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INVESTIGATION OF THE USERS' ACCESS TO HEALTH INFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DURING THE COVID 19 ERA IN PROFESSOR KENNETH DIKE E-CENTRAL LIBRARY, AWKA, ANAMBRA STATE

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**INVESTIGATION OF THE USERS' ACCESS TO HEALTH INFORMATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DURING THE COVID 19 ERA IN PROFESSOR
KENNETH DIKE E-CENTRAL LIBRARY, AWKA, ANAMBRA STATE**

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ABSTRACT

The research investigated users' access to health information for sustainable development during the Covid 19 era in Professor Kenneth Dike E-central Library, Awka, Anambra state. A descriptive survey research design was used for the study. The sample population comprised of 100 users of Professor Kenneth Dike E-central Library through the use of accidental sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was used for collection of data. The instrument was subjected to face validation and pilot test using Cronbach Alpha which gave a reliability coefficient value of 0.97. Data collected from the study were analyzed using mean scores. The study found that health information sought for by the users of Professor Kenneth Dike E-central Library during the Covid 19 pandemic in Anambra state are Information on risks of the Covid 19, Covid 19 drug information, and information on the risk for being infected with Covid 19. All the items on health information literacies such as communicative skills on sharing health information, critical evaluation skills to determine the authenticity of health information, and basic health information searching skills, etc were not provided for the users in Anambra state. The extent of user accessibility of the health information literacies during Covid 19 era in Anambra state was high on Covid 19 test centers, Covid 19 virus signs and symptoms, and information on the risk for being infected with the Covid 19. Users' access to health information literacy has led to sustainable development during Covid 19 era in Anambra state by means of restricting the users' physical social interaction in their environment, enabled them to acquire online skills for their education, and do more of online transaction. The challenges of user access to health information literacy for sustainable development during Covid 19 era are inadequate funding, insufficiency of e-learning infrastructure, and poor librarians' attitude. The study concluded that the Covid 19 era has exposed the deficiencies of public library in their task of providing health information literacy to the library for sustainable development during Covid 19 era. The recommendations were that there should be adequate funding for the library to train librarians on new ways of providing health information literacy to users

Keywords: User Access, Public library, Sustainable Development, health Information Literacy, Covid 19

INTRODUCTION

Owing to the outburst of ravaging Covid-19 virus in the year 2019 - early 2022, there has been the proliferation of conflicting information about the scourge with its propagated conspiracy theories that have provided misleading or fake information to the people on social and media space. These may be as a result of their poor access to reliable health information. Health information can be defined as information in any format, oral, written or electronic that is related to the health issues or situations. Health information is also seen as the data related to history, symptoms, diagnoses, treatments, and results of health cases (Urhiewhu & Edom, 2021). An individual's access to health information especially is considered one of the ways of minimizing the social and economic impact of preventable and non-preventable diseases and illnesses (Aryee, 2014). Over the years, there have been a number of health diseases and viral infections that has taken over the airspace as a result of poor health information; among them are Ebola virus, bird flu and the recently announced global pandemic known as Corona Virus (Covid 19) (WHO, 2020). However, since the advent of the ICT and social platforms, there have been poor dissemination and spread of fake news on health information such as the Covid 19 pandemic and has provided a gap for users to acquire health information literacy

Health information literacy is the possession of skills for the identification, understanding, interpretation, creations, communication, computation and usage of written materials that provides health information and knowledge. Health information literacy is the provision of competencies to people that is necessary to enable them function effectively within society and live a healthy life. Health information literacy is a set of abilities and skills requiring individuals to recognize, locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed health information to their advantage. Health information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning and it is common to all levels of persons - poor or rich, rural or urban. In this view, if

members of the public are equipped with sufficient health information about the covid-19 virus, they will be able recognize authentic health information that will bring about sustainable development

Sustainable development is seen as a development paradigm that is aimed at fulfilling human material and non-material needs that can support social equity, human effectiveness and technical capacity towards living a good life. Sustainable Development is a global movement aimed at making the world a better place to live. Sustainable development offer the hope that humanity could continue to advance socially and economically while still conserving the life supporting system and aimed to achieve greater intergenerational equity in access to natural resource and environmental service (Martin & Alan, 2004). Based on the foregoing, sustainable development makes people to live happily mostly when they are well informed about their environment. When a person is not informed about the dictates of the society and its emerging development such as the covid-19 virus, they will live below the life expectancy as deaths will be recorded among the old and young ones, rich and poor, as well as the healthy and sick. However, exceptions will be drawn between the educated ones who are well informed on covid-19 information from those who are uneducated and lack sufficient health information literacy.

