

Conducive Environment as Precursor to School Library Use Among Secondary School Students in Ibadan South West Local Government Area, Oyo State Nigeria

¹ Ibitayo A. Adebayo, ²Boluwatife A. Yoloye, ³Shina A. Akintonde

^{1,2}Department of School Library and Media Technology University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

³Department of Library and Information Science Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State

Abstract

The poor school library usage among secondary school students motivated the study. The main objective was to examine conducive environment and school library use habit among private secondary school students in Ibadan Southwest Local Government Area Oyo state Nigeria. The descriptive research design of the correlational type was adopted for the study. The study population was 2416 SS2 Students in 56 registered private secondary schools in Ibadan Southwest Local Government Area, Oyo State Nigeria. A total of 430 respondents was drawn from the population using a multistage sampling procedure. A self-structured questionnaire was used as instrument to elicit responses. The library use scale and resource adequacy sections measured 0.71 and 0.81 reliability scores respectively. Descriptive statistics were used to answer research questions 1 and 2 while inferential statistics through Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test the hypothesis. Findings from the study revealed that location of the library, accessibility of library, suitable table/desk for studying were the most conducive items under conducive environment. The most prevalent purpose of use of library was to prepare for examination, while highest frequency of use of library was 2-3 times per week. Textbooks was the most utilised among library resources. A positive significant relationship between conducive environment and school library use habit among the private secondary school students was established. The study recommended that conducive library environment should be deployed as a strategy for improving school library use habit among the private secondary school students.

Keywords: School library, Conducive library environment, Library use, Private secondary schools, Ibadan South-West, LGA, Oyo State, Nigeria

Introduction

Provision of a conducive and stimulating environment for students in enabling them to cultivate good library use habit must be the topmost concern of any education system in the world. The essence of use of libraries is premised on the provision of ideal environment and vital information resources for students to develop and sustain good study habits that are necessary for outstanding academic performance (Jato, Ogunniyi and Olubiyo,2014). Students' library use means continuous and regular use of a library and its resources by the individual with the purpose of meeting his/her intellectual requirements. This is usually measured in terms of types of resources used, frequency and purpose of use.

Libraries are places where the habit of reading can be acquired. Libraries increase student success at school and they help them to acquire the educational knowledge necessary for adapting to changing and evolving circumstances. This can only happen in a conducive environment. It was Maceviciute, Borg, Kuzminiene and Konrad (2014) who noted that a library should have an ideal reading environment that is free from noises, and should also have good illumination, clean and good ventilation as well as comfortable furniture for seating. This gives credence to conducive environment as a variable in this study. The term environment is broad. It covers layout, furniture, and decoration but also the emotional climate that is created. Getting the environment right for the students makes a considerable difference. This implies that students who feel comfortable and stimulated in the library environment can settle in and enjoy reading. The inference from the foregoing, therefore, is that for students to effectively use the school libraries, there should be adequate ventilation, appropriate physical facilities of the library such as library furniture and

lighting that could influence the student use of library. Students, for instance, who use the library resources in carrying out some research work or doing any type of class assignment such as writing of projects, term papers, and other practical assignment will be encouraged to do so if the library environment is conducive. Therefore, an ideal conducive learning environment can be described as that in which all the factors such as lighting, furniture, noise free reading areas and good ventilation and so on are adequately provided for learning purposes.

Thus, where a conducive atmosphere is not properly incorporated into a school library design particularly as noted by the IFLA (2015) School Library Guidelines, would negatively affect the users and deter learning. The IFLA (2015) guidelines mentioned factors for considering a school library environment which include Location of the Library accessibility, noise free, proper illumination, suitable furniture, proper ventilation, aesthetics among others. This was also corroborated by Echem and Udo-Anyanwu (2018). Consequently, there is no gainsaying the fact that any learning environment such as that of school library must be functional in design and inviting in appearance. It is only when such environment is in place that learning is encouraged. That is, library use could be influenced by the conduciveness of the environment. Therefore, this study considered conducive environment and school library use by students in private secondary schools in Ibadan Southwest local government area, Oyo State Nigeria. The choice of private secondary schools is premised on the fact that school libraries are poorly developed or non-existent in most public schools.

