge Management System

Awad and Ghaziri quote Botkin (1999) in their book and interpret the list of six top attributes given by him for knowledge products and services in the following words:

1. "Learn : The more you use them, the smarter they get and the smarter you get,too.
2. Improve with use : These products and services are enhanced rather than depleted when used, and they grow up instead of being used up.
3. Anticipate : Knowing what you want,they recommend what you might want next
4. Interactive : There is two way communication between you and them
5. Remember : They record and recall past actions to develop a profile
6. Customize : They offer unique configuration to your individual specifications in real time at no additional cost."

An astonishing similarity was seen in this modern KMS and Jaina KMS explained in Uttradhyayan Sutra and Nandi Sutra. Uttaradhyayan Sutra talks about the knowledge as a system that gathers the knowledge from most knowledgeables and distributes it to laypersons so that they also achieve the goal of self realisation. On the other hand Nandi Sutra talks about knowledge management as a process where first attribute and ultimate acceptance of the fact is considered as knowledge. Here knowledge is explained as a grasping tool for mind. Firstly I quote Shri Uttaradhyayan Sutra (Chapter 29, sutra 19-25) for this comparison:

Sutra 19 - " सज्झाएणम् नाणावरणिज्जम् कम्मम् खवेइ" meaning "by **studying** soul destructs the knowledge obscuring karma"

Sutra 20 - "वायणाएणम् णिज्जरं जणयइ" meaning "By **teaching** the sacred scriptures , soul annihilates the karma"

Sutra 21 - "पडिपुच्छणयाए णम् सुत्त अत्थ तदुभयाइं विसोहेइ" meaning " By **questioning** the soul obtains the correct comprehension of scripturesand their meanings –both and destroys the desire evoking infatuation karma"

Sutra 22 - " परियट्ठणाएणम् वंजणाइं जयणइ" meaning "By **repitition** of learnt knowledge , soul becoming master of consonants achieve s the exalt of words i.e. he can recite full line by hearing one word only."

Sutra 23 - " अणुप्पेहाएणम् आउयवज्जाओ सत्तकम्मपगडीओ" meaning " By **pondering deeply** over learnt knowledge , the soul loosens the rigid bondage of seven karmas"

Sutra 24 - "धम्म कहाएणम् निज्जरं जणयइ" meaning "By religious **disclosure** the soul annihilates the karma and spreads the influence of religious order and dogmas."

The author has tried to prepare a comparative table based on above two explanations:

Table 1:

Six Attributes in Knowledge Management System

Six attributes in Modern KMS	Uttaradhyayan Sutra	Meaning
Learn	सज्झाएणम् नाणावरणिज्जम् कम्मम् खवेइ	by **studying** soul destructs the knowledge obscuring karma
Improve with use	पडिपुच्छणयाएणम् सुत्त अत्थ तदुभयाइं विसोहेइ	By **questioning** the soul obtains the correct comprehension of scripturesand their meanings – both and destroys the desire evoking infatuation karma
Anticipate	परियट्ठणाएणम् वंजणाइं जयणइ	By **repitition** of learnt knowledge , soul becoming master of consonants achieve s

		the exalt of words i.e. he can recite full line by hearing one word only
Interactive	वायणाएणम् णिज्जरं जणयइ	By **teaching** the sacred scriptures , soul annihilates the karma
Remember	अणुप्पेहाएणम् आउयवज्जाओ सत्तकम्मपगडीओ	By **pondering deeply** over learnt knowledge , the soul loosens the rigid bondage of seven karmas
Customize	धम्म कहाएणम् निज्जरं जणयइ	By religious **disclosure** the soul annihilates the karma and spreads the influence of religious order and dogmas

Second part of the comparison has been taken from Nandi Sutra, where the complete process of knowledge absorption is shown and this process is in line with modern knowledge management process given by recent scholars: This can be compared with six types of 'आभिनिबोधिक ज्ञान' as explained in Nandi Sutra. These can also be called six levels in the process of knowledge absorption. These six types are:

1. ईहा (Iha) – The conceiving of proper meaning

2. अपोह (Apoh) – To ascertain

3. विमर्श (Vimarsha) – The intervening thought process between Iha and Avaaya

4. मार्गणा (Maargana) – The search fro supporting values

5. गवेषणा (Gaveshana) – The comparison with opposing values

6. संज्ञा (Sangya) – To find similarities between the experiences of the past and the thing being experienced now

7. स्मृति (Smriti) – To recall the thing experienced in the past

8. मति (Mati) - The knowledge that perceives the subject presently under consideration

9. प्रज्ञा (Pragya) – To analyse and understand the inherent properties of a thing with the help of the capacity born out of special kshyaopashama

10. बुद्धि (Buddhi) – The ultimate development of Avaya

Table 2 :
Knowledge as a grasping tool for mind

Six attributes in Modern KMS	आभिनिबोधिक ज्ञान in Nandi Sutra	Meaning
Learn	1. ईहा (Iha) 2. अपोह (Apoh)	1. The conceiving of proper meaning 2. To ascertain
Improve with use	1. विमर्श (Vimarsha) 2. मार्गणा(Maargana)	1. The intervening thought process between Iha and Avaaya 2. The search for supporting values
Anticipate	1. गवेषणा (Gaveshana) 2. संज्ञा (Sangya)	1. The comparison with opposing values 2. To find similarities between the experiences of the past and the thing being experienced now
Interactive		
Remember	1. स्मृति (Smriti) 2. मति (Mati)	1. To recall the thing experienced in the past 2. The knowledge that perceives the subject presently under consideration
Customize	1. प्रज्ञा (Pragya) 2. बुद्धि (Buddhi)	1. To analyse and understand the inherent properties of a thing with the help of the capacity born out of special kshyaopashama 3. The ultimate development of Avaya

Role of the Knowledge Developer in Jaina KMS

According to Awad and Ghaziri, Knowledge Developer is the architect of the system. This person identifies the problem domain, captures the knowledge , writes and tests the heuristics that represent the knowledge and coordinates the entire project from beginning to end.

Tirthankar and Gandhara are the knowledge developers in Jain Agamic management system. Beginning of the project starts when a shrawaka comes to a saint for freedom from karma bondage. End of the project is moksha or kewal gyan.

Limitations of the Study

All the members of Jain Community have been treated as members of an organisation.In fact the whole coomunity is treated as an organisation.Then the theory of modern knowledge management system has been tested on Jain treasure of knowledge.

In Nandi Sutra the six types do not have any interactive system which is explained in modern Knowledge management systems.

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