The need for one to be well informed and literate enough with covid-19 health information will enable them to achieve sustainable development that will support and improve their lives, education, business, society and the nation at large. Owing to the need for the populace to acquire health information literacy that will support their sustainable development in the society, they need to have access to basic sources and resources that will provide them with information literacy skills on how to find, evaluate and subsequently communicate such health information effectively to solve or prevent a particular problem or

disease (such as the contraction of Covid 19) or to make decisions that will restrict their chances of contracting the virus. This is a critical gap where a public library can fill

By their act of establishment, a public library is tasked to provide people with information on all areas of life be it health, education, business etc. The public library in line with their mandate is expected to provide equitable access to resources and services to individuals that will lead to sustainable development. Whether the information provided comes from health aspect on the Internet, or the World Wide Web, Online databases, books or documents, and other possible sources, libraries can provide literacy skills for users to acquire the ability to understand and critically evaluate and make use of such health information to prevent them from been misled towards contracting the Covid 19 virus.

Regrettably, a lot of people do not believe in Covid 19 or its health information necessary to guide their business activities, community relations, social interaction and educational activities for sustainable development. In addition, some Covid 19 health information are falsely disseminated via social media such as Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, Instagram etc. According to Boberg, Quandt, Schatto-Eckrodt and Frischlich (2020) such types of fake information create panic, fear and rumors about the Covid 19 pandemic during the lockdown period. Of course, this may have led to many deaths, thus reducing the goals of sustainable development. This has motivated the need for this research which investigate the users' access to health information literacy for sustainable development in the Covid 19 era in Professor Kenneth Dike E-central Library, Awka, Anambra state

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of this study is to investigate users' access to health information literacy for sustainable development in the Covid 19 era in Professor Kenneth Dike E-central Library, Awka, Anambra state. The specific objectives include to:

1. Find out the health information sought for by the users of Professor Kenneth Dike E-central Library, during the Covid 19 pandemic in Anambra state
2. Determine the extent of user accessibility of the health information during Covid 19 era in Anambra state
3. Ascertain the health information literacy skills that the users are provided with during the Covid 19 pandemic in Anambra state
4. Find out if the users access to health information has led to sustainable development during Covid 19 era in Anambra state
5. Find out the challenges of user access to health information for sustainable development during Covid 19 era in Anambra state

LITERATURE REVIEW

Covid 19 virus refers to a coronavirus that affected the lower respiratory tract of patients with pneumonia in Wuhan, China on 29 December 2019 (Li, Guan, Wu, Wang, Zhoum & Tong, 2020). It was reported that a cluster of patients with pneumonia of unknown cause was linked to a local Huanan South China Seafood Market in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019 (Agim, Obiekwe & Eneh, 2020). Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered novel strain of coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 (WHO, 2020b), that first appeared in the city of Wuhan, China, and has spread rapidly to almost all countries across the world. The coronavirus belongs to a family of viruses that may cause various symptoms such as pneumonia, fever, breathing difficulty, and lung infection (WMHC, 2020). These viruses are common in animals worldwide, but very few cases have been known to affect humans. According to World Health Organization WHO (2020c) corona virus seems to spread from person to person by the same mechanism as other common cold or influenza viruses—i.e. by face to face contact with a sneeze or cough, or from contact with secretions of people who are infected. Based on the fact that its infection

rate is easily transmitted through cough and face to face contact there is the need for the people to be well aware with sufficient health information literacy on the need to adopt certain guidelines set out to curb its spread. Therefore, to improve on the health status of the rural and urban dwellers, there is the need for sufficient access to health information.

Health information refers to data containing the health histories and medical information. Health information is an integrated discipline with specialty domains that include management science, management engineering principles, healthcare delivery and public health, patient safety, information science and computer technology (Chim, 2015). Health information defines how information regarding to data on health is retrieved, captured, transmitted, and utilized for effective use. Health information is related to term such as health informatics which applies the use of information systems, informatics principles, and information technology to acquire and access reliable data about the health status of a person. Health information also connotes health issues and details of health matters. Similarly, health information may include mortality and morbidity rates, disease outbreaks, determinants of health (such as nutrition, environment, and socioeconomic status), access, coverage and quality of services, costs expenditures, and equity (WHO, 2005). In this view, there is the need for a person and other library users or patrons to be aware of this health information. The basic way to get aware and be exposed to this health information

