

Perceived Effect of Bibliotherapeutic Role of Information on Juvenile in The Remand Home Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria

L'EFFET PERÇU DU RÔLE BIBLIOTHERAPIQUE DE L'INFORMATION SUR LES MINEURS EN DÉTENTION PROVISOIRE À ABEOKUTA, DANS L'ÉTAT D'OGUN, AU NIGÉRIA

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Abstract: This study investigated the bibliotherapeutic role of information on juvenile in remand home Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. Due to the fact that crimes and delinquency is on the increase in our environment today, which could be as a result of inadequate provision of information. Descriptive survey method was adopted in this study. 100 youths constituted the population of this work. Questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. 73(73%) of the questionnaire were duly completed and returned. Descriptive survey method was employed in analysis of data and data was analyzed using frequency count and percentage as well as mean and standard deviation. Through statistical analysis, it was found that the major information sources available to the respondents were mostly Bible, Qur'an, legal information materials, religious information materials, and television; Bible, textbooks, Qur'an, story books, recreational information materials, religious information materials, dictionaries, legal information materials, radio and television were the most information sources utilized by the respondents, furthermore, recreational information materials, information on CDs, story books, Bible, Qur'an and religious information materials were the preferred information sources by the respondents; also, the study revealed that information use has positive impact on the respondent. However, information source available to the respondents were limited and inadequate. It is therefore recommended that collective effort should be made in order to provide adequate information materials and professionals for effective delivery services to the juvenile in the remand homes, for effective rehabilitation and re-integration for better life tomorrow.

Key words: Bibliotherapeutic role; Information; Juvenile

Résumé Cette étude s'est penchée sur le rôle bibliotherapeutic de l'information sur les mineurs en détention provisoire à Abeokuta, dans l'état d'Ogun, au Nigéria. Les crimes et la délinquance sont en augmentation aujourd'hui, ce qui pourrait être à cause du manque d'informations adéquates. La méthode d'enquête descriptive a été adoptée dans cette étude. 100 jeunes ont participé à ce travail. Le questionnaire a été utilisé en tant que l'instrument de collection des données. 73 (73%) des questionnaires ont été dûment remplis et retournés. Grâce à l'analyse statistique, il a été constaté que les sources d'information principales des personnes interrogées étaient la Bible, le Coran, les manuels et la télévision. En outre, les sources d'information très utilisées et préférées par les répondants sont la Bible, des manuels, des dictionnaires, des documents religieux, du matériel de loisir, la télévision, etc. Toutefois, l'utilisation des informations a changé les répondants. Ils ne volent plus, écoutent plus leurs parents, et réalisent l'impact négatif de l'alcoolisme et de la toxicomanie, etc. Il est donc recommandé que les efforts collectifs doivent être faits en vue de fournir du matériel d'informations adéquates et professionnelles pour les jeunes dans la maison de détention provisoire pour une réadaptation et réintégration

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INTRODUCTION

Bibliotherapy refers to the therapy that uses reading materials to help patients with mental, emotional and social problems. It involves the use of information media to solve an individual's personal or emotional problems, that is, healing by means of information (Keenan and Johnston, 2000; Feathers and Sturges, 2003; Reitz, 2004). Cronje (1994) reported that bibliotherapy has existed and has been known since ancient times. At Thebes, the library bore the inscription, "The Healing Place of the Soul", while at St. Gall in Switzerland, the medieval Abbey Library had a similar inscription, "The Medicine Chest for the Soul". These inscriptions he said reflect an age old belief in the therapeutic nature of literature. Bibliotherapy is an old concept in library science. In the US it is documented as dating back to the 1930's. The basic concept behind bibliotherapy is that reading is a healing experience. It was applied to both general practice and medical care, especially after World War II, because the soldiers had a lot of time on their hands while recuperating. Also, the soldiers felt that reading was healing and helpful. In psychiatric institutions bibliotherapeutic groups flourished during this time. The books kept the patients busy, and they seemed to be good for their general sense of well-being for a variety of reasons. Bibliotherapy can give children the confidence they need to deal with anything that comes their way. It also gives parents an opportunity to discuss it with their children and find out what is going on. Various incidents and actions from 19th centuries link this with our time: Today, bibliotherapy has a continuing process, in psychology and in librarianship. Thus, the juvenile in remand homes who might have committed one or more offences needs to have access various information sources and services in order to have the knowledge of the implication of their actions that brought them to that place, also, information that will help in remolding their character for better life after serving their terms.

