

CONTRIBUTIONS OF LIBRARIES TOWARDS EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PRIMARY AND POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN BAUCHI METROPOLIS

BY

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Abstract

The paper investigated the contributions of libraries towards educational development in primary and post primary schools within Bauchi metropolis. To achieve the purpose of the study, three research questions and three objectives guided the study. The study adopted descriptive survey design and correlation. Data were collected using questionnaire and interview, which were analyzed using frequency table and simple percentage. The population of the study comprised 121 teachers who were drawn from one primary school, junior secondary school and senior secondary school respectively within Bauchi metropolis. The major findings of the study revealed that, teachers are aware of the contributions of the libraries in educational developments and there is a significant relationship between libraries and educational development in terms of: supporting teaching and learning activities, enhancing academic research and education, promoting in – service education, provision and dissemination of information, among others. The study also discovered that schools in Bauchi metropolis do not have libraries. Hence, the study recommended for special public awareness and orientation programmes for teachers on the importance of libraries. In addition, libraries should be built and equipped in all primary and secondary schools and librarians should be employed to manage them. There should be a synergy between the Ministry of Education, State Universal Basic Education Board and the Nigerian Library Association for improved library services and usage. To ensure success in this direction, there should be adequate budgetary provision for library services annually.

Introduction

Our society is undergoing a process of rapid change, moving toward what is called the information society, the knowledge society, network society or the informational mode of development (Castells, 1996). Over the years, many libraries have supported education efforts by providing teaching resources, information and referral services. Many libraries have outreach programs designed to meet the needs of specific groups of people with limited educational skills. Library resources materials are distributed to the institutionalized, including those in prison, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and group homes for the elderly and disabled. Libraries have always served as tools for educational advancement at all levels of education. Libraries and librarians are meant to be agents of changes academically, socially, politically, economically and otherwise. Librarians support educational development for all levels of human development. (Adetoro, 2005).

Libraries are social agencies designed to conserve knowledge, preserve the cultural heritage, provide information, and support educational research and also to serve as fountains of recreation. Libraries have important roles to play in any society. They are regarded as reservoirs of knowledge and information. (Aguolu 2002). Library does not mean a collection of books. It is a learned institution equipped with treasures of knowledge maintained, organized and

managed by trained personnel to educate the children, men and women continuously and assist in their self-improvement through an effective and prompt dissemination of information embodied in the resources. In addition to that library can also be a store house of knowledge, it is the whole world encompassed in one room. From the above definition, it is quite clear that the roles played by libraries cannot be over emphasized.

Libraries are essential components of any educational institutions (schools), be it nursery, primary, secondary or post secondary schools. Libraries are the answers to our educational development. Library within a school serves as a place for students to do independent works, use computers, equipments, rent the halls to host special events such as author visits and books clubs and for tutor and testing. A library plays very important roles in promoting the progress of knowledge in many students (Aguolu 2002). Library and education thus, became symbiotically and inexorably dependent on one another.

Over the years, we have learnt that library, education, literacy and national development always went hand in hand and have influenced everyone from primary school pupils to the highest level of education not speak of the informal medium of adult literacy. Educational efforts over several years have seen the positive involvement of libraries in education by offering their referral services, information and teaching resources, individual tutoring programs and educational classes.

Statement of the Problem

Libraries and education are strongly interwoven. In recent years, many libraries have supported education efforts and referral services. A more active approach has been taken by libraries offering educational classes or one to one tutoring programmes. Many libraries have outreach programmes designed to meet the needs of specific groups of people with limited educational skills. (Osarome 2011). Despite the fact that the success of any educational institutions relies on its library, government, school authorities (both private and public), education administrators, teachers, students, parents, ministries of education, local education authorities and the society at large do not give much priority to the library. This is evident from the researcher's observation of the true situation in Bauchi State; where most if not all of the schools in the State do not have standard and functional libraries. This could be attributed to poor awareness of the significant roles of the library towards educational development. It is commonly argued that lack of awareness of the contributions of libraries in educational development is the major cause of academic failure among Nigerian students. Adewuyi and Olaojo(2018) noted that Nigerians' appreciation of Librarianship as a profession is extremely poor when compared with other professions like Medicine, Law and Engineering. It is therefore, this unfortunate situation that prompted the need to undertake this study with a view to finding out the contributions of libraries towards educational development specifically in Bauchi metropolback security implementation should be implemented to keep track of changes made to the system. The library management should ensure full implementation of firewalls as workstation security

Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of teachers' awareness of the contributions of libraries towards educational development in Bauchi metropolis?
2. Is there any relationship between libraries and educational development?
3. What are the contributions of libraries towards educational development in Bauchi metropolis?

