AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOLS LIBRARIES AND SERVICES TO STUDENTS IN SELECTED PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OYO STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study is on the availability of school library and services by students in selected private secondary schools in Oyo state. The problem of the study is lack of functional library within the school system couple with the constraints that the library users face in accessing library resources and services in private secondary school that prompted these writers to investigate into the issue of library resources and services for students in selected private secondary schools in Oyo state Questionnaire as research instrument was used to collect data from eighty seven 87(70%) respondents of the school sampled for the study. This survey revealed that the students are unable to utilise the resources of the library due to inadequate library education by the school management and that library environment is not conducive to promote learning process while the learning resources is inadequate for the students population amongst others. Recommendations were also proffered that includes: adequate funding of school libraries by owners and philanthropies, Library education should form part of the school curriculum for all pupils in secondary schools. The information centre called the library should have all the needed resources that will aid the students using the library. The librarian cum teacher that manned the school libraries should of necessity attend continuing professional development programmes in library schools, information industry for efficiency in their administration of their school libraries to serve the target users.

Keywords: Accessibility, Library, Resources, Students, Utilisation

Introduction

The essential role of private secondary schools in the educational development of Nigeria cannot be undermined as private school has been found to enhance the quality of education offered to the Nigerian students at the post primary school level. The library in the private school became pronounced and taken the centre stage in offering educational services to students after the failure of public schools to meet the learning desire of the youth population that are of school age. Laying credence to the role of library in the school system Ogunniyi, Adeniji and Jato (2011) citing Etim (2004) stated that the school library exist to provide the needed information resource and service for future development of Nigerian intellectuals. Library

services imply that information resources are available for users to make use of during their academic pursuit while the users have access to the resources of the library (Amaechi, Oyemike, Matilda, 2014).

Library in the secondary schools can be seen as indispensable learning resource that teachers, students and other members of the secondary schools cannot do without to have an excellent reading centre for enlightened members of the society. In addition, the library serves as a haven of ancillary services centre making provision for student to make photocopy of relevant materials for class assignment at subsides rate within the library. The library also creates an atmosphere of promoting the reading skills by inculcating library period into the school time tables, a time set aside where students spend specific period of time in reading materials for personal or educational purpose, to get this done in the student make use of the library at the period set aside for with the assist of supervisor who oversees the students using the library for reading hour. In order to provide an enabling reading environment the library should have a reading space void of noise with comfortable table and chair as well as ventilated areas with relevant resources for library utilisation by the library patrons. The learning resources found in the school library are strategically place in a location where users can have access to them for their advantages.

The library in the school should have an inviting atmosphere for the students that visit the library on daily basis, while librarian the coordinator of human and material resources as part of his or her oversight function is expected to have a welcoming personality's traits with the enabling atmosphere that would make users to perceived the library as their second home to promote maximum reading exercise. Amaechi, Ossai-Onahand Oduagwu (2014) opined that the school libraries are appendages to the school programme without which no profitable or rewarding activity can go on in the school. The school librarian as facilitator assists the students in the choice of resources for the school subjects been offered in the school that is characterised with learners centred and individual initiatives participatory learning group work Moruf (2015).

Statement of the Problem

The essential role of the library in our private secondary schools cannot be overemphasised as it has been found to provide a complementary role to the Nigerian educational system. To promote the utilization of library resources and create a user's friendly atmosphere in the school, there is the need to have a functional library with qualified personnel and enabling learning environment where students can advance their knowledge. The library can thus develop in users good reading skills and encourage long-term learning. However, with the seeming lack of functional libraries in secondary schools generally, accessibility to their needed resources and services takes its toll on the extent and quality of the school's curriculum delivery. Given this undesirable situation in the secondary school in general, research attention is therefore attracted to what the situation will be in private secondary schools. It is against this background therefore that this study examined the availability of library resources and services for students in selected private secondary in Oyo State, Nigeria. .

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to:

1) find out the availability of libraries and their resources in the selected private secondary schools in Oyo State, Nigeria;

2) examine the effectiveness of the school library in providing information to students in the selected schools;

3) assess the extent to which the students make use of the library resources in the libraries;

4) determine the adequacy of the library resources provided in these schools;

5) identify the challenges militating against the use of library resources in these schools; and

6) Recommend measures for the improvement of library services among students.

Review of Related Literature

Educationists and other stakeholders in library education have written a lot on library resources availability and services for promoting the students learning process in the academic arena in Nigeria. Ikoku (1971) as cited by Abdulsalami, Okezie and Agbo (2013) saw library as foyer of living ideas that influences all aspects of human life, a centre where the dead are alive and indispensable information unit where the experience of great men, though dead, continue to live through their literary work. Looking at the evolution of school libraries in Nigeria Adepoju (2011) traced this to the time when the West Africa Library Association (WALA) Conference took place in 1954. This mean that we cannot talk successfully about the setting up of school libraries in Nigeria without making reference to this conference In fact Ogunseye (1991) as cited by Adepoju (2011) stated that it would be an illusion to talk about school libraries in Nigeria without making reference to the 1954 Conference.

