

INFLUENCE OF STAKEHOLDERS SUPPORT ON THE USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES BY CHILDREN IN KADUNA STATE

By

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Abstract

This study focused on the Assessment of stakeholders support in the use of public library services by children in Kaduna State. Three research questions were used in the study. The research questions sought to find out Stakeholders that provide support for children to use Public Libraries in Kaduna state, strategies implored in soliciting stakeholders support and how the stakeholders support has influenced the use of public library services by children in Kaduna State. The research method adopted was survey research method, the population of the study comprised of all the librarians in Kaduna State Public Libraries with the total of seventy eight (78) , since the population was not too large, there was no sample therefore the whole population was used. Structured questionnaire containing closed-ended questions was used. Data collected from the research questions was analyzed using frequency, tables and percentages. The findings of the study revealed that the public library services for children in Kaduna State lack adequate support from relevant stakeholders. Majority of the support gotten was from the State Government authors and publishers. The study concluded that there is need to encourage relevant stakeholders to support the use of public library services for children in Kaduna state. It was recommended among others that there should be a strong synergy between the relevant stakeholders in order to improve the use of public library services for children in Kaduna State.

Keywords: Stakeholders, Public Library, Children services

Introduction

Children have been identified as the leaders of tomorrow but the vehicle to get them to the required destination has most times not been fixed to take them there, children have information needs and the public library is one of the agents designed and saddled with the responsibility of meeting the information needs of children. Schamber (2006) stated that, poor use of public library by children has resulted to poor reading habit and poor performance/achievement in their educational pursuit. As a matter of fact, there is no public library that is well funded and can meet the needs of children without relying on extra fundings from other relevant stakeholders. Stakeholders play an important role in the development of children library services. According to Greene (2010) stakeholders are those people or agencies that have an interest in or have some relationship with the library association. It is very essential to identify the right stakeholders because they significantly influence the success of public library service to children. Stakeholders support assists public libraries to procure, service, maintain and sustain resources that can meet the information needs of children

Stakeholders in Public Library

In library, the term stakeholder typically refers to anyone who is investing in the welfare and success of a library and its users (Greene, 2010). Stakeholders may also be collective entities, such as local businesses, Agencies, N.G.O's, organizations, advocacy groups, committees, media outlets, and cultural institutions, in addition other stakeholders represent specific groups, such as library associations, parent-teacher organizations, Heads, librarians, teachers, students, parents, families, community members, local business leaders, and elected officials such as library board members, city councilors, and state representatives. In a word, stakeholders have a “stake” in the library and its users, meaning that they have personal, professional, civic, or financial interest or concern. (Bernard, 2014)

Statement of the Problem

Stakeholders plays a very vital role in supporting the children library services. According to Greene (2010) stakeholders are the people that control the definition of success. The present day financial realities have made it impossible for the children services of public library to do it all alone if they must meet the 21st century standard. Public Libraries need to launch new and sustained initiatives to generate fund and solicit information resources, this calls for the creation of strong linkages and relations with all stakeholders, Collaboration with relevant stakeholders in donating funds and other information resources is however needed to improve the children's library service in order for them to patronize and use the library. In the light of this, it is therefore, considered necessary to identify the extent to which stakeholders support the children library service in Kaduna State.

Objectives of the study

The research has the following objectives:

1. To identify the key stakeholders involved in supporting children's Public Library services in Kaduna State.
2. To identify the strategies implored towards soliciting stakeholders support for improving Public Library services for children in Kaduna State.
3. To find out the extent to which stakeholders support has influenced the use of Public Library services by children in Kaduna State.

Review of Related Literatures

Stakeholders play an important role in the development of children library services according to Greene (2010) stakeholders are those people or agencies that have an interest in or have some relationship with the library association. It is very essential to identify the right stakeholders because they significantly influence the success of public library service to children. Stakeholders are persons or organizations (e.g., customers, sponsors, the performing organization, or the public), further stating that Stakeholders are the people that control the definition of success. Damian (2013) In his study discovered that among the various support rendered by stakeholders, donation of children information resources was the major support received. Non-profit organizations and the private sector can also intervene to complement government efforts towards establishing and improving the children section of Public Libraries, donating books as part of their corporate social responsibility. In the joint review with education development partners on April 11th, 2011, the Ministry of Education acknowledges stakeholders' contributions and shares their concerns that 'developing a reading culture is critical and we should put books in the hands of children'.

