

A SYTEMATIC REVIEW OF NEWSPAPER- FOCUSED STUDIES IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Newspapers are the fundamental part of the fourth estate through which information has been and is conveyed. It has been a means to reach audience and disseminate relevant information and news that is either local, national or international. Pertaining to its history in Nigeria, beginning from the time of IweIroyin to contemporary newspapers like punch or the nation, newspapers have continued to have a massive impact on the society. This paper focuses on the 100 annotated bibliography on newspapers written in Nigeria within a specific period of time by researchers. The results of the findings demonstrates that newspaper covers many important areas of which include; politics, security, education, language, crime, management, economy, etc. The paper concludes that newspaper has done basically well in informing, educating the Nigerian audience and most importantly, has been able to uncover some corruptions and scandals through its investigative-journalistic approach. Therefore, the paper recommends that newspaper industry should be looked upon and innovated due to the threats of redundancy being received from the internet. The paper also recommends that government should also empower the industry by promoting policies that will be favor the industry that will bring about the wellbeing of the industry.

Keywords: Newspapers, Nigeria journalism, Politics and Education

INTRODUCTION

Newspapers have been an essential part of the media landscape in Nigeria for over a century, serving as a primary source of information and news to the public.(Isiaku, H. 2018). The development of the newspaper industry in Nigeria can be traced back to the late 19th century when the British colonial government established the first newspaper in Lagos, then the capital of Nigeria. Since then, newspapers have played a significant role in shaping public opinion, promoting democracy, and holding the government accountable.

The Church Missionary Society (CMS), founded Nigeria's first newspaper, "IweIrohin," in 1859. A medium of communication between colonial officials and the local elites, the newspaper was written and published in Yoruba, the language of the city of Lagos' predominant ethnic group. Lagos Weekly Record, The Nigerian Pioneer, and The Daily Times are a few of the other publications that were created in Lagos during the turn of the 20th century. according to Salau, and Omotosho, (2014),

The newspaper industry in Nigeria has a long history and has developed over time into an important factor in the political, social, and economic growth of the nation. According to Kehinde et al., (2015) newspapers continue to be crucial for advancing democracy, disseminating information, and keeping the government accountable while experiencing a number of difficulties, including government censorship and decreased revenue as a result of the rise of digital media.

From the outset of newspaper business in Nigeria, researchers have attempted to document and interrogate issues relating to the business but there has been inadequate attention paid to the empirical tracking of the literature either from historical perspective or thematic perspective. This review therefore attempts to examine the literature of mass communication research from the historical angle of newspaper research over the years. In specific terms, the review answers the following questions:

1. To what extent have historical studies been conducted in Nigeria newspapers?
2. How apt is the assertion that security and political news has been covered by or published in Nigeria newspapers?
3. To what extent have education news been covered by or published in Nigeria newspapers?
4. To what extent have rural development and advocacy news covered by or published in Nigerian newspapers?
5. To what extent have crime news been covered by or published in Nigeria newspapers?
6. To what extent have science related news been covered by or published by Nigeria newspapers?
7. To what extent have health news been covered by or published by Nigeria newspapers?
8. To what extent have management news been covered by or published by Nigeria newspapers?

9. To what extent have agricultural news been covered by or published by Nigeria newspapers?

METHODOLOGY

In this study, quantitative research is combined with the systematic review method, which can be defined as a research procedure for discovering and critically evaluating pertinent research as well as acquiring and analyzing data from said research. Content analysis, which is employed or applied in describing communication content and comparing media material, will be the quantitative research method used for this study. Data was searched during January and February 2023. Several databases were used in this research, including Academia, Research Gate, Google Scholar, Library Sources, Review of Communication and Media Studies, New Media and Mass Communication, International Journal of Soil Sciences and Management Review, and Journal of Communication Studies. These databases allowed access to study titles, abstracts, and keywords. Creating the search format and keywords came after choosing the database. Some of the keywords used in this study included "newspapers and security," "Nigerian newspaper articles," "Nigerian newspaper research," and "Nigerian newspaper research in journals." The articles were selected after they satisfied the following criteria

- English-language articles; articles examining Nigerian newspapers; articles authored by Nigerian authors
- Articles written in multiple languages and those unrelated to Nigerian newspapers are among the exclusion criteria.
- Articles providing a literature review were omitted, as were those with no information pertaining to the subject.