Statement of problem

There has been a growing concern about falling standard of education in Nigeria. Consequently, stakeholders have been asking several questions as to why students perform so poorly academically. This may not be unconnected to low library use among students. Anecdotal evidence and some empirical studies have established poor or low library use among secondary school students. This low library use maybe connected to inadequate library resources in form of books and non-book resources as well as lack of qualified library personnel. Lack of conducive environment could also be a contributory factor. Most school libraries environment in Nigeria is not inviting and stimulating and as such, it deters library use among students. Also, there is a gap in literature as the researcher is not aware of any study that has researched into conducive environment and school library use among secondary school students in Nigeria particularly in the study location. It is against this background that this study intends to assess the situation of conducive environment and school library use among private secondary school students in Ibadan Southwest Local Government, Oyo state, Nigeria.

Objectives of the study

The major objective of the study is to assess conducive environment as precursor to school library use among private secondary school students in Ibadan South-West LGA, Oyo State, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to:

1. ascertain the extent to which school library environment is conducive to private secondary school students in Ibadan Southwest LGA, Oyo State, Nigeria.
2. examine the pattern of school library use among private secondary school students in Ibadan Southwest LGA, Oyo State, Nigeria.
3. examine the relationship between conducive environment and school library use among secondary school students in Ibadan Southwest LGA, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Research questions

The following research questions were answered in the study:

1. to what extent is the library environment conducive for private secondary school students in Ibadan Southwest LGA, Oyo State, Nigeria?

2. What is the pattern of school library use among private secondary school students in Ibadan Southwest LGA, Oyo State, Nigeria?

Hypothesis

The null hypothesis stated below was tested in the study at 0.05 level of significance.

There is no significant relationship between conducive environment and school library use of private secondary school students in Ibadan Southwest LGA, Oyo State, Nigeria;

Literature review

For school library media centres to achieve effective use of their library resources, the libraries should not only provide and preserve information materials for users but should endeavour to make the entire environment inviting and attractive for meaningful study. Thus, the environment includes such factors as good ventilation, noise-free reading areas and physical facilities such as furniture and lighting/illumination. These environmental factors will determine the way students use library. Supporting this assertion, Echem, and Udo-Anyanwu (2018) emphasized that the library needs to be a comfortable place, else students will decide to use alternative methods to gather the information they need. This remark was borne out of their observation of students growing dependence on electronic resources and students lack understanding that some of the best sources that they could use for research are in print format. For instance, there are students who use the library resources in carrying out some research work or doing any type of class assignment such as writing of projects, term papers, seminar and workshop papers, and other practical assignments. Such students would be encouraged to do so if reading chairs and tables as well as bright lighting system are adequately provided. Any school library where these facilities are inadequately provided could result in low level of use by the secondary students.

Abukari (2019) revealed in a study that majority of the respondents were satisfied with the facilities and the library's environment except the noise aspect of the library. The respondents were clearly dissatisfied about the noise level in the library and this was illustrated in both their responses and comment sections. They indicated that noise from moving vehicles and the generator located closer to the library distract their studies, and hence, the library sometimes was not conducive for studies. These findings are in line with the findings of Kalpana and Komathy (2012) that majority of participants were satisfied with the available tables and chairs, cleanliness, and lighting system in the library. It was also revealed that some of the respondents were dissatisfied with the ventilation level in the library and therefore requested for an air conditioner to be fixed to avoid problems such as noise, and heat. However, these findings parallel that of Adeniran (2011) where respondents agreed that the library's environment was conducive for learning and research activities.

Clee and Maguire (1993) conducted a study on the effects of the environment on library use. It was revealed that the perception of the total library environment has more impact than that of individual factors. They noted that the total environment is made up of many different factors and that any one of these factors could potentially affect users' perception of the library. Better guiding, better lighting, a fresher atmosphere, more seating, and a quieter library were also recommended. Similarly, the study of Folorunso and Njoku (2016) reported that the characteristics of library environment included; good library building, seating arrangement, and availability of library information resources. Furthermore, library furniture, library personnel, temperature within the library, lighting, décor of the library (interior designs), signage within and outside the library, as well as noise level within the library encouraged the use of the library by the undergraduate students.

