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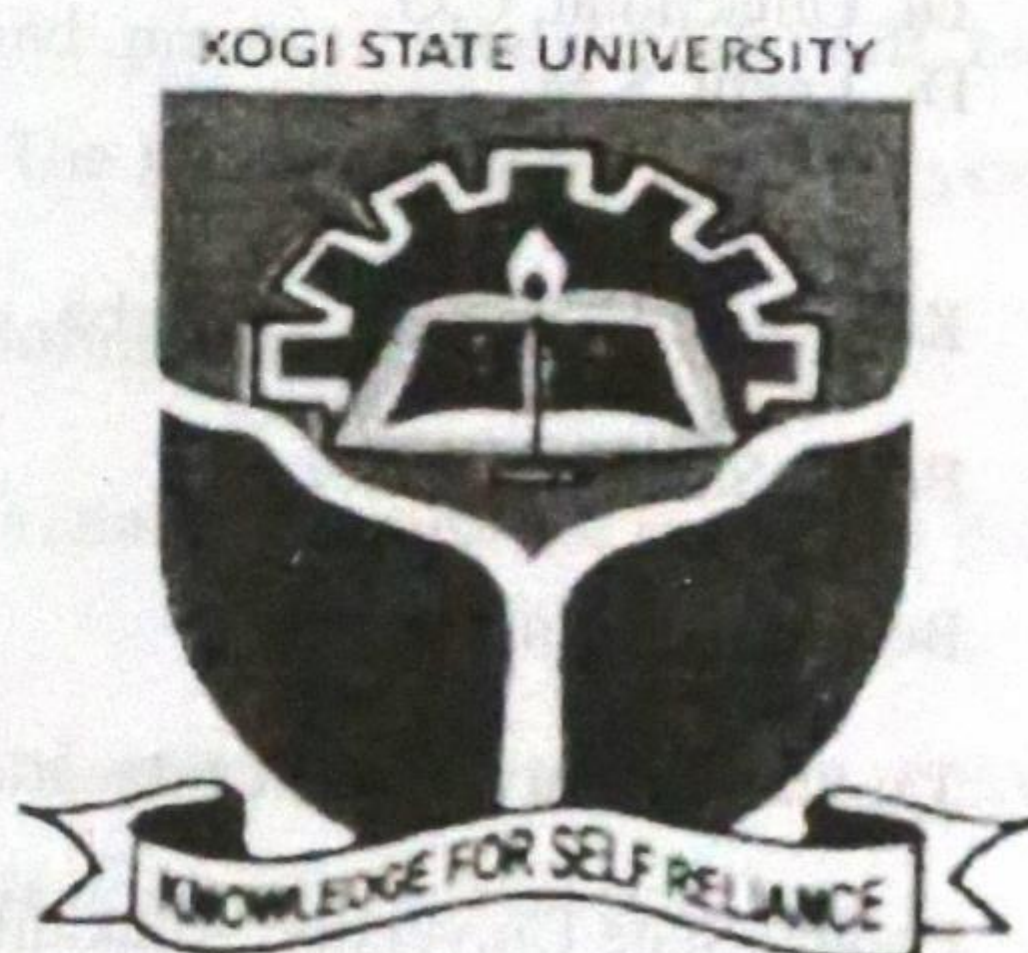


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THE EDITORIAL

This is the first volume and the second number (volume 1 No.2) of the Faculty of Education based Journal, Kogi Journal of Education and Pedagogy (KOJEP). The mission is directed at advancing knowledge through promotion and high quality research.

This volume comprised of thirty-eight (38) article which have successfully scaled through the scrutiny of reputable blind-reviewers in the education industry.

The articles focused on modern issue in the field of education. It cuts across various disciplines in education such as educational planning and administrative, social sciences, management, guidance and counselling, arts and humanities, curriculum, educational technology among others. It is a must copy for libraries, educational managers, students of research and documentation agencies.

I extend appreciation to all members of the publication committee and to all editors and reviewers who have done good jobs to the realization of this work. Our vision is to make our journal publication a globally acceptable medium of dissemination of quality and reliable scientific information and innovative research findings.