For users to access this health information, they will need to acquire literacy skills. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) defines health literacy as ' the cognitive and social skills which determine the motivation and ability of individuals to gain access to understand and use information in ways which promote and maintain good 'health'. Relatedly, this literacy will provide them with a set of abilities needed to recognize a health information need, identify likely information sources and use them to retrieve relevant information, assess the quality of the information and its applicability to a specific situation,

and analyze, understand, and use the information to make good health decisions. According to Medical Library Association (2003), health information gotten by a person improves their literacy abilities to identify likely information sources. Summarily, health information empowers people for better living and for seeking solutions to health challenges besetting people which are likely to make sustainable development and its goals unattainable.

The term “sustainable development” (SD) first came to vogue in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987:45) titled, *Our Common Future*, it was here defined as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Many limitations of this definition have been pointed out, including that it is predominantly anthropomorphic (focusing only on how development should sustain human needs, and not considering the needs of other species), that it does not adequately take equity into account, and that it is in this form not possible to operationalize (Eyong, 2003b). A more detailed definition is that it is a collection of methods to create and sustain development which seeks to relieve poverty, create equitable standards of living, satisfy the basic needs of all peoples, and establish sustainable political practices, while ensuring that there are no irreversible damages to natural resources and nature (Boon & Eyong, 2005). Sustainable development has 17 goals which were built on the success of the Millenium Development Goals (MDG) of the years 2000-2015. Sustainable development is the process of transformation of a country's economic, social, political, educational, religious and cultural value towards improvement in human dignity and the general health and well-being of its citizens (Obi & Obiadazie 2014). Therefore, for sustainable development to be achieved, a library is very vital pivot in this regard to achieving it through their provision of access to health information literacy abilities to the users

A library is a structure that provides access to resources and services that support education, research and lifelong learning. Libraries equip their patrons with all kind of information relating to education, business, politics, or health. Covid 19 virus is a health challenge and it is expected of a library to support and provide equitable access to the health information needs of the users of the library who are restricted to visit the library during the Covid 19 pandemic. In the view of the Covid 19 pandemic, some users are not knowledgeable about the virus and may have challenges with indentifying or locating certain library information resources and services that will provide them with real and authentic health information about the Covid 19 virus. Since many users are been provided with conflicting covid-19 health information that is misleading with uncertainty of the sources, the library can support these persons with real online platforms and sources that they can utilize and access to have trusted and reliable covid-19 information. Here, the users will possess health information literacy skills that can enable them become more sophisticated, discerning, and confident information user through the health information provided towards sustainable development.

METHODS

A descriptive survey research design was used for the study. The area of the study is Anambra state. A sample population of 100 users of Professor Kenneth Dike E-central Library, Awka was accidentally selected and used. A structured questionnaire on a five (5) – point Likert scale was used for collection of data for this study. The instrument was subjected to face validation and pilot test using Cronbach Alpha which gave a reliability coefficient value of 0.97. The researchers employed the use of two research assistants to distribute and collect the data. Data collected from the study were analyzed using simple table and mean scores

Results

Health information sought by the users of Professor Kenneth Dike E-central Library during the Covid 19 pandemic in Anambra state

Table 1: Health information sought for by the users of Professor Kenneth Dike E-central Library during the Covid 19 pandemic

S/NO	Items	Mean	Remarks
1	Personal medical history and health data	2.73	Less sought
2	Covid 19 test centers	2.93	Less sought
3	How to handle an infection with the coronavirus	3.35	Highly sought
4	Available treatments on Covid 19 virus	3.22	Highly sought
5	Covid 19 virus signs and symptoms	3.10	Highly sought
6	Non-preventable diseases	2.85	Less sought
7	Preventable illnesses	2.62	Less sought
8	Other emerging health diseases	2.52	Less sought
9	Viral infections	2.71	Less sought
10	Information on risks of the coronavirus	3.28	Highly sought
11	Covid 19 drug information	3.21	Highly sought
12	Information on the risk for being infected with the coronavirus	3.23	Highly sought
13	Information on how to find professional help in case of coronavirus infection	3.24	Highly sought
14	Information on the authenticity of coronavirus	3.12	Highly sought
15	Information of use of facemask and hand sanitizers	3.05	Highly sought
16	Covid 19 Isolation centers	3.02	Highly sought
17	Information on how to recognize if I have likely become infected with the coronavirus	3.30	Highly sought
18	Information about protective behaviors that can help to prevent infection with the coronavirus	3.25	Highly sought
19	Information on Social distancing and self isolation	3.12	Highly sought
20	Government pronouncements on Covid 19 pandemic	3.04	Highly sought

