



## **THE IMPACT OF LIBRARIES IN ENSURING QUALITY EDUCATION**

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### **Abstract**

The subject of this study is how libraries contribute to high-quality education. A comprehensive, easily available system of quality education gives students the information and abilities they need to succeed. Libraries are essential for providing high-quality education because they provide information access, support research, promote literacy, provide a positive learning environment, and support lifelong learning for both teachers and students. In higher education, libraries play a variety of vital roles that influence both faculty and student academic journeys. Libraries are knowledge stores that provide access to a wide range of materials. They offer digital resources, books, journals, and databases to aid in teaching, learning, and research. By curating relevant information, libraries empower students and educators alike. Libraries are hubs for research. A well-equipped library creates a conducive learning environment. It offers access to technology, quiet study places, and cooperative spaces for group projects. Libraries improve learning experiences in general. New information is usually found under the terms "Role of Libraries," "Quality Education," or "Libraries," which are found by reviewing current and reputable literature. Subject-specific databases such as Science Direct, Web of Science, Google, and Google Scholar were chosen by the researchers. They used "Education" or the "Role of Librarians." Through the use of necessary resources and services, this study may help information professionals and librarians at university libraries throughout Nigeria and the rest of the globe to better fulfil their duties and responsibilities, acquire the necessary knowledge and skills, and enhance the quality of education.

**Keywords:** Libraries, Role of libraries, Education, Quality Education

## **Introduction**

Globally, education is a major concern. It is equally vital to a nation's economy and industry's growth as any other resource. This is true because human resources are developed via education. Acquiring knowledge and information is akin to possessing power. According to research by Arjun et al. (2010), this capacity is crucial for improving people's lives and advancing nations. Enhancing education in all aspects is the definition of quality education. In particular, in significant topics related to the social sciences, natural sciences, and other life skills, it can ensure that all students attain good outcomes that are measurable and identifiable in any way. Students' education, both in and out of the classroom, will have a significant impact on their future.

Samantaray highlights that a quality education fulfils fundamental learning requirements and improves students' life in general (2017). Libraries support communities by acting as information hubs. They provide several avenues for locating useful information to assist others. They have a significant impact on improving a nation's situation. According to Dei & Asante (2022), they support vital initiatives including adequate education, ending hunger and poverty, improving everyone's quality of life, treating men and women equally, providing access to clean water and bathrooms, and maintaining public health. It is impossible to separate libraries from education in terms of their importance. Libraries are essential to each nation's educational system. Thus, whatever that advances education also advances the nation as a whole. Without libraries, learning may be compromised. For this reason, libraries should be promoted to pupils. The role of the library is determined by the school's objectives, which aren't always obvious.

Colleges and universities alike require libraries. However libraries are not as often considered in the context of online learning. Libraries were among the earliest places where people used computers and learned how to utilize them. According to Mahesh (2016), they have also been pioneers in transforming schools via the use of technology. Medieval Europe is where the global quality movement got its start. In the latter part of the thirteenth century, craftspeople banded together to form guilds. These guilds formed inspection panels with stringent guidelines for the calibre of goods and services. They created techniques to pinpoint the origin of defective goods and employed unique markings to distinguish perfect products. After World War II, Japan saw a huge revolution in quality that gave rise to the notion of total quality management in the United States. This method sought to enhance all organizational processes rather than only focusing on inspecting goods and services.

Higher education library standards have to be developed in a way that supports and encourages both public and private libraries. These libraries ought to work together to support student learning, be consistent with institutional objectives, and become well-known organizations when assessing the quality of advancements in higher education. The development of more libraries inside colleges, universities, and other higher education institutions should be a top priority for the Pakistani government, administrators, and educational policymakers to achieve this. According to Khan and Ahmed's (2013) study, this expansion will facilitate enhanced educational quality by providing access to important research resources and data. Even though academic libraries in Nigeria have a lot of potential to offer high-quality education, they still have to deal with issues like inadequate funding, poorly organized collections, administrators' lack of

recognition of the libraries, a lack of librarians with the necessary training, a lack of current books, limited computer access, erratic internet connectivity, and a weak power supply.

### **Quality Education**

An inclusive, approachable, and efficient educational system that gives pupils the know-how, abilities, and competencies they need to achieve is referred to as providing quality education. It entails having certified teachers, an emphasis on lifelong learning, fair evaluation procedures, pertinent content, and a conducive learning environment. A complete strategy that aims to stimulate students' creativity and advance their moral, intellectual, physical, and artistic growth is encompassed by quality education. Quality education, in the opinion of Yang (2011) & Mahwasane (2017), cultivates students' creative faculties in addition to expanding their information base. Furthermore, he states that the goal of a high-quality education is to develop students' personalities, offer them their full potential, and awaken people's inner capacities. According to Dei (2022), improved academic performance, updated teaching skills, and money for educational institutions are necessary for excellent education to be successful.

There are worries over the quality of education that will arise from the considerable expansion of elementary schools and the consequent strain on scarce resources. The study will concentrate on the elements that affect educational quality, especially the facilities offered in schools, as suggested by Ndabi (1985). Getting a good education is essential to achieving a number of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is essential for ending the cycle of poverty, increasing chances of finding work and raising the standard of living in general.

According to Boeren (2019), promoting sustainable development requires high-quality education. The United Nations acknowledges that education is critical to a better and more prosperous future. It makes a strong case for everyone to have access to high-quality education—not just any education. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which prioritize high-quality education as a means of improving the world by 2030, reflect this commitment. According to the UN, good education comprises giving everyone access to fair and consistent learning opportunities, encouraging lifelong learning, and igniting a curiosity for information. Rather than just raising literacy rates, the emphasis is on equity and inclusiveness. According to Leverage Edu (2023), this viewpoint signifies a radical departure in our understanding of how education may act as a catalyst for global change. "Quality Education" was declared by the UN in 2012 as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that must be met.