Information sources and services are essential to the modern correctional objectives of reformation and rehabilitation of the juvenile in remand home. Dike (2002) noted that "in recent years, libraries have become more inclusive in their philosophy and practice, focusing increasingly on disadvantaged groups, of whom prisoners and the juvenile in the remand homes are one". Remind according to Cambridge Learner's Dictionary is a place where prisoners are kept until trial. Juvenile are young people. In this paper, juvenile in the remand home are young people whom due to one offence or the other are kept in the remand home for correctional character.

Every institution shall have a library for the use of all categories of prisoners, adequately stocked with both recreational and instructional books, and the prisoners shall be encouraged to make use of it (Lehmann, 2000:5). She further noted that this statement has been backed up by later moves: the inclusion of service to prisoners in the UNESCO public library manifesto; development of IFLA guidelines for library services to prisoners (Caiser, 1995) and library standards for prison in the United State and Great Britain, etc. These affirmations confirm the need and importance for juvenile to have complete and adequate access to information in order to achieve the goal of rehabilitation and character reformation.

At this juncture, it is important to note that the juvenile in this paper refers to children/youths between the ages of 10 and below 30 years.

1. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Information has been recognized as an indispensable instrument in every affair of human endeavors. With adequate information, people are not only informed, but can take appropriate decisions concerning their lives. However, observations have shown that little effort has only been made in provision of information sources and services to juvenile in remand homes. Where this is the case, rehabilitation purpose of this populace in remand home will not be achieved. It was in the light of this that this study investigated the bibliotherapeutic role of information on the juvenile in the remand home.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of this study is to investigate the bibliotherapeutic role of information on juvenile in the remand home. It specifically seeks to ascertain:

- (1) Information sources available to the juvenile in the remand homes.
- (2) Information source utilized by the juvenile in the remand homes.
- (3) Preferred information sources by the juvenile.

- (4) The extent to which information use has helped the juvenile in the remand homes.

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study will answer the following research questions:

- (1) What information sources are available to the juvenile in remand homes?
- (2) What are information sources utilized by the juvenile in the remand homes?
- (3) What are information sources preferred by the juvenile in the remand homes?
- (4) To what extent has information use helped the juvenile in the remand homes?

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

4.1 Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile, as young people, finding them in remand homes implies that they have been involved in one delinquent activity or the other. Juvenile delinquency according to the Oxford Advance Dictionary of Current English is “crime, usually not of a serious kind especially as committed by young people”. The Chambers Dictionary sees it as “an offender especially a young criminal, a person lacking in moral and social sense without showing impairment of intellect”. Williams (1986) states that delinquency is a general non-conformist behavior, it is a part of the general terminology which sociologists call deviance. Deviant is a behavior that is contrary to the acceptable norms of the society. While crime is any act of deviance that breaks the criminal law. Thus, juvenile in the remand homes have been involved in one or more deviant behavior.

4.2 Types of Juvenile Delinquency

Idris and Ejikeme (2007) outlined the following nature and types of juvenile delinquency: robbery, murder, rape, alcohol, sexuality prohibited by children not adult, drug abuse, cultism, etc.

- (1) **Robbery:** this spans through stealing and armed robbery.
- (2) **Murder:** so many murder cases in our society today are committed by the youths. Sometimes, they are lured to carry out this act by adults.
- (3) **Rape:** this activity involves forceful sexual intercourse with opposite sex. According to Idris and Ejikeme, it is a common practice among students in tertiary institutions.
- (4) **Alcoholism:** this is excessive consumption of alcohol which is common among the youth. This act aggravates some other delinquent behavior.
- (5) **Drug abuse:** the youths are found to be involved in taking dangerous drugs. This has affected them in adverse ways.
- (6) **Fighting and brutality:** this is perhaps one of the commonest delinquent behaviors. Fighting whether among peers in the street or school has been a perpetual problem of youth today and this sometimes leads to loss of lives.
- (7) **Cultism:** this is rampaging in our educational system especially in tertiary sector. Sometimes this activity is seen in secondary schools.
- (8) **Incorrigibility:** this happens when children refused to be corrected in extreme disobedience by their parents, this becomes delinquent behavior.

4.3 Causes of Delinquency

Some of the causes of delinquency according to Idris and Ejikeme (2005) are:

- (1) **Biological theory:** this was the first developed to explain delinquency. It associates delinquency with body shape, gland dysfunctions, heredity and physical malfunctions as possible causes.
- (2) **Psychological theory:** this focuses on environments that govern behavior. According to Sigmund Freud, the conflict that occurs in human mind between human drives and social control is a major cause. Problems experienced during childhood may determine how the individual resolves conflict in the mind and act in a delinquent manner.

