

**A STUDY ON STATUS OF DIARY KEEPING IN KNOWLEDGE CREATION
PROCESS BY WOMEN FARMERS IN SABON GARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
KADUNA STATE-NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The study was conducted to find out the status of diary keeping in knowledge creation process by women farmers in Sabon–Gari Local Government Area. To achieve the objective of the study three objectives were formulated with respect to the understanding of the types of diaries exposed to women farmers in the local government area, the types of media used by women farmers in conducting diary and the types of information captured by the women farmers in their diaries. . The research methodology adopted was quantitative with survey research design approach for data collection for the study. The universe of the study comprised of all the women farmers in Sabon–Gari local government area, which according to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Local Government there are 709 registered women farmers in the area. Using purposive sampling techniques the sample size of 178(25%) of the women farmers was used for data collection. Questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection, and the data collected were quantified and analyzed using frequency counts, percentages and discussion. Findings from the analysis revealed that the women farmers in the local government are keeping diary for documenting of their ideas, experiences and thought about their farming business as their knowledge base. The study indicated that the women farmers of the area are using paper base method (paper book) as the media in which they document and preserved their knowledge. The study recommends among others, that the Kaduna State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development should encourage and support training of information communication technologies for women farmers, in order to ease and enhanced their diary keeping method in the process of generating and transfer of knowledge among themselves.

Key words: *Diary keeping, Knowledge Creation, women farmers, Information*

Introduction

The status of diary keeping in knowledge creation process is one of the tools and platforms that is concern with the transformation of ways and manner we work or interact among ourselves, by managing the knowledge and information we generated our acquired in the process of our daily activities within any given phenomenon. However, this study is all about showcasing the capability of diary keeping in knowledge management for women farmers to improvement on their knowledge base for the development of their business towards food security, self-reliance, and income generation. It has been observed that women farmers have accumulated a lot of ideas, experience, and know-how in their agricultural activities, as

agricultural knowledge, is always needed as a guide for decision- making and know - how as skill in their farming activities. This type of knowledge is considered as strategic resource to the performance of all type of businesses both at individual and organizational levels. It has become worthwhile for the women farmers to manage their knowledge base by providing access, transfer, use and re-use of the knowledge they obtained from the right source, experience and competences they encountered in their farming life.

Agriculture plays an important role towards sustainability of developing nation's economy, most especially Nigeria by providing food security, healthy nation and provision of abundant materials require by industry. Women in agriculture are regarded as the driving force for agricultural productivity and providers of large proportion of labour in rural agricultural communities, from subsistence to commercial farming (Lawal, 2022).

Generally, women farmers are considered the backbone of the society and essential factor in agriculture and rural economy. They are making essentials contributions to the agricultural development and allied agricultural activities and as well performing in all household welfare activities and other livelihood activities within their respective families. Information is an essential part of everyone's daily activities, it is the basic management tool for national planning, vital to research and also an essential tool for socio – economic development and progress of a country and as well its citizens. For that information is the pre-requisite for man in every endeavor, circumstances and situation he happens to find himself in. At the same time, it is man that produces information as knowledge out of his previous knowledge, experience, ideas and skills, the information and knowledge generated are great for storage, access, retrieval, utilization and as well for creation of new knowledge. Sani (2014) agricultural information is that information related to production, productivity, profit enhancement, information on commodity price, food quality, farm management, fertilizer etc. In a nutshell agricultural information consist information on agriculture, scientific information, commercial and legal information. Over the years women farmers in Nigeria and in most of the developing countries in Africa are part and parcel of the substantial contributors to the development of agriculture towards food security and self- reliance as contained in the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria.

Women are playing significant role in agricultural production; the role played by women in agriculture is conspicuous in both farming and marketing agricultural produce in rural economy in Africa, (United Nations Women, 2014). In their assertion, Akokuwebe, Musan, and Odularu, (2021) according to 2006 census 50% of the 185million estimated population in Nigeria are women and they involved in different ways of food processing and selling agricultural commodities. They are also supervisors of all types of livestock farming, cultivation that feeds their immediate family alone. However, women in all societies possess the capability for increasing agricultural productivity and development of their immediate family an as well the society in general. Food and Agriculture Organization (2011) women are making essential contributions to the agricultural and rural economic in all developing countries. Their roles vary considerably between and within regions and are changing rapidly in many parts of the world, where economic and social forces are transforming the agricultural sector. As the women farmers involved in managing multiple livelihood strategies and complex household activities, equally through these activities, they are generating a lot of experiences, ideas, skills and knowledge through which they depend upon in carrying out of their activities.

