

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2019

Good Governance, Information Dissemination and National Development-The Nigerian Situation

Peter Olorunleke Oye CLN

National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru. Plateau State, Nigeria., peteroye@yahoo.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Oye, Peter Olorunleke CLN, "Good Governance, Information Dissemination and National Development-The Nigerian Situation" (2019). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 3778.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/3778>

GOOD GOVERNANCE, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE NIGERIAN SITUATION.

By

Peter Olorunleke Oye cIn

National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru Jos, Plateau state.

peteroye@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

In the last few decades the relationship between good governance and national development has attracted keen global attention. The emergence of information as a vital factor of production in the knowledge economy has added a new dimension to it. This paper therefore aims at exploring the intrinsic nexus between good governance, information dissemination and national development. Relying on descriptive methods based on relevant literatures and empirical facts, the paper enumerated some inextricable indices of good governance, espouses its importance and the impetus information dissemination provides for national development. The paper clearly explained the notion of good governance in the context of the Nigerian milieu and links it with how information dissemination using the library as a platform can promote it in order to deliver national development. The paper provided evidence from around the world of the nexus between the three variables under examination. It revealed that Nigeria is yet to comply with the inextricable indices of good governance due to lack of committed leadership. The paper recommended amongst others that political leaders and institutions in the country must begin to show better and genuine commitment to policy implementation, and do more, faster and in quantum too to deliver good governance; fidelity of governance is ensured if there is flow of information between the governor and the governed; the library as a custodian of information can play its designated role in advancing national development if given proper attention in terms of investments; national development is achieved when all the ingredients of good governance are present in a society. The paper is segmented to include introduction, problem statement, contextual discourse and conclusion.

Keywords: Good governance; information dissemination, libraries; national development.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is composed of 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and 774 local governments. Recent estimates of the size of the country's population range from the World Bank's 186 million, National Population Commission's 198 million to United Nations' 200 million. Nigeria's population growth rate is put at 3.2% a year by the National Bureau of Statistics. The same institution puts Nigeria's unemployment rate at above 20 million in 2018 and economic growth rate is put at 1.8% to 2%. These statistics show that the number of people produced in Nigeria every year is faster than the rate of development. Thus the country is experiencing a significant demographic shift posing both positive and negative prospects for development.

The economic outlook in the last four years shows that out of 19 fundamental indicators 11 moved positively and others negatively. Nigeria's GDP is worth 375.77 billion US dollars in 2017 and the GDP annual growth rate averaged 3.84% (NBS, 2017). The Human Development Index by the UNDP (2018) which assesses three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living, ranks Nigeria 157 among 189 countries sampled. A new report by the World Poverty Clock

(2018) shows Nigeria has overtaken India as the country with the most extreme poor people in the world. The 93 million Nigerians now living in extreme poverty represent nearly 50% of its estimated 200 million populations.

For a country with massive wealth and a huge population to support commerce, a well-developed economy and plenty of natural resources, amongst them crude oil, the level of poverty, unemployment, inequality and slow rate of development is questionable. Analysts aver that Nigeria continues to get poorer as its economic growth is lower than population growth. With population growth of 2.7% per annum, even if it grows at 2.5% the country is most likely to grow poorer and poorer. The IMF recently warned that Nigeria could face up to 8 years of getting poorer and poorer between 2015 and 2022 unless something is done.

Since independence, successive governments have consistently indicated commitment to a sustainable national development. To this extent they have equally introduced various measures to support their development objectives. But as the World Bank (2009) report strongly reveals, the country has not been able to achieve its seemingly ambitious national development programmes. Some of the development plans embarked upon over the years include 1962-1968; 1970-1974, 1975- 1980.

In the recent past, various strategies for development were also attempted. These include the structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), Vision 2010, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), and the Vision 2020:20. The most recent are the Transformation Agenda and in the last four years the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan. But all these plans did not materialize due to lack of good governance. Lawal and Oluwatoyin (2011) aver that “lack of good governance militates against national development”. This invariably implies that Nigeria’s development is constantly challenged by lack of good governance as seen in the widespread human insecurity, unemployment and economic uncertainties.

Some scholars including Gymai-Boadi (2004), Benette (2003), Entman (1989) claim that “over the past two decades participatory democratic process has taken a dramatic turn in the emerging democracies in the wake of citizens agitation for good governance”. From historical perspective the concept of good governance crept into the lexicon of social discourse in Nigeria after the return to democratic rule in 1999. There have been scholarly arguments that good governance is an important element of democratic development. It is also a primary ingredient of economic growth, and as such of national development. The phrase is used synonymously with dividends of democracy in Nigeria. It also pertains to tangibles people can relate with, feel or experience as a result of

democratic governance. This includes among others the hitherto elusive human rights, civil liberties, civil rights, freedom of speech and association, improved standard of living, security, employment, social welfare, education, infrastructure like good roads, portable water, electricity, and access to health facilities, sanitation, finance (credit facility) and public administration efficiency.