### **Libraries and Quality Education**

'Library' and great education are inextricably linked, coexisting, and depending upon each other. Due to their mutual need, they are unable to exist individually. According to Cyr & Conway (2020), they have been essential to human civilization since its beginning and have evolved in response to shifting demands and conditions at various phases of human development. They also serve as a method of achieving a common end. It is commonly acknowledged that libraries are vital centres for study and crucial information empowerment sources. The public benefits greatly from libraries, which are of utmost importance (Dei & Asante, 2022). Academic libraries are essential for improving education because they support economic, social, and cultural growth, encourage literacy, and provide

information. Outstanding university environments shape a nation's destiny and fortify the youth that form its basis. To attain sustainable outcomes, it is recommended that local, regional, and national governments initiate programs aimed at constructing and outfitting academic libraries with highly qualified personnel, a varied selection of printed and digital resources, and state-of-the-art technology, as noted by Ogbebor (2011).

This coordinated effort will have a major positive impact on the nation's overall improvement in the standard of education. A well-stocked academic library promotes the development of readers' inventive personalities and creative thinking by providing instructors and students with access to a wealth of knowledge and information. As a result of the materials the library offers, students receive an education of a better calibre as they gain new views and abilities. Libraries are regarded as one of the most effective teaching instruments, according to Darhmingliana (2018). A community's residents cannot grow academically, ethically, or spiritually without a robust library. Institutions that provide education to people include agencies, organizations, colleges, and schools; libraries stand out among these. Libraries play a crucial role in providing high-quality education because they are vital resources that facilitate information access, assist research, encourage literacy, provide a supportive learning environment, and encourage lifelong learning for both teachers and students. Academic libraries are great resources for students as they support them on their path to success. These libraries provide an added benefit to knowledge enhancement by serving as a portal to global information exploration. According to Komalla (2014), developments in distance learning, continuing education, and the Open University system have highlighted the

importance of libraries in transferring and spreading information.

### **Role of librarians in quality education**

According to Mahwasane (2017), librarians facilitate knowledge by helping teachers and students find trustworthy sources, encouraging information literacy, assisting with research, and fostering a positive learning environment all of which contribute to raising the standard of education as a whole. The teacher librarian is an important and strategic player in forming the knowledge environment in the classroom. By working together with students and teachers to create a supportive learning environment, they actively support learning. According to Kaur (2015), the function of the modern librarian has changed dramatically to fit contemporary needs.

Today's librarians are knowledge navigators, not only keepers of tangible collections and peaceful areas. Their dynamic facilities, which are frequently available around the clock, accommodate a variety of learning methods. Various digital resources including audio recordings, videotapes, CD-ROMs, databases, and internet-connected computer terminals have replaced the conventional rows of books and card catalogues. Academic libraries now have the chance to reimagine themselves as hubs for knowledge development, discovery, and curation, benefiting both current and next generations of academics and students. According to Nworie (2018), librarians are unmatched in their capacity to create vital tools and databases for knowledge access as well as a multitude of information.

### **Challenges faced in libraries**

Long-term access to resources, ICT infrastructure, management's lack of recognition of libraries, keeping up with technological advancements, staying current

with research, copyright management and intellectual property rights, outdated library policies, addressing financial challenges in libraries, challenges of inadequate library facilities, and inadequate infrastructure are just a few of the challenges that libraries face. According to Ashiq (2021), academic libraries are facing several ongoing difficulties, such as disruptions from technology, problems with leadership, changes in education, digitization initiatives, adjustments to scholarly communication, meeting the needs of modern students, and budgetary limitations. Younger workers may find it more difficult to innovate and be creative in these libraries due to the deeply ingrained old culture and attitude.

## Conclusion

Supporting education and academic research as well as providing for the information needs of countless individuals, libraries play a critical role in advancing society. Over the past two centuries, rapid advances in Science and Technology have resulted in an explosion of information, which has required significant improvements to the library system to meet changing demands. The introduction of cutting-edge computer and telecommunications technologies has also dramatically transformed libraries' services, revolutionizing the field of Library and Information Science. .. Paperless libraries with vast digital resources are replacing traditional libraries, which were formerly stocked with printed materials. By removing physical barriers, networking capabilities have further altered modern libraries and led to the rise of virtual libraries. Thanks to contemporary communication means like computers and the Internet, users may now access information at any time and from any location in the globe. Libraries are excellent at managing knowledge in the current day. Innovative use of emerging information technology by university librarians allows

users to access a wide range of multimedia materials. These libraries are essential for teaching kids how to handle knowledge for the rest of their lives. The traditional idea of libraries as quiet spaces reserved for paper materials is changing. Libraries have had to reorganize resources and offer services that are in line with the changing needs of teaching and learning due to changes in educational techniques, the effect of computer technology, and the varied student body.

## Recommendations

The study recommends thus:

1. Provide enough financing for library education so that it can support the purchase of up-to-date materials, personnel professional development, infrastructure modernization, and technological integration.
2. Libraries should upgrade their offerings by using cutting-edge technology that can raise the standard of instruction.
3. Effective planning is a talent that library practitioners should have to improve the calibre of instruction.
4. It is imperative that librarians take an active role in several programs aimed at raising the standard of instruction for students.
5. To improve the abilities of library personnel in resource management, user services, technology integration, and research assistance, fund training and professional development programs.
6. Promoting institutional repositories and open-access publications can help make research results freely available to a larger audience.



8. Encourage faculty members and librarians to work together to incorporate library resources and services into instructional strategies.
9. Develop information literacy initiatives to equip students with the knowledge and abilities to locate, assess, and utilize information sources.

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