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Corporate social responsibility activities for public libraries engagement towards the actualization of sustainable development goals (SDGs): a survey of public libraries in south-east and south-south Nigeria

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Abstract

Purpose: The study is on corporate social responsibility activities for public libraries engagement towards the actualization of sustainable development goals (SDGs): a survey of public libraries in south-east and south-south Nigeria. **Design/methodology/approach:** The survey design was adopted. Data were gathered through questionnaire. Population of study comprised of librarians working in the public libraries in south-east and south-south Nigeria. A total of 77 questionnaires were retrieved and analyzed using descriptive statistics. **Findings:** The corporate social responsibilities that public libraries should participate in order to end poverty in present-day society include dissemination of timely agricultural information, business information, economic information services that are target-specific in different areas; provision of relevant information source and conducive environment for research to end hunger and achieved food security; partnership with health workers, stakeholders in the health sector and media houses to ensure optimal dissemination of health information to rural dwellers and promoting equitable quality education are the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate to contribute to actualization of sustainable development goals. **Practical Implication:** Library management should take pragmatic steps towards ensuring that there is intensive awareness campaign on various programmes and initiatives that libraries can participate towards contributing to actualization of sustainable development goals. **Originality/value:** This paper is of value to librarianship as a profession, it should provoke a new line of discourse in library professional or association meetings.

Keywords: corporate social responsibility, public libraries, south-east Nigeria, south-south, Nigeria

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was fashioned and launched by the United Nations (UN) in September, 2015. The SDGs or Agenda 2030 represents a global response to the inability to meet the targets set for the now rested Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). According to a statement credited to the UN, Agenda 2030 is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity (United Nations, 2014). In the words of Nwachukwu (2018), "it recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and manifestations is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development". However, to ensure a more comprehensive approach, a total of seventeen (17) SDGs were identified - each of which has specific targets and timelines. Further analysis reveals that Agenda 2030 is anchored on the SDGs. Instructively the targets of these SDGs have direct impact on small-holder farmers and the primary activities that sustain their livelihood. This much is evident in goals 1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15, respectively. Libraries, however, can contribute to the realization of these goals through corporate social responsibility engagement.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) involves a range of activities such as working in partnership with local communities, socially sensitive investment, developing relationships with employees, customers and their families, and involving in activities for environmental conservation and sustainability. CSR has emerged as an interface between transnational corporations and the corporate accountability movement, as a result of globalization and fundamental changes which occurred in the societal structure (Ismail, 2009; Dima, Vasilache, Ghinea & Agoston, 2013). Although, many organizations are seeking to better develop inclusive business approaches as part of their business strategy to expand market access which also link to community investment strategies and poverty alleviation (Uvais and Cholasseri, 2013); Farcone and Bureana (2015) writing on the concept and popularity of CSR states:

The concept of corporate social responsibility (hereinafter CSR) is so widespread and discussed nowadays that anyone reading a newspaper, a business magazine or financial news could not help wondering on companies (disclosed and hidden) goals in terms of protection and welfare for the environment and community in which they are operating from professional magazines to newspapers, books, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, websites, conference or blogs, the concept is widely discussed and applied although differently depending on the geographical are (p.31)

The concept of CSR is not new in its entirety. As aptly captured by Crowther and Aras (2008), the broadest definition of corporate social responsibility is concerned with what is or should be - the relationship between global corporations, government of countries and individual citizens. The difficulty of coming up with a generally accepted definition or characterization of CSR is partly a result of the fact that social problems differ from society to society, and this in turn tend to define the role that business has to play in a given society as well as the expectations of society on how and to what extent business should help in solving social problems (Onwuka, 2016). Aligning with this, Hernandez-Murillo and Martinerk (2009:4) states:

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a doctrine that promotes expanded social stewardship by businesses and organizations. CSR suggests that corporations embrace responsibilities toward a broader group of stakeholders (customers, employees and the community at large) in addition to their customary financial obligations to stockholders. A few examples of CSR include charitable giving to community programs, commitment to environment sustainability projects, and efforts to nurture a diverse and safe workplace.

