

EMERGING LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES FOR GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE VULNERABLE IN THE POST-COVID-19 ERA IN NIGERIA

Ahmed A. Ayandokun

Carl N. Nworu

Department of Library and Information Science,
Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana, Ebonyi State, Nigeria.

(ahmedabayandokun@gmail.com) +2348055777384

(allmancarlos@gmail.com) +2348035751859

Abstract

Using current literature to back up observed trends, the paper examines how emerging innovative library and information services can be used to effect sustainable socio-economic development for the survival of grassroots dwellers and other vulnerable members of the Nigerian society in the post-COVID-19 era. Using current literature to back up observed trends by the authors, the paper defines libraries as social institutions saddled with the selection, acquisition, processing, preservation, dissemination and retrieval of human recorded knowledge for the use of members of the society in aiding socio-economic development. It examines the impacts of COVID-19 on the Nigerian economy in areas such as reduced demand for labour and material resources, and budgetary cutbacks in the face of government shrinking revenue which have further escalated the rate of inflation and slowed down economic development. Grassroots dwellers are explained as integral members of the society with limited access to social amenities that can assist them in achieving their individual and communal goals which depend on the ability to make the right decisions with relevant and accurate innovative information services due to their vulnerability. Such innovative services include information repackaging, current awareness services, fact-checking services, information literacy services, barefoot information services, among others. The delivery of these services is affected by challenges such as inadequate personnel, funding, and information infrastructure, lack of political will, poor staff motivation, among others. This paper therefore recommends proper remuneration, adequate staff training and development, proper management of indigenous knowledge, etc, to handle the challenges raised.

Keywords

Library Services, Information Services, Grassroots, Sustainable Socio-economic Development, Post-COVID-19 Era, Nigeria

Introduction

The survival of every human society over ages has always been hinged on the availability and efficient use of knowledge in carrying out individual, group, organisational, institutional and communal tasks. This knowledge is dependent on information availability, accessibility and use. A society bereft of the right information at the right time and for the right purposes is at a great risk of extinction. It is in the understanding of this major role of information that information has become accepted as a *de facto* key factor of production alongside capital, human and material resources.

Man has relied on several repositories of knowledge to keep records of his experiences and interactions with his environment. One of such repositories of his recorded knowledge/information is the library, which is considered as an organized collection of information resources in different branches of knowledge for consultation and use in order to acquire knowledge and remain current in the society (Adebisi, 2013).Historically, libraries have been metaphorically referred to as the

birth place of ideas or the healing place of the soul. According to the ancient Greek philosopher, Socrates, libraries are delivery room for the birth of ideas (Nwosu, 2017). While they existed as properties of the affluent and privileged in the ancient and middle ages, the proliferation of information and media resources in the modern era has made it easier for the vulnerable, underserved and less privileged members of the society to bridge the informational gap of the earlier days of man. This has also offered several prospects in areas of academic learning and public enlightenment.

Year 2019 in the history of man will remain one that will not be forgotten in recent times due to the discovery of the emergence of SARS 2-COV 19, popularly known as COVID-19 in Wuhan, China. The spread of this viral infection and its subsequent effects on global economies in the wake of the rapid response of man in combating the disease are still being felt in socio-economic terms. Developed countries in the Northern hemisphere recorded massive human casualties and economic shock. Developing economies too have not been left out as the global effects of the disease led to lower demand for certain resources like crude oil, agricultural produce and even human resources. Leaving countries like Nigeria with dwindling revenue amidst rising poverty rates and a shrinking economy due to restricted productive activities.

Residents of the grass roots and those in rural areas who depend on the demand for their agricultural and raw material produce were subsequently affected as they have become more vulnerable, having been exposed to infrastructural deficit in the face of a dwindling national revenue. The absence of not just material resources but adequate information to deal with the pandemic and survive the scourge poses a threat. In spite of the fact that the COVID-19 and its effects are also having significant negative impacts on library operations across the globe, including having to close down completely or being partially closed, libraries are gathering resources and exercising their ingenuity to create and adapt operations, services and programmes to meet the changing information needs of communities around them (Ameh, Ukwuoma, & Oye, 2021). It is therefore the objective of this paper to examine, using literature and observation, emerging library and information services for grass roots socio-economic development and its implications for the survival of the vulnerable in the post-COVID-19 Era.

