



## Strategy for an Effective Utilization of School Library Resources in Karim Lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State

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**Abstract:** *The research work investigated the Strategy for an Effective Utilization of School Library Resources in Karim Lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population comprised students in Karim lamido Local Government Area. They are forty (40) secondary schools in the Local Government Area with SS2 student population of two thousand two hundred and sixty seven (2,267) and a teacher population of seven hundred and fifty (750) (Taraba Ministry of Education). The simple random sampling technique was adopted for selecting the students and teachers in the forty secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area. However, various opinions of authors from the reviewed literature all showed that the concept of the school library has grown out of recent educational trends and reforms, and represents and expansion of the concept of the school. The increasing awareness of the school library necessitates the collection of all types of learning resources and instructional materials to reflect the school programme and curriculum. The findings of the study revealed that minority of the respondents of the study indicated that human resources such as the school librarian, teacher librarian, library assistance and library attendance were available in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State while majority indicated that they were not available. The findings of the study also showed that text books, pictures, charts, graphs and transparencies, chalk boards and display boards, dictionaries, encyclopedia, globes and atlases are utilized to a high extent in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State while records and record players, TV and video tape recordings and computer are utilized to a low extent. Recommendations were made for this study.*

**Keywords:** *Strategy, Effective, Utilization, School Library Resources, and Taraba State*

### 1. Introduction

In Nigeria, there is increasing need to enhance the quality of education especially at secondary school level of education. In some respect this has been the reasons behind so many educational reforms. According to Abdulahi (2008) of many educational reforms, the need to provide adequate educational resources like human resources, library resources and infrastructure has continued to drive major policy decisions that are focused on enhancing the quality of learning in secondary school. Bonny (2006) believe that the adequate provision and utilization of such resources like the library will to a great extent help in breaching the quality gap in educational services among secondary schools and enhance their performances.

To Mason (2010), providing library resources will help build and maintain a collection

that will support and enhance the instructional needs of the schools. Jubb and Green (2007) observed that school libraries have for centuries played critically important roles in supporting teaching in all subjects and disciplines within the school.

Simply defined, library resources are those resources (both human and materials) that are collected and organized to enhance knowledge and learning (Aguolu, and Aguolu, 2002). Ezenwa (1993) conceptualize library resources as a collection of wide variety of educational media which include books, magazines, newspapers and pamphlets, records and tapes, maps, films, photographs and painting. To Elaturoti (2008) library resources consist of both print and non-print media., like books, periodicals newspaper, pamphlets, brochure, ephemerals, photographs, slides, audiotapes, filmstrips, motion films, video tapes, computer diskettes and realia which are organized to broaden reading and the learning horizon of students and other library users. The availability and utilization of these resources has proved to be worthwhile in enhancing academic performance.

In recent studies however, the availability and utilization of these library resources in secondary schools has continued to point that they either unavailable or poorly utilized. For instance Popoola (2013) observed that in most secondary schools, library resources are either unavailable or poorly utilized and as such are the leading cause of poor performance and failures in external examinations if no attention is paid to it by the government and school authorities. Majid (2015) added that the absence of library resources in schools will continue to limit students' investigation skills, narrow their horizons and reading culture.

Some researchers have explained the reasons for the poor utilization of library resources in secondary schools. Fayose (2002) for instance in her survey on students' use of secondary school library resources in Ibadan and Benin City found out that the reason why many libraries have remain infective appendages of their school is that they are managed by ill-prepared and incompetent staff who had not the least idea of what their duties are let alone understanding what role the school library should play in the intellectual and social life of the school. Adeoti-Adeleke (2000) in her study showed that reasons for poor utilization of library resources include: lack of adequate furniture, obsolete library collection, unqualified library personnel, poor funding and apathy on the part of government and school heads towards school library development. Ayeni, and Oyebanji (2010) is of the opinion that in most schools where library exists, emphasis is on physical features, collection and budgets and not on the effective utilization of the library materials and services.

Following the above observations, Obajemu (2002) believe that there is need to evolved effective strategy to enhance the provision and utilization of library resources. In current studies, the need to evolve effective strategies has already become a growing concern and interestThe employment of qualified and trained librarians is suggested as one way of enhancing the utilization of library resources (Ibrahim, 2004). In this current study, investigation into the strategy for an effective utilization of school library resources in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State will be made. Karim lamido Local Government is described as one of the administrative local government headquarters of Taraba State situated at Karim and currently have about forty secondary schools.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of this study is to examine the strategy for an effective utilization of school library resources in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria

The specific objectives of the study include are to:

1. Find out the library resources that are available in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State
2. Find out the extent the available library resources are utilized in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State
3. Examine the factors that limit the effective utilization of library resources in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State
4. Ascertain the strategies that will effectively enhance the utilization of library resources in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State

### **2. Literature Review**

Ezenwa (2003) conceptualize library resources as a collection of wide variety of educational media which include books, magazines, newspapers and pamphlets, records and tapes, maps, films, photographs and painting. To Elaturoti (2008) library resources consist of both print and non-print media., like books, periodicals newspaper, pamphlets, brochure, ephemerals, photographs, slides, audiotapes, filmstrips, motion films, video tapes, computer diskettes and realia which are organized to broaden reading and the learning horizon of students and other library users. Dike (2003) grouped library resources into three basic categories:

- a. Non-fiction print media
- b. Literature
- c. Audio visual resources

The first category is perhaps the most diverse and includes: reference materials, general non-fiction, periodicals and vertical file materials. Dike explains that literature is the major component of the library collection which includes books, pictures and fiction. The third category is the audio-visual resources which do not depend solely on reading to convey meaning. They include records, tapes and cassates, radio, real objects, three dimensional displays, etc.