The library as a social institution is saddled with the responsibility of knowledge acquisition and management should engage in activities that promote mutual relationship between librarians, publics and other stakeholders. Libraries engagement in corporative activities therefore should be beneficial to all stakeholders. The library is the known and trusted custodian of information resources all over the world with a duty of acquiring, organizing, preserving, storing and making information available to those who need them and through these activities, the library, has always served as a change agent throughout history to date (Nkiko and Iroaganachi, 2015). However, Balapanidou (2015:3) recognizing the changing dimensions of library and information services in contemporary society admitted that:

Actually, librarians realized that they should adopt new technologies and offer more value-added services, not only access, but also guidance to information retrieval through information literacy programs. In addition, there is a growing consensus that public libraries should revise their traditional role by extending their educational, instructional and consultation services and activities,

providing opportunities for personal and social skills development, in order to become key-organizations contributing to the support of both lifelong learning and social cohesion.

Public libraries in some developed and developing countries are engaged in community development projects that directly benefit their immediate communities. One of such engagements is in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Since public libraries exist in competitive information environments, it is pertinent that they implement CSR as means of remaining relevant not just in the book industry and information sector, but in many other areas, as we are living in a dynamic society. The static fact about the society is its changing nature, therefore, public libraries have to play a significant role in the changing society. Public libraries have an obligation to work towards meeting the needs of a wider array of stakeholders that enjoy corporate social responsibilities. These stakeholders are; librarians, library patrons, friends of the library, the host (immediate) community, among many others. Moreover, the classical view of CSR according to Ismail (2009) was narrowly limited to philanthropy and then shifted to the emphasis on business society relations particularly referring to the contribution that a corporation or firm provided for solving social problems. The concept of solving social problems cannot be divorced from the fundamental philosophy behind sustainable development goals.

The much heralded sustainable development goals (SDG), which is a global initiatives is aimed at making the society and global world a better place to live and interact. However, Benson, Akpom and Onyam (2019) posit that libraries occupy a central position in the overall actualization of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and must be ready to contribute its quota to the full realization of these goals through the provision of library and information services that are SDGs target-specific. In other words, since, libraries have been acknowledge as social oriented and services organizations, librarians should embraced activities geared towards realization of sustainable development goals at various levels. In line with this, public libraries as a social institution are expected to be part of this novel and global initiatives. According to Enem, Benson and Igbokwe (2020), the reason for the emergence of CSR and its implementation in public libraries are premised on the principle of dynamism and change which is in line with global practices of most organizations in the world. In their view, since libraries cannot exist in isolation of the community it is located, it therefore implies that libraries occupies a central

position and is expected to contribute to the development of that society. However, to fully contribute to the actualization of the SDGs, one of the initiatives that librarians in public libraries can engage in is corporate social responsibility (CSR). Though, it is very rare or unheard of any public library in the South East and South-South Nigeria doing so, it is against this back drop that the researcher resolved to embark on this study to empirically unravel areas of corporate social responsibility (CSR) that public libraries can engage in order to contribute towards transformation of the society and the actualization of SDGs. In line with this, it is pertinent to examine the corporate social responsibilities that libraries can engage for realization of sustainable development goals.

Objectives of the Study

The study generally aims at identifying the areas of corporate social responsibility (CSR) that public libraries can participate in order to contribute towards the actualization of sustainable development goals (SDGs) with reference to public libraries in South-East and South-South, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are, to:

1. find out the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to end poverty in present-day society;
2. determine the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to end hunger and achieved food security in present-day society;
3. establish the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to in order to ensure healthy lives in present-day society;
4. discover the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to promote equitable quality education;
5. determine the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to guarantee gender equality;
6. identify corporate social responsibility activities public libraries should participate in order to ensure sustainable management of water, access to sustainable and modern energy;

7. determine corporate social responsibility activities public libraries should be involved in order to ensure sustainable economic growth, productive employment and sustainable industrialization.

