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ROLE OF LIBRARIES BY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORKER IN OSUN STATE NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The role of the library of agricultural extension workers in Osun State, Nigeria is very important. Structural questionnaires were used to collect data from 160 extension workers in the study area, out of which 149 (93.1%) responded and were used for analysis. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data using frequency, percentage table, and regression analysis to test the relationship between variables. Findings showed that all the respondents were educated beyond the O' Level. The majority of extension workers do visit the public library to gather the information that is useful for farmers. Furthermore, extension workers have positive attitudes toward the usefulness of the library to increase their knowledge, working performance, and it also exposes the extension workers to new agricultural innovation. Also, the library plays a major role such as repackage agricultural information, presentation of agricultural documentaries (videos), access to existing databases (AGORA and TEEAL) and it bridges the gap between researchers and extension workers. The study discovered that improper information repackages, library personnel incompetency to provide farmer's information needs, and low-level ICT skills by extension workers to access library resources were seen by extension workers as major problems in the study area. More so, the result of the hypothesis shows that there is a strong relationship between academic status and type of library use by agricultural extension workers, this implies that the academic qualification shows the types of library use. Also, there exist strong relationships between the role of the library and the types of library use. This means that the role of the library has a meaningful impact on the type of library use by extension workers.

Key Words: Role, Agriculture, Extension Worker, Library, Farmers

INTRODUCTION

The general goal of a nation is largely determined by that nation's ability to produce its own food for the well-being of its citizens and benefit from the surplus production of agricultural produce for both local and international use. Agriculture is a key frontier in the drive towards food production. Agriculture has been in existence since the beginning of the world and its role in ensuring a reliable food supply for every mankind and animal. The need for relevant information has become inevitable as it provides a handy guide to the agricultural extension agents which in turn disseminate it to the farmers. Therefore every library is equipped to provide the latest information for the relevant work and comprehensive knowledge to an extension agent. The role of libraries in agricultural information management is for gathering, storing, retrieving, and disseminating innovations needed for farmers and linkages between researchers and extension agents.

John and Rose (2015) said libraries all over the world are on the verge of rapid changes as a result of the explosion of knowledge and literature, new subjects and advents of new ICTs, etc. Therefore, libraries in Nigeria also had witness changes and they also need to improve on their agricultural information and this can also be achieved through improved roles of libraries toward agriculture. Arokoyo (2005) stated that extension has as one of its important tasks, the exchange, and sharing of information, knowledge, and skills. However, the main concern for library extension services is that it provides the user with the necessary education and skills and technical “knowhow” to enable them to take effective decisions on how to enhance their information search processes. The main purpose of the Library extension service is to help agricultural extension agents to improve information search strategies so as to improve their knowledge of the latest farming activities.

Statement of the Problem

The provisions of library and information services in Africa to date have focused more on urban areas; hence there is serious neglect of the rural populace Auwalu and Mabruka (2017) cited from (Okoye, 2003). Nigeria libraries as those of Osun state have failed in their designated mission and are currently not perceived as significant players in the process of taking the responsibility of assisting agricultural extension agents in the provision of essential information. This could be attributed to the one way of existing information services provided by libraries. Harnessing information services as a dominant area of an extension agent can only be achieved when the extension agents value libraries, and become ready to seek and use information in solving daily activities regardless of the distance, format, or medium in which the information is available. Encouraging an extension agent can only be done by making them aware of the importance and role of libraries for their agricultural information sources. In response to this, therefore, some extension strategies should be adopted by extension agents to follow as a way to patronize libraries as a tool towards their information sources.

Objective of the study

The extension worker most of time use libraries to search for agricultural and rural developmental information that could be considered very crucial to farmers and researchers for the overall performance at the end of the day. Therefore, this call for examination, and the objectives of this paper are;

1. To find demographic factors of extension workers in Osun State.
2. To determine the attitude of extension workers toward the use of libraries in the study area.
3. To examines the role of libraries in supporting extension workers in the study area.
4. To examines the problems militating the extension worker in realigning with libraries.
5. To find out how the problems can be alleviated.

