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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Impact of Current School Library Services on Secondary Schools Education in Delta State of Nigeria

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Abstract

The paper is on impact of current school library services on education in Delta state of Nigeria. The school library is not only integral to and supportive of the school curriculum, but also provides a mechanism for choice and exploration beyond the prescribed course of study. The school library is a place where students may explore more fully classroom subjects that interest them, expand their imagination, delve into areas of personal interest and develop the ability to think clearly, critically creatively about the resource they have chosen to read, hear or view. Descriptive survey design was used. The sampling technique was purposive sampling technique used to select the twelve secondary schools in the senatorial districts. The instruments for collection of data were questionnaire and interview methods. Findings showed that majority of school library services will improve the reading. The school library has an important role to play for the teachers and students in their curriculum development. School libraries in Nigeria have the problems of inadequate man power, funding technologies, inadequate information resources et. Another finding showed that the school library in delta state does not follow IFLA standard as well as low rate of annual funding from UNESCO are been under –utilized or divert to other area by government . The researcher proffer some solutions in this paper.

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INTRODUCTION

The proper understanding of the concept has much to do within the current state of school library services. The library provides materials that will enable the child develop reading habit. The school library has long been regarded as the cornerstone of the community-a learning hub interval teaching and learning. By providing teachers and students within a full range of print and electronic resources to support learning, the school library impacts students' achievement. A substantial body of research since 1990 clearly demonstrates the importance of school libraries to student's education. Whether school achievement is measured by standardized reading achievement test or by global assessment learning research shows that a well-stocked Library staffed by a certified library media specialist has a positive impact on students' achievement regardless of socio-economic or education levels of the community.

Libraries at the primary and secondary school levels have been found to be tools for all round development of the child. It is the intellectual centre of the school. According to Okiy (2007) opined that the school library where a full range of materials and accompanying services are accessible to both teachers and students. Umar (2004) revealed the unified programme involving the use of audio-visual, printed resources and tools necessary to satisfy the educational needs are recreational interest of pupils, students and their teachers. These include a variety of

information resources such as textbooks, journals reference books, multi-media, etc. selected systematically. Organized and disseminated to pupils, students and teachers with the sole aim of supporting and enriching the school curriculum.

The Federal government of Nigeria knows the importance of Libraries to educational development. Hence as far back as 1981, it stressed the need for school libraries in Nigerian educational system in the National Policy of Education and reiterated this further in the revised national policy of education, (Revised edition , 2004) stated as follows:

- As Libraries are one of the most important educational services, proprietors of school shall provide functional libraries in all their educational institutions in accordance with the established standards.
- They shall provide for training librarians and library assistants for this services”. However, the state of development of library facilities and resources in most libraries in Nigeria learns much to be desired. While lamenting the general poor state of library facilities and resources in most primary and secondary schools in Nigeria, Fadero, (2001) stated as follows.

“Though the importance of school libraries enjoys a consensus view of experts, yet it is generally denied the attention it deserves in major educational plans this has culminated in acute short age of funds to prosecute Library programmes at both nationals and state levels- recognition of its importance”

Fadero (2001) stressed that inadequate provision of libraries in schools is a general disease that is playing education in Nigeria-from North to South and from East to West and in Nigeria schools are generally without Libraries to support teaching, learning and the curriculum. There is no clear cut policy on funding school libraries and so these libraries are generally few and ill equipped, lacking proper accommodation, qualified staff, relevant information resources such as books and other educational materials. Odusanya & Amusa, (2002), conducted a survey on the use of school libraries in Nigeria as a whole. Revealed that “Some primary and secondary schools were visited to see physically the condition of the libraries in such schools. The findings showed that libraries are almost non-existent in primary schools while few secondary schools have what could be referred to as reading rooms. This is because information resources in such libraries are not properly organized, scanty and old”.

While evaluating school library services since the inception of the library profession in Nigeria, Elaturoti (2003) revealed that there were more inceptions of the libraries than the actual supply and processing of library materials. Despite the problems school libraries cited by different views above, the prospects of school library in Nigeria, particularly Nigeria cannot be over emphasized because of its role it played in foundation of education in pupils and students in schools.

