The Nature and Kind of Information Generated and Managed for the Security and Welfare of the IDPs in the IDP Camps in Borno State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study investigated the nature and kind of information generated and managed for security and welfare of IDPs in the IDP camps in Borno State, Nigeria. This work explains that security and welfare are the pressing needs of all living things. Security and welfare cannot be obtained or realized without information. For this reason all living things needs information wherever they may find themselves. Information is defined from several perspectives by information and social scientists. The word information does not have a universally accepted definition. However, functions of information to any organization have been clearly enumerated. The work clearly stated the problems affecting information gathering due to proliferation of information caused by technological development. The researcher used a combined methods of documentary and descriptive survey to generate data used for this study. Documentary survey was used to collect secondary data through books and journals reading. Data were also generated through newspaper reading and visit to achieves. The descriptive survey was used to collect data in the field through the use of questionnaire and personal interaction with camp officials. The study finds out that the information generated and managed in the IDP camps in Borno State, Nigeria is information about relief materials; Human Rights abuse; Healthcare facilities; Camp management; Availability of water; Camp security and welfare as well as information on re-locating back to their community. The study finds out that of all the information generated and managed in the IDP camps more emphasis was on information about welfare of the IDPs in the camps while security information receives a secondary position. The researcher therefore sees this development as a reduction is security threat in the IDP camps in Borno State, Nigeria.

1. Introduction

One of the pressing needs of all living things is his "security". This is closely followed by his "welfare". Where there is no life the possibility of enjoying the good things of life is just a complete zero. This may be the reasons why all living things pay close attention to security within their own environment. Working closely with security and welfare is "information". Without information, security may not be guaranteed. Therefore, "information" plays a vital role in every living organism's activities within its environment.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Information is an act by which relevant facts and data are provided by credible sources to decision makers promptly (Davis, 1997). The IDPs in Borno state are craving for better living conditions as well as security. They feel that having abandoned their original means of livelihood, they need to acquire new skills to enable them fend for themselves and their family. They also desire education for their children who have no access to school.

Besides, they need to know more about the host community, how safe and secured the new environment is, the availability of market where they can make purchases. They also desire to know where sources of water and hospital can be found. Debarre (2018) attested to these when she wrote on the unaddressed plights of the IDPs in their camps to include poor sanitary condition, lack of accommodation, poor health and education facilities, hunger, and lack of drinkable water. In order to achieve these, the IDPs needs the right information at the right

time that could assist them to take major decision considering the security and welfare situation in the IDP camps.

Getting the right information to the IDPs in their camp will be a problem for the camp officials because of variation of needs, the information type, the reason why they need the information, availability of required sources of information, how to access the information, the right medium to disseminate the information and the problem of preservation and securing sensitive security and welfare information that concerns the IDPs. Wilson (1999) is of the view that "information-seeking behaviour arises as a consequence of a need perceived by an information user, who, in order to satisfy that need, makes demands upon formal or informal information sources or services, which result in success or failure to find relevant information. If successful, the individual then makes use of the information found and may either fully or partially satisfy the perceived need – or, indeed, fail to satisfy the need and have to reiterate the search process." These activities pose serious challenges that can be handled by a good knowledge of the kind and sources of information generated and managed for security and welfare of the IDPs in the IDP camp in Borno state in Nigeria.

1.2 Significance of the Study

This study concerned the nature and kind of information generated and managed for security and welfare of the IDPs in the IDP camps in Borno state Nigeria. At the end of this study, the IDPs in the camps, the camp officials, researchers and Government Agencies will benefit in the findings as it will serve as a guide for effective IDP camp management in Borno State, Nigeria and for the world at large. Camp officials, researchers and the general public will get to know the possible challenges with the sources and kind of information used for effective management for security and welfare in the IDP camp as well as other organisations where people are concerned.

The study will help the camp officials, Government agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to see and begin to think of the best way to make useful information available for those who required them in the IDP camps for effective decision making on security and welfare of the IDPs in the camps in Borno State, Nigeria and in the world where issues of IDP security and welfare is considered.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The study was conducted in one of the Internally Displaced Persons' Camps in each of the three Senatorial Districts in Borno State, Nigeria. The reason for this is because the problem of terrorism which led to the insurgency and internal displacement of people in the North East Nigeria transverse the whole of Borno State and covers all the senatorial districts of the State. The study limits to three camps located in Borno Central Senatorial District (Muna El-Badawi IDP Camp in Jere Local Government Area); Borno North Senatorial District (GSS IDP Camp in Monguno, Monguno Local Government Area) and Borno South Senatorial District (GSS IDP Camp, Gwoza in Gwoza Local Government Area.

