

# **LIBRARY AS A KEY FACTOR IN PROMOTING PEACE CULTURE IN NIGERIA**

**BY**

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## **Abstract**

The purpose of this paper was to highlight the roles of the library in fostering peace culture among the heterogeneous entity in Nigeria. The paper defines the basic concepts of peace and culture in the context of Nigeria society. The library is projected as a viable source of acquiring knowledge not only for the needed peace among the individual, but peace at home, community, working place. Society, mosque, church and the wider environment. It is only when an individual is self fulfilling by achieving his/herself goals, that peace culture be truly promoted thus, the paper argues that every nation of the world can boast of having peace and peace culture. It is therefore recommended that for Nigeria to imbibe the spirit of peace and peace culture, the abundant human and material resources of this great nation should be judiciously harnessed to address the problems of poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, ethnic rivalries, social injustice and mass illiteracy.

## **Introduction**

Peace and culture are twin virtues, which must be infused into the psyche of the individual from the moment when an individual is born. Once an individual is endowed with the sense of belonging, ability to appreciate efforts of other people and protection of the job integrity, the library is the place to lay a solid foundation for peace culture; and to promote peaceful co-existence among the heterogeneous entity in Nigeria.

The library is the nerve center of any tertiary educational institution, especially colleges of education, the polytechnics and the University. It is also a crucial unit in the educational development of man at any level of human development.

Libraries as information centers are not only the integral parts of every learning culture, but they help to promote academic activities taking place in my educational setting. Indeed, a library is a living and active part of the whole efforts towards promoting peace culture in Nigeria. According to National Policy on Education (1999) the aim of any library is to:

1. Encourage the development of skills in reading
2. Prompt the readers to some literacy appreciation
3. Be a source of subject information center and support the curriculum
4. Be a clinic for intellectual development

## **The Concept of Education, Peace Culture and Library**

**Education:** Is defined as a process or the result of a process by which an individual acquires knowledge, skills, attitudes and insights. Education includes the development of cognitive (intellectual affective) and values and psychomotor (sensing motor skills and abilities), it may also be defined as growth, the cumulative effect of changes in behaviour resulting from experiences, whether planned or unplanned. This would include formally erected learning from a teacher, mentor, priest or other adults, specially charged with instructional responsibilities and formal acquisition of learning through interaction with family. Informal and unplanned sources of education encompass books, magazine, radio, T.V. and computer related networks.

Education is also the art of teaching and training of young ones, Education is the aggregate of all the processes by which a young adult develops the abilities, attitudes and other forms of behaviours of positive mine to the society in which he/she lives.

The aims of education are both for individual and cultural. Education is designed to affirmatively assist individuals to develop their skills and abilities so as to fulfill their potential in order to live a productive life. Culturally therefore, education is the process by which a society preserves and perpetuates its socio cultural values and institutions. It is the means by which the collective wisdom of past pathetic Heroes is transmitted to earn new-generation.

The aims of education as entrenched in the national policy in education (1999) include the:

- Promotion of free enterprises
- Development of well balanced individual
- Development of the skilled workers
- Development of the ability to use basic skills
- Development of communication skill and
- Development of respect for others

While the overall aim is nothing less than all round efficiency and also the development of the child physically intellectually, socially, culturally and spiritually, even respect for dignity of labour.

**Peace:** Is defined as a situation or a period of time in which there is no war or violence in a country or an area. Peace talk/negotiation negotiator is trying to make peace between the worrying factions. Oderinde (1999) opined that, peace is beyond just lack of violence, but includes lack of all forms of injustice, inequality, hunger and poverty.

The word peace has neither been acceptably defined, nor has there ever been agreement on how to achieve peace. Some individuals usually referred to it as pacifist, have visualized it in terms of brotherhood, and they have preached a doctrine of universal love. They have unconditionally opposed and renounced international violence of any type and refused on the basis of religious, humanitarian, philosophical or social justice principle to participate in or support any war for any reason.

Ibrahim (1998) identifies two kinds of peace. "the one which men long to build and achieve and the .... God given" and advises that "if the one that is God given is sought for the alleviation of war would be possible". So a radical revolutionary divine peace education is the only way out of our present ethical, political, social, economic and religion problem. This paper, therefore is trying to show that library can promote peace and culture in Nigeria.

Peace education has the potential of halo us become better human beings "through reading different books on ethnic and culture. Peace education therefore is to keep helping human beings become more human to a point where a near perfect human society could be established on earth to avoid conflict.

**Culture:** The term culture is derived from the Latin language cultural and virtually all European Language have a variant of it. In Roman antiquity, culture referred' to cultivation in farming, but soon took on rich, extended meaning relating especially to the cultivation or improvement of something as in individual education.

