

Poor Funding of Public Libraries in Nigeria: Adamawa State Scenario

¹Babangida Umar Babayi, ²Amina Makintami and ³Patric Tumba ¹Ibrahim Babangida Library Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola ²Yobe State University Damaturu ³College of Agriculture library Ganye, Adamawa State

ABSTRACT

The study investigated effect of poor funding of public libraries in Nigeria: Adamawa State scenario. The main objective of the study is to investigate the effect of poor funding of public libraries Nigeria, Survey research design method was used for the study. Questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection. Descriptive statistics used was used for data analysis using simple percentages presented in tables. The study revealed that majority of the respondents indicated that government subvention is the sources of funding of public library, majority of the respondents indicated that funding of public library is inadequate. Also, majority of the respondent indicated that international donors are the alternative sources of funding public libraries and majority of the respondents indicated that the effect of poor funding causes in ability to acquire current material in the library. It has been concluded among others that Adamawa state public library is been funded through government subvention. Also, it has been recommended among others that government should increase subvention of public library to meet the expectation and the demand of its community.

INTRODUCTION

Library is essential to the educational, political, and socio-economic development of every nation. The fundamental aim of libraries is to provide timely, accurate, pertinent, and reliable information for their users. A library, according to Chamber's Encyclopedia, (2007) is a collection of books and other forms of records housed, organized and interpreted to meet broad and varying needs of the people such as information, knowledge, recreation and aestheticvalues. Public library has been defined variously, many see it as a place built for the collection of books and other printed resources and the personnel to provide and interpret such resources as required to meet the information, research, educational, recreational, cultural and aesthetic needs of the varied users and it is usually financed with public funds. Gates (1995) defined a public library as that authorized by law, supported from general public fund or special taxes voted for the purpose of administration, for the benefit of the citizens of the country, town, city or region which maintains it on the basis of equal access to all. Evans, (2000) viewed public library as an institution that is set up by the government through enabling law, funded and mentioned are expected to meet the educational, informational and recreational needs of its community.

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The public library is established to provide materials, which communicate experience and ideas from one generation to another and make them easily and freely available to all people. The public library is a center for information readily available to its users. It is established, supported and funded by the community, either through local, regional or national government or through some other community organizations. Therefore, public library provides access to knowledge, information and works of imagination through a range of resources and services. It is equal available to all members of the community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, employment status and educational attainment. According to Obizue and Obizue (2016) public library is a library that can be easily accessed by the general public and they share the following characteristics;

- They are generally supported by taxes usually local, though any level of government can and may contribute
- 2. They are governed by a board to serve the public interest
- 3. They are open to all, and every community member can access the collection
- 4. They are entirely voluntary in that no one is ever forced to use the services provided; and they provide basic services without charge.

^{*}Corresponding author: Babangida Umaru Babayi 🖾 <u>babayi@mautech.edu.ng</u> 🖾 Ibrahim Babangida Library, Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola, Adamawa State.. © 2019 Faculty of Technology Education, ATBU Bauchi. All rights reserved



Finance is the life wire of any establishment including land, labor, capitals, entrepreneur and information. The capital here refers to finance which can be used to procure other factors of production there by making it more important than others. Fund is obviously the major element in every establishment including public library, funding generally means the sum or source of money for procurement, attainment, obtaining and management of library resources. Therefore, funds are provided for capital and recurrent expenses, it also involves the money available or allocated to public libraries for running its day to day activities. However, Public libraries needs adequate fund to cater for their library services, pay salaries, to acquire current information and monitor both human and materials resources. There are several sources for library funding; funds can be generated in the library through various ways which include the printing and binding services, the library bookshop, the reprographic services and consultancy services. Also governments provide funds which are distributed to states, local municipals, another alternative sources includes individual donors and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Nigeria is one of developing countries in Africa and various researchers have shown that Nigeria does not appreciate the importance and needs of public libraries and the services it offers to society, this problem reflect on the level of funds allocated to libraries by the government or the authority concern. It's imperative that this study was conceived to investigate the state of funding public library in Nigeria general as well as Adamawa state in particular.

