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Promoting Transport and Logistics Education through Library and Digital Science: A Focus on Nigeria and Namibia.

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Transport and logistics education is critical for supporting economic growth and sustainable development in Nigeria and Namibia. However, these countries face challenges in providing quality and accessible education in this field. This article explores the potential of integrating libraries and digital science in promoting transport and logistics education in these countries. The article highlights the importance of transport and logistics education and the role of libraries and digital science in education. It discusses the current state of transport and logistics education in Nigeria and Namibia, as well as the integration challenges. The article also examines examples of successful integration of libraries and digital science in transport and logistics education in other countries. Finally, the article calls for action to prioritize the integration of libraries and digital science in transport and logistics education in Nigeria and Namibia to support workforce development, economic growth, and sustainable development in these countries.

Keywords: Transport and logistics education, libraries, digital science, Nigeria, Namibia, economic growth, sustainable development

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INTRODUCTION

Transport and logistics are critical components of the global economy, with the effective movement of goods and people being vital to economic growth and development. The transport and logistics industry encompasses a wide range of activities, including transportation planning, infrastructure development, logistics management, supply chain management, and more. As such, it is essential to have a well-trained workforce that can meet the demands of the industry. Thus, transport and logistics education provides individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in this industry. It covers a broad range of topics, from transportation systems and modes to logistics and supply chain

management, as well as safety and security in transportation. With the increasing globalization of the economy and the growth of e-commerce, the demand for skilled professionals in transport and logistics is higher than ever before.

In Nigeria and Namibia, the transport and logistics industry plays a vital role in the economy. Nigeria, with its large population and vast geography, requires a well-structured transport system to facilitate the movement of goods and people. Similarly, Namibia, with its vast natural resources and long coastline, requires a well-managed logistics system to support its growing economy. Therefore, it is critical to have a well-trained workforce that can meet the demands of these countries' transport and logistics industries.Transport and logistics education is essential for the development of a skilled workforce that can address the current and future challenges facing the industry. This education provides individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage transportation systems and infrastructure, develop logistics strategies, and optimize supply chain management. Furthermore, transport and logistics education can promote safety and security in transportation, which is vital for the protection of people and goods.

Transport and logistics education is vital for the development and growth of a nation's economy. In Nigeria and Namibia, there is an urgent need for skilled professionals in the transport and logistics industry due to the increasing demand for efficient transportation and logistics services. However, the current state of transport and logistics education in both countries is still inadequate and needs improvement. For instance in Nigeria, there is a shortage of qualified personnel in the transport and logistics sector due to the lack of adequate education and training. According to a report by the Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT), only 10% of transport operators and managers in Nigeria have formal education in transport-related fields (Ademiluyi, 2019). Furthermore, the lack of adequate infrastructure and funding for transport and logistics education in Nigeria has led to a shortage of skilled professionals in the industry.

Similarly, Namibia is facing the problem of a shortage of skilled professionals in the transport and logistics industry. According to the Namibia Transport and Logistics Skills Development Initiative, there is a significant skills shortage in the country's transport and logistics industry, which is a significant constraint to the sector's growth (NTLS, 2020). The lack of adequate transport and logistics education and training programs is a significant contributing factor to this skills shortage.In the two countries, the inadequate state of transport and logistics education has led to several challenges, including inefficient transport systems, high logistics costs, and inadequate supply chain management. These challenges have a significant impact on the countries' economic growth and development, making it necessary to address the current state of transport and logistics education in Nigeria and Namibia.

To address these challenges, there is a need for increased investment in transport and logistics education and training programs in Nigeria and Namibia. This investment should focus on developing and implementing comprehensive education and training programs that are relevant to the needs of the transport and logistics industry. Furthermore, there is a need for collaboration between educational institutions and industry stakeholders to ensure that education and training programs align with industry needs. This is so as the current state of transport and logistics education in Nigeria and Namibia needs significant improvement to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in the industry. Adequate investment in transport and logistics education and training programs is necessary to address the skills shortage and improve the efficiency of transport and logistics services in both countries.

