The Roles of Librarians and Libraries Campaign as a Strategy for the Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria

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Abstract: - All over the world in 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end Poverty protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for as part of a new sustainable development goals. Seventeen general goals for sustainable development were set up. Each goal has targets to be achieved over 15 years. For the goals to be achieved, governments, the private sector, civil society and people in general need to be committed. For any nation to develop, it needs to have and provide relevant, updated and adequate information on food security, democracy, health, education, gender equality etc. Libraries can provide such access to information that would enable people to live gainful lives. However, people need to be skilled at identifying, acquiring, organizing, offering for use and publicly preserving materials irrespective of the form in which it is packaged in such a way that when it is needed it can be found and put to use. The paper describes the importance of library campaign as a strategy for attainment of the SDG in Nigeria. In addition, the paper also examines the roles of librarians for ensuring the actualization of the sustainable development goals in the country.

Keywords: **Library, Campaign, Development, Library, Nigeria, Sustainable.**

I. INTRODUCTION

The problem of development has occupied the attention of scholars, activists, politicians, development workers, local and international organizations for many years with an increased tempo in the last decade. Though there are different perspectives to development, there is a general consensus that development will lead to good change manifested in increased capacity of people to have control over material assets, intellectual resources and ideology, and obtain physical necessities of life (food, clothing and shelter), employment, equality, participation in government, political and economic independence, adequate education, gender equality, sustainable development and peace. Information is a vital tool for development. Libraries and librarians can provide such access to information which would enable people to lead gainful lives as they are skilled at acquiring, organizing, offering for use and publicly preserving information irrespective of the form in which it is packaged in such a way that when it is needed it can be found and put to use. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are seventeen goals that show the eagerness by the governments globally to eradicate poverty and hunger and to provide quality education, good health, gender inequality, good jobs and economic growth and partnerships among international communities. These goals respond to the world's most development challenge. It is argued that the purpose of the development is to improve people's lives by expanding their choices, freedom, and dignity. (Igbuzor, 2006). The United Nations SDGs recognized the interdependence between growth, poverty eradication, and sustainable development so that achieving one of them can be expected to contribute to achieving others, for example, poverty eradication would certainly help to deal with the health and education challenges also achieving health and education goals would also contribute to fighting against poverty.

II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, more than 150 world leaders adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 new Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, and build strong institutions and partnerships. The specific goals are to:

➢ No Poverty
➢ Zero Hunger
➢ Good Health & Well-being
➢ Quality Education
➢ Gender Equality
➢ Clean Water & Sanitation
➢ Affordable & Clean Energy
➢ Decent Work & Economic Growth
➢ Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
➢ Reduce inequality
➢ Sustainable Cities & Communities
➢ Responsible Consumption & Consumption
➢ Climate Action
➢ Life below Water
➢ Life on Land
➢ Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions
➢ Partnership for the Goals

Oneyeyan and Adesina (2016) Observed that since the sustainable summit in 2015, the SDGs have received global acceptability as targets for human survival and sustainable development. They have become the international standard for measuring the progress and effectiveness of development programmes for national governments. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aegis was assigned responsibility to support governments around the world in tackling the new agenda and taking it forward over the next 15 years.

III. NIGERIA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

Nigeria as a signatory to the Sustainable Development agenda of 2015 and committed to achieving the SDGs in 2030. Apart from his three campaign promises (Security, Corruption and youth employment), a strategic framework for reaching these goals were adopted by the president Muhammadu Buhari on 21st March 2016 during a 2-day national economic council retreat at the state house conference center. The resolution of the conference led to the development of Multi-Center of Prospects. According to President Muhammadu Buhari, "I am going to throw at this gathering some random policy options altered from across the spectrum of our stakeholders on four (4) selected sectors of our economy. These are Agriculture, Power, Manufacturing, and Housing. I have not touched Education, Science, and Technology pointedly because these related subjects require a whole retreat by themselves." The achievement of the SDGs by the target date of 2030 may likely meet some challenges. Librarians, therefore, need to take up their responsibilities as professional information analysts in offering ideas and services for the attainment of the SDGs.

IV. THE EIGHT MAIN TARGETS

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 2015 Target: Halve the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day and those suffering hunger.

