



**LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**GENERAL STUDIES**

**BOOK OF READINGS**

**VOL. 1**

*Edited by*  
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there is the need to clarify aspects of defining education in order to see the points of the library and education.

Over the years the word 'education' has been given many definitions. It has also been erroneously equated with some other concepts like schooling, reading and writing, or even learning. Though these are essential elements of education they are

not complete education on their own. Only a few of the various definitions of education will be considered for the purpose of this discourse. Education has been described as the main vehicle for the development of the human personality and means of national development.

Education, broadly defined, is all efforts, conscious and direct, incidental and indirect, made by a given society to accomplish certain objectives that are considered desirable in terms of the individual's own need as well as the needs of the society where that education is based.

The above definition stress that education is needed for personal and societal development. However other scholars consider education in terms of the coming generation. Some of their definitions are considered as follows:

Education is the means by which generations of people introduce the younger ones into the ethos, mores, culture, the economy, the politics, the religion, the technology and the vocations as well as the leisure of the society (Ipaye, 1999:2).

Another scholar also sees education as the process of passing on the group culture from one generation to the next (Ukeje, 1986). These various definitions taken together present education as something desirable for the here and now and also that which needed to be passed on to the future generation in order to ensure individual and national development at all times.

### **Relevance of Libraries to Education**

Whichever type, the importance of libraries to education cannot be over-emphasized since they are definitely places for learning and are agents of educational development be it social, economic, political, scientific and technological. In talking about the place of libraries in education, reference can be made to the National Policy on Education where it is stated that:

Since Libraries constitute one of the most important educational Services, proprietors of schools shall also provide functional libraries. In all their educational institutions in accordance with the established Standards. They shall also provide for training of librarians and library Assistants for this services.

This stance is in line with the opinion of some scholars who see the library as the mainstream of the instructional process and the centre for educational excellence (Fayose, 1995).

This fact can be established going by the various roles that libraries play in education. These include: information dissemination, independent learning, knowledge expansion, development of values, economic, recreational, social and bibliotherapeutic roles.

**Information Dissemination:-** The library as a resource centre of an educational institution serves as a place where both learners and teachers can get the needed information materials that help meet their academic needs at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Undergraduates can get information from various subject textbooks and reference materials while, in addition to these, postgraduate students and lecturers can get those information materials that will aid them in their advanced research work. Such materials include journals, bibliographies, abstracts and indexes.

**Independent Learning:-** When students are in class they learn in group and the pace of the lecturer may be too fast or slow for some but libraries make it possible for learners to go at their own pace by studying independently, this process will help such people to understand concepts better and give quality output in terms of education.

**Knowledge Expansion:-** Libraries expansion make it possible for their users to verify and consolidate what has been taught. The abundant information materials help learners to confirm or dispute the claims of other.

**Development of Values:-** The library helps in the development of values, attitudes and appreciation by stocking literary materials where fictional and non-fictional life experiences have been presented to help people understand themselves and their environment. This is essential in the academic community to help people become or stay focused by learning from the experiences of others.

**Economic Role:-** As it is not easy for everyone whether lecturers or students to buy all the needed research materials because of high costs, the library comes to their aid by supplying a wide range of information sources that can be used to further the course of education.

**Recreational Role:-** By stocking such materials like newspapers and magazines, the library helps its users to broaden their horizon in the course of relaxation and the knowledge acquired in the process can also be used for educational purpose(s).

### Promotion of Good Reading Culture:-

The library inculcates the necessary study skills that enable readers to develop good reading habits and positive reading culture.

### Conducive Reading Environment:-

In some homes, good environment for study due to poverty which leads to overcrowding of accommodation, those who cannot afford rely on the library for their reading or study to make academic progress.

### Development of Future Leaders and Great Thinkers:-

By exposing readers to the great works of great researchers libraries help in the acquisition of great ideas of the past and present which can help to develop great thinkers and leaders for the future.

**Social Role:-** The library gives the society a sense of oneness by preserving the record of the nation's literature. For any man to be worthy of his freedom he must make the right use of libraries. This includes policy makers who can benefit from library resources in the course of making the right decisions towards reconstructing the educational and social lives of the populace.

**Bibliotherapy:-** This role is a social one. It is a form of psychotherapy whereby printed materials can be used to explain social problems and their solutions. Books, pamphlets, posters and other information materials that encourage good morals and expose evil consequences of social ills are most useful in this area. By stocking and drawing attention of youths to such materials lives of some recalcitrant youths can be reshaped and others can be prevented from becoming social delinquents. Therefore the youths can expend their energy and enthusiasm to pursue academic excellence needed for personal and national development.

### Conclusion

Having discussed library and the concept of education it can be clearly seen that libraries and education are inseparable as libraries basically support and enrich the formal curriculum of the school by providing learners with the means of studying theories and ideas put forward by others apart from their teachers. They also help lecturers to do further research. Thus one can see that libraries are both teaching and learning oriented. In fact the library can be said to be the heartbeat, or powerhouse of any educational institution as the knowledge stored in the library which informs its roles in the society is needed for personal and national growth as well as for the present and future development which is the main aim of education.

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