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**LIBRARY AS A PROMOTER OF READING HABITS AMONG STUDENTS IN
NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

The focus of this paper is to examine the roles of library in promoting Reading Habits among students. The paper saw the library as a social service oriented institution aimed at encouraging students to cultivate reading habits. It looked at library as learning environments that provide space, access to resources, activities and services to encourage and support students, teachers, and community learning. The paper also explained the concept of reading and that reading provides the information needed to expand our understanding of thing. The paper defined reading habits as a passion and zeal for reading and outlined its importance to improve the students' comprehension skills, vocabulary, pronunciation, speed, knowledge, and lifelong learning. Indeed good reading habits promote self education which helps in the modification of personality. The paper further recognized the vital roles of parents, teachers, and librarians among others that enable students to embark on reading and developing good reading habits. It also pointed out that libraries should organize programmes, exhibitions, storytelling and so forth and use them to inculcate reading habit on the students. This paper revealed that the cause of poor reading habits are lack of functional library, family background, corruption, lack of interest, teachers failures among other things. The paper equally pointed out some strategies for improving reading habits that library should be established and maintained in schools and localities, library should organise programmes leading to inculcating reading habit on the students.

Keywords: Reading, habit, ,libraries, Reading culture, students

Introduction

Libraries are established to provide adequate resources directed toward teaching and learning in a given society for its intellectual development and nourishment. The central focus of any educational institution is its library. It is a place where the information seekers (readers) get in contact with information resources which are mainly in two formats: print and non-print. Some libraries are attached to post-secondary schools which are known as academic libraries, others are found in nursery and, primary and secondary schools which are called school libraries and public libraries as the name implies are libraries not found in any educational institution or organisation but establish to serve the public in a given locality. Libraries are spaces or places where the habit of reading books can be acquired. Ajidahun (2011) posited that any country which wants its people to be informed, articulate, efficient, productive and current, must give priority attention to the development of its libraries. Not only does a library help to inculcate the habit of reading but it also helps to create a thirst for knowledge, which ultimately makes a person humble and open to other people's ideas. According to Douglas, M. P. (2000), the library

is one of the formation centres where a person can obtain information. It is also a place where a person can go to read or study.

Reading is the process of looking at series of written/printed symbols from where meanings can be deduced using critical and evaluative thinking. Voluntary reading helps develop reading skills and mastery of language, extends students' knowledge and assists them in their academic work. Students and youths who read from time to time are likely to have some background knowledge, familiarity with new topics or subjects and thus, find learning and discussions easier and 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 which also determines the quality of its educational system and the society at large. It is also defined in the work of Ayanbimpe, 2012 as the process of restoring the dignity of man in facing societal challenges. To thrive in this modern era, one needs a variety of information, no matter how well versed one is in a field or profession. Rapid changes in every field have made information a key resource for survival in this world. Every moment of lives depends on information, without which, it would be difficult to exist in the present information oriented society Onuoha, U. D, Unegbu, V. E, & Umahi, F. (2013)..

The responsibility of improving and developing reading culture in Nigeria is for all. This ranges from the family, teachers, librarians, non-governmental organization to the government etc., this can be accomplished through the establishment of more libraries in the country where reading can take place making books and libraries accessible. According to Ogbonna, (2014)

who states that mobile library services should be provided by the public libraries where it is not possible to build a library because reading is crucial in the development of a society.

The author further said that reading is the recognition of printed or written symbols, which serve as a stimuli for the recall of meanings built up through the reader's past experience. According to De-Harren in Nduka (2003), reading involves a process of deriving meanings from symbols.

Reading enables translation of written symbols into the sound symbols of the language and utilize his or her knowledge of language to construct the writer's message. It enhances decoding and encoding of meaning from printed materials. It is a process involving word recognition, comprehension, fluency and motivation.

