Knowledge Management Model for Scientific and Technological Production

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Abstract: This document describes the design of a Knowledge Management Model that focused on research skills development of the human capital that work in companies of high technology sectors. The main objective of the model is re capitalize the knowledge generated in companies belonging to strategic sectors for increasing competitiveness since the scientific and technological production has an impact on international indicators to measure social welfare and economic development of countries. For the model definition two diagnoses were made and there were analyzed by studying the correlations of knowledge management practices and the research skills of the human capital with scientific production underpinned by validating hypotheses using Confirmatory Factor Analysis with structural equations.

Keywords - Conceptual design, Knowledge Management Model, High-tech companies

I. Introduction

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [1] established that the Economies of Knowledge are those that "are directly based on the production, distribution and use of knowledge and information" which maintain an investment in sectors classified as high-tech [2][3][4][5].

Analysis of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) [6] considers that the Science, Technology and Innovation (CTI) are the keystones for enhancing socio-economic development of countries, so their management through Knowledge Management Models (KMM) becomes critical in the development of "key competences for research" [7] that contribute to increasing the scientific and technological production in companies and there impact positively on the synthetic indicators internationally standardized.

Therefore, design a Knowledge Management Model for increase skills in investigation of the human capital that works in high-tech companies is the objective of this research.

The initial components of the model are established based on the analysis of diagnosis Axis III.1. Mexico with quality education of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2013-2018 [8] and the review of literature on KMM. The model is adjusted from two quantitative diagnoses, the first one applied in high-tech companies in seven states of Mexico and the second measuring instrument focused on the human capital of these companies.

The model design must answer the central research questions what is the proper structure of knowledge management model for the development of investigative skills of researchers from the high-tech enterprises? What are the key research skills for the technology area that can be derived from indicators of science and technology? What are the components to integrate knowledge management model to achieve the greatest benefits in business? And what kind of links should be established between model components?

To answer the questions two diagnostics were made, the survey and analysis of the information in the diagnostic allowed to strengthen the final model with a structure of eight components and establish the relationships between them making it a dynamic model, also provide an answer to the hypotheses about the correlations that may exist between the practices of knowledge management with cientific and technological production and the correlations between the research skills of the human capital with the products generated collaboratively or individually; we started from the definition of a set of competencies in the area of research to define and align the model.

This paper begins by reviewing the literature based on the research variables and the study subjects. In the section on methodology it present the research design and instruments used for lifting data which are set analysis in results and finally the conclusions are emerge, so in this document presents the KMM adjusted.

II. Theoretical Framework

Knowledge is the intangible component of greater value to the organizations and society since it is focused on achieving its exploitation to maximize development and maintain its progress. Besides being essential to live and relate effectively in society, knowledge contributes to the creation of innovative products and services [9], so its articulation through KMM is considered as a competitive strategy in the companies.

The need to manage the human intellect to achieve results in the industries through individual and collective skills is a management technique that guarantees business success [10]. In this regard, organizations that operate in the high-tech sectors are more sensitive to the dynamic and changing environments resulting from the application of scientific knowledge and research processes and technological development.

It is set as the primary objective of Knowledge Management (KM) the arrangement, orchestration and organization of a business environment that facilitates implement, develop, share, combine and consolidate the knowledge of people [11]; but because organizations are overwhelmed of flow of information and knowledge assets, it is imperative maintain competitiveness by understanding and proper implementation of the KM for coordinate deliberately and systematically the resources and add value to the organization [12].

The importance of managing human intellect as a management technique that ensures the success of a business [13] shows the approach of the institutions on the need for generation and transfer of knowledge in today's society [14] [15] [16] that is focused on the development of intellectual abilities as an intangible resource, directly related to the types of knowledge and how it is produced.

2.1 The practices and knowledge management.

The knowledge management practices are defined as a set of techniques, systems and processes dedicated to the creation, storage, transfer and application of knowledge [17]. Four categories are established [18]: the knowledge creation practices, continuous learning practices, knowledge and feedback systems and management skills.

Studies addressing learning organizations [19] [20] [21] linking the variables of organizational learning with competitiveness by focusing on technological capabilities as a strategic element, indicate that the only source of competitive sustainable advantage is the ability to learn faster than competitors. Organizational behavior as a scientific discipline [10] states that positive change can be achieved with competence management where knowledge contributes steadily.

2.2 Competencias en investigación.

The study presented in [22] demonstrated that there is no correlation between IQ and success, but are also associated other factors such as personal attributes, skills and motivations; elements of competition in individuals.