Noise as one of the environmental factors is simply unwanted or unpleasant sound to the ear which could constitute a nuisance and serve as distraction to library users. This situation in the library

most of the time discourages the users from using the university library to satisfy their information needs which in turn usually created a devastating effect on academic performance of the students. The undergraduates, for instance, who use the library resources in doing any type of class assignment, or for other reasons, will be encouraged to do so if only the library environment is quiet.

Research methodology

The descriptive research design of the correlational type was adopted for this study. The population for this study comprised 2416 SS2 Students in 56 registered private secondary schools in Ibadan South-West, Local Government Area, Oyo State Nigeria. A multistage sampling procedure was adopted for this study. At the first stage, a simple random sampling technique was used to select 30% of private secondary schools in Ibadan South-West Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. This gave a total of 17 private secondary schools. At the second stage a proportional to size sampling technique was used to select 50% of SS2 students from the selected schools. This makes a total of 430 respondents. A self-structured questionnaire was used to elicit responses from the respondents. The pre-test for the study was carried out on 20 students of Lead City Secondary school which were not part of the main study. The result of the analysed data from the data collected from the pre-test yielded 0.71 and 0.86 reliability coefficient for school library use and conducive environment respectively. Descriptive statistics comprising means, standard deviations, frequency count and percentages were used to answer research questions 1 and 2 while inferential statistics of Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test the hypothesis

Results and Discussions of findings

Demographic Information of the respondents

Table 1: shows demographic information of students

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	273	63.5
Female	134	31.2
No indication	23	5.3
Total	430	100.0
Age		
14-16years	318	74.0
17-19yeas	84	19.5
No indication	28	6.5
Total	430	100.0

Table 1 shows the demographic information of students as follows. The gender distribution reveals that majority of the students are male, which accounts for (64%), female (31%) while (5.3%) did not indicate their gender. The age distribution reveals that majority of the students falls between the ages of 14-16years which accounts for (74%), between the ages of 17-19years (20%) while (7%) did not indicate their age.

Answers to research questions

Research question One: To what extent is the library environment conducive for private secondary school students in Ibadan South-West Local Government Area, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria?

Table 2. Extent of conduciveness of school library environment in Ibadan Southwest Local Government Area, Oyo State.

S/N	Library Environment	Very Conducive	Conducive	Unconducive	Very Unconducive	Mean	Std. D
A	Location of the Library	232 (54.0)	151 (35.1)	15 (3.5)	4 (0.9)	3.29	1.056
B	Accessibility of Library	187 (43.5)	180 (41.9)	21 (4.9)	8 (1.9)	3.11	1.123
C	Noise Free Reading Areas	112 (26.0)	142 (33.0)	131 (30.5)	14 (3.3)	2.67	1.114
D	Illumination (Lightening for studying?)	163 (37.9)	153 (35.6)	64 (14.9)	11 (2.6)	2.91	1.201
E	Suitable table/desk for studying	216 (50.2)	130 (30.2)	41 (9.5)	-	3.11	1.221
F	Comfortable chairs for studying	210 (48.8)	103 (24.0)	80 (18.6)	-	3.04	1.204
G	Suitable furniture (Racks, shelves, carrels, stands)	157 (36.5)	130 (30.2)	111 (25.9)	4 (1.9)	2.89	1.113
H	Proper Ventilation	177 (41.2)	129 (30.0)	55 (12.8)	26 (6.0)	2.86	1.291
I	Accessible to persons with special needs	120 (27.9)	116 (27.0)	127 (29.5)	32 (7.4)	2.59	1.200
J	Availability of convenience	181 (42.1)	121 (28.1)	36 (8.4)	33 (7.7)	2.77	1.414
K	Decoration in the Library	149 (34.7)	110 (25.6)	65 (15.1)	45 (10.5)	2.56	1.416
L	Design of the Library	138 (32.1)	138 (32.1)	60 (14.0)	39 (9.1)	2.62	1.353
M	Ambience of the library	106 (24.7)	82 (19.1)	132 (30.7)	8 (1.9)	2.19	1.454
		Weighted Average= 2.82					
		Total Mean= 36.608 Criterion Mean= 2.50					