The table 1 above discovered that health information sought by the users of Professor Kenneth Dike E-central Library during the Covid 19 pandemic in Anambra state are Information on risks of the Coronavirus, Covid 19 drug information, information on the risk for being infected with the Coronavirus, information on how to find professional help in case of Coronavirus infection, information on the authenticity of Coronavirus, information of use of facemask and hand sanitizers, Covid 19 isolation centers, information on how to recognize if I have likely become infected with the Coronavirus, information about protective behaviors that can help to prevent infection with the Coronavirus, information on social distancing and self isolation, government pronouncements on Covid 19 pandemic,

how to handle an infection with the Coronavirus, available treatments on Covid 19 virus , and Covid 19 virus signs and symptoms. However, information on personal medical history and health data, Covid 19 test centers, non-preventable diseases, preventable illnesses, viral infections and other emerging health diseases were less sought for by the users of the public library in Anambra state

Extent of user accessibility of health information during Covid 19 in Anambra state

Table 2: Extent of user accessibility of the health information during Covid 19 era

S/NO	Items	Mean	Remark
1	Personal medical history and health data	2.73	Low
2	Covid 19 test centers	3.23	High
3	How to handle an infection with the coronavirus	2.35	Low
4	Available treatments on Covid 19 virus	2.22	Low
5	Covid 19 virus signs and symptoms	3.10	High
6	Non-preventable diseases	2.85	Low
7	Preventable illnesses	2.62	Low
8	Other emerging health diseases	2.52	Low
9	Viral infections	2.71	Low
10	Information on risks of the coronavirus	3.28	High
11	Covid 19 drug information	2.21	Low
12	Information on the risk for being infected with the coronavirus	3.23	High
13	Information on how to find professional help in case of coronavirus infection	3.24	High
14	Information on the authenticity of coronavirus	3.12	High
15	Information of use of facemask and hand sanitizers	3.05	High
16	Covid 19 Isolation centers	3.02	High
17	Information on how to recognize if I have likely become infected with the coronavirus	3.30	High
18	Information about protective behaviors that can help to prevent infection with the coronavirus	3.25	High
19	Information on Social distancing and self isolation	3.12	High
20	Government pronouncements on Covid 19 pandemic	3.04	High

In Table 2, the extent of user accessibility of the health information literacies during Covid 19 era in Anambra state was high on Covid 19 test centers, Covid 19 virus signs and symptoms, information on risks of the Coronavirus, information on the risk for being infected with the Coronavirus, information on how to find professional help in case of Coronavirus infection, information on the authenticity of Coronavirus, information of use of facemask and hand sanitizers, Covid 19 isolation centers, information on how to recognize if I have likely

become infected with the Coronavirus, information about protective behaviors that can help to prevent infection with the Coronavirus, information on social distancing and self isolation, and government pronouncements on Covid 19 pandemic. However, personal medical history and health data, how to handle an infection with the Coronavirus, available treatments on Covid 19 virus, non-preventable diseases, preventable illnesses, viral infections, Covid 19 drug information, and other emerging health diseases

Health information literacy skills that the users are provided with during the Covid 19 pandemic in Anambra state

Table 3: Health information literacies that the users are provided with during the Covid 19 pandemic

S/NO	Items	Mean	Remarks
1	Communicative skills on sharing health information	2.13	Not provided
2	Critical evaluation skills to determine the authenticity of health information	1.23	Not provided
3	Basic health information searching skills	2.15	Not provided
4	Mobile phones usage skills to access health information online	1.05	Not provided
5	Blogging skills on the website for health information	2.22	Not provided
6	Use of PDAs to navigate health information online	1.12	Not provided
7	Computer online navigation skills for health information pages	2.01	Not provided
8	Internet surfing skills for health information	1.38	Not provided
9	Computer operations skills to browse health information	2.21	Not provided
10	Social networking skills to share, upload and download health information	1.23	Not provided
11	Skills in use of Electronic bulletin board to access health information	2.14	Not provided
12	Research skills using Microsoft packages to utilize health information	1.52	Not provided
13	Analytical skills on health information	2.15	Not provided
14	Skills in processing analyzed data on health information	1.52	Not provided
15	Skills in reading and evaluating sources of health information	1.41	Not provided