4.

Research Objectives

The objectives of the study include the following:

1. To determine the level of teachers' awareness of the contributions of libraries toward educational development in Bauchi metropolis.
2. To find out the relationship between libraries and educational development.
3. To identify the contributions of libraries towards educational development in Bauchi metropolis.

Literature Review

The place of the library in education cannot be underrated. The library is the engine of every school. Some of the contributions of the library can be summarized thus:

Library is a combination of both collection of information sources, resources, services and the structures in which it is housed. Libraries have become focal point in learning, teaching and research activities of a learning community. The libraries played a major role in sustaining education through acquisition, provision and dissemination of Information resources. Library is an integral part of the educational system and one of the vital components for national development. In a message on 2014 Librarian's Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) Directory, the then Minister of education Dr. Shekarau stated that the Library and Information Science occupies a vantage position in the education sector and plays a strategic role in national growth and development. Libraries are, therefore one of the driven force of transformation in any nation (Omeluzor and Emugevoke 2018).

In Nigeria, no university can be established without a well stocked and functional library. Also, no academic programme can be accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC), the only accrediting body with the mandate of supervising and accrediting higher institutions in Nigeria, without adequate library materials in print and non print available in the library. (Aguolu 2011). Furthermore, libraries help in readership promotion. Libraries are known to encourage reading among students. They often embark on readership campaign to stimulate reading among students. This develops reading habits in students. Moreover, libraries provide books and offer story hours. They also collect and preserve materials, provide materials to students to do their home works and assignments. (Nwokocho 2004).

In addition to that, library has positive impact on the academic performance of the student. It also helps us develop the overall skills necessary to succeed in the modern day digital and social environment. Furthermore, libraries allow students to go beyond what is being taught in the class rooms. We can now believe that, students' academic performance solely depends on the availability and quality of their libraries. The mass failure recorded during National and International examinations was due to the non availability of Libraries in our schools; the students would not be able to read on their own because they don't have reading habits.

In a research conducted by Gboyega(2012) on the role of the library, he stated that libraries play a vital role in the development of any society by enhancing the cause of education and academic research. They cater for the information needs of thousands of people. The development of Science and Technology (S&T) in the last century has led to an information explosion. Libraries are viewed as an important component of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) introduced by the Federal Government of Nigeria. Without the library, no meaningful academic progress can be achieved. As a gateway to knowledge and culture, libraries play a fundamental role in society. The resources and services they offer create opportunities for learning, support literacy and education and help shape the new ideas and perspectives that are central to a creative and innovative society".

A library is fundamentally an organized set of resources, which include human services as well as the entire spectrum of media (e.g text, video, hyper media). Libraries have physical components such as a space, equipment and storage media, intellectual components such as collection policies that determine what materials will be included and organizational schemes that determine how the collection is accessed and people who manage the physical and intellectual components and interact with users to solve information problems. Libraries serve at least three roles in learning firstly, they serve as a practical role in sharing expensive resources. Physical resources such as books and periodicals, films and videos, software and electronic databases and specialized tools such as projectors, graphics equipments and camera are shared by a community of the users. Human resources librarians (also called media specialists or information specialist) support instructional programs by responding to the requests of the teachers and students (responsive service) and initiating activities for teachers and students (proactive service). Responsive services include maintaining reserve materials, answering reference questions, providing bibliographic instruction, developing packages, recommending books or film and teaching users how to use materials. Proactive services include selective dissemination of information to faculty and students, initiating thematic events, collaboration with new instructors to plan instructions and introducing new instructional methods and tools in these ways, libraries serve to allow instructions and students to share expensive materials and expertise(Sindut, 2018).