Reading is a vital means of acquisition of knowledge, skills and expression of thought especially in this modern world of science and technology which demand that one should be able to take an intelligent and informed interest in happenings around one's environment and the world at large. Reading provides the information needed to expand our understanding of things. 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. The reasons for decline in reading habits among students are technological advancements, parental failure, teacher lapses among other factors. According to Dorothy (2002), kids with poor reading habits have higher chances of anti- social behaviour. Poor reading habit in children and young people can be as a result of lack of libraries, corruption and poverty etc. This leads to delinquency; school violence, bullying, incidence of hacking computers and even incidence of examination malpractices.

Concept of Reading

Reading can be defined as the process of looking at, and comprehending the meaning of written and printed words from the visual representation of symbols. It involves recognition and sometimes verbalization of symbols, which represent sounds in human speech. Reading takes place when the reader understands what has been encoded. Reading is a process that requires the use of complex thought procedures to interpret printed symbols as meaningful units, and comprehend them as a thought unit, in order to understand a printed message De-Harren in Nduka (2003). The Webster New World Dictionary (1986) defines reading as the act or practice of a person who reads or studies books. 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. It is an indispensable learning skill which lays the foundation for independent studies and prepares the child for higher educational opportunities.

Reading is a number of interactive processes between the reader and the text, in which readers use their knowledge to build, to create, and to construct meaning (Ogbonna, 2014). Reading is one of the most useful skills in learning language. It serves as a means by which the unbounded field of knowledge lies open before us and we are able to know new facts and relationship. Mikulecky (2011) states that reading is a complex conscious and unconscious mental process in which the reader uses a variety of strategies to reconstruct the meaning that the author is assumed to have intended, based on data from the text and from the reader's prior knowledge.

Reading is a complex communicative process of receiving and interpreting the written words. It involves recognizing what is written and comprehending the matter that, understands the main and subsidiary points as well as links between different parts of the written material. According to Jegbefume, 2012 while receiving and interpreting the written word, the reader is

concerned with four factors, i.e. decoding, comprehending, text analysis and response. Decoding or interpreting in reading refers to the process of changing the coded message into information. As it involves understanding the written language, it requires the ability to recognize words accurately, and the manner in which words are used in varying contexts. A written message can be decoded only if we know the language in which the message is encoded. Comprehension in reading refers to the identification of the central theme, main ideas, supporting details and writing patterns.

After decoding and comprehending the literal meaning of a written message, its significance is evaluated and appropriate conclusions are drawn from it. Text analysis is essential for critical and evaluative understanding of a text. Text analysis refers to the process of identifying relationships among different units within the text in order to distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information, explicit and implicit information, facts and opinions, examples and ideas and draw inferences and conclusions. Response is our action or reaction to the written message. It completes the reading process as it is the last step of reading. Our response to a text depends largely on our correct understanding and evaluation of the text. We may immediately respond to the message, as in the case of reading the letter, a memo, an e-mail message. Though in some text, we may need to remember the information so that we are able to use it later Aliyu, (2013).

There are different types of reading. Skimming, general and close reading are identified by Kozak (2017) as the type of reading. Skimming reading enables familiarization with the material one is reading. It is a rudimentary stage of reading without much focus. Just as one skims through a content of a material. Again, general reading applies to general understanding of a material. It is a process of reading that enables one retrieve the specific information. It

involves scanning through a text to quickly to get a specific information that are relevant to your information need. Another one is close reading as the name implies involves reading for a successful understanding of the material. This describes reading to understand the full content of what is read. These reading types are also known as reading skills and are useful strategies that help students to achieve some purposes. According to Grabe, W, and Stoller, F.L.(2002) reading skill is used for the whole life. Students are to read books and textbooks in colleges, on the job, you will read materials, from different sources, such as handbooks or manuals. Therefore using this strategies enables you learn how to adapt, how to read to suit the material and your purpose of reading.