There is a growing recognition that library services, particularly public libraries, are an integral part of national socioeconomic development and improvement of the general quality of life of people living as a society (Ugah, 2008). The role of public library can only be effectively carried out with adequate funding and well-planned library services. It is therefore; essential for a public to generate fund library to possess the resources that will enable it meet its goals and objectives for which it was established. Also, a well-structured building, well trained staff and modern information storage and retrieval systems cannot be provided without adequate fund. There is need for the provision of adequate fund if public libraries in Nigeria want to remain relevant in 21st century. However, it has also been established through previous studies which consistently reported that inadequate funding of public libraries as one of the major problem facing public libraries in Nigeria in general as well as Adamawa state public libraries in particular. Preliminary investigation conducted by the researchers has revealed a number of factors inhibiting the provision of quality public library services to users which may not be unconnected with inadequate funding, sources of funding and alternative sources of funding to such libraries. In line to this investigation, Oduwole and Adedoyin (2005) affirmed that poor funding had been identified as the major problem of public libraries in Nigeria. As long as public libraries in Nigeria are not well-funded, it shall continue to witness poor reading society. Hence public libraries need to be funded for better society. It is against this background that this research sought to determine the effect of poor funding of public libraries in Adamawa state in particular.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate the effect of poor funding of public libraries Nigeria, specifically are:

- 1. To determine the source of funding public libraries
- 2. To determine the adequate funding of public libraries
- 3. To determine the alternative sources of funding public libraries
- 4. To determine the effects of funding public libraries
- 5. To determine the problems militating against funding public library

Research Questions

- 1. What are the sources of funding public libraries?
- 2. Are public libraries adequate funded?
- 3. What are the alternative sources of funding public libraries?
- 4. What are the effects of funding public libraries?
- 5. What are the problems militating against funding public library?

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

On state of funding public libraries, Nwafor, (2002) stated that every library stands on three legs, a building, collection and staff, but the only thing that holds those legs and bounds them together is money. He further states that for the library to meet the objective for which it was established, money is very

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crucial for procurement, processing and maintenance of equipment. Fries, (2008) pointed out that adequate finance is vital for the satisfactory running of any kind. Adedoyin, (2005) stated that funding, if properly done by the government can help in growth of public library to meet the expectations and the demands of its user community. Opara, (2008) opined that the bane of public libraries in Nigeria is poor funding. Every other problem confronting them emanates from that. This problem is steadily compounded by the reality of both inflation and the information explosion, including the growing concern for the provision of information in all its formats. Mohanty, (2016) in his statement connoted that in order to escape poverty and usher in economic prosperity in the 21st century; India needs to concentrate on regional or local economic development through municipalities, as cities and towns are the engines of economic growth and generators of public finance for socio-economic development. In the same vein, many states in India face major challenges in running public libraries due to acute shortage in infrastructure, funds and lack of local policies (Singh, 2012).

On the main sources of funding public libraries there are various sources of funding according to scholars, public library is a community institution primarily funded by tax revenues, where any person without regard to race, religion, or economic condition should be able to obtain free access to the recorded history, learning and knowledge of mankind. (Okiy, 2004). Finance is a critical input in the running of any organization. Okiy (2008) affirmed that public libraries financing in Nigeria maintained that the financing of public libraries is a costly ventures which requires overhauling. He also present treads to leaving the financing of public libraries to state government alone is basically deficient. He proposed a balanced inter-governmental funding system involving the federal, state and local governments where federal government should contribute 20% of public library fund, state government 50% and local government 30%.respectively. The only main source is government allocation and it is the most pronounced way or source of funding public libraries in Nigeria. More so, Evans, (2000)

Ikem (1995) pointed out that UNESCO public library manifesto in 1994 which is the third in the series after 1949 and 1972 declared the public library as the local center of information, making all kinds of knowledge and information readily available to its users. It further stipulates the funding legislation and financed by national and local government. Many other writers held the same view. For instance Oduwale, (2005) stated that public libraries are tax supported libraries that services the generally of the public without bias to sex, age, race or religion. Adaramola, (1998) noted that public libraries are libraries established and funded with tax payer's money for the free and unrestricted provision of books and other related materials to members of the public for study and recreational purposes. In view of the above, various sources of public library finance which includes; Government sources, Subscription, Income generated by the library and endowments