Statement of Problem

Diary is one of the activities of knowledge creation process through which tacit knowledge that resides in the individuals mind is captured, documented and shared as the individual knowledge or that of an organization as strategic resource. Over the years women farmers in Sabon Local Government have engaged in food production of different crops for food security and self- reliance. Consciously or others, these women have acquired and generated a lot of ideas, experiences and thought out of their farming practicing, which have assisted them in one way or the other in facilitating their business and become what they are.

Conspicuously, the vast agricultural knowledge acquired and generated by the women farmers is great for taking right decision- making and adoption for better farming systems and skills that would lead to improvement in the farming activities and development of food production. But, unfortunately is remained unknown with women farmers in Sabon Gari Local Government as with what media, and how are they documenting their ideas, experiences and thought which they generated out of their profession as knowledge for use in the development of their profession.

Objective of the Study

1. To know the types of diaries exposed to Women Farmers in Diary Keeping in Sabon – Gari Local Government Area.
2. To find out the types of media used by Women farmers in conducting diary in Sabon – Gari Local Government Area.
3. To find out the types of information captured in diary keeping by Women Farmers in Sabon –Gari Local Government Area.

Review of Related Literature

Documentation and Women Farmers

Documentation in this perspective is an art or techniques to be employed by women farmers as a means of protecting their vast experience and ideas as knowledge base in the process of their agricultural activities. Documentation is beyond just preservation of knowledge rather it is a process of making knowledge easily available to the women farmers themselves, their community members and the general readership for research and development. However, documentation is the ability for someone to describe, explain or instruct some attributes of an object, system or procedure. It is a form of knowledge, which can be provided on paper, on-line or on digital or analog media such as tape or CDs (Wikipedia, free Encyclopedia, 2022).

This activity is of great concern to the field of library and information science for its support, facilitation and promotion of information as knowledge for the community or society. It remains unknown with the women farmers, who are the number two producers of food to nation, on how they are managing their knowledge, experience and ideas gained out of their agricultural activities. Documentation by women farmers refers to the sense of ability of keeping record of their activities, as information which becomes a useful resource for its creators and for other interested professionals in the similar activities.

Status of Diary Keeping in Knowledge Creation Process

Diary is one of the media that records information as knowledge, a tool for capturing phenomena of interest on regular basis within context and over time by individual at personal

level and or at organizational or institutional levels for research. Diary keeping practice is not a new activity within the framework of knowledge management; it has a long history in many literate societies of the world, Africa and Nigeria in particular. This activity appears to have been forgotten, neglected or not known among some groups in the literate and social systems societies. Diary is known as a document or file, pieces of paper containing a hand written information; it could be a sequential set of notes, about what one is thinking, doing, feeling and perceiving within the phenomenon at a particular environment and moment. Yadeta, (2020) diary is a document or file that is used to keep accounts of different activities, events and materials regarding operations by individuals and organizations. Diary could also be a book with separate space or pages for each day, in which future arrangements such as meetings, travels, activities, ceremonies and other events in life are written down. Diary is one of the media that captures information at its basic source, which is considered to be reliable and authentic, diary is a record of originality in hand written format with discrete entries arranged by date reporting on what has happened over the course of a day or other period. Hyres (2018) using diary techniques is useful where accuracy about an individual's experiences, practices, habit, actions etc. are important to be determined. Diaries are established techniques and purposefully for gathering structured data on how often a particular activity or events occurs over a define period of time. The status of diary in knowledge creation can never be overemphasized as diary by its types can be implored in data gathering in any type of research. In the process of diary keeping in knowledge creation information or data can be captured through the use of paper based handwritten, video recording, audio and photo graphing. Bertlett, Ruth and Milligan (2022) asserted that video diaries are capable of producing moving images as well as spoken words that need to be sifted through coded. The photo diary obviously produces images which are meaningful to the purpose of concern. An audio diary produces significant amounts of monologue and often background sounds which may be or not important to decipher.

Diaries in knowledge creation are method used to collect data at daily level or several times in a day base on the purpose to which the data and circumstances of the needed data. Diaries are used in data collection in researches and as well as for keeping and obtaining accurate, reliable relevant information for individuals, organizations and it is used for means for pedagogical studies in education. Ohly at el (2010) diary method of data collection allow collection of data from every field of knowledge and profession either at personal level for an individual, or at organization. The view point here is that diaries are collecting data on thoughts, feelings, and behavior within natural work context and as well as characteristics of the work situation which may fluctuate on daily basis.

