

ASSESSMENT OF THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNCTIONAL LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY WEEKLY PERIODS IN PUBLIC SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN EDO STATE NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

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Abstract

This Paper Focused On The Availability Of Functional Libraries In Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria And Its Implications On Educational Planning. The Population Of The Study Was 318 Principals. The Sample Size Was 120 Public Senior Secondary Schools. The Multi Stage Sampling Technique Was Used To Select The Sample. The 120 Principals Were The Respondents Using Convenient Sampling Technique. The Results Showed That Functional Libraries Were Not Available In The 120 Sampled Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State. It Was Concluded That The Unavailability Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State Can Cause Students To Fail, Repeat Or Drop Out From School, Which Are Indices Of Wastages And Low Internal Efficiency Of A School Or Educational System Because There Were No Functional Libraries For Them To Develop Their Reading, Writing And Communication Skills, Among Others. It Was Therefore Recommended Among Others, That Governments Who Are The Proprietors Of Public Senior Secondary Schools Should Bring Their Political Will To Bear, By Providing Adequate Funds For Quality Education Delivery By Providing Functional Libraries Among Others In Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State.

Keywords: Availability Of Functional Libraries, Reading Culture, Writing And Communication Skills, Wastages

Introduction

The Role Of Functional Libraries In Schools Cannot Be Undermined. The National Policy On Education (npe) Recognises This And Referred To Them As Educational Support Services Among Others. Educational Support Service According To The Npe Facilitates The Implementation Of Educational Policies, The Attainment Of Policies' Goals And The Promotion Of Effectiveness Of The Educational System. The Npe Further Stated That A Functional School Library Is At The Heart Of The Education Enterprise And One Of The Most Important Education Support Services. It Went On To Say That To Achieve Its Goal As An Education Support Service, States/fct, Local Governments And Proprietors Of Schools Should Establish Functional Libraries In Schools According To The Established Standards In Order To Promote Reading Culture Among Pupils And Students In All Educational Institutions. In Order To Inculcate Reading Culture Among Students And Improve On It, Weekly Library Periods Shall Be Part Of A School's Curriculum So As To Aid Learning Activities In Order To Achieve The Goals Of Education At Any Level (esan, 2022; Frn, 2013).

It Has However Been Observed That Many Public Senior Secondary Schools Seem Not To Have Functional Libraries Which Play Very Important Roles To Teachers And Students For Effective And Efficient Teaching And Learning Activities In Schools Respectively (esan, 2022; Ighakpe,

2018). This is because they enable teachers to make references to books, journals and other materials when preparing their lessons, provide teachers with supplementary readings and keep teachers and students abreast of current affairs (Oyetola&adio, 2020). The import of a functional library cannot be overemphasised when it comes to its cost effectiveness in ensuring all students have access to textbooks and other materials needed for their academic pursuit irrespective of their socio-economic backgrounds. This is because many students can make use of one textbook, especially those from poor backgrounds who cannot afford to buy textbooks (Idiegbeyanose&okoedion, 2012).

There is this suspicion that the seemingly unavailability of functional libraries in public senior secondary schools is the cause of poor students' academic performance. This is because there is a positive relationship between functional school libraries and students' academic performance (Idiegbeyanose&okoedion, 2012). The presence of functional libraries in schools helps students to develop and imbibe reading culture, hence the NPE said that there should be a weekly period for students to familiarise themselves with the library, thereby develop reading culture that will invariably make them to be very studious with better grades in schools; in that way, avoiding failures, repetitions and drop outs which are wastages (Esan, 2022). When students do not cultivate the habit of reading, reading for both internal and external examinations like the West African Senior School Certificate Examinations (WASSCE) or the National Examination Council (NECO) Senior School Certificate Examination (NECO SSCE), may be difficult with possible failures, repeaters and even drop outs (Ternege&agipu, 2019).