The importance of reading cannot be overemphasized, it is described as a thoroughfare of communication and a main source of knowledge acquisition. It is also most influential and potent tool for development relevant to an individual family and society at large. Reading improves your writing skills, reduces stress and tension, stimulates and exercises the brain, enhances satisfaction and enlarges the mind.

Again, there is no denying fact that education is a lifelong process. The habits which are cultivated during schooldays, reading is one of which, helps to mold the entire life of a person. According to Femi, (2011) gaining knowledge, recreation, self-education, gaining experience are some of the benefits of reading. He also highlighted some other advantages of reading to include improving concentration and focus, building self-esteem, improving memory, learning ability to independently, improving creativity and reducing stress and finally creation of wealth in reading. 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. A citizen who reads has the capacity to actively participate in the continuity of learning. Reading is

the foundation of much of the enjoyment the individual gets in life and is closely related to vocational efficiency.

Reading is a tool of self improvement leading to do-it-yourself techniques acquisition, equipping oneself with skills for better job, reading for pleasure and relaxation, imbibing reading as a habit is a virtue that can never be overemphasized.

Reading Habits

Generally, It is believed that reading is a habit, a habit that can be developed through the provision of the library, school, education system and parental support Iloeje, (2014). Therefore, good habit towards a task may lead students in the right direction. According Ibrahim, 2014, developing reading habit involves fundamental part of living. Therefore, to develop good reading habits, students need to be exposed to reading strategies. Promoting a reading habit has long been a major theme of various countries in the world yet despite the all these efforts one common threat emerges: no country is satisfied with the number of active readers among its population Dike, (2017). It is felt in most countries that the methods and teaching used to boost reading must be tried again and again in order to bring people and books together in a lasting fruitful relationship. Ogwu, 2010 argues that if reading is left to continue unabated, the number of illiterates would tend to increase in future. Promotion of a reading culture aims to publicize reading among members of the general public. Reading habit or culture is an activity that is meant to popularize reading and make it a lifelong hobby. The promotion of reading habits cannot take place in a vacuum it has to be initiated. Enabling a population to read requires a publishing industry, which must engage a cadre of appropriate writers and produce their work in a pleasing form. A system of distribution, which may include bookstores, libraries and newspaper deliveries are needed. In the work of Nalusiba, (2010) educational programs that will

teach the young sufficient coding skills and knowledge about subject-matter to enable them learn through reading are also required. It is very important to recognize that, parents, teachers, and librarians have vital roles to play among students to enable them to embark on voracious reading and developing good reading habits. Libraries should also organized programmes, book clubs, exhibitions, story books, pictures, computers storytelling and so forth and use them to inculcate reading culture or habit to students.

Concept of Libraries

Libraries are social institutions established to aid and support learning and teaching activities. According Ogonu and Alex-Nmecha (2021), library is a service oriented social institution whose roles in nation building cannot be overemphasized. It collects preserves and organizes recorded reading materials for their informational needs from its store house of knowledge. Earlier scholars defined it as a physical building, collection of books and the main functions of providing reading, borrowing and research facilities. Cambridge English Dictionary defines library as a building, room or organization that has a collection, especially of books, for people to read or borrow, usually without payment. But the later definitions take into consideration the effect of the new technologies on modern libraries. The libraries are no longer just found in physical buildings but in virtual spaces with digital collections. Eberhart (2010), defines library as a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is organized by information professionals or other experts who provides convenient physical , digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and offer targeted services and programmes with the mission of educating, informing or entertaining a variety of audiences and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole.

The purpose of establishing libraries is to meet the informational needs of user communities. According to Olaesin (2012), libraries in addition to classroom visits with collaborating teachers, the library also serves as a learning space for students to do independent work, use computers, equipment and research materials; to host special events such as author visits and book clubs; and for tutoring and testing.

