



IMPACT AND ROLES OF LIBRARIES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: A CASE OF BINGHAM UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC STAFF

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Abstract

A nation is said to have attained national development when its citizen reaches the highest possible standard of living. The key role of education towards the attainment of national development has made qualitative education a key component of the Seven-Point Agenda of sustainable economy. This in turn requires Libraries to improve our educational system, agriculture, health sector and tourism... The realization of the enormous power of information has made Libraries and information resource centres inevitably present in many sectors of the nations development. The level and quality of library participation in a populace such; as education, agricultural activities, tourism, health and commercial activities are paramount contributory factors to the level of national development in Nigeria. This research evaluated the impact and roles of libraries to national development. . The target population of this study comprises the Academic Staff of Bingham University. Sixty (60) questionnaires were distributed fifty (50) was returned In the course of the research, the researchers were able to find out that library plays a vital role in the development of a nation, a comprehensive national library and information policy for the country be established, more ways should be employed to generate internal revenue in the Library.. It is therefore important that Libraries be given stake holder roles for the Nigeria's national development. This paper looks at various types of libraries and their basic functions and roles in national development.

Key Words: Libraries, functions, roles, National, Development

Introduction

The development of any society today has to be measured by its, socio-economic,

political, and technological advancement.. Aremu (2003) sees national development as a process of enhancing the productive forces

of a country for the actualization of more prosperous and meaningful life for all its citizens. Thus, development emphasizes growth or advancement, with a positive cultural and socio-economic tendency towards a self-generating and self-perpetuating utilization of people's potentials.

Online dictionary defines National development as the ability of a nation to improve the social welfare of people, for instance by providing social amenities, good education, water and environment.

Mohammed (2001) is of the opinion that national development simply implies the advancement or growth of a country especially socio-economically, politically, educational, culturally and technologically. Hudson (2007) stated that development means higher GDP's, better quality of life and a state of national being and consciousness in which information and knowledge are both cause and effect. Economic, social and technological aspects of a nation and how they are positively affecting the people in daily life, business, environment and competitiveness of these compared to other nations.

Okiy (2009) viewed national development as involving economic growth, modernization, equitable distribution of income and national resources and socio-economic transformation for improved living standards of people through the use of a country's human, natural, and institutional resources.

National developments are most commonly defined as the creation of jobs and wealth, and the improvement of quality of life. Randal (2004) described economic development as a process that influences growth and the restructuring of an economy to enhance the economic well being of a community. The national economic development involves economic growth, modernization, equitable distribution of income and national resources and social economics transformation for improved living standard of people through the use of

a country's human, natural and institutional resources (Brooks, 1990).

(Anyika, 2005;) Effective citizen action is possible only where citizens know how to gain access to information of all kinds and have the skills to become responsible and informed participants in democracies. Information promotes and empowers citizens' participation in the democratic process; it helps to maintain the Rule of Law and creates a viable outlet for the injection of public opinion. Information enriches the policy-making process of political leadership, all of which nurtures the building of sustainable peace for the enhancement of the development of the state

Achitabwino (2007) assume that libraries are a pivotal point in democracy promotion and socio-economic development in a country. He argues that for democratic process to make sense, those that govern must be aware of the needs of those that are governed. This can only be achieved if the politicians and electorates are provided with information relating to democracy, human rights and the rule of law. For example Zimbabwe has made significant strides to inform the electorates about government activities and projects through the establishment of Parliament Constituencies Information Centres (PCIC). PCICs play a critical role of informing the general public in a named constituency with information to spur development at the same time informing the Member of Parliament for the respective constituency with demographic, economic, social and cultural information pertinent in drafting developmental projects.

Relevance of library to national development

Adio and Olasina (2005) defines Library as a learned institution equipped with treasures of knowledge maintained, organised 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. There are different types of library and they

play vital role in national development. National library, Academic Library and Public Library, special library, school library. Our focus will be on few of the libraries mentioned above

A library is an instrument of self-education, a means of knowledge and factual information, a centre of intellectual recreations and a beacon of enlightenment that provides accumulated preserved knowledge of civilization which consequently enriches one's mental vision and dignifies his habit, behaviour, character, taste, attitude, conduct and outlook on life

Academic Library

Academic libraries have always served as tools for educational advancement at all levels of education (Akintunde, 2004). The realization of the enormous power of information has made Academic libraries and Information resource centres inevitably present in all sectors of a nation's economy.