A keen examination reveals that good governance goes beyond the physical; it also delivers sociological and psychological income if present in a society. This invariably implies that good governance relates to citizens comfort, welfare and wellbeing. Economists believe that happiness comes with the availability of jobs to earn a living and price stability which allows goods and services to remain affordable.

In view of the foregoing, it is obvious that government is supposedly inclined towards doing that which is good, which invariably translates to good governance. More importantly, the above assertions are indications that there is a nexus between political and economic institutions in a country. This nexus is not only important, but equally inevitable for national development. It is also a primary ingredient of economic growth, and as such of national development.

The participation of the governor or ruler and the governed or ruled is needed in the governance process. Abdelajalil (2014) posits that governance

refers to processes: how things are done, not just what is done and it requires more than a focus on government. It also refers to the nature of relations between state and society. It is positively associated with improved investment and growth rates, government effectiveness, efficient bureaucracy and rule of law which are associated with better economic performance.

For the foregoing to be achieved there must be a flow of communication between the government and the people they govern. That is, government needs to be informed about the needs of the citizens and the citizens need to be informed about the policies associated to government in order to act or carry out their responsibilities. That is, the nature of relationship between the government and the governed can also be promoted by information dissemination.

Phiri in Achitabinwo (2007) opines that for a democratic process to make sense those that govern must be aware of the needs of the governed and the governed must know their expected role. This necessitates provision of information relating to democracy, human rights and the rule of law. This is because, according to Achitabinwo (2007) “information is a tool that propels people to better understanding that in turn includes sound judgment and decision making”. It is apt to add that these decisions also pertain to political and economic judgment. Choosing the right candidates, making the right investment decisions, etc. requires that citizens be well informed.

The idea of the freedom of information Act (FOIA, 2011) is to guarantee the right to information within the control of public institutions to all Nigerians. It effectively gives the right to know to every Nigerian. The FOIA generally provides that any person has the right to request access to federal agencies records or information except to the extent the records are protected from disclosure by any of exemptions contained in the law. The basic function of the FOIA is to ensure informed citizens, which is vital to the functioning of a democratic society. This is equally in tandem with the notion that in any economy, freedom of information is a fundamental indicator of economic development progress, civic engagement and a properly functioning democracy. How far Nigeria has implemented this policy statement remains questionable.

The position of information in relation to good governance and development is further buttressed by the fact that we are in the information age. The knowledge society is driven by information availability and access. It is information that defines the modern world and to this extent the 21st century is referred to as the information age. The inevitability of information stems from the fact that it has emerged as the superior factor of production over and above all other factors of production because it brings about better decision making, innovation and creativity.

Man harnesses other factors based on available information. Therefore, information is a crucial ingredient in all spheres of human endeavour, including organizations, societies, and governments. Whether you refer to the past revolution: industrial revolution of 1880s, computer revolution of the 1980's, Internet revolution of the 1990's and the recent connectedness economic revolution of the 2020s, it is the information revolution content that provides the infinite possibilities inherent in them.

Today information is ubiquitous, multitudinous and in perpetual flux. It is important that individuals, organizations, societies and governments keep abreast it and harness it to their own specific needs. Over time the library has engaged in the function of information collection/acquisition; processing/organization, storage/preservation and transmission/communication/ dissemination. Libraries and their sphere of influence are defined by the type of community/client/patrons/users they serve: national, public, academic, school, special and digital libraries are custodians of information. They carefully select, systematically/scientifically process, tactfully store and efficiently disseminate information of all kinds, relevant to the needs of individuals, organizations and governments they serve. With these processes the library overtime has assumed the position of custodian and heritage of human knowledge and continues to

pride itself as an authentic platform of information, including information for good governance and development.

Development is the process of bringing about fundamental and substantial changes in the society. It encompasses and embraces such aspects as the quality of life, social justice, equality of opportunity for all citizens, equity distribution of income, and democratization in the development process. Thus, development involves not only capital accumulation and economic growth but also the condition in which a country has adequate food and jobs and the income inequality among them is greatly reduced (Lawal and Tobi, 2006).

National development is achieved when the following fundamentals of good governance are taking place: improvement in the quality of education resulting in greater number of children enrolled in schools, improvement in the quality of health care resulting in the decrease of infant mortality; improvement in infrastructure resulting in more good roads for easy transportation of goods and people; fair distribution of the wealth of the country; provision of more goods and services throughout the country; high productivity resulting in increase in production; easy access to good medical care.

