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SPARK OF KNOWLEDGE

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SPARK OF KNOWLEDGE



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SALUTATION

Assalamuallaikum w.b.t,

Alhamdulillah, firstly I would like to thank Allah for showered us with His blessing. All the way that He helps and eases for me and team mates were such permission those we really hope for. What can be proud more is we have such a big and kind hearted person with strong determination lecturer, sir Azmi bin Abd Rahman. He is very eager in guiding us to publish our own writing and guiding us very well to publish our first TINTA publication in the defined way. He deserved so much credit and salutation. Not to forget, with the cooperation given together with all the joyful and tenses time to finish this book, it was a bitter sweet experience that worth to be going through together. Thanks to my assistant, my graphic designer, my editors and my reporters, we all did a very good job with all our dedication and effort to publish this book. Thank you all, with love, we should be proud with our selves!

To all dear readers, please enjoy reading ours writing, may it be useful for you, Thank You supporters!

Chief Editor SOK

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INFORMATION

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THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE FOR HUMAN EVOLUTION

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ABSTRACT

Knowledge, as everyone knows, is an important thing that everybody must attain in order to succeed in their life. Some of the people nowadays might think that knowledge is not that important as there is anything else in their mind that is more important in order to expand our life to be better. It is something that starts from something unknown call raw materials that turns into information which everyone knows what it is, and later become knowledge which is something that everybody can make use of it to get something new. So, this is what everybody should have known from earlier that knowledge plays a big role in deriving a better evolution phase for human life. Without knowledge, human might not evolved or go through an evolution phase that lead to a modernized world as we can see today. The aim is to ensure that every reader of this paper to understand what is knowledge as the power for human evolution and how does knowledge as the power could affect the evolution phase of human as well as their better future plan.

KEYWORD

Knowledge, Information, Human Evolution

INTRODUCTION

In this changing and modern world today, knowledge is no longer seemed as something that is made as an obligation only to the children to gain it since they are toddlers, or even younger than that, but, it has now become something that everybody must have and possess it in themselves. Back then, in some countries, children were sent to school just to learn what they should have learnt and possess good marks and certificates which shows their limit in knowledge. Then, those things will help them in searching for job in order to continue and survive in their lives by their own. But now, everybody has realized that it is not just a kid who needs to have knowledge for surviving in his life, but it is a responsibility that everybody should pay for themselves. Moreover, becoming a knowledgeable person shows that the person has passed his evolution phase and he is more civilized than others do.

Even, many scholars today have come out with discipline about human civilization that it should be related to the level of knowledge that is owned by a particular community of people in a particular place. TFPL (1999), as cited by Lazlo (2002), wrote that the wealth of a nation no longer depends on the ability to acquire and convert raw materials, but on the abilities and intellect of its citizens. That is meant that knowledge is an important part among all of important things that a citizen of a particular society should have in which it determines the level of intellectual of the citizens. From the cited phrase, it can be stated that the smarter the people, the more civilized they are. That is because the wealth of a nation is not depend on how can they acquire and convert raw materials in something else, or how much money do they have or maybe how many cars, houses that they have. But, it is counted by how much knowledge that a person or groups of citizens have. It is not a matter either a person has any theoretical knowledge or problem solving knowledge or mathematical reasoning knowledge, but as long as they have enough knowledge to make decision making and help everyone else, then that is the real wealth that everybody are supposed to possess. So, knowledge can be considered as

having its own power or ability to affect the evolution of human. That is because knowledge is not simply something theoretical but it is applicable for practice. So, from a knowledge that one has in himself, he can use it to enhance and boost his life. In fact, knowledge as a power to evolve human life can be for many reasons and ways. This is meant, knowledge as a power has a role to change people and bring them to modernization and civilization.

BUILDING A KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

The first way on how knowledge evolves the changes in human is by building a knowledge society. Generally, a society is a form of group of people which live together in a same place and they might be applying the same way of life or so-called lifestyle. A random society is just a society which live a life that has been practiced since decades ago by their ancestors like their living area, jobs and so on. They do what a normal person does. But, for a knowledge society, they are kind of group of people with information, ideas and so on in their head. They are the one who can be the mastermind of their own life, in which they have to think far for their life in order to make themselves even more civilized. Being a knowledgeable society, it will make one to have a responsibility to take action upon any problem that happens. That is because problem solving is part of what a knowledge society must do as they have knowledge in their head and they may know what to do. According to Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum (2007), as cited by Mohamed, O'Sullivan and Rebière (2008), he said that an attempt to import ready-made solutions not indigenous to this part of the world and enforce them is not the correct option for our region. Such actions have only resulted in chaos, confusion and weakness and served as barriers to reform.

