



READING AS A PANACEA TO NIGERIA
SOCIETAL PROBLEMS

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Reading is a multifaceted process involving word recognition, comprehension, fluency and motivation. Reading is making meaning from print, it requires that we identify the words in print. While panacea can be defined as a solution or remedy for all difficulties or diseases. Societal problems are any condition or behavior that has negative consequences for large numbers of people and that is generally recognized as a condition or behavior that needs to be addressed.

Contemporary social problems in Nigeria include: cultism, examination malpractice, religion and ethnic conflicts, HIV/ AIDS. From the definition above READING is the solution to life challenges.

Why is reading so important to our society?

Reading exposes children to new ideas and beliefs, makes them tolerant and appreciative of others perspective. An important aspect of education is reading. Research has shown a strong correlation between reading proficiency and academic success, but it's also a vital skill that one must have to function in today's society. Pratham books, a non-profit children's book publisher in Karnataka, aim to democratize access to books so that every child can discover the joy of reading in a language they are comfortable with and a format they enjoy. They launched the story weaver platform to use technology and children's stories to further their mission of a book in every child's hand by popularizing reading materials in mother tongues and in turn preserve dying languages in India. Ladies and gentlemen do we believe that similar pattern can be adopted. That's what National Library of Nigeria is working towards achieving, seeing that every child and adult becomes a reader, where reading becomes a habit and hobby for all.



LITERAL, READING AND MOTHER TONGUE

Literal comprehension occurs at the surface level when a reader/ viewer acknowledges what they can see and hear. This is the simplest form of comprehension.

Literal comprehension is often referred to as 'on the page' or right their comprehension.

Reading is making meaning from print a process called word recognition. Reading is a multifaceted process involving word recognition, comprehension, fluency and motivation.

TYRES OF READERS

The habitual book clubber

The partial reader

The polygamist reader

The literary snob

The re-reader

The physical book loyalist

The series junky

The digital reader

The emotional reader

The college reader

The fad reader

The neurotic reader

The writer reader

The note taker

The vacation reader



WHAT IS READING AND IT'S PURPOSE

- The purpose of reading is to connect the ideas on the page to what you already know.
- Improve comprehension
- Develop a broad background
- Anticipate and predict
- Know the structure of paragraphs
- Create motivation/ interest
- Pay attention to supporting cues
- Build a good vocabulary

MOTHER TONGUE: Mother tongue is vital in forming the thinking and emotions of people. Learning to speak in the mother tongue is very necessary for a child's comprehensive development, being fluent in the mother tongue, which is known as the native language, benefits the child in different ways. It associates him to his culture, ensures enhanced cognitive development, and support in the learning of other languages. According to Rajathurai 'To improve the quality of education, language policies need to take account of mother tongue learning'. Models of education which ignore the mother tongue in the early years can be unproductive, ineffective and have a negative effect on children's learning.

The first language a baby learns from birth is called the birth language and it plays a crucial role in our lives for various reasons.



THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTHER TONGUE

1. **INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT:** Studies have shown that cognitive development and intellectual development are comparatively faster and fluent in their mother tongue.
2. **LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE:** When someone knows their mother tongue well, it is easier for them to learn a new language. If a child reads in their mother tongue from early age, they will have more substantial reading and writing skills in other languages.
3. **THE FEELING OF HONOR:** Knowing your mother tongue well gives you self-esteem, it enriches one's confidence and creates awareness in one's mind.
4. **BETTER CONNECTION WITH CULTURE:** Languages are the primary means of keeping our culture alive. Often the direct translation of one language into another cannot convey the same essence as in the source language. The mother tongue helps us stay connected to our traditional, cultural values and our roots.

Learning in the mother tongue is also crucial for improving other critical thinking skills, second language learning and literacy skills, so the mother tongue can be used as a useful learning tool.

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WELCOME ADDRESS PRESENTED BY THE HEAD OF BRANCH, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA, KOGI STATE BRANCH- MRS OYIZA.E. AGU, ON THE OCCASION OF HER 2022 READERSHIP PROMOTION CAMPAIGN WITH THE THEME 'READING AS A PANACEA FOR SOCIETAL PROBLEMS' HOLDING AT THE PALACE OF THE MAIGARI OF LOKOJA ON 26th SEPT., 2022 AND LOKOJA LOCAL GOVERNMENT TOWN HALL ON 27TH SEPT., 2022 RESPECTIVELY.

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to this year's readership promotion campaign holding at the palace of the Maigari of Lokoja, HRH Mohammed Kabiru Maikarifi 111, in Lokoja Kogi state with the theme: 'Reading as a panacea for societal problem' with a Sub theme: Inculcating reading habits in a changing world: A tool for sustainable economic development, continuous education and social inclusion. The 2022 Readership Promotion Campaign organized by the National Library of Nigeria is simultaneously taking place today in all the North Central States. It was flagged off in Abuja on the 15th of September, 2022 by the Hon. Minister for Education Mallam Adamu Adamu.

- The Objectives of the campaign amongst others are to:
- Sustain the awareness created by previous campaigns through improved and continued advocacy;
- Promote reading beyond sheer utilization and examination purposes;
- Encourage lifelong learning;
- Stimulate the interest of the Nigerian children in reading and learning so as to build their morale and cultural values for national development;
- Support creation of model reading clubs, inclusion of reading hours in school time table in both primary and secondary levels.



This year's theme is unique in the sense that reading gives you solution to lives challenges. According to Opiah 'A reading society no doubt is an informed and knowledgeable society that contributes positively to economic transformation all round development of its country. Reading adds quality to life, provides access to culture and cultural heritage.

This year's campaign is taking to the 'Hard to Reach' and is been held in the palace of HRH which enable the message to get to the grassroots'. A good reading habits opens an opportunity for greater achievements. Reading is one of the fundamental building blocks for learning and developing a literate society that can compete with the global world.

In the absence of a good reading culture, there will be an increasing rate of failure in both internal and external exams by students, poverty, production of unqualified man power, frustration and loss of self-esteem.

In conclusion reading is an invaluable tool that is capable of empowering humans to take appropriate steps that are necessary to develop and live well.