It is worthy of note that library is established by its function. Academic libraries are libraries established in tertiary institutions, such as universities, college of education and polytechnics. According to Ogonu,(2020), academic library is an important agent in the pursuit of academic excellence in higher institution and for the nation. He further states that its main goal is to support the objectives of the host institution, which have to do with teaching, learning and research using the services available. They provide support to students and staff of these institutions by supporting their teaching, learning and research activities.

Some other libraries are found in industries, corporations and government parastatals which are called special libraries, they do not fit into school, academic, public and national libraries. They may include libraries in banks, research institutes, ministries, government agencies and departments. Their collections are limited to the subject interest of the parent institution. Furthermore, libraries established for the public are called public library which are supported and funded by the community, either through local, regional or national government. It is said that public library is peoples university and local gateway to knowledge because it provides basic condition for lifelong learning, reading materials, cultural development of individual regardless to age, nationalities, religion, language, disability, educational attainment others. Rubins (2010), states that public libraries are general supported by taxes of the people, so they are open to all and every community members can access its collections, provide services without

payment. It serves its community also through its outreach programmes like mobile library, canoe library, rural library, etc.

Again, the school libraries are similar to public libraries in that they contain books, digital media, films, recorded sound, periodicals, etc. According to, Hassen, (2016), 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. School librarians develop a resource base for the school by using the curriculum and student interests to identify and obtain library materials, organize and maintain the library collection in order to promote independent reading and lifelong learning.

According to Haliru, R.A., Abdulkarim, M., Mohammed, A.D. and Dangani, B.U. (2015) library encompasses many activities relating to technology including the integration of resources in a variety of formats: periodical databases; Web sites; digital video segments; podcasts; blog and wiki content; digital images; virtual classrooms, etc. A library according to Ibrahim, (2014) operates within a school or community as a teaching and learning centre that provides an active instructional program integrated into curriculum content, with emphasis on the following: resource based capabilities, thinking based capabilities, knowledge based capabilities, reading and literacy capabilities, personal and interpersonal capabilities and learning management capabilities.

The school and other libraries exist 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.

All these libraries have common aim geared toward promoting reading habits to users they are serving especially students in their various locations in the schools. Libraries core engagement

in a society are to promote and igniting passion for reading and research which is critical in the learning process of a society. The more the reading habit is developed within a society the better the member of the society will be able to function well for both self and collective development. Libraries exist throughout the world as learning environments that provide space, access to resources, and access to activities and services to encourage and support students, teachers, and community learning. The growth of libraries is synonymous to the growth in education that seeks to equip students with knowledge to operate within and contribute to the growth of society. Libraries everywhere in the world and Nigeria in particular are focused on supporting and advancing users learning and reading habits which translate to betterment of the society.

Essentials of Reading Habits

Reading plays a significant role in development of a nation and as a means of communication in a highly literate society. According to Ogwu, (2010) reading trains our mind and broadens our outlook. It is the process of transforming information into knowledge.

Reading contributes not only to an individual's wellbeing but contributes to the overall development of society. Reading is referred to as communication between the mind and printed materials, which involves getting the message, meaning and thought. Awolabi (2012) states that reading is the most important activity in any class, not only as a source of information, but also as a means of consolidating and extending ones idea and knowledge of language. Reading can best be explained as a learned practice of seeking knowledge, information or entertainment through the written word. Such practice can be acquired by reading materials such as books, journals, and electronic information resources.

It assists the readers' imagination and enhances their intellective growth faster (Ibrahim, 2014). Reading is very important skill that the students must be mastered, because the reading cannot be

separated in the process of teaching and learning. Therefore, reading habit is identified as an important mediators of students' achievement in education and other life engagements. Akande and Oyedapo (2018), stated that developing good reading habits would improve the students' comprehension skills, vocabulary, pronunciation, speed, knowledge, and lifelong learning. Indeed good reading habits promote 'self education' which helps in the modification of personality. Reading cannot be a habit when a reader or student has not developed a zeal for making reading a continuous process and a life-long activity. Babarinde, (2017) posits that reading does not only affect or improve confidence in language arts, but also in all life endeavour and ramifications.

