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## WOMEN AND LIBRARIES IN PROMOTION OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION FOR DEVELOPMENT.

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### Abstract

*This paper focused on women and libraries in promotion of national integration for development. The main purpose of the study was to examine the level of women (female) participation in using the libraries as compare to men (male) in faculty of Art resource centre university of Uyo. one research question was ask and one hypothesis was formulated to guide the study. Ex-post facto research design was used for the study and the population of the study comprised of one thousand six hundred and twenty (1620) first year undergraduate students in the faculty of Art, university of Uyo in 2016/2017 academic year. Accidental sampling technique was used in selecting two hundred respondents for the study. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire and the instrument was validated by expert in the department of test and measurement. The data collected was analyse using independent t- test statistics and the result from the data analysis shows that there is significant difference in information resource usage in the library Art resource centre of the university of Uyo. The result further indicated that male have more access than female in information resource usage in the library Art resource centre of the university of Uyo. Based on this result, it is recommended that government should make a policy to encourage female student to have access to education in order to bridge the gap of gender difference in using the libraries.*

### Introduction

Women are adult female human being; they are mothers, sisters, aunts, wives, daughters, friends and confidants. They are the building block upon which the foundations of a happy homes and families are built. The history of our great nation confirms how women of outstanding courage and determination have contributed immensely to national development. The general view about the role of the women had always been conceived within the context of the home that is that of child-bearing and carry out domestic functions only. Thus over the years women have been deprived, neglected, exploited and oppressed. In the context of this neglect, it is not surprising that in spite of their potentials, the nation has failed to mobilize them let alone their effective participation in the educational process. But presently women participation in promotion of national development is one of the Nigeria's greatest concerns. In recent years, emphasis has been on the recognition of women organizations, establishment of women programmes and the fostering of women activities, and professional associations like the association of women librarians in Nigeria (AWLIN), National council of women societies (NCWS), Women in Nigeria (WIN), Women commissions, Family Support programmer (FSP), Better life for rural women (BLRW), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) and a host of other programmes and non – governmental Societies. This arrangement has not only stopped at the public sector, but has extended to the tertiary educational sector, where there are women organizations like Nigerian Association of University Women (NAUW), Women in the polytechnics (POSAN), Women in colleges of Education and today, we have Forum of women Professors and others. The associations have as their topmost priority, the upliftment of the status of women at home and at their work place to promote the betterment of their lifestyle, planning

for survival, the identification, documentation and popularity of their contributions in libraries and national development.

This implies that women had up till now been contributing to the development of their professions and even societies but the recognition and appreciations of such contributions have not been enough. According to Uyanga (2003), it has been evident that women efforts and struggles towards development go un-recognized, according to the following points:

- 5 Women role is expected to take place with the household (kitchen).
- 6 That women role though important, is not paid for.
- 7 During researches, biases may be shortcoming in the categories of women used, and deficient understanding of them by data collection agent.
- 8 Sometimes data collection procedures lead to deficient information because information collected are usually from male heads of household and as a result of these women works are seen as secondary to those of men.

These describe vividly the disagreeable picture of women contributions in promotion of National development. The world today has realized the relevance of women's right as a development goal in its own right, and as an essential means of achieving poverty reduction and sustainable development. We can know that challenges facing women are problem with solutions, not without solution, so that we can change the historical legacy that claimed women to be the tail not the head. To placed women at the advantage level in most societies, we must empower them through education, thereby turning their adversity into advantage. Women need to be given greater access to education either through the formal, non- formal or informal method.

The millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has opened a new door for the advancement of gender equality. As the millennium declaration has recognized, meaningful and sustainable reductions in poverty levels depend on our willingness to confront the reality that half of the world's population have been subordinated by women.

### **Role of women**

The traditional role of women include child bearing, child-rearing and housekeeping, some of them do some farming and petty trading to supplement the family income. Women are also expected to weed the farms and plant their crops that require lighter labour like maize, millet, cassava, cocoyam and vegetables. Women are the ones expected to carry product home in the families where a lot of farm products are harvest, and also help to sell them in the local markets (Udofot, 2012). Women most important role are to take care of the family, preparing and in some case providing the meals , some times they are the people that make the home what it is for both children and the father, they played vital role in the family , yet in many societies they still look down on women. Some neither highly regard women nor looked down upon the existence of women but seen as just members of the community. That aside, in Nigeria, few groups of women are highly regarded, example the Ijaw community and Calabar in cross rivers state.

### **Women and Education in Nigeria:**

Societal awareness of the need for increased participant in formal education (schooling) has been a factor for increased enrolment and transition in Nigeria. The Forum for African Women Educationists (FAWE) publication of September 2000 showed that though schools enrolments have increased globally over the last three decades, drop-out among girls have equally increased.

The data collected showed that 130 million 6-11 years old who were out of school, 81 million (60%) were girls. Also of the 273 million secondary school students aged 12-17 years who were

out of school, 148 million (54%) were girls, and of the 100 million who dropped out of school before completing four years, 2/3 were girls, This show a marked disparity in their educational pursuits. The National population commission and UNICEF (2001) reveal a high gender gap in primary school enrolment in the northern state; the South- East and the North-East are in an intermediary situation, with gender ratio of 0.96 and 0.90 respectively.