Research Questions

The objectives of this paper stated above translate to these research questions:

1. What are the demographic factors of extension workers?

2. What are the attitude of extension workers towards the use of libraries as a source of information in the state?
3. What are the roles of libraries in supporting agricultural extension workers in the study area?
4. What are the problems militating agricultural extension workers in realigning with libraries?
5. What are the ways these problems can be alleviated?

Test of Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between the demographic factors of agricultural extension workers and type of library use.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between type of library use by extension workers and the role of library.

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between problem militating against the extension workers and the role of library.

LETTERATURE REVIEW

Libraries and Agricultural Extension Workers

Nigeria's government (federal and state) has been the main financial supporter of university education since the 1950s (Agboola 2000) cited by (Valerie, Victor, and Peter, 2010) and continues to be the main donor today. Most federal universities receive funding through the National Universities Commission (NUC), while state own libraries are directly supported by state ministries of education and/or the relevant Governors' Office. According to Jerome, Ayotunde, Chidi, Ayooluwa, Sola, and Toluwani (2018) Nigeria as a country have several public libraries. Various libraries are established in all the states in Nigeria. Therefore, Osun state is not expected. Also, there are Agricultural extension agents in various communities in Nigeria. These extension agents serve as intermediaries between the libraries and the rural farmers in their day-to-day activities. Public libraries are libraries that are established by the government at a different level to render information provision to the citizens at no cost. Similarly, a Public library is generally referred to as a library that is open to the public and that serves the whole population of a local or regional community and is usually financed, in whole or in part, from public funds, its basic services are free of charge or available for a subsidized fee (ISO 20132789). Also, mobile library services used to be a veritable service for rural farmers and agricultural extension agents. Onyenachi, Akidi, and Onyekweodiri (2015) explained that Mobile library services have been used to reached segments of the rural population, it has brought improvements to rural areas, stimulated reading interest, and have increased general awareness on health, nutrition, child care, family planning, farming improvement, etc. but this has gone almost extinct due to poor maintenance culture and lack of government interest. Onwubuya, Nenna, and Ugbaja (2015) noted that agricultural extension works were dominated by male than the female counterpart. This is not surprising because field agricultural extension work is more practicing by a male in Nigeria. Also, Akintonde, Akinboye, Farayola, and Akintola, (2012) stated that the majority of agricultural

extension workers from Osun State had working years experience between 10 to 20 years. These are the active working year for any civil servant.

Concept of Libraries and Agricultural Extension Worker

Libraries are positioned around teaching, learning, and dissemination of information to the host institution and society at large. Libraries are categorized according to her location and user services that range from public, special, school, and academic libraries. Omopupa and Abdulraheem (2013) described libraries in higher educational institutions such as Universities, Polytechnics, Monotechnics, and Colleges of Education are referred to as academic libraries. So also Abubakar (2011) submitted the role of libraries are at the forefront of providing information services to their respective communities comprising of students, lecturers, and researchers in order to support their teaching, learning and research need. FAO (2019) describes extension is an informal educational process directed toward the rural population. This process offers advice and information to help them solve their problem. Also, Obibuaku, (1983) quoted by Adeel, Faisa, and Abdulrahman (2016) defines extension methods as devices implemented to set up situations in which new information and knowledge can pass freely between extension workers and their intended audiences. While agricultural extension workers is an educated, trained professional working with farmers, many of whom have little formal education and lead a way of life, which may be quite different from his. Robert (2017) from his study on the role of agricultural extension in Africa's development discovered that majority of the extension agents in the study were male who generally seemed to be satisfied with their achievement as extension agents. According to the International Labour Organization ILO (2007) women play a greater role in many development activities, including agricultural production. However, they are less privileged in a number of aspects including their lack or level of education that hinders them from occupying various job positions including agricultural extension.