The Academic library serves as a tool for developed nation as well on a developing a gate-way to political, economic and social happiness and survival. Freedom in its various dimensions means the absence of ignorance of situations country, for intellectuals' freedom and economic development;.

Public Library

According to Nair (1995) public library is an institution which offers to people free access to information. To a large extent it is related to the principle of access .Unesco Manifesto for public library (1994) proclaims public library as an institution which is the principal means whereby the record of man's thoughts and ideas and the expression of his creative imagination are made freely available to all.

The role of the public library is linked to national development through providing knowledge that is critical in shaping the community, developing workforce capacity and improving early literacy as well as school readiness. The public library has been identified as a natural partner in promoting economic development.

National Library

These are libraries established to collect and preserve publications of a country's heritage According to the *Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science*, "a library is called national, when it is the official repository of printed works, a general access library; an information-bibliographical centre and a centre of coordination, planning and stimulation of the entire library system of the nation". In relation to other libraries, national libraries occupy an independent and exceptional position.

National and public libraries are regarded as the people's university being the local gateway to knowledge, providing opportunities for lifelong learning, independent decision making and cultural development of individual and social groups (Oyegade, Nasarawa and Mokogwu, 2003). The National library is a worldwide phenomenon. It attempts to meet a wide variety of readers needs, providing varied information resources such as text books, journals, literary books, etc. The collections also contain information on social sciences, reference work; recreational information and extension services. Thus, the national library functions as a ready source of information on all activities in all works of life for people to take advantage of, in decision making for development activities and for educational advancement and overall national development.

Roles of Libraries in National Development.

Further contribution by Achitabwino (2007) is that libraries are the corner stone of democracy in communities because they assist the public in locating diversity of resources and in developing the information literacy skills necessary to become responsible, informed citizen who can participate in democracy.

Nair (1995) attests to the fact that economic growth is not possible without extensive use of scientific and technical know-how embodied in books, and other mediums access to right book or information

at the right time for scientist, engineer or agronomist could have multiplier effect on the economy. It is at this juncture that the role of libraries becomes a cornerstone for development by collecting knowledge valuable to the engineers, entrepreneurs and scientist alike.

Libraries as a Tool for Educational Development

Libraries are viewed as an important component of the massive educational effort of the Federal Government of Nigeria, without the library no meaningful academic achievement can be realized. Library services improve knowledge and skills for positive productivity as a tool for national development. If education is to have a greater share in the moulding and building of a happier individual and a better society, the providers of education must go further than their roles as literacy facilitators to a more practical role of providing libraries for sustaining the newly acquired skills of learners. Organizing a library to aid education calls for an atmosphere of friendliness and useful collection. For example parts of goals of learning in higher institution in Nigeria are: contribution to national development through high level relevant manpower training; development and inculcation proper values for the survival of the individual and society; and developing the intellectual capability of individuals to understand and appreciate their local and external environments.

Libraries as a development Tool for Agricultural Sector

Achitabwino (2007) affirms that

agriculture is the backbone of many nations including Nigeria and we need libraries that can harness information on marketable crops, agri-business, agro-economics, diseases affecting crops and irrigation. The information if used intelligently would boost the economic investments giving rise to a higher GDP and

improved livelihood of the citizens.

Agricultural sector is one of the largest contributors to the economic well-being of most Nigerians. Valerie et al (2010) viewed agriculture sector to continue to grow, research-based knowledge of the existing agricultural practices. The potential of the sector to impact the transformation of the economic sector cannot be ignored. Therefore it is important for libraries to support agricultural research in Nigeria that will need to tap into globally available information resources. Announcements about resources, training, and other pertinent information could be directly conveyed to agricultural students and faculty by using existing free database, Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) and the essential electronics agricultural Library (TEEAL) and web-base software programs like wikis and blogs or posters from the library. Valerie et al (2010) stated three major policies by Nigeria Strategy Support Program (NSSP) of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) that can enhance the implementation of Nigeria's national development plans through strengthening of agricultural-sector policies and strategies through:

1. Enhanced knowledge, information, data, and tools for the analysis, design, and implementation of pro-poor, gender-sensitive, and environmentally sustainable agricultural and rural development polices and strategies in Nigeria;
2. Strengthened capacity for government agencies, research institutions, and other stakeholders to carry out and use applied research that directly informs agricultural and rural polices and strategies; and
3. Improved communication linkages and consultations

between policymakers, policy analysts, and policy beneficiaries on agricultural and rural development policy issues.

