CHAPTER TWELVE

LIBRARY RESOURCES AS CORRELATES OF GOOD READING HABITS DEVELOPMENT IN SOCIAL STUDIES

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ABSTRACT

The paper investigated the library resources as a correlate of good reading habits' development in social studies. Library resources are records of human knowledge on paper or in electronic form for easy handling, storage, use, and preservation. The information contained in the documents represents the authors' thoughts and knowledge. Documents are available in a variety of print and non-print forms. Books, databases, electronic books, electronic dictionaries and encyclopedias, journals and e-journals, official publications, online newspapers, referencing resources, video, image, and sound resources, and so on are all examples of library resources. In order to develop the collection of a library, we must know about the categories of reading material, their types, forms, uses and characteristics. Reading habits are an important tool for the development of personalities and the mental capacities of individuals. Every child needs to become fully competent in reading in order to succeed in school and to discharge their responsibilities as a citizen of a democratic society. Reading is a total integrative process that starts with the reader and includes the following domains: the affective, the perceptual, and the cognitive. The paper summarized that reading is a cognitive process that involves decoding symbols to arrive at meaning, and reading with a purpose helps the reader direct information towards a goal and focus their attention. One of the recommendations was that the government should ensure that libraries have sufficient stocks of books that reflect the curriculum being taught at the school, and ensure the availability of well-trained teacher librarians to run the school libraries.

KEYWORDS: Library Resource, Good Reading Habits, Development in Social Studies

INTRODUCTION

Social Studies has come to be accepted as "a school subject that should assist students to acquire the basic knowledge, skills and positive attitudes needed to be responsible citizens and contributing members of society", (Alberta, 2000). National

development remains a challenge that preoccupies all nations of the world that aspire for greatness. Social Studies Education touches on all aspects of societal development, be it political, economic, social, cultural, technological, or educational. Students need information which is relevant, current, and timely for them to succeed in academic issues, and school libraries are there to support this mission (Mahwasane, 2017). A good library is first judged by the quality, currency, relevance and size of its collection. Khanyisiwe (2007) focuses on the relationship between the curriculum and the school library. Collection development requires adequate funding and innovative planning in order to be sustained. School libraries should meet the needs of the curriculum in the sense that library information resources should relate to the curriculum of a particular institution. However, the achievement of quality basic education calls for the development of good reading habits of both young and adult scholars.

Reading is a key to a wealth of experience that links people in a way far beyond distance or time. Reading is important for students in general in order to cope with new knowledge in a changing world in the technological age. The ability to read is at the heart of self-education and lifelong learning. Reading is a very important issue which is not only about enjoyment but a necessity; it is the basic tool of education. Reading makes way for a better understanding of one's own experiences and it can be an exciting voyage to self-discovery. It is the art of interpreting printed and written words, the most effective process of conscious learning which influences the extent and accuracy of information, as well as the attitudes, morals, beliefs, judgment and action of readers (Panigrahi & Panda, 2006; Eyre, 2005). Reading interests often refer to the selection of subject matter or preference for a genre of literature being read (Rudman, 2007). When such an activity is repeated voluntarily for leisure, it is often assumed that an individual has developed a reading habit and interests. Krashen (2006) believed that this habit and interest could be nurtured at an early age. There would naturally be differences in interests between individuals of different ages and genders, and these would be greatly influenced by internal factors such as the home, motivation, and attitude, as well as external factors such as peers, schools, teachers, and the library facilities available to the individuals.

SCHOOL LIBRARY CONCEPT

A school library is a library within a school where students, staff, and often, parents of a public or private school have access to a variety of resources. The goal of the school library media center is to ensure that all members of the school community have equitable access "to books and reading, to information, and to information technology. According to Morris (2013), school libraries are distinct from public libraries because they serve as "learner-oriented laboratories which support, extend, and individualize the school's curriculum. A school library serves as the center and coordinating agency for all material used in the school. The school library is part of the school's teaching and learning environment that provides resources and services that support students, staff, and other academic scholars. School libraries have tremendous potential to make a difference in students' academic achievement, educational equity, and their social and emotional well-being. Morris (2013) asserts that school libraries have a positive impact on student achievement and, in his findings, found that students with access to a well-supported school library media program with a qualified school library media specialist, scored higher on reading assessments regardless of their socio-economic status. School libraries are similar to public libraries in that they contain

books, films, recorded sound, periodicals, realia, and digital media. These items are not only for the education, enjoyment, and entertainment of all members of the school community, but also to enhance and expand the school's curriculum. The school library exists to provide a range of learning opportunities for both large and small groups as well as individuals, with a focus on intellectual content, information literacy, and the learner (Morris, 2004).