The alternative sources of funding of public libraries is reviewed by Friese (2008) opined that for a public library to function effectively there is the need to explore and exploit other areas of sourcing funds through the internally generated revenue to complement direct funding from the government. He also stressed that proper funding is the most important factors which determines public library efficiency, this in turn reflects on the services it offers. Baneriee (2015): Pvati and Kamal (2012) reported that the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other voluntary agencies play an active role in the development and management of public and community libraries in and around Bengaluru. Avadaiappan (2015) recommended that constituency development fund of the Members of State Assembly/Parliament at least 3 years in every assembly segment; creation of 'library infrastructure fund' with the support of the government, public sector undertakings, multinational companies, private donors and through public-private partnership. To this end, alternative sources for funding public library have to be efficient to provide high quality library services and responsive to the local people's needs (Scottish Library and Information Council, 2015). Buschman, (2016) averred that public libraries become landmarks in our vibrant cities and towns, there is needs for government to established synergy with NGOS in order to drag the public library system into the 21st century and prepare for the challenges Nigeria faces in a digital world, such as addressing issues of privacy, building democratic values, which crucially include free speech, freedom of thought, and equal access to information. Emojorbo (2004) enumerated alternative sources include the possible means by which public libraries in Nigeria can fund their services, such as activities of patron and community aid. In agreement with that

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statement, Emojorho, (2004) opined that community aid has always existed in the history several international agencies have in many decades been offering aids to public libraries. These include UNESCO, Carnegie Corporation, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, and the British Council, UNDP, Book for Africa Project, European Union and UNDES.

On the problems associated with funding of public library. The American Library Association (2006) noted that libraries of all kinds need money and funds are essential for acquiring library resources, with inadequate funds public libraries cannot realized their goals as a recreational centers. Therefore, public libraries should be adequately funded to be able to carry out these functions effectively. Iteng (2018) stated that a society has a stake in what the library does. It is interesting to have the library affect a lot of peoples' lives in most positive ways. Granted that not everybody likes or uses the library or even understands why they exist or should be funded, public libraries must implement best practices to attract the reading public. Understandably, budget cuts put them at a disadvantage implement efficiencies to in educational processes and increase information literacy as they profess but it becomes a lesson in the management of scarce resources to achieve great benefits in austere. Adaramola (1998) emphasized that public libraries all over the world are experiencing crises imposed by financial constraints, poor economic and inflation. It was further stated that no library can be adequately stocked without the necessary adequate fund. He equally acknowledged that the constraints on funding is all embracing as it affects to a large extent not only book purchase but also staff salaries, quality and number of staff to be employed and above all, depth of services to be provided. However, some factors militate against effective funding of public libraries which includes: Government attitude, location of the library, misappropriation of funds and financial recklessness by some libraries and readers attitude Madu, Onyeneke, and zubogu (2018) recommended that extensive public enlightenment campaign should be involved to acquaint the rural dweller on the importance of public libraries in community development so that they will largely embrace their services.

Onyemaechi (2017) observed that a public library is a library that provides opportunities that positively affect community development but it has suffered some challenges to the extent that successive governments and organizations in Nigeria often overlook and neglect them as institutions that foster community development. According to Opara (2008) poor funding, lack of electricity supply, inexperienced and inadequate work force, illiteracy of community dwellers and lack of public enlightenment have contributed to the poor functioning and non-attainment of the community development expectation of public libraries in Nigeria. Amaechi (2014) alerted that it is important to note that most of the public libraries in Nigeria lack digital service opportunities and do not have current books and resource materials that are needed to facilitate the slow pace of community development in the communities. There is no modern technology awareness in most of the public libraries and most staff is nonprofessional while some others are not computer literate and cannot afford to give adequate research or reference assistance to the users. This is necessary because a library that cannot meet the information needs of its users is a moribund and anemic information system as it has lost its vitality, honor and attractions (Ajidabun, 2004). Opara, (2008) opined that the bane of public libraries in Nigeria is poor funding. Every other problem confronting them emanates from that. This problem is steadily compounded by the reality of both inflation and the information explosion, including the growing concern for the provision of information in all its formats.

METHODOLOGY

This study used survey research method. According to Berg (2002) survey research design is a plan for how the study would be conducted. It is concerned with what type of information or data to be gathered and through what forms the data is collected and its technique. All employees in the Adamawa State public library, constituted the targeted population for the study which is sixty six (66). Therefore, the entire population will be used for the study.