It is perceived that students no longer read for examinations and so, this can cause them to perform poorly in examinations or and possibly indulge in examination malpractices because reading, writing and communication skills that are developed in functional libraries seem to have eluded them because of perhaps the unavailability of functional libraries in public senior secondary schools. This is attributed to governments' ineptitude towards quality education as a result of what governments say is due to lack of funds (Apeji, 2014; Uzuegbu & Ibiyemi, 2013). This excuse from governments seems not to go down well with some schools of thought who say that governments' attitude towards provision of functional libraries in senior secondary schools is not due to lack of funds but that it is because governments lack the political will to do the needful. Parents and guardians on the other hand, are said to no longer buy books for their children to read neither do they create a sort of library for them at home where they can easily pick books to read nor make time out for them to read at home and be monitored, as the case may be, according to the socio-economic levels of the parents or guardians (Oyetola&adio, 2020). The Nigeria Library Association (NLA) and her likes appear not to be bothered by this non availability of functional libraries in public senior secondary schools (Esan, 2022; Uzuegbu & Ibiyemi, 2013). Inspectors of education seem not to be bothered? Stakeholders in education are worried about this trend because of the fear that public senior secondary schools appear not to have functional libraries despite the prescriptions of the NPE. This, they say, could be the reasons not only for poor students' academic performance but also for the rising involvement of students in examination malpractices.

There is this public outcry in Edo State, Nigeria, of the declining reading culture of students compared to some years ago when students did not only develop reading culture from available functional libraries in public senior secondary school in Edo State but they also developed their reading, writing and communication skills. Could this be why it is observed that the reading, writing and communication skills of students are fast declining in recent times? Another school of thought has it that this perceived absence of functional libraries in schools may be the reason why students have found solace in their phones instead of reading their books. Google and other search engines seem to have done more harm than good

Because It Is Said That Google Cannot Replace Functional Libraries. It Is True That One Can Get Books From The Internet; Are They All Free? What Happens To The Children Of The Poor Who Cannot Afford Android Phones And I-phones Among Others, Which They Will Use To Surf The Internet? What About The Money To Buy Data? What About Students Living In The Rural Areas Where There Is No Electricity Supply At All Or Where There Is Incessant Disruptions Of Electricity Supply Even For Those Who Live In Urban Areas Whose Parents Cannot Afford To Bear The Cost Of Powerng? How Will Students Then Charge And Recharge Their Phones If Phones Are The Options.

The Npe Is In The Know Of These That Is Why It Did Not Stipulate E-library At The Senior Secondary Level Of Education But Insisted On School Library. The Question Arising In Recent Times Which Has Kept Stakeholders In Worry Is That, They Find It Hard To Believe That There Are No Functional Libraries In Public Senior Secondary Schools And In Edo State In Particular As Well As The Non-inclusion Of Weekly Library Periods In The Time Tables Of Public Senior Secondary Schools, In Edo State; Moreso, When The Npe Prescribed It.

Objectives Of The Study

The Objectives Of This Study Therefore, Are To:

1. Find Out The State Of Functional Libraries In The Pubic Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State;
2. To Find Out The Level Of Availability Of Functional Libraries In The Nu Public Senior Secondary Schools Of Edo State Nigeria; And
3. To Find Out The Level Of Availability Of Library Weekly Periods In The School Time Tables Of The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State.

To Guide The Study The Following Research Questions Were Raised

Research Questions

1. What Is The State Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria?
2. What Is The Level Of Availability Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria?
3. What Is The Level Of Availability Of Weekly Library Periods In The School Time Tables Of The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria?