There is an agreement among policy makers, development scholars, and institutions that the wealth of a nation has strong relationship with its type of

governance, leadership and social policy framework (Kaufman, 2013). This is an indication that good governance is indispensable for development. This paper therefore examines the relationship between good governance, information dissemination and national development with particular reference to Nigeria.

STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

In the last few decades the relationship between good governance and national development has attracted global attention, the significance of information in the recent knowledge economy has added a new dimension to it.

Since the return to democratic governance in 1999, Nigeria anticipates delivery of dividends of democracy in respect of good governance, which unfortunately has remained elusive in the span of national life. Nigeria is bedeviled with a fast growing population, low productivity, slow growth rate, poor standard of living, high rate of unemployment, insecurity, economic depression, inadequate social infrastructure etc. Scholars including Abdelajalil (2014), Kaufman (2013), Ukwandu and Jarbandhan (2006), Sen (1999) have proposed strategies to be adopted for good governance that could reverse the ugly trends listed above, but this is in respect of some indices which neglects the impact information dissemination could make.

It has been advocated that knowledge in terms of information brings enlightenment. Both government and the governed need information and enlightenment in order to fulfill their own sides of the social contract which will enable them to deliver the desired national development. According to the organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (1995), “good governance is among other things participatory, transparent and accountable... It encompasses the role of public authorities in establishing the environment in which economic operators function and in determining the distribution of benefits as well as the relationship between the ruler and the ruled.”

This invariably implies that the quality of governance play a role in facilitating an environment for development, and this is aided by access to information. Ezeala (2017) states that access to timely and useful information is a fundamental human right that can breach the cycle of poverty and support sustainable development.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The fundamental questions emanating from the foregoing statement of problem are: (1) what is the nexus between good governance, information dissemination and national development? In other words what is the impact of good governance, and information dissemination on national development? (2)

And in particular to what extent has these variables impacted on the Nigerian milieu? (3) What are the challenges to national development in Nigeria? (4) How can these challenges be tackled?

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This paper aims at espousing the nexus between good governance, information dissemination and national development with particular reference to Nigeria. It is hoped that this paper will be explicit enough to provide some valuable evidence on the nexus between the three variables under examination.

The paper will specifically:

1. Determine the nexus between good governance, information dissemination and national development.
2. Ascertain the extent to which the variables under examination have impacted on the Nigerian milieu.
3. Identify the challenges to national development in Nigeria.
4. Make recommendations to tackle challenges identified.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Good governance, information dissemination and national development are critical issues to contemplate having regards to the present slow rate of Nigeria's

social, political and economic development. Therefore, findings and recommendations will be of benefit to the government and policy planners in Nigeria as it will prompt them to adopt good governance techniques that will enhance achievement of national development goal.

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive qualitative analysis technique was adopted for this paper. Data were sourced from a survey of selected relevant literature.

CONTEXTUAL DISCOURSE

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Development institutions like the World Bank, UN, IMF OECD and scholars concur that the central place of development policy is occupied with the model of good governance which has become the mantra of development policies in recent times. This perhaps explains why good governance has become a key concept in the international debates pertaining developing countries, but there are various opinions about the concept of good governance. Some have advocated the aggregated model and some the disaggregated model.

The assumption of this paper is that there will be a significant result if the inextricable indices put forward are present in any government system including

Nigeria. This vehemently suggests that good governance and development are intertwined. Sen (1999) argues that good governance deliver economic needs, political freedom and civil rights. Some scholars are of the view that good governance is an instrument which can be used to overcome poverty (Kioe-Sheng, 2010). Though, Yi and Woo's (2014) analysis raises doubts about the impact of good governance on reducing inequalities. Kim (2009) suggests that socio-economic development depends on specific aspects of governance.

The United Nations (1998) affirms that good governance is the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development. The IMF (1997) emphasises that promoting good governance in all its aspects, including ensuring the rule of law, improving the efficiency of accountability of the public sector and tackling corruption can make economies prosper. According to OECD (1995) good governance among other things is participatory, transparent and accountable. It encompasses the role of public authorities in establishing the environment in which economic operators function and in determining the distribution of benefits as well as the relationship between the ruler and the ruled.

Iyoha et al. (2015) adjudge that good governance has evidently become a key standard to judge a nation's credibility as well as respect on international scales. Dickson as cited by Sharon et al. (2016) asserts that if the power, education, health, manufacturing and other sectors in Nigeria are expected to

work, then, Nigeria needs good governance so as to be able to actualise its potentials and improve the wellbeing of the citizens. Bello and Lamidi (2009) as cited by Sharon et al. (2016) are of the view that there are diverse impediments to national development with particular reference to Nigeria; lack of good governance is a major impediment. The scholars went further that the quality of governance is the major determinant of a country's economic development. They added that good governance is partly characterised by creation of employment and security of lives and properties.