Review of Literature

CSR is growing in its meaning and practice. It is a generic concept to the business organization's concern and active two-way involvement with social, economic and political forces which influence the environment (Ismail, 2009; Masuku & Moyo, 2013). The concept of CSR is widely spread in the corporate world. Although, CSR is sometimes seen as corporate philanthropy with companies seeing the benefits in terms of staff morale and good public relations and as a way to differentiate one's company in the market and gain competitive advantage; CSR is an approach whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis (Cumming, 2009; Adu-Boahen *et al*, 2014). Carroll and Shabana (2010:85) writing on CSR states:

Over all the decades, the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR) has continued to grow in importance and significance. It has been the subject of considerable debate, commentary, theory building and research. In spite of the ongoing deliberations as to what it means and what it embraces, it has developed and evolved in both academic as well as practitioner communities worldwide. The idea that business enterprises have some responsibilities to society beyond that of making profits for the stakeholders has been around for centuries. For all practical purposes, however, it is largely a Post-World War II phenomenon and actually did not surge in important until the 1960's and beyond.

The concept of CSR therefore keeps on evolving in line with development trends. El Ashkar (2016) defined CSR as "a commitment to improve community well-being through discretionary business practices and contribution of corporate resources in other words, CSR is referred to the chosen integration of social and environmental matters into businesses, with a long term vision with doing the right things, and with the consideration of people as the most valuable asset of the business. CSR is presently regarded as an accepted and well developed

management practice and philosophy (Hamidu, Haron & Amran, 2016). As enunciated by Hou (2017), CSR is increasingly becoming a vital component of modern corporate culture due to rising expectations from stakeholders in light of a growing global awareness of the need for strong corporate governance, environmental protection and social care. It refers to the initiative an individual corporate entity undertakes as an extra effort for the welfare of the society from whom they earn wholesome profits. These CSR activities not only help in building a brands name but also makes one a good employer and an employee. According to Yadav and Jain (2016), many kinds of CSR activities are under taken by the corporate institution nowadays, which consists of bringing up a school, houses, old age home, orphanage, building up a hospital at a needy place, free medical camps, vocational courses for the generation of employment, distribution of free computers and other necessities to the under privilege ones, heavy donations and charity to child care centers etc.

CSR not only focuses on community and product but it is also related to several issues such as the issues of human resources management, health and safety at workplace, industrial relation and environmental protection and community development (Yusri & Amram, 2012). The concept of CSR significantly varies within specific social context. Contemporary CSR refers to voluntary programs and strategies that libraries can engage to make the society a better place. Although, some organizations present it as moral obligation towards certain value principles or redistribution of wealth from managers and shareholders to other stakeholders for other organizations it represents hiding profit maximization strategy that aims to avoid rigorous legislation in certain business segments (Krainz, 2015). The fundamental idea of CSR is that organizations have an obligation to work towards meeting the needs of a wider array of stakeholder in the environment where they operate. Hence, CSR must be seen as a core component of the business model that enable an organization to differentiate themselves from their competitors by enhancing employees, organizational community and intentions to stay. CSR is characterized by responsible entrepreneurship, voluntary initiative going beyond legislative requirements and contractual obligations and activities to benefits the employees, business relevant groups (including the society as such) or the environment (Carrol, 2009 as cited in Adu-Boahen., Barima, Nana, Emmanuel, Kwaku, & Ceaser, 2014). However, Rankin and Brock as cited in Balapanidou (2015) observed that there is “a growing interest in the social

impact of what libraries can offer and how they can contribute to the social cohesion and development of their communities”. It was also pointed out that public libraries have been “originally established to produce social change and that they have a real and valuable role to play in community development. No wonder, Okwemba et al (2014) contends that, as the issue of sustainable development becomes more important, CSR becomes an element that addresses these issues.

