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Relationship between Strategic Knowledge Management and Self-Management and Organizational

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ABSTRACT

Background: Strategic knowledge management is widely recognized as a pivotal resource for the success of contemporary organizations. Self-management skills of managers are instrumental in fostering an organization's growth and sustainability in the long run. The present study explores the relationship between strategic knowledge management and self-management and organizational development among managers in Social Security (Tamin-e Ejtemaei) Hospitals in the city of Isfahan.

Methods: This was a practical, descriptive, and survey-based research with a correlational design, classified as field study. This study was conducted in 2022 on 117 managers of Tamin-e Ejtemae'i hospitals (Dr. Ali Shariati Hospital and Dr. Gharazi Hospital) in the city of Isfahan. Strategic knowledge management was measured using Lopez-Nicholas and Mariano-Cardenas questionnaire, self-management was evaluated through SMSQ questionnaire devised by Houghton and Neck, and organizational development was assessed using the Lok and Crawford questionnaire. The collected data underwent analysis using SPSS 26 software and the statistical methods applied Spearman's rank correlation test, Tukey's test and significance level was set at 0.05.

Results: A significant correlation was observed between strategic knowledge management and self-management (P-value = 0.027), strategic knowledge management and organizational development (P-value = 0.000), and between organizational development and self-management (P-value = 0.000). Regarding organizational development, the highest average score was associated with relationships (a score of 20.5172); for strategic knowledge management, explicit knowledge received the highest average score (a score of 21.2632), and concerning self-management, personal goal setting obtained the highest average score (a score of 20.1810).

Conclusion: Investing in strategic knowledge management, focusing on intellectual capacities, and increasing managers' self-management improves performance and organizational development in hospitals.

Keywords: Strategic, Self-Management, Knowledge, Development.

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Introduction

Information and knowledge management have evolved into indispensable pillars for survival and growth of dynamic and innovative organizations; even the ability to compete effectively in today's markets and business landscapes hinges on the organization's capacity to acquire, cultivate, and continuously update both individual and organizational knowledge.

In their renowned book "The Knowledge-Creating Company" Nonaka and Takeuchi categorized human knowledge into fundamental types. The first type is "Explicit Knowledge," which can be articulated in formal language, such as grammatical sentences, mathematical expressions, signs, symbols, and instructions. This type of knowledge is readily and transferable to other However, the most vital form of knowledge is "Tacit Knowledge" which defies expression in formal language. Tacit knowledge possesses an individualistic dimension, rooted in personal experiences, encompassing intangible elements opinion, such personal individual characteristics, and value systems (Nonaka, I., & Takeuchi, H., 1995). Knowledge management stems from the utilization and enhancement of knowledge assets and an organization's orientation toward learning. The purpose is to achieve the organization's objectives systematically, with a structured approach to manage creating, sharing, collecting, and disseminating knowledge organizational assets. (Norouzzadeh, A., et al. 2019).

In a study conducted by Moomivand et al. (2022), researchers found a significant relationship between various dimensions knowledge of management including acquisition, creation. application, transfer, and preservation knowledge, innovation in knowledge management documentation of its results. organizational development (Moomivand, H., et al. 2021).

Based on Bismo et al.'s research (2021), strategies for managing knowledge exert a

secondary impact on the overall company's performance, underscoring the fact that knowledge management is a crucial factor for innovation in companies. The effect of knowledge management strategy on company's performance through accelerating the company's innovation capacity is also acceptable. The result was consistent with a study by Santoro et al. (Bismo, A., et al. 2021).

Therefore, successful organizations continually assess generation, dissemination, the amount of production, publication, exchange, and utilization of knowledge among their employees through diverse methods. Moreover, in the context of organizational success, self-management skills of managers play a key role in the organization. (Hamidizadeh, M., et al. 2017). Self-management spans both the domains of behavioral science (recognizing and cultivating positive mental and spiritual aspects and traits, while identifying and mitigating negative spiritual and psychological aspects and traits of individuals) and the management area (correctly identifying abilities and talents and trying to nurture and flourish them) (Saeidi., 2010). Individuals equipped with selfmanagement skills achieve personal growth and maturity, can make informed decisions when confronted with life's issues and challenges. assume and accept responsibility for their actions, and as a result, attain a sense of control and efficacy in life (Ghorbani., 2019).