The importance of transport and logistics education cannot be overstated. It is essential for the development of a skilled workforce that can meet the demands of the industry and promote economic growth and development. With the increasing importance of the transport and logistics industry in Nigeria and Namibia, this paper seeks to explore the potential of integrating libraries and digital science in promoting transport and logistics education in bothcountries to develop a skilled workforce that can meet the industry's demands.

Libraries and Digital Science in Education

Libraries have always played a significant role in education by providing access to resources such as books, journals, and other materials necessary for learning and research. They serve as a hub for knowledge and information, providing students with a space to study, collaborate, and exchange ideas (UNESCO, 2021). In addition to physical libraries, the emergence of digital science has provided a new platform for promoting education. Digital science includes online resources, e-books, virtual classrooms, and webinars that offer a wide range of opportunities for students to access real-time data, case studies, and simulations to enhance their learning experience (Johansen, 2018). Digital science also enables students to learn at their own pace and from anywhere in the world.

Libraries play an essential role in promoting education by providing access to a wide range of resources, including books, journals, and other materials. They serve as centres of learning and research, providing individuals with the necessary resources and support to learn and grow. In addition, libraries provide a safe and conducive environment for study, research, and collaboration.According to Adeyinka et al. (2015),

libraries are critical to the development of education in Nigeria as they provide access to books, journals, and other learning resources that are necessary for effective teaching and learning. The authors noted that libraries serve as learning hubs, providing opportunities for students to study, access information, and collaborate with peers.

In Namibia, the importance of libraries in education is also recognized. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture in Namibia has developed a national library policy that seeks to ensure access to information and knowledge for all citizens, regardless of location (Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, 2010). The policy recognizes the critical role of libraries in promoting education and seeks to strengthen the capacity of libraries to support learning and research. Likewise, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) emphasize the importance of libraries in education and highlight the need to invest in libraries to promote education and literacy globally (IFLA, 2015). Libraries play a crucial role in promoting education by providing access to learning resources, creating a conducive environment for study and research, and promoting collaboration among learners. As such, investing in libraries is critical to promoting education and literacy in Nigeria, Namibia, and globally.

The integration of libraries and digital science can enhance the learning experience by providing students with access to a wider range of resources, including online databases, e-books, and virtual classrooms. This integration can also facilitate collaborative learning and research among students, researchers, and educators. For example, in Canada, the integration of libraries and digital science has been successful in promoting education in various fields, including transport and logistics (Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, 2021).Efforts must be made to overcome any challenge associated with the integration of libraries and digital science to transport and logistics education to ensure that students in the field have access to the necessary resources to succeed. Overall, libraries and digital science play a vital role in promoting education and must be leveraged to enhance the learning experience in the transport and logistics field.

The Role of Libraries in Promoting Transport and Logistics Education

Libraries play a crucial role in promoting transport and logistics education by providing access to resources that support teaching, learning, and research. They serve as repositories of information and knowledge, providing access to a wide range of materials such as books, journals, databases, and other multimedia resources that are essential for effective learning and research (Giesecke, 2017). Libraries also provide a physical space for studying and collaborating, as well as access to technology and tools such as computers, printers, and scanners.In the context of transport and logistics education, libraries can provide access to specialized resources that are not readily available in other locations. For example, they can provide access to industry-specific publications, case studies, and research reports that are relevant to transport and logistics. These can help students and researchers gain a deeper understanding of the industry and develop skills and knowledge that are relevant to the job market.

Libraries can serve as a platform for collaboration between academic institutions, industry organizations, and other stakeholders in the transport and logistics sector. They can host events, seminars, and workshops that bring together experts from different fields to share knowledge and ideas on emerging trends and issues in the industry. This can help foster innovation and promote best practices in the sector (Sharma & Singh, 2016).Thus; libraries play a critical role in promoting transport and logistics education by providing access to resources that support learning and research, facilitating collaboration and networking, and promoting innovation and best practices in the industry.