They hindered social, political and economic growth and have led to huge failure. That is meant if a society choose to use ready-made solution will turn the situation to be a chaos situation, or in another word, it will derived to a more huge

problem. That is because, in order to go for a good evolution phase, mankind are supposed to have problem-oriented learning processes that are led to national goals, which is the goal of everybody else. So, everyone need to go through a problem-oriented learning processes in order in order to create an evolution phase for themselves. So, in order to have this kind of learning process which lead to self-evolution, there are two cognitive sources which are the main sources to make knowledge as a power for human evolution. Mohamed, O'Sullivan and Rebière (2008) has also stated that these two cognitive sources which can be explored more to gain more benefits in order to build a great knowledge society, which is society that has knowledge in themselves and smart thinking. Those sources are an amalgamation of culture and religion and a diversified workforce in the region. These two sources are important in order to create a great problem-oriented learning processes for self-evolution for ourselves. That is because these two have common interrelated ideas regarding the matter of deriving to human evolution through problem-based learning processes.

THE AMALGAMATION OF CULTURE AND RELIGION

The first element of problem-oriented learning processes is the amalgamation of culture and religion. Based on scholarly statement, culture and religion are definitely two different things in terms of its definition. Culture, by definition, can be defined as the something has been done since one's ancestor and keep continued and preserved for the next generations. For example, in Malay region, their culture is mostly to be likewise in terms of dancing and clothing like "Batik" and their cultural dances. Meanwhile religion in term of general definition, can be defined as the beliefs of a group of people in a particular on something that they believe might be almighty enough to give them good life and protection.

There are numbers of religion existed in the world which are Islam, Christian, Buddhist, Atheist and so on. Every religion has its own beliefs, laws, rules

and regulations which some of them can be the same with each other, but still, they have different things in laws, rules and regulations and also the beliefs. However, both things in this first element has that one thing that lead to people evolution, which is the knowledge and information that is contained in it. No matter where we go, we will meet myriad types of cultures and religions, and what we are supposed to know is, all those different cultures and religions have their own range of useful and valuable knowledge in its content.

This knowledge is not just used for cultural and religious purpose only, but also for building a better society. In most of the countries in the world, cultural and religion has been something that is interrelated to each other. It means both of the things have connection to each other. This can be in terms of the knowledge and information that is contained it both terms for the first element of building a knowledge society. For example, Mohamed, O'Sullivan and Rebière (2008), stated that culture and religion in the Arab world are inextricably interrelated. Due to this, in effect the region has for centuries been culturally, religiously and linguistically equipped for knowledge nourishment. That is meant in some of the countries, like Arab, has made both cultural and religion as something that has connection to each other. That is because, as the time changes, the suitability of a particular cultural practice is depend on the rules that have been stated by religion so it will not break or damage one's faith in the God. For example, in Malay beliefs, there is a belief that one thing happen for a reason which could be a karma, hidden message from the previous life and so on. But after the understanding of religion teachings has been achieved by the people, then those beliefs are no longer made as something like an important reference for their way of life. So, here, in this point, it is about the amalgamation of the culture and religion.

The amalgamation, by the way, refers to the process of merging between two or more thing to become one simple thing. In this case between culture and religion, there is a merge between culture and religion in which religion is merged give

added knowledge or revise the knowledge in the culture that might be a bit unacceptable for a particular group of people. This, then, will lead to the upgrade in term of the way of life of people, which is so-called as the evolution of people through the power of knowledge. There are many examples actually, regarding culture and religion that is made through the amalgamation process in order to let the knowledge of both belief to be accepted by the community so they can use it to expand and enlighten their lifestyle. For example, there is Malay-origin culture which is called “Mak Yong”, “Ulek Mayang” and so on which has been played since decades ago. Then, after Islam has come to Malaya and bring the religion teachings, a new knowledge has spreader among the people and it was about the forbidden of giving faith to another souls. That is because the faith is only for God. So, this matter has exactly shown how knowledge can create an evolution phase on human world. From Atheist, which do not know God, or the beliefs that trees, sun and so on as God, turn into the belief to the One Almighty after Islam has come. That is how evolution is made, theoretically, from the merging process of both cultural and religion knowledge. That is because, knowledge, when it is used well, it could be a string element or weapon to survive in life. In terms of evolution, it can be like a weapon or ingredient that helps in nourishing people’s lifestyle to be better or even more upgraded.

