

Need For Information Management as a Strategy for Development of Rural Rivers State, Southern Nigeria

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KEYWORDS Effective. Dissemination. Rural People. Development. Educational Opportunities. Job

ABSTRACT The study focused on the need for proper information management as a strategy for the development of rural areas of Rivers State, Nigeria. The areas of the study included Ogba/Egbema-Ndoni, Eleme and Ikwerre local districts in Rivers State, Nigeria. The stratified random sampling technique was used to select communities from the three local government areas. They were selected based on ward allocation. A total of fifty (50) questionnaires were distributed to respondents. Percentages, frequency and mean scores were utilized for data analysis. The study identified seven profound effects of proper information management for the development of the study areas. They were: increase in job and educational opportunities (3.20), modernization and development of the community (2.70), high level of education and literacy rate (3.6), low morbidity and infant/material rate (3.20), improved hygiene/sanitation condition (4.10), improved standard of living (3.40) and improved economic standard and capacity utilization (3.0). Furthermore, the study found that there was no office for the management of information dissemination in the study areas. Also, there was no monitoring and feedback mechanism in the local government councils. It was then recommended that appropriate information structure and the offices of information officer and community liaison officer be established for effective liaison in information management and dissemination to enhance rural development in Nigeria.