Culture is the complex pattern of living that human have developed that they pass on from one generation to the next Culture, then is a very broad concept. Concept of culture is used to identify people according to what they believe, what they do, what they know and how they act.

Culture can also pertains to the various materials and objects that people learn to use. Barter (1997) defined culture as a way of perceiving, believing, evaluating and behaving. Culture provides the ways an individual thinks, feels and acts in society. The major goals of cultural plural, include improvise respect for human dignity, maximizing cultural option, understanding what makes people alike and different, and accepting diversity as valuable to human life.

Culture is the customs and beliefs art, way of life and social organization of a particular country or group. Art, music, literature thought or a group Hope (1997) said Venice is a beautiful city full of culture and history that is enjoyed by a lot of people. Belief and attitudes about that people in a particular croup of organization shared. Culture makes people, well educated and able to understand end-enjoy art, literature.

According to Sidi (1999) there were noted, that 200 ethnic groups and each has its own culture, religion and language world Wide. The interaction and co-existence of heterogeneous ethnic groups have often resulted in clashes due to mistrust, claims of superiority, deprivations and the struggle for socio-economic height among the groups. This ethnic groups has read about different groups in the library,

with this, they will know how to live in peace with one another, since they have read about different cultures.

**Library:** Encyclopaedia Britannica (2000 p333) defined the word library as a collection of books used for reading or study, or the building or room in which such a collection is kept. The library is the nerve-culture of any educational institution especially the college of Education, Polytechnic or University. It is also crucial in the educational development of a man at any level.

The basic philosophy of the library is the encouragement of learning and the library is a place where learning materials are stored and used (Popoola, 1990). Therefore, a good library must have abundant and varied collections of books, periodicals, tape recorders, graphics like charts, maps, posters, graphs, cartoons, globes, films-trips to be shown to the students. Lyle (1991) noted that the primary purpose of library is not only to provide books, journals and other instructional materials in support of the academic programmes of the school, but also to encourage the formation of life long habits of reading much and reading well. This shows that a library makes learning more real and exciting. Since learning provides something more than pleasure as it yields no enjoyment but promotes peace and culture - in the society. While the objectives of libraries are:

- To acquire books and non-books materials to meet the demands of the curricular and the needs of students
- To establish a variety of sufficient interest.
- To encourage a life-long education through the use of library resources.
- To provide adequate experience in social and decent living.
- To develop in the students the skills and resourcefulness required for a profitable use of books in libraries to inculcate in them the habits of individual investigations.

### **The Role of Library in Education Peace and Culture in Nigeria.**

To survive in a diverse society, one needs access to knowledge, which is accurate and up to-date for different people. In keeping the tenets of the Nigeria Library Associations (NLA) library decree, the following must be observed:

“Librarians have an obligation to provide books and other materials presenting all points of view concerning problems and issues of our times. Librarians have a professional responsibility to be inclusive source not exclusive in collection development... A balanced collection development diversity of materials, not equality of numbers” (NLA 1994).

To develop inter group understanding based on respect for the worth and dignity of every individual, regardless of race, or socio economic status, the library must acquire library materials which foster positive feeling and attitudes towards the culturally different.

Library education is a consideration in the promotion of peace and culture in our society. Library school must accept the responsibility for the training of Librarian for the cultural pluralism they may encounter. The general principles that the learning resources materials in the library should reflect are:

- Contributing to a feeling of self worth in all the students.
- Reflecting fully and accurately the reality of racial, religious and cultural diversity of the school and community.
- Facilitating the development of mutual awareness and appreciation among all racial and cultural groups.
- Recognizing the universality of the human experience and the interdependence of all human beings and communities.

The librarian who is enthusiastic about multiculturalism will probably use multi cultural materials extensively and encourage students to be tolerant of other cultures.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Librarian needs to respond to educational demands of a culture in a society whether or not the ethnic minorities are represented among the students. Cultural education can be achieved in the library where cultural diversity is accepted and nurtured. The promotion of peace culture in the library presents challenges and opportunities for librarian. The Librarian has an obligation to:

- Present unbiased, materials books, audiovisual for use by students and staff to promote peace.
- Provide a library environment that supports objectivity and freedom of enquiry.
- Facilitate the development of on awareness and appreciation of the contributions of all cultures.
- Use literature to promote an understanding and appreciation of all cultures.
- The Librarians are in a pivotal position to be involved in the cultural educational programmes.
- They emerge as the ones who can take the initiative in alerting teachers in order to-serve as members of the curriculum committee.

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