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LIBRARIES AND RESTRUCTURING QUESTIONS IN NIGERIA: THE SOUTH EASTERN LIBRARIAN'S PERCEPTION.

ABSTRACT

The study is a descriptive survey research design; the purpose of this study is to examine the south eastern librarians' perception of libraries as information providers in the restructuring of Nigeria; find out the benefits of restructuring; determine the barriers to the implementation of restructuring; find out the librarians' perception of the place of libraries in the issue of Nigerian restructuring and determine the extent to which librarians perceive libraries as information providers in restructuring Nigeria. Questionnaire was designed to collect data from a population of 300 librarians from South East Nigeria. Out of which, 260 copies were collected; the data was analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean). The findings of the study among other things revealed that libraries are information providers in restructuring question, through engagement in dialogue for change; through creation of awareness that would help both the government and the masses. Based on the findings, the study recommended that the government should consider the benefits of restructuring and try to carry the citizens along, in order to have a united Nigerian Nation without any section feeling marginalized or agitated; librarians can create awareness on what they perceive as barriers to restructuring which includes, the federal holding on to duties that should be relinquished to the states. Finally, librarians should take their place as information providers and organize seminars/workshops to guide the citizens, help the government and to disseminate relevant information on Nigerian restructuring question that can keep the states as united force.

Keywords: Restructuring question, librarians perception, Libraries, Information providers, Nigeria.

Introduction

Librarians as managers of libraries designed both large and small libraries ranging from national, public, academic, school, special, government and private libraries to virtual libraries. These types are designed to effectively collect, organize, preserve, disseminate and make accessible relevant records of the government and society. In fact, libraries are similar in function but have different objectives based on the mission of their parent institution. Therefore, libraries according to Orakpor (2009) can be defined as collections of records of human culture in diverse formats and languages preserved, organized and made available to meet the broad and varying needs of people for information, knowledge, aesthetic enjoyment and recreation. Libraries, as Hammed (2010) opines, play an important role in educating the masses; hence, libraries can have vital place in Nigeria's restructuring question because libraries prepare masses in an information based economy for productive governance. They prepare the masses to prove themselves as responsible citizens. (Varies, Victor & Peter 2010). All great civilization of human society thrived because of knowledge, learning and excellence as powered by libraries. Therefore, libraries can still have a place in the Nigerian restructuring questions.

To Kishore (2008). Libraries are very important to their host institutions because they act as providers of regular and up to date information. Libraries are managed by librarians who have different perception on the issue of restructuring. They also have full responsibility of acquiring, organizing and disseminating information in different fields of knowledge through talk shows and seminars. (Orakpor, 2009).

Perception as stated by Orakpor (2009) is how situations, events and ideas are viewed from different angles by different persons. It is the various opinions of varied individuals on some issues. Therefore, the paper seeks to determine the perspective of librarians on libraries as information providers in the Nigerian restructuring question.

According to Agbakoba (2017). Nigeria is the product of amalgamation of the colonial masters in 1914. Also by 1960, they formulated the constitution; military later took over till Abdulsalami's constitutions in 1998 through decree 24. In that light there would be need for restructuring. Restructuring is the corporate management term of the act of reorganizing legal ownership operations or other structures of a nation for the purpose of making it more profitable

or better organized for the actualization of specific goals. According to Atuma (2018). There has been this conception by a growing population that true Federalism has eluded us. Power has been solely at the Federal level instead of being sufficiently appropriated to other levels of government. This he opines is the reason for the agitation of some state governments, some of the geo-political zones and citizens in support of the need for Nigerian restructuring.

There are various reasons behind the clamors for the Nigerian restructuring as Nwafor (2017) highlights. He presented ten reasons for the restructuring of Nigeria; some of which includes educational advancement, leadership enhancement for the implementation of the rule of law; to have a nation where all levels of government are strong and a restructured Nigeria would address the issue of agitation and motivate states to work hard.

In fact, restructuring of Nigeria as viewed by Atuma (2018) seem to have become misrepresented words; even by those who should understand and work for their actualization in the interest of peace and progress of Nigeria. Therefore, honest pursuit of restructuring in its true meaning would be beneficial to all Nigerians from all the geo-political zone; because every geo-political zone would have adequate resources that can sustain them and it would be the best way for diversification of economy and education. This view confirms the perception of (Atiku, 2018; Atuma, 2018; Akande, 2018 & Nwafor, 2017).

