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STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES FOR PROMOTING DIGITAL INCLUSION AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: THE LIBRARY PERSPECTIVE.

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STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES FOR PROMOTING DIGITAL INCLUSION AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: THE LIBRARY PERSPECTIVE.

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ABSTRACT

This paper examined the challenges and strategies of digital inclusion and inclusive development in Nigeria, with particular attention to the library perspective. The paper espouses the contribution of digital inclusion and libraries to inclusive development. It explicates the benefit of replicating these contributions in national development. The paper relied on qualitative techniques premised on empirical example from literature including case studies and success stories from around the world. The paper revealed that in spite of the positive contributions of ICTs to the development of Nigeria, especially in aspect of high digital penetration rate, and being one of the fastest growing in the world, there are still challenges including those of access, affordability, lack of appreciation of libraries and poor funding for them, militating against digital inclusion and inclusive development in Nigeria. The paper recommended among other things that taking a cue from success stories around the world, appropriate digital inclusion and inclusive development policies and strategies that will aid in revolutionalising and transforming Nigeria's development be adopted. The paper is divided into five which includes introduction, conceptual framework, contextual discourse, conclusion and recommendations.

Keywords: Digital inclusion; ICTs, Digital literacy, libraries, inclusive development.

1.0　Introduction

Historical antecedents of nations worldwide revealed that economics of different countries have been reshaped and restructured through application of revolutionary technological inventions (Oxford Economics, 2011). With the advent of digital technologies, the path of the global economy is undergoing significant changes in the rate and composition of productivity growth, investment and employment gains. Also a convergence of these new technologies is already transforming the production and distribution of goods and services and is constantly evolving. Rapidly evolving technologies especially information and communication technologies (ICTs) create opportunities for productivity growth improvement and improvement in well- being, but they also create considerable challenges for skills, employment, productivity diffusion and income distribution (OECD, 2018:2).

The ICT as powerful tools drive societal transformation by empowering, enlightening and enriching people. It is the continuous life-long learning committed to innovation, helps in building the core competence and competitive intelligence of the people across the globe, thereby leading to sustainable development and as such inclusive growth. As per a recent study, internet and e-media are the most powerful technologies that are making great impact in building the knowledge-based society. ICT software, hardware, tools, mobile technologies and gadgets all revolutionise and play key roles in the knowledge-based society KBS, (Vaithiyanathan, 2012).

It cannot be over emphasised that ICTs being the tool for information management: acquisition, processing and dissemination Oloruntoyin and Adeyanju, Raji, 2018, Adebayo et al 2018:2) holds the key to sustainable (inclusive) development in any country. Information (Knowledge) has become the most important factor of production in the current era tagged

information/Knowledge society/economy. Iji et al (2013) aver that indeed the economy of the present era is one in which information is both the currency and product. In the same vein its management has become very important. Iji et al (2013) noted that an information economy is where the productivity and competitiveness of units or agents in the economy depend mainly on their capacity to generate, process and apply efficiently knowledge-based information. Similarly, Oloruntoyin and Adeyanju (2013) noted that over the past decade, new applications of ICT have improved service delivery, transparency, and public access in Nigeria's development. The authors suggested that effective integration of ICT with the society for information sharing can enable forces which lead to a sustainable society development.

The emphasis on information management for inclusive development was brought to the fore at the World Summits on the information society held in Geneva in 2003 and in ICTs to enhance the delivery of information sources to society. One of the cardinal objectives of these summits was:

> *To build an inclusive information society, to put the potentials of knowledge and ICTs at the service of development; to provide the use of information and knowledge for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and to address new challenges of the information society, at national, regional and international levels (Omekwu, 2006:73 cited in Ochogwu 2007:17)*

In line with the above Ochogwu explicates the role of libraries as dynamic engine for knowledge and information society thus: libraries which are professionally organised collection of graphic and non-graphic materials for

exploitation are of different types established to satisfy the different information needs of society. They include public academic, school, special and national libraries. Thus Libraries and their sphere of influence are defined by the type of user community they serve. These services include facilitating digital inclusion which invariably is a driver of inclusive development.