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Basic Education 2015 Target: Achieve Universal Primary Completion

Goal 3: Promote Gender equality 2015 Target: Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education enrolment by 2005, and achieve equity at all levels by 2015.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality 2015 Target: Reduce by two thirds the child mortality rate.

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health 2015 Target: Reduce by three quarters the proportion of women dying in childbirth.

Goal 6: Combat AIDs, malaria and other diseases 2015 Target: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of HIV-AIDs, malaria and other major diseases.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. 2015 Target: reduce by half the proportion of people without access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation. By 2020 achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development. These goal commits nations to work together to achieve an open, rule-based trading and financial system more generous aid to countries committed to poverty reduction, and relief for the debt problems of developing countries. The MDGs encapsulate the development aspiration of the world as a whole. They encompass universally accepted human values and rights such as freedom from hunger, the right to basic education, the right to health and a responsibility to future generations. The UN believes that if things go as planned, the member states of the organization would have realized their voluntary commitment by 2015. The MDGs are designed to bring about a positive change in the lives of billions of people in the world. Each country is responsible for working out details of comprehensive development framework and funding strategies. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have elicited great interest and attracted broad support from the international community. World leaders have reaffirmed their clear and unequivocal support for the goals. The Millennium Development Goals set the more realistic but still difficult deadline of 2015 for all children to complete a full course of primary schooling. In many places schools fail to enroll all children or to retain them, and there can be a large gap between reported enrollment, attendance, and completion rates. Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women: In most low-income countries, girls are less likely to attend school than boys. Education and 'library' are two inseparable – indivisible concepts, both being fundamentally and synchronically related to and co-existing with each other. One cannot be separated from the other, and the existence of one is impossible without the other. None of them is an end in itself; rather both of them together are a means to an ultimate end. One dies as soon as the other parishes. One survives as long as the other exists. Education is an 'aggregate of all the processes by means of which a person develops abilities, attitudes, and other forms of behavior positive value in the society in which he lives (Fafunwa, 1979). Education is thus the result of acquired knowledge and the accumulation of observations and experiences, while a library is both the fountain and source and the protector and storehouse of that knowledge and experience. Education cannot exist alone in the absence of library and information services, and library and information services have no meaning if it cannot impart education. The library may be defined as an institution that manages the intellectual products of society and processes them in such a manner that the individual gain access to them readily. Libraries provide resources for knowledge acquisition, recreation, personal interests and interpersonal relationships of users. Library information resources that can be found in any type of library are in both printed and electronic format such as textbooks, journals, indexes, abstracts, newspapers, magazines, reports, CD-ROM

databases, internet, tapes, diskettes, computers, microforms etc. These information materials are the raw materials that libraries acquire, catalog, stock and make available to their patrons, as well as utilize to provide various other services. Library and information services may, therefore, be viewed as the activities that libraries and their personnel render to meet the information needs of their users. Such services include reference services, current awareness, selective dissemination of information, circulation of library information resources, indexing and abstracting, CD-Rom database search, translation, microfilming, internet services etc (Popoola and Haliso, 2009). IFLA (2007) reported that there a number of strategies that the library sectors could adopt to contribute to the realization of Millennium Development Goals. Thus the libraries have an essential and close bearing upon the advancement of education and learning at all levels most especially Primary and Junior Secondary levels of education which are the main focus of MDGs on education.

V. LIBRARY CAMPAIGN AS A STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

Librarians are compelled to use new skills and strategies in order to change, survive and continue to compete in the world of virtual information. Library campaign has become very essential and important in the provision of library and information services that are not marketed effectively may not be heavily patronized (Gupta & Savard, 2009). Library campaign refers to a series of actions and activities embark upon by librarians to improve services delivery and better satisfaction of the users. Tise, (2009), defined library campaign as a strategy designed to advance the lifelong education of the public by the promotion, support, assistance and improving the use of libraries through the activities of librarians and user groups. Wilson, (2015) points out that the SDG's involve working closely together at a global level to achieve a common vision and librarian play a role in promoting awareness and access to information in support of the inclusion process by building bridges between individuals at the local level and the global level. The need to increase awareness and use of information for different purposes has resulted in the establishment of various information services providers which have the capacity to compete for survival with libraries in providing users with timely, adequate and relevant information in the preferred formats. According to Rubin (2000) Library campaign techniques involves planning and managing the organization's exchange relations with its clientele. Pearson and Hall (2015), identified the following as top ten strategies for libraries to create greater awareness and impact for national and international development:

