

---

---

## INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS: A PANACEA FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ANAMBRA STATE

---

---

**Dr. Anorue Chuks E. & Dr. Nwaneri, Patience N.**  
Department of Educational Foundations/Administration  
Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri  
chuzilink@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

The aim of this study was to investigate information resources management in public secondary schools for achieving sustainable development goals in Anambra state. A survey design was adopted with a population of 6,396 teachers of public secondary schools in Anambra State. Using cluster and simple random sampling, ten percent of the teacher were selected from each of the six zones giving a sample of 640 teachers. Four Likert scale questionnaire was developed and used as instrument for data collection. Three experts validated the instrument while the test of reliability yielded a coefficient value of 0.95. Data was collected personally by the researchers. Mean statistics was used to answer the research questions while chi-square was used to test the hypotheses. Results indicated that management of information resources in public secondary schools to a high extent aids in achieving sustainable development goals of “No poverty” and “zero hunger”. The test of null hypotheses also indicated calculated value was greater than the critical table value which led to the rejection of the two null hypotheses and the alternative were accepted which are there is significant relationship between information sources management in public secondary schools and achievement of SDGs of “No poverty” and “Zero hunger” in Anambra State respectively. Conclusion, recommendation and educational implications were made. One of the recommendations is that the UN should try to assist poor member nations like Nigeria through their various home government and agencies to acquire most of these information resources to the secondary schools as well as ensure steady power supply. When this is done and properly managed, poverty will be reduced.

### **Introduction**

Education management is an indispensable process in education as machinery for attainment of meaningful development in any society and achievement of sustainable Development Goals. The term “management” has become an inevitable element for any organization towards realization of set goals. Among the resources managed in education are; Human resources, material resources, financial resources, time and information as a resource. This paper is focused on information resources.

The term information refers to an infrastructure or material that provides content and information services for the user. It also means an element of infrastructure that enables the transaction of certain selected significant and relevant data, prepared so as to provide content and information services that can be used directly by the user (IGI Global, n.d). It also means any fact or set of facts, knowledge, news, or advice, whether communicated by others or obtained by personal study, and investigation, any datum that reduces uncertainty about the state of any part of the world, intelligence, knowledge derived from reading, observation or instruction. According to Adetoro as cited in Babaloolo and Ayeni, (2009) information via internet has double edge and could be harnessed for both positive and negative outcomes. A lot of education materials could be accessed using the internet despite its double edged nature. As a result of this feature of internet resource of educational information, its proper management is a must.

According to Law Insider (2021) information resources mean any and all computer printouts, online display devices, mass storage media, and all computer-related activities involving any device capable of receiving email, browsing websites, or otherwise capable of receiving, storing, managing, or transmitting data including, but not limited to, mainframes, services, network, infrastructure, personal computers, notebook computers hand-held’s computers, personal digital assisted (PDA), pagers, distributed processing system, network attached and computer controlled medical and laboratory equipment, tele-communication resources, network environment, telephones, fax machines,

printers and service bureau. Additionally, it is the procedures, equipment, facilities, software and data that are designed, built, operated and maintained to create, collect, record, process, store, retrieve, display, and transmit information. (Acqnotes, 2021) went on to identify three classes of information resources as: (1) Business resources which involves enterprises, business functions, positions (jobs), human/machine resources, skills, business objectives projects and information requirements (2) system resources; this include; systems, sub-systems (business processes), administrative procedures (Manual procedures and office automation – related), computer procedures, programs, operational steps, modules and subroutines (3) data resources – involves; files (computer and Manual), outputs, panels, maps, call parameters and data bases.

Adetoro added that the management of this huge resource is also important because of the scarcity of computer systems and internet connectivity's in comparison to the unlimited number of potential students and other users. Information resources management is the process of managing information resources to accomplish agency missions and to improve agency performance, including the reduction of information collection burdens on the public. When standardized and controlled, these resources can be shared and reused throughout an agency, not just by a single user or application (Acqnotes, 2021).

According to Fabunmi as cited in Babalola and Ayeni (2009) information resource management is concerned with the development, management and control of information systems as a strategic resource. According to him, proper management of information enhances an organization devoid of rumour and rancor. Information in any organization may be oral done through face to face encounter or through any of the information communication technology (ICT). These resources, therefore, require specific skill in their management. Regular maintenance is a must and protection from danger and defects like virus attacks is absolutely necessary (Adetoro in Babaloola and Ayeni, 2009). Internet is a vital source of information in organizations today, therefore the technological resources through which such information are accessed deserve adequate management.