Therefore it takes continuity and constant activity to develop a reading habit. According to Fusodo, (2010), poor reading skill can make a child develop poor attitude to school and it can create self-esteem problems later in life. It is certain that students who cannot read well have trouble with all other subjects that require reading and writing.

Therefore the importance of acquiring reading skills/habits for individual's success in life is countless. Kaur, & Jawald, (2018) enumerated some of the benefits :

- Books can expand one's horizons by letting him to see what other cities and countries have to offer before visiting them. It requires a person to focus on what he is reading for long periods.
- Improves memory - Reading although not a game, helps to stretch memory muscles in a similar way. Reading requires details, facts and figures.
- Improves discipline - To add book reading to a person's daily schedule and sticking to it, improves discipline.
- Builds self-esteem - it helps an individual to become better informed and more of an expert on the topic read. This expertise translates into higher self esteem. · Reading is an active mental

process – unlike TV; books make one to use his brain. By reading, one thinks more and becomes smarter.

- It is a fundamental skill builder – Every good course on the planet has a matching book to go with it.
- Improves vocabulary - while reading books, especially challenging ones, it exposes one to many new words that wouldn't be otherwise.
- Gives a glimpse into other cultures and places

It can be said that nations with good reading culture are more developed than nations with poor reading culture . Therefore reading culture is the process of building up positive reading attitude among students and children over a period of time while the act of practicing it becomes a reading habits. Gbadamosi, (2007), states that when an individual habitually and regularly reads books and other materials that are not necessarily for him to advance in his profession or career, he is said to have a good reading culture. Reading culture and reading habit are interwoven in essence therefore is the kind of culture and practice that imbibes reading and studying as the basis of growth and development. It is the type that sees continuous and dedicated reading to information resources by pupils, children, students and adults for knowledge acquisition, which will be applied practically for development. Reading sharpens the mind, makes one reason rationally and objectively in life. In fact readers are leaders.

When you read, you think, but when you stop reading, you stop thinking creatively. Therefore reading culture is a measure of the level of development of a nation or people and could account to the difference between developed and a developing nation and could be applied also to individual growth. Some scholars assert to the fact that when there were no handsets, televisions, and computers, people spent hours reading books therefore cultivating this reading

habit but now with the advent of these technologies and other factors people have lost their passion to read.

Causes of Poor Reading habit

There are many factors that hinder the effective reading habit of people in Nigeria.

Hassen, 2016 outlined various factors hindering the development of good reading habits among students in Nigeria. These include: Nonfunctional school libraries, large percentage of obsolete information materials among the library stock, inexperienced professional librarians, no conducive environment for reading, poor funding from government to procure information materials that will cover both intensive and extensive reading, non-existence of public libraries, high poverty rate, illiteracy among others. Other scholars like Oyetunde and Uno, (1986) listed some causes of reading habits include lack of materials, poor preparation of teachers, lack of interest, poor libraries or none at all, home background and lack of adult readers as models.

Lack of Libraries: Libraries provide a welcoming, safe and clean environment with a plan up to date information resources regularly through purchase, gift and exchange. These material are arranged systematically and provided for the users. They create a convenient accommodation or space such as rooms filled with books and open to users. These provisions encourage students and other user to satisfy their information need, thereby stimulating their reading habits. Oke (1996) opines that conscious effort should be made by all stakeholders in the educational system to promote the reading habit. According to him, equipping libraries is the first practical step in these efforts.

Family Influence or (Background): The parental background matters so much in child upbringing. If the family failed to emphasize much on reading, the children will grow out without cultivating the habit. So the family as the smallest, unit of any nation plays much role

to sharpen the reading habit of its citizens. It is unfortunate that today many parents hardly spend time with their children to groom them academically. Most of them are too busy with other engagements than encouraging the children to read at home. Most parents do not create enabling environment for reading books at home but provide to the children other time tasking activities and usually come back from work late when the children must have slept.