Development experts according to Ukwandu and Jarbandhan (2016) agree that good governance plays an inextricable role in stimulating and solidifying development initiative. Similarly, there is a general consensus that development will take place once a country adheres to the minimum requirement of good governance.

Some development and good governance experts including Aganga (2010), Ogunmade (2013), Asaju, Arome and Anyio (2014) as cited in Sharon et al. (2016) in their analysis revealed that Nigeria as a country which records strong G.D.P growth averaging 6.5 percent in the last decade, still has unemployment rate that is rising annually from 11.9 percent in 2005 to 19.7 percent in 2009, and over 37 percent in 2013. Similarly, Ikubaje (2014) as cited in Sharon et al (2016) stresses that African countries have never lacked

commendable ideas on how to deepen democracy, promote transparent governance, and sustainable development, but the challenge has always been the political commitment to transform the excellent good governance ideas and policies into practical and sustainable development projects except for implementation issues.

For Ibeanu (2008) “governance in Nigeria as currently observed is about creating affluence for a few and not about eradicating affliction for many”. It is argued that the bane of Nigerian’s development is that crucial institutions of government are administered by the ruling class that lack governance capability and contract management culture (Nyewusira, 2007 as cited by Sharon et al. 2016). Accountability and transparency are vital and central part of governance. The most topical issue in governance of contemporary Nigerian nation is probably that of transparency and accountability (Afolabi, 2004). Kolade (2012) stresses that the abuse of authority and privilege of office; the absence of culture of accountability, and the inadequacies of stakeholders dynamism could hinder good governance (Afolabi, 2004, Kolade, 2012 as cited in Sharon et al. 2016).

Khan (2007) postulates” that good governance requires reforming governance initiatives to speed up free market initiatives and raise production”. The World Bank has considered as good governance index what Kafmann, Kray and Mastruzzi (2005) listed as accountability and responsibility of governance,

political stability and lack of violence, governance efficiency, legal framework, law enforcement and corruption control. Also the World Bank using over 100 indicators introduced a composite index of good governance including among others the under listed factors: fair conduct of elections representation and participation, responsiveness by government, transparency and accountability, rule of law and inclusiveness, human rights, moral and financial discipline.

Compared with the foregoing index, it is doubtful if the concept of good governance is true to type considering the Nigerian situation. For instance, assessment of political and human rights, assessment of violence, terrorism and banditry, the quality of public services, assessment of policies which shape or stumbles free market, implementation of contracts, court verdicts abuse of office, security forces response to insecurity, corruption index, standard of living of Nigerians which at the moment is very low etc. This invariably implies that Nigeria needs to do more in terms of delivering good governance. It has to do that quickly and in quantum too given its fast growing population.

In 2002 the World Bank aver that governance is the ability of state to provide those institutions that support growth and poverty reduction- often referred to as good governance and essential to development. Similarly, the World Bank (2007) stresses that good governance refers to “ the manner in which public officials and institutions acquire and exercise authority that shape public

policy and provide public goods and services” This would of course include awareness of the government and the governed, and inevitably promoted by information dissemination.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Scholars including Graber (2010), McCombs and Raynolds (2009), Diamond (2004), Nwanko (1992) have consistently argued that to achieve sustainable democratic governance in developing nations and for the concept of democracy to thrive, the citizens of the country must possess the knowledge, skills and awareness to democratic process, including unyielding participation in electing political candidates to various offices. According to Achitabinwo (2007) Information promotes and empowers citizen’s participation in the democratic process; it maintains the rule of law and creates a viable outlet for the injection of public opinion. It informs the policy-making process of political leadership, all of which nurtures development.

The import of intellectual discourse in the views of scholars in respect of information dissemination and national development is that information is vital in attaining scientific, technological, political and economic development in any nation. The progress of any nation in these spheres of life depends on how informed the citizens are.

By virtue of its function as a custodian of information the library has assumed a great importance in the information age. It serves to systematically acquire, scientifically process, tactfully store and efficiently disseminate relevant information to the society. Thus, the library system plays a vital role in the development of the society by catering for the knowledge demands of the people. This it does with the aim of enlightening/ informing the citizenry, stimulating their learning and advancing society generally through its services and programmes.

Libraries of all types: Public, National, School, University, Special, Research are a system of information established to cater for the information needs of citizens. The public and national libraries are inherently embodiment of democratic principles, providing information materials for all irrespective of age, creed, colour, occupation and social status. Since the documentation of ideas began, it has been the prerogative of the library through the ages: ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary to collect/ acquire, process/organise, preserve/store and transmit/ communicate/ disseminate such ideas/information/knowledge. Ikoku (2012) describes library as the foyer of living ideas-ideas that permeate and animate all aspects of national life.