Agabi (2003) referred library resource as, audio-media, visual media and audio-visual media used to enhance learning. He defined audio media as teaching and learning devices that mostly appeal to the sense of hearing.

### **3. Methodology**

The descriptive survey research design is adopted for this study. This study was conducted in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State. Karim lamido Local Government is one of the administrative local government headquarters of Taraba State situated at Karim. The

population of the study consisted of teachers and students in Karim lamido Local Government Area. They are fourty (40) secondary schools in the Local Government Area with SS2 student population of two thousand two hundred and sixty seven (2,267) and a teacher population of seven hundred and fifty (750) (Taraba Ministry of Education).

The simple random sampling technique was adopted for selecting the students and teachers in the fourty secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area. The simple random sampling technique was adopted to give every school equal chance of being selected. The main instrument used for data collection for this study is the questionnaire. The data collected was analyzed using frequency, percentage and weighted mean. The decision rule for the weighted mean was fixed at 3.0 for research question 3 and 4 while the cut of mean for research question 2 was fixed at 2.5

**What library resources are available in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State?**

Item	Library Resources	Available		Not Available	
		F	%	F	%
<b>A</b>	<b>Human Resources</b>				
1	School librarian	656	36.2%	1154	63.8%
2	Teacher librarian	423	23.4%	1387	76.6%
3	Library assistance	722	39.9%	1088	60.1%
4	Library Attendance	803	44.4%	1007	55.6%
<b>B</b>	<b>Material Resources</b>				
5	Text Books	1097	60.6%	713	39.4%
6	Pictures, charts, graphs and transparencs	975	53.9%	835	46.1%
7	Records and record players	656	36.2%	1154	63.8%
8	TV and video tape recordings	501	27.7%	1309	72.3%
9	Computer	523	28.9%	1287	71.1%

10	Chalk boards and display boards	993	54.9%	817	45.1%
11	Dictionaries, encyclopedia, globes and atlases	873	48.2%	937	51.8%

Table shows the responses on library resources available in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State. The table shows that with respect to human resources, majority of the respondents indicated that school librarian, teacher librarian, library assistance and library attendance were not available in the secondary schools (this represent 63.8%, 76.6%, 60.1% and 55.6% of the respondent respectively) while minority of the respondents indicated that school librarian, teacher librarian, library assistance and library attendance were available (this represent 36.2%, 23.4%, 39.9% and 44.4% of the respondents respectively). In the material resources, majority of the respondents indicated that text books, pictures, charts, graphs and transparencies, chalk boards and display boards were available in the school library (this represent 60.6%, 53.9% and 54.9% of the respondents respectively) while minority of the respondents indicated there not available (this represent 39.4%, 46.1% and 45.1% of the respondents respectively). Moreover with respect to records and record players, TV and video tape recordings, computer, dictionaries, encyclopedia, globes and atlases majority indicated that they were not available in the school library (this represent 63.8%, 72.3%, 71.1% and 51.8% of the respondents respectively) while minority of the respondents indicated that they were available (this represent 36.2%, 27.7%, 28.9% and 48.2% of the respondents respectively).

**To what extent are the available library resources utilized in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State?**

	Material Resources	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	Mean Score	Decision
5	Text Books	439	329	219	110	3.0	HE
6	Pictures, charts, graphs and transparencies	325	325	217	108	2.9	HE
7	Records and record players	60	119	240	237	2.0	LE
8	TV and video tape recordings	31	31	157	282	1.6	LE
9	Computer	31	62	185	245	1.8	LE

10	Chalk boards and display boards	361	271	183	178	2.8	<b>HE</b>
11	Dictionaries, encyclopedia, globes and atlases	159	238	317	159	2.5	<b>HE</b>

**VHE: Very High Extent; HE: High Extent, LE: Low Extent; VLE: Very Low Extent**

Table shows responses on the extent of utilization of library resources in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State. The table indicated the mean scores on 5, 6, 10 and 11 are above or at the cut of mean of 2.5 while mean score on items 7, 8 and 9 are below the cut of mean of 2.5. This shows that text books, pictures, charts, graphs and transparencies, chalk boards and display boards, dictionaries, encyclopedia, globes and atlases are utilized to a high extent in the secondary schools while records and record players, TV and video tape recordings and computer are utilized to a low extent in the secondary schools.