Behaviorists, they noted, stressed the reward system of a cause. If delinquent acts are rewarded, the behavior must continue, but if punished, they will avoid it (Sheldon 1980).

(3) Sociological theories: they argued that social disorganization is rapidly changing areas in major explanations of delinquent behaviors. Where social institutions break, down social control are weakened. In the absence of strong social controls immature youths form spontaneous groups. They are involved in all manners of activities legal or illegal to satisfy unfulfilled needs (Norbert, 1978). When individuals are unable to reach through legitimate means the success goals define by society there is pressure to engage in illegitimate behavior perceived to provide success, wealth or recognition. Other causes include social background; bad company; broken homes; urbanization, community value is lost in this process, industrialization. Particularly, as it affects the incursion of foreign films, communication and parental over-indulgence or negligence.

4.4 Information Services to the Remand Homes

Dike (2002) observed that there is a variation in the level of services, from non-existent to well develop. The principal use of information was for recreational reading (fiction, keeping abreast of current affairs) and educational support of literacy, vocational and academic programmes. Manning and Manning (1984) states that bibliotherapy, the use of literature to promote socio-emotional growth has been found to be an effective therapeutic device for young readers confronting various personal crises. Alcoholism in the family, they stated is another issue that merit attention. They further reported that more than a century ago five themes in children's reading materials that could help them deal more effectively with personal problems:

- (1) Peer acceptance
- (2) Family relationships
- (3) Failures and disappointments
- (4) Physical limitations and
- (5) Economic crises.

All or most of these personal problems they said are too familiar to children of alcoholic parents, making them receptive candidates for bibliotherapy.

The role of information services to the remand should range from popular reading materials and educational materials, for formal and independent learning, to leisure activities, legal information, personal retreat, etc. (Rubin, 1997). The information service will broaden their intellectual horizons, stimulating their creativity and imagination, encouraging self-expression and enjoyment through the arts, music, writing and discussion. It can nurture personal and spiritual growth and be a humanizing influence in a dehumanizing environment. It will also serve as an information center on the outside world, helping them maintain contact, keeping them abreast of current events, providing legal information, and preparing them for reintegration into the larger society (Dike 2002:30).

4.5 Purpose/Benefit of Bibliotherapy

Coleman and Ganong (1988) in Cronje (1993); Pehrsson and McMillen (2006) outlined the following purpose(s) of educational bibliotherapy: to impart information; to provide insight; to simulate discussions about problems; to communicate new attitudes and values; to teach new solutions to problems; to enhance self-esteem; to furnish relaxation and diversion. Furthermore, bibliotherapy can be of two types in educational situation: corrective and preventive. In the former, a teacher, counselor, or librarian attempts to solve an actual or perceived problem of the individual by presenting a book depicting a similar situation. By reading the book the student gains insight which may enable him to solve his own problem. In the latter, the individual is requested to read a book containing a problem he may have to deal with in the future. In the reading of the book, he may be better able to adjust, should a similar situation arise in his own life (Cronje 1993). They also submit that reading has a positive effect upon personality; it helps persons solve personal problems and concerns; it expands potential for growth and development and provides instruction, knowledge, understanding and inspiration.

Salup, and Salup, (2009) reported that in a review of the literature of the effects of bibliotherapy, found that a majority of the studies show mixed results for the efficacy of bibliotherapy as a separate treatment for the solving of problems. They concluded that bibliotherapy generally appears to be more successful as an adjunctive therapy. Despite such mixed research results, however, interest in the use of bibliotherapy appears to have increased in the past few years. Educators have also begun to recognize the increasingly critical need for delivering literacy instruction to at-risk and homeless children and their families. In essence, the role of bibliotherapy on the juvenile cannot be over emphasized going by the benefit of information use and it should a collective effort of professional information providers in other to achieve this purpose of healing on the delinquent.

4.6 Methodology

Descriptive survey method was used in carrying out this study. The population was 100 juvenile (males) at the remand home Abeokuta, Ogun State. Enumerative sampling was employed since all the youth in the remand home were involved in the study. Questionnaire was the instrument used in collecting data, and it was divided into 6 sections. This instrument was used since the respondents were still at the Remand home, not yet released. Section A: Demographic information of the respondents which has to do with their age, educational qualification, state of origin and language. Section B: Information sources available to the respondents. Section C: Information sources utilized by the respondents. Section D: Information sources utilized by the respondents. Section E: Information sources preferred by the respondents. Section F: Preferred information sources by the respondents. Section G: The extent to which information use has helped the respondents.