Public Libraries: Definition and Importance

A library is a collection of written, printed and other graphic materials including films, slides, phonographic record, tapes etc, housed in organized order, and interpreted to meet broad and varying needs of users for information, knowledge, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment (Ezekwe & Muokebe, 2012). Nwokocha and Horsefall (2020) state that libraries are gateways to knowledge, and are responsible for disseminating the idea of sustainability. They have traditionally existed to collect and organise, make access to knowledge more democratic, and preserve the record of ideas for future generations (Nwosu, Osuchukwu, Obuezie & Kanu, 2020). According to Otike, Bouaamri, Barát and Kizsl (2021), libraries have always been considered as a vital and integral organ in a society; they are established to meet the information needs of learners, researchers and other users in the community. To the pupils libraries are a source of information and also an avenue of developing and inculcating a reading culture, to students, it enhances effective teaching and learning, to the researchers it is a road map to conducting research, discovery and publications, while to the local community, it offers an ample environment for community outreach programs, engagement and awareness on local and international issues affecting them.

The role of libraries and librarianship in socio-economic development is a monumental one because the major commodity of libraries and librarians is reliable and accurate information, which has been identified and acknowledged as the most fundamental resource for informed decision-making by individuals, institutions and organization and even states (Ayandokun, & Onyemachi, 2017). Libraries provide information in order to educate, inform, entertain, recreate, and enlighten the users (Nwokocha, & Chimah, 2016). Sadiku, Olarongbe, and Tsafe (2018) explain that no state progresses without providing free public library services to its citizens because access to educational, socio-political and any other form of information is critical for allowing the citizens to contribute and express their feelings and efficiently monitor and hold the public servants to account. They further argue that access to information is vital for the educational, economic, socio-political and religious empowerment of citizens. Nwokocha (2018) corroborates the above statements by stating that the library is one of the pillars of both ancient civilization and modern societal development. These are done by supporting education, enlightenment, innovation, critical thinking and preservation of culture. As a library without demographic and commercial or affiliation restriction, the public library has the prospect and mandate of satisfying the information needs of the widest range of users, especially the rural and grass root dwellers, who are considered underserved group of users in developing countries.

The Grassroots Rural Dwellers and the Vulnerable

Vulnerability can be defined as the diminished capacity of an individual or group to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural or man-made hazard. The concept is relative and dynamic depending on context. It is most often associated with poverty, but it can also arise when people are isolated, insecure and defenceless in the face of risk, shock or stress (Lazarte, 2017). Rural dwellers that are usually far flung from the inadequate overstretched basic social amenities like modern libraries and information centres in urban areas of developing countries like Nigeria fall into this category. According to Utor and Utor (2006) the characteristics of rural dwellers include low level of literacy or high level of illiteracy; limited educational and economic (including jobs opportunities); strong cultural, tribal and religious adherence; absence of large business and commercial institutions; and limited social facilities e.g. electricity supply, educational institutions and communication system among others.

Nigeria rural population for 2020 was 99,033,580, a 0.89% increase from 2019. Nigeria rural population for 2019 was 98,156,653, a 0.92% increase from 2018 (Macrotrends, 2021). This is about 48.04% of the country's over 200 million total estimated population. According to Nwokocha and Chimah (2016), the African population is still predominantly illiterates and rural dwellers. That majority of these group of people are not educated does not imply that they do not have information needs. The scholars further explain that the information service delivered to the grassroots in Africa is poor and adversely affects their life pattern, and as such, librarians, particularly those in public libraries that might have received adequate training in library schools on community information service are therefore challenged. This is because the provision of information to such a group of users is highly essential due to their large number, yet the library and information science professionals must consider several unique challenges associated with rural information services delivery.

Provision of information services for this group of users is challenging because a lot of effort is needed to be able to communicate effectively and efficiently because such an environment is most times dominated by people whose standard of living is usually very challenging as a result

of poverty, hunger, disease, ignorance, illiteracy and the absence of social amenities such as good roads, power and schools (Ogar, Dika&Atanda, 2018).

Conceptual Explanation and Importance of Sustainable Development

Development is a multidimensional and sustainable elevation of an entire society or social system to a better level or more civilized life (Akanwa, &Okorie, 2020). It is further explained as a qualitative increase in capability that deals with the activities undertaken to prepare organisations, institutions, establishments and even employees to perform additional duties and assume higher positions in organisational hierarchy. Development, according to UNESCO (as cited in Mbashir & Alabi, 2013), is summed up as societal growth and change which involves materials, mental, psychological, physical, instructional and organisational innovations. It is the process of change at all level of economic, political, and socio-cultural transformation that results to general improvement in welfare of people living in a defined, or the general society.