It is considered that the professional research competence contributes to a "significant learning of expertise and skills in research" [23], which enable the design and implementation of projects by exploiting research results. These skills not only are based on the teaching of science, but are developed to enhance quality research [24].

The investigative skills are oriented towards understanding, registration, interpretation, analysis, posing problems and their solution by using formal methods of argumentation, writing and synthesis [25]. It is established as necessary the capacity to defend a position or point of view reasoned and logical manner, and the ability to reflect and defend conclusions [26].

The training of professionals with scientific attitude requires "broad academic mastery of theoretical and methodological aspects of research and teaching, that contribute to the solution of problems of national education and society" [27] and it is required collaborative work for the exhibition of ideas, developing questions, academic commentary, proposals, conclusions and evaluation.

The scheme of the skills in the scientific work established in [28] defines the use of technological resources as essential in the investigation, argumentation, innovation and recognition, processing and interpretation of data for the management of the research process. The inquiry process requires the use of case exploratory media, seeking information [29] and the knowledge and use of specialized databases in depth, including effective ability to search in these databases and the ability to read literature from primary and secondary sources of information [26].

Using the concept of training scenarios [30] and focusing on development of investigative skills [31] it is establishes the need for management to teamwork and collaborative learning [32] to generate strategic alliances articulated in networks that enhance the performance.

The cognitive axes addressed in competences, which are derived from its assessment, depend largely on its classification. Related to these competencies are established six domains of assessment [33], they can be summarized as: methodological, technological, information search, teamwork, and oral and written communication in the area of research.

III. hypothesis

The relationship between the application of management practices knowledge and scientific and technological production is based on empirical evidence which establishes that the generation of flexible mechanisms for information to give as a final result an effective articulation of actors in research they strengthen the system of Science, Technology and innovation [34] [35] and the "management of intellectual property" [36] and it is where the following structural hypotheses emerge:

SH1: A model of five independent and simple factors called storage systems, shared knowledge spaces, collaborative learning, application of knowledge and scientific and technological production, will adjust the data in the theoretical model.

SH2: There is a significant positive covariance between the storage systems, the shared knowledge spaces, collaborative learning, application of knowledge and scientific and technological production.

The scientific and technological production refers to the number of patents, utility models and intellectual property registered by the companies, so that are set the following confirmatory hypothesis:

CH1.1: The more storage systems, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production in high-tech companies.

CH1.2: The more shared knowledge spaces, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production in high-tech companies.

CH1.3: *The more collaborative learning, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production in high-tech companies.*

CH1.4: The more application of knowledge, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production in high-tech companies.

On the other hand, it is considered that the professional research competence contributes to a "significant learning of expertise and research skills" [37], which allow the design and implementation of projects that exploit the results of research in exercise of a profession. It is established that the use of key competencies strategically generates the need to manage the skills for the enterprise production integrating technology [38], allowing raise the research structural hypotheses:

SH3: A model of seven independent and simple factors called methodological domain, project management domain, technological domain, information search domain, domain of oral communication, communication domain written in the area of research and scientific and technological production, will adjust the data in the theoretical model.

SH4: There is a significant positive covariance between the methodological domain, project management domain, technological domain, information search domain, domain of oral communication, communication domain written in the area of research and scientific and technological production.

Scientific and technological production of human capital refers to the amounts reported in the last three years of investigations, articles, books and chapters published, technical reports, conference papers, registration of patents and intellectual property, so that are set the following confirmatory hypothesis:

CH2.1: The more methodological domain, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.

CH2.2: The more project management domain, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.

CH2.3: *The more technological domain, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.*

CH2.4: The more information search domain, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.

CH2.5: The more domain of oral communication, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.

CH2.6: The more communication domain written, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.

The way in which knowledge is managed in the companies establishes its intellectual capital understood as the "set of personal skills, organizational and relational known and measures through a series of generic and specific indicators" [39].

The established hypotheses are validated or refute for each of the sub-variables that make up the production of the scientific and technological enterprises and the production of the human capital, knowledge management practices and research skills.

IV. Methods and Model Specification

With a focus on technology companies, this research has a quantitative cut as those presented in [40] [41] [42]. Although the above surveys are exploratory and empirical, the nature of this study is of correlational and explanatory scope with no experimental design because it seeks to identify practices for knowledge

management in research processes from the perspective of scientific and technological production generated in high-tech enterprises.

This work it also aims to identify whether there is a correlation between research skills possessed by the human capital analyzed from the point of view of the evidence of products, understood as "results or identifiable and tangible products" [43], that will adjust the Knowledge Management Model. To conduct the research process it is divided into three phases (Fig. 1)



Figure 1. Diagram of the research method. Source: By myself.

