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Library Role in Promoting Moral Values in Nigerian Education

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Role of the Library in Promoting Moral Values in Nigerian Education

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The study examines the role of the library in promoting moral value in Nigeria education. Based on the findings, the paper reveals that lack of functional libraries in school systems to educate, inform plays a significant role as the cause of moral crises which lead to the erosion of our moral values and emergence of other vices such as Boko Haram, kidnapping, corruption and bad leadership that create setback in Nigeria economy. The paper investigated moral value, library in education and library as primary agents of moral restoration in Nigeria education. The paper also considers morality as a tool for moral upbringing of the child while the roles of library in education were also x-ray. The study revealed the low rate of morality and unethical behaviors in Nigeria. The paper suggested the use of library in moral education and principles to be taught at every stage of education both in private and public school in the Nigeria.

Keywords: Libraries, Moral Value, Education, Moral education

Introduction

No meaningful and effective teaching and learning can take place without access to information and library resources because information is power. According to Nkechi (2017) people do not live their lives in moral or ethical isolation but grow up within particular moral tradition.

Liberal democracy can only flourish if its citizens hold certain moral and civic values and ma nifest certain virtues. The purpose and function of education is the development of an all-round and well-balanced personality of the students, and also to develop all dimensions of the human intellect so that children can help make our nation more democratic, cohesive, socially responsible, culturally rich and intellectually competitive. What is the point of bringing out a book on children and morality at a time when so many different people already claim to know what is good and bad for children?

However, there is indiscipline, moral decadence, crime and little or no regards for constituted authority everywhere in the country. We see corruption everywhere in the society; old people are sent out of homes and treated badly by younger ones. Citizens are the most important assets of a nation. The library is an educational tool. Morally and academically sound citizenry is the foundation of peace, progress and development of any nation. It is very essential to have moral education in schools and colleges in promotion of our national value and culture for a healthy, patriotic, honest and sincere country through group discussion, preaching by religious organization and meditation (Murali, 2011). Moral web may exist, but their existence confirms that there are those who know their way through the web and all we have to do is ask for directions. Education not only develops morality but also makes an individual capable for leadership and or become an intelligent follower. In agreement with Murali above, he pointed out that values are embedded in the curriculum, the school culture and the behaviour of the teacher in schools.

Traditional societies had firm moral structure, which informed and ensured conformity to the accepted norms of these societies unlike the modern, civilized but largely incoherent structures which liberalize moral conduct to an extent that removed essential checks on moral conduct. Unfortunately, the changing modern structures and ideas that the latter is being rendered defenseless (Omordu, 2007). Integration of moral principles in Nigeria educational

system should be revisited and reviewed through her system of schooling; the library plays a critical role through information dissemination, cultural preservation, expanding the frontier of scholarship, advancement of knowledge and economic development. The library is one of the surest ways and means by which the Nigerian societies ensured the maintenance of moral value vis-à-vis the unfortunate decay in contemporary moral life emanating from the destruction of the cherished moral principles and structures that relate to the emerging moral chaos in modern Nigerian society.

Nowadays, more emphasis is unduly laid on knowledge-based and information-oriented education which takes care of only the intellectual development of the child whereas education should be the combination of literacy and moral values. Students are the future development of our nation. We are taught moral lessons at home and in school such as love your neighbor, respect elders, do not tell lies, love your country, do not be jealous and many more. It is pertinent to know that moral values are fundamental to decisions taken by individuals in life. Armed with these principles and their implications, people particularly the young ones will be able to judge whether they are making good and objective decisions or not. Education has long been accepted as a central element in development, it is considered as a vital input in promoting moral values in developing countries like Nigeria.

Conceptual clarification

Libraries: Over the years, many libraries have supported education efforts by providing teaching resources, information and referral services. Muhammed and Sule (2018) opined that information is a vital ingredient which increases the capacity of human to enable individuals and organizations to make rational and informed decisions. Man's quest for knowledge has led to the creation and accumulation of tremendous amount of information. Moruf (2015) opined that the library and education are two cardinal institutions that teaches moral principles and values in the society. The two cannot be separated in the training of a child in the education system. The bible stated in Hosea 4:6 'my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge, because thou has rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shall be no priest to me: seen thou has forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children'. This knowledge can only be accessed in the library that will be formed and imparted on the pupils' abilities, attitudes, behavior, character and technical know-how. This quest for knowledge

knows no bounds and limits and is never satisfied. It has continued since the dawn of civilization to the modern age. With the invention of printing press, it became easier to preserve the knowledge in the form of printed documents. This led to the generation of a large number of books. The need for the preservation and dissemination of information led to the establishment of more and more libraries. Thus libraries acquired a great importance in the civilized society for education and research. Libraries play a vital role in the development of any society by enhancing the cause of moral education. Library promotes moral values by having access to the information in it (Omekwu, 2005).