Ifijeh et al (2016:55) stated that libraries role in digital inclusion follow the same pattern including acquisition of ICTs and provision of access to digital technologies Ifijeh et al also aver that; they are always vital parts of any digital inclusive initiative aimed at equipping people with digital skills which will meet their information needs and increase their chances of enjoying lifelong skills to contribute to sustainable development. The scholars further aver that they are helping in closing the digital divide as they also offer free or subsidized internet access alongside support and training for users. By these libraries at different levels are playing critical roles in surmounting the challenges of digital inclusive development, to meet contemporary development needs and challenges, as the concept gradually finds its way into the development discourse. Development consist of more than improvement in the well-being of citizens, it also derives the capacity of economic, political and social systems to provide the circumstances for that well-being on a sustainable, long-term basis (Kabur and Rauniyar, 2009). To this extent inclusive development hinges on the inclusive of included people and the utilisation of their capacities (Johnson and Anderson, 2012).

It acknowledged that inclusive development is a recent dimension of development that puts a strong emphasis on the poorest and most marginalized by taking into account economic, social and environmental dimensions and structural factors that hinder the poorest from participating in the development process (Van Gent, 2017:8). This is because according to Van Gent it has become increasingly clear that economic growth is not sufficient on its own in improving the welfare of

a population. Social, economic, political and environmental factors in a country specific context determine and shape contemporary development needs and challenges.

This perhaps explains why many developing countries including Nigeria are increasingly adopting concepts of inclusive development and growth. For instance, India aims at inclusive growth, China aims at social harmony, Nigeria aims at fighting corruption and national cohesion.

1.1   Statement of Problem

The rate of poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa which Nigeria belongs is significantly lower in comparison to other developing regions, and numbers of extreme poverty thus remained high. In Nigeria about 50% that is 93 million out of an estimated 200 million according to the global poverty watch, still lives in extreme poverty. Evidence also shows that the pace of progress towards inclusive development in Africa is too slow, and it6s drives too limited to meet the needs of its poorest population groups (AFDB, 2014, ASD1, 2017 as cited in Van Gent, 2017: 1).

This brewing inequality may be as a result of knowledge gap that includes gaps in digital inclusion. Jaegar (2012) avers that despite the spread of ICTs all over the globe there are concerns of increasing marginalisation of groups of people, resulting in digital divide between countries and social divide between individuals within a nation, with regards to their opportunities for a wide variety of activities and this includes economic development. Harnessing the potentials of digital technologies to galvanise economics requires closing the divide between various social strata of an economy using various drives including the library.

1.2   Research Questions

The following fundamental emanating from statement research questions, will suffice for this paper:

1. What is the role of the library in promoting digital inclusion and inclusive development in Nigeria? In harnessing and exploiting the potentials of the library towards digital inclusion and inclusive development?

2. What is the level of digital inclusion in Nigeria? In other words, how has digital inclusion promoted inclusive development in Nigeria?

3. What are the challenges militating against digital inclusion and inclusive development in Nigeria?

4. What measures can be taken to tackle these challenges?

1.3   Aim and Objective of Study

1.3.1 Aim

The aim of this paper is to examine the strategies and challenges for promoting digital inclusion and inclusive development in Nigeria with reference to the library perspective.

1.3.2 Objective of the Study

The objective of this paper is to examine the key domains in which inclusive development evidence-based development policies and strategies.

1   Conceptual Framework

2.1 Digital Inclusion

The Federal Communication Commission FCC (2017 adopts the definition provided by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance which digital inclusion as the activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use ICT. Reder (2015) states that one widely used definition which appeared in the "Building Digital Inclusive Community Framework" stressed that:

Digital inclusion is the ability of individuals and groups to access information and communication technologies. It encompasses not only access to internet but also availability of hardware and software; relevant content and services; training for the digital literacy skills required for effective use of information and communication technologies

Sampiao (2010) sees digital inclusion as the ability to access, adapt and create new knowledge using ICT. According to Sampiao digital inclusion further implies processing both technical and operational capacity to navigate the world of ICTS. Gov. UK added that digital inclusion is a facet of social inclusion and it provides the right access to the digital world for intellectual development. Leep (2016) avers that broad definitions of digital inclusion often encompass areas of access, technology literacy, relevant content and services, motivation, skills and trust.