Attitude of Extension Workers Towards the Use of Libraries as a Source of Information

Improvement of agricultural production necessitates some form of appropriate information. Therefore it is important for libraries to support agricultural policy research in Nigeria will need to tap into globally available information resources. Ilevbaoje (2004) Attitude is a "psychological tendency that is expressed by evaluating a particular entity with some degree of favour or disfavour." Specifically, it can be stated that the relative success of an extension system can be determined by assessing, in part, the attitude that extension workers hold towards their work. Extension workers are a key factor in conducting an effective agricultural extension work plan; therefore, understanding extension workers' attitudes towards the use of academic libraries is important. Idiegbeyan-Ose, Olalekan, and Odion. (2015) affirmed that extension agents have the obligation to get the necessary information from the library and other information centres and make them available in the format suitable for the understanding of these illiterate and semiliterate farmers. The farmers in turn make use of the knowledge drawn from these resources to improve their agricultural activities. However, some of these extension workers have been observed to display very welcoming and positive attitudes toward the use of the library as one of their information sources. According to Mttega, Dulle, Malekani, and Chailla (2014), agricultural extension workers can use e-resources to forward practical problems to research institutes and use the same tools to access information from different sources including libraries and research institutes. This can be done by using the existing free database, Access to Global Online Research in Agricultural

(AGORA) and The Essential Electronics Agricultural Library (TEEAL) and web-based software programs like wikis and blogs from the library.

Roles of Libraries in Supporting Agricultural Extension Workers

Libraries in Osun State Nigeria and the entire worlds are engines of acquiring, processing, storing, and disseminating information for the growth and development of every sector, including agricultural sector. In many agricultural sectors where professionalization is, implemented extension agents are also given opportunities to be collaborates with institutions outside the farms especially universities (Akintonde, et al. 2012). These collaborations help agricultural extension agents foster a sense of contribution to the dissemination of information and educational efforts to assist rural farmers. Lee and Deborah (2017) acknowledged the important role of academic librarians' ability to apply emerging web technologies to strengthen and enhance research and reference consultations, education and instruction, and library outreach programs. The role of libraries in enabling extension workers to achieve their set objectives is very important. Services rendered by libraries such as information repackaging, translation, presentation of documentaries through videos and literacy programs among others are the pivots that extension programs could rest upon to ensure deployment of innovations that could boost the productivity of rural farmers who need information which is now a very important factor of production, (Jerome, Ayotunde, Chidi, Ayooluwa, Sola, and Toluwani, 2018). Since it has been established that extension workers have gaped bridge between researchers and farmers; hence it is the need for extension workers to consistently collaborate with libraries. Ahiaoma, Stella, and Chimezie (2016) also highlight the role agricultural libraries can play in literacy education of rural farmers in Nigeria was mentioned to include providing information to the extension workers and repackaging agricultural information for the rural farmers in local languages and dialects where necessary. According to Edwin and Anie (2011) Information Communication Technology developments within the library that can impact on the generation and dissemination of agricultural information to farmers included dissemination of information on posters, use of digital white boards for interactive extension workshops and dissemination of current digital agricultural information from the internet among others. Also, Iwhiwhu (2008) cited by Oyeronke (2012) that library roles can be effectively carried out with well-structured and well-planned library services, which include the packaging and repackaging of information. Therefore, libraries have an important role in the advancement of knowledge for agricultural extension workers.

Problems Militating Extension Worker in Realigning with Academic Libraries

Some challenges encountered by libraries in the course of providing information to the agricultural extension workers according to various authors are highlighted below:

Information Repackaging: In some cases where quality information resources are maximally available in the libraries to be accessed by extension agents, they are usually not fully utilized by these farmers if they are not properly repackaged to suit their peculiar information needs (Ilo, Ekwueme, Segun, and Michael, 2018).

Attitude of Extension Workers Toward the Use of Libraries: poor attitude of the extension workers themselves toward the acquisition of this information and ensuring it gets to the farmers who need it at the appropriate time, (Jerome et al 2018). Until information is utilized, the purpose of establishing the library is not achieved.

