



Community Health Officers and Surgical Trainees, Bo

How long have you been members of the library?

Here in the Bo facility since we were posted here in September. But before here also in Makeni we were members because I worked in Makeni Regional hospital so also I was making use of the facility there also.

Why did you join the library?

Because when I came to this library I saw the books which I have not been seeing in the usual libraries we have. And I saw also from our course programme here, these are the books that we have been dealing with. And so we find them here in the library, and some books that we need we are not able to find them in our own library so I saw this is very useful. This library here more in Bo has actually very good books which has been helping us and we come here for our references for our assignments here. And actually been helping us all this time. And there are some book here to be precise which we did not have in our University library before coming to this training institutions. So I think it is actually an advantage.

Do you read the books in or out of the library?

I have actually been reading the books in the library because at home, we are here all day and at home the electricity is not assured so I am actually reading them here. It is actually nice to take some of these books home, but the electricity, and all day we are in this hospital so I like to come here.

Which kind of books do you use?

Because I have used this a lot, Surgical Care at the District Hospital. And there is also this Obstetrics and Gynaecology. There is also another one actually which I was planning now to begin to read, which is also Obstetrics and Gynaecology but I have not really seen it yet. Perhaps maybe because we are in a worry, but it was here.

Can you give me a specific example of where what you've read in a book has changed what you have done?

Like in this book, Primary Surgery, we did a procedure for abdominal surgery, ruptured abdominal pregnancy, which is obstetrics, and there in this book they actually specify step by step procedures and how to go about such conditions when it comes to surgical practices. And the one that we did during the procedure was a bit different from how the book shows and explains in detail. Was actually what I came to learn from reading the book after doing the procedure this actually guided

me a lot for the next. Also I think that, on my course, we use the same book and then the procedures are written. But sometimes, you know, in the pressure of work you forget some procedures, so when I do come and refresh you know some of those things, like how to go about doing some hernia, especially in this book, you are reminded of all the steps, something you have forgotten, you are reminded of it.

If the library wasn't here, where would you get your health information from?

For us, on the surgical training programme, the programme provided us with 100 mobile phone tablets, like this, and normally if we have tedious assignments we are doing it with the internet and we have information there, but this is very costly, and here the internet is very slow, and at times we could not access it, or even the affordability the money you could not spend 1,2,3 hours, you are not able to afford that on the internet. And then here you have ample of time. You can read, read, read until you are bored. So you see this has been a very, since I have been coming here, I never go to the internet, because almost all I needed, I just have time to read. There is no library in this entire country that has this kind of medical texts. Except you have to pay to go on the internet and steps are not available, affordable.

How is the quality of the books?

Just as I said, these are the same books as in our training, so they are quality books. And there are others also that I have seen here that are not in our trainings and they are very updated. So it seems that sometimes this library is even a bit ahead, you know, of our supplies.

How easy is it to find quality resources on the internet?

It is difficult .

Why?

Sometimes the quality of the internet, you click one thing and then it will be rounding and rounding.. you are waiting 10-15 minutes to open or to download something, it never happens. And you are running out of time and thinking of your pocket, you have to pay for the time you are spending, so..

And can you find these kind of books on the internet?

Well you can find some of [the same books] in the internet, but you have to buy them to download them. Yes, you have to buy them, \$5 or \$50, it is very difficult, and we cannot even think of downloading them because we don't have the money.

If you did have the money, could you practically buy something on the internet from Sierra Leone?

I have never tried it, it is difficult, I never tried once

So you still think books are needed?

Very much. 100% needed. Yes, they are needed. They are actually needed.

Anything you want to add?

I was telling you the last time the librarian was asking me if you know of some books you can think of that are updated and are not available in this library? I told him frankly that, I mean, if the programme people do come here tell them that most times the current books on some of these things we are doing, we are not aware of them. We don't know. So they are out there and those things are there, we are not even aware of them, we don't know. So let them just bring what is

there, updated in the current years, and then they will meet our test and our needs. Even there was a time when we were discussing with our supervisor one of the supervisors here, and he asked us which books do we read for anatomy and physiology? [laughing] so we told him, well we don't know of any recent anatomy and physiology, only those ones which we have the basic ... so he started calling different different books, and that was my first time to hear the name of such books for me. Yes, he talked about Hutchinsons Clinical Medicine. And we told him, this is news to us. We never heard of this. We only read our basic anatomy and physiology. I even have wrote it, and I was planning to bring it to this librarian. We actually appreciate this move. We appreciate you guys. You are doing very great work for our country, our people. We do hope that this will actually continue and you always help to bring modernised books so that you can prepare us not only for Sierra Leone, but for International work as well.

Do you think the library improves patient care?

Yes a lot, because whenever you come to the library you read new stuffs, new knowledge, and as well you are going to implement what you have learned and by that you will improve patient care.