

IMPACT OF INFORMATION LITERACY ON THE SUSTAINABLE SECURITY OF NYSC MEMBERS IN NIGER DELTA REGION

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Abstract

The key purpose of the study was to examine "impact of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta Region". The study was specifically anchored on determining information literacy skills needed for sustainable security among NYSC members in Niger Delta; identify information literacy tools and resources for sustainable security in delta region; determine application benefits of information. Literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta Region. Forty (40) librarians and forty (40) NYSC officials were engaged in the study. Descriptive survey design method was used to extract data from the respondents. The instrument used for the study was titled "impact of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta, (INLSSNMND)". The instrument was structured in a four point rating scale of strongly agree-SA, Agree-A, disagree-D and strongly disagree-SD. The study found that Ability to know when information is needed, ability to recognize why information is needed, identify legal and ethical issues relating to the use of information among others are information literacy skills needed for sustainable security of NYSC members in the Niger Delta. Secondly, the study concluded that library, vulnerability research, behavioural monitoring, and others are instrumental tools/resources that could be utilized for effective security in the Niger Delta. Lastly, the study concluded that information literacy enables NYSC members obtain substantial information on their immediate environment; they are provided with historical events of their immediate environment, they are educated on the do's and don'ts of the environment. The study therefore recommended that NYSC officials should expose members to media of information literacy for purpose.

Keyword: Impact, Information, Literacy, Sustainable, Security, NYSC

INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade, security challenges of the Niger delta have been alarming. Oil exploitation in the Niger Delta had imposed a negative impact on human security in the Niger Delta region and this has equally undermined human development and peace in the region. Vandalism of oil installation, oil theft, kidnapping, sea piracy, and other related crimes have threatened security situations in the region. Shell, a major oil exploitation company in the Niger Delta recently advocated that they are consistently being faced with security such as kidnapping of their employees and contractors, killing and all sorts of assaults. Mou and Mou (2017) described security as the condition or feeling of safety from harm or danger, the defense,

protection and preservation of core values and the absence of threats to those values. It has been characterized by freedom from danger, risk, lack, uncertainties e.tc. (Nwankwo, 2013). UNDP reports 1994 in Lukman (2017) noted that human is regarded safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease and repression. One of the major components of human security as identified by Lukman (2017) is freedom from fear. Sustainable security is therefore regarded as the state of continued safety from fear, danger, risks among others. The security of the Corp members has been regarded as one of the foremost priorities of the youth service administrators. The Nigerian government is ensuring that NYSC members are assured safety in any part of the nations they are deployed. Sequel to the 1999 constitution of Nigeria, the government has in its role to provide adequate security and protection to lives and properties of the citizens, these cardinal objectives are responded to at various levels by its agencies (Uthman, 2016).

In recent years, the need for information is rapidly spreading, every aspect of human endeavors requires information for advancement, especially in the world of constant innovation. In other to advance in the current technology age, acquisition of relevant information is highly needed. Based on this fact, knowing how to obtain information of any kind, evaluate information and effectively utilize it is extremely essential, Information literacy according to American Library Association (ALA), (2017), are set of abilities that empower individuals to recognize when information is needed and to be able to locate it, evaluate it, and use it effectively According to US National Commission on library and information science (2003), information literacy is described as knowledge of one's information concerns and needs, and the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, organize and effectively create, use and communicate information to address issues or problems at hand. According to Association of College and Research Libraries, ACRL (2016), information is a "set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning". Information literacy therefore best described as the ability know how to obtain information on any situation at hand, evaluate and interpret any kind of information as well as use the of information to solve current challenges.

Hayes (2017) holds that there are certain skills expected from information-literate persons such include the ability to,

- Recognize the need for information timely
- Formulate questions based on information needs
- Identify potential sources of information
- Develop effective search strategies
- Access various sources of information independently and efficiently
- Evaluate information obtained meaningfully
- Organize information effectively

