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ABSTRACT: the main objective of this study was to verify the moderating role of management's leadership on the relationship between KM implementation and organizational performance in a university context through Abdelmalek Essaadi University. by collecting the views of teacher-researchers, using a hypothetical-deductive reasoning approach and a quantitative working method. Our questionnaire was administered to a representative sample of 88 teacher-researchers from the different institutions of the university under study.

The results obtained using Hierarchical regression prove the moderating and positive role of leadership on the intensity of the relationship between the application of the KM and (Training, research, publication, and governance) as indicators of organizational performance with a change in the correlation rate from R=0.917 to R=0.953 with the addition of leadership as a moderator variable with a degree of impact of 3.6%.

This paper presents empirical evidence on the importance of the organizational, technical, and human factors on knowledge management implementation and enhancing performance.

Keywords: Leadership, Organizational performance, Knowledge management.

I. INTRODUCTION

In this changed competitive technology and the market scenario, Modern institutions, including institutions of higher education, face Large and unprecedented challenges due to the changes resulting from the information and technological revolution, in addition to the fierce competition between different institutions and the challenges that have emerged in the various sectors, especially the educational ones, so it was necessary to face this competition and challenges in order to keep pace The wheel of change and facing the competition imposed by the advanced reality on the basis of science and knowledge .

Within the framework of the knowledge economy and the new challenges raised by knowledge in organizations, it is easy to understand the emergence of knowledge management as a new managerial field of activity dealing with knowledge resources, knowledge workers, and knowledge processes. Knowledge management does not replace the classical management dealing with tangible resources, but it enriches a firm's management with its capacity of dealing with intangible resources and their specific processes of creation, acquisition, sharing, transferring, transformation, and use in the production of goods and services. In addition, knowledge management is not an extrapolation of information management focused on the efficient use of information technology and data and information as intangible resources. (Bratianu et al, 2021).

On the other hand, and throughout the literature, several factors positively affecting KM initiatives in public organizations and specifically in universities are discussed. For Ranjan and Bhatnagar (2008), these are factors or parameters necessary for the continued success of an organization and these factors represent the areas of management that require special and continuous attention to achieve high performance. Some are the same as those identified for private organizations and others are specific to public organizations. Most authors (Butler & Murphy, 2007; Cong, 2008; Ansari et al. 2012) cite several factors; but in this article, we will focus on the Management leadership.

Leadership plays an important role in managing knowledge within organizations. Insufficient or ineffective support from top managers can lead to the failure of knowledge management projects Traditionally, leadership research has not specifically considered leadership as an enabler of knowledge management. However, recent research has emphasized the importance of leaders in managing knowledge.

several studies have shown the importance of Management leadership to support the implementation of the KM process (Donate & De Pablo, 2015; Jiang and Chen, 2018; Akram et al 2019; Rao Jada et al., 2019; Singh et al., 2019; Shahnawaz, & Halil, 2020).

In addition, Many studies have addressed the issue of the importance of the application of K.M for organizations such as improving innovation and creativity, product quality, and organizational performance (Mills & Smith, 2011; Reich et al, 2013; Lee & Tseng, 2014; Alaarj et al, 2016; Novak, 2017; Adams, & Graham, 2017; Shamia et al., 2018; Abubakar, et al, 2018; Ernest et, al 2020; Sahibzada et al, 2020; Salama, 2020; Wenjiao & Yang 2020; El kharraz & Boussenna, 2020).

It's important at this level to note that leadership is a success factor of knowledge management and also a tool of performance, but how it can play a moderating role between the two is not well demonstrated and especially in university context.

The purpose of the present research is to analyze specifically the moderating effect of management's leadership on the relationship between K M implementation and organizational performance at Abdelmalek Essaadi University the point of view of teacher-researchers.

Thus, our reflection will focus on the treatment and analysis of the following three elements: (1) Literature review and development of hypotheses (2) Research methodology and (3) discussion of the Results of the study.

II. THEORITICAL BACKGROUND

2.1Knowledge management in the university context

Universities are knowledge-intensive organizations because all the basic processes employ data, information, and knowledge. Teaching is essentially a transfer of knowledge from professors to students, but it involves many activities and tasks of data, information, and knowledge collection, selection, structuring, and integration into ideas and theories, which correspond to a certain conceptual framework. Teaching can be performed directly in classrooms or online by using specialized platforms and indirectly through a series of printed materials or stored documents in databases. Teaching also involves knowledge sharing that reflects professors' experience (Bratianu et al, 2021).