Professor Tolorunleke Reuben Tunde

Editor-in-Chief

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AN ASSESSMENT OF RURAL INFORMATION SERVICE AS A TOOL FOR WOMEN EDUCATION IN YAGBA COMMUNITY OF KOGI STATE

By

Janet O Adewara

Librarian II

University of Ilorin Library

Ilorin

Abstract

The role of education in meeting the socio- economic, political, health and religious need of women in any society is germane for the over-all progress of that society. This study is a descriptive type and a purposive sampling method was used in selecting the respondents that participated in the study. Simple Frequency counts, Means score and Rank Order statistics were used to answer the research questions and to analyse the data that were generated in the study. The results revealed that respondents required information to meet diverse needs of their daily living; they also required the services of rural information agencies to achieve their desires. The recommendations in the study included mass adult literacy activities to be put in place and trained rural information agencies should be provided to collaborate with local government Information Officers in the implementation of information and education needs of women in Yagba community.

Key words: Rural information service, women education, Yagba community.

Background to the Study

Education is a viable tool that can bring about positive changes to individuals and communities. Through education, people can claim their rights and attain socio-economic, political and sundry potentials.

In spite of efforts at improving the educational system in Nigeria, it seems women education is discriminated against in favour of male education (Ukwueze, 2019). Under-representation of the Nigerian women generally in educational, social, economic, political and sundry sectors serves as a barrier to individual and societal progress.

Information connotes knowledge that one gets about someone or something. The popular television slogan credited to Sharon Ijasan of TVC News "Information is power, information is know edge, information is security" underscores the point that information is very key in the affairs of individuals. Soji- Omoniwa, Omoniyi and Omoniyi (2014) attested to the fact that most of the rural community dwellers in Nigeria face sundry challenges either because:

- a. They cannot access information about certain issues due to ignorance, culture and customs,
- b. They lack information itself,
- c. They lack the knowledge required to handle challenges or
- d. Information disseminators fail to make appropriate information available to the people in the right format. In such a scenario, the already marginalized community women become worse for it because they will not be able to access information nor meet their daily information needs



Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study was to assess rural information service as a tool for women education in Yagba community of Kogi State. Specifically, the study identified the information needs of women, the sources of information to the people, information agencies in the community, information services rendered to the people, and the impediments to rural information service delivery in the community.

Research Questions

The study provided answers to the following questions:

1. What are the information needs of women in Yagba community?
2. What are the information resources available to women in Yagba community?
3. Which community-based information agencies are available in Yagba community?
4. What are the information services that are rendered to women in Yagba community?
5. What are the impediments to rural information service delivery to women in Yagba community?

Literature Review

Omoniyi(1999) gave a succinct outline of Yagba community prior to the Nupe invasion, British imperialism and the post colonial era. What is now known as Yagba community comprised a number of mini-States or kingdoms. The people who inhabited the area lived in fragmentary settlements in forms of family clans and villages. Each family clan occupied its own distinctive territory, carved out, but not too far from the other clans. However, members of one settlement were allowed to cultivate the territory belonging to another settlement. Thus, members of one family clan could inter-marry with and even settle among neighboring clans. During the process of inter-settlement contacts, villages that were made up of different family clans sprang up continually in the land. One common factor that brought these settlers together in a unified whole is that they spoke a common Yagba dialect of Yoruba language and they required similar information on virtually the same issues. Today, prominent towns and villages that emerged from Yagba mini- States include Egbe, Okoloke, Ogbe, Ere, Odo-Eri, Ejiba, Oke-Eri, Omi, Ogga and Okunran in Yagba West local Government Area: Idofin, Isanlu, Ejuku, Takete, Ilae, Okeagi, Imela, Oranre, Aginmi, Ife Olukotun, Imela, Alu and Igbagun in East Yagba Local Government Area. This study did not include the Yagba community of MopaMuro Local Government Area, and those in Irele, Oke Ako, Ipao, Itapaji and Iye in Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Yagba community is primarily agrarian though women also engage in other trades and vocations such as marketing of farm produce and other wares, weaving and husbandry. Rural-urban migration is common in Yagba community as people relocate to the other parts of the country in search of greener pastures. Nevertheless, many of the women indigenes who chose to stay back in the community are into diverse vocations such as teaching, civil service, clerics, secretaries, artisans, masons, technicians, among others.