Socio-economic development means social development and economic development. It is a combination of all features of the society that makes life meaningful for man as he makes the best of the resources at his disposal. The Bahai International Community (2016) succinctly states that human socio-economic development fundamentally means a growth process which enables people and societies to realize their full potentials. It is a change from a previous state of affairs where members now enjoy an improved standard of living in terms of economic, social, cultural and political well-being such as better jobs, better working conditions, improved housing and shelter, better feeding and meeting the needs of man from time to time.

Chojnicki (2010) emphasises that socio-economic development embraces development changes taking place in the social sphere, mostly of an economic nature. As a result of this, it is further explained that economic change or development cannot be isolated from the social one because this development is meant to be felt by members of the society. According to the Brundtland Commission (as cited in Nwokocha & Horsefall, 2020), sustainable development is a development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Its core concern is the pursuit of development that will not impede or negatively alter the development of future generations.

Effects of COVID-19 on Socio-economic Development in Nigeria

Coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan, China and was first reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Office in China on 31 December 2019. The outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organisation, through its Director-General, TedrosAdhanomGhebreyesus, technically declared Coronavirus, Covid-19 a Pandemic (WHO, 2020). According to the World Health Organisation (2021), as at 5:45 PM Nigerian time, on 21 October, 2021, a total of 242, 348, 657 cases had been confirmed, 4, 927, 723 deaths reported and 6,655,399,359 doses of vaccines had been administered all over the world. Nigeria has had 209, 960 confirmed cumulative cases and 2850 confirmed cumulative deaths as at 5:45PM, same date as above from the time it recorded its first case on the 27th February, 2020.

At a time the Nigerian government based its 2020 budget benchmark on its main source of income, oil, at \$57/barrel, oil prices sunk to \$29.62/barrel, forcing the government to engage in massive budgetary cuts that would affect education, health and infrastructure. The UNDP (2020) placed this on a 48% decline in revenue. 42% of overall job loss could be traced directly to

COVID-19, with a higher percentage of lost employment among the poorest (49%) and urban (48%) households, relative to the wealthiest (39%) and rural households (38%). The commerce, service, and agricultural sectors were hit hardest by the spread of the virus (Oseni, Palacios-Lopez, Mcgee, Amankwah, 2020). Perishable food stuffs were left to rot in the markets while several households managed what they had in stock.

The entertainment and sports industry which employs millions of Nigeria were also affected as football league matches were suspended, spectators barred from entering stadia and sponsors and sport clubs and managements lost revenue that they would have generated from viewership. Eze, Okonkwo, Ezeugwu, Ukwueze, and Ezeugwu (2021) corroborate this as the findings of their study proves that COVID-19 pandemic impacted negatively on the entertainment industry, bringing to a halt the performer/audience physical participation and interaction and a lot of reduction in the socio-economic progress of entertainers and the entertainment industry which depend on their audience for finance. The researchers further explained that the collapse of sporting events due to COVID-19 lockdown affected the grass root people to a great extent. Sports related business, television, advertising, and marketing suffered tremendously. The direct impacts of these unfortunate developments include the increase in criminal activities such as rise of various criminal groups such as the “One Million Gang” that created fear in Lagos, such that each neighborhood in the city during the COVID-19 lockdown quickly organized its own security in the absence of the willingness by the police to protect the people (Orji,2020).

Roles and Importance of the Public Library for Grass Root Development and Survival of the Vulnerable in the Post-COVID-19 Era

Providing public library and information services to the grass root dwellers and the vulnerable, who fall into the category of underserved information users in the community has a lot of positive implications for the library community and the society at large. The public library which is considered the poor man’s university is better positioned to deliver this mandate of bridging the digital and informational divide because it has no restrictions on its service philosophy.