In addition to classroom visits with collaborating teachers, the school library also serves as a learning space for students to do independent work, use computers, access the internet, use equipment and research materials; to host special events such as author visits and book clubs; and for tutoring and testing. Felmley, (2010). A school library functions as a central location for all of the information available, and a school librarian functions as the literary map to the resources and materials found within the library. The school library also functions as an opportunity for educators to work with librarians in support of a resource center for students to be able to safely access the internet for both school work and interacting with each other. De las Casas, (2010) in her article, "Tag! You're It!" Playing on the Digital Playground, discusses how today's youth is much more comfortable with technology than ever before, and believes that "We need to advocate for regulations and laws that support education of young people rather than simply limiting their access to the Web. The school library offers learning services, books and resources that enable all members of the school community to become critical thinkers and effective users of information in all formats and media. School Libraries link to the wider library and information network in accord with the principles in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto. The school library compliments the work of the classroom teacher with the ultimate goal of ensuring that each student has equitable access to resources, irrespective of home opportunities or constraints. Arua and Chinaka (2011) stated that school library materials are seen as all inputs which are utilized in the library in order to provide literacy with good reading habits and learning environment for students so as to be able to achieve educational goals. School libraries are expected to strive to collect and make available relevant and appropriate materials for literacy development. The school library service is one of the critical factors that facilitates the implementation of new educational policies and objectives by promoting the efficiency of a child's reading culture and the overall effectiveness of learning and teaching (Moruf, 2010).

THE CONCEPT OF LIBRARY RESOURCES

Library resources are those materials, both print and non-print, found in school libraries which support curricular and personal information needs. Print items include books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, microfiche or microfilm. Non-print items include films, disc records, filmstrips, slides, prints, audiotapes, videotapes, compact discs, and computer software. Library resources are basically sources of information. Traditionally, these resources were mostly books, journals, newspapers and other editorials, and encyclopedias. But with the advent of the internet, digital sources of information have become prevalent. Anthony, (2016). These digital sources of information include, but are not limited to, online libraries and journals, online encyclopedias like Wikipedia, blogs, video logs like YouTube, etc. Even movie clippings, especially from history, have played a large role in modern research, and hence are classifiable under "Library Resources". Library resources are records of human knowledge on paper or in electronic form for easy handling, storage, use, and

preservation. The information contained in the documents represents the authors' thoughts and knowledge. Documents are available in a variety of print and non-print forms. Books, databases, electronic books, electronic dictionaries and encyclopedias, journals and e-journals, official publications, online newspapers, referencing resources, video, image, and sound resources, and so on are all examples of library resources.

In order to develop the collection of a library, we must know about the categories of reading material, their types, forms, uses and characteristics. OIS (2012) When information sources are organized carefully and access to textual and non-textual material in paper-based and digital collections is easy, maximum utilization by users can be ensured. Non-print material can be defined as any material available in a form other than printed material. These are rapidly becoming important information and learning resource materials for modern libraries. Non-print materials differ from printed materials in several ways. One of the chief differences is that a machine must serve as a mediator between the information and the user of non-print material. (OIS, 2012). The non-print materials are available in two categories, namely, the audiovisual materials and the electronic materials. It is important to organize library materials for easier location of the same, thus saving the time of the users in locating documents. Subject access in the case of certain subject material also becomes easy and the place looks tidy. The purpose of organizing library resources is to ensure the location of library materials, facilitate easy accessibility of the materials, enhance the effective utilization of the materials, and attract users to the library. The primary objective of the library resource is to provide information resources that will enrich and support the educational program of the school and also to promote meaningful resource-based and process-based activities and inquiry that will enable students to become "effective users of ideas and information"(Information Power, 2008) and responsible lifelong learners.

CONCEPT OF GOOD READING HABIT

Reading is defined as a cognitive process that involves decoding symbols to arrive at meaning. Reading is an active process of constructing meanings from words. Reading with a purpose helps the reader to direct information towards a goal and focuses their attention. According to Douglas (2000), every child needs to become fully competent in reading in order to succeed in school and to discharge responsibilities as a citizen of a democratic society. Shen (2006) identifies reading habits as how often, how much, and what students read. Reading is important because it develops your mind and gives you extensive knowledge and lessons about life. According to Okusaga (2008), reading is the only form of entertainment that is also an essential life skill. Reading doesn't just happen; it is a skill that must be nurtured from a child's earliest years. Once children know how to read, they still need gentle coaxing and support to reach their full potential as readers. Readers who have faulty perceptions will also have faulty concepts. It helps you understand the world around you better. It keeps your mind active and enhances your creative ability, Communication skills: Reading improves your vocabulary and develops your communication skills. Okebukola (2004) affirms that, through reading, humans have the tools to transmit knowledge to each succeeding generation; it does allow one to listen to the wisdom and people of the ages. According to Dorothy (2002), reading is a total integrative process that starts with the reader and includes the following domains: the affective, the perceptual, and the cognitive. The advantages of reading are so many. These include but are not restricted to the following:

❖ *Reading is an active mental process:* Unlike TV, books make you use your brain. By reading, you think more and become smarter.