For El kharraz et al, (2018) Knowledge management for universities composed of a set of practices and approaches aimed to identify, create, use, capitalize, share and transfer knowledge within universities to improve the quality of the final product (Student Skills or New Knowledge)".

2.1.1The KM process in universities

Knowledge assets are managed in several ways, namely: through capitalization, sharing, and knowledge creation.

There is no unified agreement among authors and researchers regarding the number of K.M processes, as different researchers define them in different ways (Costa & Monterio, 2016) and with several models as they are defined as three stages: knowledge generation, knowledge codification, and knowledge transfer. Or four consisting of Acquiring, storing, sharing, and applying knowledge or it is a five-step process consisting of (knowledge acquisition, knowledge formation, knowledge transfer, knowledge storage, and application) (Abidi et al 2018, p 5).

Becerra et al, (2004) integrated the empirical research findings of Nonaka (1994) (socialization, externalization, internalization, combination), and distinguished four knowledge management processes: knowledge discovery, knowledge capture, knowledge sharing, and knowledge application.

On our part in this work, we will opt for the most used model and the most adapted to the universities in four stages consisting of acquiring, storing, sharing, and using knowledge, (Alavi & leidner, 2001, Doueihi, 2009).

2.2 Organizational Performance at the University

Level Performance measurement is fundamental to all organizations including universities. Today universities are under similar pressures as different organizations to have a place in society. Significant changes in competition have prompted universities to adopt a new management system similar to businesses in that students are currently treated as customers. In addition, there are increasing demands from stakeholders (Hilman & Abubakar, 2018).

Universities must ensure and provide students with high quality service. They have an obligation to produce graduates who can adapt to the challenges of the developing society. Other research has focused on teaching and research as indicators of performance measurement in universities (Manjarrés et al., 2009; Lukman et al., 2010; Asif et al., 2013; Asif & Searcy, 2014).

Other researchers believe that the production of services for the community is an indicator of performance (Badri & Abdulla, 2004; Patel et al, 2011). On the other hand, student graduation rate remains a primary indicator of university performance. Hilman & Abubakar, (2018) stated that the undergraduate loss rate should be taken into account when assessing university performance.

2.3 Relationship between K M and organizational performance

The link between K.M and organizational performance has been highlighted in the Knowledge-Bases View of the Firm (KBV).

This is because organizations achieve superiority in performance through a combination of their tangible resources such as natural resources and intangible resources such as knowledge (Lee & Sukoco, 2007). The proper application of a knowledge management system can make an organization self-dependent on knowledge, which can be helpful in surviving many obstacles it may face in the short and long term. In the same sense, the success of an organization often depends on its ability to accumulate knowledge and process it to enable organizational learning (Cohen & Sproul, 1991). Organizations also adopt K.M protocols for many reasons, including intensifying their efforts to create and share knowledge, improve internal collaboration, share best practices, provide competitive intelligence, and maintain a competitive advantage.

Indeed, several researchers and practitioners have noticed the positive relationship between K.M and organizational performance such as improving innovation and creativity, product quality, and organizational performance (Schutte,

& du Toit, 2012; Vila et al 2015; Alaarj et al, 2016; Boubker & Chafik, 2016; Novak, 2017; Adams, & Graham, 2017; Abubakar et al 2019; Ernest et al 2020, Sahibzada et al, 2020, Salama, 2020, Wenjiao & Yang, 2020, El kharraz & Boussenna, 2020).

2.4 Historical overview of the evolution of leadership

According to Pelletier (2017), classical theories of leadership fall into three categories. First, some research focused on leader characteristics such as gender, size, and intelligence (Kenny & Zaccaro, 1983; Potter & Fiedler, 1981; Stogdill, 1948; Worchel, el al 1998). However, this research was not very successful. Then, research turned to the behavior of the leader. McGregor (1960) developed the X and Y theories. Likert (1961) developed a continuum of four leadership styles, while Blake and Mouton (1964) developed a grid of five main styles: autocratic, paternalistic, democratic, collegial. Finally, Hersey and Blanchard (1982), Vroom and Yetton (1973) as well as House (1971) show that the elements of a situation often influence the choice of the leader and his style (Labelle & Jacquin 2018, p 182).

2.4.1 What leadership style is appropriate for universities?

Because his mission is to guide students on the path to knowledge, and because his daily actions lead him to make decisions, the university professor can be seen as a leader. It, therefore, becomes interesting to develop a vision of his teaching style. Transformational leadership is not the only leadership style relevant to university administrators working in professional learning communities.