1. Create and tell your library's story
2. Develop key messages
3. Ensure that staff, Board, and volunteers understand and can deliver key messages and that everyone is speaking from the same script!
4. Engage the media

5. Identify target audiences and create objectives for each audience
6. Engage your audience and allow them to participate
7. Create a public awareness campaign and tie it to an advocacy campaign
8. Use your website, social media, and print materials to spread your message
9. Don't stop with the story make 'the ask' for public or private support!
10. Evaluate your success

VI. LIBRARY CAMPAIGN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG'S)

Education is essential to the success of every one of the 17 new sustainable development goals. The SDGs outline a new and ambitious worldwide effort to reduce poverty and hunger, improve health, enable equality, and protect the planet and much more. Real progress will be elusive unless all children receive a quality education. Access to quality education is possible only with well-equipped library and committed personnel to ensure information to its user.

VII. HOW LIBRARIANS CONTRIBUTE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH LIBRARY CAMPAIGN

Libraries provide information & communication technologies (ICT) infrastructure, and librarians help people develop the capacity to effectively use information and preserve information to ensure ongoing access for future generation. Access to information is a cross-cutting issue that supports all of the SDGs. Some ways that librarians can contribute to improving outcomes across the SDGs include the following:

1. Raising awareness on the various development issues spelled out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
2. Providing a place where information where information on developmental issues can be accessed
3. Establishment of a strong library campaign programmes
4. Selecting resources taking into account the development indicators raised in the
5. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)`
6. Hosting local forum from time to time where people can talk through problems, such as HIV/AIDS, community health, education, civil and human rights etc.
7. Engage in partnership with other agencies in promoting changes needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
8. Promote the establishment of libraries especially at the rural areas to enhance information dissemination at the local level
9. Provide a network of service delivery for government programmes and services

10. Advancing access to ICT and help people to acquire and develop new digital skill

VIII. CHALLENGES FACING LIBRARIANS TOWARDS THE ACTUALIZATION OF SDG'S IN NIGERIA

Libraries in Nigeria are faced with a number of challenges so also librarians. These challenges have affected the impact libraries and the librarian can make on the songs. The challenges include inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, inadequate staffing, inadequate facilities etc.

Apotiade (2002) laments that libraries are not adequately funded, and this affects to a reasonable extent the librarian's commitment towards information service delivery.

Krolak (2005) advises that libraries have to be adequately funded if they are to be effective and attractive. Another challenge of libraries is poor infrastructure especially at local level, which in essence also affects the librarian readiness to serve their clientele with the information available at their disposal. Krolak (2005) posits that appropriate buildings are needed to provide protection to library materials. He added that books, computers, and audiovisual materials are very sensitive and have to be protected from extreme weather conditions. Apotiade (2002) asserts that many libraries are run by non-professional staff. Poor and inadequate facilities have also become an undetermined issue for libraries and librarians to meet their goals of providing information for development. Apotiade (2002) argues that libraries and librarians need sufficient space and facilities to accommodate new types of materials such as computers, CD-ROM etc, Also adequate is needed for staff and readers as well.

IX. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The paper has established the relationship between libraries and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) The seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals have been discussed with ways in which librarians can be instrumental in meeting them. Challenges that librarians face in the provision of information has also been highlighted. Based on these the following recommendations are made:

1. Librarians should appreciate that fact that they are indispensable in the provision of information for the actualization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and therefore be in the forefront in their activities and services to contribute to the achievement of the goals.
2. Librarians and libraries need to be adequately supported by the parent organization with all the required facilities and financial support so that they can attend professional's seminars and workshop.
3. Adequate staffing in terms numbers and professional qualification needs to be provided also.
4. Librarians should strive to acquire information materials on the Sustainable Development Goals and bring the materials to the awareness of the library users.
5. Librarians need to be more thorough and determine in running services that would directly impact the achievement of the SDG, through organizing awareness programmes, hosting local forums, partnering with other agencies etc.

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