In a research study conducted by Mirsafian et al. (2022), it was revealed that training in communication skills had a significant impact on enhancing self-management behaviors, conflict management, and their related components among wrestling coaches; this effect persisted for 12 weeks after the educational intervention concluded (Mirsafian, H., et al. 2021).

These skills play a crucial role in the improvement and advancement of the organization (Kohandej, M.A & Tajdini, Sh., 2016). Organizational development represents systematic application of knowledge and behavioral science across various levels, including groups and inter-



group communications and the organization as a whole, to make planned changes (Rahmani, 2018). Anna Witek-Crabb (2014) conducted a research in the field of organizational development and found that larger companies are more advanced in organizational development, and display greater integration, a systemic approach, and consistency in the execution of strategic management (Witek-Crabb., 2014). In a study by Mkheimer et al. (2020), significant relationships were observed between employees' engagement factors and organizational development. These findings had important implications for management, especially underscored the importance of managing human resources and motivating employees, all for the purpose of organizational development (Mkheimer, I., & Mjlae, S. A., 2020).

Consequently, it is of great importance to evaluate the status of knowledge management in healthcare organizations, particularly hospitals. As Tamin-e Ejtemae'i Hospitals are looking to embark on a journey of substantial transformation at their level, the findings from such investigations can serve as a foundation for implementing and enhancing operational excellence and fostering organizational development within these healthcare establishments. With a deeper understanding of their hospital's knowledge management status, managers can also try to proactively address any deficiencies and make preparations for transformation, successful improvement, and initiatives.

Methods

This was a cross-sectional, applied, and survey-based research. Its method was descriptive and categorized as a field study. In this study, the relationship between strategic knowledge management and self-management and organizational development among the managers of Social Security (Tamin-e Ejtemae'i) Hospitals was examined in the city of Isfahan (Dr. Ali Shariati Hospital and Dr. Gharazi Hospital) during 2022.

The statistical population consisted of 120

managers Tamin-e Eitemae'i Hospitals senior, middle, operational (including and managers in both hospitals). 3 managers declined to participate in the questionnaire due to scheduling constraints. Considering the size of statistical population, the study was conducted as a census, questionnaires were distributed to 117 participants, and responses were collected. Inclusion criteria included individuals with a minimum of five years of hospital work experience, having a managerial position, and voluntary participation in the research. Exclusion criteria consisted of unwillingness for participation and incomplete questionnaires

To assess self-management skills, a questionnaire developed by Houghton and Neck in 2002 was used (Houghton and Neck, 2002). This questionnaire consists of 34 five-choice questions based on the five-point Likert scale. It encompasses nine subscales, has been validated as reliable, and its Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated at 0.782 by Iremloo et al. (Iremloo., 2015).

To evaluate the knowledge management strategy, López-Nicolás and Meroño-Cerdán questionnaire (2011) was employed (López-Nicolás and Meroño-Cerdán, 2011). questionnaire comprises eight items with two strategies of explicit knowledge management and tacit knowledge management. The reliability of was this questionnaire established using Cronbach's alpha method by Vazifehdoost et al. in 2014. The obtained scores for explicit knowledge management and tacit knowledge management were 0.739 and 0.734, respectively (Vazifehdust, H., et al. 2013).

To assess organizational development, Lok and Crawford's standard organizational development questionnaire designed in 2000 was utilized. This questionnaire comprises 34 questions distributed across eight dimensions. Its reliability was calculated and confirmed using Cronbach's alpha test, resulting in a reliability score above 70%, which was acceptable. Furthermore, in a research study by Milani et al. (2018), Lok and Crawford's



questionnaire was utilized, and its reliability was established at a coefficient of 0.95 (Milani, O., et al. 2019).

The reliability of all three questionnaires was reconfirmed separately. The self-management questionnaire yielded a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.912, the strategic knowledge management questionnaire, achieved a coefficient of 0.848, and the organizational development questionnaire obtained a coefficient of 0.959, indicating the reliability of these questionnaires. Additionally, face and content validity of the questionnaires were verified by experts in this field.

