

Abstract

The study in “Knowledge Management of Households with the Occupation in Local Handicraft through the specific case study of Bang Chao Cha’s community organization of bamboo products wickerwork has its goals to study the process of knowledge management of the households with the occupation in local handicraft, and the factors affecting capacity in knowledge management of households with the occupation in local handicraft. The study is preceded in qualitative approach with the population samples especially taken through purposive selection method from the households with wickerwork skills at very good, good, and fairly good levels.

The data is collected and compiled by the researcher himself with the focus on interview in both formal and informal forms, focus group discussion, observation, and participative observation, in every step of wickerwork knowledge management process. The results of the study have revealed that:

1. Process of knowledge management of the households with workmanship skill at very good level starts with the review of knowledge base they possess, and try to identify additional knowledge they need and write them in a notebook. Whenever, an opportunity opens, they proceed to gain the knowledge they anticipated by making inquiries, reading from a book, or observation etc. Then, they bring the acquired information into learning by experiment in the real practice by themselves, until they are satisfied with the results. The knowledge are subsequently transferred through demonstration, and have the members follow the demonstrated examples at the same time, so that the members will apply the knowledge for use in development of products to collectively meet the needs of purchase from the markets of target group.

2. Process of knowledge management of the households with workmanship skill at very good level starts with the persons who engage in the occupation take experiment with an attempt to find a method that can manage to solve the problem. They consider about the cause and effect of the problem, together with the possibility. Once they get an idea of conclusion, they venture to the experiment. As the experiment takes place, they think and test concurrently. When the result of thinking and testing can successfully solve the problem, they, eventually carry on with the approach of their findings for further extension.

3. Process of knowledge management of the households with workmanship skill at very good level in Bang Chao Cha's community organization of bamboo products wickerwork incurs no mobilization for knowledge management process to proceed continuously, because it simply depends on the knowledge base transferred from ancestors.

The process of knowledge management at the three levels of workmanship can be concluded that households of the occupation can enhance their level of knowledge from the former households with fairly good level of workmanship to good level and to very good level eventually, because every member of the households get involved in pushing the process of occupational knowledge management to achieve continuity through interaction for constant exchange of knowledge. The more variety of latent knowledge abides in the household, the more influence it has on the households of the occupation to have an increased capacity in mobilization for the process of occupational knowledge management to continuously respond to the needs of purchase from the markets of the target group that keep changing all the times.

Meanwhile, the results of the study on part of the factors affecting the capacity of household's management of occupational knowledge in local handicraft of wickerwork have shown that this is the consequence of relatives and kindred relationship system within the sub-groups or between sub-groups, which is a mechanism that connects the households of common occupation to exchange knowledge and share information with mutual care in a trustful manner. It is also affected by the enthusiasm in learning of the persons who engage in that occupation, and, most importantly, the ideal or value of the persons in living based on the self-sufficiency economy adhered firmly from the past.

Through the results of the study, it has concluded that if the wisdom in local handicraft of the community organization in bamboo products wickerwork is required to generate more income, the study should be focused on capacity of the community organization in minimizing dependency of the marketing mechanism system, along with the study of other community organizations that promote rehabilitation of local wisdom for occupational purpose to see how they deal with the process of knowledge management under the changing situations and contexts of the community.