Phase 1: The Knowledge Management Model for the development of research skills is conceptually designed. **Phase 2:** It is established the population and the sample of the companies that have the characteristics of belong to the sectors Technology of the information and communications, Manufacturing Electronic, Plants for the production of light and heavy vehicles and the Aerospace sector in seven states of the Republic Méxicana (obtaining a total of 112 companies). The research is oriented towards obtaining of the knowledge management practices and the analysis of quantitative data of scientific production through the application of a diagnostic instrument calibrated with a pilot test and its validation in terms of content, construct and criterion.

Phase 3: The application of the previous instrument allows determining the human capital in the research area that have in high-tech companies (giving a total of 190 people). With the information obtained, the second diagnostic instrument is adjusted and is focused on the investigative skills based on individual production.

The statistical data are processed by correlational analysis for the construction of the matrix used as entry in the confirmatory factor analysis using structural equations that allowed adjusting and defining the components of the final conceptual model for knowledge management.

V. Results and Discussions

According to the plan established after obtaining data we proceeded to the verification of the assumptions underlying the model. To test the confirmatory hypothesis two statistical methods were used.

For categorical variables (dichotomous) was used Pearson r and the quantitative variables the *Kolmogorov-Smirnov* test statistic determined the utilization of Spearman's Rho. In cases where the correlations were negative tests *Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin* (KMO) and sphericity test *Barlett* they were made to control the extraction of some factors, which allowed for the Confirmatory Factor Analysis (AFC) framed in structural equation modeling (*SEM structural equation models*) with IBM AMOS® program in which the Maximum Likelihood procedure [44] was used [45]. They were used as input data "the original scores since their distribution are not normal" [46].

The analysis of scientific and technological production in companies and their relationship to knowledge management practices was conducted in two phases:

In the first phase, the correlations of the variables dichotomous were checked using Pearson's r (equivalent to statistic *Phi* and *V* of *Cramer*, with *Ji-square* for dichotomous variables and arrays 2x2). They were integrated by counting patent registration, utility models and intellectual property in a categorical variable. The association of the correlation is considered strong if $|\mathbf{r}| > 0,70$; moderate if $0,30 \le |\mathbf{r}| \le 0,70$ and weak if $|\mathbf{r}| < 0,3$.

The second phase focuses on the hypothesis test for quantitative variables based on an analysis of verification of normal distribution with the *Kolmogorov-Smirnov* test. The asymptotic significance (p) showed values below 5% which shows that the variables do not have a normal distribution so that the correlation for quantitative variables is based on non-parametric statistical analysis through *Spearman's Rho*. The correlations are summarized in Table 1.

Sub-variables	Summary of component	Degree of correlation (r)	Hypothesis (p)
Storage systems	Database and physical or electronic files to store information for research projects, development and innovation.	r=0,402 Moderate	<i>p</i> =0,000 the null hypothesis is refuted in CH1.1 then: The more storage systems, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production in high-tech companies.
Shared knowledge spaces	Physical or virtual spaces for meetings, share experiences and uptake of ideas; as well as mechanisms to encourage human capital to share knowledge.	r=0,486 Moderate	p=0,003 the null hypothesis is refuted in CH1.2 then: The more shared knowledge spaces, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production in high-tech companies.
Collaborative learning	Collaboration techniques to transmit knowledge, the media, the operating manuals and technical reports.	r=0,357 Moderate	p=0.016 the null hypothesis is refuted in CH1.3 then: The more collaborative learning, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production in high-tech companies.
Application of knowledge	New, completed and generated projects in the area of research and development, and services and processes generated.	<i>r</i> =0,620 Moderate	p=0,000 the null hypothesis is refuted in CH1.4 then: The more application of knowledge, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production in high-tech companies.

 Table 1. Correlations for the variables of knowledge management practices with scientific and technological production in companies

Statistical analysis showed that all correlations between knowledge management practices and scientific and technological production in high-tech companies have a positive sense. However, in the case of the sub-variable named "shared knowledge spaces", the correlation factor for PIA2P3 was r = .095 with a value of significance of p = 0.320 and in the sub-variable named "application of knowledge" the values for the factor PIA2P14 were r = 0.095 p = 0.839 so the physical spaces for meetings or share experiences and the quantity of services produced showed no correlation with patents, utility models and intellectual property, so the above factors were extracted for the final fit of the model (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Confirmatory Factor Analysis to adjust the Model of knowledge management practices and the science and technology production in companies.

In Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) that is shown in Fig. 2, is observed that the positive correlations between the sub-variables of management knowledge practices and scientific production enterprises remain after extraction of the factors (PIA2P3) and (PIA2P14).