- Use information critically

It is a must in NYSC scheme that members are posted to various states and communities within the country. It is therefore essential for NYSC members to be information literate to combat any security challenges wherever they are posted using information literacy ability. 1974 report by Paul. G Zurkowski described information literacy as the techniques and skills involved in the utilization of wide range of tools as well as primary sources in molding information solutions to their problems (Naik & Padmini, There are information tools and resources that could be utilized for sustainable security of Corp members. In the view of Naik & Padmini (2014), information literate person could utilize information tools and resources to obtain relevant information to resolve rising challenges. Information resources such as libraries, phones, internet among others are the contemporary tools engaged in vast search for information. Information literacy skills enable an individual to use computers and computer-related technologies to source relevant information on personal goals. Information literacy is a prerequisite for participative citizenship, social inclusion, the creation of new knowledge personal empowerment and learning for life (Naik & Padmini, 2014). Information literacy equips corps members with critical skills necessary to themselves from environmental dangers and threats. It enables NYSC members to have fresh and updated information on their immediate environment. Consequently, it will help decision making and productivity which is beneficial to society. Not only will members of the youth service corps secure themselves from unfortunate occurrences within the environment but also may help others to detect vulnerability. Technology Age is faced with data smog challenges because of the magnanimous information availability and accessibility on the internet. There is an abundance of false information and misleading news accessible on the internet. It is in this view that Prassana (2008) asserts that information literacy allows us to cope with the data smog, by equipping learners with necessary skills to recognize when we need information, where to locate and evaluate it, and how to use it effectively and efficiently. Information explosion through the internet has placed a lot of information that is not evaluated at use. This therefore puts in doubt the authenticity, validity and reliability of information (Prassana, 2008). Information literacy in this capacity equips the learners with necessary ability to evaluate the authenticity and validity of obtained information.

In other to avoid mishaps, accurate and timely information is necessary for safety of lives and property. NYSC members in their respective places of assignment are total strangers in the environment. If not information literate may fall into various unpleasant situations. The hallmarks of an information literate individual include problem-solving by using technologies to find and manage information as well as critically evaluating and ethically applying (ACRL, 2016). It is based on that this study sought to investigate the impact of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to determine the impact of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta region. In specific terms, the study sought to

1. Determine information literacy skills needed for sustainable security among NYSC members in Niger Delta.
2. Identify information literacy tools and resources for sustainable security in Niger Delta region.
3. Determine application benefits of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta Region.

Research Questions

1. What are the information literacy skills needed for sustainable security among NYSC members in Niger Delta?
2. What are information literacy tools and resources for sustainable security in Niger Delta region?
3. What are the application benefits of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta Region?

Hypothesis

- ❖ There is no significant difference on the mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on the information literacy skills needed for sustainable security among NYSC members in Niger Delta.
- ❖ There is no significant difference on the mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on the information literacy tools and resources for sustainable security in Niger Delta region.
- ❖ There is no significant difference on the mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on the application benefits of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta Region

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey design. This design was used because opinion of librarian and NYSC officials were collected for inference. Simple random sampling was used to collect forty (40) librarians from ten tertiary institutions in the Niger Delta and forty (40) NYSC officials across Niger Delta Region. The instrument used for the collecting data was titled "Information Literacy and Sustainable Security of NYSC Members in Niger Delta (ILSSNMND)" The instrument was structured in four-point rating scale of strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagreed (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). The instrument was faced and content validated by two experts in the Department of Library and Information Science. The reliability

of the instrument was verified using Cronbach Alpha coefficient. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.79. This value established the fact that the instrument used in collecting data was reliable. The method of data analysis employed in the study was mean and standard deviation. Mean values less than the criterion mean of 2.50 were rejected while those equal to or above 2.50 were accepted. The z-test statistical tool was used to test hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Result and Discussion of Findings

Research Question 1: What are the information literacy skills needed for sustainable security among NYSC members in Niger Delta?

Table 1: Mean responses of the respondents on the information literacy skills needed for sustainable security among NYSC members in Niger Delta.

S/N	Items	Librarian=40			NYSC officials=40		
		Mean	S.D	Remark	Mean	S.D	Remark
1.	Ability to know when information is needed	3.54	0.94	Agreed	3.23	1.00	Agreed
2,	Ability to recognize why Information is needed	3.42	0.91	Agreed	2.90	1.02	Agreed
3.	Identity legal and ethical issues relating to the use of information	3.51	0.72	Agreed	3.00	0.97	Agreed
4.	Critical evaluation of information obtained	3.23	0.90	Agreed	3.08	0.89	Agreed
5.	Ability to effectively information for security reasons	3.28	0.88	Agreed	3.30	0.86	Agreed
6.	Ability to utilize the information obtained.	3.43	0.78	Agreed	3.38	1.00	Agreed
	Grand Mean/S.D	3.40	0.71		3.15	0.96	

Field Survey 2019.

