

**VALUE REORIENTATION IN NIGERIA: WOMEN LIBRARIAN  
AS CHANGE AGENTS**

**BY**

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### **Abstract**

This paper focused on Value Reorientation in Nigeria: Women Librarian as a change Agent. Women are believed to be the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world. It focuses on learning of Values, Value reorientation the library as a whole, and the societal role of women as a mother and it concluded that women librarian can change the quality and value of a child and the society as a whole which can make a society to accept the necessary values that can re-orientate the people of a society to better than norms, value and customs so then die youth through citizenship education, moral education and use of library they will be able to achieved their aspiration.

*Keywords:* Women, Librarian, Values, Reorientation and Change Agent

## INTRODUCTION

Women worldwide will continue to fight against domination and make their mark in the world. As "agents of change" they will continue to strive to change the system politically, economically, socially and culturally to create avenue that support women and do not suppress them. The world today sees women excelling in a variety of fields, from exploring the universe as astronauts to even leading nations; there are few areas that are left uncharted Women are believed to be the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world. With perseverance and determination, women around the world strive to prove themselves in order to reach the pinnacle of success (Osadebe and Okwor, 2010).

One of the most important factors to ensure peoples active involvement in the implementation of social reforms and f emergence of economically strong and politically stable countries is their social and psychological mood; their willingness to make action in accordance with definite civic attitudes and value reorientation has to change (Petrov, 2008). People's values and their consciousness of such, can serve either to speed ongoing transformations or slow them down. Peoples attitude arid behaviour to a greater or lesser extent represent an appropriate response to the changes that are going on in society, based an their own perceptions of the importance of particular values and their role in self realization and also as a result of society's weak influence on the formation of people's healthy needs and a inculcation of positive values in them (Petrov, 2008). African traditional value systems today have to a large extent broken down, leaving the youth to make the transition from childhood to adolescent without a clear idea of their emerging roles and norms of behaviour, the result of which is prevalent behavioral problems among the youth. Value reorientation aimed a inculcating good value. The library has been identified by Osadebe and Dim, (2009) as a place, where information needed for people can obtain positive development easily. A librarian wa person who works professionally in a library, providing access to

information and sometimes social or technical programming. Moreover, libraries as custodians of recorded human culture, knowledge and experiences own it as duty to the human race to transmit these recorded knowledge and experience to its citizens, notable the citizens for positive development, from generation (Batambuze, 2003). Unfortunately, though you tit the main client of libraries, the values they display are nothing write home about (Batambuz, 2003).

## **LEARNING OF VALUES**

Values as antecedents of behaviour are learned (Mathew, 2001). Stoll and Beller (1999) identified two processes of learning values: The Formal process and the informal process. The format process of learning values as proposed by Stoll and Beller (1999) is a direct and purposeful intent to affect character development. In this method individuals are challenged to reflect upon moral issues, value and other principles in relationship to others ; so society and translating those reflections into good social beaviours. Formal learning of values can involve extensive study hereby citizens are challenged by peers: teachers tire caregivers through reading, writing, discussion and reflection on issues of honesty, fair play responsibility and decency towards others (stoll and Beller 2000). Values are principles or guidelines individual believe to be important in life. Values determine the cause of an action people will take and influence the way in which their actions are directed (Mathews, 2001). Values are intensely personal and develop through experiences. Belkin, (1988) defined values as conviction or beliefs which preferable behavior in relation to needs or goals. Belkin, further stated that values does not only prescribe what is acceptable and what is not acceptable but also reflect what people's needs are and the ways of satisfying them.

## **VALUE-RE-ORIENTATION**

Values are deep-seated beliefs that influence people's actions and the rules by which they make decisions within society. Values determine attitudes, which in turn influence behaviour. It has been documented that value ascription motive force that drives positive achievement. It is then essential that every individual, group and indeed the nation must have values, which serve as the driving engine development, growth and progress (Olive, 2013). Values associated with normative beliefs that require or preclude certain behaviour, establishing boundaries to indicate what is acceptable against what is unacceptable within a society (Okafor, 2004).

Consequently, they become the yardstick used by society to measure whether behaviour, attitude and beliefs fall in line with what is acceptable or unacceptable in that society (Nyoyelu 2009). Values are broad ideas regarding what is desirable, correct and good that most members of a society share. Values determine attitudes, which in turn influence behaviour. It has been documented that value ascription is a motive force that drives positive achievement (NOA, 2009). It is therefore essential that women must have core values, which serve as the driving engines of development, growth and progress.

Re-orientation on its part is that act of changing, adjusting, aligning or re-aligning something, in this case "social values" in a new or different direction (Okafor, 2014). The operational definition of "value re-orientation" in this paper is adopted from (Okafor, 2014) and modified conceptualized as "the act of deliberately attempting to change the direction which attitudes and beliefs are currently oriented or the act of adjusting, aligning behaviour, attitude and belief in a new or different direction within the public discourse. This is articulated as a move away from corruption, embezzlement, dishonesty and general indiscipline to the direction of virtues of honesty, patriotism, hard work, and general abhorrence of social vices' .