The school library are given various names which Amaechi, Ossai-Onah and Oduagwu (2014) conceived as media or resources centre that supports and influence the education system in Nigeria while citing Madu and Adeniran (2004), Ossai-Onah and Oduagwu (2014) saw school library as a centre where books, journals, magazines, visual and audiovisual resources serve as users enlightenment tools that are made available for library patrons to enhance functional school system. Buttressed the above Adeola,(2011) described the school library as galvanising excellence centre leading to the provision of quality education in the secondary schools to get the information resources from the library to support their teaching profession as teachers in secondary school that cannot afford to buy the needed textbook, the teacher could resolved to the use of printed resources as found in the library in their teaching professions.

While looking at the challenges students faced in not using their school libraries, Adeola (2011) alluded to the fact that students has not been given adequate library education on the proper use of the library as to promote their effective utilisation of the information or resources centre called the library in their school. Adeniji, (2006) citing Elaturoti, (1979) highlights the importance of library services in Nigerian secondary schools by saying that school library can be liken to a tree that students climb in the process of discovering life in its rich and varied forms. To a child who wanted to escape from classroom life that has become tedious and boring library is a pleasant place for such a child to relax with colleagues. It is a comfortable chair and table for those who enjoy the thrill of pursuing and exchanging idea. In all the discourse above one can conclude that the school library in educational institutions serves all the stakeholders in the school setting either as students, teachers, and other beneficiaries of education in Nigeria.

Services Delivery in the School Library

One of the aims of setting up the library in the secondary school is to offer a service that will benefit the students in the academic institutions. The services as offer by the school library as described by Moruf (2015), Abdulsalami, Okezie, Agbo (2013) are as follows:

1. It introduces users to a world of learning and inculcates in learners the love for reading.
2. The library provide for larger member of community the information they need for their daily activities
3. Provide reference information resources such as encyclopedia, journals, magazines, tapes, records and cassettes for quick responses to their enquiry and research work.
4. Provision of recreational and continuing educational facilities such as games, films and filmstrips, slides, tapes records, and cassettes, fiction and non-fiction book.
5. To the teachers the school library assist them to know the resources in the library in their subjects areas of teaching by way of inviting teachers in the book selection process and by mounting library display for public enlightenment . There various resources that should be readily available in the library if they must provide the expected services to target users while citing Fayose (1995) Ogunniyi, Adeniji and Jato (2011) highlighted the need for library personnel with well developed school library with adequate facilities, adequate library staff and well equipped school media centre, and school librarians can link the teachers with children and information resources such as books in a fruitful union.

According to Ogunniyi and other authors as seen from above the teachers that know the importance of school library will recommend textbooks to be used by students that are available in the library and in order to inculcate the skills of using the library, the teachers may give assignment to student and asked them to go to the library and check for a textbook that can provide answer or solution to the question that was asked in the classroom teaching environment. In discussing the services provision of the school library, the discussion would not be completed without looking at the role librarian played in their various schools which Moruf (2015), saw the school librarian as provider of learning resources in compatible with individual learners' interest and ability. As facilitators he or she should have inviting personalities that is approachable where students will see library as resources centre that has all the resources for their academic success in life.

Methodology

Simple random sampling was adopted for the four private secondary schools. The data were collected using questionnaire as research instrument while teacher librarian in each of the school assist the researchers to administered the questionnaire to the students that use the school libraries regularly. In all, 130 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the selected schools, out of 130 copies of questionnaire distributed about 87 of them were properly filled and returned. This represents a return rate of 70%, the completed questionnaire were analysed using frequency count and percentage.

Procedure

The research instrument was administered by the researchers during the second term of 2017/2018 sessions. Out of 130 copies of questionnaire administrated 87 were properly filled and returned. This represents a return rate of about 70%, the completed copies of the questionnaire were analysed using frequency count and percentages.

Profile of the Schools Sampled

	Name of Schools	Year set up	Students no	No of responses	Users
1	Master Model College, Ijokodo Ibadan	2008	170	50	20
2	Go –Ahead High School Ibadan	1998	15	10	05
3	Al Qalam Schools. Olonde Estate Ologuneru , Eruwa Road	2006	60	50	35
4	Temilade College Ijokodo Ibadan	2004	201	20	10
	TOTAL		150	130	70

Analysis and Discussion

The findings revealed that 50(57%) of the respondents were female while the remaining 37(43%) were male. On the subject of the users' perception of the existence of library, about 69% of the respondents were of the opinion of the existence of the library while 31% of the respondents expressed are not aware of the existence of library in their secondary schools. The analysis shows that the few respondents who are not aware of the existence of library in their schools may not be using the library and so cannot enjoy the benefits that the library offers.