Information resource management is a technique of managing information as a shared organization resource. It includes: (1) identification of information sources (2) type and value of the information provide and (3) ways of classification, value processing and storage of that information (CIO Wiki 2023). CIO wiki went on to opine that information resource management is a broad term in information technology (IT) that refers to the monument of records or information or data sets as resource. It involves identifying data sets as resource. It involves identifying data as an asset categorizing it and providing various types of active management. They went further to stress that Information Resource management (IRM) views information and Information Technology (IT) as in integrating factor in the organization, which is the various organization positions that manage information are coordinated and work together toward common ends. IRM look for ways in which the management of information and management of information technology can interrelate and fosters that relationship and organizations integration. To CIO Wiki (2023) Information Resource Management involves the management of (1) the broad range of information resources like printed materials, electronic information, and microforms. (2) The various technologies and equipment that manipulates these resources, and (3) the people who generate, organize and disseminate those resources.

Writing on benefits of information resources management (IRM), Acqnotes (2021) notes that one of the important benefits is the cataloging and cross-referencing. Other benefits of information resources management include: all information resources are controlled, permitting the ability to design integrated system and perform an "impact analysis" of a proposed resource change; The simplified search of information resources for reuse; The redundancy of resource definition is eliminated; Complete and current documentation of all information resources organized in a meaningful way. Communication within the organization are improved since developers and users would use standard and common definitions for information resources, all of which would be in standard business terminology.

Sustainable development goals are the orchestration of the United Nations in 2015 with seventeen (17) agenda. They aim at achieving them by 2030. The entire 193 United Nation member states agreed on these 17 goals to end poverty, ensure prosperity and protect the planet. The 17 goals include No poverty – end poverty in all its forms everywhere; zero hunger – end hunger, achieve food security, and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; good health and well-being, ensue healthy lives and promote well being for all ages; quality education – ensure inclusive equitable quality education and promote long learning opportunities; gender equality – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Clean water and sanitation – ensure availability and sustainable

management of water and sanitation for all to mention but these. This paper shall focus on two – No poverty and Zero hunger.

The term poverty is the state of one who lacks a usual or socially accepted amount of money or material possessions. Poverty is said to exist when people lack the means to satisfy their basic needs. Basic needs here refer narrowly as “those necessary for survival” or as broadly as “those reflecting the prevailing standard of living in the community (Encyclopaedia Britannica). To Investopedia ( n.d. ) poverty refers to the state or condition in which people or communities lack the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard living. As such their basic human needs cannot be met. Investopedia went on to stress that poverty – stricken people and families may go without proper housing, clean water, healthy food, and medical attention.

To United Nations organizations (2015) ending poverty in all its forms is the first of the 17 sustainable Development goals (SDGs). The SDG main reference to combating poverty is made in target 1 “A” which is to ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources including the enhanced development cooperation in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries in particular, and the world general, implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

Writing on forms of poverty, Wolff (2021) list six types as:

- Situational poverty – This has to do with job loss, a divorce, or a health crisis that caused you to be economically unstable.
- Generational poverty – This is defined as being part of a family that has been living in poverty for more than two generations.
- Absolute poverty – This is absolute lack of resources including food insecurity
- Relative poverty refers to living at about 50% or below the average income.
- Rural poverty – one of the main issues here is that there isn’t access to high – speed internet
- Urban poverty is when you have more structure issues like housing and safety issues, overcrowding and sanitation challenges.

The second item in the UN 17 Goal is zero hunger? By this, UN means that by the year 2030 there is target to (1) end hunger (2) achieve food security (3) improve nutrition, and (4) promote sustainable agriculture.

Ending world hunger is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Across the globe up to 828 million people do not have enough food. Nearly 43.3 million people are at serious risk of famine, Nigeria inclusive. Despite the amount of food produced in the planet, the goal of the world with zero hunger as set out by United Nations is hugely challenged by toxic conflict, climate change, disasters, structural poverty, and inequality (world food programme 2023). According to United Nations Organization (2022) the targets of goal 2 out of the 17 goals are;

- By 2020, end hunger and ensure access by all people in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutrition and sufficient food all year round.
- By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed target on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescences girls, pregnant and lactating women and older person.
- By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoral and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, or other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and nonfarm employment.
- By 2030, ensure sustainable food production system and implement resilient agricultural practice that increases productivity and production, they help maintain ecosystem, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weak drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
- By 2020 maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wide species including soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.
- Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries in particular least developed countries.

- Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions, in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel exports subsidies effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha development Round.
- Adopt measure to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price vitality.

Four main dimensions of food security according to the World Bank (n.d.) are (1) physical availability of food. This refers to the supply side of food security and it is determined by the level of food production, stock levels and net trade (2) economic and physical access to food. This is the ability of food produced both at the international and nation levels being within the reach of a common man. (3) food utilization – utilization is the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food (4) stability of the first three dimensions overtime.