When religion comes after the cultural, it does not mean that it is to demolish all of the cultures that have been practiced by every generation, but it’s come is to enhance the cultures to be better without taking the faith away from the right path. Mohamed, O’Sullivan and Rebière (2008), has also stated that the Holy book of Muslim, which is the Holy Qur’an al-Kareem has strictly mentioned about knowledge at its very first command when the Prophet P.B.U.H has first got the first command from God. That shows that knowledge is important in religion and so do the cultures. That is because culture is something that a particular generation should have preserved so it can be practiced by every upcoming generation of their groups. So, here, we get another hint on the importance of knowledge as power for

human evolution in both cultures and religion. The importance that is mentioned is knowledge is vital as the guidance to us in practicing both the cultures and religion. If we have no knowledge regarding these matters, we cannot practice it well and we cannot even make it as something that brings us to the evolution of human. That is because from the cultures and religion, we can get and learn something to improve our lifestyle or way of life to be better.

DIVERSIFIED WORKFORCE

Meanwhile, the second element that is contributed in developing a knowledgeable society using the power of knowledge for human evolution is diversified workforce. In terms of diversified workforce, it can be defined as variety types of human resources. Actually, in this context, diversified workforce is not exactly meant that it is about the situation of having many workers only. But, there is something behind it which can be discussed regarding the ability of knowledge in affecting the human world. Having a diversified workforce be connected to the possibility of knowledge in changing human world in which it is by having myriad types of languages and cultures. It has come to everybody's general perspective that every existing culture has knowledge in it that everybody can practice it for a better life. This perspective goes the same as well for the languages. It is sure to say that when it comes to languages, there are many different languages existed in this world. So, there would also be many different knowledge that are existed from the languages. For example, Arab is one of the countries that is always receiving diversified workforce from all over the world.

These diversified workers come from all areas in the world with many different languages, cultures and knowledge. Mohamed, O'Sullivan and Rebière (2008) has stated again that due to seasonal migration of foreign labour introduces a wealth of knowledge that originates from different cultures with dissimilar of way of thinking that are directly reflected to the production of knowledge. This statement means that in Arab, for example, the existence of workers from all over the world in

a same place creates a new knowledge. Everybody is surely to have different range of knowledge and their own perspective on different information. Thus, from the knowledge and information that they have, they might be sharing the knowledge and that would again, create a new knowledge for everyone else. That is why having a diversified workforce is not just giving us good thing in terms of reducing the workforce, but it allows us to share our knowledge and create a new knowledge. Also we can enhance our understanding regarding a subject matter because there will be wide range of perspectives and understandings from different people of different are of world. So, the power of knowledge shows here when many knowledge from many languages, cultures and countries are gathered, we can get something new from it. For example, there are countries which are good in manufacturing vehicles, production of wood-based product and so on. From the knowledge that they have shared, they make use of it to create something new. For example, they can create a new technology like a wood-based technology which preserves the nature or anything else.

Another fact about diversified workforce in Arab is, when those different workers from different countries share their knowledge, they would gather all the existing knowledge that they receive, and then they will leverage it to achieve higher level of productivity. This shows that a gathered knowledge from everyone could help a lot in creating new knowledge that is useful and worth our days. Another example is, Elken is a company that provides natural water which consists only Hydrogen 2 Oxygen 1 (H_2O). But, in achieving the knowledge on how to filter the existing water which can be in type of sick water or contaminated water turns into clean and pure water using the brain and ideas of all members from all over the world.

PRODUCING THE ORGANIZATION KNOWLEDGE

Another way on how knowledge has the power to give effects on human evolution is by producing the organizational knowledge. When we talk about organization, no one would have no idea what an organization is as it is just a general knowledge or information for us. Sometimes, many of us get confused if organizational knowledge is also an important part to be made exist for human evolution. That is because an organization is one of the responsible party to ensure a particular country can move towards a better evolution. In addition, everything that is conducted by those people in an organization is meant a lot towards achieving something useful and valuable to everyone. So, here, organizational knowledge takes part in helping both the organization and the whole people to walk to excellence and modernization path.

This excellence, throughout organizational knowledge can be attained if everybody in the organization are cooperative enough that they are sharing their knowledge and information that they know to everyone else in the organizational. Sharing the knowledge is indeed to be called as one of the factor of excellence. That is because when we share what we have in our mind either knowledge or just an information, every of it has value toward a particular person. So, that will help someone enough to move towards better evolution.

According to Cabrera et al, (2006) as cited by Lin (2011), stated that by sharing individual employee knowledge within the organization, knowledge of individual employees becomes organizational knowledge, enabling organizational learning. This is meant if one shares his knowledge within the organization, then the whole organization can apply and learn it toward attaining a better evolution phase in order to get a better future. Organizational knowledge is not simply for a company only. That is because a numbers of people in a particular country that stay together in one place can also be considered as an organization. So, organizational

knowledge is not just for the white collars but for everyone and it is important to drive everybody towards a better evolution phase in their life.