Bouker (2017) mentions four leadership styles appropriate for the field of education: transactional, transformational, ethical, and pedagogical leadership. However, for this researcher, while transformational leadership aims to transform people, inspire them to excel, and move them toward a common goal, pedagogical leadership would be more relevant to university principals working in professional learning communities, as it would focus more on improving teaching and learning, which is the primary mission of professional learning communities.

For their part, Huffman et al. (2016) recognize five leadership styles appropriate for professional learning communities: constructivist, strategic, transformational, pedagogical, and distributed. Concerning transformational leadership, the authors assert that it allows university administrators to involve female teachers in decision-making and their professional development.

Finally, Mullen and Schunk (2010) note that three leadership styles are exercised within learning communities: instructional, transformational, and transactional leadership. According to these researchers, pedagogical and transformational leadership differ from the transactional model in that they are more relevant to professional learning communities through the focus of university administrators and faculty on improving teaching and student learning.

2.4.2Knowledge management and leadership

The role of leadership in knowledge management (Batista, 2012; Forcadell and Guadamillas, 2002) and innovation processes (Drucker, 2001; Terra et al, 2012; Abdolmaleki et al, 2013) is crucial. Several authors agree with this statement. That said, the Leadership dimension attempts to understand this relationship in this research.

We can first ask whether there are innovations without leadership. there is no innovation without leadership. According to Szezerbicki, et al (2003), the existence of leaders who can put feelings and ideas into practice and turn them into concrete results for the organization is very important. Leaders such as Steve Jobs, Henry Ford, Jack Welch, Jeff Bezos, or Bill Gates, are illustrations of this. It is hard to imagine what Apple, Ford, General Electric, Amazon.com or Microsoft would look like without these motivational and visionary leaders (Neves 2017, p 156).

According to Donate and Sanchez De Pablo (2015) found that knowledge-oriented leadership positively affected knowledge management's success. Similarly, Akram et al. (2019) showed that empowering leadership enhanced the relationship between various knowledge management practices, contributing to knowledge management success

In a team context, Jiang and Chen (2018) showed that transformational leadership can provide the right kind of environment and encouragement required for knowledge management success. There is substantial evidence indicating that leadership plays an important role in knowledge management's overall success within organizations (Akram et al., 2019; Rao Jada et al., 2019; Singh et al., 2019) Shahnawaz, M & Halil, Z ,(2020),.

Lakshman (2007) points out that from all perspectives on leadership – such as the trait approach, behavioral approach, contingency approach, transformational approach and charismatic approach –leadership can be viewed as impacting knowledge management within organizations. Similarly, social exchange theory suggests that how these managers interact and set the stage related to knowledge management can impact its success (Kulkarni et al., 2006). Leaders supportive of knowledge management can facilitate the structural, relational and cognitive aspects necessary not only for promoting knowledge sharing but also for broader knowledge management success within organizations (Jiang and Chen, 2018).

- The leader must reinforce the vision and strategies of knowledge management that must be consistent with the overall goals of the organization;
- The leader is responsible for the allocation of financial resources ensuring the improvement of processes, products, and services:
- The leader is responsible for the allocation of financial resources to ensure the improvement of processes, products,

and services; - The leader is responsible for setting up a policy

The various theoretical arguments and empirical studies presented previously allowing us to deduce the first hypothesis:

H1" The Management's leadership positively moderates the relationship between knowledge management implementation and organizational performance of Abdelmalek Essaadi University from the point of view of research teachers".

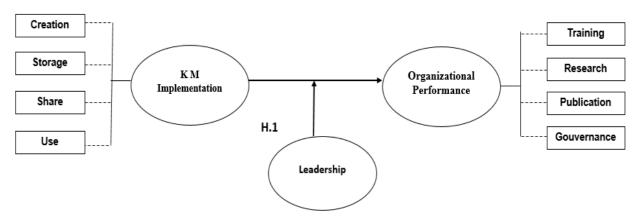


Figure 1: The Research Conceptual Framework

III. METHODS

3.1The sample of our study

We administered a questionnaire to a representative sample of 88 teacher-researchers from the various institutions of Abdelmalek Essadi University, the survey was done between September and October 2020.

3.2 Our Data Collection Tool

3.2.1 Content validity

In order to ensure the content validity of our questionnaire, we followed the steps below: First, we conducted extensive research on the topic and then specified the structure of the field under study. Then we consulted specialists in the field of knowledge management and management control, primarily.

3.2.2 Analysis of questionnaire reliability

To address the issue of the reliability of the questions asked in a test, we calculated Cronbach's alpha coefficient. The table below shows the value of the coefficient for all chapters of our research using SPSS software:

Table 1: questionnaire reliability

Study Variables	Chapter	Cronbach's α
Knowledge management	1-15	0.957
Management's leadership	16-20	0.815
Organizational performance	21-25	0,973

From the data in the table above we notice that the value of Cronbach's alpha for all chapters in our research is between 0.815 and 0.973.