**What factors limit the effective utilization of library resources in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State?**

Item	Factors	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Decision
12	Lack of orientation on the part of students to the use of library resources	658	494	329	170	159	3.7	<b>Agree</b>
13	Lack of funds to procure library resources	696	557	278	149	130	3.9	<b>Agree</b>
14	Lack of qualified and experience technicians or librarians	320	518	278	416	278	3.1	<b>Agree</b>
15	Poor arrangement of school library resources	557	481	355	278	139	3.6	<b>Agree</b>
16	Lack of motivation on the part of students to use library resources	383	482	363	462	120	3.3	<b>Agree</b>

**SA: Strongly Agree, A: Agree, D: Disagree, SD: Strongly Disagree and U: Undecided**

Table shows that factors that limit the effective utilization of library resources in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State. The table indicates that mean score on all the items (i.e. items 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16) are above the cut of mean of 3.0. This shows that Lack of orientation and motivation on the part of students to use library resources, lack of funds, lack of qualified librarians/technicians and poor arrangement of library resources limit the effective utilization of library resources in the secondary schools.

#### **4. Discussion of Findings**

The findings of the study revealed that minority of the respondents of the study indicated that human resources such as the school librarian, teacher librarian, library assistance and library attendance were available in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State while majority indicated that they were not available. The findings of this study support the findings of Agulu and Aguu (2002) who observed that in most secondary schools in Nigeria, less attention are given to employment of library personnel such as school librarian, teacher librarian, library assistance or library attendance. Similarly, the findings of Buckland (1998) shows that due to lack of funds most schools with do not employ the assistance of librarians.

Furthermore, with respect to material resources the finding of the study shows that majority of the respondents indicated that text books, pictures, charts, graphs and transparencies, chalk boards and display boards were available in the school library in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State while only minority indicated that records and record players, TV and video tape recordings, computer, dictionaries, encyclopedia, globes indicated that they were available. The findings of this study is in line with the study of Fayose (2002) who observe that due to lack of funds most schools are unable to procure modern library resources such as computer, records and record players, TV and video tape recordings etc. However, Ayeni, and Oyebanji (2007) study showed that although text books, pictures, charts, graphs and transparencies, chalk boards and display boards may be described as common in secondary schools, they are usually outdated and may be of little relevant to current teaching and learning process.

The findings of the study also showed that text books, pictures, charts, graphs and transparencies, chalk boards and display boards, dictionaries, encyclopedia, globes and atlases are utilized to a high extent in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State while records and record players, TV and video tape recordings and computer are utilized to a low extent. This finding agrees with the study of Popoola (2001) who observed that in most secondary schools assignments are mostly based on textbooks and the use of atlases and as such could be attributed to their high level of utilization among students. Similarly, Obaitan and Ifidion (2004) study shows that due to lack of orientation on the part of management and funding most schools do not have modern library facilities such as records and record players, TV and video tape recordings and computer. As such these facilities are rarely utilized by students.

The findings of the study equally show that lack of orientation and motivation on the part of students to use library resources, lack of funds, lack of qualified librarians/technicians

and poor arrangement of library resources limit the effective utilization of library resources in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State. The findings of this study agree with the study of Obaitan and Ifidon (2004) who reported that due to lack of funds library services in our educational system have been seriously relegated if not basterdized. They lamented that many libraries in our secondary schools have been converted to classrooms due to poor funding. The finding of the study also confirms the study Omera and Mbashir (2002) who observed that the major challenge to the utilization of school library resources is the fact that students have not orientation in the area of searching for knowledge through library utilization. Similarly, Shaw (1991) identified some school library problems to include stocking, maintenance and administration of school libraries. Mohammed (2011) identified two major problems considered to have affected school library role and services. He considers finance and lack of qualified staff. According to him, the rising inflationary trend of the economy has resulted in cuts and withdrawal of financial allocation for the purchase of library materials. Prices of books and other materials have gone up. The second problem identified is that there is an absence of an efficient mechanism for and manpower to properly handle the library materials. The library lacks qualified and experienced technicians and librarians to man the schools' media centers.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

There is poor availability of library resources in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State. There is low utilization of records and record players, TV and video tape recordings and computer resources in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State. Lack of orientation and motivation on the part of students to use library resources, lack of funds, lack of qualified librarians/technicians and poor arrangement of library resources limit the effective utilization of library resources in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State

There are strategies that can be adopted to enhance the effective utilization of library resources in secondary schools in Karim lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State. These include provision of library resources in accordance with student academic needs, provision of electronic resources, the employment of qualified and trained librarians, and adequate allocation of funds, training and retraining of librarians and library attendance and orientation programs for students.

The following recommendations are proffered based on the findings of the study

1. Schools should organize seminars and programs to enlighten student on the relevant and the use of library resources. This will help in enhancing the utilization of library resources.
2. Government should give attention to investment in modern library resources as they are currently unavailable or inadequate in most secondary schools
3. Schools authorities are encourage to engage the communities they serve through the Parent Teachers Association in sourcing for funding for building and equipping the school libraries

4. Schools should ensure that qualified library staff are employed to man school libraries as they have the experience in the arrangement and management of the resources of the library
5. Teachers should motivate students to use library resources by giving assignment that enhances student consultation of library resources.

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