### **Effect of Education on Nigerian Women**

Education is a major instrument of change and development in a society. Great philosophers from the time of Aristotle, Plato and others have recognized education as a powerful instrument devised by man for his own improvement.

In terms of access to educational opportunities the choice of education by women has usually been influenced by traditional attitudes so much so that women are under-represented in the sciences. Women were also late comers into the educational scene compare to men. Now there's a progressive policy of Nigerian government, there has been a dramatic shift in the previously prevailing negative attitude towards women's education. This has greatly assisted in the equalization of educational opportunities for both sexes.

### **Libraries**

The word library can be described as, a collection of graphic materials (such as books, films, magazines, maps, manuscript, phonographic records) these include print, non-prints materials and electronic resources, acquired, housed, organized, preserved and interpreted to meet the different needs of individual searching for information, knowledge in various fields. Uchendu (2011) posits library as an organized store houses of knowledge, that provide general functions of education, social, cultural and recreational aspect of life.

### **Types of Libraries**

There are different types of libraries and these include the following

National library, public library, academic library, school library and special library, all of them have their different functions to their users.

### **Function of Libraries**

National library:

- iv. Legal deposit and preservation of literatures: The National library has the only right as a legal deposit of all publications in the country. Authors are encouraged to deposit their published books in the national library.
- v. Compilation of National Bibliography: National library compiles the national bibliography (the list of all publications) in the country.
- vi. Issue of copyright law, ISBN and ISSN: this eliminates piracy and flouting of copy- right laws.
- vii. Library development and advisory function: they provide s assistance towards library development both to Federal, state or local government agency.
- viii. Promotion of reading culture: they create awareness for people to cultivate reading habit. It organizes seminars, workshop, and symposia for the public.
- ix. Establishment of branch libraries in each state, compilation of National catalogue and other functions are cataloguing in publication (CIP).

### **Functions of Public Libraries:**

- a. Promotion of Education: by providing users with variety of information and reading materials.

- b. **Informational role:** they provide information to improve the quality of life and social awareness of the users, providing up-to-date and current issue.
- c. **Recreation:** they promote research through the provision of resource materials.
- d. **Promotion of culture;** they preserve and document records of **cultural importance**.
- e. **Training of users, community and extension services, e.g to rural areas.**

#### **Function of school libraries:**

- a. Promote reading culture; it develops reading skill and encourages reading habits.
- b. **Supplement class teaching:** it provide background materials which supplement class teaching.
- c. **Provision of current information:** provide up-to-date resources to meet challenge of education and provision of current awareness services to users.
- d. Support independent study; prepare students for future education, development of ideas and knowledge for reading, writing and arithmetic.
- e. Creating conducive studying atmosphere, library instruction, and leisure role.

#### **Functions of Academic Libraries**

1. Collection and organization of materials: the major functions of academic libraries are to collect, arrange and organize information materials to promote teaching, learning and research.
2. Conservation and dissemination of information.
3. User Education, provide instruction to student in certain areas of knowledge.
4. Intellectual and research functions, and they provide public services by training people for various professions in the areas of need.
5. They make information available to members of academic community, and those from outside.
6. They contribute to the efforts in finding solutions to specific problems of society and others.

#### **Aim of libraries**

The primary aim of libraries is to ensure that recorded human knowledge and experience are compiled, stored and organized to enable researchers to access them when needed. Libraries have responsibility to ensure that all scholarly communications including the primary resources is properly preserved. They are to provide quality services to the users to meet their expectation. Libraries are created to conserve knowledge, preserve cultural heritage, provide information, serves as centers and foundation of research libraries, and make the learner a knowledgeable personality. Library support teaching, learning and research. According to Edem and Ofre, (2008) to attain required academic goal, library is recognized as an essential resource centre which no student or lecturer can afford to dispense with.

#### **The Role of Libraries**

Different libraries have different but similar roles that yielded a good result, some of the library roles are as follows:

2. Library lays the foundation for lifelong education.
3. Library inculcates good reading habits.
4. Library fosters the academic programme of the schools.
5. Library prepares pupils, students, lecturers and other researchers for success in examinations or other research works.

6. It gives social training on how to get needed information.
7. It encourages the spirit of enquiry and independent learning.
8. Library help researchers to achieve better result
9. It acted as a resource base for the teacher and lecturers.
10. Library train learners to learn.
11. It tried to maintain a quiet atmosphere for the users.

One can say that the library provides all possible information needs for researchers, students, academic /non-academic staff as well as neighboring communities, and they are indispensable in the realization of the set objectives of the academic institutions by supporting and making them available as required by all categories of users.

