



## **Library Education Approach to Sustainable National Security, Economy and Corruption in Post Covid-19 Era**

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### **Abstract**

*This paper aims at examining the Library education approach to sustainable national security, economy and corruption in post covid-19 era. Since no meaningful learning, education and development can take place in a situation of insecurity and brazen destruction of lives and property, the onus lies on the library for responsible librarianship through dissemination of relevant information that can contribute to peace and national security in Nigeria by helping the citizens to understand their role in national security. Libraries and librarians should be seen as important tools in national security. National security is possible through the utilization and collaboration of information, human, and material resources. Libraries play crucial roles in inculcating positive values, attitudes, and behaviours that promote harmonious relationships. Libraries help ensure that people have access to information that will help them make informed judgments and decisions. Corruption, some people believe is becoming a culture. This paper also admits that it is a culture in Nigeria and in other parts of the world as well. Corruption is a global devil that has devoured human intelligibility in its social context. As an anti-social behavior and a plague that has eaten so deep into the entire fabric of the Nigerian society, it confers undue benefits on few people contrary to legal and moral norms of the society. Based on these, it was recommended that security agencies should be as a matter of deliberate government policy, work closely with the library in the war against insecurity; a library should design a blueprint for security consciousness; and rural libraries/mobile libraries should be more functional to distribute literacy materials to help rural dwellers for better information-sensitivity in this information driven society.*

**Keywords:** *Library, Education, Sustainable National Security, socio-economic development, anti-corruption, Covid-19.*



## **Introduction**

Education has been defined and conceptualised by different educationists, philosophers and authors. As summarized by Nnaboua and Asodike (2014), Education is a process of acquiring knowledge and ideas that shape and condition man's attitude, actions and achievements; it is the art of the utilization of knowledge for complete living; it is a process of developing the child's moral, physical, emotional and intellectual power for his contribution in social reform; it is the process of mastering the laws of nature, utilizing them effectively for the welfare of the individual and for social reconstruction; it is power. Nelson Mandela rightly quoted thus "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" (Duncan, 2013).

A library is a collection of organised information sources. It is primarily set up to acquire, organize, and preserve information resources and make them accessible to the various prospective users. A library is concerned with the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of recorded information for the purpose of reading, study, research and consultation. Information is new ideas or knowledge extracted from the environment for human use with the aim of modifying behaviour, effecting changes, and enhancing efficiency in all human endeavours (Ajegbomogun, 2008). Information helps create enlightened and responsible citizens.

It is not a gainsaying that any country that wants to achieve growth and sustainable development must always maintain national security in its system. National security is the preservation of the values a nation holds dear as it relates to the defence of its territory from human as well as nonhuman threats and guides in the pursuit of national interest in the international system (Ubah, 2015). This means that national security is the process of providing protection for the people of a country, property and adherence to the principle of the rule of law and human rights by the government. In this direction, it should be noted that all effort put in place by the government to guarantee nation security in our society would not be rock-solid and effective if the library is not at fore-front of the fight. This means that the role of the library is imperative in combating insecurity, social unrest in the society especially Nigeria.

A library is an important intellectual memory of the nation at large, as it helps to promote information sharing, studies and research. Ezeani (2012) defined the library as "an institution for care of collection of books that make them accessible to prospective users". He went further to say that stocks in the library are audio visual materials (magnetic tapes, phone records, films) arranged in a systematic manner to allow for easy access and location of individual items for loan, reference or research. Dominant among such recorded information materials are books and other printed materials, thus the library contains information materials some of which are in book form and others in non-book form. The non-book library materials are referred to as audio-visual media resources. It also includes the radio, the television, film strips, slides, tapes, video cassettes, records, computers, maps and globes.

The primary role of the library is to acquire, process, preserve, and disseminate recorded information. It is therefore, the responsibility of the library to enlighten the youths and other members of the community it serves by presenting them with factual and relevant information that will guide their actions and help them make good decisions that will promote peace (Ugulu & Oghuvwu, 2015). Since knowledge and information are so vital for an all round human development, the library and other institutions that handle and manage knowledge and information are indeed invaluable to national security.



The roles of libraries in this information driven society are underestimated especially in the area of security maintenance and sustainability. According to John (2018), of all the roles that librarians and library play, two are critical to modern society as we know it. The first is the access role of the library as the place where the information seeker can access information without restriction. The second focused on user education. The access (the first role) has been the world-wide function of the library to acquire, organize, provide on-going access to a variety of information as well as preserving the valued cultural heritage for long term access; library by its vantage position promotes learning and long life education to the generality of the public. The focused of the second role (user education) takes place even beyond the library as it serves as an avenue to educate people on how to source and get information on any issue, like security. Libraries organizes social-cultural events and enlightenment programmes to the general public; this includes: awareness creation on current ravaging pandemic, sensitization news electoral on system, enlightenment bordering on security issues, cultural festival etc. (Akanwa & Udo-Anyanwu 2017). Through these inherent responsibilities, education and social events are enhanced for development and growth in the society. These two fundamental roles have differentiated the library from all other institutions in our contemporary society.” This is where the civic and social responsibility of the library takes centre stage. Social responsibility is a part of librarianship (Kagan, 2015).