#### **Purpose of study**

The purpose of this study was to investigate information resources management in public secondary schools; A panacea for achieving sustainable development goals in Anambra state. Specifically, the study intends to investigate;

1. The extent information resource management in public secondary schools can aid in achieving “No” poverty goal in Anambra State.
2. The extent information resources management in public secondary schools can help to achieve “zero hunger” goal in Anambra State.

#### **Research Questions**

Four research questions guided the study;

1. To what extent can information resource management in public secondary schools help in achieving SDG of “No Poverty” in Anambra State?
2. To what extent can information resources management in public secondary schools help to achieve UN sustainable development goal of “Zero hunger in Anambra State.

#### **Method**

This session of the study described the method adopted for the research. The researchers adopted descriptive survey method, with a population of 6396 which comprises of all the teachers in public secondary school in Anambra State. Using cluster and simple random method of sampling, a sample of 640 teachers were selected which is 10% of the population from each of the six zones of Aguata, Awka, Nnewi, Ogidi, Onitsha and Otuocha with a total of 263 schools. Questionnaire named Instrument for the Study of Information Management in Public Secondary School for Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (ISIRMPSSFASDG) was developed, validated and used for data collection. The instrument has two sessions A and B. while section ‘A’ gathered data on management of information resources management in public secondary schools and achievement of SDG of No poverty in Anambra State; section ‘B’ gathered data on information resources management in public secondary schools and its ability to aid in achievement of SDG of zero hunger in Anambra state. Three experts validated the instrument – two from departments of education Administration Imo State university Owerri and Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Owerri respectively. One validator from the Department of Measurement and Evaluation Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Owerri. The reliability of the instrument yielded a coefficient value of 0.95 which is suitable for the work. Data was collected personally by the researchers. Data collected were analyzed with mean to answer research questions.

#### **Result**

This session of the work shows the analysis of data as collected. It is done in tables I and II. Each table shows the analyses of different sections of the instrument according different research question.

**Research Question One:** To what extent can information resources management in public secondary schools help in achieving SDGs of “No Poverty” in Anambra State?

**Table I:** Data collected for analysis of research question one

S/ N	Items	VHE	HE	LE	VL E	Total	X	Decision
1	Effective information resources management in public secondary schools can help in eliminating situational poverty in Anambra State	205 820	181 543	150 300	144 144	640 1807	2.82	HE
2	Effective information resources management in public secondary schools can aid in eradicating generational poverty in Anambra State	231 924	199 597	147 294	163 163	640 1978	3.09	VHE
3	Proper information resources management in public secondary schools can help in wiping out absolute poverty in Anambra State	197 788	240 720	102 204	101 101	640 1813	2.83	HE
4	Information resources when managed very well assists in reducing relative poverty to the barest minimum in Anambra State	231 924	179 537	105 210	125 125	640 1796	2.80	HE
5	Effective information resources management in public secondary schools can help to eliminate Rural poverty in Anambra State	199 796	245 735	170 340	26 26	640 1897	2.96	HE
6	Information resources management in public secondary schools can aid in eradicating urban poverty in Anambra State	275 1100	281 843	107 214	15 15	640 2172	3.39	VHE

**Grand X = 2.98**

The grand mean indicates that to a high extent information resources management in public secondary schools help in achieving SDG of “No Poverty” in Anambra State.

**Research Question Two:** To what extent an information resources management in public secondary schools help to achieve UN sustainable Development Goal of ‘Zero hunger’ in Anambra State.

**Table II:** Data collected for analysis of Research Question Two

S/ N	Items	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	Total	X	Decision
7	Effective management of information resources in public secondary schools can help end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	231 924	189 567	164 328	56 56	640 1875	2.92	HE
8	Management of information resources in public secondary schools will aid in ending all forms of malnutrition including achieving by year 2025 the internationally agreed target on stunting and wasting in children under five, address nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant, lactating women and older persons.	171 684	150 450	179 358	140 140	640 1632	2.55	HE
9	Proper management of information resources in public secondary schools can help double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small scale food producers	151 604	161 483	189 378	139 139	640 1604	2.50	HE
10	Management of information resources in public secondary schools can help ensure sustainable food production system and implement resilient agricultural practices that increases productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystem	161 644	175 525	139 278	165 165	640 1612	2.51	H. E
11	Effective information resource management in public secondary schools can aid by 2030 maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivate plants and farmed the domesticated animals and their related wide species in Anambra State	171 684	151 453	172 344	149 149	640 1620	2.53	HE
12	Adequate information resources management in public secondary schools can help adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity	181	106	171	182	640		

markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves	724	318	342	182	1560	2.44	LE
Grand X = 2.58							

The analysis in table II above shows that to a high extent information resources management in public secondary schools help to achieve UN sustainable goal of “Zero hunger” in Anambra State.