1.4 Research Question

What type of information are generated and managed for security and welfare of the IDPs in the IDP camp in Borno State Nigeria?

1.5 Research Objective

The objective of the study is to determine the nature and type of information generated and managed for security and welfare of the IDPs in the IDP Camps in Borno State, Nigeria.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Concepts of Information

Several authors have different opinions about the word "INFORMATION". According to Madden (2000) and Hjorland (1998) one of the difficulties faced by students of information management courses is lack of an attempt to teach the concept of information.

The paucity of theory in information science has often been commented on (Madden, 2000; Hjorland, 1998). This has led to a pragmatic approach to both teaching and practice of information science. The resulting piecemeal view of the subject has surprisingly led to problems of the kind described above (Madden, 2000 pp343).

In addition, Hjorland and Capurro, (2003) observed that the term "INFORMATION" is derived from the Latin words 'FORMA' and 'FORMATION' which means knowledge, it also denotes facts, data, news and messages. It may also be defined as data of value to decision making; it is data that can be transmitted between individuals and each individual can make use of it. No decision is generally taken when there is uncertainty about the option. Information reduces this uncertainty and help a person to arrive at a decision. Thus, the degree of uncertainty however varies from person to person depending on the time and place. According to them each person, as such shall require different amount of information to arrive at a decision. Thus, information "can be quantified in terms of its effect on the state of the decision maker at a particular moment in time".

The amount of information which affect the behavior of a recipient and makes him to take decision, however varies from person to person; from time to time and from place to place. Hjorland, (1998)

Consequently Prajapati (2013) in his submission said the word information has been conceptualized in many literatures, but in its most restricted technical sense, it can be defined as a sequence of symbols that can be interpreted as a message. Information can be recorded as signs or transmitted signal; it is any kind of event that affects the state of a dynamic system. "Information" is the most important asset in any organization; information has the following functions:

i.   It is the cornerstone for the long-term survival of the organization.

ii. It reduces uncertainty and risk in decision making.

iii. Information is an important input in the process of strategy formation.

iv. It serves as a base for competence development.

2.2 The Process of Information Gathering

The process of information gathering is not trouble-free. Notable of mentioning is the difficulty of selection of useful information due to proliferation of information caused by technological development (Prajapati, 2013; Jahromi & Jahromi, 2009). This will surely be seen in the IDPs camps in Borno State, Nigeria as a result of several bodies present in the camp each trying to showcase its manifestoes which may be quite difficult for the IDPs to know which information is important or not.

Bates (2010), in agreement with the polarized nature of the concept of information said that the concept of information is of signal importance to all information disciplines, perhaps for that reason it is a term that has been defined in countless ways over many decades; it would be fair to say that there is no widely agreed upon definition. The meaning of this term is still highly contested. In this regard, the status of the term is similar to that of "COMMUNICATION" in the communication science discipline. In light of the lack of agreement on the term "INFORMATION" the main objective of this entry will be to lay out some of the major classes of definitions and theoretical constructions of the terms that are currently or recently in play" (Bates, 2010).

Checkland and Holwell (1998) says that "conceptually, information is that which results when human mental activity (observation and analysis) is successfully applied to data to reveal its meaning or significance. Parajapati (2013) also support this statement by saying that information is a message being conveyed and that the concept is closely related to the notions of constraint, communication, control, data, form, instruction, representation and especially entropy (Meijer, 2012; Wheeler, 1994).

Miller (1996) talked about the relevant of information when he said that information scientists and professionals encounter serious problems in the process of selecting information. The paradoxical situation is that although information is abundance, it is often difficult to obtain useful and relevant information when it is needed. Here the emphasis is on another important quality of information and that is "relevance". This present important argument, perhaps the IDPs in Borno State camps may be given information which are not relevant to their security and welfare needs. This may be the very reason why they sell relief materials given to them to acquire other needs necessary to them.

According to Gershenson (2010) meaning is an active product of the interaction between information and the agent perceiving it. This means the meaning of information depends on the person concern, and the author believes such factors as age, level of literacy and environment could affect the meaning that the IDPs in Borno State camps will make out of a security and welfare information presented to them in the IDP camps. Information has various attributes and characteristics. Mai (2013) said that the inherent characteristics of information go along with the following adjectives when it is information. These are human, expendable, comprehensive, sustainable, transportable, diffusive and sharable.