In Table 3, all the items on health information literacies were not provided to users during the Covid 19 pandemic in Anambra state. This implies that communicative skills on sharing health information, critical evaluation skills to determine the authenticity of health information, basic health information searching skills, mobile phones usage skills to access health information online, blogging skills on the website for health information, use of PDAS to navigate health information online, computer online navigation skills for health

information pages, internet surfing skills for health information, computer operations skills to browse health information, social networking skills to share, upload and download health information, skills in use of electronic bulletin board to access health information, research skills using Microsoft packages to utilize health information, analytical skills on health information, skills in processing analyzed data on health information, and skills in reading and evaluating sources of health information were not provided in Anambra state

How user access to health information led to sustainable development during Covid 19 era in Anambra state

Table 4: User access to health information literacy and sustainable development during Covid 19

S/N	Items	Mean	Decision
1	My access to Covid 19 health information has restricted my physical social interaction in my environment	3.14	Agree
2	My access to Covid 19 health information has made me to acquire online skills for my education	3.12	Agree
3	My access to Covid 19 health information has made me to do my business online	3.05	Agree
4	My access to Covid 19 health information has made me to do more of online transaction	3.12	Agree
5	My access to Covid 19 health information has promoted social changes by empowering me with newly acquired online abilities	3.10	Agree
6	My access to Covid 19 health information has improved my social interaction with distant friends and colleagues	3.15	Agree
7	My access to Covid 19 health information has improved my collaboration with other health professional	3.19	Agree
8	Access to Covid 19 health information has promoted my acquisition of evaluative skills in determining the right health information	3.21	Agree

In Table 4, it was revealed that users access to health information literacy has led to sustainable development during Covid 19 era in Anambra state by means of restricting the users' physical social interaction in their environment, enabled them to acquire online skills for their education, do their business online, do more of online transaction, promoted social changes by empowering them with newly acquired online abilities, improved their social interaction with distant friends and colleagues, improved their collaboration with other health

professional, and promoted their acquisition of evaluative skills in determining the right health information

Challenges of user access to health information for sustainable development during Covid 19 era in Anambra state

Table 5: Challenges of user access to health information literacy for sustainable development during Covid 19 era

S/N	Items	Mean	Decision
1	Inadequate funding for the library to train librarians on new ways of providing health information to users	3.23	Agree
2	Insufficiency of e-learning infrastructure to carry out the health information programmes for users	3.12	Agree
3	Poor librarians' attitude in providing access to health information to users	3.15	Agree
4	Erratic power supply for users to access health information program online	3.02	Agree
5	None availability of data for users to access health information literacy program online	2.90	Agree
6	Low information literacy skills of users to access health information	3.05	Agree
7	Lack of technical support to manage the health information literacy programmes for users	3.12	Agree
8	Poor service network for users to access health information literacy programmes	3.02	Agree
9	Apathy of users on health information literacy	3.11	Agree
10	Poor ICT policy	3.21	Agree

In Table 5, the challenges of user access to health information literacy for sustainable development during Covid 19 era in Anambra state are inadequate funding for the library to train librarians on new ways of providing health information literacy to users, insufficiency of e-learning infrastructure to carry out the health information literacy programmes for users, poor librarians' attitude in providing access to health information literacy to users, erratic power supply for users to access health information literacy program online, none availability of data for users to access health information literacy program online, low information literacy skills of users to access health information, lack of technical support to manage the health information literacy programmes for users, poor service network for users to access health information literacy programmes, apathy of users on health information literacy, and poor ICT policy

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

From the study findings, it can be observed that health information sought for by the users of Professor Kenneth Dike E-central Library during the Covid 19 pandemic in Anambra state are Information on risks of the Coronavirus, Covid 19 drug information, information on the risk for being infected with the Coronavirus, information on how to find professional help in case of Coronavirus infection, information on the authenticity of Coronavirus, information of use of facemask and hand sanitizers, Covid 19 isolation centers, information on how to recognize if they have likely become infected with the Coronavirus, information about protective behaviors that can help to prevent infection with the Coronavirus, information on social distancing and self isolation, government pronouncements on Covid 19 pandemic, how to handle an infection with the Coronavirus, available treatments on Covid 19 virus , and Covid 19 virus signs and symptoms. This finding is in line with the study of Okan, Bollweg, Berens, Hurrelmann, Bauer and Schaeffer (2020) who stated that health information such as information on the risk for being infected with the Coronavirus, information on how to find professional help in case of Coronavirus infection, Covid 19 isolation centers and Covid 19 virus signs and symptoms were most sought for during the Covid 19 pandemic era.