Data analysis involved descriptive statistical methods (frequency, graph, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and variance) as well as Spearman's rank correlation tests (due to the rank classification of items in the questionnaires), the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (to ascertain normality or abnormality of the questionnaires), parametric tests of one-way analysis of variance and independent t-tests (to apply the normality of all three questionnaires), Tukey's test (to address nonnormality and inequality in service history), regression analysis (to examine the dimensions of self-management and organizational development questionnaire in accordance with Durbin-Watson statistic) using SPSS 26 software.

All ethical considerations were observed by the researcher. This study underwent a critical review at Islamic Azad University, Shahrekord Branch, and received approval with the ethical code IR.IAU.SHK.REC.1401.035. Informed consent to complete the questionnaire was obtained from the managers who volunteered to participate in the research, and detailed explanations and preliminary information regarding the questionnaire were provided to ensure that they had a clear understanding of the research's objectives and methodology. Moreover, assurances of strict confidentiality were extended to the subjects, guaranteeing that their personal information would remain undisclosed.

Results

The key findings regarding all senior, middle, and operational managers of Tamin-e Ejtema'i Hospitals in the city of Isfahan are as follows:

Gender distribution among the participants consisted of 61.5% males (72 subjects). Regarding work experience, 75.2% (88 participants) had 21 to 30 years of experience, 17.9% (21 subjects); 10 to 20 years of experience, and 4.3% (4 subjects) had less than 10 years of experience. Age distribution revealed that 60.7% (71 people) were between 41 to 50 years old, 24.8% (29 people) were over 50 years old, 10.3% (12 people) were between 30 to 40 years old, and 0.9% (1 person) was under 30 years old. Also, 89.7% (105 people) were married, while 10.3% (12 people) were single.

If the average score of strategic knowledge management is between 6 and 13, strategic knowledge management is weak, if it is between 13 and 21, it is at an average level, and if it is more than 21, strategic knowledge management is very good.

In this study, the average score of strategic knowledge management was 40.4825, indicating an optimal and very good level of strategic knowledge management.

If the average score of self-management is between 28 and 54, self-management is weak, if it is between 54 and 90, self-management is at an average level, and if it is over 90, self-management is at a very good level.

In this study, the average score for self-management was 123.1667, indicating a very good level of self-management.

If the average score of organizational development is between 28 and 54, organizational development is weak, if it is between 54 and 90, organizational development is at an average level, and if it is more than 90, organizational development is at a very good level.

In this study, the average score for organizational development was 129.4220, signifying a very good level of organizational development.

Following ranking of the items in both



questionnaires, respondents answered each question based on their satisfaction level, and Spearman's correlation coefficient was considered the best correlation coefficient for ranking states. Therefore, this coefficient was used as indicated in Table 1 (correlation matrix of the average score of strategic knowledge management with average score of self-management).

Likewise, in Table 1, correlation matrix of the average score of strategic knowledge management with the average score of organizational development, and in Table 1 also, correlation matrix of the average score of self-management with the average score of organizational development are presented using Spearman's rank correlation coefficient. There was a significant relationship between strategic knowledge management and self-management, strategic knowledge management and organizational development, and self-management and organizational development.

Table 1. Correlation matrix of the average score of strategic knowledge management with the average score of other variables

			Average score of strategic knowledge management	Average score of self-management	Average score of organizational development
	Average	Correlation coefficient	1.000	0.216	0.534
	score of	Significance level	-	0.027	0.000
	strategic	Number	114	105	106
ョ	knowledge management				
Spearman	Average self-	Correlation coefficient	0.216	1.000	0.343
ea	management	Significance level	0.027	-	0.000
\mathbf{Sp}	score	Number	105	107	101
	Average	Correlation coefficient	0.534	0.343	1.000
	score of	Level of significance	000/0	0.000	-
	organizational development	Number	106	101	109

The relationship between the average scores of strategic knowledge management, self-management, and organizational development and certain demographic variables (gender, marital status, and work experience) were explored. The findings are summarized as follows:

To check the impact of gender on average scores of research variables, P-values of all three variables were greater than 0.05; this implied that there was not significant association between average scores of strategic knowledge management, self-management, and organizational development. The scores remained consistent for both males and females.

