

Abstract

Eslam M Gaber

Knowledge Management and its Influence on the Efficiency of Maritime Education and Training Institutes (A Case Study)

Knowledge Management (KM) had been one of the hottest topics in the last decade, especially in knowledge-intensive and highly competitive organizations. Admitting that knowledge is a key asset in any organization, any management should start planning how to manage the knowledge available in the organization represented in employees, and how to establish a method to utilize and maintain such knowledge in order to become skilled at creating, acquiring and transferring knowledge to support sustainable development of the organization. The Maritime Education and Training (MET) is a vocational education in general requires highly qualified and field-experienced individuals to serve as maritime teachers. This arises the research problem that mostly used KM tools may be good enough to efficiently manage explicit knowledge but do not manage implicit knowledge to the same extent, especially when dealing with implicit-rich educational facility like marine simulators. Therefore, a system capable of concurrently managing both explicit and implicit knowledge is critically needed, in order to resolve the current problem. From that perspective, this paper illustrates the introduction of KM concept into Maritime Education and Training, specifically in short courses delivered by the Marine Simulator Department in the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport. An appropriate KM tool was introduced and implemented, managing both implicit and explicit knowledge simultaneously over a period of two years, over which continuous feedback were collected quantitatively and statistically analyzed. The findings of the study was interestingly positive. The efficiency of education for the test subject have improved significantly after comparing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) before and after adopting the KM system into the department. The paper finally recommends that due to the special nature of MET a specified (MET related) Knowledge Management tool should be developed and generalized to all aspects of MET.