Advent of modern technologies: The invention of modern technologies such as internet, mobile phones, GSM, video tapes etc, in Nigerian have taken the attention of our youth from reading to surfing internet, phone calls, playing computer games among others.

It is a reality that, anyone who is glued to mobile phones, video/film watching has little or no time for reading and cannot develop reading habit because both habits are mutually exclusive.

According to Okusaga (2008), reading is the only form of entertainment that is also, an essential life skill. Contrarily to this view, most students have not found reading as a source of entertainment. Nigerians have adopted film watching as their primary occupation and it is impossible to read while watching film. This has contributed largely to the poor reading culture of Nigerians. Some others believed that internet has the answers to all their information queries thereby forgetting that most veritable information today is not online-based but are in print format therefore missing out in the knowledge acquisition through such format such as book, journal etc.

Poverty: Poverty is one of the factors that inhibited reading habit in Nigeria.

Many Nigerian citizens are too poor to train their children in school and lack money to buy books, pay school fees for their children. Only a few people in Nigeria live above the poverty level. When people are poor, their concern is seeking for ways to solve their problem and under such a situation, reading and abundant craving for reading becomes a non-issue. When a man is

hungry, his pressing need would not be books but food therefore affecting the reading habit of the people.

Corruption: corruption is another factor that affect the reading habit in Nigeria. Many students engage in sharp practices in passing their examination than to read. Sharp practices such as examination malpractices, sales of scores by teachers, high cost of text book by the lecturers etc. This hinders the student from reading because of an alternative means of passing their examinations..

Attitude: One of the greatest factors contributing to the poor reading culture among Nigerians is the attitude to reading. Most of the students lack interest in reading by giving fluency excuses and such attitude give rise to poor reading attitude. Poor reading habits are associated with such behavioural patterns while good reading habits help to develop a steady and constructive mind. Those who enjoy reading derive pleasure and satisfaction from it. Reading is a skill that must be nurtured from a child's earliest form attitude. Once children know how to read, they still need support to reach their full potential as good readers. Most people with learning disabilities have problems with reading and related language skills. Children with poor reading skills receive poor grades at school, get easily distracted and frustrated, have behaviour problems, seem to dislike school, and often fail to develop their full potential all as a result of poor attitude which leads to delinquency; school violence, bullying, hacking computers, and even examination malpractices

Teacher's failure:

Teachers who handle the children in the school have a part to play in encouraging reading habit on the students. A special time should be dedicated by the teacher on comprehension and on other reading technique to help this children acquire this invaluable skill. Some times these

teachers lack methods of imparting reading skills to pupils/students and the resultant effect will always be poor performance.

Libraries Strategies in Promoting Reading Habits

In the midst of increasing poor reading habits among the students with its attendant consequences in the society. It is important to suggest strategies that can be adopted by the library in promoting reading habit in the country such as the following.

Organize Regular Awareness Campaign:

Nigerian Library Association (NLA), in each state chapter, should be holding a regular awareness campaign with students from schools to improve and motivates students reading habits in its area of jurisdiction. The Nigerian Library Association Rivers State chapter organised a similar campaign at Kenule Beson Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic Bori Rivers State Nigeria in April 2022, with the captioned You are a reader which featured among other things reading competition, lectures on reading, and reward for the participants that became a source of motivation to the students. This readership campaigns should be held monthly or quarterly to remedy this poor reading habit among our students.

Libraries Collaboration with other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Libraries should collaborate with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), in promoting readership in the country. They can organise workshops, seminars and quiz competitions with awards for the promotion of reading habit in Nigeria. A programme was held in Donald Ekong Library University of Port Harcourt in collaboration with Lions club Port Harcourt on Friday 16th of September 2022 under the auspices of Nigerian Library Association (NLA) , with selected secondary schools in Port Harcourt were more than fifteen schools participated. They had interactive session, reading competition and books were giving to the participants at the end of

the programme. According to Onuoha, (2013) strategies for improving reading habits include book exhibition; book talk: story-talk hour; creative activities or creative writing; book clubs; drama and mobile reading tents.