In recent years, many library administrators have turned to non-traditional source of funding to help raise funds to ensure that library activities will be able to provide the necessary service and the degree of excellence expected by the children. Lobbying and advocacy is one of the strategies employed by some directors of public libraries in Nigeria to persuade government to support their budget and activities. According to Bernard (2007) advocacy is a planned deliberate, and sustained effort to develop understanding and support incrementally over time. Miller (2009) viewed public library advocacy as a support given to a public library for its financial and philosophical goals or needs. Most often this takes form of monetary or material donations or campaigning to the institutions which oversee the library. Kehinde (2010) and Umeh (2012) in their research discovered that lobbying is used as the main strategy used to solicit financial and information resources support from relevant stakeholders, they further stressed that there are many strategies through which public library services for children can be improved the library should target and collaborate with stakeholders who are actively involved in supporting their local communities through providing grants in early child's literacy and the arts, also the library can involve friends of the library who can assist in funding and improving the children section of the public library. The study found that most people claim they would support the library, but fewer are firmly committed to it. It also highlighted a great lack of awareness regarding library funding challenges. Data showed that library support is

only marginally related to visiting the library and therefore advocacy campaigns have to be focused on other groups than library users.

Flores and Pachon (2008) in their study determined the social and demographical factors influencing library use, they revealed the high importance of staff/library service and offered policy recommendations which will attract more children into Public Libraries. According to Flores (2008) attractive book choice, recreational/educative children library service, staff expertise and convenience are seen as key factors influencing the use of Public Libraries. Gbenga (2009) further stated that stakeholders aside from government renders little or no financial support to Public Libraries and that most of this support rendered by stakeholders e.g. financial support, sponsorship and donation has little or no effect on children section of Public Libraries.

Methodology

The descriptive survey research method was adopted to conduct the research. Henry, (2011) established that survey research method gives the researcher the opportunity to gain insight into the attitudes, thoughts and opinion of the members of the population. The population of this study consists of the ten (10) public Libraries in Kaduna States. According to statistics collected from the office of Kaduna State library board (2016), there are 79 public librarians in the Public Libraries in Kaduna State. However, the subject of the study was made up of all the librarians of the public libraries under study. The entire members of the population were used. Bernard (2012) opined that if the population of the study in research is less than two hundred (200), the entire members of that population can be used. Therefore, the population is also the sample. Hence, no sampling technique was applied. A structured and closed-ended questionnaire was developed by the researcher. Krug (2015) believed that closed-ended questions allow the respondent to choose questions from the alternatives that will match their opinions.

The questionnaire was designed essentially for collecting data on the assessment of stakeholders on the use of public library services by children in Kaduna state. The researcher administered the copies of the questionnaire personally with the assistance of research assistants who were mainly staff of the respective libraries studied. The study made use of descriptive statistics for presentation and analysis of data. The analysis was done using mean and standard deviation.

Stakeholders that Provide support for the use of public library by children in Kaduna State

Stakeholders	Kaduna State Public Library	Public Library B/Gwari	Public Library Giwa	Public Library Zaria	Public Library Ikara	Public Library Saminaka	Public Library Kafanchan	Public Library Kachia	Public Library Zonkwa	Public Library Kwoi	Total	Mean	S. D
Parents	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.9	2.5
State government	26	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	4	1	48	4.8	7.5
Local government	11	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	17	1.7	3.3
Educational Institutions	13	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	20	2.0	3.9
Community members	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.4	1.3
Philanthropists	17	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	21	2.1	5.3
Book authors/publishers	23	3	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	0	38	3.8	6.8
Community based organizations	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0.3	0.7
N.G.O's/Agencies serving children	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	8	0.8	0.8
Religious Institutions	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.2	0.4

From Table 1, it was discovered that out of the 10 stakeholders listed, two major stakeholders were identified. These major stakeholders identified were state government with 4.8 mean score and book authors/publishers with 3.8 mean score respectively. On the other hand, the stakeholders identified with least mean scores were religious institutions with 0.2 and community based organizations with 0.3 mean score.

The high response of the state government as a major stakeholder that provide support is because the Kaduna State government own these Public Libraries and it is the duty of the state government to provide whatever support that is needed to develop, build and strengthen the services these libraries provide for the users most especially children. In the same vein, the reason why book publishers appeared to also be one of the major stakeholders that provides support for the use of public library services by children in Kaduna State may not be unconnected with the fact that the books authored and published should be kept in the library for the benefit of users. This finding corroborate the finding of Sampson (2009) and Safiya (2007) that state government and authors/publisher are the major stakeholders that provide support for public library services for the use of children.

Also from the table, it was discovered that out of the ten stakeholder's listed, religious institution with 0.2 mean score and community based organizations with 0.3 mean score were the least stakeholders that provide support for the use of public library services by children in Kaduna State. It is very surprising to find out that community based organizations and community members were among the least stakeholders identified. This is because, the public library is a library for all especially for the community. One would expect that the community be one of the major stakeholders that provide support for the use of the Public Libraries for children because the public library is meant for all especially the community where the library is located. However, the low frequency recorded in other stakeholders such as religious institutions, community based organizations and community members could be as a result of their little or no understanding of the importance of the library and their roles as agents of mass education (Barshan, 2014).