The context of these definitions implies that digital inclusion must evolve as technology advances and recognises that access to and use of ICTs is an essential element for participation in society (Iji and Abah, 2019). It is simply about getting everyone involved in what is fast becoming the most important driver of the quality of life we live … It is about enabling more people to gain access to the Internet and thus ensuring diversity (Olufuye, 2012)

2.2 Inclusive development

The world Press Admin's (2016) definition of economic development best explains what inclusive development means. That is, the sustained, concerted actions of communities and policy makers that improve the standard of living and economic health of a specific locality. It refers to qualitative and quantitative changes in an existing economy. It further involves development of human capital, increasing literacy ratio, improvement of important infrastructure, health, safety and other areas that aim at increasing the general welfare of the citizens.

Inclusive development is often equated with inclusive growth which the World Economic Forum (2015) says is depicted as output growth that is sustained over decades, is broad-based across economic sectors, creates productive employment opportunities for a great majority of the country's working age population, and reduces poverty. The UNDP (2015) declares that inclusive growth is about expanding national economy and ensuring that most vulnerable people of societies are reached. The quality of opportunity and participation in growth by all are the basis of inclusive growth.

2.3 Strategies for Promoting Digital Inclusion

According to Taylor (2017). Consistent with Hangzhon Communiqué a wider focus from all stakeholders is necessary, including:

2.3.1 *Infrasfracture building*: The speeds of mobile Internet remains depend on substantial investments to grow the fined network. Government and private sector needs to work together to build infrastructure capacity. Necessary infrastructure promotes speed. This has brought about dramatic changes in consumer patterns and increasing demand for data. NP for instance faster speeds, lower latency and reduced costs arising from the Nigerian 1Xp (i.e local data centres and internet exchange points) enable Iroko TV, a local content creator to reach a global audience with its video streaming service, success at home stimulating international demands and raised awareness of Nollywood, thus promoting local economy. NP when the Kenyan Government joined the local IXP, the impact on speed was immediate, and tax revenue grew. This increase the government's confidence to continue to invest (GCIG, 2016:18-19; Information Society, 2016; Bello and Jung, 2015 cited in Taylor, 2017).

2.3.2 *Affordability and Providing Access*: Affordable broadband connectively is an enabler of economic growth. For instance, 40% of e-commerce sales in China do not replace off-line transactions; they unlocked incremental consumption

(Mckinsay Global Institute, 2013). Yet only 15% of the world's population can afford access to broadband Internet (World Bank; 2016:6). Internet technologies have the potential to transform society. Access to online information is a crucial engine of learning and human development (Global Commission on Internet Governance, GCIG, 2016 cited in Taylor, 2017).The Internet can realize economic gains by lowering costs, raising efficiency and increasing labour productivity (World Bank, 2016). Mobile access is key enabler for innovation and inclusion in developing countries (Taylor, 2017).

2.3.4 *Building human capacity*: Education and digital literacy programmes are vital to provide tomorrow's software engineers, local content providers, and policy makers with the skills they need to contribute to and benefit from the information society as creators and not just consumers (Taylor, 2017).

When Google began to support Setswana in Botswana, it had a remarkable impact in neighboring South Africa, where the language is spoken. Because language content could be found in search results, content creators started to provide more content in Setswana. Research shows that employment and computer ownership both increased substantially (Quast, 2016 cited in Taylor, 2017).

2.3.5 *Ensuring digital inclusion and open knowledge environment (OKE)*: People have little incentive to go online if there is no useful content in a language they can understand (GCIG, 2016:26 cited in Taylor, 2017).When Google began to support Setswana in Botswana, it had a remarkable impact in neighboring South Africa, where the language is spoken. Because language content could be found in search results, content creators started to provide more content in Setswana. Research shows that employment and computer ownership both increased substantially (Quast, 2016 cited in Taylor, 2017).Nigeria local languages are increasing on the internet: Yoruba currently has 142,400,000 pages, followed by

Hausa 52,000,000 pages, and Igbo 46,700 pages. A good policy framework will open niche market to service its rich culture diversity (Olufuye, 2012).

2.3.6 *Measuring Access is essential*: Having up to date, high-quality information is vital for guiding appropriate policy response. Knowing how many people are connected, how they are connecting and the impact of being connected can help all stakeholders make informed decisions about how to address digital divides (Taylor, 2017).