Methodology

A Descriptive Survey Research Design Was Used For This Study Because The Study Described The Phenomenon Of Availability Of Functional Libraries And Library Weekly Periods In The Public Senior Secondary Schools Of Edo State, Using Information (data) Gathered From The Sample Through Their Responses To The Questionnaires Administered. The Population Was The 318 Principals Of All The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria. The Sample Size Was 120 Principals In Thepublic Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria. The Multi Stage Sampling Technique Was Used To Select The Sample Size. The First Stage Was To Stratify Edo State, Nigeria Into The Three Senatorial Zones, Edo State Central Senatorial Zone, Edo State North Senatorial Zone And Edostate South Senatorial Zone. The Second Stage Was To Stratify The Senatorial Zones Into The 18 Local Government Areas In The Zones. The Third Stage Was To Select 4 Local Government Areas From Each Zone, Making 12 Local Government Areas, Using Simple Random Sampling Technique. The Fourth Stage Was To Select 10 Principals From Each Local Government Area Making 120 Principals. The 120 Principals Were Chosen As Respondents Using Simple Random Sampling Technique. The Research Instrument Used Was A Questionnaire Named

“assessment Of Availability Of Functional Libraries And Library Weekly Periods Questionnaire (aaflalwpq)”. The Research Instrument Was Divided Into Sections A And B. Section A Had The Demographics Of The School While Section B Had Questions On The Variables In The Research Questions. The Questionnaire Was Validated By Experts In Educational Planning and Library And Information Science. Furthermore, The Reliability Test Was Carried Out Using The Test-retest Method And Thereafter Pearson's Product Correlation Coefficient Was Used To Find The Reliability Of The Instrument. The Result Was 0.85 Which Showed That The Instrument Was Reliable. The Questionnaires Were Administered By The Researcher And Her Trained Research Assistants And One Hundred Percent Retrieval Was Achieved While The Data Collected Were Analysed In Simple Percentages. The Tables Were Presented By Senatorial Zone And Local Government Area. Since The Results Were The Same, To Avoid Clumsiness The Tables' Research Questions Were Represented By Rqs 1-3 Representing The Three Research Questions And The Choice Of Responses For Research Question One Was Excellent, Good, Fair, Bad And Very Bad, Depending On The State Of The Variable. Research Questions Two And Three Responses Were Very High, High, Very Low, Low And None, Depending On The State Of The Variables.

Results

Edo State Central Senatorial Zone

Research Questions 1-3

1. What Is The State Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State?
2. What Is The Level Of Availability Of Functional Libraries In The public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State?
3. What Is The Level Of Availability Of Weekly Library Periods In The School Time Tables Of The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State?

Table 1: Availability Of Functional Libraries And Library Weekly Periods In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo Central Senatorial Zone Of Edo State

Research Questions	Local Government Area	No of Sampled Schools	Response
RQs 1-3	Esan Central	10	RQ1=VERY BAD RQ2=NONE RQ3=NONE
	Esan North East	10	
	Esan South East	10	
	Igueben	10	

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork

The Data In Table 1 Showed That The State Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo Central Senatorial Zone Of Edo State, Nigeria Was Very Bad. There Were No Functional Libraries In The Sampled Public Senior Secondary Schools In Esan Central Senatorial Zone Of Edo State, Nigeria. There Were Also No Library Weekly Periods In All The Schools' Time Tables..

Edo North Senatorial Zone

Research Questions 1-3

- 1.. What Is The State Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria?
2. What Is The Level Of Availability Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria?
3. What Is The Level Of Availability Of Weekly Library Periods In The School Time Tables Of The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria?

Table 2: Availability Of Functional Libraries And Library Weekly Periods In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo North Senatorial Zone Of Edo State Nigeria By Local Government Area

Research Questions	Local Government Area	No of Sampled Schools	Response
RQs 1-3	Akoko Edo	10	
	Etsako East	10	RQ1=VERY
	Estako West	10	BAD
	Owan West	10	RQ2=NONE RQ3=NONE

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork

The Data In Table 2 Showed That The State Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo North Senatorial Zone Of Edo State Nigeria Was Very Bad. There Were No Functional Libraries In The Sampled Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo North Senatorial Zone Of Edo State, Nigeria. There Were Also No Library Weekly Periods In All The Schools' Time Tables..

Edo South Senatorial Zone

Research Questions 1-3

1. What Is The State Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria?
2. What Is The Level Of Availability Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria?
3. What Is The Level Of Availability Of Weekly Library Periods In The School Time Tables Of The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria?