The questionnaire was used as an instrument for the collection of data. A self-developed and structured questionnaire was used for the study. The respondents were provided with options from where they choose an appropriate answer to the questions. The questionnaire was categorized based on sections A-F. Section A: Demographic data. Section B: The source of funding public libraries. Section C: The adequate funding of public libraries. Section D: The alternative sources of

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funding public libraries. Section E: The effects of funding public libraries and Section F: The problems militating against funding public library

The questionnaire was personally administered by the researchers. The administration and retrieval of the questionnaire was carried out within the period of two weeks. Descriptive statistics was used in analyzing the collected data. To achieve this, percentages, frequencies and tables was employed in analyzing the data generated from the questionnaire. A total of 66 questionnaires were administered to the respondent and 56 questionnaires were retrieved and found usable for the analysis this represent 84.8%. As shown below table 1

Table 1: Response rate of	Questionnaire Distributed
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S/No.	Number of questionnaire	Frequency	Percentages (%)
1	Distributed	66	100%
2	Returned	56	84.8%
3	Not Returned	10	15.2%
	Total	66	100%

Source: Field Survey 2019

Section A: Demographic Data

Table 2:	Demographic	Data
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S/No.	Gender	Frequency	Percentages (%)
1	Male	36	64.2%
2	Female	20	35.8%
	TOTAL	56	100
S/No.	Qualification	Frequency	Percentages (%)
3	PhD.	-	-
4	MLS	6	10.7%
5	BLS	10	17.8.%
6	Diploma Library science	30	53.5%
7	SSCE/GCE	10	17.8%
	Total	56	100
S/No.	Working experience	Frequency	Percentages (%)
8	1-5	5	8.9%
9	6-10	21	37.5%
10	11-15	20	35.7%
11	16-20	5	8.9%
12	21 and above	5	8.9%
	Total	56	100

Source: Field Study 2019

The above table shows that 36 respondent representing (64.2%) indicate males, while 20 respondent representing (38.8%) indicate females. The result shows that male constitute the majority of the respondent in the Library. On qualification of respondent the result shows that 6 respondent representing (10.7%) indicate MLS while 10 respondent representing (17.8%) indicate BLS, 30 respondent representing (53.5%) indicated DLS and 10 respondent representing (17.8%) indicate SSCE/GCE. The result shows that NCE/DIPLOMA constitutes the majority of the respondent in the library. On the working experience of the library staff, the result shows that 5 respondent representing (8.9%) indicated 1-5 years while 21 respondent representing (37.5%) indicate 6-10 years, 20 respondent representing (35.7%) indicate 11-15 years, 5 respondent representing (8.9%) indicate 16-20 years and 5 respondent representing (8.9%) indicate 21 and above. The result shows that 6-10

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years constitute the majority of the respondent in the library.

Section B: Respondents were asked the Source of Funding of Public Library?

S/No.	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Percentages (%)
13	Reprographic Service		5		8.9%
14	Consultancy service		5		8.9%
15	Government subvention	41			73.3%
16	Endowment			5	8.9%
	Total	56			100

Table 3: Sources of Funding of Public Library

Source: Field Survey 2019

Table above shows that 5(8.9%) agree reprographic services, 5(8.9%) agree consultancy service, 41(73.3%) strongly agree that government subventions and 5(8.9%) disagree endowment as source of funding. The result revealed that majority

of the respondents indicated strongly agree government subvention is the sources of funding of Adamawa state public library.

Section C: Respondents were asked if Public Library is adequately funded.

S/no	Options	Strongly agree	Agree	Percentages (%)
17	Adequate	-	16	28.6%
18	Inadequate	40		71.4%
19	Not at all	-	-	-
	Total	56	-	100

Source: Field Survey 2019

The above shows that 16(24.3%) indicated agree adequate and 50 (75.7%) indicated strongly agreed inadequate. The result revealed that majority

of the respondents indicated strongly agree that funding of public library is inadequate

Section D: Respondents were asked to indicate the alternative sources of funding public library

S/No.	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Percentages (%)
20	International Donors	23		41.1%
21	Reprographic Services		9	16.0
23	Philanthropic Organizations		14	25%
24	Overdue charges		10	17.9
	Total			100

Table 5: The Alternative Sources of Funding Public Libraries

Source: field study 2019

The above table shows that 23(41.1%) indicated strongly agree international donors, 9(16.0%) indicated agreed Reprographic Services, 14(25%) indicated agree philanthropic organizations

and 10(17.9%) indicated agreed overdue charges. The result revealed that majority of the respondent indicated strongly agree that international donors is the alternative sources of funding public libraries

