

LIBRARIANSHIP: A PIVOT OF FUNCTIONAL EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY AND SAFE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

There is no doubt that education and librarianship has created a horse and a rider relationship, because with a well equipped library, researchers can do wonders in their diverse fields of endeavour. Libraries all over the world are central point for a functional education, which eventually create a safe environment for education with the relevant materials acquire which gives room for proper usage by library users. This survey examined librarianship as a pivot of functional education for sustainable healthy and safe academic environment in Nigeria. It also focused on the need for government to equip libraries in the education sectors. Data for the study were gotten through a self structured questionnaire sent to 160 respondents through random sampling technique. Personal interview was also used to generate data for the study. Only about 4% of the questionnaire was not retrieved. Frequency counts and simple percentage were used in analyzing the data. The findings of the study revealed among other things that majority of the respondents are of the view that libraries in view of their role in the educational system are meeting with the standard of education, which has placed them as a ladder towards good education. The inclusion of librarianship studies in the educational curriculum to give a vast knowledge of the utilization of libraries to scholars was recommended amidst others.
Keywords: *Librarianship, functional, education pivot sustainability, environment*

INTRODUCTION

Education, if well planned can create a functional, healthy and safe academic environment in Nigeria. Nevertheless, a well planned and functional education without a well equipped library may make ridicule of such education. Research has shown that for educational activities to flourish there is every need for a full support of libraries, hence any good foundation of education built upon librarianship will always have a functional education for a sustainable healthy and safe academic environment. Based on this the researcher came up with an idea that "whoever kills a librarian has killed and wasted knowledge that could not be recovered forever" it should be noted that no arm of education can meet its target outside librarianship.

Education is generally regarded as a learning that affects an individual either negatively or positively by a way of acquiring it either through formal or informal education. Wahmeier (2000) refers to education as a process of

educating or being educated. This means that every living being have the opportunity to be educated, because a process of being educated can be in our homes, but how this affects the public is what matters. In order to combat an unhealthy and unsafe environment in Nigeria educational system, there is need for the government to establish a reform library that can put every unsafe and unhealthy education as history. Libraries were established in the country to support the effort of educational institutions towards discovering improved education varieties and have respect for our system of education.

Libraries in educational system are expected to do more research because education cut across all works of life irrespective of the status of the person, without a well-equipped library there could not be a safe and healthy environment in our educational world. If the standards of libraries are high, it will always be a ladder for the educational system. Libraries in Nigeria education are required to be professional for it to remain focused and relevant. The same standard is expected of the educational environment in the country. Why are libraries regarded as a pivot in this study? Are they meeting the standard for a safe environment? These informed the motive of this study. Therefore, the main objectives of the study are to: find out if libraries are meeting with the standard of education; find out if the library can create a healthy and safe environment in Nigeria educational system; determine the areas which government can promote a functional and sustainable safe and healthy environment; and determine the perception of librarians about the study.

Education in Nigeria

Education is an old institution in the history of Nigeria, but it seems as if the growth in education in this regard is slow, hence Egonmwan (2002) asserts that something is wrong with education in Nigeria, this is a long established fact and an issue that generates very little debate of which heated debate is the directions and goals the Nigerian education sector should take and seek towards national development. Aminu, 1986 in Egonmwan (2002) explained that education as not only the potent instrument for human socialization and development; it is also the means of self-actualization. He further said that education increases equality in society by leveling up the various traditional classes, by increasing the income distribution, by increasing the talent pool available to society and by engendering equality. Education not only eradicates illiteracy and ignorance, it is the vehicle for acquisition of the necessary attitude, knowledge, skills and social development, for civilization. In many countries, including ours, education is seen as the key to solving world problems, to climbing up the social ladder. It is more than that; it enhances individual and group freedom and security.

From the foregoing, the most striking issue is that education is seen as solving world problems, to climbing the ladder, this brings about the study under review - librarianship as a pivot of functional education for sustainable

healthy and safe environment in Nigeria. This means there must be a platform in which people need to walk on as a growth through the climbing of a ladder. He also said, it enhances individual and group freedom and security. This brings about the healthy and safe environment that must be maintained by library professionals. Rirtz (2004) said librarianship is a profession devoted to applying theory and technology to the creation, selection, organization, and utilization of collections of information in all formats, while a library is a collection or group of collections of books and/or other materials organized and maintained for use (reading, consultation, study, research, etc). In the quest of creating a healthy and safe environment through librarianship, Lawal (2003) in discussing the conceptual framework for curriculum development in the education quoted that the general task of a systematic approach to curriculum development analyses the purpose to which is related to a safe education as:

1. The purpose of education is to enable the individual to deal with various situations
2. That the individual gains this ability through acquiring certain qualifications and dispositions
3. Therefore, the above points cannot be acquired if there is no input from the library.