The Federal Communication Commission-FCC (2017) of the United States, the equivalent of the National Communication Commission- NCC in Nigeria, Gillwald (2017:5-6), GSMA, Damodaran and Olphert (2006) classified into five elements, strategies for promoting digital inclusion;

1. Affordable robust broadband internet services;
2. Infrastructure: Internet enable devices that meets the needs of the users;
3. Access to digital literacy training;
4. Quality technical support;
5. Applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration.

2.4   Strategies for Inclusive Development

Inclusive development considers whether development progress is sufficiently widespread for majority of a population to benefit. Strategies to drive inclusive development according to Riley (2018) therefore include:

2.4.1 Provision of access to improved quality of core public goods and merit goods.

2.4.2 Provision of Housing, early years of education, interventions to tackle malnutrition, road infrastructure and ID systems.

2.4.3 Labour market protection including employment rights, minimum wages, union recognition.

2.4.4 Raising sufficient tax revenue to provide welfare and building progressively into tax system.

2.4.5 Laws to protect rights, especially urban areas.

2.5 **Challenges to digital inclusion**

Evidence indicates that benefits of internet technologies are accessing unevenly, and that gaps between countries are growing. The better educated, well connected and more capable have received disproportionate gains from the internet revolution (World Bank, 2016:3).Internet users in developing countries are paying more for internet access at slower speeds. Sector-specific tariffs and taxation have inhibited growth in some countries (World Bank 2016; GCIG, 2016).

Many studies on technology penetration in Nigeria including, Agbo-Egwu, et al (2017), NCC (2018), and Twinepine Network (2017) attest to the increasing number of Nigerians harnessing the power of digital technologies. However, barriers in affordability, broadband, and investment, have relegated the country to the background among the Commonwealth of Nations. Specifically, mobile subscribers in Nigeria users' services relatively less than other African countries like Rwanda, Kenya and South Africa even though Nigeria is now the largest economy in Africa and has the largest mobile market in the continent (GSMA, 2015). In terms of skills and digital literacy, which reflects the human capital endowment of a country, Siemens (2017) reports that Nigeria still lags behind South Africa and Kenya. These statistics cut across digital training, digital tools usage and skills.

Though the investment effect of ICT on productivity of Nigeria is positive and significant as revealed by Iji and Abah (2019), in order to sustain this to attain a truly digitally inclusive society and as such inclusive development, there is need to make ICTs readily available, accessible and also ensure acquisition of skills for digital literacy. It is important to give attention to these issues because surveys conducted in some countries considered to be digitally advanced revealed that gaps exist between self-perceived and actual level of digital skills. Even young people who are falsely assumed to be digital natives usually underperform in practical tests (ECDL Foundation, 2016).

2   CONTEXTUAL DISCOURSE

3.1 Nigeria's Internet Usage

Nigeria is the biggest economy in Africa, services is the largest sector of the economy, accounting for about 50% of total GDP. One of the fastest growing segments in services is information and communication, which together account for 10% of the total output. As at 2018 Nigeria had 92.3 million internet users. This figure is projected to grow to 187 million in 2023. The internet penetration amounted to 47.1% of the population and set to reach 84.5% by 2023.

In the most recently measured period there were almost 50 million mobile internet users in Nigeria, and mobile phone internet usage is particularly popular. The country is considered a mobile-first market where infrastructure and online usage development skipped wide-ranging desktop PC adoption and want straight to mobile internet usage via inexpensive smart phones instead (Clement, 2019).

3.2   Nigerian's Economic Outlook

More than 62% of Nigeria's estimated 186 million populations are less than 25 years and its growing middle class makes up 23% of the population. Over the last 5 years, Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth averaged 6.8%. In

the first quarter of 2013 the GDP in Nigeria increased to 7.67% current GDP stands at 375.8 billion USD. Annual growth rate is 1.6% in 2016, 0.8% in 2017, 1.9% in 2018 and 2.2% 2019 forecast. The country's per capital gross domestic product of 2.049% is much too low, as are its living standards. Based on its economy, healthcare, and living standards, Nigeria is a long way from being classified as a developed country.