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Section E: Respondents were asked effect of poor funding of public library

S/No.	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Percentages (%)
25	Causes in ability to acquire current material in the library	30		60.6%
26	Bring about non- recruitment of professional personnel		14	24.3%
27	Non- payment of staff claims and other entitlements	12		15.1%
	Total	56		100

Table 6: Effect of Poor Funding of Public Library

Source: Field Survey 2019

The above shows, that 30(60.6%) strongly agree effect of poor funding causes in ability to acquire current material in the library, while 14(24.3%) agree that it bring about non-recruitment of professional personnel and 12(15.1%) strongly

agree that non- payment of staff claims and other entitlements. The result revealed that majority of the respondents indicated strongly agree that the effect of poor funding causes in ability to acquire current material in the library

Section F: Respondents were asked the Factors Inhibits Funding of Public Libraries

S/No.	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Percentages (%)
28	None released of subvention by government	35		62.5%
29	Inexperienced and inadequate work force		7	12.5%
30	Government indifferences to the place of public library	14		25%
	Total			100

Table 6: Problems Militating Against Adequate Funding of Public Libraries

Source: Field Survey 2019

The above table shows that 35 (62.5%) strongly agree that poor none released of subvention by government while, 7(12.5%) indicated agree that inexperienced and inadequate work force and 14(25%) indicated strongly government indifferences to the place of public library. The result revealed that majority of the respondents indicated that none released of subvention by government problems militating against adequate funding of public libraries.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 1. Government subvention is the sources of funding of Adamawa state public library.
- 2. Funding of public library is inadequate.
- 3. International donors is the alternative sources of funding public libraries.
- 4. The effect of poor funding causes in ability to acquire current material in the library

5. None released of subvention by government problems militating against adequate funding of public libraries.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents indicated strongly agree government subvention is the sources of funding of Adamawa state public library. This study is in line with study of Evans, (2000) discovered that the services of public library are financed through grants from government. Okiy (2008) conducted a study on public libraries financing in Nigeria, recommended that a balanced inter-governmental funding system involving the federal, state and government should contribute 20% of public library fund state 50% and local government 30%

The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents indicated strongly agree

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that funding of public library is inadequate. The study is in line the study of Singh, (2012). Conducted a study on challenges of public libraries automation in Punjab India the result revealed that major challenges in running public libraries due to acute shortage in infrastructure, inadequate funds and lack of local policies. This is in line with the work of Adedoyin (2005) remarks that it has become a common knowledge that public libraries in Nigeria are inadequately funded and thus, many services can no longer be adequately provided in such library.

The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondent indicated strongly agree that international donors is the alternative sources of funding public libraries. This study agrees with study of Banerjee (2015); Pyati and Kamal (2012) reported that the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other voluntary agencies play an active role in the development and management of public and community libraries in and around Bengaluru.

The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents indicated strongly agree that the effect of poor funding causes in ability to acquire current material in the library the research study agree with study of Opara (2008) on Public Library in Contemporary Challenges and the Way Forward the results revealed that poor funding, lack of electricity supply, inexperienced and inadequate work force, illiteracy of community dwellers and lack of public enlightenment have contributed to the poor functioning and non-attainment of the community development expectation of public libraries in Nigeria

Findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents indicated that none released of subvention by government problems militating against adequate funding of public libraries. The research has agree with study of Onyemaechi (2017) discovered that a public library has suffered some challenges to the extent that successive governments and organizations in Nigeria often overlook and neglect them as institutions that foster community development

CONCLUSION

It has been concluded that government subvention is the sources of funding of Adamawa state public library. Also It has been concluded that public library in Adamawa state are not given adequate fund to run the library. It is therefore, concluded that that international donors are the alternative sources of funding public libraries. It was concluded that the effect of poor funding cause's inability to acquire current material in the library and it has been concluded that that none released of subvention by government is the problem militating against adequate funding of public libraries

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made.

- Government should increase subvention of public library to meet the expectation and the demand of its community
- 2. Government should provide adequate funding to public libraries for acquisition of resources and running its services
- 3. Federal and Government state should established a good relationship to persuade international donors/ NGOs to provide adequate fund to public libraries as an alternative source
- 4. The government should improve its financial allocations to the state library board to enable them acquire current and up to date material in the library.
- State government should expedite action to released subvention to alleviate problem of funding of public libraries

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