CHAPTER ONE

WAYS OF IMPROVING THE USE OF SCHOOL LIBRARY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OWO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, ONDO STATE

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Abstract

This study was carried out to investigate the ways of improving the use of school library in two selected secondary schools in Owo, Owo local government area Ondo State. The design of the study was descriptive survey. The population of the study comprises of S.S. S.1-S.S.S.3 students of the two selected secondary schools; Imade College, Owo and St. Louis Girls' Grammar School, Owo. Questionnaire was used as the Instrument for data collection and a total of three hundred (300) copies of questionnaire were administered and all were retrieved back from the respondents. Data collected was analyzed using frequency table and simple percentage. The study revealed that majority of respondents use the school library regularly, most of the respondents agreed that they use the school library for the purpose of updating their knowledge, to read personal notes and consult books. The study also revealed that opening duration was too short, noise, inadequate space, inadequate siting facilities and books were not properly arranged. The study recommendations were based on the respondents' suggestion. Books and other information materials should be properly arranged in the library, the government should put more priority on adequate provision of fund necessary for the provision of library materials, there should be more awareness on the significance of the library to educational setting and Provision of adequate space for reading.

Keywords: School library, improving, use, secondary school.

Introduction

Libraries play a relevant and crucial role in the intellectual development of students as well as total development of a society. A library is the collection of information resources selected, acquired, processed, organized and kept for the use of library clientele which are available in print and non-print format. According to Dictionary of Library and Information Science (2004) Library is a collection of group of books and other materials organized and maintained for use (reading, consultation, study, research etc). School library is one of the types of libraries. These are libraries which are established in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools. School libraries provide resources and services that support students and staff. The school library is vital in the teaching and learning processes. It is an integral part of the school community. It pursues the vision, mission and principles of the school. Fakomogbon et al. (2012) affirmed that school library helps to support the school curriculum by providing up-to-date information to keep teachers and students abreast of new development. School libraries are important and they are established to support, implement, complement and supplement the total educational programme of the schools. According to Busayo (2011) School library is an integral part of educational system that cannot be ignored without jeopardizing the quality of education in schools. That is why, Nyam and Guraj (1999) cited in Moruf (2015) described the role of school library as the provision of information for educational research, planning and recreational purposes. He also viewed school library as essential to the establishment of school itself which should be seen as an integral part of the educational process and not just as an outside agency. Furthermore, Nyam and Guraj described the means through which school library contributes to spread education, complement teacher's work, and provide education to those without teachers. These are through;

i.   Provision of primary school children with learning resources such as educational facilities, both in print and non-print, which they can use at the end of the school day and during vacations.

ii. Provision of secondary school children with information assistance in homework and this may include children's encyclopedia, journals, magazines, tapes, records and cassettes.

iii. Provision of specialized resources for governmental activities through creation of a "special document" section in the library and;

iv. Provision of recreational and continuing educational facilities such as games, films and filmstrips, slides, tapes records, and cassettes, fiction and non-fiction books.

Statement of the problem

The vital role that school library play in supplementing and complementing in teaching and learning process cannot be underrated. School libraries are obviously underutilized by the user group, and the academic performance as well as the reading culture of students are degraded. The school library plays an important role in the school system as it supports the secondary school curriculum and provides means which helps the school, students and teachers to achieve its educational objectives and goals. Fakomogbon, *et al.*, (2012) affirmed that lack of standard school library with relevant information resources which students could use for their studies could be one of the major causes of mass failure in the school. Based on the foregoing, the study aimed at investigating the ways of improving the use of school library using two selected secondary schools in Owo Local Government Area of Ondo state.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to investigate ways of improving the use of school library by the secondary school students in Owo Local Government Area;

i.   To find out how often the students of secondary school make use of their school libraries.

ii. To examine the purpose of using the school library by secondary school students.

iii. To investigate the challenges hindering the secondary school students in the use of their school libraries.

iv. To identify the ways or measures to improve the use of the school libraries.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide this study.

i.   How often do the students use their school libraries?

ii. For what purpose do the students use the school library?

iii. What are the challenges hindering the students in their use of school library?

iv. What ways or measure can be taken to improve the use of school library?

Significance of the Study

This study will be of great benefit to the students, school management, Library administrator, teachers, ministry of education, the government and researcher who are interested to embark on this type of study. The study will enable the students to know the benefits and the vital role that school library play in the educational level and the need for the students to make effective use of the school library, so as to boost their academic performance and for them to develop a good reading culture. To the school management and library administrator, it will help to acquire the right information resources that will meet the information needs of the students. To teacher, it will be of immense help by exposing them to all the

formats of library resources which will help them in preparing their lesson notes. The study will help the Ministry of Education and the government to see the needs to develop secondary school libraries and provide fund to the libraries for its improvement. The study will serve as a guide tool to other researchers that may wish to carry out a study on this type of study.

Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study is on the ways of improving the use of schools library by secondary school students. The study is however limited to two secondary schools in Owo Local Government Area Ondo State. Specifically on how often secondary school students use the school library, purpose of using the school library by the secondary school students, challenges hindering the use of school library by the secondary school students and ways or measures on how to improve the use of school library.

Literature Review

According to Waite (1989) cited in Benard and Dulle (2014) school library is a collection of a range of learning and teaching materials which are housed in a place and centrally organized by Librarians and indexed to serve readers. Akanwa (2007) see school library as an integral part of the school. She pointed out that, it is a laboratory where many activities and experiments are carried out, and all these activities and experiments are geared towards the development of the child and the nation. On the frequency of using the school library Benard & Dulle (2014) study opined that 40% of the respondents use the library always, 69.3% use the library occasionally while 19.3% never use the library. From their findings it is clear that a greater majority of respondents use the library occasionally. Arua (2011) on the use of school libraries found that most of the students who are interviewed visited the library irregularly. This means that more efforts need to be made to improve the rate and frequency of library use and one of such efforts could be in the area of provision of recent and relevant information materials. Students use the school library for various purposes. Oriji (1996), claimed that users use the school library for many and various reasons, i.e. to prepare for examination; for leisure; recreation for serious academic work, to see friend and people and so on. Consequently, on the challenges hindering the students in the use of school library. Patron-Ash (2012), findings affirmed that one of the problem facing school libraries include the lack of a national policy, school library information resources, the theft of computers as a result of the lack of security, as well as the lack of understanding by teachers of the role the library in teaching and learning. Clabo, (2002) asserted that reading rooms restrictions, restrictions on numbers of books, reference materials, lack of computers and internet connectivity are the challenges that hinders students in use of school libraries. On ways through which school library can be improved Adeoti-Adekeye (1997) confirms that a library period needs to be on the timetable to enable learners to receive instruction in library use (library orientation) by the librarian in the library. Magara and Batambuze (2009) who report that, in Uganda, reading lessons are included on the school timetable. During this period, learners are obliged to go to the library for reading sessions. It is likely that the absence of a library period on the timetable discourages the teacher-librarians from teaching learners library and information skills because they are busy with their own subject teaching.

Methodology

The researcher adopted a descriptive survey research design for the study. According to Aina (2004), descriptive survey involves a systematic and comprehensive collection of information about opinions, attitudes, feelings, beliefs and behavior of people through observation, interviews, focus groups or administration of questionnaire in order to generate responses or feedback. The study covered two (2) purposively selected secondary schools in Owo Local Government Area of Ondo State. The population of the study consists of SSS 1–SSS 3 of the selected secondary schools. However, one male only and one female only school were used for the study. Simple random sampling technique was used for the study. Questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection. However the questionnaire was administer with a period of one week. Data was analyzed using frequency table and simple percentage.

Data Presentation and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of questionnaire according to the gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	150	50%
Female	150	50%
Total	300	100%

Source: "Field Survey, 2019"

Table 1 revealed the gender of the respondents both the male and female respondents has the same number with each representing (50%) respectively.

Table 2- Distribution of questionnaire according to the class of respondents

Class	Frequency	Percentage
S.S.S 1	100	33.33%
S.S.S 2	100	33.33%
S.S.S 3	100	33.33%
Total	300	100%

Source: "Field Survey, 2019"

Table 2 shows the distribution of questionnaire according to their class. From the table S.S.S. 1, S.S.S 2 and S.S.S 3 has a total of 100 respondents representing (33.33%) each.

Table 3- Distribution of questionnaire according to respondents' school.

School	Frequency	Percentage
Imade College, Owo	150	50%
St Louis Girls' Grammar School, Owo	150	50%
Total	300	100%

Source: "Field Survey, 2019"

From the table above, the distribution of questionnaire according to respondents' school is shown. From the analysis Imade College, Owo has 150 respondents with (50%) while St Louis Girls' Grammar School Owo has 150 respondents representing (50%). It can be concluded that the Imade College Owo and St Louis Girls' Grammar School, Owo has the same number of respondents.

Research question 1-How frequent do you use your school library?
Table 4- How often students use the school library

Frequency	No. of students	Percentage
I use the school library regularly	154	51.3%
I use the school library occasionally	90	30%
During examination only	43	14.33%
I don't use the school library at all	13	4.33%
Total	300	100%

Source: "Field Survey, 2019"

The table above shows how often students use their school library. From the table majority of the respondents 154 with (51.3%) use their school library regularly, 90 respondents representing (30%) use their school library occasionally, 43 respondents with (14.33%) use it during examination period only, while 13 respondents with (4.33%) never use the school library.