In the context of librarianship, Enem, Benson and Igbokwe (2020) affirmed the urgent need for librarians to embrace the philosophy of CSR and explore it as a means of remaining relevant to the society and their immediate environment. They further revealed that opportunities open to libraries from participating in CSR include change in public perception of libraries, establishment of mutual understanding between the library and the community with librarians strengthening their value chain. More so, libraries can disseminate information on employment opportunities to unemployed graduates. Also, Benson, Akpom and Onyam (2019) stated that SDGs can be actualized if libraries partner with other institutions to provide target-specific information services. Emezie and Igwe (2017) in their study revealed that financial implications of CSR programs, unavailability of commercial gadgets (POS, Projectors, computers, generators), absence of support from institution’s management were identified as possible challenges that could hinder the delivery of community information services as corporate social responsibility for actualization of SDGs in rural communities. Frimpong, Adjei and Poku (2014:1) citing Yilmaz (2008) noted that companies change their perception about corporate social responsibility practices and integrate these into their business strategy will have a competitive advantage over their rivals and get the benefit CSR offers to them.

According to Majumder (2016), the efficient and effective functioning of a community development system calls for the effective utilization of information resources as mandatory support to all the sphere of the life of a community. Das (2010) affirmed that public libraries have been facilitating socio-economic empowerment of communities by supplementing formal education, vocation education, adult education, self-learning and lifelong learning processes. It is imperative therefore that librarian in public libraries engage in activities that could foster development. Motilewa and Worlu (2015) based on their study conclude that CSR does have a

strategic role in gaining competitive advantage such as consumer (external) and employees' (internal loyalty). Similarly, Ali and Ali (2011) in their study affirm that there is a significant relationship between CSR and corporate reputation, CSR and employee engagement and corporate reputation and employee engagement. Also, Osisioma, Nzewi and Paul (2015) affirmed that there is a significant relationship between social responsibility cost and that social responsibility was vital to organizational performance. They recommend that firms in Nigeria should endeavour to increase their commitment to social responsibility by setting aside substantial amount of their income to social responsibility programs.

Several writers has examined the issue of CSR with reference to libraries, for instance, Majumder (2016) stressed that as the situation prevails today, it has become imperative for each and every public library especially for each and every public library especially in the rural and suburban areas to establish and mention spontaneous cooperation with other information providing agencies in the society to cater for the information needs of community through its community information service programmes. He noted further, that public library can create awareness through information support and motivate the local community to take responsibility for their development. Similarly, Benson, Onyam and Akpom (2020) examined librarians' attitude towards provision of corporate social responsibility in federal and state university libraries in South-East and South-South Nigeria. It was revealed that there is no significant difference in the mean responses of librarians in federal university libraries when compared with those in state universities in the areas of attitude towards provision of corporate social responsibility, what librarians perceived as viable means of providing CSR and challenges to the provision of CSR in university libraries in south-east and south-south Nigeria. The study concludes that librarians in federal and state universities libraries in South-East and South-South Nigeria have a positive attitude towards provision of CSR in libraries.

According to Prutina (2016), companies can have different motives and different approaches to social responsibility. He noted that firms that utilize CSR for project maximization purposes usually only have espoused values – those proclaimed by top management but not embraced by employees – without employee involvement in CSR process, and they are usually not considered socially responsible by neither employees nor other stakeholders. Gazzola (2014) in his study confirms the significant relationships between CSR and corporate reputation. CSR

has become a major actor and practices in the public services and political economy of many countries (Bolatito, 2019).

According to Akpom, Benson and Onyam (2020), the donation of books to rural areas, awareness creation on environmental issues and sustainability, promotion of educational activities in the host community and engagement in activities that promote acquisition of vocational skills among members of host communities are areas of CSR that libraries can engage. Provision of CSR in university libraries may be affected by insufficient information on the benefits inherent in CSRs, demands for additional knowledge beyond the expertise of library practice, unavailability of communication gadgets (laptop, public address systems) etc. Library management should take pragmatic steps towards provision of CSR initiatives in which case, there is need to formulate a viable and sustainable policy to guide the provision of CSR. In another different study, Akpom, Onyam and Benson (2020c) posit that although, librarians are aware of the various CSR initiatives that can be provided in the university environment and have positive attitude towards the provision of CSR initiatives; the creation of CSR Unit, formulation of formal CSR policy and partnering with NGOs should be adopted means of institutionalizing CSR in librarianship. They revealed that libraries can engage in the provision of information services that promote healthcare of the citizens in the host community and also disseminate information on how to eradicate hunger and poverty in the society.