Impact of Libraries on Transport and Logistics Education in Nigeria and Namibia

Libraries play a crucial role in promoting education, especially in developing countries such as Nigeria and Namibia. In Nigeria, there are several types of libraries, including academic libraries, public libraries, and school libraries. However, these libraries face significant challenges, including inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, and inadequate resources (Bello & Dauda, 2020). This has negatively impacted the quality of education in Nigeria, including transport and logistics education.In Namibia, the National Library of Namibia (NLN) is the central library in the country. The library offers various services, including access to books, journals, newspapers, and digital resources. The library also provides support to academic institutions, public libraries, and community libraries. However, like in Nigeria, libraries in Namibia also face challenges, including inadequate funding, inadequate staffing, and lack of resources (Nikodemus &Mawila, 2019).

Despite these challenges, libraries play a critical role in promoting transport and logistics education in both countries. Libraries provide access to books, journals, and other resources that students and researchers can use to learn about transport and logistics. Libraries also provide a quiet and conducive environment for students to study and research. Additionally, libraries provide training and support to users on how to access and use digital resources, which is essential in promoting digital literacy and skills.In Nigeria, the National Library of

Nigeria (NLN) has taken steps to promote education and research by establishing a National Digital Library (NDL) that provides access to digital resources (Bello & Dauda, 2020). The NLN has also partnered with other libraries and organizations to provide access to a wider range of resources. In Namibia, the NLN has also established partnerships with other libraries and organizations to improve access to resources and services (Nikodemus &Mawila, 2019).Efforts should be made to address these challenges and improve the quality and accessibility of libraries in both countries.

The integration of libraries and digital science in promoting transport and logistics education has been recognized as a valuable approach in both Nigeria and Namibia. In both countries, there is a growing need to improve the quality of education, particularly in the field of transport and logistics, to meet the demands of the global economy. The National Library of Nigeria (NLN) has been collaborating with universities and other institutions to promote digital literacy and access to digital resources. For example, the NLN has established digital libraries in some universities, providing students with access to e-books, e-journals, and other online resources. The NLN has also been partnering with international organizations to develop online courses in various fields, including transport and logistics. In the same vein, in Namibia, the Ministry of Education has recognized the potential of digital technologies to improve the quality of education. The government has invested in the development of ICT infrastructure and has been promoting digital literacy among students and teachers. The Namibia Library and Archives Service (NLAS) has also been playing a critical role in providing access to digital resources, such as e-books, e-journals, and online databases, to support learning and research activities.

The integration of libraries and digital science in promoting transport and logistics education in Nigeria and Namibia can lead to improved learning outcomes and better preparedness for the digital age. By leveraging libraries and digital technologies, educators can provide learners with a wide range of learning resources and opportunities, promoting critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy skills. Furthermore, the integration of libraries and digital science can contribute to addressing the challenges faced by the education systems in both countries, such as limited resources and inadequate infrastructure. The integration has the potential to transform transport and logistics education in Nigeria and Namibia, enhancing the quality and accessibility of education and preparing learners for the challenges and opportunities of the global economy.

Digital Science

Digital science refers to the use of digital technologies and tools to conduct scientific research, manage data, and communicate scientific findings. It encompasses a range of disciplines, including computer science, information technology, data analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI) (Adly et al., 2020).In education, digital science plays a significant role in facilitating access to information and resources, promoting collaboration, and enhancing teaching and learning experiences (Tondeur et al., 2017). Digital science technologies such as virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics can provide students with hands-on learning experiences that simulate real-world scenarios, enabling them to develop practical skills and knowledge relevant to their field of study (Bucher et al., 2018).

Digital science technologies facilitate the creation and sharing of educational content and resources, enabling educators to reach a broader audience and customize learning experiences to meet individual student needs (Adly et al., 2020). For instance, digital libraries can provide students with access to a vast array of resources, including books, journals, and research databases, regardless of their geographical location. Digital science has the potential to transform education by providing innovative solutions to some of the traditional challenges of teaching and learning, such as limited access to resources, lack of interactivity, and inflexibility of learning environments (Bucher et al., 2018).