School library is a library that supports school programs as well as teaching and learning processes. School library serves students by providing materials to meet their various needs and encourage reading. (Clarke,1999). Keith (2004) opined that the mission of education can only be achieved through a well-equipped library and users must educated on how to retrieve and use the available library resources to meet their information needs. Libraries help teachers to teach children. The objectives of library services are as follows:

- To promote in-service education
- To develop, asses and improve educational programs
- To enhance teaching and improve competences of teachers
- To make learning more meaningful
- To reduce educational cost
- To develop and promote an effective use of innovative materials in schools(Travaline,1997).

Stressing the roles of the library plays in the environment of learning Travaline(1997) maintains that today's library is like a big playground waiting to be explored and librarians are the best playmates: one who makes the playground worthwhile. The educational aims of school libraries, according to Idiegbeyan_Ose and Okoedion (2012), include:

1. To stimulate and enhance reading habit.
2. To develop in children the ability to read information.
3. To help pupils to increase and improve their knowledge of reading, speaking and writing.
4. To train children to care for books and make good and intelligent use of the library.
5. To enhance children reading and communication skills.
6. To provide children with information.
7. To provide recreation. (Udofia,1997 cited by Ogunrombi & Sanni,2005). Idiegbeyan and Okoedion (2012) further stated that the library prepares both the teacher and the students to achieve sound and quality education by all or any of the following :
 - (a) The improvement of teaching by enabling the teaching staff to make reference to current books in the preparation of their lessons.

- (b) Providing information for teachers and pupils on current affairs.
- (c) Providing supplementary reading for teachers, enriching class work.
- (d) Serving as the laboratory where all books on all disciplines encourage self-reliance, good use of leisure time, and arouse interest in reading (Ekweozoh,1989 cited by Ogunrombi & Sanni,2005).

Studies have revealed that library is a hub of developmental activities since it engages its users in action that turn them into critical thinkers, problem solvers, independent information seekers and lifelong learners. (Somi,2005). In addition IFLA(2014) noted that communities with quality access to timely and relevant information are better positioned for quality education, health care, improved agriculture and poverty eradication.

Methodology

The research design adopted for the study was descriptive survey and correlation. According to Robbert (2010), survey is one of the most popular descriptive research designs used by students of research, practitioners and scholars. Survey is broadly classified into two namely: cross sectional survey and longitudinal survey. The design is chosen because it is useful in describing the population.

The population of the study comprised staff of three different schools namely: Government Day Secondary School Kofar Wambai, Government Junior Secondary School, Unguwar Borno and Nanah Khadija Primary School, making the total population of one hundred and twenty one (121) staff. Three schools were selected for the study out of the twenty eight (28) schools in the metropolis because all the schools have some characteristics similar. Questionnaire and interview were used for data collection. The questionnaire contained information related to the research questions. The data collected for this research were presented and analyzed using descriptive statistics expressed in frequency distribution and simple percentage.

Findings and Discussion

The data collected from the questionnaire were presented and analyzed using frequency table and simple percentage as follows:

Table 1.Response rate

All the 121 copies of the questionnaire administered to the respondents were filled and returned, representing 100% of the total number of the questionnaire. This shows that absolute response was recorded from the respondents.

Table 1. population / sample for the study

S/N	Name of School	No. of questionnaire distributed	No. of questionnaire returned	% of returned questionnaire
1.	G.D.S.S Kofar Wambai	70	70	57.9
2.	G.J.S.S unguwar Borno	41	41	33.9
3.	Nanah Khadija Primary School	10	10	8.3

Total		121	121	100%
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The table above has shown that G.D.SS Kofar Wambai recorded the highest number of respondents with the frequency score of 70(57.9) , followed closely by G.J.S.S unguwar Borno with a frequency of score of 41(33.9%) . the school with the least response was Nanah Khadija primary school with 10(8.3%). The differences in the response rate are largely due to the unequal population of the respondents in the schools.

