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Theme:

**NATIONAL SECURITY AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES**

LIBRARY SECURITY: A PANACEA FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

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Abstract

This paper focuses on National Security on the development of library services. The researchers highlighted roles and types of library resources. Also, discussed issues on how and what to secure in the libraries. Protecting the physical safety as well as providing security regarding library services to students, faculty, school and teachers in institutions has become a necessity especially in Kwara State. The researcher suggests solution to adequate library security system such as developing effective security system, using electronic monitoring device like video cameras, card keys etc and training and retraining library staff also informing staff and users about the security.

Introduction

It is obvious that the library is a good source of refreshing our memory. Therefore, the need arises for constant use of the resources in the library. But the issue of National insecurity in the country had greatly jeopardized the level of utilization of library materials.

National security is a collective term encompassing both national defence and foreign relations of a country. Specifically, the condition provided by (a) Military or defence advantage over any foreign nation or group (b) a favourable foreign relations position's or (c) a defence posture capable of successfully resisting hostile or destructive action from within or without overt or covert. (Maxwell, 1974). Library security are often considered oases of quite and decorum by the general public, they have their share of security problems. Thus, libraries need to assure the safety and security of persons, its materials physical facilities, furnishings, computer equipment etc.

Peace education exposes learners to knowledge and skills to enable them resolve conflict peacefully and to create condition conducive to peace whether at an intra-personal, interpersonal, inter-group, national or international level. Ajala (2003) states that .peace education includes all learning experiences that facilitate and develop in the learners value, attitude, forms of behaviour and way of life that make them to have respect for life, avoid and prevent violence show commitment to the principle of freedom, justice solidarity, tolerance among people.

Education develops the total person by not just transmitting core values and cultural heritage, but it equips individuals with current technical and social skills that are the keys to development and; building healthy human relationships.

Conceptual issues

National security as a concept has many meanings or definitions to scholars. Therefore, National Security can be view as economic security, environmental, political and military security.

Harold (1981) defined National Security as

*the ability to preserve its Economic physical integrity and territory;
to maintain its economic relation with the rest of the world on*

reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institution, and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its border.

Charles (1990) is of the opinion that National Security is a capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions, that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its self-determination or autonomy, prosperity and well being. In Nigeria there is physical violence, which shows that there is clear absence of sustainable peace. The absence of peace will lead to insecurity in our country. Chamherg (2004) states that the critical factors for sustainable peace in any society are, Justice, just and accountable governance, protection of human right, equitable distribution of resource peace and security and education culture peace.

Concept of Library Security

Encyclopaedia Britannica (2002) regarded the library as a collection of books, manuscripts, journals and other sources of recorded information which include reference works such as encyclopaedia, dictionaries, indexes, creative works, biographies, etc. While security is a decree of protection against danger, damage, loss and crime. Thus, library security connotes the process of secure, and protect library resources from being damage, destroyed, and mutilated from both human and disaster (Natural and man made). (Sivadas, 2010). Security literally means the degree of protection to safeguard a nation, Union of nations, person to person against danger, damages, loss and crime. (Akande, 2012).

Basically, we have six different types of library vis-i-vis; academic, public, special/ research, private, school and national libraries and all these mentioned libraries have five basic roles to perform, i.e. they are established to function as providing adequate and recent information for their users, serve as a dynamic instrument of education acquired and organized source of materials for easy retrieval of researcher, also provide recreation and custodial roles for their users, (Abdulsalam in Jatto 2008).

Therefore, library materials can be classified into two broad areas the printed and non-printed. The printed materials forms are like books, pamphlets etc. but non printed library materials includes audio visual and soft copies which are used as supplement in teaching and learning (Jatto, 2008).

The users of all these mentioned libraries and their materials will either be general public as it implies for public and national libraries, staff and students of the parent institution such as schools, academic and research libraries. We have two different types of users i.e. good library users and delinquent library users which their major occupation is to destroy, damage and mutilate these library materials.