Freeman (1984) proposed the stakeholder's theory. This theory advocates that managers of organization must satisfy a variety of constituents (e.g. investors and shareholders, employees, customers' suppliers, government and local community organization) that can influence the organization outcomes. Relating this theory to the present study, librarians must embark on CSR as a strategy of reaching out to the various stakeholders of public libraries. It is pertinent that libraries engage in various CSR initiatives as this will help in changing the perception of the public's towards libraries and information centers.

It must be stated categorically, that stakeholder of libraries varies according to the type of libraries engaging in CSR. In which case, the first practical implication of this theory is that librarians in public libraries must first identify the various stakeholders, their societal needs and how public libraries can help in bridging the gap. Librarians by implication should therefore

design CSR to include actions and initiative to improve the environment, community and live of all the stakeholders of the public library. Public libraries cannot effectively carry out sustainable CSR initiatives without involving the public's (who are the stakeholders). In which case, public libraries are expected to carry out community analysis to get information from their stakeholder on how best to carry out CSR initiatives for mutual benefits.

Methodology

The descriptive survey design was used in this study. A researcher-design rating scale was used for data collection. The population of study comprised of librarians working in six public libraries, three public libraries each selected randomly from the south-east and south-south of Nigeria, namely: Abia State Library Board, Umuahia; Anambra State Library Board (Prof. Kenneth Dike State Central e-Library), Awka; Enugu State Library Board, Enugu); Cross River State Library Board, Calabar; Delta State Library Board, Asaba; and Akwa Ibom State Library Board, Uyo. A sample size of eighty six was used for the study. A total of seventy seven instruments were retrieved back and used for the study. The descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis while results were presented in tables. Responses to item statements were weighted as follows: Strongly Agree (SA) = 4; Agree (A) = 3; Disagree (D) = 2 and Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1

Table 1: Number of questionnaires retrieved from responding institutions

S/N.	Name of institution	Number Distributed	Number retrieved
1	Abia State Library Board, Umuahia	14	11
2	Anambra State Library Board (Prof. Kenneth Dike State Central e-Library), Awka	18	16
3	Enugu State Library Board, Enugu	17	15
4	Cross River State Library Board, Calabar	9	9
5	Delta State Library Board, Asaba	19	18
6	Akwa Ibom State Library Board, Uyo	9	8
Grand Total		86	77

Results and Discussion of Findings

The results of the findings are hereby presented under this section.

Research Question 1: What are the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to end poverty in present-day society?

Table 1: CSR activities that public libraries should participate in order to end poverty in present-day society

S/N	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities public libraries should be involved in order to end poverty in Nigeria includes	Mean	SD
a.	carrying out / supporting research focused on identification of actual ratio of men, women and children living in poverty in Nigeria;	3.2	6.9
b.	empowering the youths with information on viable locations for establishment of small-scale business enterprises;	3.4	8.5
c.	helping rural farmers to identify markets for their agricultural products;	2.7	6.8
d.	identification of jobs that can be created by government in order to raise income for people living in poverty;	3.0	5.4
e.	dissemination of information on services that can be provided to help the people living in poverty to come out of the situation;	3.5	8.4
f.	identification of viable locations for establishment of small scale business enterprises and disseminating same to rural dwellers;	2.9	5.2
g.	providing government with information on people/ areas living in poverty that requires government attention;	2.7	5.7
h.	provision of agricultural information to rural areas; and	3.0	5.2
i.	provision of valuable information on cooperative activities to rural dwellers.	3.2	6.7

From the table above, the nine item statements were agreed upon by the respondents as CSR activities that public libraries should participate in order to end poverty in Nigeria. The responses indicate that ‘dissemination of information on services that can be provided to help the people living in poverty to come out of the situation’ and ‘empowering the youths with information on viable locations for establishment of small-scale business enterprises’ with the highest mean ratings, 3.5 and 3.4 respectively, have been identified as the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to end poverty in present-day society.