Table2. Responses on the level of teachers' awareness on the contributions of library toward educational development

S/N	Item statement	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
1	Enhancing academic researches and education	75(61.9%)	36(29.9%)	5(4.1%)	5(4.1%)	121(100%)
2	Acquisition, provision and dissemination of information	40(33%)	50(41.3%)	20(16.5%)	11(9.1%)	121(100%)
3	Readership promotion	40(33.1%)	75(61.9%)	2(1.7%)	4 (3.3%)	121(100%)
4	Supporting teaching and learning activities	40(33.1%)	75(61.9%)	2(1.7%)	4 (3.3%)	121(100%)
5	Promoting in –service education	30(24.8%)	40(33.1%)	25(20.7%)	26 (21.5%)	121(100%)
6	Reducing educational cost	55(45.5%)	34(28.1%)	16(13.2%)	16(13.2%)	121(100%)
7	Making learning more meaningful	75(61.9%)	36(29.9%)	5(4.1%)	5(4.1%)	121(100%)
8	Enhancing teaching processes	40(33.1%)	75(61.9%)	2(1.7%)	4 (3.3%)	121(100%)

The table 2 above shows that 111 (91.8%) of the teachers are aware that enhancing academic researches and education and making learning more meaningful are the contributions of libraries toward educational development while 10 representing 8.2% of the teachers are not aware. 89(73.6%) respondents are aware that reducing educational cost is the contributions of libraries toward educational development while 32 representing 26.4% are not aware. Acquisition, provision and dissemination of information, readership promotion, supporting teaching and learning activities and enhancing teaching processes recorded 115(95%) are aware while 6(5%) are not aware and finally, promoting in –service education recorded 70 (57.8%) of the respondents are aware and 51 representing 42.2% are not aware. We deduce from the above findings that the teachers are aware of all the above contributions of libraries toward educational development.

Table 3. Responses of the relationship between libraries and educational development

Relationship b/w libraries & educational development	Frequency	Percentage
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Yes there is relationship between library and educational development	70	58%
No there is no relationship between library and educational development	51	42%
Total	121	100%

Table 3 above revealed that 70(58%) of the teachers agreed that there is a relationship between libraries and educational development while 51(42%) agreed that there is no relationship between libraries and educational development. Therefore we can deduce that teachers agreed that there is a relationship between libraries and educational development.

Table 4. Responses on the contributions of libraries toward educational development

S/N	CONTRIBUTIONS OF LIBRARIES IN EDUCATIONA	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	Enhancing academic researches and education	33	27.3%
2.	Acquisition , provision and dissemination of information	11	9.1%
3.	Readership promotion	20	16.5%
4.	Supporting teaching and learning activities	57	47.1%
	Total	121	100%

Table 4 above indicates that 57 teachers representing 47.1% of the respondents agreed that supporting teaching and learning activities is the contributions of the libraries toward educational development, 33 teachers representing 27.3% are of the opinion that enhancing academic researches and education is the contributions of the libraries while 20(16.5%) said readership promotion and 11(9.1%) agreed that acquisition , provision and dissemination of information. This implies that the teachers agreed that supporting teaching and learning activities is the main contributions of the libraries toward educational development,

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that: there is a relationship between libraries and educational development, teachers are aware of the contributions of the library toward educational development, supporting teaching and learning activities is the main contribution of the library toward educational development. Other contributions of the library include readership promotion; acquisition, provision and dissemination of information; enhancing academic research and education, among others. Based on this, it is evident that library remains the gate way to knowledge and educational development; hence the need for greater recognition of these positive contributions by all stakeholders in the education industry in Bauchi State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations were made.

1. There should be special public awareness campaigns and orientation for teachers, students and school administrators on the importance of libraries in Bauchi State.
2. Libraries should be built and equipped in all primary and secondary schools in the State.
3. Librarians should be employed to manage the libraries.
4. There should be a synergy between the Ministry of Education, State Universal Basic Education Board and the Nigerian Library Association for improved library services and usage in the State.
5. There should be adequate budgetary provision for library development and services annually in the State.
6. Special priority should be given by government to libraries and librarians in secondary and primary schools for enhanced educational development in the State.

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