To promote moral value and culture among students, library is needed in Nigeria educational systems. A library is a place of information or a place of lending information resources that leads to acquisition of knowledge. It is essential for promotion of our culture and national values in pupils and in students. The information resource (reading materials) available in the library unveils an opportunity for the students to find information and read by themselves to become useful member of the society. According to Adelusi-Adeluyi, J.A. (2013)], library provides an atmosphere for self-education and self-development of an individual student and the public in general. Badaw, (2004) also opined that the modern school library stands at the very centre of educational programme of the school, it is often referred to as the heart of the school or as the laboratory of laboratories. In order to meet the growing needs of users the library system has been greatly improved and upgraded to meet the new challenges. The services offered by libraries have also undergone a great change. The school library, as a strategic arm of its parent institution is established primarily to organize collections of all human efforts either in print or non-print forms that are relevant to the educational development of the children regardless of age, background and race. The school library is not only a depository and a storehouse of knowledge and a center for the dissemination of knowledge but also a recreation and relaxation center for the students {Onwubiko and Uzoigww, 2004).

Libraries form a vital part of Nigerian education system and information storage and retrieval. They make books, films and other media of knowledge available to people in an organized manner. Muhammed (2015) states that libraries play a very important role in education of society. According to Achebe (2008), the fundamental objectives of libraries are

conservation of knowledge, provision of information, education, promotion of culture, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment, general reference service, inculcate in students the value of education and research and provides materials to aid library users in his personal self-development. Achebe went further to list the major functions of libraries as acquisition and organization of relevant materials for library users, preserved and transmit knowledge through access to books, provision of reading materials, teaching of information literacy skills, promote reading culture and preservation of library materials. In this regard, it is pertinent to know that, libraries are instruments of self-education, source of reliable and factual information and vital means of promoting moral principle to consolidate the value system in Nigeria.

The library is established for the development of the individual, institutions, organizations, nations and more importantly promotion of moral value. The library is a service institution and a systematic organization that is concerned with the collection, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of recorded information in whatever format for the purpose of reading, study and consultation (Ogunsola, 2011). The library could therefore be described as a collection of books and other forms of records house, organized and interpreted to meet broad and varying needs of people for information, knowledge, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment. Muhammed and Sule (2018) noted that libraries are veritable sources and instrument that could stimulate intellectual gestation for national consciousness and moral rebirth akin to the concept of value system. Aina (2004) opines that libraries are broadly categories different types' based on the target audience. Each category could be further divided into specific types of libraries as follows academic, school, national, special and public libraries but however the most recent type of library categorizations are digital, virtual or e-library that provides access to online databases and e-resources.

Moral value: Daniel (1995) stated that moral values are derived from the experiences of people living together, in their attempt to evolve a common and harmonious social life. To this idea, value can be knowledge and value is teachable   Okwueze (2004) stated that the word moral comes from the Latin word 'mores' which means custom. Custom on the other hand means practices and usages, standards of norms and codes, which are common to certain groups or classes of people and which regulate the group's actions in both religious and social

obligations. Thus Nigerian moral values have a social and humanistic basis. Moral values that are regarded as good in Nigeria include kindness, compassion, truthfulness, concern for others, justices, dignity, respect and happiness. Immoral act is that which is detrimental to the well-being of society. For example, stealing, lying, rape, cheating, murder, suicide, examination malpractice, secret cult. All Nigerian culture place a high premium on good character. The moral virtues (the good character traits) valued in Africa include patience, humility, fairness, gratitude, generosity, honesty, truthfulness, respect for older people, chastity before marriage (virginity), and faithfulness in marriage. The practice of these virtues are directed at the well-being of self and others because of the humanistic and personalized character of Nigeria morality.