Table 2: Assessment of Library Resource

Library Resources	Adequate		Inadequate	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
Environment	07	10	63	90
Building	15	21	55	7
Textbooks	17	24	53	76
Serials materials	30	43	40	57
Personnel	30	43	40	57
Furniture	60	86	10	14
No option	-	-	-	-

From table 2, 63 and 7 of the total respondents saw the library environment to be inadequate and adequate, while 76% and 24% of the respondents assessed the book in the library to be inadequate and adequate respectively, 86% and 14% of the respondent saw furniture as one of the library resource to be adequate and inadequate respectively, 30 and 40 of the respondents assessed the personnel of the library

and serials materials to be inadequate and adequate respectively. 21% and 79% of the respondents saw the library building to be inadequate and adequate respectively. The respondents' assessment of the library and its resources are important, as the end user of library and resources can give correct assessment of the library which will invariably assist the school management in formulating a policy for library development in their schools
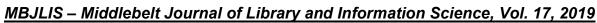
Table 3: Reasons for utilising library resources

Response Alternative	Freq	%
Doing assignment	18	25
Borrowing the library books	10	14
Reading Magazine and Newspapers	15	21
Browsing the collections of the library	11	16
Reading personal materials like book	16	23
TOTAL	70	100

   Table 3, shows that 25% of the total respondents use the library for doing assignment, while 20%, 21%, 16% of the respondents use the library to widen their horizon by reading magazines and newspapers as well as browsing the collections of the library, while 23% use the library for reading personal materials like books, 14% of the respondents use the library to borrow library books. One can then deduce that the library and its resources are meant to assist the students to achieve the purpose of their being in the school. This finding is in line with assertion of Udoh (2001) and Obajemu (2002) that states that school library as a service unit of the school's is main aim is to assist the students to use the materials at the library for their own advantages, with effective utilisation of the school library by the students these can be used to effectively address the falling standard of education.

Table 4: Benefit for Using the Library

Statement on questionnaire	Agreed		Strongly agreed		Disagreed	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Improvement on reading habits	15	21	25	36	30	43
Enhance better performance as a students	40	57	20	29	10	14
Assist in getting materials for wider knowledge	38	54	22	31	11	15
Supplement the class lecture	40	57	10	14	20	29
Widen users horizon through the various resources in the library,	51	71	10	14	11	15

Table 4 revealed that 43%, 36% and 21% of the respondents disagreed, strongly agreed and agreed that the use of library has led to the improvement of reading habits, while 54%, 31%, 15% of the respondents agreed, strongly agreed and disagreed that the use of library has assisted them in getting materials for wider knowledge, 57%, 29%, 14% of the total respondents agreed, strongly agreed and disagreed that the use of the library has enhanced their better performance

as students in their schools. 71%, 14% and 15% of the total respondents agreed, strongly agreed and disagreed that the use of library has widen their horizon through the various resources in the library, while 57% 14%, and 29% of the respondents agreed, strongly agreed and disagreed that the use of library has supplemented the class lectures. From the above analysis it can be concluded that for students to use the library maximally, the users would have to change their orientation about the usage of library. It is expedient for student the future leaders to be readers that are ready to make the library their second home. While the school owners should see it as their duties to provide relevant and up to date materials for its user's advantages

Table 5: Challenges against usage of the library

Problems	Freq	%
Lack of library education	30	46
Unhealthy library environment	15	33
Library period not entrenched in the school	07	06
unfriendly library staff	10	08
Irrelevant reading materials	08	07
Total	70	100

Analysis above shows that the most pressing problems of students not using the library is lack of library education by the school authority (46%). It is interesting to note that respondents ranked unhealthy library environment as second (33%) closely followed by unfriendly library staff (08%) ranked as third hindrance to the use of library by the respondents. while irrelevant reading materials and inadequate library period allocated for students (07%) and (06%) ranked as fourth and fifth most pressing problems of the respondents not using the library and its resources in their various schools.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The school library main goal is to enhance the academic performance of the students .From this study it has shown that that many students are aware of the existence of libraries in their schools. The library collections are inadequate in meeting students information needs as most of them had to bring their personal reading materials to the school libraries instead of using the resources available in the library. The following recommendations were made from the study:

I. Library period should be enforced as part of the school academic time-table.
II. The use of library education should be taught to student's right from the time of their enrolment in the schools.
III. School owners should provide internet facilities for the use of students.
IV. Learning resources like audio visual aid to learning and teaching should from the core of library collections.
V. Adequate funds should be provided to implement library programmes.

VI. Qualified and experienced library personnel   should be employed to man the library.

VII.   All the stakeholders in education should be involved in the programme that focuses on the usage of the library to enhance reading culture among Nigerian youth.

VIII.   Manpower programme should be made compulsory for any personnel of the library   to enhance their proficiency on the job.

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