In addition, other stakeholders in the agriculture industry, such as policymakers, educators, students, development partners, members of the private sector, and extension personnel, need high quality, relevant, and timely agricultural information services to make good strategic policies and decisions.

Roles of libraries in Health Service Delivery

The central role of information in controlling behavioural diseases such as HIV/AIDS and drugs addiction among Nigerians requires the government to deploying all available information sources, without any discrimination of the sources according to their use and characteristics in the target communities. Therefore, it is imperative that libraries play an important role in the dissemination of health information and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. According to Adio, Akewukereke and Samuel (2007) citizens need access to information on clinical effectiveness in order to improve the quality of care and to stay well-informed on developments in specialist areas. Therefore the role of libraries is very important to the health sector. If the citizens are well informed about the various diseases and their causes, it will affect productivity positively among labour force.

The Role of Libraries in Tourism Sector

The role of libraries in promoting and marketing the tourism sector cannot be underestimated. Libraries serves as reservoirs of information and the most reliable information are reference centres where tourists can seek information on hotels, motels, national parks, and other interesting places. Increment in the commercial values was noted in a city or town that harbours higher institution of learning in Nigeria. This in turn increases population and commercial activities such as

buying and selling of both visible and invisible goods.

The impact of libraries helps the deposition guides and directories to locate commercial areas for new visitors. The combination of each economic activity is the building block for national economic development.

Objectives Of The Study

1. To determine the importance of library to national development.
2. To ascertain if the citizens of the country know the relevance of the library.
3. To find out areas library can contribute to the national development.
4. To know if the government is paying attention to library development.
5. To find out the areas library has not been contributing positively to the economy.
6. To proffer solution to the problems.

Research Methodology

A Survey research method was used to carry out this study because of its large population.. Questionnaires was used for collecting data for this research because Cohen and Morrison (2012) is of view that the questionnaires is widely used and it is a useful instrument for collecting survey information providing structured, often numerical data, being able to be administered without the presence of the researcher and often comparatively straight forward to analyze.

The target population of this study comprises the Academic Staff of Bingham University. Sixty (60) questionnaires were distributed fifty (50) was returned.

Question 1.

Does Library play a vital role in the development of a nation?

S/ N	ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	AGREE	15	30%
2	STRONGLY AGREE	25	50%
3	DISAGREE	5	10%
4	STRONGLY DISAGREE	5	10%

TABLE.1: According to table 1 15(30%) agree that library plays a vital role in the development of a nation, 25(50%) strongly agree, 5(10%) disagree, 5(10%) strongly disagree. From the table we can see that the library plays a vital role in the development of a nation.

Question 2

Does Government pay attention to Library development?

S/ N	ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	AGREE	15	30%
2	STRONGLY AGREE	10	20%
3	DISAGREE	20	40%
4	STRONGLY DISAGREE	5	10%

Table 2: According to table 2, 15(30%) agree that Government pays attention to library development, 10(20%) strongly agree, 20(40%) disagree, 5(10%) strongly disagree. From our analysis we can see that government pay attention to the development of the Library.

Question 3

Is national development the concern of the entire nation?

S/ N	ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	AGREE	10	20%
2	STRONGLY AGREE	40	80%
3	DISAGREE	-	-
4	STRONGLY DISAGREE	-	-

Table 3: according to table 3 10(20%) agree that national development is the concern of the nation. 40 (80%) strongly agree, from the survey carried out we were able to deduce that national development is the concern of the entire nation.

Question 4

Should Librarians be carried along in the processes and programmes concerning national development?