For the independent variable the value of alpha = 0.957 while for the dependent variable alpha = 0.973 and 0.815 for Management's leadership.

Therefore, these values are well above 0.7 which confirms the internal consistency and reliability of our questionnaire.

IV. RESULTS ANS DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Descriptive statistics

4.1.1 Management's leadership

For the present research, we were interested in measuring the degree of application of knowledge management (creation - storage - sharing - use). For this we proceeded to the calculation of the averages, the standard deviations of the value of T Student as shown in the following table:

Overall average

Management's leadership		S.D	Level
university administration presented by these leaders can influence teachers	2,54	0,99	Medium
The university administration integrates staff members at all levels in the construction of decisions.	2,18	0,83	Low
The university administration encourages teachers to present their ideas and proposals.	2,19	0,83	Low
University administration practices Justice in incentives and rewards among teachers.	2,09	0,79	Low
The administration provides teachers with opportunities for continuous learning and development.	1,72	0,86	Low

Table 2: Descriptive results for Management's leadership

The T value in the table = 1.96, with a significance level α = 0.05, and a mean level between (2.34 and 3.67) According to the above results, we notice that the style of leadership of the management present at the level of different institutions of Abdelmalek Essaadi University does not promote the initiatives for knowledge management implementation.

2,14

0,65

Low

4.2 Hypothesis Testing:

This section has a main objective, to test the moderating effect of the Management's leadership using hierarchical multiple regression.

The dependent variable	The independent	First model		Second model		Third model				
	variable	Beta	T	Sig	Beta	T	Sig	Beta	T	Sig
Organizational performance Knowledge management leadership Knowledge management * leadership R		0.878	17.012	0.000						
	0				0.451	4.687	0.00			
	Knowledge							0.151		
	management									
	* leadership									
	0.917			0.451		0.953				
	\mathbb{R}^2		0.771			0.203		0.871		
	ΔR^2		0.771			0,203		0.036		
	ΔF		289.400			21,964		8.062		
	Δ Sig		0.000			0.000		0.006		

Table 3: Hierarchical regression moderation analysis

The T value in the table = 1.96, with a significance level $\alpha = 0.05$, and a mean level between (2.34 and 3.67)

Table: 3 showing the results of hierarchical multiple regression, For the first model the value of the correlation coefficient R=0.917 implies a statistically significant relationship between knowledge management and organizational performance at the level of the different institutions of Abdelmalek Essaadi University. also note that the value of F=289 showing a positive and significant effect of knowledge management on organizational performance at a level of significance $\alpha=0.05$, in the same sense the value of the coefficient of determination $R^2=0.771$ explains that 77.1% of the variation in organizational performance at the different institutions of the University Abdelmalek Essaadi according to teacher's researchers is due to the application of knowledge management. Also, the value of Beta = 0.878 predicts the variation of organizational performance of 0.878 when there will be an increase in the application of knowledge management by one degree at the level of Abdelmalek Essaadi University from the point of view of research teachers.

Regarding the results of the second model that relates the organizational performance with the management's leadership of each institution we sign:

First that the value of the correlation coefficient R=0.451 implies a statistically significant relationship between the leadership of the management and organizational performance at the level of the different institutions of Abdelmalek Essaadi University. also note that the value of F=21.964 showing a positive and significant effect of

the leadership of the management on organizational performance at a level of significance α less than 0.00, in the same direction the value of the coefficient of determination $R^2=0.203$ explains that 20.3% of the variation in organizational performance at the level of different institutions of Abdelmalek Essaadi University according to teacher's researchers is due to the leadership of the management. also, the value of Beta = 0.451 allows us to predict the variation in organizational performance of 0.451 when there will be an increase in the leadership of the management of a degree at the level of Abdelmalek Essaadi University from the point of view of teacher's researchers.

About the third model, we entered management leadership as the third variable by examining its moderating role on the relationship between knowledge management and organizational performance we noticed a slight increase of 3.6% so that the correlation coefficient will be R=0.953, and this increase and statistically significant with a T=2.83 greater than 1.96 with a significance level ≤ 0.05 showing a value of 0.006 on the table.

This confirms the positive moderating role of management leadership on the relationship between knowledge management and organizational performance at the level of different institutions of Abdelmalek Essaadi University from the point of view of research teachers, with a degree of impact of 3.6% confirming the hypothesis of this article.