Table 2 shows the extent of conduciveness of school library environment. The results revealed that the students were satisfied with A table/desk for studying (Mean=3.11), Comfortable chairs for studying (Mean=3.04), Illumination (Lightening for studying? (Mean=2.91), Suitable furniture (Racks, shelves, carrels, stands) (Mean=2.89), Proper Ventilation (Mean=2.86), Availability of convenience (2.77), Noise Free Reading Areas (Mean=2.67), Design of the Library (Mean=2,62), Accessibility to persons with special needs (Mean=2.59) and Decoration in the library (Mean=2.56) while students were dissatisfied with Ambience of the library (Mean=2.19).

The weighted mean of the table is 2.82, it implies that students saw their school library environment as conducive. This finding aligns with Adeniran (2011) where respondents agreed

that the library's environment was conducive for teaching and learning activities noting that the student and teachers like the quiet and peaceful environment in the library and they prefer libraries to be clean and tidy and the result of Cleve and Maguire (1993) in a study on the effects of the environment on library use which revealed that the perception of the total library environment has more impact than that of individual factors. They recommended better guiding, better lighting, a fresher atmosphere, more seating, and a quieter library. The overall implication is that the library environment needs to be conducive if the use of library would be guaranteed.

Research question two: What are the types of school library resources being used by private secondary school students in Ibadan Southwest LGA, Oyo State, Nigeria?

Table 3: School Library use habit among private secondary school students in terms of types of library resources used by students

S/N	Resources	Frequency	Percentage	Remark
A	Textbooks	387	90.0	Used
	Fiction and Non-Fiction Books	277	64.4	Used
C	Electronic books	225	52.3	Used
D	Television and radio	284	66.0	Used
E	Dictionaries, Encyclopaedias, Charts, Atlas and maps	333	77.4	Used
F	Realia	161	37.4	Not used
G	Reference books	277	64.4	Used
H	Magazines and Newspapers	297	69.1	Used
I	Computers	336	78.1	Used
J	Internet	276	64.2	Used
K	Computer Instructional Materials	269	62.6	Used
L	Others (Specify)	124	28.8	Not used

Table 3 shows the library use pattern among private secondary school students in terms of types of library resources used by the students. The detailed analysis reveals that students agreed to have used the following resources in the library: Textbooks (90.0%), Computers (78.0%), Dictionaries, Encyclopaedias, Charts, Atlas and maps (77.0%), Magazines and Newspapers (69.0%), Television and radio, (66.0%), Fiction and Non-Fiction Books (64.0%), Reference books (64.0%), Internet (64.0%), Computer Instructional Materials (63.0%) and Electronic books (52.0%) while Realia (37.0%) and Others (29.0%) are not used. The implication is that Textbooks, Computers, Dictionaries, Encyclopaedias, Charts, Atlas and maps, Magazines and Newspapers, Television and radio, Fiction and Non-Fiction Books, Reference books, Internet, Computer Instructional Materials and Electronic books are the most library resources used by the students.

Table 4: Library use among secondary school students in term of purpose of use

S/N	Purpose of Library Use	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean	Std.D
A	For class assignments	276 (64.2)	77 (17.9)	39 (9.1)	11 (2.6)	3.31	1.143
B	To prepare for examination	251 (58.4)	128 (29.8)	14 (3.3)	11 (2.6)	3.32	1.079
C	To read notes or storybooks	255 (59.3)	99 (23.0)	35 (8.1)	7 (1.6)	3.24	1.181
D	For relaxation and recreation	158 (36.7)	127 (36.7)	76 (17.7)	36 (8.4)	2.79	1.237
E	To borrow books	177 (41.2)	155 (36.0)	34 (7.9)	32 (7.4)	2.96	1.208
F	To use online resources	118 (27.4)	107 (24.9)	105 (24.4)	64 (14.9)	2.48	1.266
G	To meet friends	97 (22.6)	89 (20.7)	104 (24.2)	86 (20.0)	2.207	1.332
H	To read newspapers and magazines	140 (32.6)	105 (24.4)	62 (14.4)	60 (14.0)	2.463	1.436
I	To while away time	112 (26.0)	102 (23.7)	81 (18.8)	43 (10.0)	2.230	1.479
Weighted Average= 2.779							
Total Mean Score= 25.01							
Criterion Mean= 2.50							