According to Ossai-Ugbah (2013), the issue of national security is therefore, a core value of librarianship. Since no meaningful learning, education and development can take place in a situation of insecurity and brazen destruction of lives and property, the onus lies on the library for quality services delivery through provision of information materials and dissemination of information that can contribute to peace and national security in Nigeria. The library as a storehouse of information has positively broadened its scope of societal relevance through time to become not only a collection books, book related and non-book materials but also a gateway through which information can be conveyed to people irrespective of location. Omotayo (2015) observed that in war situations in a literate society, use of libraries increases as users flock to libraries to find information to guide them. Information that can promote peace, unity, progress, peaceful co-existence, and harmonious relationship among all the communities must therefore, be available in libraries.

Librarians therefore, in promoting access to this information, act as agents of the promotion of communal peace, security and reconciliation (Ugulu & Oghuvwu, 2015). *Boko Haram*, Militia from the oil rich Niger Delta, ritual killings and kidnapping could be reduced through the use of the library to educate the people on the need to build a peaceful society. This is because, mostly all the conflicts in our society today are caused by religious, ethnicity, corruption and lack of information and right knowledge to live in civil society. Information is a vital tool to the development of every individual or nation. Information is of paramount importance to the environment which in turn affects the totality of human’s life.

The state of insecurity in Nigeria today is not new to anyone and, although it can be link to some factors that has been left unchecked for a long time by both the Government and people of Nigeria. The level of insecurity in the country today is threatening to tear Nigeria apart and requires a quick, adequate, appropriate and a new approach to deal with the security challenges plaguing the nation, (Ndanusa, 2014).

Corruption is a global phenomenon. It is not the exclusive misfortune of any single nation, race or section of the world but transcends national boundaries and frontiers and symbolizes phenomenal universal unwholesome situation politically, Aluko (2009) opined. This menace



has led to situations like slow movement of files in offices, police extortion of innocent citizens, toll fees, port congestion, queues at passport offices and petrol stations, ghost workers syndrome, election irregularities, among other. Government officials further still corruptly enrich themselves by converting Government money in their custody to their own use, force citizens to pay bribe money, and citizens also induce the officials with bribes to get whatever they want from Government or company offices. Though corruption is found in every society, it is very common in Nigeria, and no one seems to be free from it either as a doer or as a victim. Anti-corruption comprises activities that oppose or inhibit corruption. Just as corruption takes many forms, anti-corruption efforts vary in scope and in strategy. A general distinction between preventive and reactive measures is sometimes drawn. In such framework, investigative authorities and their attempts to unveil corrupt practices would be considered reactive, while education on the negative impact of corruption or firm-internal compliance programmes is classified as the former.

According to World Health Organization WHO (2020), corona virus seems to spread from person to person by the same mechanism as other common cold or influenza viruses—i.e. by face to face contact with a sneeze or cough, or from contact with secretions of people who are infected. The common symptoms include fever, dry cough, tiredness, shortness of breath, pains and aches, sore throat, and very few people will report diarrhoea, nausea or a runny nose (WHO, 2020). Most people infected with the COVID-19 will experience mild-to-moderate fever and respiratory illness with no special treatment available. The 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is currently the disorder with the greatest social impact (Ryu & Chun, 2020) due to several factors, including associated deaths, its geographical expansion, stock exchange fall worldwide, cancellation of sporting/ artistic events, shortage of goods in marketplaces, among others (Castro, 2020). That in turn is related to the behavior of societies at different levels (micro and macro) (Villegas-Chiroque, 2020).

Libraries around the world have been facing lockdown challenges in providing access to its collections and services. All types of libraries have promoted their digital services during the coronavirus pandemic situation. However, the physical resources are often put on demand by the users most preferably in the scientific organizations where research on drugs and pharmaceutical is being carried out for medical diagnosis and drug discovery. Libraries having significant number of e-resources which may permit them to have enough opportunities to serve their users even in the lockdown period throughout the world. Several Libraries have brought out their digital services, organizing virtual exhibitions, highlighting content on the websites and Lets Read Together online campaign. There have also been major efforts to boost access to the library resources online as well as offline, for example by increasing the number of e- Books/ e-Journals/CD-DVD, etc. in order to lower the risk of virus spread. Hence, this paper aims at highlighting the library educational approach to sustainable national security, economy and anti-corruption in post covid-19 era.