Data was analyzed using frequency count and percentage, as well as mean and standard deviation.

5. RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

A total of 100 questionnaire were distributed to the respondents in remand home Abeokuta, Ogun State. Seventy three (73) questionnaire were completed duly and returned, this represented 73% of the respondents. For their age distribution, 33(45.2%) fell between the ages of 16-20, 24(32.9%) fell between the ages of 21-25, while ages 10-15 had 16(21.9%). Concerning their academic qualifications, 35(47.9%) possess school certificates, 17(23.3%) possess NCE, 16(21.9%) possess first school living certificate and 5(6.8%) possess HND/OND.

Since the respondents hail from different states, they were asked to rate their state of origin. Ogun State scored highest with 30(41.1%), Oyo State 14(19.2), Ekiti State 10(13.7%), Abia and Edo State 8(11.0) respectively, and Cross River State 3(4.0%). Also, the respondents were asked to indicate their language, those that speaks Yoruba/English had 36(49.3%), Yoruba 18(24.7%), Igbo/English and Esan/English 8(11.0%) respectively and those that speaks only English language scored 3(4.0%).

Research Question 1: What information sources are available to the juvenile in the Remand Homes?

Table 1: Showing Information Sources Available to the Respondents

Information Sources	Mean Scores	Standard Deviation (Std.)
Bible	3.37	1.02
Qur'an	3.22	0.90
Legal Information Materials	2.67	1.20
Religious Information Materials	2.26	1.09
Television	2.23	1.02
Information on CDs	2.15	1.09
Information on VCDs	2.15	1.09
Textbooks	2.10	1.25
Story Books	2.10	0.95
Dictionaries	1.97	1.04
Policy Information	1.77	1.05
Recreational Information Materials	1.70	0.81
Radio	1.60	0.72
Magazine	1.58	0.94
Law Reports	1.58	0.76
Newspapers	1.07	0.25
Yearbooks	1.00	0.00
Directories	1.00	0.00
Encyclopedias	1.00	0.00

In order to assess the information sources available to the respondents, they were asked to indicate the information sources available to them in a 4-point scale: very highly available = 4, highly available = 3, available = 2, not available = 1. The mean score and standard deviation calculated shows that Bible, Qur'an, legal information materials, religious information materials, and television were mostly information sources available to them. While information on CDs, information on VCD, textbooks, story books, dictionaries, policy information, recreational information materials, radio, magazines, law reports, newspapers, yearbooks, directories, and encyclopedias were, in that order, not mostly available to them.

Research Question 2: What are information sources utilized by the juvenile in the Remand Homes?

Table 2: Showing Information Sources Utilized by the Respondents

Information Sources Utilized	Mean Score	Standard Deviation(Std.)
Bible	3.21	0.96
Textbooks	3.01	1.01
Qur'an	2.88	0.96
Story Books	2.88	1.14
Recreational Information Materials	2.85	1.07
Religious Information Materials	2.76	1.26
Dictionaries	2.71	1.01
Legal Information Materials	2.58	1.17
Radio	2.28	1.15
Television	2.24	1.19
Information on VCDs	2.10	1.12
Information on CDs	2.06	1.10
Magazines	1.92	1.04
Policy Information	1.69	0.78
Newspapers	1.57	0.89
Law Reports	1.56	0.80
Directories	1.40	0.49
Encyclopedias	1.24	0.43
Yearbooks	1.18	0.39

In the above table, the respondents were asked to rate the information sources utilized in a 4-point scale: highly utilized = 4, utilized = 3, lowly utilized = 2, not utilized = 1. The mean score and standard deviation score shows that Bible, textbooks, Qur'an, story books, recreational information materials, religious information materials, dictionaries, legal information materials, radio and television were information sources mostly utilized by the respondents while information on VCDs, information on CDs, magazines, policy information, newspapers, law reports, directories, encyclopedias, and year books were the least utilized.

Research Question 3: What are information sources preferred by the juvenile in the Remand Homes?