Research Question 2: What are the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to end hunger and achieve food security in present-day society?

Table 2: CSR activities that public libraries should participate in order to end hunger and achieved food security in present-day society

S/N	Corporate Social Responsibility activities public libraries should be involved in order to end hunger and achieved food security in Nigeria includes	Mean	SD
a.	collaborating with agricultural extension workers to actualize agricultural development programmes;	2.9	5.8
b.	dissemination of information to rural and urban dwellers on the benefits of indigenous agricultural products and its nutritional value;	2.0	3.6
c.	timely dissemination of market information in relation to food reserves;	3.4	9.2
d.	dissemination of findings of research institutes on seedlings improvement;	3.2	6.7
e.	provision and management of agricultural information to people in rural areas;	2.8	5.3
f.	supporting research institutes through the provision of relevant information source and conducive environment for research ;	3.5	8.2
g.	providing rural farmers with information on where to get fertilizers and seedlings improvement; and	2.8	5.2
h.	provision timely information to citizenry on the dangers of over-consumption of imported foods;	3.1	7.2

From the table above, majority of the item statements were accepted as CSR activities that public libraries should participate in order to end hunger and achieved food security in present day society. The findings indicates that ‘supporting research institutes through the provision of relevant information source and conducive environment for research’ and ‘timely dissemination of market information in relation to food reserves’ with the highest mean ratings, 3.5 and 3.4 respectively, have been determined as the corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities that public libraries should participate in order to end hunger and achieved food security in present. This further validates the findings of Akpom, Onyam and Benson (2020), libraries can disseminate information on how to eradicate hunger and poverty in the society

Research Question 3: What are the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to end hunger and achieve food security in present-day society?

Table 3: CSR activities that public libraries should participate in order to in order to ensure healthy lives in present-day society

S/N	CSR activities public libraries should participate in order to ensure healthy lives includes:	Mean	SD
a.	disseminating information on how to reduce air pollution;	3.4	7.9
b.	identification of the health information needs of rural dwellers and providing same;	3.4	7.8
c.	partnering with media houses to ensure optimal dissemination of health information to rural dwellers;	3.5	9.5
d.	partnership with health workers to provide health information to the citizenry;	3.7	10.8
e.	provision of information on access to sexual and reproductive health care services	3.3	7.9
f.	providing rural dwellers with health education and information services that will prevent HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other forms of disease;	3.6	10.2
g.	Providing the citizenry with timely health information;	3.2	7.7

From the table above, the seven item-statements were accepted corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to end hunger and achieve food security in present-day society. It further reveals that ‘partnership with health workers to provide health information to the citizenry’ and ‘providing rural dwellers with health education and information services that will prevent HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other forms of disease’ with the highest mean ratings, 3.7 and 3.6 respectively, have been established as the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to ensure healthy lives in present-day society. This further validates the findings of Akpom, Onyam and Benson (2020), that libraries can engage in the provision of information services that promote healthcare of the citizens in the host community.

Research Question 4: What are the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to promote equitable quality education in present-day society?

Table 4: CSR activities that public libraries should participate in order to promote equitable quality education

S/N	CSR activities public libraries should participate in order to ensure equitable quality education includes:	Mean	SD
a.	dissemination of information to rural dwellers on scholarship opportunities available to the school children;	3.4	9.3
b.	identification of barriers to school attendance in rural areas and reporting same to stakeholders in education;	2.9	4.8
c.	partnering with stakeholders in the educational sector to provide sustainable platforms for all learners to have access to sustainable education and knowledge;	3.7	10.6
d.	partnership with NGOs in providing integrated technical and vocational training programmes;	3.5	9.5
e.	providing information resources to support learning at all levels through the instrumentality of the various forms of libraries;	3.7	10.3
f.	providing sustainable platforms for all learners to have access to sustainable education and acquire knowledge;	3.7	11.0
g.	provision of information on the educational needs of Nigerian society;	3.3	8.2
h.	provision of information about existing technical and vocational skills centres in Nigeria to rural dwellers;	3.2	6.4

From the table above, the responses of the respondents indicates that ‘partnering with stakeholders in the educational sector to provide sustainable platforms for all learners to have access to sustainable education and knowledge’, ‘providing information resources to support learning at all levels through the instrumentality of the various forms of libraries’ and ‘providing sustainable platforms for all learners to have access to sustainable education and acquire knowledge’ with the highest mean rating of 3.7 each, have been discovered as the corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities that public libraries should participate in order to promote equitable quality education.