Validity of the structural hypothesis: SH1.

The validity of the general estructual SH1 hypothesis is based on obtaining Ji square values for $X^2 = 87,08$ with df = 68 thats gives a general value adjustment model of p = 0,059, which is greater than 0,05, confirming that a model of five factors, independents and simples, called storage systems, shared knowledge spaces, collaborative learning, application of knowledge and scientific and technological production, adjusted the data of the theoretical model.

Validity of the structural hypothesis: SH2.

It is important condierar other indices of goodness of fit to determine if the condition of rapprochement between data matrices is held, as the *Incremental Adjustment Index* which was higher than 0.90 (IFI) = 0.964 with the *Root Mean Square Error of Approximation* (RMSEA) = 0.050, which according to [47] indicates a superior fit in the model which validates the structural hypothesis SH2, since there is a significant covariate positive between storage systems, spaces shared knowledge, collaborative learning, application of knowledge and scientific and technological production.

After analyzing the variable of knowledge management practices, is presented the results obtained on scientific and technological production of the human capital and the research skills. Since knowledge of individuals is an intangible asset in business, the hypothesis SH3 established at the beginning of the investigation is linked to the scientific and technological production of human capital and research skills that they have.

The analysis begins by checking the normal distribution with the *Kolmogorov-Smirnov* test of variables of the scientific and technological production of human capital in the last three years (PIIA1P5: Investigations, PIIA1P6: Articles, PIIA1P7: Books, PIIA1P8: chapters PIIA1P9: Technical Reports, PIIA1P10: Papers, PIIA1P11: Patents, PIIA1P12: Intellectual Property).

It was found that the asymptotic significance (p) showed values below 5% demonstrating that the variables do not have a normal distribution so that the correlation is based on nonparametric statistics through *Spearman's Rho.*

The summary of the analysis and degree of correlations with their interpretation is presented in Table 2 for all components of the variable in research skills with variable scientific and technological production of human capital.

Sub-variables	Summary of component	nan capital Degree of	Hypothesis (p)
Sub variables	Summing of component	correlation (r)	
Methodological domain	Integrated by the type of researches conducted, the methods used and reference sources.	r=0,409 Moderate	p=0,000 the null hypothesis is refuted in CH2.1 then: The more methodological domain, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.
Project management domain	Comprised of performance as project leader, the development of resource plans, types of financing and collaborative networks in which it participates.	r=0,613 Moderate	p=0,000 the null hypothesis is refuted in CH2.2 then: The more project management domain, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.
Technological domain	Composed by the access to knowledge databases, statistical packages used and use of software for graphics design and databases to store and retrieve projects.	r=0,519 Moderate	p=0,000 the null hypothesis is refuted in CH2.3 then: The more technological domain, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.
Information search domain	Composed by using discriminant operators, preparation of documentary records and the use of the types of systems of references.	<i>r</i> =0,701 Strong	p=0,000 the null hypothesis is refuted in CH2.4 then: The more information search domain, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.
Domain of oral communication	It integrates the types of papers presented at conferences, workshops and seminars.	<i>r</i> =0,253 Weak	p=0,005 the null hypothesis is refuted in CH2.5 then: The more domain of oral communication, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.
Communication domain written	It is comprised of the publication of indexed articles, information and dissemination articles, references in articles, results in congresses, authoring books and references of books.	<i>r</i> =0,191 Weak	p=0,004 the null hypothesis is refuted in CH2.6 then: The more communication domain written, the higher probability to have scientific and technological production.

Tabla 2. Correlations for the variables of research skills with scientific and the technological production of the
human capital

Statistical analysis showed that all correlations between the comptetences in research and scientific and technological production of human capital that works in HT companies have a positive sense and values of p < 0.05 that allow refute the null hypotheses.

However, in the domains of oral and written communication, the degrees of correlation are weak and they have a direct negative impact on international bibliometric indicator and the citation index. These domains also have a link with the methodological domain, whose degree of correlation was weak. Lack of methodological skills, in terms of specifying the type of research, decreases the chances of generating production. These factors were extracted for final adjustment of the model (Fig. 3).





Validity of the structural hypothesis: SH3.

The validity of the general estructual SH3 hypothesis is based on obtaining Ji square values for $X^2 = 664,270$, with gl = 609 (Fig. 3) thats gives a general value adjustment model of p = 0,060, which is greater than 0,05, confirming that a model of seven factors, independents and simples, called methodological domain, project management domain, technological domain, information search domain, domain of oral communication, communication domain written in the area of research and scientific and technological production, adjusted the data of the theoretical model.