Ukwueze (2019) citing Women Aid Collective (2015) asserted that the literacy rate of women in Nigeria was put at 33.9%. Gender issues, socio-cultural beliefs and practices made access to education and consequently information by women impossible. The population of Yagba community was estimated to be 1.3 to 1.6 million people with women estimated to triple that of the men (Yemi, 1983). The higher numerical strength of women is expected to translate to better access to education, information and better living standard. In addition to higher numerical



power, women also possess a lot of information potentials that are capable of making them to evolve a new socio-political, cultural and economic order which they require for daily needs.

Rahman and Fapohunda (2012) opined that disparity in education, employment and information opportunities poses a great deal of constraint to the economic development and general empowerment of women in Nigerian communities. The importance of women education at the rural community level is therefore to *ab initio* bring socio-economic improvement to all members of that society. As Adedokun (2011) aptly put it, girls and women education is as important to the recipients as the society as a whole. Ukwueze (2019) summarized the importance of women education include economic development; economic empowerment, improved living conditions, improved health, dignity and honour, justice, poverty alleviation and enhanced school performance of children.

Illiteracy is one of the major problems that women face in rural communities. It is true to observe that the educational needs of women seemed to have been greatly addressed in Nigeria in the last few decades, but as Onwuameze (2019) put it, this laudable effort of government however focused more on engineering, nursing, management, accounting, social sciences, education, environmental sciences, humanities, arts, and marketing, among others. The form of education that should also be emphasized among women community dwellers is that of adult and mass literacy because of the many benefits that rural community dwellers stand to derive from the programme. The adult and mass literacy programmes are pregnant with bundles of information that can be utilized by community women for education, socio- economic and political empowerment. The women would also be able to acquire the necessary skills that would make them participate effectively in what could make them feel secured, self reliant and confident as better citizens.

Data Analysis and key Findings

Data obtained from respondents were presented in tables this as Simple Frequency counts, Percentage Distribution, Mean Scores and Rank Order statistics.

Research Question 1: What are the information needs of women in Yagba community?

Table I: Information Needs of Respondents

Information Need	X	S D	Rank Order
Health information	95.6	1.2	1 st
Political information	91.7	1.04	2 nd
Agricultural information	84.0	1.83	3 rd
Vocational information	73.8	2.43	4 th
Marketing information	71.5	2.54	5 th
Religious information	60.0	2.17	6 th
Educational information	64.8	2.48	7 th
Economic information	58.2	3.0	8 th



Research Question 2: What are the sources of information in Yagba community?

Table II Sources of community information

Information Source	Mean	S D	Rank Order
Oral transmission	98.1	.06	1 st
Town criers	96.4	1.02	2 nd
Religious announcements	84.3	1.14	3 rd
Community information workers	82.8	1.10	4 th
Electronic resources e.g television, radio	78.6	1.34	5 th
Book resources	0	0	0
Periodicals	0	0	0

Research Question 3: Which is the community- based information agencies available in Yagba community?

Table III: Available community-based information agencies

Information Agency	Mean	S D	Rank Order
Local government information	87.4	1.11	1 st
Person to person	85.6	1.18	2 nd
Health centres	82.8	1.19	3 rd
Worship places	70.0	1.26	4 th
Schools	63.4	2.01	5 th
Librarians	0	0	
Book resources	0	0	

Research Question 4: What are the information services rendered to women in Yagba community?

Table 4: Information services rendered among women in Yagba community.

Information Service	Mean	S D	Rank Order
Health information	98.4	1.12	1 st
Enlightenment programmes	95.8	1.18	2 nd
Film shows	81.6	1.34	3 rd
e-learning broadcast	74.7	1.64	4 th
Exhibitions	30.1	3.58	5 th
Extention services	28.4	3.34	6 th
Classroom services	20	3.46	7 th
Library services	10	3.68	8 th

Research Question 5: What are the impediments to information service delivery in Yagba community?

Table 5: Inpediments to information service delivery in Yagba community.