CONCLUSION

As the sum of all these, knowledge is a very important element for everybody, not simply just for students or the white collars, but also for any other people either they are working or not. Knowledge will always be one of the most crucial thing in our life because it is not just showing our excel, or showing that we are succeed in education, but the bigger issue is it helps us enough to go through a better evolution phase in our life. This evolution phase does not always mean that the phase changes is from manual lifestyle to a more modernized and technologies-based lifestyle, but it is also about our mindset or way of thinking in which it also need to be evolved and go throughout the evolution phase as well so they can have an even better life and future.

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INTERVIEW SESSION

With Encik Abduk Rahman Bin Abdul Rahman

Faculty of Information Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA

1. What is your background education?

I come from Bachelor of Information Science Library Management at UiTM, previously known as ITM and I am also studied in Master of Library and Information Science at Universiti Malaya.

2. How long have you been working in this field?

I have worked around 15 years old in this field.

3. What is your opinion regarding the Faculty of Information Management?

For me, Faculty of Information Management is one of the new faculty. So, this faculty is not so well known unlikely from the other faculty but this faculty has expanded quickly and well.

4. How to provide fresh graduate in Faculty Information Management?

I think, this faculty can provide two types of fresh graduates that encompass well in both academic and non-academic. For the academic, they can get the best students by helping those students to achieve good and satisfactory pointer every semester. For the non-academic, this faculty can get the fresh graduates with good in non-academic matter by having the students involves in sport, associations and uniform units.

5. What is the different between Faculty Information Management and other faculty?

Faculty of Information Management is different with other faculty which is in term of the specialty of the field. If the Faculty of Information Management it takes pride in being the pioneer in providing professional education to fulfil the manpower need of the country in three very important fields namely are information management, library management, and records management. While, the other faculty might be the pioneer in engineering, languages and so on.

6. From your opinion what can be learn from Information Management?

For my opinion, Information Management is the collection and management of information from one or more sources and the distribution of that information to one or more audiences. This sometimes involving those who have a stake in, or a right to that information. Management means the of and control over the structure, processing and delivery of information.

7. What is the specialty of Information Management program?

From my knowledge, Information Management program can be considered as specialty because it is a field which teaches on how to manage information, plus it is also being taught at Univsersiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti malaya (UM), Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIA) and Universiti Selangor (Unisel).

8. In your opinion, is it posible for graduate in Information Management join other field in employment for example the accounting program?

Yes, these graduates are more versatile and flexible to join other field in employment because there are one name of Faculty of Information

Management but it will be divide to many field based on the individual's interest.

9. From your observation, how far can Information Management go further?

For me, our philosophy is to provide students with knowledge and skill in effective delivery and use of information systems, together with an awareness of the continuing development in the field of information technology. Knowledge of the principle and techniques required of an information professional oriented to one or all types of library or information centre, system or service, including library, archival, and record management, and other related disciplines. So in future, students can use their knowledge and experience to use in the work.

10. What are the skill that needed by the fresh graduate in order to improve their quality and capability in Faculty of Information Management?

For my experience, use the keywords like P.I.E.S..P stand for physical need. That means it is most important that your physical needs are met. Physical needs induce food, drink, warmth and shelter. I stand for intellectual need. These are needs that are met by using that part of the mind that are we thinking. E stand for emotional need. As example, how do we weel about ourselves and others. How we feel is linked to our emotions. Lastly S stand for social need. It is being able to join in activities and to communicate with other people is a way of meeting out social needs.

11. Based on your experience, what are the challanges for information proffesional to survive?

From the challenges that I faced in my experience, the challenge that will be faced by information professional in the future is information technology.

Nowadays information technology is growing at a rate beyond anyone expectations. This means any staff or librarians need to constantly be improving their skills. New technologies are always appearing, leading to previous information becoming obsolete.

12. What are your expectation for Faculty Information Management in the future?

Sincerely, I hope this Faculty of Information Management can get the best faculty equal with other faculty in Malaysia. Although this faculty is not famous like other faculty but this faculty can follow them slowly. So, Faculty of Information Management can be the best faculty because they can divide to many fields that can be chosen by student according to their interest.

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TINTA publishes full articles, brief notices, conference reports, project briefings, opinions, letters, clippings, and pointers of broad interest in information management.

Full articles should:

- o be of interest to a broad community of information management, and
- o Reflect work that has been completed, rather than just beginning.

Articles should not have been published previously in another magazine or journal, nor been available in a final version on a publicly available web site.

2. Matters of style

We prefer *TINTA* articles that are 1,500-5,000 words in length but in certain circumstances accept articles that are 5,000-10,000 words in length. They should be in English or Bahasa Melayu. Articles must include a 100-200 word abstract. We have the following additional preferences:

- o Text should be in Microsoft Word or rtf format.
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- After the authors and editors have agreed on a final draft, the revised text will be formatted in doc or pdf by *TINTA* staff.
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