1. **Educational Roles:** Libraries support the education of members of rural communities in formal and informal ways. The formal ways are seen in the services provided by school and public libraries in rural areas to support the enrolled students and pupils of such areas. They provide educational resources to teachers in order to support the curriculum of the schools. Libraries also support adult education through their mass literacy programmes. Community information centres can support the public libraries in the delivery of these services to the downtrodden.
2. **Recreational Roles:** These roles are provided to help members of the society re-energise themselves mentally and relax their nerves after tedious tasks. Libraries offer danger-free recreational information materials for light reading such as comic books, artworks, fictional works and even documentaries in audio-visual formats. These can help ease tension, avoid isolation that could strain the mental health of citizens who have been affected by personal and societal pressures. As members of vulnerable communities, libraries help bridge the digital divide gap, even in recreational matters because some of the resources that may be far from the reach of less privileged members of the society may be available for use through the library.

3. **Enlightenment Roles:** Members of the public can be enlightened on matters of social discourse of any kind through the use of reliable and current information materials in the library. This will help curb the effects of ignorance. Information repackaging can be used to address the barriers that are usually associated with illiteracy among rural dwellers and the vulnerable.
4. **Cultural development:** By documenting indigenous knowledge and the heritage of the local populace, libraries help to preserve the culture and way of life of the people. This gives the members of the society a sense of inclusion and recognises the efforts of the rural dwellers in national development. Such document knowledge do not just provide historical value, they can be used for making future decisions on matters such as land disputes.
5. **Social integration and inclusion roles:** When libraries provide political and socio-economic information that informs members of the public and help them in making informed decision, it provides invariably, opportunities for them to be well integrated into the society and enjoy other benefits such as gaining employment opportunities and leveraging from government and non-governmental societal development programmes. Access to information on socio-political matters will always give people an edge.

Information service to rural population of Nigeria is a viable project which will accelerate the pace of development of all parts of the country (Ogar, Dika, &Atanda, 2018). The specific kinds of information needed by rural dwellers include health information, agricultural information, economic information, recreational information, cultural information, political information, educational information, security information, occupational information among others.

Innovative Library and Information ServicesforGrass Root Development and Survival of the Vulnerable in the Post-COVID-19 Era

- i. **Community Information Services:** There is no better time when information users are in dire need of information that during socio-economic crisis. The grass root information user is not the conventional information user who may have some advantage in social amenities and facilities to access and use information. As such, libraries are expected to offer contemporary information services at the communal level in order to reach the digitally disadvantaged members of the public who are very vulnerable to information disorders.
- ii. **Current Awareness Services:** As government programmes and those of the non-governmental organisations keep rapidly evolving in the attempt to tackle COVID-19 at its aftermaths, adequate and timely information on current events, programmes and scheduled invents should be provided for members of the vulnerable communities like the rural dwellers. Such information resources and services such as schedule of events, calendar of events, new arrival lists, SMS alerts, use of Social media, bulletins, Selective Dissemination of Information, Document Delivery Services, etc.
- iii. **Barefoot Information Services:** As we have learnt from recent history, COVID-19 brought about restriction of movements at the initial stage, it should be noted that subsequent outbreaks will be met with similar measures to curtail the impacts on human lives early enough. As such, librarians will have to devise means of reaching out to rural and vulnerable communities. Isolating such a vital group of the populace in our productivity chain will leave massive effects on agriculture and food security. Therefore, adequate information services should be provided by librarians who are members of such communities by providing information services such as information repackaging which

includes interpretation services for members of the rural and vulnerable communities who are usually deprived of conventional information sources and amenities.

- iv. **Mobile Library Services:** The concept of mobile library is not recent. Mobile library outreach services such as bookmobiles have traditionally been a means to provide library and information services to rural citizens (McShane, 2001). Mobile library is not new to many researchers it is considered very essential to rural community with the use of vehicle devised, equipped and operated to provide as far as reasonably practicable, a service comparable to part-time branch library (Hisham, & Abdullah, 2018). Its use in information malnourished and vulnerable communities will come with benefits such as wider outreach and the bridging of informational gap among users. McShane (2001) further stated that from an empirical study at, mobile library services offers advantages such as achieving its qualitative goals which include children and adults throughout the county gained increased access to books, and families with fragile literacy skills, senior citizens who cannot travel to the public library, and reading families in towns with limited library services were all enthusiastic patrons. People of all ages received encouragement to read and had access to information about area resources that support family and individual well being.