4.3 Discussion

The results collected using the hierarchical multiple regression prove the validity of our hypothesis on the presence of a positive moderating role of leadership on the relationship between K.M implementation and organizational performance of Abdelmalek Essaadi University from the point of view of teacher's researchers.

These results coincide with the results obtained by other researchers including the study of (Parent, 2019), concluded on the positive link between strategic leadership and organizational performance of the three dance schools in Quebec.

Also the work of (Subram et al 2018) which showed the existence of a strong positive and statistically significant link between the development of leadership practices and organizational performance via human capital through 1000 organizations in India.

And the work of (Tang, 2012) on 300 Chinese companies in the city of SHANGAI, the results of this study showed a positive correlation between the leadership style and the performance of project teams and subsequently the performance of the organization.

these results coincide with the findings of the study conducted by Donate and Sanchez De Pablo (2015) which found that knowledge-oriented leadership positively affected knowledge management's success. Similarly, Akram et al. (2019) showed that empowering leadership enhanced the relationship between various knowledge management practices, contributing to knowledge management success.

Also, Jiang and Chen (2018) showed that transformational leadership can provide the right kind of environment and encouragement required for knowledge management success. There is substantial evidence indicating that leadership plays an important role in knowledge management's overall success within organizations (Akram et al., 2019; Rao Jada et al., 2019; Singh et al., 2019; Shahnawaz, M & Halil, Z, 2020; Boussenna, 2021).

On the other hand, our results disagree with the results obtained by (Al Talbani et al, 2015) that records a high level of presence of factors (culture, structure, leadership, and ICT) facilitating the application of knowledge management at the level of all universities in the Gaza Strip in Palestine from the point of view of 241 participants between administrators and teachers.

This results leads the university leaders to provide more effort to improve the quality of management Leadership in Abdelmalek Essaadi University through:

- The integration of teachers at all levels in the construction of decisions.
- The encouragement of teacher-researchers to present their ideas and proposals.
- The practice of fairness in incentives and rewards among faculty researchers.

4.3.1Test of the theoretical model

Using hierarchical multiple regression, we were able to show that the management leadership has a positive and moderating role on the relationship between knowledge management and organizational performance of the university of question.

The figure below presents the results confirming the positive relationship between our variables (Pearson's correlation coefficient is greater than 0.5 for all relationships between variables). This validates both hypotheses of this research and proves the validity of our hypothetical research model:

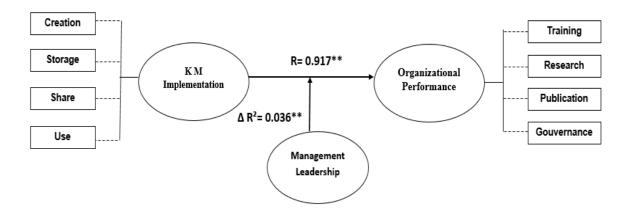


Figure 2: Test The Research Conceptual Framework

V. CONCLUSION

This research explored the knowledge management in Moroccan higher educational institutions through Abdelmalek Essaadi University, and the examination of the moderating role of leadership on the intensity of relationship between KM implementation and the organizational performance from the point of view of teacher-researchers of Abdelmalek Essaadi University, which remains consistent with our previous similar studies (Boussenna, &El Kharraz, 2021, a, b).

One of the main theoretical contributions of our research lies in the fact that we relied on a multidisciplinary theoretical framework mobilizing theories from different disciplines, namely the Knowledge Based View (KBV), which proposes to introduce a new vision of the firm. These theories allowed us to highlight the link between knowledge management and organizational performance. and the approach of key success factors, linking the success of the application of knowledge management to organizational, technical and human factors encompassed in (management leadership). Better still, our approach to the problem was strongly anchored in this theoretical corpus, by trying to orient our reflection both theoretically and empirically, by situating it in this conceptual framework.

while, The empirical phase of our work used a quantitative approach, an approach that is increasingly developed in management sciences and precisely the study of higher educational institutions.

Additionally, an increase in the size of our samples per establishment could perhaps better explain the influence of knowledge management for each establishment. As well, the choice of a single region (Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima) in this article pushes us to expand our field of work for future work to cover the national territory in its entirety.

Moreover, it should be noted that this research has important implications for the leaders of Moroccan universities. The confirmation of the hypotheses of our work reminds us that each university must clearly define its strategy based on better knowledge management as a cornerstone of any action aiming at excellence and organizational performance, and consequently the improvement of its competitiveness at the international level.

Finally, our research constitutes a line of thought for researchers wishing to strengthen research related to knowledge management in the university environment and especially in Morocco.

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