THE PLACE OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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KEYWORD:

Library,

development,

socio-economic,

national development

ABSTRACT

The Nigeria national policy on education (revised 1981) has clearly spelt out five main objectives of teacher education in Nigeria. Among these are producing highly motivated, competent teachers who are professionally intellectual and emotionally sound for their assignment to adequately equip the teachers in the face of the changing needs of society and the pupils. Library services are of paramount importance in the teacher training activities. Libraries are also essential and indispensable social institutions in any modern society can be exploited in order to accelerate national development because a well-structured national development plan needs a reasonably articulate library system and an active academic community to nurture it to success. The libraries form the most comprehensive source of knowledge and information. In the college, the library is indefensible and serves as one of the data banks for the advancement of learning and scholarship. Having realised that the issue of national development is very high and the library constitutes one of the powerful instruments that can bring about much desired social, political, economic, religious, and educational development.

Introduction

The library is frequently referred to as the heart of an institution, the mind of a society, the only effective repository of knowledge, the racial memory, a living depository of cultural past, a sustainer of the intellectual activities that anticipate the future, and so on. In principle, the mission of all types of libraries, such as academic, public, school, special, research, and national as well as related information centres, is to carry out information management responsibilities in the areas of acquisition, organisation, preservation, and dissemination of information to users. And users are expected to utilise the information resources to satisfy their information needs. Academic libraries are libraries in higher institutions of learning (Wright, 2015). They are varied and distinctive as the institutions they serve. These include college libraries, polytechnic libraries, and university libraries. Academic libraries are a place where students, lecturers, and researchers can seek information needed for their academic pursuits, which is the ultimate goal of education (Oti, 2020). The basic function of academic libraries is to aid the academic and research programs by acquiring and making available books, other materials, and services needed.

We are living in the days of change caused by explosion of knowledge, skills ideas and advancement in science and technology. To keep abreast of these events and happenings, there is the need for adjusting, modifying or radically transforming our social institutions to provide for new set of behaviour. The place of library service in equipping and changing the people for effective and efficient citizenship through the provision of relevant and up-to-date information. The Nigeria national policy on education (revised in 1981), section 10, paragraph 83 (9) p.4.43 describes the libraries as the most important educational services. Every state ministry needs to provide funds for the establishment of libraries in all our educational institutions and to train librarians and library assistants for the service"

The word "development" has hitherto mocked efforts at a concise and generally acceptable definition. This has resulted in a myriad of definitions by scholars. While some scholars see development as normative and synonymous with progress, others regard it as multidimensional, involving changes in structures, capacity, and output. Still others view development in terms of the growth and mastery of the natural environment by man. Thus, the development of any society today has come to be measured by its military, socio-economic, political, and technological advancement. For instance, Mimiko (2018) is of the opinion that development is a process implying deep and double changes in social structure in the functioning of institutions and in the cultural values of great masses of people. Aremu (2013) sees development as a process of enhancing the productive forces of a country for the actualization of more prosperous and meaningful life for all its citizens. Thus, development emphasizes growth or advancement, with a positive cultural and

socio-economic tendency towards a self-generating and self-perpetuating utilisation of people's potentials

To further show the importance of library services even the developed nations. The British Universities Grants Commission once asserted that the character and efficiency of a university may be gauged by its treatment of its central organ. The library" Thomson (1970) from the above assertions. Academic libraries like those in the colleges, polytechnics and universities are viewed as the nerve centres of institutions in fulfilling their obligations in teaching. Libraries could only provide useful services when they provide relevant and up-to-date materials for effective classroom instruction.

Furthermore, since no education system can rise above the quality of its teachers," NPE National Policy on Education (Reviewed 1981) the place of library in equipping the Nigerian teacher with the relevant, functional and up-to-date knowledge, skills and ideas to uplift the educational standard, as asserted Fafunwa2019 cannot be underestimated.

If the African teacher is to cope adequately with the monumental task that lies ahead of him he has to be well trained for his job he must be willing to enter into the spirit of the new African age. Willing to share new information and skills with his fellow teachers. Seek more knowledge on his initiative and above all be flexible and willing to experiment and not of failures.

In the present circumstances no academic center of excellence especially those charged with responsibility of teachers training, could accomplish its task without a functional library.