Validity of the structural hypothesis: SH4.

Because the *Incremental Adjustment Index* was higher than 0,90 (IFI) = 0,964 with the *Root Mean Square Error of Approximation* (RMSEA) = 0,022 which indicates a superior fit in the model, which indicates a superior fit in the model, the structural hypothesis SH4 is validates, since there is a significant covariate positive between methodological domain, project management domain, technological domain, information search domain, domain of oral communication, communication domain written in the area of research and scientific and technological production.

Defining the structure of Knowledge Management Model.

The statistical information allowed establishing the necessary components for the definition and operation of KMM, the components are set from the validation of structural hypothesis; the four components for knowledge management practices are integrated. The set of skills in the research area are defined based on the correlations of the six verified domains.

During the implementation process model, techniques were used knowledge management to develop projects of high implemented impact. For the implementation of projects collaborative teams were formed, the knowledge generated must be stored as part of intellectual and relational capital of the organization with the aim of strengthening scientific and technological production

The diffusion and dissemination of production, both internally and externally, is carried out in adherence to policies and objectives organizational for the research area. It is important to guaranty the intellectual and industrial property that leads to analysis the skills and the subsequent transfer or assimilation of the technology according to the performance of individuals and collective learning.

It is intended that the process described below, will maintain constantly updated the set of research skills necessary for the development of projects in high technology companies and provide a competitive advantage.

The model is built according of the management policies, the development programs and the research objectives of high-tech companies. The realationship area in conjunction with Management and the Department of research must be related to external entities [48], to promote the generation of ideas and innovation processes in order to establish the database of projects, access to funds and the necessary skills to develop human capital that is working in enterprises [49] [38]. The resulting structure of model components and their relationships are shown in Fig. 4.





The learning cycle Figure 4 focuses on the researcher and the process follow eight linear states:

- Self-diagnosis: The purpose of self-assessment is that it allows individuals to "identify and recognize their own power and ability to face the world of the organization" [50]. In the learning model described the selfdiagnosis of competencies helps to establish the level of human capital skills through instruments of measure and diagnosis [51].
- 2) *Need for training or education:* The definitions of training needs or training are established from selfdiagnosis, which are in function to the necessary skills to develop in the company. The training is defined from the perspective of dynamic systematization for the generation and accumulation of knowledge using technology [52].
- 3) *Selection of projects*: The efective process of linking businesses allow to select optimally high-impact projects through programs to strengthen the high-tech companies [53] therefore, the selection of projects is essential for the competitiveness of the company and should not be based only on the skills of the investigator.
- 4) Integration in collaborative teams: The integration of teams and management for collaborative work should generate strategic alliances between research groups, these groups must be articulate in networks for enhancing the performance [32] [31] although their integration depends on the type of project and the competences of the researchers, the flow of knowledge between internal and external members promotes better results of innovation [18].
- 5) *Development of projects:* The methodology for the development of projects is determined by its type and scope of the research in accordance with the policies and standards of business quality that each high-tech sector have. However, the scheme of research skill proposed can establish relationships between scientific work [28] for processing and management the interpretation of data made during the research process.
- 6) *Dissemination and divulgation:* The production generated is part of the indicators for activity named "products or results" [54] [55], as patents applied for and granted [56] [57] as well as the number of publications and their references in databases; so they should be part of the intangible assets of the company and be available for internal and external divulgation.
- 7) *Analysis of skills:* It is important to determine and store the type of developed skills that can be evaluated by measuring the depth of learning in the organization [58]. The evaluation and measurement [59] sets the performance of individuals and skills developed in the organization. Refers to the ability of companies to create value in the future [60] [61] [62] in terms of productivity and innovation [63].
- 8) *Transfer of skills:* To consolidate knowledge in the organization in addition to its disposal, application and development is necessary to share it in an organized and systematic manner [64], the transfer of personal skills during the project management contributes to collective learning in the company [65], is important transforming individual knowledge [66] [67] [68] [69] to recapitalize it and avoid waste [70] [71].

The design of the organizational structure in line with the business strategy, should allow the development of knowledge through the use of models for management considering the abilities in research that has the human capital. So the proposed model contributes to the strengthening of the human capital, and the structural and relational capital sustained by the theoretical framework proposed. According to the validation of research hypothesis, the model has a database to store and retrieve research projects including electronic files; and virtual spaces to capture ideas that foster innovation and become new products or process improvement.

The application of the Knowledge Management Model for the development of research skills in hightech companies represents an opportunity to promote research. Its design is based on the theoretical point of view in the literature review and statistical analysis, the ease of model application is oriented towards obtaining results in the short term.

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