Table 4 shows the purpose of library use among private secondary school students in Ibadan South-West Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. The detailed analysis reveals that students agreed to the following that: to prepare for examination (Mean=3.32), for class assignments (3.31), to read notes or storybooks (Mean=3.24), To borrow books (Mean=2.96) and for relaxation and recreation (Mean=2.79), to use online resources (Mean=2.48), To read newspapers and magazines (Mean=2.46) while students disagreed that: To while away time (Mean=2.23) and to meet friends (Mean=2.21). This implies that, the most prevalent purpose of library use among secondary school students is to prepare for examination, do class assignments, read notes or storybooks, borrow books and for relaxation and recreation.

Table 5: Library use frequency among secondary students in Ibadan Southwest Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

S/N	How Often do you use the library	Frequency	Percentage
A	Daily	63	14.7
B	Weekly	105	24.4
C	2- 3 times per week	185	43.0
D	4 or more times per week	26	6.0
E	never	24	5.6

Table 5 shows the frequency of library use among secondary students in South-West Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. The detailed analysis reveals that one hundred and eighty-five students use library 2-3 times per week, follow by 105 students that use library weekly, 63 students that use library daily, 26 students that use library between 4 or more times per week and students that never use library. This shows to a large extent that library use frequency is moderate among the students. The findings above corroborated that of Agyekum and Filson (2012) on the use of library resources by students in Ghana schools which found that most of the students use library resources and services to supplement their class notes, assignments and helped them in

examination preparation. Also, Collins and Carol (2012) study which revealed that students use school library information resources for recreational readings, for reference purposes, doing their school homework, teacher requirements and reading newspapers. Echem, and Udo-Anyanwu (2018) identified students' habits in the use of their own school library and it was found that more than half of the students go to the library once a week or month, while only a few students go every day and that there were even participants, though very few, who never go to the library.

Testing the hypotheses

There is no significant relationship between conducive environment and school library use habit of private secondary school students in Ibadan Southwest LGA, Oyo State, Nigeria

Table 6: Summary of Pearson Product Moment Correlation showing the relationship between conducive environment and library use by students of private secondary schools in Ibadan South-West Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

Variable	Mean	Std.D	N	R	Sig	Remark
Conducive environment	41.719	13.969	430	0.720	0.000	Significant
School library use habit	36.549	11.95				

Table 6. shows that there is a positive significant relationship between conducive environment and school library use by the private secondary school students ($r=0.72$; $p<0.05$). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. The positive relationship implies that the conducive environment has a higher chance of improving school library use habit among the students surveyed. This is in tandem with Folorunso and Njoku (2016) who found that the good characteristics of library environment encouraged the use of the library students.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The provision of conducive school library environment is essential for regular school library use among students. The study has established that there is a positive significant relationship between conducive environment and school library use habit among secondary school students. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proffered:

1. It was discovered that there was high extent of conducive library environment, therefore, private school management and librarians should ensure that school library environments meet up with the indices of conducive library environment such as good location, illumination, ventilation and provision of suitable furniture among others particularly the ambience of the library. This may encourage regular use of the library by the students.
2. Computers, Dictionaries, Encyclopaedias, Charts, Atlas and maps, Magazines and Newspapers, Television and radio, Fiction and Non-Fiction Books, Reference books, Internet, Computer Instructional Materials and Electronic books are the most library resources used by the students, therefore, there should be proper orientation for students as per use of other library resources (such as reference materials and fiction books) and other purposes of using library rather than examination purpose. This will help promote proper school library use among students.
3. The study found that there is a positive significant relationship between conducive environment and school library use. Therefore, conducive library environment should be deployed as a strategy for improving school library use habit among the private secondary school students.

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