It can be implied that the average scores of strategic knowledge management, self-

management, and organizational development did not vary between single and married groups of managers.

Furthermore, the average score of strategic knowledge management changed according to the work experience among managers. Significant differences were observed between those with 10 to 20 and 21 to 30 years of working experience. The results of the analysis of homogeneity of variances and Tukey's test are demonstrated in Tables 4 and 5, respectively.

Similarly, to explore the relationship between the average scores of self-managements and work experience, and given the normality of selfmanagement questionnaire, a parametric test was applied. Due to the multi-level nature of the work

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experience, one-way analysis of variance was performed. As shown in Table 2, the average score

of self-management among managers regarding their work history did not change.

Table 2. One-way variance analysis between strategic knowledge management score and service history and the average score of self-management and work history

		Sum of squares	Degree of freedom	Mean square	Fisher distribution	Significance level
	Between groups	4.530	2	2.265	3.945	.022
Strategic knowledge	Within groups	59.131	103	.574	-	-
management	Total	63.661	105	-	-	-
A	Between groups	0.562	2	0.281	-	-
Average score of self-	Within groups	19.464	101	0.193	1.457	0.238
management	Total	20.026	103	-	-	-

Further investigation into the relationship between the average score of organizational development and work history, with respect to the normality of the organizational development questionnaire, also involved a parametric test and one-way analysis of variance was performed again. The average score of organizational development in relation to the work history differed among managers. The differences were identified by using the homogeneity of variances test and its acceptance and then Tukey's test to detect the inequalities in the average scores, the disparity was observed within the tenure brackets of 10 to 20 years and 21 to 30 years, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Tukey's test results regarding the average score of strategic knowledge management and work history and the average score of organizational development and work history

	Years of work	work experience	Significant	Standard	Level of	95% confidence interval	
	experience (I)	$(\hat{\mathbf{J}})$	difference (I-J)	error	significance	Lower limit	Upper limit
ge	Less than 10	10 to 20 years	-0.20625	0.48023	0.903	-1.3476	0.9351
vled ent	years	21 to 30 years	-0.73238	0.44847	0.238	-1.7963	0.3355
nov em	10 to 20 years	Less than 10 years	0.20625	0.48023	0.903	-0.9351	1.3476
Strategic knowledge management		21 to 30 years	-0.52413 [*]	0.21766	0.046	-1.0415	-0.0068
ıteg ma	21 to 30 years	Less than 10 years	0.73238	0.44847	0.238	-0.3355	1.7963
Stra		10 to 20 years	0.52413*	0.21766	0.046	0.0068	1.0415
	Less than 10 years	10 to 20 years	0.19000	0.41500	0.891	-1.1769	0.7969
Organizational development		21 to 30 years	-0.64597	0.38797	0.224	-1.5683	0.2770
zati	10 to 20 years	Less than 10 years	0.19000	0.41500	0.891	-0.7969	1.1769
)rganizationa development		21 to 30 years	-0.45567 [*]	0.18896	0.046	-0.9050	-0.0063
Org de	21 to 20 years	Less than 10 years	0.64567	0.38797	0.224	-0.2772	1.5683
_	21 to 30 years	10 to 20 years	-0.45567	0.18896	0.046	0.0063	0.9050

The analysis of the dimensions (subscales) of the questionnaires was also conducted.

Regression analysis was employed using Enter method to examine the dimensions of organizational development. The results of regression analysis for organizational development dimensions are presented in Table 4. Notably, all dimensions (subscales) of organizational



development exhibited positive beta values. The reward component displayed the highest beta value (0.235), while the goal component exhibited the lowest beta value (0.130).

Table 4 outlines the results of the regression analysis for the dimensions of self-management,

All dimensions (subscales) of self-management displayed positive beta values, with conceptualizing successful performance having the highest beta value (0.245) and evaluating beliefs and assumptions having the lowest beta value (0.068).