For Aristotle (382-322BC) the connection between education and virtues seems theoretical. He conceived moral virtue as dispositions to choose under the proper guidance of reason, wisdom, kindness and justices in accordance with these virtues. He mean therefore that the virtue you portray in your personal life may give rise to other people cultivating that same virtue and as such the community and humanity at large may be affected positively, in other words people can learn from a single person and the whole community may become virtuous. Joseph (2012) opined that every culture has a value system and one of the best method of transmitting it is through books in the library. In traditional societies, moral values are well defined and are communicated through family and education system. According to Okwueze, (2004), moral value is the superstructure of the traditional Nigerian society not the economy. Every structure in Nigeria society be it political, economic, social and cultural was and is dependent on and informed by our value system, the superstructure. In our modern, pluralistic society, the family and schools are the medium to impart and transfer these lasting values to the young ones (Halberstan, 2003). Values are those things we cannot do without. Values are the rules by which we make decisions about right and wrong, good and bad. Morals have a greater social element to values and tend to have a very broad acceptance. Morals are concern more with good and bad than other values. Moral value is measured by the standard of morality of our actions.

Socrates esteems virtue very highly, because for him, it is virtue that makes humans good. If it virtue that makes humans good, then it follows that humans cannot be good without cultivating moral value. For Socrates virtue is that both man and woman are to be good,

according to him they need the same qualities namely justices and moderation. Thus, human become good by acquiring these same qualities. For Socrates, virtues are justices (Olarewaju, 2003, quoting Plato (no year).   Eriamiator (2015) defined moral value as a logic of knowing what is right or wrong and being able to know what is good and bad. It is the behavour that promote peace and unity in the society. Abadom et-al (2013) sees moral values as the basic ideas about what is right and what is wrong knowing the difference between good and bad. There are two types of acceptable behaviour in Nigerian society. These are acceptable moral value that are suitable in the society for example accountability, obedience and diligence; unacceptable behaviour and attitudes such as stealing, greed, fighting, kidnapping, examination malpractice.

If it is virtue that makes humans good, then it follows that humans cannot be good without cultivating virtue. Here Socrates contends that a good person would never practice iniquity, because it is contrary to his or her virtuous nature. How can one be good? For him, it is not possible for one to be good without receiving proper moral training (Olarewaju, 2003, quoting Plato (no year).   In African traditional societies, there are various structures, which ensure the evolvement and maintenance of morals and values. These include the family, the peer group sometimes called the age grade, the village, the clan and the community that teach moral value to the young ones in the society (Ochiaha,2004).

Morality: According to Omoregbe, (1979) morality is the basis of ethics. From time immemorial, the quest for principle is an intrinsic phenomenon which makes social life governable and peaceful. As such, every person irrespective of age, sex, color or social standing is subject to the dictates of the moral principle. The concept of moral value serves as a holistic function and bedrock upon which the edifice of a truly egalitarian society rests (Felicia, 2017). A free and rational being is a moral being. Plato and Aristotle wound contend that if you want to be happy, you must practice a life of virtue which in turn leads to happiness. Attempting to define morality presents great challenges because the concept of the word morality has different perceptions that range from religious and scholar point of view.

Allen (2004) sees moral value as right behaviour or moral correctness. Saroj (1991) defines morality as a set of principle which is derived from customs categorized as best among others and connotes conventional standard of conduct acceptable by the people. According to

Okwueze, (2004), morality is define as a specific form of social consciousness, of awareness of your relatedness to others without which societal life would be impossible. Ajibola (2007) stated that morality is conventionally referred to as the norms of right and wrong conducts or ones' concepts, reasoning and actions which pertain to the welfare, right and fair treatment of person. That is to say individual may conform or depart from these standards and not be morally upright in a society. Morality has to do with issues of right and wrong, good and evil, and telling the truth and being honest. There is moral value to live by for example showing love, hardworking, patient, justice, kindness and many more value to be treasure.

Amaele (2000) add another dimension to the concept of morality as follows:

> … Martin L. King shed some light on his conception by viewing morality to be that behaviour which enhances the dignity and respect of humans (Kohlberg and Turiel, 1971). To King, acts of slavery, wickedness, deceit, dishonesty, killing, oppression and suppression of fellow humans are immoral and reduce the dignity and respect of man to a level below that of animals. King's position is not new as 500B.C (sic: as in) the Chinese philosopher and moralist, Kung Fu Tsu preached morality based on the principle "Do not do to others what you would not want other do unto you". Therefore, if you do not want to be made a slave as that wound reduced your dignity, worth and self-respect, you should likewise not make your fellow man a slave. This position is the same principle of morality of Jesus in early twentieth (sic: first) century, that (sic: which is). "do unto others what you want other do unto you", which is now known as the Golden Rule.

Morality therefore, is the firm adherence to moral values or standards in order to remain incorruptible in a corrupt society. A person of good moral is respected but a dishonest person has no respect. Morality is the part that believes in the principle of the matter as well as the matter itself. Moral value influences the behaviour and development of any given society.

