

The Use Case of Raadaa in Contemporary Academic Environment.

Earlier this week, I was with Mr O. Ichekpa, a lecturer at the Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokolo. As I mentioned what we do to him at Raadaa, he was not just awed but also felt comforted from something that had hitherto terribly plagued his mind. He pointed to a corner and asked me to look at the place where a particularly wonderful research work was carried out by some seriously minded students just recently in the department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology. However, this research was neither preserved nor shown to wider readership hence there was no much knowledge of what great food processing work those students did, consequently, the gap in knowledge that they were supposed to have filled was eventually left vacant as the work did not just get localized but was soon discarded. The emergence of raadaa has in its arsenal all the weapons to deal with such a wasteful situation.

The key Use Case of Raadaa: ***problems being solved by raadaa include; preservation, exposition to unlimited readership and knowledge, and ability to get financially encouraged so as to do more.*** These points are heavy discourses on their own as one or all of them have always been strongly oppositional to the development of the research part of our academia. The virtual nature takes care of the first two problems; preservation and exposition. Then the monetization policy solves the last and very important problem which is financial reward for a job well done.

On Thursday 6th July, I was with another lecturer at the Institute of Management Technology, Enugu, Mr S. Ugwuanyi who promptly joined the platform as he saw it as a respite for the bleeding hearts of research works. He pointed at a heap of research works (Undergraduate Projects) lying wastefully as no one may ever open them again until the day of their disposals. Citing those works, he told me that some students' research works were nothing serious but he had and knew others who were serious and needed such platform as raadaa offers to showcase their ingenuity to the global community.

While I shared in his sentiment and was empathetic about his concern, I also slightly differed from him as regards perspective in which he considers some projects "not serious". We know that the Nigerian academia is full of impressionistic tendencies, hence, my judgment of a work as serious or being petty is not really a full yardstick to measure its true nature. But this problem of what I think is biased judgment of research works by supervisors will never get solved for as

long as just the one supervisor and a few like-minded panel would have the final say on its merit. What if this is exposed to a wider range of judges? What if what we look at as mediocre work here is actually the perfect gap filler in knowledge by a group somewhere? This is a way that analogue system of documentation and preservation of research works has crippled speedy development of research and the sharing of such knowledge in our society.

But All Hail Raadaa; A perfect bridge between where we are and where we should be!