Mobile libraries, by their nature, target their services to meet the needs of elderly and other less mobile people - those who may find it difficult to reach the nearest static libraries. Therefore decisions to provide mobile services in areas which have recently lost static libraries or have no such facilities will positively affect the vulnerable groups, in the communities involved. As some of these communities lack good access roads and other infrastructural facilities, varieties of means such as bicycles, backpacks, boxes, boats, trains, motorcycles, oxen, donkeys, elephants and camels are all different means to bring out books to remote areas (Hisham, & Abdullah, 2018). The researchers further explain that mobile library services for vulnerable communities bring about **outreach, accessibility and convenience** which all result to **user satisfaction**.

- v. **Information Literacy Services:** The vulnerable and rural community dwellers are usually affected by digital divide, especially in developing countries. This is usually pronounced by prevalent illiteracy and general digital literacy. As such, it is importance that the skills required to identify the need for, search, evaluate, utilise, disseminate, process, preserve and retrieve information are taught by libraries to members of such communities. Without the possession of adequate information literacy skills, rural dwellers may not be able to identify or use information appropriately even when such information they need are available and accessible.
- vi. **Online Information/ Virtual Library Services:** The members of disadvantaged community who may have access to digital devices and smart phones should not be denied access to virtual library services. Since virtual libraries do not require physical contacts, the barrier of distance between rural and urban communities where most public library headquarters are usually located should not affect the delivery of library services to rural community members with access to digital devices. The remote access potentials of virtual libraries should be maximized for rural dwellers' use.
- vii. **Medical Information Services:** At the outbreak of COVID-19, health became the number one target, and the most affected sector of the society. Anxiety among the populace when having health challenges rose as a result of fear and confusion on how to perceive and report symptoms and not be stigmatized by the public. As a result of this, it is expected that

libraries, in conjunction with medical centres and facilities organise health information resources and services to reach out to the public on how to address health challenges without compounding their health status, especially as misinformation and disinformation on the pandemic and other societal challenges keep rising.

- viii. **Fact-Checking Services:** COVID-19 outbreak coincided with an exponential growth in information disorders influenced by rapid digital penetration across the globe. According to Gilbert (2021), as of January 2021, Nigeria had a population of 208.8 million, and about 104.4 million were Internet users, giving a mobile penetration rate of 50%. This has massive effects on socio-economic decision-making among the populace, especially the information-malnourished and digitally disadvantaged in rural communities, the vulnerable, who rely sometimes on oral information from the urban areas to make decisions. AFLIA (2020) states that misinformation about COVID-19 is engendering false hopes and generating fear, promoting quackery as well as undermining scientifically proven pathways that curb the spread of the virus such as social/physical distancing, staying at home, proper hand-washing and use of sanitizers. Misinformation thrives more where there is illiteracy, especially the inability to understand and evaluate information itself as well as the source(s).

Libraries, especially community libraries and public libraries can help provide fact-checking services to members of the public through the distribution of flyers, pamphlets and even electronically by sending links and contents that debunk erroneously held but popular beliefs to their smartphones. Information disorder itself is more harmful than absence of information.

- ix. **Information repackaging services:** Interpretation services offer great opportunity to reach the downtrodden and less privileged that have language deficiencies. Information can also be modified, simplified and adapted to suit the competencies and abilities of those with learning and sensory challenges. According to Mole and Dim (2010), innovative approaches like the use of audio visual resource, provision of materials in vernacular and group discussions can be used by the rural library as veritable avenues of disseminating modern scientific and technological information to the rural dwellers, the physically challenged and other disadvantaged groups. These are the most vulnerable, among the vulnerable. It must be admitted that while some of these services are not relatively new to the Nigerian system, so many Nigerians lack the awareness that they ever existed because in the true sense of it, they do not presently exist in most Nigerian rural communities and several urban areas as well.

Challenges of Delivering Innovative Library and Information Services for Grass Root Development and Survival of the Vulnerable in the Post-COVID-19 Era

Providing contemporary information services for rural communities and the vulnerable comes at a price. Libraries and information centres are usually faced with some hurdles when delivering such services as earlier outlined. The challenges include:

- **Inadequate professional staff:** The problem of staffing in Nigerian libraries has been well reported in literature. At present, many rural libraries have inadequate numbers of staff, and many others have staff who are seriously undereducated (Ebiwolate, 2010). Observations have shown that libraries in Nigeria have more non-professionals than para-professionals and professionals combined. It will be difficult to execute both administrative and technical library services with this condition.