## **The Library**

The importance of libraries can be seen in the way researchers described it and link it to reorient values in society. Campbell and Wesley (2006) defined it as the heart of institutions it serves. Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) had it that effectiveness of academic institutions depends largely upon the state of health and excellence of its library, which is its lifeblood. The library has distinctive resources and ways of disseminating knowledge that will enable it to educate its constituents-including students, faculty, staff and other library use in prevention of social abuses, and the development of increase, sensitivity and tolerance (Segal, 1991). Segal noted further a . the library can use those resources and methods to disseminating knowledge useful in the fight against societal ills Osadebe (2009) opined that the academic library's responsibility to its users goes beyond the mere acquisition and provision of information , demand. She goes on to say that the unique role of academics libraries in undergraduate education lies in the extent to which can assist the students in having access to prescribed text educating students in a broader sense by bringing before me whole field of knowledge and by teaching him how to study. Segal (1991) was of die opinion that though the academic library, a provide information in various formats to its clients, the truly only important function of the academic library for the university and for the nation is to facilitate the acquisition and production knowledge. In knowledge says Segal (1991) lay's society's hope change of negative or unsafe behaviour and attitude and in knowledge lay's the power of discernment. The academic lions has in stock all information needed by youth to imbibe the n o choice of values, attitudes and skills and it is their responsibility to bring these materials to the notice of it's clients (Osadebe and Dim, 2009). Ways of Achieving Value Reorientation throng!!! Academic Library Academic libraries have tremendous ways which it can help in value reorientation among youths. Some of them are as follows:

- \* Identity clarification through citizenship education. Most youths have been demoralized, important issues that aft their future have been trivialized, and corruption and Lack vision weigh them down.

Some do not believe in themselves more by independent and neutral bodies like the academic library. The citizenship education should inculcate in them power to believe in themselves and their capabilities, capabilities of self-actualization and self-reliance, of advance the country and communities forward, of standing out from the committee of other youths.

- \* **Providing Information:** The more complex the academic institution is, the greater its dependence on library by information service. It is the basic responsibility of academic library to identify the needs of its clients and acquire and organize the information resources that who satisfy those needs (Segal 1991). As an important part of higher institution it must ensure that the materials it acquires reflect the needs and aspirations of the society it serves.
- \* **Teaching of moral Principles:** The absence of morals in schools curriculums left most youth gaping in the dark as to who right or wrong and standard ways of behavior. Academic libraries as back bone of academic institutions and as the only institution owned in common by all faculties in academic institution should teach its clients moral principles. Moral principles help in reasoning correctly and in making good choices among so many existing alternatives. People with moral principles follow democratic rules.

## **WOMEN LIBRARIAN AS A CHANGE AGENT**

Library can provide a value-reorientation in Nigerian providing services and materials to the development of the library user and society at large. The library resources should be made available to users, so as to promote research, encourage read habits access to collections/materials. Lastly, library provides services like Selective Dissemination of Information is exhibition and compilation of bibliographies on topics of national importance.

The basic philosophy of the library is that it encourage learning and is a place where learning materials are stored use (Popoola, 1990). Therefore, a good library must have abundant and varied collection of books, periodical tape recorder, graphics like charts maps posters,

graphs, globes a filmstrips to be shown to the population. Library is also a tool promoting learning which transfers knowledge from a host to user.

Women play a key role in librarianship by improving future of the society and the user. Provide what is required society- Women as librarians are to provide formal teaching and learning situation of which is to provide the society who seek more knowledge.

- Woman librarian must be able to group new ideas in order to move the society.
- Woman librarian must be open minded to ideas in order to bring a change which will allow free flow and exchange of ideas from subordinates the encouragements of changing ideas c society not only arouse participation it generate some good useful ideas.
- Woman librarian must have vision and mission, so as to information for the survival of the user.
- Woman librarian must know how to communicate, communication allot of possible change can take place. Woman as librarian should be able to differentiate between what is important and what is trivial in the course of acquiring materials.

Woman librarian due to their exposure in courses relating to reading, they are in a better position to inculcate reading habit on society by introducing them to the world of books early in a Woman librarian requires the dynamic nature to adjust to meet up with the demand of research and development. Women are said to be resourceful and have more concern than men do the psychological aspect of change agent.

### **THE ROLE OF WOMEN AS A MOTHER**

In essence, education of the woman is an assurance improved family care health and nutrition. Higher aspiration that popular saying which goes thus: educate a man you educate an individual, educate a woman you educate a nation Annan (2004). This saying is premised on the fact that woman as mothers are by themselves teachers. An educated woman would



be v. better position to protect her child from preventable disc taking measures like immunization, routine health checks.

In other words, if the society wants any value reorientation in Nigerian, it has to start by educating the woman who plays very active role in the process of educating her family.

Nigeria recognizes education as a fundamental human n and is a signatory to the major conventions for the protection the right of children and women especially the Convention on the right of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). f government of Nigeria passed into law the child right act aimed at facilitating the realization and protection of the right of children in the quest to achieve the objectives of Education for (EFA) to last track Education interventions at primary and junior secondary level (Obayi, 2003) in Ojo (2014).

### **Conclusion**

The essential role woman play as mother and a librarian change the quality and values of a child and the society a whole, which makes a society to accept values that can eh u the orientation of the people in a society to better their norms values and customs.

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