

Effects Of Mentoring School Children In The Use Of Library For Positive Impacts In The Society: A Case Study Of School Children In Southwestern Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on school children in primary school in South-Western Nigerian and how librarians in school libraries can effectively mentor them to use the library in order to ameliorate crime rate among the children. This study also highlight strategic ways in which school children should be making effective use of their time (time management) to inculcate good reading habit that will help to facilitate their love for books and non-book materials in a way to increase their knowledge in all disciplines. This will help to inculcate life-long learning in school children through to adulthood, the process known as an intervention strategy for school children. Finally, this paper also discussed the effects of mentoring school children in the use of library for positive impacts in the society.

Keywords: Mentoring, Learning Skill and School Libraries

INTRODUCTION

This study focused on school children in primary school in South-Western Nigerian and how librarians in school libraries can effectively mentor them in effective use of library in order to ameliorate crime rate among the children. This study aimed at enable the school children in making effective use of their time by including in them reading habit that will help to facilitate their love for books and non-book materials so as to increase their knowledge in all disciplines and this help to inculcate life-long learning in this school children that they will take to adulthood- regarded as an intervention strategy for school children.

According to Foster (1997) he opined that as a public tool, mentoring is a positive youth intervention that reduces risky and negative behaviours. Since the main aim of a mentor in this study provide support for the school children in their moral academic and healthy development, growth of the children by effective use of time both in the school and outside the school premises. When a child has imbibed the culture of reading on his or her own, the child would always love to have himself being occupied with either one or two learning materials at each point in time.

MENTORING AS AN INTERVENTION

In south western Nigeria few primary schools have school libraries with few library professionals while most of the school do not have libraries nor have qualified library professionals, Foster, Lisa (1997) opined that mentoring is a positive way of intervention among the youth that reduces risks and negative behaviors since the main aim of a mentor in this study is to produce support for the school children in their moral, academic and healthy developmental growth of the children for effective use of their time both in the school and outside the school premises. When a child has imbibed the culture of reading on his or her own, the child would always love to have himself being occupied with learning materials at point in time.

Definition of Mentoring

Mentoring is most often defined as a professional relationship in which an experienced person (the mentor) assists another (the mentee) in developing specific skills and knowledge that will enhance the less experienced person's professional and personal growth

Definition of Library

A library is a collection of prints and non-prints materials that are selected, acquired, organized, preserved and disseminated for posterity purposes.

Definition of a School Library

A school library is a collection of prints and non-prints materials that are placed in a school setting for the usage of both the teachers and the pupils.

Roles of School Libraries

1. A school library helps to inculcate reading habits in school children.
2. It helps to supplement the school curriculum in the provision of learning materials both the teachers and the pupils
3. It enables the children/pupils to identify different parts of a book
4. It helps to inculcate life-long learning for the pupils
5. It helps to improve learning ability of the pupils through self-study
6. To provide information materials for recreation and personal self-development
7. It helps to widen the student's horizon

A librarian in a school library acts as a mentor for all these school children by facilitating all the above roles of a school library and thus he is a mentor for these pupils. The librarian is able to identify the strength and weakness of each of the pupils to be mentored especially those coming to the library by dealing with each of them individually and not as an entity. The first thing the school librarian does is to give this pupil library orientation, followed by allowing them to register in the library and even most of the schools with libraries usually have library prefect. The librarian also emphasizes that the schools introduce library hours into the school period and time table. The librarian does not close at the normal closing time but spends extra at least three extra hours after closing to enable those students willing to use the library to use it at their leisure time. The librarian also at times comes on weekends to attend to its readers. And in situations when that is not possible, he introduces the pupils to public libraries where the school children can always go and read. Foster (1997) also stated that traditional mentoring programs were destroyed as interventions to address specific risk areas or problems behaviours such as school dropouts rates, youth violence, adolescence pregnancy, and drug and alcohol use. Though mentoring cannot eradicate poverty but it can at least enable a school child to grow up positively and exhibit and practice those behavior that would enable them to reduce poverty.

According to Powell, M.J. W. (1997), mentoring is one to one relationship between an older person and a younger one (a protégé) to pass on knowledge, experience and judgement, or to provide guidance and friendship. Basically the main aim of mentoring is to facilitate and improve academic performance and achievements of the school children because of the fact that Nigeria is one of the developing nation in Africa and the Nigeria society is characterized with poverty and high crime rate which entails drugs, absenteeism in schools, pre-marital sex etc.