The issue of examination malpractices and occultism will be minimized or eradicated since a well read student will have no cause to cheat during examination or cause riots as an excuse to destroy school properties and postponement of examination among other bad habits. A good school Library occupies students and help in including future. It also enhances the research teaching methods. These goals are achievable only if the rightful conditions are in place. However, this has not been the ease. The deplorable state of school libraries in Nigeria is of great concern to major stakeholders. Ogbuagu (2004), was so moved by the appalling State Library Board to resuscitate the schools and special services division of the Library Board to the restoration of lost glory of school Libraries within the state.

1. Statement of Problems

The school library offers learning services, books and resources that enables all members (patrons) of the school community to become critical thinkers and effective users of information in all formats and media school libraries link to the wider library and information network in accord with the principles in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto. Unfortunately, that this library services are not adequately provided on the three senatorial districts of Delta State. This is as a result of some inevitable problems that affecting the area, such as inadequate funding from the government, lack of trained personnel (Librarian). Non-challant attitude towards the provision of school library services by government. There are not proper buildings for library services in almost the secondary schools in Delta State yet. Therefore, the researcher want to know impact of current school library services on secondary schools education in delta state of Nigeria

2. Purpose of the Study

The main aim of this article is to examining the current state of school library services in Delta State. Some of specific objectives include:

- i. To investigate whether there is any impact school library contributes to educational filed of pupils and students in Nigeria.
- ii. To investigate the current state of school library services among pupils, students and teachers.
- iii. To determine the level of educational standard of students/pupils that use school library in the state.

3. Scope of the Study

This article covered some selected secondary schools in the three senatorial districts of Delta State, such as Delta Central, Delta North and Delta South.

Review of Related Literature

4. Impacts of School Library Services on Education

In educational system school library has some roles/impacts to play or the development of humanity. Education is an instrument par excellence for national development. It involves the development of the whole person intellectually, psychologically, socially, vocationally, religiously or morally. This is the reason why education is seen as an integral part of national development. Education is a process through which people are formally and informally trained to acquire knowledge and skills. The formal training comes from established school from the basic level to the tertiary level.

Through this process of education, people are expected to obtain knowledge and skills and hence specialize in specific fields of study. It is this knowledge that allows people to contribute meaningful to national development (Umaro, 2004) National Development involves economic growth, modernization equitable distribution income and national resources and socio-economic transformation for improved living standards of people through the use of a country's human national and institutional resources (Aboyade 1984, Brooks 1990, Mohammed 1996).

The realization of the enormous power of information has made libraries and information resources centres inevitably present in all sectors of a nations economy. Hence today, libraries are found in all the three level of our educational system including public libraries, research institutions and private organizations such as banks, insurance companies etc. Libraries have always served as a tools to educational advancement at all levels of education (Akintunde, 2004). This is because school library contain information which is a vital tool for the pursuit of academic excellence at all levels of education. The school library plays a major role in educational advancement of a child, it develops skills they will need as adults to locate analyze, evaluate, interpret and communicate information and ideas in an information rich world. Through the school library students are encourage to realize their potential as informed citizens who think critically and solving problems, to observe rights and responsibilities reality to the generation and flow of information and ideas, and to appreciate the value of literature in an educated society. In addition, the school library is not only integral to and supportive of the school curriculum, but also provides a mechanism for choice and exploration beyond the prescribed course of study. The school library is a place where students may explore more fully classroom subjects that interest them, expand their imagination, delve into areas of personal interest and develop the ability to think clearly, critically creatively about the resource they have chosen to read, hear or view. (Aboyade, 1984).

Learning is an exciting experiences in life, children have natural curiosity with regards to questions concerning who, when, where etc as questions are answered children develop their inquiring minds finds self-fulfillment and satisfaction and a life-long habit of using books and libraries, and develops naturally. The modern school library offers a wide variety of materials and it does not only supplies information in print form it is also in picture, films, tapes, and slides to make learning more and exciting, school libraries are indispensable resources centre (Akintunde, 2004). The major roles of school libraries in educational development id to provide information source, otherwise referred to as reference sources. Information in this regards provide answers to "who" "when" and "what" questions. Information services are an essential element in the school libraries because it provides facts and ideas. It is rewarding to verify and statement, concept or assertion from various information source reading habit.

School library provides recreational reading literature and other non-book materials such as Picture, Games, Toys, Films, Video Machine which add to some of human satisfaction. The school libraries are established to preserve the recorded knowledge of man that is, they safeguard recorded information in any format. The role of the role of the library is vital because with, it recorded human knowledge would not have been transmitted from one generation to another. The school library also encourage improvisation or the production of learning materials that are not available in the market but are needed for teaching some aspects of the school curriculum. The teacher

librarian works with other teachers in planning learning activities for students in terms of its functions (Brooks, 1990).

