

EXPLORING THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN IN IMPROVING READING SKILLS OF STUDENTS IN ORDINARY LEVEL OF SECONDARY SCHOOL—A CASE STUDY OF TAANA MEMORIAL SECONDARY SCHOOL, TORORO DISTRICT

Submitted for approval

By

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Statement of Declaration:

I declare that this research proposal is my original work, and its contents have not partially or wholly been presented for an academic award by any person in any University or Institution of Higher Learning.

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Endorsement by the Supervisor

This research proposal has been prepared under my supervision upon appointment by Busitema University.

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SUMARRY

Reading is one of the four language skills (passive skill) which is given high priority in schools. As such, many schools recruit school librarians, or also known as the teacher librarians to support learners and teachers in the area of literacy which involves majorly reading and writing that are language skills that go together. A clear definition of the roles a librarian plays within the school in impacting the learning of reading skills in learners, improving them in that, and teachers and administrators, with students inclusive need to understand how the librarians within the school support teachers and students in the area of reading. Furthermore, an exploration of how collaboration between the language teacher and the librarian can positively cause an improvement in the reading skills of the learners may be done. Therefore, this proposed research attempts to assess the role of the school librarian in improving the reading skills of learners in lower secondary schools in Uganda using a case study design, with Taana Memorial Secondary School in Tororo as the case of study.

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction:

This chapter will consist of the background of the study, problem statement, research objectives, and significance of the study and the context of the study.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

School librarians, also known as school media specialists and teacher librarians play a very importance and essential role in promoting school-wide cultures of literacy and reading, working hand in hand with teachers to enhance learning and driving students in the direction of lifelong reading habits, coupled with their role to establish formative learning space that is enriched with printed and digital resources for learners (Gretes, 2013; Lance & Kachel, 2018; Scholastic, 2016). School librarians have been recently implicated in the support role to improving the language skills of learners, more specifically the reading skill which includes literacy support and instruction (IFLA, 2015), and research suggests that librarians who are qualified to the task significantly and positively can impact the reading skills of learners (Lance & Kachel, 2018). As a reading and general literacy partners, the librarians within schools provide various services in the schools of today. School library media certification needs profound knowledge of the various genres of children's, young adults and professional reading resources.

Standards set forth by the various professional bodies that are concerned with the field such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (2015), American Association of School Librarians (2018), the Australian School Library Association (2014) and the Canadian Library Association (2014) all suggest that a librarian must possess expertise in education, classic and contemporary relevant reading materials, and healthy teacher-librarian collaboration. According to International Literacy Association (2022), to help learners in the location of accurate information, the librarians must possess knowledge of reference materials and various online resources, and to meet the diverse needs of learners' academic and personal interests, the school librarians are trained in collection development to expand library service provision in both print and digital form. The association further suggests that schools that full embrace librarians gain collaborators who support school-wide technology initiatives and champion students' rights to read.

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