According to Sign & Nazim (2008), he emphasized the roles of libraries by stating that the modern knowledge society libraries have a new role and these are various types of library models. These are as follows:

- Traditional library as a memory institution
- Library as a learning and research centre
- Library as a cultural and communication centre
- Electronic library
- Digital library
- Virtual library as a library without walls

By mentoring school children in primary schools in Nigeria, the pupils are exposed to various gains of associating with the library by developing self-learning skill.

Problems facing libraries in South Western Nigeria and Mentoring of School Children

1. Lack of fund
2. Lack of inadequacies of library materials
3. Inadequate library personnel (both para & professional librarians)
4. Lack of awareness
5. Lack of technical know-how in the use of ICT
6. Non- inclusion of library hour in the school time table
7. Problem of Maintenance and Repair

According to Nyangoni (1981), he posited that with insufficient schools and teachers even for the children, there is little chance that formed educational opportunities will be available to many schools and this libraries have a major role in filling this gap. In view of the above statement mentioning of school students by the school librarian is an integral part in impacting positive attitudinal behavior into the youths in Nigeria especially in south western Nigerian where the public libraries even have other learning materials to the remote areas especially the hard-to-reach youth to boost their socio-edu-cultural development through the use of books by making judicious use of their precious time in undertaking things that would be beneficial to their mental, educational and economical development.

Mentoring enables the:

“All young people have the potential to succeed in life and to contribute the society. All children have the potential to succeed in life. However, not all children get the support they need to thrive. Without immediate intervention by caring adults, they could make wrong choices that not only undermine their future, but ultimately, the economic and social well-being of our nation as posited by PEAK-GRI-enriquez”

ADVANTAGES OF MENTORING SCHOOL CHILDREN BY THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

1. It helps to ameliorate illiteracy among the youths especially the school children in the hard-to-reach zone
2. It enables the mentees to develop self-direction converse, for instance Noelle E. A formative evaluation of a school based mentoring program for students at risk for school failure Utah State University. A proper submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science in the department of special education and re-habitation

Mentoring and Coaching Models; Role of Mentor

1. Facilitate exploration of needs, motivation, skills thought processes
2. Facilitate real, lasting positive change
3. Observe, listen, ask question
4. Support goal setting & assessment
5. Encourage commitment to action

In other words, the mentor is a librarian, a resource, problem solver, advocate, facilitator, collaborate, learners, assessor, trusted listener. Since libraries have been identified as one of the open access of organized information the role of librarian as a mentor in a school setting in Nigeria cannot be underestimated. Rynnanem (1999) opined that libraries are especially important now when the whole idea of education is stressing more and more independent learning and acting. Librarians in school library has the mentor to encourage the students in the use of library, this can be done in ways that best sooth mentoring the students should include getting students to be interested in reading and using their time to visit the library for all round robust reading. It is a way to broaden their knowledge and giving them a good series of positive imagination that could take them from their environment to a total new involvement through mere imagination, a positive way of keeping students of the street and reduce crime rate.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was focused on primary school pupils in South Western Nigeria in Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun State. number of primary schools were interviewed. Observation, administration of questionnaire and interview were the instruments used in this research. The librarians, pupils and teachers were interviewed.

According to Adebayo (2012), she described the role of public libraries in Nigeria by stating that information, inculcates ideas and develops knowledge that is so essentials to functioning successfully in today information and knowledge based society. Without accurate information the youth can be misguided and thus the roles of a librarians as mentors to these.

Adebayo (2012) also posited that to be successful in life, youths must have access to basic information that will keep them informed and educated because educating youths is building a country since they are referred to as leaders of tomorrow.

Johnson and Lanre (2002) in Adebayo (2012) stated that the library contributes to education in a number of ways such as:

- Encouraging reading
- Expanding learning process
- Developing learning skills
- Developing appreciation, attitudes & value
- Assisting with development task

Mentoring first emerged as a community based intervention for children and adolescent who lacked supervision and guidance in their lives. It is commonly associated with organizations such as big Brothers/big sisters of America (Skiba & Wu, 2000) in Converse, E. Noelle.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The following recommendations are put forward for this paper.

- Mentoring in school libraries should be given more attention in order to enhance learning and teaching skill among pupils and teachers.
- It also recommends that mentoring should be included in the school curriculum as a means of promoting information literacy.
- Provision of makerspace for interactive session and counseling services among school children.
- The school Librarians should have counselling skills for training and re-training programmes.
- Finally, adequate funding is also required in in school libraries in order to carry out effective mentoring.

CONCLUSION

Without accurate information the youth can be misguided and the roles of a librarian as mentors for the youth cannot be underestimated. Also, for the youth to be successful, appropriate information should be the key for their survival.

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