Libraries therefore seem to have the impetus to further development by helping people get the information they need to address every problem. Ezeala

(2017) asserts that an essential role of libraries is propounding and propagating political ideology for national development and cohesion. The scholar explains, that effective citizen action is possible only where citizens know how to gain access to information of all kinds and have skills to become responsible and informed participants in democracies. This is especially so as e-government evolves. Libraries offer real and virtual civic spaces where citizens can speak freely, share similar interests and concerns, and pursue what they believe are in their public interest.

From the service perspective Ezeala (2017) avers that libraries support development through the innovation and reinvention of their services. These have made libraries important development partners, both by providing access to information in all formats and delivery services and planned programmes that meet the need for information in a society. According to Sobalaje and Ogunmodede (2015) library services improve knowledge and skills for positive productivity as a tool for national development. The extent to which the citizenry of today will be creative, informed and knowledgeable will be shaped by the contents of the library resources available within their environment. The scholars further state that most government publications are not common place, they are usually domiciled in the information management system of the agencies, but can be found in National, Public, Research libraries and Archives.

From the forgoing perspectives, it is obvious that a well-equipped library is a sine qua non for the intellectual elevation of the people. Sharon et al. (2016) advocate that in order to promote public awareness of the tasks, policies and priorities of government; transparency is needed at all levels of government. The programmes of government at all levels as well as their expected outcomes should be made clear. The library services will aid in the dissemination of such government programmes. The library system or mechanism provides for stakeholders to hold effective consultations using its platforms and equipment. In this way the library functions as facilities and infrastructures of national development.

A close observation reveals that proper attention is usually not given to the issues of the library in Nigeria. Ochogwu (2007:21) observed that successive governments in Nigeria have not recognized the role libraries and information can play in the actualization of national development programmes because of lack of political and economic base that the library profession has not secured in Nigeria, coupled with lack of appreciation of libraries and information among the citizens. This is responsible for inadequate funding for library development in general.

The National libraries which are meant to serve the political class is less utilized. Even the legislative libraries that are attached to the National and

Houses of Assembly are also ill-equipped and less utilised and less utilized. It is pertinent to note that the national library still occupies a rented building as its own is yet to be completed. It also does not have branches in all the states of the federation yet after more than 50 years of independence of the country. Thus, leaving some states of the federation without national library services. This is against the National Library Decree 1970, No. 29, paragraph 2, section 2.b which stipulates that the National Library of Nigeria shall establish and maintain a branch of the National Library in each state.

Though there is compulsory presence of academic libraries in Nigeria, and they are as many as the number of higher institutions including Colleges of Education, Polytechnics, Universities and their equivalents across the country numbering about 500. But they are not sufficiently equipped. In most cases they are not made so sublime to cope with the number of students they have. This is especially in the public institutions, neither are their users motivated enough to optimally utilise them. A fund that is 15% of the institutions' budget constitutionally allocated to them is barely enough. Though the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) is also made available by government to assist the public universities in providing structures and equipping the libraries where they are inadequate, non-existent or dilapidated.

Only trickles of school libraries exist. These include the remnants of pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial missionary schools, and some private schools. Aside from the compulsory library hour in schools pupils and students are also less motivated to use the library optimally.

Most public libraries as the local gateway to knowledge, where they exist usually in state capitals and headquarters of local governments have become moribund in terms of equipment and services. They only have a few staff and provide reading space for very few interested public compared to their populations. Only a few have modern structures and equipment, and even at this acquisitions of modern information resources is at its lowest ebb. The idea of 21st century service delivery is absent as there is death of state-of-the-art professional practice standard. In all, there is a general inability of these libraries to add value to information provision generally. Again this is contrary to the fact that at state level, the public library legislation also stipulates that in each of the 36 states of Nigeria, there shall be a library board at the state headquarters with a branch in each Local Government Council. After several years of this enabling legislation not much has been achieved.

The implication of this is that the library in the Nigerian system lacks the street credibility and popular view it is supposed to have like in other climes that recognise and cherish their importance. In fact, the libraries are not sufficiently

equipped structurally, resources and service wise to help bridge the awareness and information gap amongst members of the society. And therefore, as agents of social communication are lacking in capacity to properly facilitate information flow in aid of good governance and national development. Ochogwu (2007:19) aver that library and information services have continued to elude Nigerians because the library profession lacks the political base for itself in the comity of other professions. It has not been able to integrate itself into the socio-cultural and political processes of the Nigerian state.