Impediment	Mean	S D	Rank Order
Ignorance	97.4	1.04	1 st
Over reliance on oral sources of information	95.3	1.2	2 nd
Uncoordinated activities of local	95.1	1.07	3 rd
Information workers	93.8	1.4	4 th
Lack of information facilities	90.6	1.61	5 th
Culture/tradition	89.4	1.31	6 th
Poverty	87.9	1.33	7 th
Low level of education	85.2	1.41	8 th
Relevance of message	78.5	1.23	9 th
Information disseminator	76.8	1.38	10 th



Interpretation

In the Table (I), the results showed that the information needs of women in Yagba community ranged from health Information ($x=98.4$), political information ($x=91.7$), agricultural information ($x=73.0$), vocational information ($x=73.8$), marketing information ($x=71.5$), religious information ($x=60.0$), educational information ($x=64.8$) and economic information ($x=58.2$).

According to Table II, the sources of information to the respondents were oral transmission ($x=98.1$) town criers ($x=96.4$), religious announcements ($x=84.3$), community information workers ($x=82.8$), electronic resources such as radio and television ($x=78.6$), books and periodicals were not sources of information among the people

In the Table (III), the result revealed that community-based information agencies in Yagba community were local government information officers ($x=87.4$), person to person ($x=85.6$), health centres ($x=82.8$), worship places ($x=70.0$) and schools ($x=63.4$). Librarians and book resources were not information agencies in the community. According to Table (IV), health information ($x=98.4$), enlightenment programmes ($x=95.8$), film shows ($x=81.6$) and electronic broad cast ($x=74.7$) were information services that were rendered among women in Yagba community.

As the Table (v) showed, impediments to information service delivery in Yagba community were ignorance ($x=97.4$), over reliance on oral sources of information ($x=95.3$), uncoordinated activities of local information workers ($x=90.6$), culture/ tradition ($x=89.4$), poverty ($x=87.9$), low level of education ($x=85.2$), irrelevance of message ($x=78.5$) and dissemination of inappropriate information to the women ($x=76.8$).

Discussion

As this study revealed, women in Yagba community required information for diverse purposes ranging from health to economic reasons (Table 1). They also obtained information through different sources except from books and periodicals (Table II). This finding is in tandem with Annuobi, Ogbonna and Osuchukwu (2012) who similarly found that rural community dwellers in the southern part of Nigeria required information for diverse purposes such as health, empowerment, political awareness and their sources of information in were person to person, audio- visual materials and campaigns.

The study also revealed that information agencies in Yagba community ranged from information officers in the local government secretarial, worship places and schools (Table III). As regards the various information services available to women in Yagba community, the data analysis showed that health information, enlightenment programmes and extension services were some of the varieties of information services that were rendered among women in the community. These findings confirmed Soji-Omoniwa, Omoniyi and Omoniyi (2014) who found that rural community prostitutes in north western Nigeria relied on rural information from announcements, group discussions, campaigns, extension services and radio programmes to solve their day-to-day challenges. From the data analysis, this study revealed that barriers to information service delivery among women in Yagba community included ignorance, over-reliance on oral sources of information as well as inappropriate dissemination of information, among other impediments (Table v). This finding confirms Osibogun (2004) who found that



illiteracy, culture/tradition, poverty, diseases, ignorance and low level of education were some of the impediments to information service delivery among rural community dwellers in south west Nigeria.

Conclusion and Recommendations

On the basis of the data analysis, interpretation and findings in this study, this researcher concluded that rural information has the potential to serve as a tool for women education in Yagba community because they tend to require information in the right formats for a verity of needs and purposes. Although there were barriers to effective information service delivery among women in Yagba community, such impediments could be overcome if appropriate information dissemination agencies were put in place by government and non-governmental organizations. To make information service delivery more robust as a tool for women education in Nigerian rural communities generally, it is therefore recommended as follows:

- a. The information needs of the women have to be clearly identified without ambiguities.
- b. Information services should be delivered to the end users in the language of the community.
- c. Trained information providers should be available to deliver the services to the people.
- d. Women should be exposed to mass literacy or adult literacy programmes so as to equip them for information-related challenges that may confront them as they strive to make their day-to-day living.

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