Research question 2- for what purpose do you use the school library?
Table 4: Purpose of using the school library

Purpose	Agreed	%	Disagreed	%
To consult books	273	91%	27	9%
To do assignment	259	86.33%	41	13.67%
For updating my knowledge	298	99.33%	2	0.67%
To read newspaper/ magazines	222	74%	78	26%
To read personal note(class note	274	91.33%	26	8.67%
For writing notes	239	79.67%	61	20.33%
For entertainment	190	63.33%	110	36.67%
To meet friends	172	57.33%	128	42.67%
Others	.....	....	......	......

Source: "Field Survey, 2019"

Table 5 shows the purpose of using the school library. The analysis show that 273 respondents with (91%) agreed that they use their school library in order to consult books, 259 respondents with (86.33%) agreed that they use it for the purpose of doing their assignments, 298 respondents with 99.33% agreed that the use the school library for the purpose of updating their knowledge, 222 respondents with (74%) said to read newspaper/magazine, 274 respondents with (91.33%) agreed that they use it to read personal note(class note), 239 with (79.67%) said for writing notes, 190 respondents representing (63.33%) said they use the school library for entertainment purpose and 172 respondents representing (57.33%) agreed that they use the school library for the purpose of meeting friends. Similarly the above table revealed that all the purposes stated in the table have positive responses.

Research question 3: which of the challenges do you encounter in the use of your school library?

Table 6: Challenges encounter in the use of school library.

Challenges	Agreed	%	Disagreed	%
Noise	196	65.33%	104	34.67%
Inadequate space	197	65.67%	103	34.33%
Inadequate staff	152	50.67%	148	49.33%
Inadequate seating facilities	194	64.67%	106	35.33%
Opening duration too short	202	67.33%	98	32.67%
Books are not properly arranged	190	63.33%	110	36.67%
Poor library environment	178	59.33%	122	36.67%
Inadequate library materials	184	61.33%	116	38.67%
Insufficient awareness of the significance of the library in education setting	184	61.33%	116	38.67%
Others	.....	.....	....	......

Source: "Field Survey, 2019"

Table 6 revealed the challenges encountered by the students in the use of school library. From the table 196 respondents with (65.33%) agreed that noise is one of the major challenges they encounter in the use of school library while 104 respondents with (34.67%) disagreed, 197 respondents with (65.67%) agreed that inadequate space and 103 respondents with (34.33%) of the total respondents disagreed,152 respondents with (50.67%) agreed that inadequate seating facilities is a challenge to them, majority 202 respondents with (67.33%) agreed that opening and closing hour of school library is too short, 190 respondents with (63.33%) agreed that books are not properly arranged, 178 respondents with (59.33%) agreed that the library has a poor environment, 184 respondents representing (61.33%) agreed that inadequate library materials and insufficient awareness of the significance of the library in educational setting respectively.

Research question 4: which of these do you suggest as a way of improving the use of school library?

Table 7: Suggestion on the ways of improving the use of school library.

Suggestion	Agreed	%	Disagreed	%
Library should be a noise free place	163	54.33%	137	45.67%
Provision of adequate space	270	90%	30	10%
Employment of a staff	263	87.67%	37	12.33%
Seating facilities should be provided	267	89%	33	11%
Extending of opening and closing hour of the library	248	82.67%	52	17.33%
Books should be properly arranged	275	91.67%	25	8.33%
Provision of library materials	274	91.33%	26	8.67%
More awareness on the significance of the library in education setting	271	90.33%	29	9.67%
Others	.....	....	....	......

Source: "Field Survey, 2019"

The table above shows the suggestions of respondents on the ways of improving the use of school library. From the table 163 respondents with (54.33%) agreed that library should be a noise free place, 270 respondents with (90%) said provision of adequate space, 263 respondents representing (87.67%) indicated employment of staff, 267 respondents with (89%) agreed that seating facilities should be provided, 248 respondents with (82.67%) agreed that opening and closing hour of the library should be extended, 275 respondents with (91.67%) said books should be properly arranged, 274 respondents with (91.33%) support the provision of library materials and 271 respondents with (90.33%) agreed that there should be more awareness on the significance of the library in educational setting.

Conclusion

Libraries from ancient era, have made a positive impact on the society and educational realms. School library is very important element in education development of any school. Key findings revealed that most of the students visit the school library regularly, majority of the students use their school library for the purpose of up-dating their knowledge. The findings further revealed that the secondary school students encounter many challenges in using school library which include opening and closing hour too short, inadequate space, inadequate seating facilities and books are not properly arranged. Moreover, the students give suggestions on the ways to improve their use of school library.

Recommendation

The following recommendations were made based on the finding of the study;

i.   Books and other information materials should be properly arranged in the library.
ii. The government should put more priority on adequate provision of fund necessary for the provision of library materials
iii. There should be more awareness on the significance of the library to educational setting.
iv. Provision of adequate space for reading

v. Seating facilities should be provided in the school library for effective use of the library

vi. Competent and effective staff should be employed to run the library.

vii. The library opening hours should be extended beyond school period, so as to give students the opportunity to study after school hours.

viii. The library should be a silent zone/place for reading and not for noise making.

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