Diaries in knowledge creation most especially in social science research is that diaries are epistemological and relates to facilitating access to knowledge of phenomena, process, groups that are difficult or impossible to investigate. This can be interpretation of sensitive meanings ascribed by individual to personal life issues related to love, divinity, legality, difficult illness, failure e.t.c (Oncea, 2013).

Diaries are considered research tools that can be employed in either at personal level for an individual, or in education, or in service oriented organizations, or production industries. Diaries used to be narrative, and in the process of research they are used as respondents that used to provide response to the research questions, as they track the participants' daily activities and

experience on a given phenomenon. By capturing and documenting the immediate changes of workers attitudes, behaviors and experiences in the process of working context.

Case and Given (2016) submit that diaries are used as they are always trying to use sampling of time in the lives of individual to overcome part of artificiality problems associated to with research questionnaires, interview and other retrospective method of data collection. Cisek and Krakowaska (2019) opined that diaries as research tools offer multi – dimensional perspectives in generating participants, qualitative content, frequently of private nature. In research process diaries are going with variations in data collection as some diaries at greater or lesser extent, pre-structured meaning that the respondents are expected provide in data collection. Based on this study, it can be submitted that the most widely used diaries are those purposively used for research in education, organizational research and personal diaries. By and large, diaries of all types are research tools, and source of quality data about certain aspects of individuals' in their private life, means of education, transmission of values, skills and know- how of those involved in its management, at individual and organizational levels. Bolger, Davis and Rafaeli (2003) diaries are class of methods, such experience – sampling, event – sampling and studies which differ in their ways of data collection. Based on the above discussion there are different types of diaries that can be used purposely for personal needs and research that covered different areas of human endeavor. Penzu (2022) there are different types of diaries where one can reflect his professional life and personal by writing about his experience in life. Diaries could be classified by their types as academic diaries, food diaries, health diaries, school diaries, weeding diaries, work diaries, secret diaries etc. Diaries in their basic form could be further classified into major formats, research and personal diaries that could be undertaken both personal and organizational levels within any area of human endeavor. Diaries of any type or content can served as means of data collection most especially in documentary and scientific researches.

Knowledge Creation Process

In attempt to appreciate status of diary keeping in the activities of knowledge creation it is worthwhile to consider four basic components as related to knowledge creation. These four components are considered as the first steps of knowledge creation process, which are built upon the understanding of tacit and explicit knowledge. As postulated by Hajric (2018) they are:

- Knowledge creation
- Knowledge Retention
- Knowledge Retrieval and,
- Utilization

Knowledge creation

Knowledge creation contributes a lot to both individuals and organizations; it is an activity that can never be possible without the existence of one person or group of people who will come up with the new ideas, innovations, concepts or theories. Knowledge creation and conversion is based on two dimensions, only individuals create knowledge and secondly, interaction between explicit and tacit knowledge are the core mechanisms in the knowledge creation process. Interaction between different formats has to be made fluid in form of information in order for it to be refined and retained again as knowledge (Ceptureanu and Ceptureanu, 2010).

Poonkhai, (2016) tacit knowledge is personal, undocumented; context – sensitive, dynamically – created and derived internalized and experience – based; resides in human –mind,

behavior and perception. This type of knowledge is embedded in people's heads rather than written down in a document or recorded database, it consist of skills or abilities (know-how) that someone possesses as a result of intuition and in relation to the contextual information in the environment where someone happens to find himself.

Knowledge in its entity can be clearly stated as the resultant expertise that accumulates and builds up as persons continues to interact, use, practice and experiment with information (Fotache,2013). Martin (2006) concluded that knowledge is gained from formal and informal instructions, memories, stories, personal contacts and relationship, books read or written, notes, documents, and photographs of us or by us, etc. The knowledge creation here in this study is considering the use of diaries as tools for capturing, recording or documenting tacit knowledge residing in the individuals either at personal or organizational levels. By this the contextual information emerges, which refers to what man knows (know-what), which has been textually recorded (published or unpublished) as creating or converting of knowledge process.