As an important and valuable resource, information has some qualities. These qualities are accessibility, comprehensiveness, timeliness, clarity, precision flexibility, variability, free basis and quantifiable. Again, the quality of information can be measured by the number of documents, pages, words and syntax with which the ideas are expressed; quality of information, measures the completeness, accuracy, relevance and timeliness of information, while "life" of information measures the total span of time in which value can be derived from the information.

Based on the above analysis it is clear that the meaning of the term "information" has been polarized by different scholars, therefore there is no universally accepted meaning of the term "information". However, it should be noted that information has inherent characteristics, qualities and parameter. Besides, information exists in theory until one has need for it. Other attributes of information include accessibility, security, preservation, dissemination and usage.

3. Methodology

The methodology used for this research was a combined method of documentary and descriptive survey. In the documentary method, data were collected from library through reading of books, journals, newspapers as well as the use of internet to collect other authors views on the issue of information and the IDPs in their camps. The descriptive survey method was used to collect data from the field. In this case, questionnaire was used with personal interaction with the IDP camp officials in their camps to generate data used for this study.

4. Data Analysis and Presentation
Table 1.1: Number of Zonal Camp Officials

Camp Zone	Frequency	Percentage
Borno Central	20	46.0%
Borno South	9	21.0%
Borno North	14	33.0%

Source: Field Data.

The results in table 1.1 above shows the number of camp officials from the three zones selected for the study. Out of the total number of camp officials sampled for the study 20(46.0%) were from Borno Central Senatorial District; 14(33.0%) were from Borno North Senatorial District while the remaining 9(21.0%) were from Borno South Senatorial District.
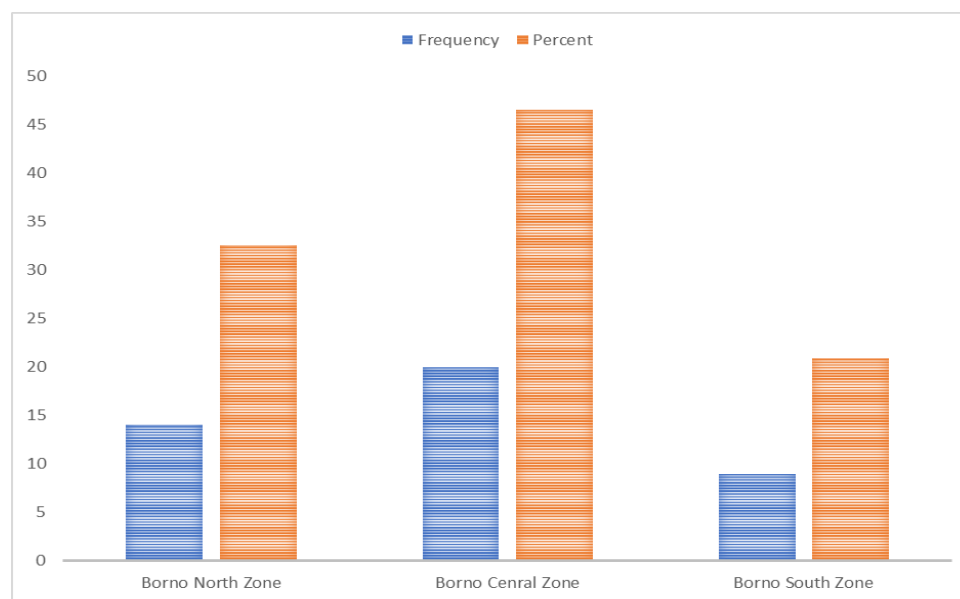
Table 1.2: Gender of Camp Officials

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	20	47.0%
Female	23	53.0%

Source: Field Data.