Table 3: Information Sources Preferred by the Respondents

Information Sources Preferred	Mean Score	Standard Deviation(Std.)
Recreational Information Materials	3.37	0.81
Information on VCDs	3.16	0.93
Story Books	3.12	1.00
Textbooks	3.08	1.02
Bible	3.03	1.12
Qur'an	3.03	0.96
Religious Information Materials	3.01	1.11
Dictionaries	2.97	0.96
Newspapers	2.93	1.06
Television	2.90	1.19
Legal Information Materials	2.56	1.09
Radio	2.55	1.19
Magazines	2.53	1.25
Policy Information Materials	2.51	1.28
Law Reports	2.47	1.19
Information on CDs	1.68	1.01
Directories	1.37	0.81
Encyclopedias	1.21	0.41
Year Books	1.15	0.36

The respondents were asked to rate their preferred information sources in table 3 on a 4-point scale: very highly preferred = 4, highly preferred = 3, preferred = 2, not preferred = 1. The mean score and standard deviation score for each of the sources were calculated as shown in the table above. The result in the table revealed that recreational information materials, information on CDs, story books, Bible, Qur'an and religious information materials were, in that order, the sources preferred most by the respondents, whereas dictionaries, newspapers, television, legal information materials, law reports, information on CDs, Directories, encyclopedias and year books were the least preferred.

Research Question 4: To what extent has information use help the respondents?

Table 4: Showing the extent to which Information Use has helped the Respondents

Perceived Effect of Information on the Respondent	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
I used to be extremely disobedient to my parents, but through reading I will no longer disobey them when I leave here.	3.25	0.92
I was a drug addict but information has helped me to see its destructive effect to my health.	3.11	0.94
Alcohol used to be my passion, but reading has opened my eyes to know it negative implication.	3.04	1.11
I used to rob, now I will no longer do this due to impact of information I have read.	3.01	1.03
I used to steal, but now I no longer steal because of reading effect on me.	2.96	1.17
I enjoyed fighting on the street before I was brought to this place, now I have realized that it is a bad habit, I will no longer fight when I am out of this place.	2.90	1.12
I was a cultist but now I believe I would change through reading by the time I am out of this place.	2.82	1.17
My life has changed from been a murderer because of reading.	2.59	1.16
In time past, I used to rape, but information has made me to realize it implication.	2.53	1.26

Finally, in order to find out the perceived impact of information use on the respondents, they were asked to rank their perceived impact of information use in their lives, also, using a 4-point scale: strongly agree = 4, agree = 3, strongly disagree = 2, disagree = 1. Table 4, indicated the mean and standard deviation scores of the perceived impact of information use on the respondents ranked top with, I used to be extremely disobedient to my parents, but through reading I will no longer disobey them when I leave here; I was a drug addict but information has helped me to see its destructive effect to my health; Alcohol used to be my passion, but reading has opened my eyes to know it negative implication and I used to rob, now I will no longer do this due to impact of information I have read, in that order.

6. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Information is an essential ingredient in rehabilitation of deviant character of the juvenile in all spheres of life and for the development and sustainability of the nation. As the youth are the futures of tomorrow. This study has revealed that information sources mostly available to the respondents were Bible, Qur'an, legal information materials, religious information materials, and television. Also, Bible, textbooks, Qur'an, story books, recreational information materials, religious information materials, dictionaries, legal information materials, radio and television were the most information sources utilized by the respondents. Dike, (2002) is in support of this view that the principal use of information was for recreational reading (fiction, keeping abreast of current affairs) and educational support of literacy, vocational and academic programmes. The study also find out that recreational information materials, information on CDs, story books, Bible, Qur'an and religious information materials were the information sources mostly preferred by the respondents. Furthermore, the extent to which information use has helped the respondents indicated that information use/reading has positive impact on the respondents. This finding corroborates with the assertion made by Meanning & Meanning (1984); and Cronje (1993), also have similar report that reading has a positive effect upon personality; it helps persons solve personal problems and concerns; it expands potential for growth and development and provides instruction, knowledge, understanding and inspiration. Coleman and Ganong (1988); Pehrsson and McMillen (2006) reported that the purpose of bibliotherapy is to impact information to provide insight, simulate discussion about problems, to communicate new attitudes and values, to enhance self-esteem, etc.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It is obvious that information reduces uncertainty and changes the knowledge state of the recipient; however, as revealed in this study, there are insufficient information materials available to the juvenile at the remand home Abeokuta, Ogun State. The implication of this is that they will not be better informed of the implication of the various crimes and deviant character committed and portrayed.

It is therefore recommend that individual, government Para status and NGOs should make relentless effort to assist in the provision of adequate information materials of various kinds to the juvenile. As much as possible establish a well-equipped library with modern technologies and trained personnel to assist in information delivery to this disadvantaged set of people as this will go a long way in remolding their character, rehabilitating, re-integration and prepare them for thereafter.

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