Table 1 presents the librarians' and NYSC officials' responses on the information literacy skills needed for sustainable security among NYSC members. Based on the criterion mean value of 2.50, the respondents agreed that ability to know when information is needed (3.54 & 3.23), ability to recognize why information is needed (3.42 & 2.90), identify legal and ethical issues relating the use of information (3.51 & 3.00), critical evaluation of information obtained (3.23 & 3.08), ability to effectively search information for security reasons (3.28 & 3.30), ability to utilize the information obtained (3.43 & 3.38). This finding is corroboration with Hayes (2017) who noted information literate persons should possess skills such as accessibility to various sources of valid information, evaluate, integrate and utilizing information obtained meaningfully.

Research Question 2: What are information literacy tools and resources for sustainable security in Niger Delta Region?

Table 2: Mean responses of the respondents on the information literacy tools and resources for sustainable security in Niger Delta Region

S/N	Items	Librarian=40			NYSC officials=40		
		Mean	S.D	Remark	Mean	S.D	Remark
1.	Library	3.01	0.77	Agreed	3.34	0.60	Agreed
2.	Phones	3.34	0.92	Agreed	3.65	0.56	Agreed
3.	Resource persons	3.56	0.92	Agreed	3.23	0.86	Agreed
4.	Internet	3.75	0.50	Agreed	3.21	0.95	Agreed
5.	Television & Radio	3.23	0.76	Agreed	3.34	0.81	Agreed
6.	News & Newspaper	3.45	1.00	Agreed	3.50	1.00	Agreed
7.	Vulnerability research	3.60	0.51	Agreed	3.31	0.98	Agreed
8.	Behavioural monitoring	3.45	0.67	Agreed	3.08	0.76	Agreed
9.	Intrusion detection	3.32	0.80	Agreed	3.20	0.63	Agreed
	Grand Mean /S.D	3.41	0.77		3.32	0.79	

Field Survey 2019.

Table 2 the mean responses from the librarians and NYSC officials on the information literacy tool and resources for sustainable security among NYSC members in Niger Delta. The agreement of the respondents on each item was based on the criterion mean of 2.50. Hence, respondents agreed that (3.01 & 3.34), phones (3.34 & 3.65), resource persons (3.56 & 3.23), Internet (3.75 & 3.21), close circuit Television (3.23 & 3.34), News & Newspaper (3.45 & 3.50), vulnerability research (3.60 & 3.31), behavioural monitoring (3.45 & 3.08), and intrusion detection (3.32 & 3.20). This finding validated the assertion Naik & Padmini, (2014) who noted that information literate person could utilize diverse kinds of information tools and resources to obtain relevant information to proffer solution to rising challenges in the society. The availability of vast information on the web has enabled the utilization of various gadget to obtain relevant information for security and other purposes.

Research Question 3: What are the application benefits of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta Region?

Table 3: Mean responses of the respondents on the application benefits of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta Region

S/N	Items	Librarian=40			NYSC officials=40		
		Mean	S.D	Remark	Mean	S.D	Remark
1.	NYSC members obtains substantial information on their immediate environment using information literacy tools	3.60	0.89	Agreed	3.22	0.79	Agreed
2,	They are provided with historical events of their immediate environment	3.77	1.02	Agreed	3.24	0.82	Agreed
3.	They are educated on the do's and don't 's' of the environment	3.56	0.92	Agreed	3.23	0.86	Agreed
4.	NYSC member are equipped with necessary details on safety when certain traditional events may occur	3.75	0.50	Agreed	3.21	0.95	Agreed
5.	Enhances external intervention in the affairs of the community	3.23	0.76	Agreed	3.34	0.81	Agreed
6.	Information literacy of the Corp member may leads to meeting the needs of the community	3.45	1.00	Agreed	3.50	1.00	Agreed
	Grand Mean /S.D	3.33	0.89		3.30	0.70	

Field Survey 2019.

Table 3 presents the mean responses from the librarians and NYSC officials on the application benefits of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in the Niger Delta Region. The agreement of the respondents on each item was based on the criterion mean of 2.50. Hence, respondents agreed that information literacy enables NYSC members obtains substantial information on their immediate environment (3.60 & 3.22), they are provided with historical events of their immediate environment & 3.24), they are educated on the do's' and don't 's' of the environment (3.08 & 3.37), NYSC member are equipped with necessary details on safety when certain events may occur (3.43 & 3.02), enhances external intervention in the affairs of the community (3.00 & 3.62), information literacy of the Corp member may lead to the needs of the community (3.12 & 3.34), Information literacy according to Naik & Padmini, (2014) is a prerequisite for participative citizenship, social inclusion, the creation of new knowledge personal empowerment and learning for life. Literacy ability in information use

places NYSC members to the position of contribution to community affairs. This may consequently lead to enhancing community development services of the Corp members.

Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant difference on the mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on the information literacy skills needed for sustainable security among NYSC members in Niger Delta.

Table 4: Z-test on the mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on the information literacy skills needed for sustainable security among NYSC members in Niger Delta.

Groups	Mean	S.D	N	Df	Lev. Of sig.	z-cal	z-crit	Remark
Librarians	3.40	0.71	40	78	0.05	1.47	1.98	Accepted
NYSC Officials	3.15	0.96	40					

Field Survey 2019.

The table above showed the Z-test analysis on the mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on the information literacy skills needed for sustainable security among NYSC members in Niger Delta. Overall average responses for Librarians were (Mean=3.40, S.D=0.71) and NYSC officials (Mean=3.15, S.D=0.96). At degree of freedom 78, and 0.05 level of significance, the z-crit obtained was 1.98. Testing both means against each other in the z-test formula, z-calculated value of 1.47 was obtained. Since the z-cal value (1.47) is less than z-crit (1.98) the hypothesis is upheld.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference on the mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on the information literacy tools and resources for sustainable security in Niger Delta region.

Table 4: Z-test on the mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on the information literacy tools and resources for sustainable security in Niger Delta Region.

Groups	Mean	S.D	N	Df	Lev. Of sig.	z-cal	z-crit	Remark
Librarians	3.41	0.77	40	78	0.05	0.57	1.98	Accepted
NYSC Officials	3.32	0.79	40					

Field Survey, 2019

The table above showed that the Z-test analysis on the mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on the information literacy tools and resources for sustainable security in Niger Delta Region. Overall average responses for Librarians were (Mean=3.41, S.D=0.77) and NYSC officials (Mean=3.32, S.D=0.79) at degree of freedom 78, and 0.05 level of significance, the z-crit obtained was 1.98. Testing both means against each other in the z-test formula, z-calculated value of 0.57 was obtained. Since the z-cal value (0.57) is less than z-crit (1.98) the hypothesis is upheld.

H₀₃: is no significant difference on the mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on the application benefits of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta Region.

Table 4: Z-test on mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on application benefits of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta Region

Groups	Mean	S.D	N	Df	Lev. Of sig.	z-cal	z-crit	Remark
Librarians	3.33	0.89	40	78	0.05	0.18	1.98	Accepted
NYSC Officials	3.30	0.70	40					

Field Survey, 2019.

The table above showed that the 2-test on the mean responses of librarians and NYSC officials on the application benefits of information literacy on the sustainable security of NYSC members in Niger Delta Region. Overall average responses for Librarians were (Mean=3.33, S.D=0.89) and NYSC officials (Mean=3.30, S.D=0.70). At degree of freedom 78, and 0.05 level of the z-crit obtained was 1.98. Testing both means against each other in the z-test formula, z-calculated value of 0.18 was obtained. Since the z-cal value (0.18) is less than z-crit (1.98) the hypothesis is upheld.

Conclusion

Based on the findings the study concluded as thus: Ability to know when information is needed, ability to recognize why information is needed, identify legal and ethical issues relating to the use of information, critical evaluation of information obtained, ability to effectively search information for security reasons, ability to utilize the information obtained are information literacy skills needed for sustainable security of NYSC members in the Niger Delta.

Secondly, the study concluded that libraries, phones, resource person Internet, Television & Radio, News & newspapers, vulnerability research, behavioural monitoring, and intrusion detection are instrumental tools/resources that could be utilized for effective security in the Niger Delta.

Lastly, the study concluded that information literacy enables NYSC members obtains substantial information on their immediate environment, they are provided with historical events of their immediate environment; they are educated on the do's' and don'ts of the environment; NYSC members are equipped with necessary details on safety when certain events may occur; enhances external intervention in the affairs of the community.

Recommendations

- Based on the findings the study recommends that NYSC officials should expose members to media of information literacy for safety
- NYSC should include within its three orientation programmes, information literacy lecture so that the members will perceive the need to acquire valid information on the respective communities they are posted.

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