Library Services - According to the new encyclopedia, the word library originates from the Latin word "liber" meaning a book. But in the modern civilisation, the word library has a broadened meaning to include a collection of written, printed, or recorded material such as books, films, photographs, phonograph records, video discs, microfilms, computers, radios as well as instructional materials. In light of this, library service could be defined as the essential help or assistance given to library users/patrons.

In meeting their needs for educational advancement/ development and public school or an organisational setting, the services are associated with the provision of printed, non-printed materials and the use of the relevant and functional educational media in enhancing the teaching- learning activities.

According to Mohammad (2016), a library, when properly equipped and effectively utilised, will serve as the most vital instrument for providing educational opportunity and accessibility for the individual at various levels of our educational system and for all ages. According to Ologbonsaiye (2014), library services could be categorised into the following:

i. Management service
ii. Technical service
iii. Reader service and
iv. Special services

Management Service: - at this level of service provided by the library in any educational institution or organization is associated with the preparation and administration of budget, selection, training and supervision of library staff, planning library development creating and administering policies and regulation maintaining relation with public officials, development and supervision of book collection policies and procedure publishing library resources and services, etc.

Technical Service: under the technical service technical services, acquisition of materials cataloguing, classification binding service, bibliographical checking's filling and photographic reproduction are among the service in the library.

Reader Service: - these are services direct to library users or client. The services may include the provision of relevant materials maintenance and control of book storage and delivery systems. Reference information service to enable users make the best of the service offer in the library.

Special Services: - the specialized services provided by the library include publishing photocopies, lecture on library service organizing workshop and teaching of special library courses e.g. consultancy services.Oti (2000) defined special library as those libraries in big corporations and industries as integral part of their organization. They are to serve the information needs of their parent organization, to enable them achieve their aims and objectives. Special libraries are distinguished by their characteristics, narrow subject interest coverage, and nature of services provided. They provide exhaustive and expeditious service to their users through selective dissemination of information and current awareness services.

The Role of the Library in Teacher Education

The teacher, according to Akinyemi (2019) and Abdulkadir (2018) asserts that;

> *No matter how well our thoughts have been developed:*
> *No matter how realistic we think our objectives are, the success*
> *of any educational programme depends to a great extent on the classroom teacher.*

From the above assertion, the position of the teacher in achieving our national goals cannot be under-scored such as teacher (to be) needs to be properly equipped with the relevant, functional and integrative knowledge skills, ideas and position attitude to face the challenge of the professional job. Therefore, the role of the library in the teacher education become clear in that the library is an informer, a consultant and a place to resort to by individual waxing his way to success and development. As a unit of academic research it encourages new discoveries through consultation and investigation of the available information in the library. Thereby, facilitating national progress, and development. Progress and development will be impossible without creative, imaginative utilization of recorded information.

The Place and Function of College Library

The main objective of setting up any academic library is to meet the educational objective and general programmes of the institution. The importance of the library, therefore both with the educational system and in the community, cannot be over emphasized. This is because it provides timely and useful information, for decision making, policy formulation and execution research and development. Adding that such service are very vital in all sectors of modem society (Fafimwa2013:8) certainly the library in the college is known to be the primary and central vehicle for success to its colleges goals and aspirations. As users are always curious to know and discover how current rich and strong is the Library in the field of their educational attainment arid the general knowledge, the library, in the college is the core of activity and data bank for the advancement of learning scholarship.

Agualu (2019) commenting on the informational role of the library stated that "all libraries are expected to provide an effective information. Ready access to information is indispensable to individual's advancement and national development. The right, information provided when it's needed and where it needed improves the ability of an individual a business a government agency, and some others kinds of organization to make informed decision. The library may provide information to help solve ones immediate practical problem in daily life and work, or to further one continuing, education and understanding of the art, science or humanities in order to enrich one's personnel life. In effect information is sought to gain practical knowledge,' professional knowledge or intellectual knowledge, business organization, needs it to forecast market, develop new product or adopt to new product or adopt to a new technology, just as it is needed by schools to improve and extend the learning process it is needed by research institutions to synthesize new data which known facts as part of creative process and by the governmental authorities to formulate plan and refine decision making and to anticipate and resolve national problems. When information flow stagnates, the society becomes morbid" and motionless virtually every facet of socio-cultural, economic, political and educational endeavours of the society thrives and is sustained by good flow of information".