Application of Digital Science in Promoting Transport and Logistics Education in Nigeria and Namibia

Digital science plays a critical role in promoting transport and logistics education in Nigeria and Namibia. Digital science encompasses the use of digital technologies, including software, hardware, and communication networks, to support research, teaching, and learning in various fields, including transport and logistics education.In Nigeria and Namibia, the use of digital science in transport and logistics education is still in its early stages. However, there are some notable efforts aimed at leveraging digital technologies to enhance learning outcomes in this field. For example, in Nigeria, some universities and institutions have adopted online learning platforms, such as Moodle and Blackboard, to deliver transport and logistics courses to students.

The Namibia University of Science and Technology has established an e-learning platform that provides students with access to online course materials, lectures, and assessments. Also, the university has invested in state-of-the-art simulation software and equipment, which allows students to experience real-world scenarios in a virtual environment.The integration of digital science in transport and logistics education has several benefits. For instance, it allows students to access educational resources from anywhere and at any time, making learning more flexible and convenient. Digital technologies enable students to engage in interactive and immersive learning experiences, which enhance their

understanding of complex concepts and processes.

The integration of digital science in transport and logistics education is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, digital science provides access to vast amounts of information that can enhance the learning experience of students. Digital resources such as e-books, online databases, and multimedia materials provide up-to-date and relevant information that can improve the quality of education in transport and logistics. Additionally, the integration of libraries and digital science allows for the customization of learning experiences to suit individual student needs. With digital resources, students can access and learn at their own pace, using multimedia tools to deepen their understanding of complex topics.

Integration of digital science can also enhance the teaching process, providing educators with tools and resources to design and deliver engaging and interactive lessons. Digital resources such as simulations, interactive learning environments, and virtual reality tools provide teachers with innovative methods of teaching that can improve student engagement and participation. Libraries and digital science in transport and logistics education are essential for ensuring that students are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to compete in a rapidly changing global economy. In the 21st century, technology plays a critical role in the transportation and logistics industry, and students need to be familiar with digital tools and resources to succeed in this field.

Therefore, it is essential to integrate digital science in transport and logistics education to ensure that students are adequately prepared to enter the workforce and contribute to the growth and development of the industry.

However, the use of digital science in transport and logistics education is not without challenges. One of the main challenges is the lack of access to digital technologies and infrastructure, especially in remote and underprivileged areas. There is a need for adequate training and support for educators and students to effectively use digital technologies for teaching and learning.To fully realize the potential of digital science in promoting transport and logistics education in Nigeria and Namibia, there is a need for increased investment in digital technologies and infrastructure. Educators and students should receive adequate training and support to effectively use digital technologies for teaching and learning. This will enable these countries to produce highly skilled graduates who are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to address the challenges facing the transport and logistics sector.

The application of digital science in transport and logistics education has the potential to enhance learning outcomes and prepare learners for the rapidly changing and technology-driven industry. Digital technologies can be used in various ways to promote transport and logistics education, including:

1. Simulation and modelling: Digital simulations and models can be used to teach learners about complex processes, such as supply chain management, traffic flow, and logistics planning. These simulations enable learners to engage in hands-on and experiential learning, providing them with a more realistic and immersive learning experience.
2. Online courses and resources: Digital technologies allow for the creation and distribution of online courses and resources, which can be accessed by learners regardless of their location. This makes education more accessible and enables learners to learn at their own pace and convenience.
3. Data analytics: The collection and analysis of data can provide insights into transportation and logistics operations, enabling learners to make informed decisions and optimize processes. Digital technologies enable the collection and analysis of large amounts of data, providing learners with valuable insights and enhancing their analytical and problem-solving skills.
4. Collaboration and communication: Digital technologies enable learners to collaborate and communicate with each other and with industry professionals. This facilitates knowledge exchange, fosters innovation, and provides learners with networking opportunities.

Above all, the application of digital science in transport and logistics education can enhance learning outcomes and prepare learners for the digital age. By leveraging digital technologies, educators can create engaging and interactive learning experiences that enable learners to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy skills.