Low level of competency: Another major challenge faced by library personnel during the process of information provision to agricultural extension workers is the low level of competence on the part of extension workers. Their level of competency in terms of ICT skills could affect the process of information dissemination. Hence, Teshome, Sigute, and Shayom (2015) reiterated that the capacity of the extension workers affects the transfer of information and technology to farmers in rural areas.

Inadequate of Information by the Libraries to Support Information Needs of Extension Workers: Tinashe (2014) opined that the libraries under studied were generally not adequately equipped to support the information needs of researchers and extension workers, and although the academic library's strength was reflected in the availability of and access to databases, the inability of users to access these resources from other centres or institutes cancelled this advantage. Also, the majority of researchers had access to libraries, while the majority of extension workers did not have access to library services.

Ways of Alleviating Problems Militating Extension Worker in Realigning with Libraries

Suggestion was made by Aina (2004) that the curriculum of library schools in Nigeria require review in order to include skills to specifically render services to rural dwellers just as agricultural extension agents are trained (Iwe 2003). This is due to the fact that one major challenge to deploying agricultural research and innovation among farmers is a low level of education and outright illiteracy (Chisita 2011). Farmers, therefore, need personnel that is trained in the art of information repackaging to suit their level of understanding. This realization is a sound basis for collaboration between public library personnel and agricultural extension agents.

Brief History of the Study Area

Osun State was carved out of Oyo State on 27th August 1991 with Osogbo as the state capital. It is currently made up of 30 Local Government Areas (LGAs) spread across six main zones namely Osogbo, Ede, Iwo, Ikirun, Ilesha, and Ile-ife. These zones were further divided into 3 agricultural zones by Osun State Agricultural Development Project (OSSADEP) which are Osogbo, Iwo and Ife/Ijesha. The dominant occupation and economic activities of the people centres are around farming, agro-allied productions, trading, and artisanship. The crops produced are oil palm and kernels, yams, cassava (manioc), corn (maize), pumpkins, plantain, banana, and kola nuts. (OSSADEP, 2004) cited by Adebisi, Jimoh, Jonathan, Osasona, and Ojediran (2019).

Table 1: Variables and Related Objectives

SECTIONS	VARIABLES	RELATED OBJECTIVES
A	<p>Demographic Factors:</p> <p>Sex, Age, Marital Status, level of Education, and Farming Experience.</p>	To determine the demographic factors of agricultural extension workers in the study area.
B	<p>Attitude Toward the Usefulness of Library:</p> <p>Greater knowledge, Improved my performance, Exposure to new innovation, Be more informed, and Insight to solve my client's problems.</p>	To determine the attitude of extension workers toward the use of libraries in the study area.
C	<p>Role of Library:</p> <p>Repackages agricultural information, Documentary presentations, Using ICT tools, Access to an existing database and Bridge gaps between researcher and extension workers.</p>	To examines the role of libraries in supporting extension workers in the study area.
D	<p>Problems Militating Extension Workers:</p> <p>Information repackages, Attitudes of extension workers, Incompetency of library personnel, Inadequate agricultural information in the library, Low level of ICT skills of extension workers, Time to visit the library and the library's location.</p>	To examines the problems militating the extension worker in realigning with libraries.
E	<p>Ways of Alleviating Problems:</p> <p>Training for library personnel, Improvement on library curriculum, Library mobile services, Encourage ICT skills.</p>	To find out how the problems can be alleviated.

Table 2: Demographic Factors of the Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agricultural Zone in Osun State			
Osogbo	64	43.0	43.0
Iwo	46	30.9	73.8
Ilesa/Ife	10	26.2	100.0
Total	149	100.0	
Sex			
Male	105	70.5	70.5
Female	44	29.5	100.0
Working Year of Experience			
Less than 5 years	3	2.0	2.0
6-10 years	21	14.1	19.5
11-20 years	120	80.5	73.1
21 years above	5	3.4	100.0
Total	62	100.0	
Academic Qualification			
O' Level	0	0.0	0.0
Ordinary National Diploma (OND)	4	2.7	2.7
First Degree/Higher National Diploma (HND)	110	73.8	76.5
Mater Degree	35	23.5	100.0
MPhil	0	00.0	
PhD	0	00.0	
Total	149	100.0	
Professional Status			
Agricultural Officer 1	68	45.6	45.6
Senior Agricultural Officer	34	22.8	68.4
Principal Agricultural Officer	32	21.5	89.9
Assistance Chief Agricultural Officer	14	9.4	99.3
Chief Agricultural officer	1	0.7	100.0
Total	149	100.0	