Okebukola (2002) made it clear that the library is at the heart of education enterprise. This assertion reflects the common cliché that without the library, the school is dead in terms of knowledge generation and dissemination. At all level of the Nigerian education libraries has an important role to play. According to Ekireghwe (2002), a conventional library in an academic (educational) environment houses a collection of books, usually arranged according to some plan: A virtual (digital) library has roots in the information management systems. By this new system of librarianship, education with rigour, stress etc. has been taken care off.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted the survey research design. It covered four states selected from the Northern, Southern, Western and Eastern parts of the Nigeria. The higher institutions used during the administration of questionnaire were the University of Benin, (Southern) Nnamdi Azikiwe University (Eastern), Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, (Northern) and University of Ibadan (Western) parts of Nigeria. The choice of these Universities was purposive, based on their vast nature in education. Data for the study were gotten through a self structured questionnaire sent to 160 respondents through random sampling technique. Each institution was administered Forty questionnaire. Personal interview also helped in generating data for the study. Frequency counts and simple percentage were used in analyzing the data. The distribution of the questionnaire was not restricted to librarians alone; it cut across other persons, since the study is a broader one. About 96.3% of the questionnaire copies

were retrieved since the help of research assistants was employed. Each instrument contains 30 questions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Questionnaire administered and retrieved

Institution	No of Resp.	Location	Zone	Affil	% returned
UB	40	Benin City	South	Educ.	
NAU	38		East	Educ.	
ABU	36	Zaira,	North	Educ.	96.3
UI	40	Ibadan	West	Educ.	

Source: Survey 2010

From the table 1, 160 questionnaires were sent out, which 154 were retrieved.

Table 2: Libraries meeting standard of education by providing relevance materials

Normal	Response	Percentage
Yes	89	57.8
No	65	42.2
Total	154	100

Source: Survey 2010

Considering the table 2, it is clear that libraries in this regard usually provide good materials to support education.

Table 3: Various materials that generally affect education positively

Categories	Qualification by percentage (%)
Information management	76
Mathematics	65
English Language	80
Education text book	92
Management	98
Medicine	88
Engineering in general	92
Others	84

Source: Survey 2010

Table 3 shows that materials provided by libraries in support of education are very encouraging.

Table 4: Areas Government can promote functional and sustainable healthy and wealthy environment.

Facilities	Responses		Percentage		Total	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
A prototype building to meet modern library	154	0	100.0	0	95.2	4.8
Well furnish library	136	18	88.3	11.7		
Relevant materials, e.g. journals ICT books etc	154	0	100.0	0	95.2	4.8
Air condition building	128	26	83.0	17.0		
Qualified personnel	154	0	100.0	0		
Library building in a well quit place and be accessible.	154	0	100.0	0		

Source: Survey 2010

Table 4 was able to prove and show the areas government needs to work on for a safe and healthy environment, this proved that education may not have environment conducive without a deep input of the library. The overall percentage shows that a greater proportion of the respondents are of the view that the facilities analyzed in the table are important to create a work environment conducive for education.

Table 5: The perception of librarians about the study - if the research work will be beneficial to all

Normal	Response	Percentage (%)
Yes	64	100
No	0	0
Total	154	100

Source: Survey 2010

Table 5 above shows that the perception of librarians is that this study will be beneficial to all.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents are on the view that libraries in view of their role in the educational system are meeting with the standard of education, which has placed them as a ladder (pivot) towards good education. The study also revealed that materials needed on functional education for sustainable healthy and safe environment in Nigeria are been provided, this was reveal in table 4 were 94% responded. The study found that government need to be a key player in this healthy and safe education, and librarians are on the view that this study will go along way to impact positively on how to provide a basic standard for the sustainability of our educational system.

Based on the above, it was recommended that to make the quality of education to be in high esteem, libraries be given priority in considering standards that may lead to international repute; there is also the need to include librarianship in the educational curriculum to give a vast knowledge of the utilization of libraries to scholars. Government needs to take the issue of education serious. The planners of education curriculum should take into cognizance the design of a well functional library in any academic system public or private. All executives of planned issues of education should make sure that students/researchers know the need of librarianship in their career. Finally, government after releasing fund and awarding contracts in the education sector should put in place, an unbiased monitoring team to ensure proper execution of such contracts.

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