Successful Integration of Libraries and Digital Science in Transport and Logistics Education in other Countries

There are several examples of successful integration of libraries and digital science in transport and logistics education in other countries. These include:

i. University of California, Berkeley, which has integrated digital technologies and library resources in its transportation engineering curriculum to enhance the learning experience and support research activities (Banerjee, 2019).

ii. University of Leeds in the United Kingdom, has integrated digital technologies and library resources in its logistics and supply chain management curriculum to provide students with access to a wide range of learning resources and promote interactive and personalized learning experiences (Wang et al., 2017).

iii. University of Borås has integrated digital technologies and library resources in its logistics and

transport management curriculum to enhance the quality of teaching and learning and improve access to learning resources for students (Hertzberg et al., 2016).

iv. In South Africa, the University of Johannesburg has integrated digital technologies and library resources in its transportation management curriculum to support research activities and provide students with access to a wide range of learning resources (Kolawole et al., 2020).

These examples demonstrate the potential benefits of integrating libraries and digital science in transport and logistics education and suggest that this approach can enhance the quality of teaching and learning, improve access to learning resources, and support research activities in this field.

Potential Challenges to Integration in Nigeria and Namibia

Despite the potential benefits of integrating libraries and digital science in transport and logistics education, several challenges may impede the successful implementation of this approach in Nigeria and Namibia. Some of the challenges include:

i. Lack of adequate infrastructure and resources to support digital technologies and library services. For example, a study by Oladejo and Salawu (2017) found that many Nigerian universities lacked the necessary infrastructure and resources to support digital libraries, including reliable internet connectivity, adequate hardware and software, and trained personnel.

ii. Limited access to digital technologies and library services, particularly in rural areas where internet connectivity is often poor or non-existent (Maistry et al., 2018). This can make it difficult for students and educators in these areas to access and utilize digital resources effectively.

iii. Cultural and social barriers to the integration of libraries and digital science in education. For instance, some students and educators may prefer traditional classroom-based learning and may not be comfortable using digital technologies for teaching and learning (Adebowale et al., 2019).

iv. Financial constraints that limit the ability of educational institutions in Nigeria and Namibia to invest in digital technologies and library services. Many institutions may struggle to afford the necessary hardware, software, and personnel to support digital libraries and other digital learning resources.

These challenges suggest that the successful integration of libraries and digital science in transport and logistics education in Nigeria and Namibia will require significant investment in infrastructure and resources, as well as efforts to address cultural and social barriers to digital learning.

CONCLUSION

Transport and logistics education is essential for supporting economic development and improving the efficiency of transportation systems. It plays a critical role in enabling the movement of goods and people, facilitating trade and commerce, and supporting global supply chains. As the global economy becomes increasingly interconnected, the demand for skilled professionals in this field is growing, making transport and logistics education a crucial component of workforce development and economic growth. Moreover, transport and logistics education helps to promote sustainable development by fostering environmentally friendly and socially responsible transportation practices. Libraries and digital science play important roles in promoting education by enhancing the quality and accessibility of learning. Libraries provide students with access to a wealth of information and resources, including books, journals, and online databases. This access to information supports students' research and enables them to explore subjects beyond what is covered in class. Digital science, on the other hand, offers innovative ways to deliver education and engage students. This includes the use of digital platforms and tools for remote learning, such as video conferencing and online learning management systems. By integrating libraries and digital science into education, it is possible to create a more dynamic and effective learning environment that can support personalized and flexible learning experiences. Additionally, libraries and digital science can help bridge the digital divide, making education more accessible to disadvantaged communities who may not have access to traditional learning resources.

In light of the critical role that transport and logistics education plays in economic growth and sustainable development, there is a need for Nigeria and Namibia to integrate libraries and digital science in their education systems. This integration can provide students with access to a wider range of resources and innovative learning tools, which can improve the quality and effectiveness of their education. Moreover, this can help address the challenges faced by students in these countries, such as limited access to traditional learning resources and the digital divide. As such, there is a need for policymakers, educators, and other stakeholders to prioritize the integration of libraries and digital science in transport and logistics education in Nigeria and Namibia. By doing so, we can create a more dynamic and effective learning environment that can support workforce development, economic growth, and sustainable development in these countries.

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