Education: Education is a societal instrument of change and consequently it affects the culture and moral value of a nation. Obaitan, (2004) affirmed that education is never defined in the narrow sense of acquisitions of certificates. Rather education should always be seen as an instrument that trains the mind and prepares people to solved life's problems. If this definition is accepted, it then means that the library has the responsibility to provide materials

for the curricular to broaden one's horizon and developed him morally. The library is associated with education. According to Eghosa (2012), the role of the library as an educational service cannot be overemphasis as stipulated in the National policy on Education (1981). Nwafor and Ilorah (2006) and Okpala (1992) asserted that reading is indispensable in the life of a man and it is the most important of all subjects in any academic environment. The view of Okeke (2000) is that the library is a strong educational force to help every Nigerian fulfilled his or her obligation as an informed citizen and achieved full self-development that promote moral value. Effective and well organize library system successfully link the past, present and the future knowledge through the work of the past and present writers thereby serving as an agents of moral value to young ones.

Whenever a nation is challenged to its marrow, whenever a nation is in need of change, education is the key to unlock the knotty challenges (Churchill, 1962). Education remains the most portent solution for redirecting the minds of youth for positive and productive purposes. Kennedy (1963) observed that our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world (Mandela, 1973). Awolowo (1947) reiterated that education is the process of physical and mental culture whereby a man's personality is developed to the fullest. Tiles (2000) stated that moral value education is not a new concept. Education not only develops morality but also makes an individual capable for leadership and or intelligent followers. He further mentions that education demands the development of various types of awareness, abilities and skills. From these central values the aims of education are generated and learned like morality, knowledge and understanding of human condition, self-fulfillment of the individual, preparation for life and work. Right education simply means knowledge which liberates the mind. Education opens up the mind and gives us purity of heart.

Masadeh (2012) quoting the Manpower Service Commission (1981), defined education as activities which aim at developing the knowledge, skills, moral values and understanding required in all aspect of life rather than knowledge and skill relating to only limited field of study. Apparently stating the value of education, Fortino (2012) expressed the opinion that it broadens the learner, makes him different from everyone else and helps him think in his own way to solve problems that have not been solved before. Education is aimed at the development of intellectual power and moral principles through dissemination and acquisition

of knowledge. Dibua (2000) while stressing the role of libraries in the education of any nation declare that information and knowledge are valuable assets, the absence of when it forms serious setback in the lives of pupils and even the nation. A major reason for setting up libraries is to stimulate educational advancement to expose the students to the acquisition of knowledge through the use of library. Even God Himself emphasized the importance of knowledge and information when He lamented through one of the biblical prophets that "my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge…".

Moral Education: Moral education is an important part of any society. Moral education is to prepare the young ones to be good citizen in Nigeria and beyond. The greatest investment parents can give their children is the inculcation of the knowledge of God in them. Solomon reveals this wonderful heritage a mother can give her child in his letter in Proverbs 22:6 when he wrote 'train up the child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it". Most fathers and mothers give their children everything, except the most important faith in God. Again, Apostle Paul could not hide his joy of seeing Timothy his spiritual son becoming what God want him to be. He wrote this to Timothy, and that from a child, thou has known the holy scriptures which are able to make the wise unto salvation through faith which is Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15)

Moral education involves training of a child to be responsible citizen. The library is an essential part of any educational system. The educational process relies on it as a resources for moral development of students and teachers (Muhammed, 2015). The greatest legacy parent can give their children is to lead them to God. We live in a moral decadence society characterize by violence, stealing, cheating, bomb blast, kidnapping as well as other vices that are immoral. Tenney (2005) argued that parents must provide the right atmosphere through reading of the right books, literature and magazine suitable for the age of their children and ward thereby inculcating the right value in them for the good of the Nigerian society. Also, like the mother of John Wesley, allocate time to spend with each child, to read to him, talk to him, play and pray with him. It is a valuable way of raising children morally and overall development as a better citizen (Felicia, 2017).

Moral education is therefore the structure upon which the moral growth of the society depended and only the conception of access to library and its document that can sustained and

maintain the moral principle and values of the society. It is a fact accepted by everyone that the education system is one of the most important unit in the inculcation of moral values in every society.

The role of Library in Education: There is no gain saying that moral values have been drastically eroded in Nigerian society.   Okwueze (2004) observed that, in most African culture and traditional societies including Nigeria, the library system is an indispensable structure in the complex function of maintaining and enforcing the morality and values of the community. Right from early stage of schooling, unceasing efforts are made by the teachers through teaching and reading of books to the children to inculcate the appropriate moral values upon the pupils in the school. The children are taught to tell the truth, to form the habit of reading to discover better thing for themselves, to be hardworking and not to be lazy, and to be considerate while dealing with other people.

