

THE USE OF LIBRARIES TO EFFECT SECURITY IN NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

By

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Abstract

Insecurity in education in Nigeria system of education are the greatest menace that plague the country Nigeria for a long time. It has eaten deep into the system and has affected educational development and the peace of the society. The use of libraries is a basic (human) right and an essential tool for achieving the goals of quality development and peace in the society. It provides vital information, inculcates ideas, and develops knowledge that is so essential to functioning well in today's information and knowledge based society. The paper looked at the security issues briefly and the use of libraries as a strong force of information knowledge to eradicate insecurity in the system and makes some suggestions. It was concluded that the idea of using libraries to effect security nowadays has been essential for enhancing quality education. Recommendations were proffered among others that students should be encouraged to make use of the information resources in the library.

Key words: Libraries, security, educational system, Library, Libraria

Introduction

There is a growly concern about the issue of insecurity in education and the society, degenerating from examination malpractices, strikes, kidnapping, boko haram, herdsmen assassinations, etc has affected the educational system of nation and the peaceful society with very poor economic development. Most of these problems are caused by wicked, self-centred and egoistic minded people that take joy in causing set-back to the development and promotion of sound society e.g. the national AUSS strike, the kidnapping of school girls proves insecurity in the system of education. Education which has been widely accepted as a foundation of social transformation and sustainable development of any given nation, it provides individuals with opportunity and basic skills to improve livelihood and health, to empower individual to become active participants in the development process but insecurity in system of education has negative effect on large numbers of people and has disrupt the progress of the society and the nation at large.

The security in Nigeria system of education is falling, it only requires everyone's attention, that all educational bodies to work together with the government to address the issue insecurity in the system through:

1. Revisiting the curriculum of early child education by enforcing the teaching of peace, unity and security.
2. Bring back the study and teaching of Nigeria history
3. Effective use of libraries information materials at all level of education.
4. Enforce, implement and supervise the educational system.

The library as defined by Iyanda and Salawu (2012) is a building, an instructional and self-development centre, which operates as an integral part of the entire school environment. Library is regarded as a service institution, its aim is to enable the users to make the effective use of resources and services. It is therefore, acquires materials, process it and made it available for user rather than preservation. Library as a centre of information, allows open access to its

collection to serve the user and also play pivotal role in promoting sustainable development in the society.

According to Kibat (2010) libraries have an important role in the advancement of knowledge, the school libraries, academic libraries and public libraries contributes to the development of education of the people in the society as each has a specific role to place in the life of the users. The libraries are stocked with education materials, full of information and knowledge in different formats to equip youths with lifelong learning skills and develop in them creative thinking and imaginative ideas that will enable them to live an ideal and responsible citizens.

Education is being referred to as an instrument used for facilitating growth and development because it is the means through which people socialize in their various communities thereby preserving their customs and traditions so as to modify them to be in line with existing ideologies, ideological expansion and reformation. It plays the role of realization to the nation's productive power, toward human and cultural self-realization. Its definition by various scholars, with all, pointing at the acquisition of knowledge, towards behavioural change. Education in the view of Gbamanja as cited in (Vikoo, 2003), is defined as the process of changing the behaviour pattern of people, that is, change in their thinking, their feelings and their overt actions. Education provide remolding man's mental thinking positively, to be able to grow into a powerful social being, having higher standards of cultural wealth. The education we acquired formally or informally should transform us towards positive behavioural change.

It is believed that an educated society would mean a transformed society as educational system in Nigeria is that pivot upon which the future and prospects of the society lies. The government of Nigeria, in its resolve to achieve the prospects of education, has made attempts positively though by the introduction of libraries to every level of educations, supportive programmes and series of educational development programmes etc.

Conceptually, security means the state of being or feeling secured. It can also be the protection of a state or organization against criminal activity such as terrorism. Metz (2000) defined security as the protection and preservation of all that the society considers to be important and valuable. These include safety of individuals and groups from physical harm, the condition of life that are healthful and satisfying to all society's members. It also implies the preservation of economic environmental heritage passed on to future generations and protection of individuals and groups from arbitrary and coercive forms of political rules.

It was also observed in the commission on human security (CHS, 2003) that human security should not just be the absence of violence, conflicts, but must encompass human right good governance, access to education and health care, ensuring that each individual has opportunity and choice to fulfil his or her own potential. More so, to be secured is freedom from wants, fear and freedom for the future generation to inherit a healthy natural environment that lead to natural security.

The security education is the process of exposing the learner to the knowledge, values, skills and experiences included in the concepts of security which are necessary for citizen to achieve comprehensive national security.

Security Challenges in Nigeria

The Nigerian's security challenge is an offshoot of several imbalances in the educational system. Security should be safety and wellbeing of people everywhere, in their homes, place of studies, jobs and in their communities. Security is basically aimed at safeguarding the vital care of all lives from critical pervasive threats. Above all the security ensures confidence of safety and society.