The results in table 1.2 above shows that female camp officials were in the majority 23(53.0%) while male participants were 20(47.0%). This may be because the majority of the IDPs are women and children. Thus, having many female camp officials with enhance effective information sharing and management.
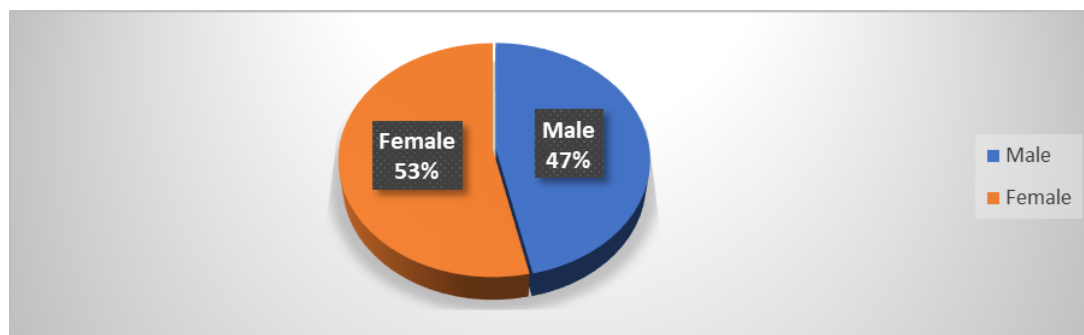

Table 1.3: Type of Information Generated and Managed in the IDP Camps In Borno State, Nigeria

S/N	STATEMENT	YES %	NO %
1	Information about camp management	31: 72.1	12, 27.9
2	Information about feeding	29: 67.4	14, 32.6
3	Information about water	28: 65.1	15, 34.9
4	Information about healthcare	31: 72.1	12, 27.9
5	Information about religion	09: 20.9	34, 79.1
6	Information about peace and harmony	30: 69.8	13, 30.2
7	Information about relief materials	33: 76.7	10, 23.3
8	Information about welfare	23: 53.5	20, 46.5
9	Information about human right abuse	32: 74.4	11, 25.6
10	Information about terrorism	22: 51.2	21, 48.8
11	Information about relocating to comm.	27: 62.8	16, 37.2
12	Information about camp security	27: 62.8	16, 37.2
13	Information about finances used in camp	8: 18.6	35, 81.4
14	Information about camp officials attendance at work	12: 27.9	31, 72.1
15	Information about visitors attendance to camp	18: 41.9	25, 58.1

Source: Field Data.

The results obtained in table 1.3 above shows the type of information generated and managed in the Camps in Borno State, Nigeria. This include information on camp management 31(72.1%); information about feeding 29(67.4%); information about water availability 28(65.1%); information about healthcare 31(72.1%); information about religion 9(20.9%); information about peace and harmony 30(69.8%); information about relief materials 33(69.8%); information about welfare 23(53.5%); information about human rights abuse in the camp 32(74.4%); information about terrorism 22(51.2%); information about relocating to their communities 27(62.8%); information about camp security 27(62.8%); information about finances used in the camp 8(18.6%);

information about camp officials attendance to work 12(27.9%); information about visitors attendance to camp 18(41.9%).

5. Findings of the Study

The result of this study has revealed the types of information generated and managed in the IDP camps in Borno State Nigeria. The study shows that, information about relief materials, human right abuse, camp management and healthcare facilities in the camp are the type of information generated and managed in the camp. Information about water availability and information about camp security is also generated and managed. Information about welfare of the IDPs as well as information about terrorism is equally generated and managed in the camps. Respondents also indicated that information about visitors visiting the camp as well as how finances meant for camp maintenance are used in the camp are generated and managed. They also provide IDPs with information about re-locating to their communities which seems to be of paramount concern for the IDPs.

5.1 Discussion of Finding

The total number of responses for all the items mentioned by the respondents in the questionnaire were 360. We then classified the items into two important categories of welfare and security. Of the (15) fifteen items mentioned, nine items fall under welfare information while the remaining six falls under security information. Out of the total number of responses for the fifteen items mentioned, majority 213 mentioned items under welfare information while the 147 mentioned items under security information.

The welfare information mentioned are camp management information, 31; welfare information 23; feeding information 29; water information 28; healthcare information 31; relief materials 33; camp officials attendance to work 12; finances used in camp 08; visitors to camp 18 making a total of 213 responses in favour of welfare information. Under security information we have peace and harmony 30; human right abuse in the camp 32; camp security 27; information on re-locating back to community 27; information on terrorism 22; information on religion 09 making a total of 147 responses on items classified under security

6. Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it is seen that information generated and managed in the IDP camps in Borno State focuses more on the welfare of the IDPs while information generated and managed in the IDP camps for security is more relaxed. This may indicate improvement in the security situation in the IDP camps in Borno State, Nigeria.

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