Table 2 shows that Osogbo zone has the highest percentage of respondents 64(43.0%), followed by Iwo zone 46(30.9%), and Ilesa/Ife zone has the lowest number of respondents 10(26.2%). The majority of respondents in the study area were male 105(70.5%) and the rest were female 44(29.5%). The highest number of working years in service of the respondents were between 11-20 years 120(80.5%), followed by 6-10 years 21(14.1%). While the lowest number of correspondents were less than 5 years in service 3(2.0%). Many of the respondents 110(73.8%) were First Degree/Higher National Diploma and 35(23.5%) have a Master's Degree. Also, 68(45.6%) of the respondents were in the position of Agricultural Officer, 34(22.8%) were in the position of Senior Agricultural Officer, While 32(21.5%) were in the position of Principal Agricultural Officer. The lowest number of the respondent was Chief Agricultural Officer 1(0.7%).

Table 3: Types of Library Used

Variables	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Type of library			
Academic	25	16.8	16.8
Public	119	79.9	96.6
School	2	1.3	98.0
Special	2	1.3	99.0
National	1	0.7	100.0
Total	149	100.0	

Table 3 shown the largest number of respondents 119(79.9%) mentioned that, their using the public library as one of their information sources, 25(16.8%) of the respondents using an academic library.

Table 4: Extension Worker' Attitude Toward Usefulness of Libraries

Variables	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Increasing Knowledge			
Strongly Agree	33	22.1	22.1
Agree	116	77.9	100.0
Disagree	0	0.0	
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	
Improve Working Performance			
Strongly Agree	27	18.1	18.1
Agree	121	81.2	99.3
Disagree	1	0.7	100.0
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	
It Exposes to a New Agricultural Innovation			
Strongly Agree	25	16.8	16.8
Agree	124	83.2	100.0
Disagree	0	0.0	
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	
To be More Informed in the Area of Specialization			
Strongly Agree	22	14.8	14.8
Agree	126	84.6	99.3
Disagree	1	0.7	100.0
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	
Giving More Insight to Solve Client's Problems			
Strongly Agree	22	14.8	14.8
Agree	125	83.9	98.7
Disagree	1	0.7	99.3
Strongly Disagree	1	0.0	100.0
Total	149	100.0	

Table 4 shows that the largest respondents 116(77.9%) agreed that using the library increases their professional knowledge. 121(81.2%) agreed that library improving their working performances, while 124 (83.2%) agreed that library exposing them to new agricultural innovation. Also, 126(84.6%) respondents agreed that using the library gives them more informed in their area of specialization and 125(83.9%) mentioned that library gives more insight to solve the client's problems.

Table 5: Roles of Library by Agricultural Extension Workers

Variables	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
It Repackages Agricultural Information for Easy Accessible			
Strongly Agree	29	19.5	19.5
Agree	120	80.5	100.0
Disagree	0	0.0	
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	
It Presents Agricultural Documentaries Through Video to Educate Extension Workers			
Strongly Agree	18	21.1	21.1
Agree	125	83.9	96.0
Disagree	6	4.0	100.0
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	
Library Uses ICT Tools to Enhance Free Access of Existing Database by Extension Workers			
Strongly Agree	19	12.8	12.8
Agree	124	83.2	96.0
Disagree	5	3.4	99.3
Strongly Disagree	1	0.7	100.0
Total	149	100.0	
It Provides Free Access of Existing Database Such as AGORA and TEEAL for Extension Workers			
Strongly Agree	17	11.4	11.4
Agree	127	85.2	96.6
Disagree	5	3.4	100.0
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	
It Bridges the Gaps Between Researchers and Extension Workers			
Strongly Agree	15	10.1	10.1
Agree	132	88.6	98.7
Disagree	2	1.3	100.0
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	