The traditional African education system lays much more emphasis on character formation and values because the output of this kind of education produced people oriented citizen through reading. Library goals are interwoven with education, they both serve to produce intellectually developed and sound individuals in the society (Moruf, 2015). Throughout the day in school, teachers and students use the library materials in the teaching, research and learning process of character formation. According to Onadiran, (1997), the library is a basic element that lead to education, spiritual culture and moral virtues of pupils and students.

The federal government of Nigeria acknowledges the importance of libraries when it states in its National Policy on Education (1981) that "libraries are one of the most important education services. Every State Ministry of Education needs to provide funds for the establishment for libraries in all educational institutions and to train librarians and library assistants for this services. Apotiade (2002) supported this view and identified the educational role of school library as encouragement of reading habit, development of information materials that will assist students in their learning process, awareness of the role of library in nation development, instruct students in the use of library resources and encourage aesthetic and recreational reading by providing access to newspaper, magazines, sport news, adventure, hobbies, folklore and fiction. The library is a social instrument of change in attitude, character

and virtue designed to form a link in the communication system that is essential for quality education in any nation or culture.

Suggestions

In the light of the revelation from this paper, the following suggestions are made if moral value is to be realized, sustained and maintain in Nigerian educational system and the society at large.

1. Nigerian government, non-government agencies, private educators and community as a matter of urgency should make substantial funds available for library infrastructure in schools and provide security measures to preserve the information resources in the library.
2. Electricity supplies should be made available in the school libraries to avail library users the benefits of a conducive reading environment.
3. There should be periodic check and review of the country national value in our country education system.
4. There should be more of our local textbooks that describe the nation's value, culture and traditions than foreign ones that have no regards to our culture.
5. There should be a standing order for every parent to be the first teacher at home of Nigeria national value before entering the school compulsorily and not optional.
6. The country national value, culture, tradition and history should be rehearsed at home, school, religious centre, workplace and public functions for rejuvenation and renewal for oneness.
7. The adult has to be watchful of what they say and do before the pupils, students and young ones in their heart, secret or public place.
8. Parents, teachers and adult in the society should engage in constructive dialogue for creative solutions to questions in young one's heart for productive thinking and engagement.
9. Nigeria traditional culture and value system should be promoted and celebrated above the western culture so we do not lose our identity. Unhealthy competition and young ones use of social media, internet and mobile phones should be controlled and regulated in the society.

10.   Lastly, there should be a standard of measurement and emphasizes laid on the process of getting result and wealth and not just the result without work.

Conclusion

One can therefore conclude that, the contribution of library to education and moral value and character formation through reading culture and access to book through various library services in Nigerian education is crucial in the face of moral decadence and prevailing moral crises in this contemporary period.   Moral education should be an established element in the curricular at all levels of education in Nigeria. Libraries are critical to learning institutions, which cannot be separated from education. The provision of well-equipped libraries is crucial and indispensable to a nation's education. The time has come for Africa and Nigeria indeed to showcase her most cherished traditional and rich cultural values and lead the world though presently suffering under the overwhelming burden of security challenges, religion bigotry and ethnic rivalry, kidnapping, materialism and other forms of vicious moral evils. The decay in the moral values of our society is causing grave concern to all well-meaning members of society. Teacher-librarian should see themselves as promoter and agents of moral values by facilitating access to books and emphasizing the relevance of books to pupils to know what are good and bad to one's life. Furthermore, pupils should be motivated to read, quiz competition and other form of academic exercise that attract prizes that reward participants across the school.   One of the factors that will promote and sustained moral values in Nigeria education system and the society at large is siting library in every level of schooling exclusively the lower classes.

For Nigeria to experience the change we need, we ought to influence the younger generations mind set with the best we could and make them understand the importance of moral values, ideal principles to build good character, integrity, love, honesty and country we should be proud of. The societies moral values therefore will continue to be sustained and developed through the book that last more than half of century. The African moral values of contentment, hospitality, kindness, faithfulness, human dignity, perseverance **MUST** be inculcated in the young ones at all levels of our Nigeria educational system. There is an English proverb that says: 'a stitch in time saves nine'. It is only morally sound youths that can grow into morally sound lawyers, Engineers, Bankers, Accountants, Medical Doctors, Academicians, business men and women. When

such youths become leaders, they will bring the dividends of democracy close to the people, and they will eventually lead Nigeria, and by extension, Africa to the promised land.

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