Table 4. Regression analysis of organizational development and self-management dimensions								
Model			standard fficients Standard error	Standard Coefficients Beta	Т	Level of significance	R ² Adjusted coefficient of determination	
Te	Reward sum	1.073	0.053	0.235	20.081	0.000	0.685	
Organizational development	Goal sum	1.000	0.080	0.130	12.509	0.000	0.807	
zati pm	Leadership sum	1.232	0.075	0.225	16.358	0.000	0.902	
miz elo	Attitude towards change sum	1.122	0.069	0.205	16.233	0.000	0.956	
rga lev	Relationships sum	1.252	0.090	0.180	13.832	0.000	0.977	
0	Structure sum	1.234	0.075	0.219	16.514	0.000	0.993	
	Conceptualizing successful performance	1.009	0.013	0.245	76.794	0.000		
Self-management	Personal goal setting	0.982	0.020	0.185	48.137	0.000		
	Self-talk	1.018	0.014	0.224	74.127	0.000		
geı	Self-encouragement	0.996	0.017	0.184	57.335	0.000		
na	Self-punishment	1.012	0.012	0.226	85.024	0.000		
·ms	Focus on natural rewards	1.015	0.019	0.158	52.681	0.000		
÷	Self-help	1.044	0.033	0.122	31.300	0.000		
Š	Evaluation of beliefs and assumptions	0.594	0.036	0.068	16.292	0.000		
	Self-reflection	1.033	0.029	0.134	35.283	0.000		

Based on Table 5, the highest score was 20.5172 attributed to relationships, while the lowest score was 16.1983 regarding rewards.

Furthermore, among the dimensions of self-management, the highest score was 20.1810 concerning personal goal setting, while the lowest score was 8.6923 concerning self-talks

illustrated in Table 5. In the case of strategic knowledge management, the higher average score was 21.2632 related to explicit knowledge, while the lower average score was 19.2261, linked to tacit knowledge. These findings are illustrated in Table 5.



Table 5. Average and standard deviation of dimensions of organizational development, self-management, and strategic knowledge

		Abundance	Average	Standard deviation
	Goal	117	16.4052	2.45296
nal nt	Leadership	117	20.3552	3.42163
ior ner	Attitude towards change	117	18.0259	51509/3
zat opr	Reward	117	16.1983	4.17491
)rganizationa development	Relationships	117	20.5172	2.71384
Organizational development	Structure	117	18.9744	3.35657
0 -	Beneficial mechanisms	117	19.1217	2.98578
	Conceptualizing successful performance	117	18.0595	61580/3
	Personal goal-setting	117	20.181	2.79627
ien	Self-talk	117	8.6928	3.35914
Self-management	Self-encouragement	117	10.9043	2.74972
1ag	Self-punishment	117	11.9655	3.46142
naı	Focus on natural rewards	117	19.8421	2.77457
I [-1	Self-help	117	12.4383	2.72874
Se	Evaluation of beliefs and assumptions	117	12.9469	1.70525
	Self-reflection	117	45.5312	1.94458
ic ge ient	117	21.2632	3.80045	3.80045
	117	19.2261	4.18448	4.18448
Strategic knowledge management				
Stra nov ana				
ii k				

Discussion

The results of this study were in line with the research conducted by Hamid Azadi Reikandeh et al. in 2022; there was a positive and significant relationship between knowledge management and organizational performance. Also, a significant relationship was observed between the dimensions of knowledge management and performance (Azadi., 2021). Golnar Shojaei Baghini's research in 2016 showed that there was a significant relationship between self-management performance, and self-management improves performance in the organization. Besides, there a significant relationship between all components of self-management and performance (Shojaei Baghini., 2012).

Another significant finding of this study reveals that strategic knowledge management among managers was related to organizational development. A research study by Dawood Karimzadegan et al. in 2021 confirmed the findings of the current research. Karimzadegan's

study indicated that information technology that information technology had an impact sustainable organizational development and knowledge management, and knowledge in management turn impacted sustainable organizational development (Karimzadegan, D. & Shidaei, M., 2021).