Parent and Galuipe (2006) this is what is referred to the development of new ideas that reflect a significant elaboration or enrichment (sharing) of the existing knowledge which is possible through so many ways e.g. research, projects, seminars, experiments, conferences and workshops

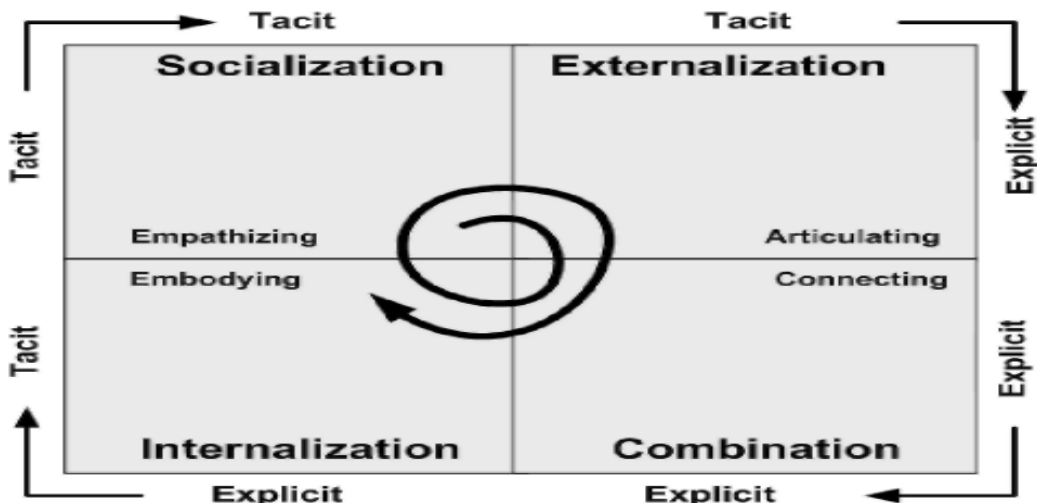
Socialization of knowledge: This is a process where tacit knowledge of individuals is converted or transferred into tacit knowledge (tacit to tacit) in the process of meetings, discussions, seminars etc., which could be externalized by connecting to the relevant people base on their fields of profession or subject disciplines. In return such knowledge passed will be put into practice or for further investigation that could yield further understanding on the phenomena on question.

Externalization of knowledge: This is a process where and when tacit knowledge is transformed into explicit form and outlined the knowledge into ideas, images in words, metaphors, analogies, theories, concepts, or models, and in textual format. Knowledge transformation here could be either from organizational level or from individual entity and however, externalization of knowledge here could be regarded as the extension of tacit to tacit knowledge, in the knowledge creation process. With the externalization of knowledge one would at best appreciate the wisdom behind recording and documentation of one's own feelings, perceptions, observations, thoughts, issues, experience, events, etc. in the realm of knowledge production.

Internalization: Internalization of knowledge takes place in the teaching and learning environment or when performing a specific task with the aid of explicit knowledge available. This is the situation where explicit knowledge is understood and absorbed into tacit knowledge.

Combination: Is the process where explicit knowledge is converted to explicit knowledge. This is possible by combining different bodies of the explicit knowledge into another explicit knowledge by means of using technology, where documents can be transferred through emails, databases and as well through meetings and briefings, etc.

The diagram below shows the spiral connection of the four processes of knowledge creation/conversion.



Source: Nonaka and Takeuchi (1995) SECI

In summary, knowledge creation or conversion as proposed by Nonaka and Takeuchi (1995) socialization is converting tacit knowledge by face to face (tacit to tacit) communication or shared of experience. Externalization is converting the tacit knowledge to explicit knowledge by developing concepts to embed the combined tacit knowledge. Internalization is converting the explicit to tacit knowledge and combination is converting explicit knowledge to explicit knowledge. In the knowledge conversion processes interaction among the four process is a continuous process and in spiral shape for continuous knowledge creation.

Methodology

A quantitative research method was adopted for study and survey research design approach is used in the process of understanding the status of diary keeping in the knowledge creation process by the women farmers in Sabon Gari Local Government Area of Kaduna State. The choice of survey research is informed as the method involves a systematic and comprehensive collection of information about the opinions, attitudes, feelings, beliefs and behavior of people (Aina and Ajiferuke, 2002). The universe of this study is represented by all Women Farmers in Sabon Gari Local Government Area. According to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Local Government (2022) there are seven hundred and nine (709) registered women farmers across the Local Government Area. For the purpose of this study, purposive sampling was used by selecting fifty percent (25%) of the population of the study, which is one hundred and seventy eight (178).

Report on the findings of the study

Type of Diaries exposed to Women Farmers in Sabon - Gari Local Government Area

In this section, the study is with the objective of understanding the types of diaries exposed to Women Farmers in diary keeping. Table 1 below presented the response of the respondents on the objective of the study.