Nigeria's Gross National Income (GNI) is 1.085 trillion PPP dollars. Nigeria's per capital income is 5.680 dollars. After about 50 years of production oil has brought Nigeria about $600 billion. Though Nigeria has one of the world's highest economic growth rates averaging 7.4%, but poverty still remains significant at 33.1% in Africa biggest economy. New data published by National Bureau of Statistics, NBS (2017) pegs the unemployment at 14.2% in the last quarter of 2016, up from 13.9% in the preceding quarter. It's the ninth consecutive quarter that unemployment rate in Nigeria has increased. The country has one of the lowest per capital spending levels resulting in 65% of the estimated 186 million citizens living in extreme poverty. These conditions breed disaffection in the society entice corruption and promote ineffective governance (World Bank, 20/14, 2017).

These statistics show that Nigeria's economic performance indicators are at best undulating, inconsistent and at best weak. It then means that although Nigeria is one of the largest economies in sub-Saharan Africa, it must overcome these significant development and governance challenges to fulfill its true potentials. Furthermore, Nigeria's economic calculus portrays an economy full of potentials that can leapfrog into sustained growth and advancement if optimized for citizens benefits. Despite various efforts by successive governments to transform the economy, it is still performing well below expectations. Ekpo (2013) describes the economy as backward and underdeveloped even with robust growth rates.

Despite the opportunity offered by its significant oil reserves over the years, Nigeria is yet to put in place factors necessary for creating an inclusive growth process. Though, there are some significant gaps in data educational outcome, the picture remains one of low enrollment, insufficient quality, and wide divergence in student performance based on socio economic background. Participation in the labour force is quite low, with a large informal sector and much of the population working hard but unable to pull their families out of poverty. Only 3.9% of income goes to labour, resulting in low wages and over 80% of the population living on less than $2 a day. The country suffers from poor infrastructure and a lack of basic services, with corruption and diversion of public funds making it difficult for the government to deliver public goods.

Despite its strong fundamentals, Nigeria has been hobbled by inadequate power supply, lack of infrastructure, insecurity, pervasive corruption. Economic diversification and strong growth have not translated with significant decline in poverty level. Recent statistics reveal that over 80% of Nigeria's estimated 200 million people live in extreme poverty (Nigeria Economy, 2016). Also, despite a relatively entrepreneurial environment, Nigeria is not yet able to attain growth that is sustainable and broad based (World Economic Forum, 2015). This situation calls for immediate, deliberate and far-reaching action if Nigeria would get it right in the present highly competitive global arena, hence the need to work hard towards delivering inclusive development.

3.3   Libraries, Digital Inclusion and Inclusive Development in Nigeria

Libraries play essential role in helping to meet the grand challenge of development by providing public access to information, public access to information and Communication Technologies, helping people to develop the

capacity to effectively use information, and by preserving information to ensure on-going access for future generations (Bradley, 2016:2).

Access to information has been recognised as a target under Sustainable Development Goal 16 Target 10 thus: ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms in accordance with national legislation and international agreements (IFLA, 2017:2). Libraries are key public institutions that have vital role to play in development at every level of society. Increasing access to information and knowledge across society, assisted by the availability of information and communication technologies (ICTs), supports sustainable development and improves peoples' lives (IFLA, 2017:4).

Librarians have long understood that by giving access to information, they improve the lives of their communities. Access allows people to learn, take part in society, make better choices, and innovate. It pays off in every aspect of people's lives: find jobs, building networks, staying healthy, and coming up with ways to

3.3.1 Empirical examples of how libraries help achieve inclusive development around the world.

Variety of examples of how Libraries help achieve development using the SDG model (IFLA 2017:21-25):

In Slovanian (Eradicating Poverty): The Ljubljana City Library hosts an employment information service (EIS) which helps around 1,200 people a

year, the library provides media and information library skills, the library works closely with centre for the prevention and Treatment of Drug Addiction at the University Hospital of Psychiatry in Ljubljana to support rehabilitation, reintegration and social inclusion.

In Romania (tackling hunger) Librarians trained by Biblionet helped 100,000 farmers get US$ 187 million in subsidies via new internet computer services in 2011-2012. The programme helper farmers learn how to use the technology in libraries to access financial forms and submit them to the government, saving time and money.

In Uganda (Good Health): The Uganda Health Information Digest published by the Makere University Library repackages scholarly information in print format for health workers who cannot access the information online.

In Europe (Good Jobs and Economic Growth): 250,000 people find jobs through their public library in the European Union each year. Public access to ICT and skills enables people to apply for jobs, as the application for all jobs has moved online. For instance, in Sweden (Quality Education): Malmo City Library works to overcome the digital divide and encourage social inclusion and sustainability. Digitally inexperienced people learn how to open email accounts.