- **Poor motivation of librarians:** Librarians have reported poor motivation at work. Delivering basic static library in-house services have been affected by poor motivation of library staff. Delivering extra services for the rural communities will pose further challenge to the librarians. The findings of Eze, Okeke, and Okroafor (2019) corroborates the above statement by declaring that even though some of the librarians had office furniture and were given opportunities for professional development, most of them were not satisfied with their jobs due to poor remuneration, lack of good infrastructure and ICT facilities/functional internet and poor organizational culture/decision making pattern in most of the libraries. As a result of the low level of job satisfaction, most of the librarians indicated that they were ready to leave their present jobs for jobs at other places if such opportunities come by.
- **Absence of community libraries:** Public libraries exist in Nigeria mostly at urban centres. They rarely offer extension services and rarely have rural community library branches. This leaves a vacuum and huge gap between the urban communities and then makes the rural communities more vulnerable. Not every village or rural community can boast of a public library or the services it can provide, just as some of the schools in rural areas lack decent libraries to support teaching and learning activities (Aboyade, as cited in Ogar, Dika, & Atanda, 2018). The establishment of public libraries in Nigeria, however, has been mostly limited to urban areas (Ebiwolate, 2010). These situations create a massive drawback for information services delivery by libraries.
- **Inadequate information infrastructure:** Even when there are swathes of land available in rural Nigeria, the structures and facilities to be used in delivering community library and information services are non-existent. The infrastructural deficit affecting the urban populace is worse in the rural areas. So many rural areas in Nigeria still lack effective mobile network connectivity. Internet access to rural areas is still very low compared to urban centres. This is largely due to government's inability to take a giant stride in this direction (Ogar, Dika, & Atanda, 2018). This is why most rural dwellers, especially the young and vibrant population in these areas prefer to migrate to urban areas at the slightest opportunity. This further depletes the vibrant young human resources needed to drive development via productivity in rural areas.
- **Government Attitude to Library Services:** The government of Nigeria, especially at the state and federal levels do not give the required supports in terms of legislation and enforcements of the national policy on education using libraries. Libraries are poorly funded and this leaves the libraries to grapple under the effect of poor staffing, poor remuneration, inadequate resources, inadequate facilities and weak staff development and capacity building. All these culminate in poor library services delivery. Ebiwolate (2010) reports that lack of political will affects the delivery of adequate rural library and information services.
- **Illiteracy:** The use of libraries or access to library services by rural dwellers has always been comparatively poor (Uzuegbu, 2014). This is largely due to prevalent illiteracy among the rural populace. There is the problem of finding adequate supplies of material in the languages and at the level of difficulty that the local readers can use (Mole, & Dim, 2010).

Conclusion

Rural communities form a great percentage of the Nigerian population. An even development of the society can therefore, not be achieved if they are neglected. The absence of basic social amenities including information infrastructure like community libraries and

information centres is evident. Sustainable societal development hinges on the capacity of citizens and members of the society, which also rests on the possession of adequate knowledge and information to execute personal and communal tasks. The knowledge-economy dictates that citizens can only drive societal development if they possess the requisite skills and capacities to do so and compete favourably in the global economy by maximizing the potentials of other resources with the information at their disposal. This information can only be provided by reliable agencies like libraries and information centres. Unfortunately, such libraries either do not exist or exist in poor state. Achieving a sustainable development in the presence of these challenges in rural areas will pose a great threat to grassroots development and further expose the vulnerable members of the society to dire jeopardy and deepen underdevelopment.

The following recommendations are hereby put forward to surmount the challenges identified:

- i. Adequate training and capacity building of librarians in the areas of rural/community library services to align with the information needs of the contemporary rural dweller of the post COVID-19 era.
- ii. Establishment of robust and effective rural community libraries with services tailored specifically towards the basic information needs of the rural/ grassroots dwellers.
- iii. Employment of adequate professionals to handle barefoot library services to cater for the information needs of the rural community dwellers.
- iv. Proper remuneration of the employed librarians in order to motivate them to deliver innovative library services in their respective communities. Rural community services require much effort to deliver than conventional library services because most of the rural dwellers need specialized information services.
- v. Adoption of indigenous knowledge management methods to maximize the potentials of the indigenous knowledge in rural development. Indigenous knowledge acquisition is cheaper but not usually documented due to prevalent illiteracy and absence of recording devices and documenting resources. Librarians should engage the indigenous communities of rural areas in the collection of their indigenous knowledge and sensitizing the rural dwellers on the need to manage their indigenous knowledge and use them to complement modern knowledge methods.

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