Table 1: Types of Diaries Exposed to Women Farmers

S/N.	Type of Diaries	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	Work Diaries	96	53.9
2.	Health Diaries	35	19.6
3.	Academic Diaries	22	12.0
4.	Food Diaries	16	8.6
5.	Secret Diaries	9	5.9
6.	Total	178	100

Table 1 provides different types of diaries exposed by the women farmers in Sabon Gari Local Government Area. The study shows that 96 (53.9%) of the women in Sabon Gari Local Government are exposed to work diaries as a means of documenting their experiences, feelings, thought etc., 35(19.6%) of the women farmers in the Local Government are exposed to health diaries. The finding further shows that 22 (12.0%) of the women farmers are exposed to academic diaries, while 16 (8.6%) are exposed to food diaries and the least is secret diaries with 9(5.9%) women farmers. This finding is in line with the assertion made by Adedapo and Adekunmu (2019) in which they revealed that regular and efficient of information keeping and other related records by farmers is a central indicator of modern agricultural practice and development of the sector.

Types of Media used in conducting Diaries by Women Farmers in Sabon–Gari Local Government Area

In this section, the objective of the study is to find out the types of media used in conducting Diaries by Women Farmers in Sabon–Gari Area.

Table 2: Types of Media used by Women Farmers in conducting their diaries

S/N.	Types of Media	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	Paper Base (Handwritten)	128	71.9
2.	Video	27	15.2
3.	Audio	0	0
4.	Photograph	23	12.9
5.	Total	178	100

Table 2 provides types of media used by women farmers in capturing their ideas, experience, feelings, thoughts etc. as their knowledge base. The study revealed that 128 (71.0%) women farmers in Sabon-Gari Local Government Area are using paper-base (handwritten) in conducting their diary, 27(15.2%) are using video as the media in which they captured and keep their thoughts etc. While 23 (12.9%) of women are using photograph as the medium for their diaries after snapshot. The implication of this finding is that women farmers in the area are traditionally using paper, pencil or biro in capturing and keeping their thoughts etc., as diary.

Types of Information Captured by Women Farmers Diary keeping in Sabon-Gari Local Government Area.

In this section, the objective of the study is to find out the types of information captured in diary keeping by Women Farmers in Sabon-Gari Local Government Area.

table 3: Types of information captured by women farmers by using diary

S/N	Types of information	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	Agricultural Information	73	41.0
2.	Commercial and Marketing Information	43	24.3
3.	Security and Legal Information	36	14.6
4.	Information on Fertilizer	21	11.7
5.	Personal Information	15	8.4
6.	Total	178	100

Table 3 provides types of information captured by women farmers in their diaries. The study revealed that 73 (41.0%) of the women farmers in Sabon-Gari Local Government Area are agricultural information, the information type that is related to their farming business. The study shows that 43(24%) women farmers are documenting commercial information and marketing, 36 (14.6%) of the women farmers go for security and legal information, as it relate to their farming business. While 21(11%) of women farmers are for information of fertilizer. While 15(8.4%) of the women farmers are documenting their personal information. These findings corroborates with the assertion made by Arzeno (2004) that farmers are concerned with variety of information that related to their farming business, farmers keep information about their farming activities for various purposes; for validating their business, provision of figures for planning and for future references, etc.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study has shown that the women farmers in Sabon–Gari Local Government Area are keeping diary for documenting their vast experiences, ideas and thought they acquired from different aspects of their farming activities. Diary of any type is considered a tool or method of data collection which could be used in the organizations, institutions of learning, and at personal level by individuals. Diaries allowed gathering information that serves as a guide, keeping track of various activities and making assessment of activities towards success, progress and to avoid risk or failure. Diary keeping by women farmers in Sabon- Gari Local Government allowed them to captured different ideas; experience out of their farming practices as a tool that would allow them to reflect on their business for adjustment and assessment. More often than not, diaries are considered as tools that can identify the strengths and weakness of a business, a good means of evaluation and planning. Based on the findings of the, the study recommends that since the women farmers in Sabon-Gari Local Government are keeping diary for their farming activities, encouragement and support should be given by the State Ministry of Agricultural and Rural development for training women farmers on the use of information and communication technologies to eased and enhanced their diary keeping methods, generation of and transfer of agricultural knowledge. Also, the Agricultural extension Personnel in the state and local level, should encourage and support knowledge sharing among the various community of women farmers from the experience, ideas and thought they have in different aspects of farming activities, with the objective of improving their farming business. And, the stakeholders in agriculture and information science should set a goal for sensitizing women farmers on the importance preservation and management of their knowledge base in the course of diary keeping of their ideas, experience and thought.

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