### **Conceptualization of promotion of National Integration Development**

Promotion is the advancement to higher rank or status, national development can be defined as the experience of growth and change in both tangible and intangible aspects of societal life including industrialization, material advancement, modernization, increased opportunity for societal members and better standard of living. Ngene (2010) defined national development to simply mean national advancement. It is a progressive growth in all aspect of nation building. It is a positive growth of people's livelihood, economically, politically, culturally, technologically, educationally, socially, interwoven and intermingled to form a whole.

Rwomire (2011), also see national development as an ongoing dynamic process by which individuals identify themselves as a community and are collectively empowered to bring about positive change for the benefit of all its members. It is also the realization of rights, especially economic, cultural and social right aimed at ending poverty, inequalities, suffering and injustice. It is true that national development can be viewed as a dynamic and progressive process that brings about positive changes and advancement in all aspects of societal life and enhances better standard of living.

**The word integration:** This is the process of sum mining infinitesimal (too small to measure), especially between stated limits, the coordination of personality and environment, the organization of psychological reactions (Webster's, 2004).

### **Statement of the problem**

Library has been considered as an organized store house of knowledge that provides general functions of education for all sexes. Regrettably, there is a gender difference in using the library resources as compare also to gender difference in gaining admission into academic institutions by female, due to the fact that, most female are not given opportunity to go to schools as such they cannot use the libraries. This has serious effect on the ratio of females and males' student found in the Art resource centre of the library in faculty of Art university of Uyo, which showed lower percentage in number of females' students that, used the resource centre in 2016/2017 academic year.

### **Purpose of the study**

The main purpose of the study is to examine the level of women (female) participation in using the library information resources as compare to men (male) in faculty of Art resource centre University of Uyo: Toward women and libraries in promotion of national integration for development. Specifically the study sought to investigate whether there is any significant difference between male and female in using the library information resources in Art resource center of University of Uyo.

**Research Question**

In order to achieve the stated objectives of the study, this research question was posed  
 To what extent does the library resource centre usage ratio between male and female users is difference?

**Hypothesis**

There is no significant difference in using the library information resources in faculty of Art resource center between male and female in university of Uyo.

**Methodology**

Ex-post facto research design was used for the study and the population comprised of one thousand six hundred and twenty (1620) first year undergraduate student in the faculty of art, university of Uyo in 2016/2017 academic session. Accidental sampling technique was used in selecting two hundred respondents as the sample of the study. The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire titled ‘Library Information Resources Usage between Male and Female Users’ (LIRUMFU) validated by experts in test and measurement. The questionnaire had two sections A and B. Section A sought for respondent’s demographic data such as sex age and year of admission. While section B contained 10 items constructed questionnaire with simple rating of ‘YES’ or ‘NO’. The reliability of the instrument was established by carrying out a trial study using twenty (20) students’ that were not part of the actual study. The reliability coefficient of 0.75 for the entire instrument was obtained. Hence, the instrument was considered adequate and significant to the objective of the study.

Independent t- test statistics was used for data analysis at 0.05 alpha level of significant.

**Result**

**Hypothesis:** There is no significant different in using the library information resources between male and female users in faculty of art resources centre, university of Uyo.

Independent t –test was used to analyse the data and the result is presented on Table 1

Independent t – test analysis of difference in using the library information resources between male and female users in faculty of art resources center, university of Uyo. (N =200)

Gender	N	X	SD	T- cal
Male	110	82.16	7.54	12.9
Female	90	70.23	5.38	

P < 0.05, df = 198, t –critical 3.0

The result of the analysis shows that the t-test calculated value of 12.9 was greater than the critical value of 3.0 significant levels with 198 degree of freedom. This shows that the result is significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that, there is a significant difference in information resource usage between male and female in the faculty of art resources centre of the University of Uyo.

**Discussion of Findings**

The result of the analysis in table 1 revealed that there is a significant difference in using information resources between male and female users in art resources centre of university of Uyo. This result is in line with the view of Ogada (2001), who lamented that female do not have equal access with males to education especially at the tertiary level. The result is in consonance

with Ogunsola (2004) who observed that there is a lukewarm attitude toward female education as a result of several factors which affect their chance of gaining admission into tertiary institutions. In this case there could be difference between the utilization of libraries by women who differed in terms of their ethnicity, age, religion, educational background and availability of good library services.

### **Conclusion**

Education in Nigeria has been seen as an instrument per excellence for effecting national development, to sustain the development and to promote national integration for development. There is need to ensure equal educational opportunity and accessibility for male and female because educating the female is like giving them a better chance to control their lives and to contribute to the national development.

### **Recommendation**

Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended that:

Government should make a policy to encourage female students to have access to education in order to bridge the gap of gender difference in using the libraries. There should be policy that will enable female student to gain admission with lower percentage into tertiary institutions. Thus, will encourage the females as well as make them to have self confidence and self-reliance toward using library information resources to the promotion of national integration for development.

There is need for libraries to start providing services suitable to all groups of women (especially Muslim married women living in some state). Small branch libraries and mobile services to remote areas could take of this. The local government, state and national government should provide adequate funds to libraries regularly for good upkeep and to start integrating themselves into communities by creating activities and supporting culture.

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