Research Question 5: What are the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to promote guarantee gender equality in present-day society?

Table 5: CSR activities that public libraries should participate in order to guarantee gender equality

S/N	CSR activities public libraries should participate in order to ensure gender equality includes:	Mean	SD
a.	assists in sensitizing women for full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels;	3.4	8.5
b.	assisting in carrying out researches on how best to eliminate all forms of violence against women;	3.5	8.1
c.	creating awareness on the need for women empowerment among rural dwellers;	3.3	6.7
d.	dissemination of relevant information on gender equality especially in rural areas;	3.4	8.0
e.	dissemination of information on sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.	3.5	8.1
f.	dissemination of relevant information that will bridge the gap between men and women equal rights to economic resources;	3.2	6.4
g.	engaging in activities that promote women and girls empowerment at all levels;	3.3	7.2
h.	provide information on political platforms and opportunities that women can easily participate; and	3.2	8.3
i.	provide information on violent and harmful practices against women.	3.6	9.6

From the table above, ‘providing information on violent and harmful practices against women’, ‘assisting in carrying out researches on how best to eliminate all forms of violence against women’ and ‘dissemination of information on sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels’ with the highest mean ratings, 3.6, 3.5 and 3.5 respectively, have been determined as the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to guarantee gender equality.

Research Question 6: What are the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to ensure sustainable management of water, access to sustainable and modern energy in present-day society?

Table 6: CSR that public libraries should participate in order to ensure sustainable management of water, access to sustainable and modern energy

S/N	CSR activities that public libraries should participate in order to ensure sustainable management of water, access to sustainable and modern energy	Mean	SD
a.	creation of awareness on the need to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services;	3.2	6.9
b.	partnering with ministry of health to ensure that people have access to vital information that promotes clean environment;	3.4	7.3
c.	partnering with NAFDAC to disseminate information on fake water industries;	3.4	8.6
d.	providing citizens with environmental information that will help in the reduction/elimination of dumping of hazardous chemicals on the environment; and	3.2	7.5
e.	providing government with information on communities that lack access to affordable energy;	3.1	6.8

From the table above, the respondents agreed with all the item statements on CSR that public libraries should participate in order to ensure sustainable management of water, access to sustainable and modern energy. The results indicates that ‘partnering with ministry of health to ensure that people have access to vital information that promotes clean environment’ and ‘partnering with NAFDAC to disseminate information on fake water industries’ with the highest mean rating 3.4 each, have been identified as the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to ensure sustainable management of water, access to sustainable and modern energy. This is in line with the submission of Benson, Akpom and Onyam (2019) that SDGs can be actualized if libraries partner with other institutions to provide target-specific information services.

Research Question 7: What are the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to ensure sustainable economic growth, productive employment and sustainable industrialization in present-day society?

Table 7: CSR activities public libraries should be involved in order to ensure sustainable economic growth, productive employment and sustainable industrialization

S/N	CSR activities that public libraries should be involved in order to ensure sustainable economic growth, productive employment and sustainable industrialization includes	Mean	SD
a.	Creation of awareness on how to protect labour rights and promote safe working environment of all workers;	3.2	6.9
b.	Dissemination of information on conferences/workshops to the people to enable them develop innovative and creative skills;	3.4	8.0
c.	ensuring that rural dwellers have equal access to ICT and Internet facilities;	3.2	8.4
d.	partnering with directorate for employment to ensure that information on employment opportunities are distributed to the right people at the right time;	3.2	7.3
e.	providing rural dwellers with information that support economic development and human wellbeing;	3.1	6.7
f.	providing young entrepreneurs on how to get access to financial services and affordable credit facilities;	3.6	10.7