❖ *It is a fundamental skill builder:* Every good course on the planet has a matching book to go with it. Why? because the book helps clarify difficult concepts. Books provide information that goes deeper than just classroom discussions.

❖ *Improving your vocabulary:* While reading books, especially challenging ones, you will find yourself exposed to many new words.

❖ *It gives you a glimpse into other cultures and places:* Books can expand your horizons by letting you see what other cities, countries, and cultures seem like and what they have to offer. Reading also improves concentration and focus, builds self-esteem, improves memory, teaches you how to help yourself independently, improves creativity, gives you something to talk about, reduces stress, and finally, reading will help you make more money.

Reading is regarded as a habit when it is repeatedly carried out. In measurable terms reading habits is often considered as the amount of materials being read (Wagner, 2002), the frequency of reading as well as the average time spent on reading, and this habit can be cultivated (Wijesuriya, 2005). Reading, which is a long-term habit starting with the very early ages, is the prominent gateway to the knowledge room. It can be assumed as a practice that assists individuals to gain creativeness and develops their critical thinking capacities. In this sense, reading habit is an important tool for the development of personalities and mental capacities of individuals. In addition to personal and mental developments, reading is an access to social, economic and civic life (Clark, 2006). Moreover, all reading patterns in terms of emotional response enhance emotional satisfaction of individuals.

CONCEPT OF SOCIAL STUDIES

Social studies is the study of people in relation to each other and to their world. It is an issues-focused and inquiry-based interdisciplinary subject that draws upon history, geography, ecology, economics, law, philosophy, political science and other social science disciplines. Social studies fosters students' understanding of and involvement in practical and ethical issues that face their communities and humankind. Social studies is integral to the process of enabling students to develop an understanding of who they are, what they want to become and the society in which they want to live. Social studies is the integrated study of multiple fields of social science and the humanities, including history, geography, and political science. One of the purposes of social studies, particularly at the level of higher education, is to integrate several disciplines, with their unique methodologies and special focuses of concentration, into a coherent field of subject areas that communicate with each other by sharing different academic "tools" and perspectives for deeper analysis of social problems and issues. David, (2018). Social studies are aimed at training students for informed, responsible participation in a diverse democratic society. The content of social studies provides the necessary background knowledge in order to develop values and reasoned opinions, and the objective of the field is civic competence (Larson, 2017). The knowledge of social studies helps students to understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens and to learn to grow in their appreciation of active citizenship. Ultimately, this helps their growth as a full participant in society.

THE ROLE OF THE LIBRARY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD READING HABITS

The library provides access to enjoyable and informative reading materials through which school children and young people can gain and improve their skills. Libraries help introduce the use of reading for information, pleasure, passing exams (learning in school) and personal growth through lifelong learning. According to Douglas (2008), "the library has become increasingly important in the new teaching, for not only does it supply enactment materials in all areas, it also supplies materials at all levels of difficulty. It stores books, pictures, pamphlets, maps, filmstrips, recordings, and all other printed media, which makes it a gold mine for each teacher and each pupil." The library can, in a number of ways, play an important role in the development and promotion of reading habits among Nigerians. Libraries, especially school libraries, are fundamental and basic to the design, implementation and attainment of educational excellence. Libraries are an integral part of the educational development of school children and youth. Without the support of efficient libraries, schools on their own cannot successfully achieve the goals of education, which are: the inculcation of national consciousness and national unity; the inculcation of the right types of values and attitudes of the individual and Nigerian society; the training of the mind in the understanding of the world around us; and the acquisition of appropriate skills and social abilities and competence as equipment for the individual to live and contribute to the development of society (FRN, 2004). Libraries provide access to enjoyable and informative reading materials through which school children and young people can gain and improve their skills. Libraries help introduce the use of reading for information, pleasure, passing exams (learning in school) and personal growth through lifelong learning. Libraries provide materials that offer more extensive and varied information than classroom study alone. Voluntary reading helps develop reading skills and mastery of language, extends students' knowledge, and assists them in their academic work. Students and young people who read from time to time are likely to have some background knowledge and familiarity with new topics or subjects, and, thus, find learning and discussions easier and more interesting.