5. Method

The researchers adopted descriptive survey design and sampling technique was purposive sampling technique used to select the twelve secondary schools in the senatorial districts. The instruments for collection of data were questionnaire and interview methods; population comprised of one hundred fifteen students in the selected secondary schools used for the study and simple percentage count was used to analyses the data.

The some of secondary schools used for the study are below:

S/N	Name of Secondary Schools in Delta State	Senatorial Districts
1	Abraka Grammer School, Abraka	Delta Central
2	St. Vincent College Okwagbe Town	Delta Central
3	Oginibi Model Secondary School, Oginibo	Delta Central
4	Anglican Girls Grammer School, Ughelli	Delta Central
5	Ovrode Grammer School, Ovrode	Delta South
6	Aradhe Grammer School, Aradhe	Delta South
7	Alegbo Secondary School Effrun	Delta South
8	St. Vincent College Okwagbe Town	Delta South
9	Gbenoba Grammer School, Agbor	Delta North
10	Abavo Grammer School, Abavo	Delta North
11	St. Mary mount College, Agbor	Delta North
12	Staff Model Secondary School, Agbor	Delta North
13	St. Bridge Girls Grammer School, Asaba	Delta North

6. Discussion of Findings

Table 1 showed that 21 (18.2%) students used the reference services, the library provided, while 69 (60%) of the respondents said that circulation services are provided by the library. 25 (21.7%) of the students said that serial services are offered by the library, one may conclude from the above analysis that majority of the students enjoy the circulation services which involves charges and discharges and registration of eligible users in the library. Table 2 indicates that, 45 (51.2%) of the students said that the library does not provide reference services, circulation and serial services and among other services effectively to students. While 70 (80.5%) of the students said that the library provide effectively services. From the above analysis the research will conclude that majority of libraries in the secondary school does not provide effective and efficient services to their patrons/ users.

Table 3 indicates that 92 (80%) of the respondents said that library services can improve the reading habit of students while 14 (12.1%) does not agreed that library services improves the reading habit of students from the above analysis the researcher will conclude that library services contribute a lot to tell all academic activities of students. Table 4 shows that 72 (62.6%) of the respondents that they have positive attitude towards the library services, while 43 (37.3%) of respondents said that they have negative attitude towards library services. The researchers may inferred that majority of the respondents love to use the library because of the services provided, that is why they have positive attitude towards their various services.

Table 5 shows that 33 (28.6%) said that their school library has computers, 40 (39.7%) of the respondents also said that their school acquired toys in their library while 7 (6.0%) of the respondents said that they use videos in their libraries. Many students agreed that audio materials are very common in their library. Finally, 6(5.2%) of the respondents said that their library has all of the above information technology in their library from the analysis above computers, toys as well as audio visual materials has the lightest numbers of facilities in various school libraries in Delta State.

7. Summary of Findings

From the result of the discussions of findings above the following are the major summaries of findings

1. That majority of school library services will improve the reading.

2. The school library has an important role to play for the teachers and students in their curriculum development.
3. School libraries in Nigeria have the problems of inadequate man power, funding technologies, inadequate information resources etc.
4. That the school library does not follow IFLA standard as well as low rate of annual funding from UNESCO.
5. That the school library services following formal and informal standards.

8. CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings the researchers will conclude that school library services will improve the reading habit of students. School libraries have problems of inadequate information materials, lack of funding, lack of modern information technologies etc. The role of school library services is very important in this modern day of school library. The standard of school libraries in Nigeria is very low, International Federation of Library Association(IFLA) and UNESCO does not contribute to school library services as it expected again. The researcher will recommend the following to school libraries in Delta State and Nigeria as a whole:

- i. Federal government should try their best to improve on the library services in the whole secondary schools Nigeria.
- ii. UNESCO annual funding should be utilized properly to improve the library services in Nigeria.
- iii. Another recommendation is that there should be a professional teacher-librarian in the whole secondary school library in delta state.
- iv. There should be provision of funds from the state public library board to improve the services of school library in the states.
- v. The universal standard should be put into law and practices in the whole secondary school library so that there will be great improvement.

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