The focus of the study is the perception of the South East Nigerian Librarians on the place of Libraries in the Nigerian restructuring question. The South East Nigerian libraries are from the five states in the geo-political zone; namely; Abia State, Anambra State, Ebonyi State, Enugu State and Imo State.

The study concentrates on libraries and restructuring question because they seem to have a part to play in the clarification of the views and motives in favor of and against the Nigerian restructuring question. Therefore, the views and motives behind the Nigerian restructuring question may pose barriers to the implementation of the Nigerian restructuring. Moreover, in spite of the efforts made by researchers towards providing solution to the Nigerian restructuring question, not much has been written as articles on libraries and restructuring question in Nigeria; as well as librarians having a clearer perception of what their involvement should be on the issue

of Nigerian restructuring. It is against this background that the researchers are investigating the librarians' perception of libraries as information providers in restructuring of Nigeria.

Problem Statement

The issue of restructuring is very important in Nigeria because research suggest that it would bring about educational advancement, leadership enhancement for the implementation of the rule of law; and to have a nation where all levels of government are strong. On the other hand, a neglect of addressing the issue of a restructured Nigeria could lead to more agitations and lack of motivation for the states to work hard.

One of the greatest challenges that seem to face the Nigerian government and especially the citizens in some of the six geo-political zones is the challenge of the restructuring question. The undesirable consequences of this restructuring question is that it seems the society does not want to understand the stand of the federal government on the issue of Nigerian restructuring because it seems that the central planning economic rules are not effective anymore; hence their demand for restructuring. Therefore, the question is: Is there a place for the involvement of libraries and librarians as information providers in the issue of Nigerian restructuring?

Objectives of the Study

The general purpose of the study is to examine the South Eastern Nigerian librarians' perception of libraries as information providers in the restructuring of Nigeria. Specifically, the research is designed to:

1. Find out what librarians' perceive as the benefit of restructuring.
2. Determine the librarians' perception of the main barriers to the implementation of restructuring.
3. Determine the extent to which librarians perceive libraries as information providers in restructuring Nigeria.

Literature Review

Restructuring is to change the structure of things in a given institution. In the case of Nigeria restructuring, it involves changing the state of things for example in Nigeria, the federal government takes the responsibility of posting Nigeria Police to state and the commissioners are posted by the federal government, so they are responsible to the federal government not the state. Nwafor (2017) and others advocate for the state police that will be run by the state.

Nigeria is a federation and a federation means that the different parts of the country (especially a country comprising of different ethnic group) should be made a federation. Each state should have their constitutions' power to manage its unit problems and concern to develop its own resources for its people, to manage its own security and to make its own kind of contributions for the well-being of the whole country. The central entity which is the federal government should manage common matters like the defense of the country, the relationship of the country with the rest of the world or international relations, the country's currency, the relations between the states of the country, the general principles like defense of human rights. This was the arrangement of the fathers of the various sections of the country like Awolowo Ahmadu Bello and Nnamdi Azikwe. (Akande, 2018; Obidimma & Obidimma, 2015).

Furthermore, in the aspect of allocation, they advocate that the state should be allowed to manage their resources and be allowed to pay certain percentage to the Federal government. Unfortunately, they pointed out that the Federal government seems to be at variance with this demand because the Centre would no longer have a strong hold on the State.

In the aspect of true, Federalism Obidimma & Obidimma (2015) opine that it is a system of government in which constitutional powers are shared in one national political entity between a central government and sub-national units, such as regions. They also advocate that restructuring should focus on the management and funding of public education by the tiers of government as well as the distribution of public investment between primary, secondary and tertiary education. From the above conceptions, the librarians' perception of Libraries in the Nigerian restructuring question cannot be over-emphasized.

According to Orakpor (2009) the Library is a collection of book and non-book materials for preservation, cataloguing and classification for easy retrieval and dissemination of information.