From the point of view of the ecology of librarianship lack of government and management commitment, in terms of funding, ineffective advocacy by library management, obsolete library and information science curriculum in library schools, leading to lack of robust professional practice and 21st century service delivery, inadequate technologically driven library and information services, poor library and information literacy leading to negative disposition towards library and information issues are the bane of librarianship in Nigeria. Ifijeh, Iwu-James and Adebayo (2016:56) state that a cursory review of library services delivery system in Nigeria reveals that citizens are not accessing library services adequately. The poor state of public libraries in Nigeria is an issue that has been over flogged in literature. Therefore, there is need to consciously develop our libraries in order to enable them to support national development.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

According to Ijeoma and Ezeogu (2015) development implies the overall change and improvement in society as related to the individual in progress in the social, political, religious and economic structure of a nation. Gboyega (2003) views development “as an idea that embodies all attempts to improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications. It implies improvement in material well-being of all citizens”. Development is seen as an encompassing process involving the steady and systematic change in the cultural, economic and political spheres of society in a way that increases production, empowers the people and their communities, protects the environment, strengthens institutions, grows quality of life and promotes good governance. This implies that it is possible to speak of social, cultural, spiritual, institutional, economic and political development. As distinct from growth, development is about people and how their lives and institutions can get better (Igbafen; Ihonvbere, 2012).

The above submission invariably implies that development is critical to the sustenance and growth of any nation. It then means that a country would be classified as developed when it is able to provide qualitative life for its citizenry in terms of food, healthcare, education, housing, sanitation, portable water, environmental protection, security, income, GDP etc. The foregoing assertion may account for the reason that development studies by Diamond (2004), Kothari

and Cookie (2001), Casmir (1991) have indicated that responsible and effective government is a sine que non for sustainable democracy and political stability in developing nations of Africa. This is especially in a country like Nigeria where the citizens and other significant stakeholders have been clamoring for policy reforms, improved quality of life, and a more robust media presence.

On the contrary a large majority of the world's population in developing world which Nigeria belongs lives in a state of poverty. In 2018 the World Economic Forum revealed that Nigeria is the country with the highest number of poor people in the world with 93 million living in abject poverty. With this record Nigeria has taken over from India who hitherto holds the record. The 2018 National Bureau of Statistics also revealed unemployment rate of over 20 million. Lawal and Oluwatoyin (2011) reveal that Nigeria has not been able to engender meaningful development in spite of her huge resource endowments. This is also in spite of all the National Development Plans and Strategies. In fact, the second National Development Plan document states that the basic objective of planning in Nigeria is not merely to accelerate the rate of economic growth and the rate at which the level of population can be raised; it is also to give her an increase measure of control over her own destiny.

It is pathetic to state that at the moment Nigeria still struggles to perfect the implementation of development policies. Constant policy change, weak

institutions, lack of due diligence, corruption, lack of commitment by political leadership, and indeed lack of good governance contribute to these brewing problems.

“Lack of committed political leadership and lack of proper implementation were responsible for the failure of earlier development plans in Nigeria” (Ekundayo, 2015). Similarly, Akume (2012) insists that development is a product of careful design, effective resource mobilization and collaborative action with the people and their leadership. It entails sacrifice and dedication coupled with careful observation and openness to change efforts. Lawal and Oluwatoyin (2011) assert that development requires total commitment on the parts of the leadership. The scholars also state that the need for discipline and honesty on the part of the project implementers cannot be overemphasized; such officials should show enough discipline, interest, willingness, dedication and honesty.

The scholars further posit that without these attributes and the will to persevere set economic goals, all other ingredients of development present would amount to nullity. Mimiko (1998), Adelman (1995) as cited by Lawal and Oluwatoyin (2011) went further to point examples to the enviable growth and development patterns of several Asian countries. They alluded to the fact that East Asia is the only region in the world that has been able to maintain strong

consistent growth patterns over several decades led first by Japan and the newly industrializing economies of Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan.

Ukwandu and Jarbandhan (2016) stress that modern literature highlight key elements that led to the development of formerly poor countries in Asia and South America. The scholars added that there is a general consensus that developing countries adhere to the minimum requirement of good governance. Ukwandu (2014) affirms that there is a plethora of evidence on how good governance bolstered development in South American countries: Mills (2010) found that poverty was reduced considerably from 55% to 18% in Costa Rica; 85% to 34% in El-Salvador; and 57% to 44% in Columbia (Ukwandu, 2014; Mills 2010 as cited in Ukwandu and Jarbandhan, 2016). Danvergne and Farias (2012) highlight the scope of Brazil economic transformation and development over two decades to include fundamentals of good governance.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Good governance encapsulates responsible and effective governance. It forms the basis for and drives national development. These are critical issues to ponder if Nigeria is to ignite its economy and be on a sustainable growth path. Invariably, national development is achieved when the fundamentals of good governance such as human rights, civil liberties, civil rights, freedom of speech

and association, improved standard of living social security, employment, social welfare, education, social infrastructure, transparency and accountability, justice, egalitarianism, democracy, efficient public administration and the likes are practiced or adhered to.