Table 5 shown the role of a library by an agricultural extension worker. 120 (80.5%) agreed that the library repackages agricultural information for easy accessibility and 29(19.5%) strongly agreed. Also, 125(83.9%) agreed that the library presents agricultural documentaries through video to educate extension workers and 18(21.1%) strongly agreed, while 6(4.0%) disagreed. So also, the largest number of respondents agreed that library provides ICT tools to enhance free access of existing databases 124(83.2%) and 127(85.2%) agreed that library play a role of providing free access of existing databases such as AGORA and TEEAL, while 5(3.4%) disagreed and 1(0.7%) strongly disagreed. Furthermore, 132 (88.6%) agreed that the library bridges the gap between researchers and extension workers, while 2(1.3%) disagreed.

Table 6: Problems Militating Against Agricultural Extension Workers I Realigning with Libraries

Variables	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Improper Information Repackaging by Library's Personnel			
Strongly Agree	23	15.4	15.4
Agree	122	81.9	97.3
Disagree	4	2.7	100.0
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	
Negative Attitudes by Extension Workers Toward the Use of Library			
Strongly Agree	6	4.0	4.0
Agree	37	24.8	28.9
Disagree	101	67.8	96.6
Strongly Disagree	5	3.4	100.0
Total	149	100.0	
Low Level of Incompetency of Library Personnel to Meet Information Needs of Extension Workers			
Strongly Agree	4	2.7	2.7
Agree	123	82.6	85.2
Disagree	22	14.8	100.0
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	
Inadequate of Agricultural Information by the Libraries to Meet the Farmer's Need			
Strongly Agree	5	3.4	3.4
Agree	139	93.3	96.6
Disagree	4	2.7	99.3
Strongly Disagree	1	0.7	100.0
Total	149	100.0	
Low Level of ICTs Skill by Extension Workers to Access Library Resources at their Comfort Zone			
Strongly Agree	6	4.0	4.0
Agree	132	88.6	92.6
Disagree	11	7.4	100.0
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	
Inadequate Time to Visit Library by Extension Workers			
Strongly Agree	4	2.7	2.7
Agree	55	36.9	39.6
Disagree	87	58.4	98.0
Strongly Disagree	3	2.0	100.0
Total	149	100.0	
Long Distance Between Library Location and Extension Workers			
Strongly Agree	88	59.1	59.1
Agree	55	36.9	96.0
Disagree	4	2.7	98.7
Strongly Disagree	2	1.3	100.0
Total	149	100.0	

Table 6 shown problems militating against agricultural extension workers realigning with libraries. Improper information repackaging by library's personnel 23(15.4%) strongly agreed and the largest number of respondents 122(81.9%) agreed, while 4(2.7%) disagreed. Also, 101(67.8%) disagreed that negative attitudes by extension workers toward the use of the

library do not cause a problem. 123(82.6%) of the respondents agreed that a low level of incompetency of the library's personnel to meet the information needs of extension workers causes a problem. 132(88.6%) mentioned that low levels of ICTs skill by extension workers to access library resources at their comfort zone cause problems and 11(7.4%) disagreed. Also, 55(36.9%) agreed that inadequate time to visit the library by extension workers cause a problem, while the largest number of respondents 87(58.4%) disagreed. 88(59.1%) strongly agreed that long distance between library location and extension workers and 55(36.9%) agreed to cause a problem. Also, 4(2.7%) disagreed, and 2(1.3%) strongly disagreed.