From the table above, the nine item statements were accepted as CSR activities that public libraries should participate in order to ensure sustainable economic growth, productive employment and sustainable industrialization in present-day society. The findings indicates that ‘providing young entrepreneurs on how to get access to financial services and affordable credit facilities’ and ‘dissemination of information on conferences/workshops to the people to enable them develop innovative and creative skills’ with the highest mean ratings, 3.6 and 3.4 respectively, have been determined as the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to ensure sustainable economic growth, productive employment and sustainable industrialization. This is in line with the findings of Enem, Benson and Igbokwe (2020) that libraries can disseminate information on employment opportunities to unemployed graduates

Summary of findings

In line with the data analysed, the findings are hereby summarized as follows:

1. The corporate social responsibilities that public libraries should participate in order to end poverty in present-day society include dissemination of timely agricultural information, business information, economic information services that are target specific in different areas. This will help people living in poverty, especially in rural areas to come out of the situation; Information services on viable locations for establishment of small-scale business enterprises can also be provided to the youths.
2. The findings indicates that dissemination of findings of research institutes on seedlings improvement and supporting research institutes through the provision of relevant information source and conducive environment for research are part of corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should be involved in order to end hunger and achieved food security.
3. The corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in order to in order to ensure healthy lives in present-day society include partnership with health workers, stakeholders in the health sector and media houses to ensure optimal dissemination of health information to rural dwellers. It can also be in the form of providing rural dwellers with health education and information services that will prevent HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other forms of disease like Corona Virus pandemic from spreading;
4. In order to promote equitable quality education, the corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate is the provision of information resources to support learning at all levels through the instrumentality of the various forms of libraries;
5. To guarantee gender equality, corporate social responsibility activities that public libraries should participate in include assisting in carrying out researches on how best to eliminate all forms of violence against women’ and ‘dissemination of information on sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels’
6. CSR that public libraries should participate in order to ensure sustainable management of water, access to sustainable and modern energy comprises of partnership with ministry of health, NAFDAC and other stakeholders to ensure that people have access to vital information that promotes clean environment’ and to disseminate information on fake industries

7. CSR activities that public libraries should be involved in order to ensure sustainable economic growth, productive employment and sustainable industrialization includes providing young entrepreneurs with information on how to get access to financial services and affordable credit facilities’ and as well as ‘dissemination of information on conferences/workshops to the people to enable them develop innovative and creative skills’ with the highest mean rating

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study having examined the various areas of CSR activities that public libraries should participate in order to contribute towards realization of SDG concludes that library and information professionals as well as other stakeholders in the library profession should wake up to demands of contemporary society and embrace CSR as means of being part of the global development initiatives. The findings of the study clearly indicates that public libraries has significant role to play towards realization SDGs with reference to areas such as: ending poverty, ending hunger and achieving food security, ensuring healthy lives, promoting equitable quality, sustainable management of water, access to sustainable and modern energy and ensuring sustainable economic growth, productive employment as well as sustainable industrialization. In line with the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made in line with the findings of the study.

- i. ***Intensive awareness campaign:*** Having realized the place of public libraries in contributing to the realization of the sustainable development goals, it is pertinent that librarians and library associations engage in intensive awareness on the various areas that libraries can participate towards the attainment of the SDG.

- ii. ***Strong partnership initiatives:*** Public libraries should engage in strong and active partnership with allied agencies. For instance, public libraries can partner with Ministry of Health in the dissemination of health related information to the people. Also, public libraries can partner with Ministry of Education for educational related matters that will benefit the stakeholders.

iii. Integrating CSR into the library science curriculum: library and information professionals should ensure that CSR should incorporate CSR to the library science curriculum.

iv. Incorporation of Corporate Social Responsibility Policy: Heads of public libraries should come up with well-articulated CSR policy that will guide the design and implementation of CSR in public libraries.

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