Table 3: Availability Of Functional Libraries And Library Weekly Periods In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo South Senatorial Zone By Local Government Area

Research Questions	Local Government Area	No of Sampled Schools	Response
RQs 1-3	Oredo	10	
	Egor	10	
	Orhionmwon	10	RQ1=VERY BAD
	Uhunmwode	10	RQ2=NONE RQ3=NONE

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork

The Data In Table 3 Showed That The State Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo South Senatorial Zone Of Edo State Nigeria Was Very Bad. There Were No Functional Libraries In The Sampled Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo South Senatorial Zone Of Edo State, Nigeria. There Were Also No Library Weekly Periods In All The Schools' Time Tables.

Discussion Of Results

The Results Clearly Showed That The State Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools Of Edo State Was Very Bad With No Functional Libraries In The Schools. The Levels Of Availability Of Functional Libraries And Library Weekly Periods In The Schools' Time Tables Showed That, None Of The Schools Had Functional Libraries And There Were No Weekly Periods In The Time Tables Of All The Schools. These Agreed With Esan, (2022) and Ighakpe, (2018) And Disagreed With Fgn, (2013). This Could Be The Reason Why Weekly Library Periods Were Not On Their School Time Tables Despite The Stipulation In The Npe. These Are Not In Tandem With Fgn, (2013). These Showed The State Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State. It Showed The Lackadaisical Attitude Of Inspectors, Nla And Her Likes To The Availability Of Functional Libraries In Pubic Senior Secondary Schools Which Agreed With (esan, 2022; Uzuegbu&ibiyemi, 2013). Parents On The Other Hand, Even Some Of The Learned Ones And Those Who Can Afford To Buy Books For Their Children To Read Inorder To Develop Reading, Learning And Communication Skills Seem Not To Be Concerned About The Reading Culture Of Their Children; Instead They Buy Phones For Them. This Aligned With Oyetola&adio, (2020). This May Be Why Examination Malpractices Appear To Be The Norm Of The Day. How Then Do Students At This Level Of Education Develop Reading Culture That Can Make Them Perform Highly In Internal Examinations And External Examinations Like Wassce And Neco Ssce, Scoring Five Credits And Above In Five Subjects Including English Language, Mathematics And In Three Other Relevant Subjects Needed For Their Choices Of Careers In Universities? This Non Availability Of Functional Libraries Can Lead To Failures, Repeaters And Even Drop Outs In Schools, Which Are Wastages. It Can Also Lead To Examination Malpractices, Breeding Graduates Who Cannot Defend Their Certificates When They Proceed To Higher Education, Further Resulting In Failures, Repeaters And Drop Outs. This Is In Line With Idiegbeyanose&okeodion (2012).

In Recent Times It Has Been Said That Students Lack Reading, Writing And Communication Skills; Where Would They Have Horn Their Skills In All These If No Functional Libraries? Imagine What Has Befallen Students From Poor Family Backgrounds That Would Have Resorted To These Functional Libraries For Books To Read Inorder For Them To Acquire More Knowledge And Perhaps Perform Highly In Examinations, Especially As Senior Secondary School Education Is The Level Of Education Where Subjects Are Chosen For Their Intended Careers,

Thereby Preparing Them For Higher Education. This Agreed With Idiegbeyanose&okoedion (2012). They Also Cannot Buy Android Phones Neither I-phones Among Other Categories Of Phones, From Where They Can Possibly Have Access To Free Books Nor Have Money To Buy Data Or Enough Data To Access Free Books From The Internet. Such Students At This Level Of Education May Not Be Able To Achieve Their Dreams And Contribute Meaningfully To National Development. If Governments Who Are The Proprietors Of Public Senior Secondary Schools Refuse To Provide Functional Libraries Required To Attain The Goals Of Education There May Continue To Be High Rates Of Failures, Repeaters And Drop Outs In Public Senior Secondary Schools Which Are Wastages To Government, Parents, Students, The Society At Large And Can Further Shows The Low Internal Efficiency Of Public Senior Secondary Schools. This Is In Line With (apeji 2014; Unuegbu&ibiyemi 2013).