The basic function of a library is to acquire knowledge, preserve knowledge and disseminate knowledge. The resources in the library both books, government documents and periodicals are used for information provision for public enlightenment, awareness creation, research, projects, assignments and also for pleasure. Therefore, library and information service is a key player in providing unhindered access to essential information resource for economic and cultural advancement. Effective information dissemination through libraries and internet will put the leaders and the people at alert on facts of the varied views of Nigerian restructuring, including their causes, evaluation, consequences and solutions. (Echezona, 2007)

Methodology

The design of this study was descriptive survey type. The instrument for data collection was a 38 – item questionnaire. To collect data for this study, three hundred (300) copies of the questionnaire were distributed in the two selected states in the South East Nigeria; namely Anambra State and Enugu State librarians. Out of the three hundred (300) questionnaires distributed two hundred and sixty (86.67%) were collected. They were computed using the criterion and item means of 2.50, so any item below 2-50 was rejected while any item above 2-50 was accepted. The population for this study consists of all the librarians in the South Eastern Nigeria. This is because of their possible involvement in the provision of useful information on Nigerian restructuring. The researchers determined a sample size of 300 librarians for the study which was a representation of (100%) of all librarians in Enugu State and Anambra State. The researcher adopted a purposive sampling technique for the above. Purposive sampling technique is a type of non-probability sampling that can be used for both qualitative and quantitative research techniques. It is also known as judgment, selective or subjective sampling technique in which researcher relies on his or her own judgment when choosing the sample population.(Dudovskiy, 2018).

Findings and discussions

Table 1: mean scores of librarians' perception on the benefits of Nigeria restructuring question.

S/N	Benefits	Mean	Ranking	Decision
1	For the government to carry the citizens along	3.51	1	Agree
2	Every geographical zone in the country could have adequate resources that can sustain them	3.47	2	Agree
3	It would motivate states to work harder in terms of infrastructure and development	3.16	3	Agree
4	It would help to improve infrastructural development within the country	3.02	4	Agree
5	It would be the best way of diversifying the economy and education	2.96	5	Agree
6	To have a united Nigerian nation without any section feeling marginalized or agitating.	2.87	6	Agree

As depicted in Table 1, the mean rating of 3.51, 3.47, 3.16, 3.02, 2.96 and 2.87 indicate that the respondents agree with all the listed items as the benefit of restructuring. They include for the government to carry citizens along, to have a united Nigerian Nation without any section feeling marginalized or agitated. It could help to improve infrastructural development within the country; every geopolitical zone in the country will have adequate resources that can sustain it. It will be the best way for the diversification of the economy and it will motivate states to work harder in terms of infrastructural development.

The finding is in consonance with the ideas of Akande, (2018) & Nwafor, (2017) that honest pursuit of restructuring in its true meaning would be beneficial to all Nigerians from the entire geo-political zone; because every geo-political zone would have adequate resources that can sustain them and it would be the best way for diversification of economy and education.

Table 2: mean scores of librarians' perception of barriers in the implementation of restructuring.

S/N	Barriers	Mean	Ranking	Decision
7	The federal government holding on to duties that should be relinquished to the state government like (issuing driver's license, birth and death certificates and registering marriages)	3.86	1	Agree
8	Lack of equal representative in the National Assembly	3.72	2	Agree
9	There was no general consensus of the North and South	3.61	3	Agree
10	Political restructuring argument that yield no results	2.96	4	Agree

The analysis in Table 2 shows that the respondents agree with all the four listed barriers to the implementation of restructuring in Nigeria with a mean rating of 3.86, 3.72, 3.61, and 2.96 respectively. The listed barriers include absence of general consensus of the North and South, the federal holding on to duties that should be relinquished to the states, lack of equal representation in the National Assembly and political restructuring argument that yield no result.

Table 3: mean scores on the extent of the librarians' perception of libraries as information providers in restructuring Nigeria.

S/N	Perception of libraries as information providers	Mean	Ranking	Decision
11	It preserves information that can be relevant for the Nigerian restructuring question	3.12	2	High Extent (HE)
12	It collects the nations literature and international materials that can be useful for providing the correct state of the Nigerian restructuring questions	2.98	4	High Extent (HE)
13	Dissemination of information resource materials on Nigeria restructuring	2.65	6	High Extent (HE)
14	It meets the information needs of researchers on the correct state of the debates in Nigerian restructuring	2.62	7	High Extent (HE)
15	To provide information on territorial boundaries and related communities that cannot be grouped together	2.12	9	Low Extent (LE)
16	Engage in dialogue for change through creation of awareness that would help both the government and the masses	3.51	1	Very High Extent(VHE)
17	Organize seminars on the restructuring question to sample opinion of Nigerians	3.12	2	High Extent (HE)
18	Dissemination of archival information on the past	3.00	3	High Extent