Strategies for soliciting Stakeholders support for children in Kaduna State Public Libraries

Strategies	Kaduna State Public Library	Public Library B/Gwari	Public Library Giwa	Public Library Zaria	Public Library Ikara	Public Library Saminaka	Public Library Kafanchan	Public Library Kachia	Public Library Zonkwa	Public Library Kwoi	Total	Mean	S. D
Lobbying	13	2	3	4	2	1	3	2	3	1	32	3.2	3.5
Advocacy	8	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	16	1.6	2.4
Library orientation	6	2	2	4	2	2	0	1	1	2	22	2.2	1.7
Seminar/conference	12	1	2	3	0	1	2	0	2	0	23	2.3	3.6
Exhibition	6	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	10	1.0	1.9
Publicizing library services for children on media	11	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	1.2	3.5

From the 6 items identified in table 2 as strategies for soliciting for support, it was discovered that lobbying with mean score of 3.2 was the major strategy used in soliciting for support in the use of public library services by children in Kaduna State. This finding is in line with the findings of Gotan (2009), Kehinde (2010) and Umeh (2012) who all discovered that lobbying is used as a strategy by public librarians in soliciting for support such as finance and information resources for children library services.

From the table, it was very surprising to discover that exhibition with mean score of 1.0 was the least strategies used in soliciting for support in the use of public library services by children. Exhibition is one of the activities carried out by librarians to draw the attention of the entire community most especially parents, government and non-government organizations on the library holdings and collections and their meanings and how they facilitate learning. The implication of not using exhibition and publicity in soliciting for support is that the entire community will not be aware of the potentials or importance of the Public Libraries and the services they provide for the use of children. The finding of this study strongly disagrees with the finding of Komolafe (2011) and Akinola (2012) who discovered that publicizing and airing children library services on media service agencies is a major strategy used in soliciting for support for children section in Public Libraries in south west Nigeria.

Table 4.6 **Extent at which Stakeholders support has influenced the use of public library services by children in Kaduna state**

Support	Extent			Total	Mean	S. D
	Highly Influenced	Influenced	Not Influenced			
Financial support	0	6	70	76	25.3	38.8
Donation of children information resources	2	12	62	76	25.3	32.1
Sponsoring children library programs	0	3	73	76	25.3	41.3
Serve as resource persons for seminars/workshop	0	1	75	76	25.3	43.0
Stand as volunteers in providing children library services	0	1	75	76	25.3	43.0
Soliciting for funds and children information resources	1	2	73	76	25.3	41.3
Sponsorship for awareness campaign	0	0	76	76	25.3	43.9
Publicizing and airing children library services on media agencies	0	0	76	76	25.3	43.9

The extent to which stakeholders support the use of public library services by children matters in the development of children. From the table 4.6, it is very surprising to find out most of

the items identified in the table as support does not highly influence the use of children section of the public libraries in Kaduna state. In the table, it could be seen that majority of the respondents showed that sponsoring for awareness campaign as well as publicizing and airing children library services on media with standard deviation scores of 43.9 does not influence the use of children section of the public libraries in Kaduna State. Donation of children information resources with the lowest standard deviation of 32.1 influenced the use of children section of the public libraries in Kaduna State. This finding is in line with the findings of Gbenga (2009) who discovered that most of the support rendered by stakeholders such as financial support, sponsorship and donation has little or no effect on children section of public libraries.

Summary of Findings

Based on the data collected and analyzed for this study, the following were the major findings:

1. State Government and book Authors/Publishers were the popular stakeholders that provide support for the use of Public Libraries by children in the Public Libraries in Kaduna State.
2. The strategies mostly used in soliciting stakeholders support for the use of public library services by children in Kaduna State were Lobbying.
3. Stakeholders support influence the use of public library services by children in Kaduna state through donation of children information resources and through financial donations

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it could be concluded that support are, to a great extent, not provided by stakeholders for the use of Public Library services by children in Kaduna State. This has a great negative impact on the use of public library services as the library is supposed to serve as a vehicle of improving children's reading habit. There is no doubt that if supports are given by stakeholders, there would be a high patronage and usage of these library services by children. An improvement in support provided by stakeholders for the benefit of children and other users of the Public Libraries in Kaduna State is a necessity for optimum utilization.

Recommendations

Arising from the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Other stakeholders such as Agencies, Non-Governmental Organization, community members, organization, schools, parents, philanthropist and influential individuals needs to be involved in supporting the children library services, a stronger synergy between the various relevant stakeholders will highly improve the public library services for children in Kaduna State.

2. Librarians in Public Libraries must strategize other medium of soliciting stakeholders support other than lobbying and advocacy. It is recommended that librarians should mount communication campaigns aimed at raising public awareness on the plight of public library service for children and the potential support stakeholders can provide towards improving the use of public library services for children through library orientation, seminar/conference, advertisement and publicity on media, informing the stakeholders on the support needed and the library services provided for children. This would lead to increased awareness of innovative ways stakeholders can provide support in funding and improving the children library services.
3. The few support provided by the state and local government has little influence on the use of public library services by children in Kaduna state. The researcher recommends that subject specialist should be encourage to support the library through interactive/educative lectures, talks and seminars on topics that will influence the use of public library services for children in Kaduna state,

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