### **The Concept of National Security**

Security is a state of being safe and the absence of fear, anxiety, danger, poverty and oppression. It is the preservation of core values and the absence of threats to these values (Alli, 2010). Imobighe (2010) opines that security is the freedom from threats to a nation's capability to defend and develop itself, promote its values and lawful interests. Security is a state in which people or things are not necessarily exposed to danger of physical or moral aggression, accident, theft or decline. This view is associated with the survival of the state and the preservation of its citizens.



Furthermore, Onele (2010) stated that national security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the State through the use of economic power, diplomacy, power projection and political power. Moreover, in order to achieve national security, a Nation needs to have stable economic security, energy security, environmental security, social security, food security, the quality of life security and technological security. The implication of this is that national security is enhanced by other forms of national development. This means that without development there can be no adequate security.

National security according to Okene (2011) is the ability of a nation to protect and develop herself, promote her cherished interest, legitimate values and enhance the standard of living and the well being of her citizens, guests and visitors. Continuing, Okene added that national security is the absence of those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and corporate existence of the states of a nation. It is also the ability of a nation to maintain all vital institutions for the promotion of her core values, socio-political and economic objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people.

However, recent happenings in Nigeria have shown that our national security is in jeopardy. Nigeria as a nation is presently facing severe security challenges that are threatening the corporate existence and stability of the country. This is evident in the wake of the increasing terrorism, violent extremism, insurgency, piracy, kidnapping, banditry, armed robbery, organized crime, cultism, political thuggery, ethnic and religious clashes, Fulani herdsmen killings, etc. The level of insecurity in the country is on the increase despite the huge sums of money budgeted on yearly basis as security votes by the three tiers of government. The resultant effect of this state of insecurity is that, the country now suffers from a lot of brain drain of intellectuals who drift to more peaceful and secure countries. Unfortunately, several efforts are being made by national security agencies to provide effective and enduring security mechanism, yet, the problem of national insecurity has remained unabated. The security challenges being experienced in the country presently, requires all and sundry to be more proactive on this issue of national security so as to curb the dangerous situation that is ravaging the nation. Some of these security challenges which have been ravaging the nation for some time now, have defied every effort made to combat them by the security apparatus of the country.

### **Library Education approach to sustainable national security**

There are many strategies which libraries and librarians can adopt in promoting national security. They are discussed thus:

1. Libraries can explore the use of printing and posting posters in public place to sensitize the entire public to the disastrous effect of national insecurity.
2. Dimkpa (2013) affirmed that libraries play the role of information by making available journals, newspapers, magazines and other reading materials in the indigenous language so that individuals in the society will be able to see reasons for national security.
3. The library can open public reading centres where people can have easy access to right and timely information about the national security situation.
4. Libraries, regardless of their type that is academic, school, public and special are viewed as an important component that can make use of its information services like loan service, selection and acquisition of materials through direct purchase/ordering and gift, current awareness service, selective dissemination of information Interlibrary loan for the promotion of national security.



5. A library helps to build a reading nation through educated and informed citizens. The library is primarily set up to acquire, store and make available and accessible to users needed collections within the quickest possible time. This is the reason why Dimkpa (2013) submitted that libraries serve as information system that can be used to disseminate information for national security.
6. Selective dissemination of peace information/ education strategy: The philosophy behind the library and its services is based on information collection, categorization, dissemination, conservation and management. At this time, when Nigeria is still in its democratic embryo, ideological divides which is the threshold upon which terrorism thrives can employed to be counter effective information dissemination. There is an urgent need for provision of “right information, in the right format, for the right people, at the right time and in the right place” to stem the tide of ignoramus decadence (Ubah, 2015).
7. Peace and reconciliation strategy: The library is a judgment free zone where in which a citizen can investigate interests of terrorists with aggrieved communities without fear of any embarrassment or exposure. An even greater understanding of the differences and similarities among people of the world can potentially initiate and expands feelings of tolerance and empathy for cultures, religions and traditions outside of one’s immediate sphere (Zabadi, 2015).
8. Social integration strategy: A library is one of the major places in the world through which the real integration of people with diverse political, economic, religious and ideological spheres could be brought together through actual cooperation and exchange of vital information (Becker, 2013).