Libraries seek to enrich young people by introducing them to good reading literature which will increase their understanding, broaden their horizons, develop their aesthetic sense, and help them develop their moral, spiritual and psychological growth. Reading helps develop and promote local culture. Libraries help facilitate the publication of good children's literature based on culture and provide a future reading public for such publications. In Nigeria, literacy is recognized as a basic tool for personal and national development. The FRN (2004) places the inculcation of permanent literacy and numeracy and the ability to communicate effectively as one of the objectives of school education. This can be achieved through the teaching of the three Rs-reading, writing, and arithmetic, in the hope that students or pupils will continuously learn after school years. Attainment of permanent literacy can be done through reading. Different library resources—books, magazines, journals, audiovisuals, etc.—provide different information. The library has to provide sufficiently good resources to complement qualitative education. These resources can take children and young people far beyond technical literacy to develop a reading culture that makes permanent literacy attainable. Libraries play an especially important role in the development and promotion of good reading habits in countries such as Nigeria, where education emphasizes scientific, reflective thinking, and creativity. Librarians would help children and youths develop relative ability, critical and independent thinking through their exposure to a wide

variety of instructional resources and learning opportunities. With provision and usage of library resources, readers would learn and understand why and how certain decisions or conclusions are reached; the effect of conflicting or incomplete information. Available reading materials in the library would show the presentation of information in different ways. The library would also afford the users (children and young people) the opportunity to balance objective and subjective arguments and develop ways of thinking independently and self-adjustment. Apart from the development of creative and critical thought, the role of the library in the promotion of reading culture can be felt in the readers' development of values, attitudes and appreciation. These human attributes are difficult (if not impossible) to teach in classrooms. The affective domain in education involves emotions, feelings, and the degree of acceptance or rejection. The library plays a significant role in the affective domain by providing experience in various forms of creative expression, especially in literature and the arts. Acquisition and accessibility by readers to a good reading collection of literature and creative arts would help readers (children and adults) develop ethical values and appreciation of different people, culture, and the environment. However, in the process of encouraging or inculcating reading habits in children and young people, stakeholders (parents, teachers, schools, librarians, and other library staff) should avoid the following:

❖ **Nagging:** Pressurizing and hounding a child will only increase his resistance.

❖ **Bribing:** Bribing can produce negative results, instead present a child with a book and praises on his successfully completing a reading assignment.

❖ **Judging:** Constant judging will take the pleasure out of reading and he will soon lose interest.

❖ **Criticizing his choice:** If he is taking the initiative to read books of his choice, encourage him even if he is choosing books that are too light and easy to read. With time, he will go for more serious options.

❖ **Setting tough goals:** Don't expect great things in short time frames. Encourage him gently, instead.

A library is more than just a storage place for books (repository for books). Libraries also have important roles that they play in developing literacy skills in learners. School libraries support the goal of the school of growing a community of enthusiastic readers by making accessible a wide range of different reading materials that reflect both the learners' interests and their reading abilities.

LIBRARY AND PROMOTION OF SOCIAL STUDIES IN SCHOOL

The main function of the school library is to provide materials; libraries also provide the services of librarians who are trained and experts at finding, selecting, circulating, and organizing information, and at interpreting information needs, navigating, and analyzing very large amounts of information with a variety of resources. A library is an important source of knowledge for young minds in schools. It develops the important habit of reading among social study students. School libraries help to have an impact positively on the academic achievement of social students. Students of social studies can perform better during exams by reading various books from the school library. Library practice is encouraging and relevant to social studies because it

exposes educators and students to new ways of thinking and researching. The use of the library will help students to learn faster and independently. Libraries provide another space for children to learn. They can help students of social studies navigate the internet, offer a quiet area for students to study, and encourage students to read. The staff, knowing what books a student enjoys, can help them choose books that are similar to their interests. A library is a gateway to knowledge and culture; libraries play a fundamental role in society. The resources and services they offer create opportunities for learning social studies, support literacy and education, and help shape the new ideas and perspectives that are central to a creative and innovative society.

SUMMARY

The paper summarizes that reading is a cognitive process that involves decoding symbols to arrive at meaning, and reading with a purpose helps the reader direct information towards a goal and focus their attention. Also, reading is important because it develops your mind and gives you excessive knowledge, lessons of life and reading doesn't just happen; it is a skill that must be nurtured from a child's earliest years. However, library resources are those materials, both print and non-print, found in school libraries which support curricular and personal information and academic needs of scholars. Print items include books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, microfiche or microfilm. Non-print items include films, disc records, filmstrips, slides, prints, audiotapes, videotapes, compact discs, and computer software. Library resources are basically sources of information for all of academia.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The government should ensure that libraries have adequate stocks of books that reflect the curriculum being taught at the school, as well as the availability of well-trained teacher librarians to manage the school libraries.

2. Students should inculcate a good habit of independent reading or choose to read on their own as it helps to influence their academic performance.

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