Table 7: Ways of Alleviating Problems Militating Against Agricultural Extension Workers in Realigning with Libraries

Variables	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
There should be Regular Training of Library Personnel in the Art of Information Repackaging to Suit the Level of Understanding of Extension Workers			
Strongly Agree	18	12.0	12.0
Agree	129	86.6	98.7
Disagree	1	0.7	99.3
Strongly Disagree	1	0.7	100.0
Total	149	100.0	
Library School Curriculum should be Improved to Includes Skill Specifically Renders Service to Extension Workers			
Strongly Agree	6	4.0	4.0
Agree	140	94.0	98.0
Disagree	3	2.0	100.0
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	
Library should Encourage Mobile Services in order to Bring Library Services Closer to Extension Workers			
Strongly Agree	9	6.1	6.1
Agree	137	91.9	98.0
Disagree	2	1.3	99.3
Strongly Disagree	1	0.7	100.0
Total	149	100.0	
Extension Workers should also Increase their ICTs Skill so as to Utilise Library Recourses at their Comfort Zone			
Strongly Agree	7	4.6	4.6
Agree	140	94.0	98.7
Disagree	1	0.7	99.3
Strongly Disagree	1	0.7	100.0
Total	149	100.0	
Extension Workers should find Time to Visit Library to Get Latest Information on New Agricultural Innovation Documents that will Assist Farmers			
Strongly Agree	8	5.3	5.3
Agree	140	94.0	99.3
Disagree	1	0.7	100.0
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	
Total	149	100.0	

Table 7 shown ways of alleviating problems militating against agricultural extension workers in realigning with libraries. The largest number of respondents 129(86.6) agreed that there

should be regular training of library personnel in the art of information repackaging to suit the level of understanding of extension workers. While only one respondent disagreed 1(0.7%) and strongly disagreed 1(0.7%). Also, 140(94.0%) agreed that the library school curriculum should be improved to include skills specifically renders services to agricultural extension workers, while 3(2.0) respondents disagreed. 137(91.9%) agreed that the library should encourage mobile services in order to bring library services closer to extension workers, while 2(1.3) disagreed.

So also, 140(94.0%) agreed that agricultural extension workers should increase their ICT skills so as to utilize library resources at their comfort zone, while 1(0.7%) disagreed. 140(94.0%) respondents agreed that extension workers should find time to visit the library to get the latest information on new agricultural innovation documents that will assist farmers and 8(5.3%) agreed. While 1(0.7%) disagreed.

Test of Hypothesis

The test of the hypotheses is shown in Table 8, indicating the relationship between the dependent and the predictor variables.

Table 8: Regression analysis result

	B	Sig. Level
Type of Library Use (Dependent Variable)		
Predictor Variable		
Sex	-0.075	0.314
Age	-0.098	0.175
Marital Status	0.065	0.365
Academic Status	0.486	0.000
Type of Library Use (Dependent Variable)		
Predictor Variable		
Role Library Play	0.236	0.004
Problem Militating Against Extension Workers(Dependent Variable)		
Predictor Variable		
Role Library Play	0.145	0.079

The result from table 8 above shows that at $p > 0.05$ in hypothesis 1, there is no significant relationship between the demographic factors (i.e. sex, age, and marital status) and type of library use ($p=0.314$, 0.175 , and 0.365). Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted. While there is a significant relationship between academic status (0.000) and type of library use. As a result of this, the null hypothesis is rejected.

The result from hypothesis 2 shows that at $p < 0.05$, there is a significant relationship between the role of library and the type of library use ($p=0.004$, $B=0.236$). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative is accepted.

Also the result from hypothesis 3 shows that at $p > 0.05$ there is a significant relationship between the role of library and problem militating against extension workers. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected, and therefore the null hypothesis is accepted ($p=0.079$, $B=0.145$).