The extent of user accessibility of the health information during Covid 19 era in Anambra state was high on Covid 19 test centers, Covid 19 virus signs and symptoms, information on risks of the Coronavirus, information on the risk for being infected with the Coronavirus, information on how to find professional help in case of Coronavirus infection, information on the authenticity of Coronavirus, information of use of facemask and hand sanitizers, Covid 19 isolation centers, information on how to recognize if I have likely become infected with the Coronavirus, information about protective behaviors that can help to prevent infection with the Coronavirus, information on social distancing and self isolation, and government pronouncements on Covid 19 pandemic. This finding is in line with the

study of Okan, Bollweg, Berens, Hurrelmann, Bauer and Schaeffer (2020) who stated that the Covid 19 pandemic has motivated the people to sought for health information such as Covid 19 virus signs and symptoms, information on risks of the Coronavirus, information on the risk for being infected with the Coronavirus, information on how to find professional help in case of Coronavirus infection, information on how to recognize if they have likely become infected with the Coronavirus, and information about protective behaviors that can help to prevent infection with the Coronavirus.

All the items on health information literacies such as communicative skills on sharing health information, critical evaluation skills to determine the authenticity of health information, basic health information searching skills, mobile phones usage skills to access health information online, blogging skills on the website for health information, use of PDAS to navigate health information online, computer online navigation skills for health information pages, internet surfing skills for health information, computer operations skills to browse health information, social networking skills to share, upload and download health information, skills in use of electronic bulletin board to access health information, research skills using Microsoft packages to utilize health information, analytical skills on health information, skills in processing analyzed data on health information, and skills in reading and evaluating sources of health information were not provided in Anambra state. This finding is in line with the study of Obiekwe and Agim (2021) who stated that mobile phones usage skills, blogging skills, and use of PDAS to navigate information online were not provided by most libraries during the Covid 19 pandemic

Users' access to health information during the Covid -19 pandemic has led to sustainable development during Covid 19 era by means of restricting the users' physical social interaction in their environment, enabled them to acquire online skills for their education, do their business online, do more of online transaction, promoted social changes

by empowering them with newly acquired online abilities, improved their social interaction with distant friends and colleagues, improved their collaboration with other health professional, and promoted their acquisition of evaluative skills in determining the right health information. This finding is in line with the study of Agim (2021) who stated that enhancing information literacy for sustainable development in the post Covid 19 era has created a room for people acquire online skills for their academics as well as perform certain distant task online by using social media tools

The challenges of user access to health information for sustainable development during Covid 19 era in Anambra state are inadequate funding for the library to train librarians on new ways of providing health information literacy to users, insufficiency of e-learning infrastructure to carry out the health information literacy programmes for users, poor librarians' attitude in providing access to health information literacy to users, erratic power supply for users to access health information literacy program online, none availability of data for users to access health information literacy program online, low information literacy skills of users to access health information, lack of technical support to manage the health information literacy programmes for users, poor service network for users to access health information literacy programmes, apathy of users on health information literacy, and poor ICT policy. This finding is in line with the study of Abdulrahman, Ape, & Egbe (2019) who stated that the challenges with access to information literacy for sustainable development are inadequate exposure of library users to information literacy, which include awareness, ability to locate and recognize information, as well as lack of skills to explore the different information systems available, which include information seeking strategies

CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing, it can be concluded that Covid 19 era has exposed the deficiencies of most public libraries in their task of providing health information to the library

users and patrons for sustainable development. Notwithstanding these deficiencies, the library to leverage on the gap created to implement the full utilization of qualified and trained librarians to provide the users who are restricted to use the physical library with health information literacy through online training and social media applications. User accessibility of these health information literacy skills will enable them to navigate and source for reliable information online with the ability to decode fake health information online. This will strengthen the capacity of the users to achieve personal development in their respective endeavors which will in turn lead to sustainable development of the community and nation at large

RECOMMENDATIONS

As part of the solutions to resolve the challenges of user access to health information literacy for sustainable development during Covid 19 era, a number of recommendations have been given:

- i. Adequate funding for the library to train librarians on new ways of providing health information literacy to users
- ii. Positive librarians' attitude in providing access to health information to users
- iii. Availability of data for users to access health information literacy program online
- iv. There should be training on information literacy skills for users to access at ease this health information
- v. Good and fast service network for users to access health information programmes

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