Provision and Utilization of Reading Materials:

The libraries with the responsibility of careful evaluation of the children's reading interest while in library should provide current and relevant reading materials for the children. These will expose them to the right information materials that could make them wiser, sharper, build their knowledge and will encourage them in picking interest in reading.

Libraries Involvement with local schools:

In developing the reading habits of students, the local school has a major part to play. They are major stakeholders in the society that should be actively involved in readership by creating time for the student to read their books.

According to Alawiye, (2012) who said that introducing pleasure or fun to reading such as group reading, excursions to libraries and book/fairs exhibitions, appropriate legislation and resuscitation of mobile library services were some of the remedies to combat poor reading habits.

In other words, the provision of classroom libraries to the students will expose them to a wide range of books, magazines and other print materials in a variety of genres and at various levels Dangani, (2015). Activities such as book review , Drama, Essay competitions, debate should be organized by libraries in the bid to develop reading habits in students.

Spearheading World Book and copy Right Day: libraries should take the lead in the world book day by distributing books and other reading materials to schools and other community of people emphasizing the importance of reading. Libraries in Nigeria should embark on aggressive readership promotion campaigns. They should encourage everyone to endeavor to read a book a

day through these activities citizens are likely to become more exposed and encouraged to develop a reading culture or habits. The libraries should also feature seminars and workshops with emphases on the need to be more diligent in reading books.

Libraries involvement with the parents

Public and National libraries that have responsibility of serving unrestricted patrons should invite the parents of their clientele to discuss with them on the issue of cultivating reading habits. They should also be reminded that they are the first teachers of any student right from childhood; therefore students should be introduced into the act of reading at early age from home. Nalusiba (2010) emphasized that the best way of promoting reading is the use of informal methods of reading rather than formal methods. Informal methods stimulate a desire in the child to read before trying to teach him to read. He noted that this was done through storytelling and reading by the teacher and by consulting books to find out things so that children could associate books with pleasure and usefulness.

Solicitation in Establishment of Libraries and policies.

Libraries and librarians of all levels should solicit to government to fund and establish libraries in all localities with enabling policies. Libraries should be built and furnished with the reading materials and carrels. Such projects will go a long way in equipping libraries even ones in higher institutions and subsequently improving reading habits of students who are the future leaders of the country. Formulation of enabling policies by government would also enhance and encourage reading culture in our society.

Revitalizing Local Presses

The director of national library and other educational stakeholders should also influence authorities to support indigenous publishers and authors by subsidizing printing cost in the

country. The cost of producing books should be subsidized to make it accessible to the libraries and other stakeholders at an affordable rate. The management should revitalize Nigerian universities printing presses for the production of tertiary books which some have gone into extinction. This if achieved will bring down the cost of books in our schools.

Conclusion

Reading is very important skill that the students must imbibe, because the reading cannot be separated in the process of teaching and learning. A reading habit is a veritable skill that every good student should possess. This good reading habit would enable them function well in life. Therefore, reading habit is identified as an important mediator of students' achievement in education and other life engagements. Though there are causes of poor reading habits such as addiction to modern technology, poverty, failures of the parent in their responsibility etc. The libraries with the responsibility of providing reading materials do it by providing many programmes that could help build and inculcate reading habits to children such as awareness campaign, interaction with the parents, lobby of government to build and furnish libraries, among others. Other activities are seminars, workshops, engagement with non governmental organisations, debate, storytelling, book review, drama, Essay competitions. Therefore all the stakeholders: government, parents, teachers, among others, should encourage the students in developing reading habits in order to foster development individually and the society at large.

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