### Discussion

This session discusses in words the analysis of the data as done in tables. Table 1 analysis the data generated for answer to Research question one. As shown in the Table, the grand mean of 2.98 which is above the benchmark of 2.50 indicates that the extent to which information management in public secondary schools aids in achieving sustainable development goal of “No poverty” in Anambra State is high. This therefore without any equivocation answers the research question one as stated. This finding suggests that effective management of information in public secondary schools is very essential and it is a determinant factor for achievement of many objectives. As Fabunmi cited in Babalola and Ayeni (2009) puts it proper management of information resources enhances an organization devoid of rumour and rancor. This also means that if secondary school managers and teachers effectively harness the information via all the information resources the huge benefits cannot be over emphasized both to the school, state, and the entire nation.

Research question two analysis was done in table II. The grand mean of 2.58 which is also slightly above the benchmark is an indication that to a high extent information resources management in public secondary schools helps in achieving the sustainable Development goal of “Zero hunger” in Anambra State. This as well answers the research question two. This study revealing the correlation between these two variables is a mile stone for the world in general and Anambra State in particular. Dealing with hunger or reducing it to the bearst minimum has been a major challenge to the growing nations; especially Nigeria. As Babalola and Ayeni (2009) but it, information via internet have double edge and could be harnessed for both positive and negative outcomes. If all the information that flow via the information resources especially as concerns agriculture, food security, productivity among others are positively packaged, then the result will be great. There is bound to be indeed “zero hunger” by 2030 according to the United Nations SDG number two. All the targets of this goal as listed by (United Nations Organization (2022) as contained in this paper are all realistic.

### Conclusion

The researchers having made a step by step systematic and scientific investigation on this topic thereby conclude that information is power full, and that one needs to be informed to avoid being deformed. Consequent upon this, proper management of information and all its resources is a must in all spheres of the economy especially the secondary school system where the citizens are powered from the cradle. This no doubt is an ante dot for eradication of poverty and making “zero hunger” a reality in Nigeria.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the researchers therefore recommend is follows:

1. The UN should try to assist poor member nations through their various home government and agencies to acquire most of these information resources to the secondary school as well as ensure steady power supply. When this is done and properly managed, poverty will be reduced.
2. The United Nations should via its specialized agencies ensure that some special agricultural seeds that boast food production in their countries are supplied, preserved and mechanized farming are utilized in the poor member nations agricultural system. This will go a long way to reduce hunger if not eliminated completely.

### Educational Implications of Findings

The findings of this study have some educational implications such as:

1. Since average citizens in Nigeria are still living below poverty level, it then means that Nigeria school systems still lacks some information resources even the little available are not put into proper utilization.
2. Despite the second finding of this study which reveals a correlation between the two variables, yet greater percentage of the population is still struggling with hunger, mal-nutrition, and famine. This means that the education managers in the secondary school system and beyond

do not properly manage the information resources at their disposals. This is so because if they do according to this study, hunger will be reduced if not wiped out.

### **References**

- Acqnotes (2021). Information resource management <https://acqnotes.com>qcnotes>.
- Babalola, J. B. & Ayeni, A. O. (2009). Educational management: theories and tasks. Lagos: Macmillan Nigeria publishers limited.
- C10 Wiki (2023). Information resources management. <https://C10.Wiki/org>wiki>information>.
- Definition net (n.d). what does information mean? <https://www.definitions.net>information>.
- Encyclopedia Britannica. Poverty, Definition, causes, types and facts. <https://www.britanica.com>topic>
- IGI Global (n.d). what is information resource. <https://www.igi-global.com>infor.....>
- Investopedia (n.d). What's poverty? Mening, causes, and how to measure. <https://www.investopedia.com>terms>
- Law insider (2021). Information resources definitions. <https://www.lawinsider.com>infor.....>
- The world bank (n.d). what is food security. <https://www.worldbank.org>brief>. 16/5/23.
- United Nations organization (2015). Ending poverty. <https://www.UN.Org>
- United Nations Organization (2022). The sustainable development goal report. <https://www.un.org>hunger.retrieved> 16/05/23.
- Woiff, K. (2021). What are the different types of poverty? <https://www.continued.com>what>
- World food programme (2023). Ending hunger. <https://www.wfp.org>ending-hunger.retrieved> 10/05/23.