

Administrative Proficiency and Effective Library System in Nigeria: Perspective of University of Jos, Nigeria

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Abstract:

Administration is part of life just as our shadows are part of us. We see this in all spheres we are involved in including the lowest level in the cycle of life which is I see as "self" first, followed by family and others. At each of these levels, whenever the need for choice, target or goal attainment comes up, it means that a core element of administration is birthed. This forms the basis of this paper, integrating the elements of proficient administration to building a vibrant library system in the public libraries of our tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The paper provides an omnibus of diverse administration aspects and the suggested one for a proficient library system. Literatures were drawn from secondary sources of data collection, such as: Books, Journals, and other relevant internet materials. It reveals some important areas of administration, centering more on developmental administration, fusing it into the library administration to create a better system in our libraries. It concludes that more concerted efforts should be geared towards creating a contemporary administrative team so as to build a formidable and actionable administration that formulates trending and pertinent policies, fast response to issues, open to embracing challenges off all sorts and innovation-inclined.

Keywords: Administration, library administration, developmental administration, administrative proficiency, scope of administration

1. Introduction

Administration is at the center of any activity we find ourselves in life. It has been evolving over the years under the impact of changing societal circumstances, and new growths in all segments of life. It comprises of both theory and practice. Stillman (1980), opines that "there is no sharp point in history where the story of public administration theory begins, just like that of its practice". This makes administration a blend in all human affairs; a practice as old as human civilization. Authors like Stillman; 1980, Wilson; 1887, Pfiffer and Presthus etc have attempted to paint a clear picture of administration. Despite their efforts and their relevance to the growth of administration, it is still at best an imbedded aspect of human activity generally, in the sense that it forms part of what we undertake everyday without putting it into cognizance officially. Its original interest was to improve governmental performance in its bid to "transform" government and create administrative agencies; more business-like and productive, but today, administration has moved up to "management sciences". In the attempt to give administration a solid face, it was first characterized by normative approach (political philosophy, lawmaking and constitutional arrangements) up till the 19th century. By mid1920s the discipline acquired some form of unique features. Bartholomew (1972), stated that there are five stages in the evolution of administration as a discipline; they are placed as follows:

- Stage 1: politics administration dichotomy (1887-1926)
- Stage 2: principles of administration (1927-1937)
- Stage 3: era of challenge (1938-1947)
- Stage 4: crises of identity (1948-1970)
- Stage 5: public policy perspective (1971 onwards)