The present conditions of Nigeria insecurity most especially in the political and educational system is very threatening by its rate of degenerating from examination malpractices to youth restiveness, kidnappings to hostage-takings for monetary ransoms, conflicts into terrorism and insurgent attacks Boko-haram, political assassinations, arsons murders, cult-related activities, mass protests, human drug trafficking, innocent killing etc all these in a nation affects the educational system and the national economy from development.

Nigeria a nation with positive policies in education and various levels of educational institution attached with libraries which were solely responsible for equipping their storehouses with various relevant information materials in form of printed and unprinted formats to support academic curricula in teaching and learning. It will also help develop the knowledge and mind of the people by empowering them with adequate information especially those in the rural communities through the use of the public libraries or mobile or book boxes. As libraries always save as tools for educational advancement at all levels of education (Akintunde, 2004). The curriculum for the early childhood education should be revisited with special emphasis on security and peace. The implementation of peace and security at the early ages of education will help in solving must of the social problems in the society.

Some of the Insecurities

The wall of education has fallen due to serious threats of the education system – where evils has become the order to the day.

- Examination malpractices has come to stay, it has become the part of the system their say, - student no longer read at all, most parents, private school, invigilators collected money from students and encourage them to be “smart” get your certificate and leave the school.
- Strike actions help threaten the system when the students are about or taking examination, were asked to vacate the school without information on when to return. The prolonged school closure from covid-19 added insecurity, the irrecoverable collapse.
- Kidnapping involves all class of people especially the school system coming under violent attacks that ranges from kidnapping of both the facilities and students to outright suicide bombing which usually claim lives and destroys properties. All these are threats and crisis to the educational system.
- Farmer left the conflict zones with no reach to their source of information from the public libraries because they are killing and chasing farmers out of their farmlands.

Children were not in school, cannot help in the farmland and cannot study in the libraries at their own pace because of the menace of kidnappers that involved the act of taking or killing person against his/her will usually for random. This Inyang and Abraham (2013) posit that kidnapping has now become endemic in Nigeria. Many more reasons has been attributed to insecurity to system of education in Nigeria.

Using Library to solve insecurity

The use of libraries is a basic (human) right and an essential tool for achieving the goals of quality development and peace in the society. It provide vital information, inculcates ideas, and develops knowledge that is so essential to functioning well in today’s information and knowledge based society.

It has the fundamental to equip youths with lifelong learning skills and career development through creative thinking and imaginative, and enabling them to live an ideal and responsible citizens.

The libraries can help in reducing the level of insecurity in the educational system by ensuring equitable distribution of information and telecommunication facilities in printed and unprinted formats to reach both urban and rural areas to help build and develop their information knowledge and the mind to ward positive thinking.

- The library with its stock of information organizes seminars, workshops and lectures to the users in rural and institutions to help them understand the information they are using for self-development.
- The youth in the society can be re-engined, by the library providing vital information to their basic condition for lifelong learning independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual social groups, it will change their behaviours, attitudes and mind-set.
- Libraries being a social institution and it is aonus on it to service the community in which it is located, it provides an exhibition, fliers containing information on who to improve on their agricultural products, or talks on their health etc.
- Provide mobile or bookbox library services to take information resources to rural areas so that the unemployed youth, the aged men and women that are interested in reading and writing can get informed. The mobile library must house not only books but all formats of information materials such as CDs and DVDs.
- The libraries can promote peace and sustainable development in the society, by creating awareness, this could take the form of jingles on radio and television stations, Bill boards containing information on where and how to eradicate insecurity could be erected at strategic positions like campuses and government parastatals etc.
- Provide, very strong information base for policy-makers to enable them discharge their duties with furnished adequate information in form of newspaper, magazines, learned journals, books, monographs, in-house memoranda (files), indexes abstracts, conference proceedings, theses and dissertation etc can help the youth live an ideal and responsible citizens.

Conclusion

The idea of using libraries to effect security nowadays has been essential for enhancing quality education. Library habitual an technical subject prove effective in provision constrictions like reading culture self-esteem tolerance broadening imagination of people views self-reliance developing wide knowledge an mind to help improve security in library education and the society in general.

Recommendations

- Students should be encouraged to make use of the information resources in the library.
- Nigerian system of education should be monitored with adequate supervision with the view of promoting functional education through early exposure to library and library facilities and materials.
- Librarians need to embark on mobile and book box libraries services in order to reach those in the rural villages and sensitize with the importance of public awareness.
- Government should try and provide enough funds as well as stage of the information communication technologies to libraries and ensure that librarians have access to ICT facilities in order to facilitate dissemination of information.
- The government need to carefully through policies promote the inculcation of reading culture and appreciates the value of information.
- The government should from time to time evaluate the standard of education and check the character of intake students

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