In the United States, the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) is an on-going open access digital library for biodiversity literature. Scientists around the world are using the data; such data can be used to inform policies related to conservation, sustainable development, and responsible resource management.

Internationally (Partnership for the Development Goals): the World Bank Group Library provides staff and the global community with access to relevant information and services to foster knowledge transfer, good governance and economic development to bring about shared growth and prosperity worldwide in line with the World Bank Strategy to end extreme poverty by 2030

Libraries have always evolved to meet the needs of societies. In Nigeria libraries and ICTs have no doubt brought tremendous progress in all ramifications of human development. The share presence of multitude of libraries 5,000 or more of them (Ochogwu, 2006:21), including National, Public, School, Academic, and special libraries in their hundreds and performing their inherent duties as an indication of the great potential they have to contribute to inclusive development in the country.

The National Library of Nigeria (NLN) for instance, is the vanguard of library development and information services delivery in Nigeria. The NLN has

been a vital organ that acts as the intellectual memory providing the intellectual ammunition to aid government officers in policy making and implementation. It is instructive to note that, the NLN is the only national library in the world that operates from more than one geographical location. As at today, the NLN operates in 25 out of the 36 states of the federation and Abuja the Federal capital (Sule, 2014).

The academic and special libraries in the about 500 tertiary institutions and their equivalents in Nigeria, and about 50 research and special institution across the country are contributing to the achievement of the aspirations and overall goal of their parent institutions in a number of ways. This includes providing information, lending and online reading list services for users. In fact these libraries are at the fore front of delivering ICT services to users in their sphere of influence.

The Federal Ministry of Education (FME) Library Services Unit is charged with the provision of information for education, research, planning and recreation for effective and efficient service delivery. The library provides access to all types of materials which contain credible and substantial information required for good governance, national growth and development especially on education matters.

The school Library is an invaluable component of education growth and development as it enhances teachers' proficiency, supports students and pupils

towards improved learning, scale-up development of employable skills and broader students' horizon (FME, 2019).

The public libraries being local gateways to information and knowledge with their headquarters in state capitals and branches in headquarters of local governments are mobilising the Nigerian public with their programmes, activities and services to contribute their quota to national development.

One of the cardinal objectives of the Nigerian Library Association, the umbrella body for all librarians in Nigeria, is to promote the establishment and development of libraries and information centres in Nigeria.

3.3.2 Challenges to Libraries performance in Nigeria

Despite all of the above there are longstanding challenges to the potentials of the library in Nigeria militating against the effective achievement of the inherent roles emaciated above. Adebayo et al (2018) stated that despite the availability of wide opportunities offered by the advent of ICTs, it has been observed that its application to library services in Nigeria seems inadequate due to a variety of challenges.

For instance, the NLN since its establishment in 1964 by the National Library Act, now National Library Decree No. 29 of 1970, has been bedevilled with challenges of recognition, funding and public support (Sule, 2014). Itsekor (2011) investigates the provision and use of libraries in the National Policy of

Education in Nigeria and found that the policies are not being implemented especially in school libraries.

Poor demand for the establishment of libraries and information centres. While it is a common feature to see Nigerian communities requesting for the establishment of hospitals, schools and other social services in their communities, rarely do they call for the establishment of libraries. This could explain the absence of divisional and mobile libraries around the country (Ochogwu, 2006:21).

This according to Ochogwu is responsible for the low ratio of libraries to citizens in the country. For instance, nobody if the ratio of libraries to Nigerians if 1:1 million, but if that of medical doctors is 1:100,000, this will raise a lot of dust in most communities. Also as at today, Nigeria with an estimated population of about 186 million (World Bank and National Bureau of Statistics million projections) has about 30 library school (JAMB Brochure 2018/2019) with above 5000 libraries. The United States of America with a population of about 300 million has 72 library tools and has 137,697 libraries. Great Britain with a population of 55 million has 16 library schools. The more library schools a nation has, the more professionals that are trained to deliver information services to her citizen, the more the prospects of achieving digital inclusion and inclusive development.

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, successive governments over the years have not provided adequate funding for the training and retraining of librarian and for library development in general (Ochogwu, 2006:21).