Eze (2019) pointed out that information is a need comparable with other basic human needs and free flow of information is a right of the people. It enables effective participation of the people in the process of economic and socio-political activities in the society and enhance education, knowledge and learning process.

The college library is a library attached to college. It is categorized as an academic library it is accorded the status of an academic department. The task of the college library therefore is no doubt multifarious considering the complex of the nature of the institution's community, and the variety of learning and research interest. The prime users of the library are staff and students.

Teacher education is a branch in the Nigerian educational system designed for the professional training of those engaged in the business of teaching. It ideals with the teacher education programmes in preparing knowledgeable and competent teachers.

There are in Nigeria today about 70 colleges of education, over 30 faculties, and Institute of Education, and the National Teachers Institute; some polytechnics also have a department of education. Looking at the provisions in the national policy on education (2011), teacher education programmes are expected also to produce highly motivated, conscientious and efficient classroom teachers for all levels of education. In addition, it should enhance teachers' commitment to the teaching profession.

Sustainable Development

Dictionary.com 2013 defined sustainable development as one that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Development is a generic and multidimensional concept. It is also a relative concept depending on the context
and the level of the development implied.

The Role of the Library in Teacher Education

The teachers, according to Akinyemi (2019) are the spark that fixed the whole development process. Abdulkadir (2018) asserts that;

> "No matter how well our objectives are; the success of any educational programme depends to a large extent on the classroom teacher"

The role of the library in teacher education is that the library assists instructional activities by striving to meet the needs of teacher trainers and the trainers in the provision of relevant and functional materials facilitates and other general services.

The Problems of a Teacher-Oriented Library

i. Under-funding: The condition of our teacher education libraries in Nigeria today is very pathetic, and the situation is even compounded where many provosts or chief executives deliberately refuse or fail to release to the college libraries the allocated funds or grants for development.
ii. Increasing cost of books and materials, because some of the books and materials required in our libraries are expensive, especially those to be obtained outside the country. This has left many of our libraries bare of these materials.
iii. Lack of managerial skills and the attitude of librarians, some of our librarians lack managerial skill in the planning, procuring and organizing the material for usage. Some have distance themselves from the service to clients. As a result, many subordinate staff are left unsupervised. Books and other materials are left unshelved or mis shelved after use.
iv. Increasing incidence of pilfering and mutilation of library materials: The

incidence of pilfering and mutilation of books and materials is causing a serious concern in our libraries. Holding the books overdue and the hiding of books from other users are other negative developments.

v. Libraries' cooperation and current awareness in the spirit of austerity times and accidental exploitation: libraries, either public, academic or private, all need to or be self-sufficient in their collections.

Solution or Suggestion

To solve all these problems confronting teachers' education libraries, sufficient funds should be made available to all libraries, while the chief executives of teacher-training institutions should ensure regular release of funds allocated to college libraries.

Donor organizations could come to the rescue of our institution through gift and donation good spirited wealthy individual could assist college to procure books and materials for the libraries.

Inter-library cooperation should be encouraged between one library and another to enable library users/patrons to have access to books and materials from other libraries, to improve the deficiencies of books and materials, while all professional Libraries should be equipped with the necessary managerial skills on library managerial for improved library service. To check all pilferings and mutilations of books adequate surveillance on library patrons should ensure by the library staff in the college. They should establish a good rapport with their patrons with a view to systematically creating good awareness for their available learning materials to be maximally utilised. This should be through, i.e.

i. Displaying the new arrivals' publication
ii. Production of library guides
iii. Preparation of the current content of journals.

Conclusion

The Nigerian teachers should be seen as the heart of her educational system, a major indicator and determinant of the quality of her education, the engine room of the college, which is the college library, is supposed to have adequate attention, since it is a veritable tool for educational excellence designed to act the fulfillment of the institutional goals and objectives. These is no gainsaying of the fact that a student or a certificate teacher is exposed to the abundant materials and books in a well-organized and managed library would benefit immediately, in fulfilling his/her professional obligations to the nation in general and to community in particular with the above facts it can be seen that an effective teacher education cannot survived without a corresponding library service.

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