Strategizing Nigerian school libraries to meet the needs of the contemporary society By Amaechi, N. M. and Dike, C. A. is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License
Strategizing Nigerian School Libraries to Meet the Needs of the Contemporary Society


Abstract

The paper presents a framework for strategizing Nigerian school libraries to meet the needs of the contemporary society. It is based on the School Libraries Act of 2004, which mandates all schools to have a library. The study identifies the challenges faced by Nigerian school libraries and suggests strategies for addressing them. The framework is designed to ensure that school libraries are relevant and effective in supporting the educational needs of students in the 21st century.

State of School Libraries in Nigeria

A visit to school libraries in Nigerian secondary schools shows that the available facilities are far from being satisfactory. Essential facilities such as adequate collection, qualified personnel among others are missing.

Adetuyi (2010) revealed that school libraries in Nigeria lack personnel and are underfunded. Adetuyi (2010) in another study concluded that the development of library resources in secondary schools in Ekiti State, Nigeria have been at a low level. Ogumiyi & Jato (2014) in their survey of staff and organization of primary and secondary school libraries in Ondo State revealed that staff in the libraries are not professionally qualified, and are not able to organize library resources systematically.

Ogunnaike and Adebayo (2012) identified inadequate staffing, lack of adequate materials, lack of infrastructure and inadequate facilities as problems of the school library system. Adeyemi (2007) observed from a survey of staff and organization of primary and secondary school libraries in Ondo State that the libraries in the state are faced with the problems of inadequate staffing, lack of adequacy of materials, lack of infrastructure and inadequate facilities.

Egbele (2013) observed that some private schools do not have libraries in their schools and where they exist, inadequate facilities and personnel are lacking making it difficult for the utilization of the library resources. In a study conducted in secondary schools, Adeyemi (2010) and Adeyemi (2012) observed that school libraries in Nigeria are not well established, some are not adequately equipped and poorly funded. The study revealed that the libraries are not effectively managed and that a large number of students are not exposed to a wide range of books and other non-textbook library materials.

Factors Contributing to Poor State of School Libraries in Nigeria

1. Reliance on foreign book donations: Most school libraries rely on foreign book donations which they may not return or the current curriculum at the time of arrival.

2. Poor management of school libraries: According to Adeyemi (2010), some school libraries in Nigeria are not adequately managed. Some school libraries are in a state of abandonment due to lack of management and funds, and are not being used as they are planned to be used.

3. Leaders' neglect of development of school libraries: Leaders in Nigeria are not always committed to the development of school libraries, especially when it comes to educational issues. Leaders in Nigeria are more concerned with political issues and less with educational issues.

4. Non-compliance with school standards: Some schools in Nigeria do not comply with school standards. Some schools are not able to meet the requirements set by the government. Some schools are not able to meet the requirements set by the government. Some schools are not able to meet the requirements set by the government.

5. Unavailability of finance: Many school libraries are not adequately financed. The reason for this is that the government does not provide enough funds for the libraries.

6. Ineffective attitude of school librarians towards library development: It has been observed that some school librarians have an ineffective attitude towards library development. This can be attributed to the lack of interest in improving the library system.
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