Implications On Educational Planning

When Students Do Not Have Functional Libraries Where They Can Further Learn How To Read, Write And Communicate Effectively There Can Be Failures, Repeaters And Drop Outs, Especially Students From Poor Socio-economic Backgrounds (esan, 2022; Idiegbeyanose&okoedion, 2012). These Are Wastages To Government, The Students, Their Parents And Society. This Does Not Augur Well For National Development. The Import Of Functional Libraries In Schools And Library Weekly Periods In Schools' Time Tables Cannot Be Undermined, Hence The Npe Placed Importance On The Provision Of Functional Libraries In Schools, Including Having Weekly Library Periods In The Time Tables Of Schools Because It Sees Functional Libraries As One Of The Important Education Support Services That Can Help Drive The Goals Of Education To Reality (npe, 2013). When Students Graduate From Senior Secondary Schools Without A Reading Culture That Would Have Helped Them To Be Good Writers And Have Good Communication Skills, They May Not Be Able To Be Part Of The High Level Manpower Needed For National Development.

Conclusion

The State Of Availability Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State Is Very Bad; To The Extent That, No Single School At This Level Of Education In The State Had A Functional Library And Thereby Not Having Weekly Library Periods In Their Schools' Time Tables, Are Shocking And Call For Urgent Attention. This Is Because The Non Availability Of Functional Libraries In The Public Senior Secondary Schools In Edo State, Nigeria, As May Also Be The Case In Other States Of Nigeria Or Climes Is A Misnomer To Quality Education Delivery And Does Not Augur Well For Self And National Development. It Is A Bane To Human Resources Development And Can Help To Breed Failures, Repeaters And Even Drop Outs, Which Are Indices Of Wastages And Shows How Low The Internal Efficiency Of A School Can Be. It Can Also Help To Encourage Examination Malpractices And Their Likes. Government's Inspectors Of Education, Mla And Her Likes Should Put In More Efforts To See To It That The Functional Libraries Are Available And Put To Use In All The Schools, As Stipulated In The Npe. Parents' Attitude To Their Children's Reading Culture Which Can Help To Develop Their Reading, Learning And Communication Skills For Higher Academic Performance In Examinations Should To Be Addressed.

Recommendations

It Is Therefore Recommended That Governments At All Levels Who Are Proprietors Of Public Schools Should Have The Political Will To Adequately Fund Education So That Functional Libraries Required For Quality Education Delivery Are Available And Used In Schools. Stakeholders In Education, Philanthropists, Foreign Partners, Corporate Bodies And Religious Bodies Among Others, Should Not Rest On Their Oars In Partnering With Governments Or Schools To Provide

Such An Important Resource As Functional Libraries That Are Ready And Open For Use In Schools, In Order To Help Students Develop Good Reading Culture, That Leads To Good Reading, Writing And Communication Skills, That Will Invariably Help Them Contribute Meaningfully To National Development. This Will In No Small Measure Reduce If Not Totally Eradicate Observed Failure, Repeater And Dropout Rates Which Are Indices Of Wastages, That Also Reveal That The Internal Efficiency Of That Level Of Education Is Low. Inspectors In Ministries Of Education Should Ensure That Library Weekly Periods Are Included In Schools' Time Table. The Mla Should Take It Upon Herself To Ensure Government Comply With The Npe As Regards Functional Libraries In Senior Secondary Schools. Parents Should Be Sensitised On The Import Of Helping Their Children Develop Reading, Learning And Good Communication Skills By Buying Books For Them To Read, Create Hours Of Reading At Home And Monitor Them, Especially If They Can Afford To Buy Books For Them To Read. Parents Who Cannot Readily Afford To Buy Books For Their Children Should Be Sensitized On The Use Of Functional Libraries When Government Provides Them.

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