### **Role of Library for Socio-Economic Development**

Socio-Economic Development has to do with qualitative and sometimes quantitative changes in the life of a people or an individual. At the national level, there is an improvement in the general well-being of the people while at the individual level, development implies activity, increased skills and capacity, self-discipline, greater freedom, responsibility, and material well-being ” (Achitabwino, 2007). The presence of libraries in a society will certainly enhance positive human activity in that society libraries are also germane in educational development of a nation. This is done through their services and programmes, introducing children to the habit and joy of reading and aiding scholastic and researchers in contributing their quota to the development. Students are supported with the aid of books and other relevant information to perform well in their academic work while teachers and lecturers get teaching aids from libraries to prepare useful lesson notes that will help them pass useful knowledge to their students the role of libraries in promoting the marketing of the tourism sector cannot be underestimated (Achitabwino, 2007).

Another essential role of libraries “is the propounding and propagation of a political ideology for national development and cohesion”. Bhatti (2010) opined that it is equally incontrovertible that libraries have the greatest impact on agricultural development of a nation. Academic Libraries provide relevant information on agricultural improvement at university through the use Agora data bases to all agricultural officers, extension workers, researchers, peasant farmers, policy makers, etc. on the new method of improving livestock and better farming practices that will meet the increasing need of the population. Libraries make such information available and also provide positive steps towards improving the declining food security in Nigeria.



Libraries as reservoirs of information are the most reliable information reference centres where tourists can seek information on hotels, motels, national parks, mountains, and other interesting places.

Libraries also play a vital role in the health sector in Nigeria. A vibrant health sector needs well documented and organized health information meant for dissemination to users and potential users in order to consolidate health records, planning and management. Libraries mostly at the teaching hospital provide people with appropriate information on diseases and prevention measures, health care, side effects of premarital affairs, dangers of early pregnancies, and any other health related information.

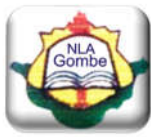
### **Summary and Conclusion**

The library serves as the centre of information generation and dissemination. Libraries provide the instructional materials to enrich the user's knowledge, supplement the textbook, give users unlimited opportunity to learn and keep users, teachers and students up to date on new social, economic and scientific development, provide an opportunity for users to solve the problems of their information needs in cultural, political, educational, and socio-economic issues. A library is a place, a room or a building where books, journals and other sources of information are kept and used for study, research and recreation. The library is a very important institution in the society. Its overall importance can never be over emphasized.

The library and librarians as information collectors and disseminators have a role to play in the war against national security. To adequately address Nigerian security challenges, modern intelligence information gathering devices must be acquired and stored by libraries and information centres to assist security services, like the police, the State Security Services, the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, Civil Defence Corps and the general public. The issue of national security is therefore, a core value of librarianship. Since no meaningful learning, education and development can take place in a context of insecurity and brazen destruction of lives and property, the onus lies on the library for responsible librarianship through dissemination of information that can contribute to peace and national security in Nigeria by helping the citizens to understand their role in national security.

The library as a storehouse of information has positively altered its scope of influence across time to become not only a place that houses information resources but a gateway through which information can be conveyed to people irrespective of location. National security is possible through the utilization and collaboration of library information, human, and material resources. The security problems that have plagued nation and affected libraries for years, such as theft, unstable government policy, lack of national security and other kinds of misbehaviour remain a challenge today.

Corruption, some people believe is becoming a culture but this paper admits that it is a culture in Nigeria and in other parts of the world as well. Corruption is a global devil that has devoured human intelligibility in its social context. As an anti-social behavior and a plague that has eaten so deep into the entire fabric of the Nigerian society, it confers undue benefits on few people contrary to legal and moral norms of the society. Prior to its contagious and incurable infection, it undermines authorities' effort to provide welfare for all citizens as the resources to do this are in the hands of few of the populace. The above quotation confirms that a society without corruption would not have put in place an anti-corruption training session. This further proves that corruption does not know boundary, culture, society and that there is no human occupation that is immuned to corruption.



### Suggestions

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher recommends as follows;

- i. Security agencies should as a matter of deliberate government policy, work closely with the library in the war against insecurity.
- ii. Libraries should design a blueprint for security consciousness; and rural libraries/mobile libraries should be more functional to distribute literacy materials to help rural dwellers to be better informed.
- iii. Libraries and librarians should be in the forefront of national security discourses through sponsorship, guiding principle and act that can further the country's national security.
- iv. The Library and Librarians should open public reading centers where people can have easy access to right information on national security.
- v. The society should encourage the development of knowledge house (libraries and information centres) and also encourage the use of libraries in society to reduce the rate of literacy and deviant behaviours in the society.
- vi. Adequate information, education and enlightenment through libraries will lay a solid foundation in people for conflict prevention and resolution as well as make for a more peaceful society.
- vii. Librarians in all institutions should be motivated by means of enhanced packages that can be used to cover cost for subscriptions and other social media tools that will boost their dissemination of health information.

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