The curent research revealed a significant relationship between self-management and organizational development. In this regard, a research by Puran Ghasemi Soltan Abadi et al. (2018) was conducted in the year 2017, which showed that self-management skills had a positive and significant effect on employees' demonstration of courage (Ghasemi Soltan Abadi, P. & Beheshtifar, M., 2017).

The average score of organizational development indicated that within the statistical population organizational of the research. development was at a very good level. Considering that beta values of all dimensions (subscales) of organizational development were



positive, the performance of all of them is the same as questionnaire, and as a result, all subscales were directly related to the organizational development questionnaire. The reward component had the greatest and strongest impact, while the goal component had the least impact on the organizational development questionnaire.

Rewarding is a behavioral component and includes providing concrete incentives and tangible recognition for effective performance, significant accomplishments, and valuable contributions by individuals. Thus, the strategic use of rewards proves to be effective in organizational development; considering the high beta value of rewards among managers, this component can play an effective role in fostering organizational development.

Among the components of organizational development, had less impact goal organizational development due to lower beta value among managers. Moreover, the highest score was associated with relationships, relationships within indicating good organization.

The findings of this part of research were consistent with a research by Alimohamadi et al. (2016They discovered a significant linear relationship between predictor variables (leadership, goal, reward, and attitude and criterion towards change) variable (productivity). These findings were in line with the findings of the present study (Alimohamadi., 2015).

The average score of self-management suggested that in the statistical population of this research, self-management was at an optimal level. It is noteworthy that all dimensions (subscales) of self-management exhibited positive beta values; therefore, their performances were in line with the self-management questionnaire. As a result, all subscales were directly related to the self-management questionnaire. The component of conceptualizing successful performance had the most substantial and robust impact, whereas

the component of evaluating beliefs and assumptions had the least impact on the self-management questionnaire. The highest score was attributed to personal goal setting, and the lowest score belonged to self-talk. Similarly, Khodayar Ebili et al. (2017) found that self-leadership, self-management, and human capital of employees were above average, and self-leadership and self-management of human capital of employees showed a positive and significant relationship (Ebili, K., et al. 2016).

The average score of strategic knowledge management indicated a high level of proficiency regarding the statistical population of this research. Among the dimensions of strategic knowledge management, explicit knowledge received a higher score, while tacit knowledge scored lower among the managers of both hospitals. This disparity necessitates more consideration.

There were some limitations regarding this research. Due to space and time constraints different results may emerge when choosing and studying other hospitals or conducting the study at different times. There were also inherent limitations of the questionnaire itself, indicating that the choice of alternative questionnaires may yield different results.

Conclusion

Upon reviewing previous studies, this research was the first attempt to explore the relationship between strategic knowledge management, selfmanagement, and organizational development among hospital managers of Tamin-e Ejtema'i Hospitals in the city of Isfahan. The insights gained from this research are of special value for healthcare staff, educators, researchers, organization managers, and institutions in the healthcare sector. Therefore, investing in strategic knowledge management within hospitals and prioritizing the enhancement of managers' selfmanagement can pave the way for the better function of the organization (hospital). Additionally, improving research and education



unit of the hospital can provide vital support for individuals who seek new ideas and practices. This can be achieved through educational workshops and collection of innovative and creative opinions. Moreover, it is advisable to develop and empower managers by enhancing their self-management skills, taking into account their strengths and weaknesses identified in the research results. Finally, it is crucial to secure support from heads of the hospitals and the director of Tamin-e Ejtema'i Organization. Prioritizing the establishment of strategic knowledge management as a cornerstone for organizational excellence should he fundamental component of the organization's policies.

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Conflict of interest

Is the authors declared no conflict of interest.

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Ethical Considerations

All ethical considerations were observed by the researcher. This study underwent a critical review at Islamic Azad University, Shahrekord Branch.

Code of Ethics

IR.IAU.SHK.REC.1401.035

Authors' contributions

This article was extracted from a master's thesis in the field of healthcare management under the guidance of the respected professor M. M, in Tamin-e Ejtema'i Hospitals of the city of Isfahan in 2022. All the authors read and approved the final paper and are responsible for any questions related to the paper.

Open Access Policy

The contents of this article should be made available to all people around the world

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