S/ N	ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	AGREE	30	60%
2	STRONGLY AGREE	20	40%
3	DISAGREE	-	-
4	STRONGLY DISAGREE	-	-

Table 4, from table above 30(60%) agree that librarians should be carried along in the processes and programmes concerning national development. While 20(40%) strongly agree. From the outcome of our survey librarians should be carried along in matters concerning national development.

Question 5

Should a comprehensive national Library and information policy for the country be established?

S/ N	ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	AGREE	15	30%
2	STRONGLY AGREE	35	70%
3	DISAGREE	-	-
4	STRONGLY DISAGREE	-	-

Table 5. From the table 15(30%) agree that a comprehensive national library and information policy for the country be established.35 (70%) strongly agree. From the survey carried out respondents are of the opinion that a comprehensive national library and information policy should be established for the country.

Question 6

Will marketing of library service to the general populace bring about awareness and positive contribution to national development?

S/ N	ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	AGREE	20	40%
2	STRONGLY AGREE	30	60%
3	DISAGREE	-	-
4	STRONGLY DISAGREE	-	-

Table 6: According to table 6, 20(40%) agree that marketing of library services to the general populace brings about awareness and positive contribution to national development. While 30(60%) strongly agree. From our survey majority of the respondent are of the opinion that marketing of library service to the general populace brings about awareness and positive contribution to national development.

Question 7

Will library services improve knowledge and skills for positive productivity as a tool to enhance national development?

S/ N	ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	AGREE	15	30%
2	STRONGLY AGREE	35	70%
3	DISAGREE	-	-
4	STRONGLY DISAGREE	-	-

Table 7: from the above table 15(30%) agree that library services will improve knowledge and skills for positive productivity as a tool to enhance national development. 35 (70%) strongly agree. Based on the survey carried out majority strongly agree that library services will improve k knowledge and skills for positive productivity as a tool to enhance national development

Question 8

Should politicians and electorates be provided with information relating to democracy, human right and rule of law?

S/ N	ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	AGREE	15	30%
2	STRONGLY AGREE	35	70%
3	DISAGREE	-	-

4	STRONGLY DISAGREE	-	-
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Table 8: According to the above table 15(30%) agree that politicians and electorates be provided with information relating to democracy human right and rule of law. 35(70%) strongly agree. We can deduce from our analysis in the above table that politicians and electorates be provided with information relating to democracy human right and rule of law.

Question 9

Should librarians relate with one another so as to exchange information on national development issues?

S/ N	ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	AGREE	30	60%
2	STRONGLY AGREE	20	40%
3	DISAGREE	-	-
4	STRONGLY DISAGREE	-	-

Table 9: from the above table, 30(60%) agree that librarians should relate with one another so as to exchange information on national development issues.20 (40%) strongly agree. From the above analysis majority of the respondent are of the opinion that librarians should relate with one another so as to exchange information on national development issues

Question 10

Should more ways be employ to generate revenue internally in the Library?

S/ N	ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	AGREE	25	50%
2	STRONGLY AGREE	5	10%
3	DISAGREE	10	20%
4	STRONGLY DISAGREE	5	10%

Table 10: 25(50%) agree that more ways should be employed to generate internal revenue in the Library.5 (10%) strongly agree, 10 (20%) disagree, 5(10%) strongly disagree. We were able to gather from our survey that more ways should be employed to generate internal revenue in the Library.

Conclusion

The impact of Library on national development cannot be overemphasized, Information “is a vital tool in all forms of human endeavour. It is the link pin of national development” (Achitabwino, 2007). In order to grow more efficiently in all

aspects of society, developing countries must collect and provide access to adequate and up-to-date “information on security, health, education, tourism, youth empowerment, gender equality, environment, etc.” In this regard, it is imperative that all hands must be on deck toward establishing effective libraries for the proper management, provision, and dissemination of information in order to attain national development goals.

Recomendation

Certain issues were raised in the course of the study and here are some recommendations.

1. The role of the library in national development should not be neglected.
2. Marketing of library service to the general populace will enlighten them on the impact of Library on national development.
3. Politicians and electorate should be provided with information relating to democracy which will guide the in the course of executing there work.
4. Librarians should be carried along in the processes and programs relating to national development, so that there impact will be felt.

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