	Leadership of Nigeria in line with restructuring			(HE)
19	Retrieval of records that can provide favourable comparison on the restructuring question	2.98	4	High Extent (HE)
20	Engage in advocacy through talk shows to address the restructuring question and bridge the gap of misunderstanding in the geo-political zones	2.96	5	High Extent (HE)
21	Helping Nigerians to understand the concept of restructuring and its merits and demerits	2.56	8	High Extent (HE)

As indicated in Table 3, the respondents rated all the 11 listed perceptions of librarians of libraries as information providers in Nigeria restructuring to a high extent with means rating of 3.51, 3.12, 3.00, 2.98, 2.96, 2.65, 2.62 and 2.56; except in no. 15 with a low mean score of 2.12. The Libraries thus preserve information, collect the nation's literature and international materials, meet information needs of researchers, disseminate information material resource, retrieve records that can provide comparison on the restructuring questions, Create awareness, help Nigerians understand the concept of restructuring, organize seminars, and talk shops to address restructuring question.

This finding agrees with the view of Orakpor (2006) that the Library is a collection of book and non-book materials for preservation, cataloguing and classification for easy retrieval and dissemination of information. The basic function of a library is to acquire knowledge, preserve knowledge and disseminate knowledge. The resources in the library both books, government documents and periodicals are used for information provision for public enlightenment, awareness creation, research, projects, assignments and also for pleasure.

The finding is also in consonance with the finding of Echezona, (2007) which see librarians as providing effective information dissemination through libraries and they will engage in advocacy through talk shows, put the leaders and the people at alert on facts of the varied views of Nigerian restructuring, including their causes, evaluation, consequences and solutions.

Summary of Findings

As depicted in Table 1, the finding of the result indicates that the respondents agree with all the listed items as the benefit of restructuring. They include: for the government to carry citizens along, to have a united Nigerian Nation without any section feeling marginalized or

agitated. It could help to improve infrastructural development within the country; every geopolitical zone in the country will have adequate resources that can sustain it. It will be the best way for the diversification of the economy and it will motivate states to work harder in terms of infrastructural development. The result shows that the respondents agree with all the listed barriers which include absence of the general consensus of the North and South and the federal holding on to duties that should be relinquished to the state. The finding on the librarians' perception of the place of libraries in the issue of restructuring question; reveals that they accept that library preserves information that can be relevant for the Nigerian restructuring question; it collects the nations literature and international materials that can be useful for providing the correct state of the Nigerian restructuring questions and meets the information needs of researchers on the correct state of the debates in Nigerian restructuring.

Finally, the finding on the extent of the librarians' perception of libraries as information providers in restructuring Nigeria; shows the following are on very high extent: libraries engage in dialogue for change through creation of awareness that would help both the government and the masses. They create awareness, help Nigerians understand the concept of restructuring; organize seminars and talk shows to address restructuring.

Conclusion

This study sets out to examine the south eastern librarians' perception of libraries as information providers in the restructuring of Nigeria; find out the librarians' perception of restructuring; find out the benefits of restructuring and determine the barriers to the implementation of restructuring. The findings of the study among other things reveal that restructuring means a structure that gives everyone opportunity to work and Finally, it shows libraries are information providers in restructuring question, through engagement in dialogue for change through creation of awareness that would help both the government and masses.

Recommendation

Based on the conclusions of these findings, it is recommended that Government should use this study to get a theoretical and empirical basis for adopting suitable methods of restructuring.

1. The government should consider the benefits of restructuring and try carry citizens along, in order to have a united Nigerian Nation without any section feeling marginalized or agitated.
2. Librarians can create awareness on what they perceive as barriers to restructuring which include absence of general consensus of the North and South and the federal holding on to duties that should be relinquished to the states. The government should not be seen as partial in finding a solution to the perceived barriers.
3. Librarians should take their place as information providers and organize seminars/workshops to guide the citizens, help the government and disseminate relevant information on Nigerian restructuring question that can keep the states as united force.
4. The consensus of all the geo-political states in Nigeria should be encouraged.
5. The Federal government should in turn reduce its control of items of power and allocation.

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