African countries must take up the challenge to be committed to the ideals of good governance which has been grossly lacking. In Nigeria, political leaders must begin to take serious cognizance of the issues of accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, increasing citizen participation, building strong civil, egalitarian and economically vibrant nation. They must also begin to show better commitment to policy implementation. Institutions of government: ministries, departments and agencies must begin to do more in terms of delivering good governance. They have to do that quick and in quantum too, given the state of backwardness and fast growing population.

Fidelity of governance is ensured if there is information flow between the governor and the governed, government needs to be informed in order to know citizens needs and as such make policies and strategies in that direction. The citizens also need to know about government policies and strategies in order to know how to act or do what is expected of them. The library assumes a great importance in the information age as it serves to acquire, preserve and disseminate information. Information is vital to attaining scientific, technological,

political and economic development of a nation. Invariably, the progress of a nation depends on how informed its citizens are.

The library as a custodian and treasure of information is an indispensable medium, platform, facility and infrastructure of national development. The library can play its designated role in advancing national development if given proper attention in terms of investment. Therefore, there is a need to consciously develop libraries in Nigeria. Proactive information service delivery is advocated for library and information professionals through a process of diagnoses and customization. Government should enact enabling laws and formulate policies which will; enhance the growth of libraries and librarianship in Nigeria; and ensure that library services are fully integrated into all national development programmes.

Government should include investment in libraries in its development plans and strategies. Great nations from which Nigeria can take a cue have invested a lot in building their library systems with intangible results. Therefore, investment in the library should be made a priority by all stakeholders in the society. Government at all levels should invest in National and Public libraries. Philanthropies should institute foundations to support all type of libraries.

National development is achieved when the ingredients of good governance including social, political and economic change, transformation, improvement, progress or advancement are present in a society. With the current situation of inadequacies suffered in Nigeria, there is no doubt that there is need for advancement and it has taken steps in that direction in respect of plans (policies) and strategies, the problem has being that of implementation. Therefore, there is need for the leadership to be committed to thorough implementation of set national development plans and strategies in order to speed up national development that has remained a mirage. Quality leadership in all aspect of governance is needed to propel Nigeria to the next level. Public officials and institutions must be determined and dedicated to responsive and effective governance that will deliver public goods and services.

References

- Abdeleyalil, A. (2014). The Relationship between Good Governance and Development.
- Achitabinwo, P. (2007). Libraries and National Development. Retrieved 11th September, 2018 from <http://11pachitabinwo.blogspot.com/20>.
- Akume, A.TA. (2012). Leadership in Nigeria: A paradox for action for resource mobilization in a depressed and privatized economy for national development: *International Review of Social Science and Humanities*. 3(2): 75-85.
- Asian Development Bank, ADB, (1999). Governance. Sound Development Management. Manila: Asia Development Bank.
- Benette, W.L (2003). News: The Politics of Illusion (5th ed). New York: Longman Publishing, Inc.
- Casmir, F.L (1991). Communication in Development. New Jessay: Ablex Publishing Corporation.
- Dauvergne, P. and Farias, D.B.L (2012). The Rise of Brazil as a Global Development Power. *Third World Quarterly*-33(5):903-917.
- Diamon, L. (2004). Promoting Real Reform in Africa. “ In” Democratic Reform in Africa. The quality of progress. E-Gymah-Boadi (ed). Boulder, Co.,Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.
- Ekundayo, W.J. (2015). National Development in Nigeria and the Indispensable lessons for Nigeria to learn from the Asian Tigers. *Journal of Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Africa*. 2(4). 10-16
- Entman, R.M (1989). Democracy without citizens. Media and the decay of American Politics, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Ezeala, L.O (2007). Libraries: Infinite possibilities for development. A paper presented at the 2017 library week of Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Headquarters Complex, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria. 13th November.
- Gboyega, A. (2003). Democracy and Development: The Imperative of Local Governance. An Inaugural Lecture, University of Ibadan-PP.6-7.
- Gyimah-Boadi, E. (2004). Democratic Reform in Africa. The quality of progress. Boulder, Co, Lynne Reinner Publishers, Inc.