Also, because of lack of adequate funding for library services by various governments of this country, all the different types of libraries and other information systems can hardly render information services that are digitally based. Most libraries find it difficult to subscribe to online data bases and have access to the internet (Ochogwu, 2006:23). Some of the militating factors responsible for this is the lack of appreciation of the role of the library and information by the government, the institution's and library's management (Faboyinde, Akintunde 2006 as cited in Ochogwu, 2006).

Ifijeh et al, (2016:56) stressed that a cursory view 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. This statement buttressed Ochogwu, Faboyinde, and Akintunde's submissions as stated above.

4.0 Conclusion

Development would remain a mirage to any country whose citizens cannot effectively and efficiently deploy the concept of digital inclusion and inclusive development. It is based on this premise that these concepts have become a major discourse in global literature.

According to Grassi (2013), inclusion has many benefits to a society some of which are: providing sense of belonging, acceptance, and developmentally appropriate practice. Development is said to be inclusive when it brings about equity and fairness as well as creating an environment conducive to sustained growth in the economy. It also entails harnessing all necessary inputs including the potentials of digital technologies and libraries to stimulate development.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have remained a catalyst in the issues of national development. Information as an enabler is an infinite resource and a vital tool needed for the development of all sectors in any nation. It is therefore imperative that its application in libraries would go a long way in satisfying the information needs of citizens. Worthy of note is that the emergence of ICTs has impacted greatly on the quality of information provided through libraries (Adebayo, et al, 2018:2). This has positioned libraries in good stead to contribute to digital inclusion and inclusive development. To advance development, it is very important to take digital inclusion into cognisance because

it helps to create an informed society. This can be achieved by transforming members of the society from the digitally excluded to the digitally included.

Harnessing the potentials of digital technologies to galvanise economics requires closing the digital device between various social strata in an economy. This includes consistent and concerted efforts as investing in infrastructure, multitudinous adoption and adaptation of these technologies, skills acquisition, and countries developing their digital infrastructure and adopting favourable policies and commensurate strategies. To this extent government needs effective action frameworks.

Therefore, nations including Nigeria should build themselves into knowledge societies by understanding the dynamics of knowledge and transforming into wealth. To achieve this government in line with Digital inclusion strategies should support stakeholders to establish enabling environments through policies that enhance education initiatives, promoting innovation and creativity, public-private research and development partnerships.

5.0 Recommendations

1. To get Nigeria connected will require all stakeholders doing things differently from what is being done now. There is need to identify multiple strategies across ICT ecosystem that will enable Nigeria to reach the critical mass and intensity of use needed for network effects associated with

broadband expansion and to have the digital skills and awareness to exercise their rights online.

2.   Action is needed to enable internet technologies to activate their transformative potential. Therefore, government and regulators, working in cooperation with all stakeholders, need to adopt policies that encourage competition and foster investment in networks, to enable access, promote innovation and development.

3.   Government and regulators need to make it a priority to increase the affordability of internet services and devices and to promote openness and fair competition. Tax policies should not be as the market for Internet services or devices; governments should in a transparent and neutral manner, provide subsidies and incentives to consumers to use the Internet.

4,   Libraries in Nigeria must show that they can drive progress across the entire spectrum of development in their various spheres of influence. Harnessing the potentials of digital technologies to drive and empower citizens has become comparative as it is inevitable. Therefore Nigerian libraries should be more strategic, aggressive and effective in.

5.   The National Bureau of Statistics and related agencies should actively collect information on internet access. Government should invest more resources

and work in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders to define consistent metrics.

6. For any nation in this current era of information and knowledge based economy to advance its development to the level of inclusivity requires the subtle but immense contributions of the library. Therefore the NLA which is the umbrella body of the library and information professional should be alive to its cardinal objective of promoting the establishment and development of libraries and information centres in Nigeria.

7. The National and Public Libraries can take a cue from other such libraries around the world that have already succeeded, to mobilise the Nigerian Public to better contribute their quota to national development by being more creative, innovative and intense with their programme and services.

8. Appropriate policy framework have always where they are implemented with vigour, transformed the economies of the implementing countries. In line with the core and most appealing innovation of the Internet Governance Forum Nigeria should embrace the multi-stakeholder nature where by government, the business community, the Civil Society, the Academia and the Technical Communities on equal footing contribute to shaping the future of the Internet.

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