DISCUSSION

As would have been expected, the population sampling reflects that agricultural extension workers in Osun State, Nigeria is a male-dominated field as in many other states of Nigeria. This finding corroborates the work of Onwubuya et al (2015) that males had been dominated in the field of agricultural extension work in Nigeria. Also, Robert (2017) from his study on the role of agricultural extension in Africa's development discovered that majority of the extension agents in the study were male who generally seemed to be satisfied with their achievement as extension agents. From the result above that majority of respondents, 141(94.6%) were 6 to 20 working years of experience. This implies that the extension agents become more experienced and skilful based on the more the number of years in service, the more experienced the respondent. This finding support Akintonde, et al. (2012) that majority of agricultural extension workers from Osun State has working years experience between 10 to 20 years. Furthermore, all the respondent's educational backgrounds beyond the Ordinary Level (O'Level). This implies that all the respondents in the service of extension workers are educated hence may have been exposed to different kinds of training in their various training institutions that may enhance skill development. Robert (2017) from his study on the role of agricultural extension in Africa's development discovered that majority of the extension agents in the study were male who generally seemed to be satisfied with their achievement as extension agents. The largest percentage of respondents used public libraries. This is in line with the finding of ISO (2013) public libraries are established to provide information for local people, mostly extension workers and farmers. Most of the agricultural extension workers in the study areas have positive attitudes toward the usefulness of libraries to increase their knowledge, improve their working performance, it also exposes them to new agricultural innovation and give them more insight to solve client's problems. The farmers in turn make use of the knowledge drawn from these resources to improve their agricultural activities. The assertion is in support of the finding of Idiegbeyan-Ose et al. (2015) averred that extension agents have the obligation to get the necessary information from the library and other information centers and make them available in the format suitable for the understanding of these illiterate and semiliterate farmers. This research also affirms that there are positive role plays by the library to extension workers. Such roles are: Repackages Agricultural Information, Presentation of Agricultural Documentaries, Use of ICT tools to Access Existing Database, Provides Free Access to AGORA and TEEAL and Library Helps to Bridge the Gap between Researchers and Extension Workers. Almost all the authors reviewed the library of the role plays to agricultural extension workers support this research finding. That library repackages information for easy access used by extension workers. Such authors are; Lee and Deborah (2017), Jerome, et al. (2018), Ahiaoma, at al. (2016), and Oyeronke (2012). Improper information repackages, low level of library personnel to meet information needs of farmers, inadequate of agricultural information in the library to meet the yawning farmer's information needs, low level of ICTs skill by extension workers to access library resources at their comfort zones and long distance between library location and extension workers zone were seen by extension workers in the study area as a major problem confronting them. These were agreed with Ilo, et al. (2018), Teshome, et al (2015) and Tinashe (2014) described in similar studies that information repackage, attitudes of extension workers toward the use of library resources, and low level of competency. While the respondents disagreed that negative attitude by extension workers toward the use of the library and inadequate time to visit the library by extension workers constitute problems. These were so because the extension workers in the study area have gone through higher learning and this assists them to know the importance of the library in the provision of information. Also, work time schedules are provided to give extension workers enough time

to gather needed information to meet farmer needs. More so, the result of the hypothesis shows that there is a strong relationship between academic status and type of library use by agricultural extension workers, this implies that the academic qualification shows the types of library use. Also, there exist strong relationships between the role of the library and the types of library use. This means that the role of the library has a meaningful impact on the type of library use by extension workers.

CONCLUSION

This study provided empirical data on the role of the library by agricultural extension workers in Osun State, Nigeria. The findings revealed that male respondents are more than a female counterpart in extension work and the level of education have a positive impact on the type of library use. Extension workers use public library mostly because is near to visit and majorly established for rural community. The library plays a role of information repackaging and use ICT tools for easing accessibility by extension workers. Improper information repackages, low level of library personnel to meet the information needs of farmers, inadequate of agricultural information in the library to meet the yawning farmer's information needs, low level of ICTs skill by extension workers to access library resources by extension workers in the study area were major problems confronting them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are suggested to improve the use of library by agricultural extension workers in Osun State, Nigeria.

- ❖ There should be Regular Training of Library Personnel in the Art of Information Repackaging to Suit the Level of Understanding of Extension Workers.
- ❖ Library should Encourage Mobile Services in order to Bring Library Services Closer to Extension Workers.
- ❖ Extension Workers should also Increase their ICTs Skill so as to Utilise Library Recourses at their Comfort Zone.
- ❖ Extension Workers should find Time to Visit Library to Get Latest Information on New Agricultural Innovation Documents that will Assist Farmers.
- ❖ Library School Curriculum should Improved to Includes Skill Specifically Renders Service to Extension Workers.

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