- Ifijeh., G. Iwu-James, J. and Adebayo, O. (2016). Digital Inclusion and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: The Role of Libraries. 3rd International Conference on African Development Issues (CU-ICADI 2016). 52 - 56
- Igbafen. M.I. (2012) The challenges of philanthropy Leadership and Development in Africa: Theory and Praxis. Ibadan: Book Wright Publishers.
- Ihonvbere, J.O. (2012). Philanthropy, Leadership and Development. In- M.I. Lawal, T. and Oluwatoyin, A. (2011). Challenges and Prospects. Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research. 3(9): 237-241.
- Ikoku, R. (2012). Special Libraries. Retrieved 11th September, 2018 from <http://www.ifla.org/iv/iflar/34/134.88e.htm>.
- International Monetary Fund (1997). Good governance: The IMF's Role. Washington DC: Internal Monetary Fund, Publication Services.
- Kaufmann, D. (2003). Rethinking Governance: Empirical lesson challenge Orthodoxy. Washington, DC.: The World Bank.
- Kaufmann,D, Kraay, A. and Mastruzzi, M. (2005). Governance Matters IV for 1996-2004. The World Bank, Institute Global Governance. Policy Research Working Paper.
- Khan, M (2009). Introduction: The aid-good governance conundrum: Researching for more realistic discourse. International Review of Administrative Sciences. 75(4): 555-563.
- Kide Sheng, Y. (2010). Good Urban Governance in Southeast Asia. Environment and Urbanisation Asia. 1(2): 131-147.
- Kothari; U and Cooke, B (2004). Participation: The New Tyranny? London: Zed Books.
- Lawal, G and Tobi, A. (2006). Bureaucratic Corruption, good governance and development: The challenges and prospects of constitution building in Nigeria. Journal of Applied Science Research. 2(10): 642-649.
- Lawal, T. and Oluwatoyin, A. (2011). National Development in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Prospects. Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research. 3(9): 237-241.

- McCombs, M. and Reynolds, A. (2009). How the News Shapes our Civic Agenda. *Media Effects advances in Fleory and Regeirch*: Jennings and Mary Beth Oliver (eds). New York: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.
- Nevin, E. (2008). Education and Sustainable Development' policy and practice: A development education review. *Spring*. 6:49-62.
- Nwanko, R.N (1992). Press, Politics, and State in Africa: Theoretical Framework and Overview. "In" *Press and Politics in Africa*. Richard Tamba M' Bato, Chucka Onwumechili; and R. Nwafor Nwanko (eds)' Lampeter, Wales: The Edwin Mellen Press.
- Ochogwu, M.G. (2017).The internalities and Externalities of Library and Information Delivery Services in Nigeria by the year 2015. *Nigeria Libraries*. Vol. 40:15-26.
- Okoro, E.A (2010) Communication, Civil Society, and Democratisation in Africa: Perspectives on Political development. "In" *Communication in an Era of Global Conflicts: Principles and Strategies for the 21st Century Africa*. Richard T. M'Bayo, Chucka Onwumechi, and Bala A. Musa (eds). Laham, MD: United Press of America.
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (1995). *Participation Development and Good Governance*. Paris: OECD.
- Sabalaje, A.J. and Ogunmodede, T.A. (2015). Roles of academic development of Nigeria. *Greener Journal of Social Science*. 5(2): 36-41.
- Sen, A. (1999). *Development as Freedom*. Oxford: Oxford Press.
- Shah, A. (2012). Sustainable Development. Retrieved 11th September, 2018 from <http://www-globalissueue-org/article/408/sustainable-development-introduction>.
- Sharon, N.O; Joseph, Sh. O, Imhnopi, D and Evbuoma, Z.K. (2016). Good Governance and Leadership in Nigeria. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance*. 6(1): 35-49.
- The World Bank (2009). *The Media and development: World Bank Working Paper Number 158*. Washington DC: The World Bank.

- Tyonum, N.M. and Ezeogu, P.A. (2015). Library and Education: Panacea for sustainable development in Nigeria. *Asian Formal Information Science and Technology*. 5(2): 28-31.
- Ukwandu, D.C. and Jarbandhan, D.B. (2016). Exploring the relationship between good governance and development in sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from South America. *Africa Journal of Public Affairs*. 9(4): 21-37
- United Nation (1998). Annual Report of the Secretary-general on the work of the organisation, August, 27. Retrieved 19th September, 2018 from www.un-org/docs/SG/Report98/ch2.htm.
- United State Agency for International Development, USAID. (2005). Democracy and Governance. Retrieved 17th September, 2018 from [http://www.usaid.gov/ourwork/democracy and governance](http://www.usaid.gov/ourwork/democracy%20and%20governance).
- Yi, D.J. and Woo, J.H. (2014). Democracy, policy and inequality: Efforts and consequences in the developing world. *International Political Review*. 1-18.