How and What to Secured

Privacy is a cornerstone of libraries, library ethics, and the library protection. In fact, a privacy guarantee may be the one thing in the information age that sets libraries apart from other massive information resources (Sivada, 2010).

Palevi (2008) analysis on how to secure library resources suggested as follow:

- Provide electronic monitoring like video cameras, (Electronic visitors management) and keys, motion sensors etc. This could be expensive but it is easy to track down the delinquencies and fraudulent users of library materials.
- Provision of exist guard and building monitor. This can also safeguard the theft of library materials and can be done through the use of service desks near exists, use of magnetic detection system and monitoring building activities. He went further the use of special security personnel, campus police, campus human relations and campus recreation classes are also welcome development which can be carried out by the parent institution.

Library staff as a custodian of information can also safeguard the library materials through compiling inventory, record keeping, regular processing generating reports, and keeping of regular

statistics on number and type of incidents of mutilated materials in the libraries. Aside these mentioned strategies (Sivadas 2010) also support as follows:

- Provision of Bulletin security across the library.
- Reduce risk and comply with requirement via automated security testing.
- Quickly identify and fix security vulnerabilities in the library.
- Pinpoint the root causes and line of code detail of security vulnerability.
- Increase the, test result relevant with static, dynamic and run time analysis and attach of a security manager policy file to libraries.

Apart from the problem of human factors that destroyed library materials, we also have natural disaster like fire outbreak, floods, pests and diseases. These can also be control but majorly the paper focus on national security which is basically on human aspect of library security.

What to secured in the library are the library materials which has been acquired. Processed and disseminated to the users for their educational, research, custodial, information and recreational purposes.

Library Development

Evan (2000) defined library development as a process of meeting the information needs of people (a) service population in a timely and economical manner using information resources locally held, as well as from other organization. Collections are developed by librarians and library staff by buying or otherwise acquiring materials over a period, based on assessment of information needs of the library users.

Based on the above definition library can be developed through stable economic manner, but economy cannot be stable where there is lawlessness and political instability which jeopardized national security system, the issue of Boko Haram today, Wanton killing by Fulani Herdsmen, Jos Massacre, Niger issues and host of others make the country insecure. Development as a distributive justice seeks to reduce the poverty level of the masses and for satisfying their basic need and place emphasis on the nature of goods and services provided to citizen.

The increase in world population brings about promoting literacy for the population to know more about human development and their environment. Therefore, there is a need for library services for the growing literate society for them to be more knowledgeable because we are in the period of information explosion. It is evident that knowledge is not static, it is more sophisticated, it is expanding with the discovery of new fields of knowledge.

Igwe (2005) stated that one way of transforming the society (teaching and learning) is to properly harness and integrate the efficiency of promoting literacy through information and communication technology into the society, since information is dispensable to the society.

Conclusion

The security problems that have plagued nation and affect libraries for years, such as theft, unstable, government, lack of national security and other kinds of misbehaviour remain a challenge today. Although some libraries appear well organized in their security programs, many lack up-to-date written security plans, effective data gathering and complete inventory procedures. A number of libraries have not taken advantage of the latest technology - electronic surveillance, card keys etc. and remain dependent on more traditional strategies, such as staff monitoring and magnetic exit control systems.

Developing effective security systems can of course, be expensive, too much emphasis on security can create a negative atmosphere for some many library users and if they are responsible for security enforcement.

The issue of inadequate national security in the country which characterized with greed based

behaviour, poor institutional capacity and complexities of addressing widespread crime, militant and violence has jeopardized library development

Recommendations

The libraries has been in existence since ages and the materials acquired and preserved there the researcher wish to recommend as follows;

- An overall statement security.

- Regularly evaluate library materials

- Formulate schedules for reviewing security program.

- Introduce programmes for training library staff and informing staff and users about security issues.

- Government should also address key issues of resource control and distribution.

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