Finding possibly pertinent papers with the study's objectives led to the selection of the studies. The authors first examine the abstract before reading the body of the articles to see if they meet the requirements for inclusion. The evaluation was completed in the following phase by choosing pertinent articles that matched the requirements for inclusion. This study's results were tabulated for analysis.

LITERATURE REVIEW

History of the Nigerian Press

Nationalist conflict has been defined as a result of Nigerian mass media, according to Oso et al. (2011). Omu (1978:6), on the other hand, asserts that it was actually missionaries along the coast of West Africa, beginning in Freetown, who created the country's media. The early press (1800–20), the Nationalist press (1929–60), and the modern press are the three distinct phases that Tador (1996:40) separates the development of the Nigerian media into. (1960 until the present). Ogunsiji (1989) claimed that there are four distinct eras in the history of Nigerian media. These are the modern era, the period of missionary journalism (1846–1863), the foreign press (1863–1914), the indigenous press (1914–1960), and the period of the foreign press (1863–1914). (1960 until the present).

More significant than classification, according to Owolabi and O'neil (2013), are "identifying the significant landmark, the implications to the media history, as well as the different personalities whose contributions, good or bad, have shaped the future of media."

These are the period of missionary journalism (1846–1863), the period of the foreign press (1863–1914), the period of the indigenous press (1914–1966), and the contemporary age. (1960–today). Anglican missionary Reverend Henry Townsend founded the nation's first newspaper, *IweIrohin*, in Abeokuta, which paved the way for the launch of more newspapers. His goals included influencing Yoruba society and integrating Christianity through a variety of social, cultural, educational, economic, and theological methods. Higher levels of literacy and subsequent awareness of some African intellectuals, whose rekindled interests in social, political, and economic issues ignited a renewed enthusiasm to contribute to national discourse through the media, were additional factors that later supported the development of the press in Nigeria. (1985:30; Sobowale).

According to Nnanyelugo (2012:1), the "communication revolution" occurred in the earlier kingdoms, empires, and caliphates that subsequently merged to form what is now known as Nigeria. Anglican missionary Reverend Henry Townsend published the *IweIrohin*, the first newspaper, in that year. Daramola (2006), p. 11–12. The full name was "Newspaper for the Egba-Speaking People and Yorubas," or *IweIrohin fun Awon Egba ati Yoruba*. (Tador, 1996:40). Thus, the establishment of *IweIrohin* marked the beginning of the nation's mass communication system. On the other hand, it is important to remember that the establishment of a printing press at the Calabar Presbyterian mission in 1846 prepared the way for the widespread printing of words. It's encouraging that the printing press's main objective was to make it possible for locals to learn through reading. (2012) (Nnanyelugo:1).

By 1854, Reverend Townsend had relocated to Egba, a state in the modern-day Gateway, where he founded a printing school and instructed apprentices in the craft. in 2006 (Daramola). *IweIrohin*, which was published as a fortnightly Yoruba periodical until the English Language Supplement was added beginning on March 8, 1860, "became bilingual." (Omu, 1978:7). Despite the newspaper's owner using it "in his ambitious political propaganda and cunning maneuvering for power in Egbaland," (Omu, 1978:8) the political awareness and revival it fostered among the Egbas significantly contributed to the planting and nurturing of "the mustard seed that eventually grew into the gigantic tree of nationalistic fervor." (Okoro, 1998:13). Conflicts between the Egbas and the European conquerors over politics and culture led to the publication's disappearance in 1867. *IweIrohin*, on the other hand, completed with around a 3000 circulation achievement. in 2006 (Daramola). The *Anglo-African*, a weekly publication, rose to prominence later in 1863. Media historians consider the publication to be Nigeria's first English-language newspaper. Nnanyelugo (2012). In addition to authoring and editing the journal, British-Jamaican businessman, printer, and lecturer Robert Campbell acted as its director and owner. His mother was a mulatto, and he was born in Kingston, Jamaica, to a Scottish father. Daramola (2013:18) asserts that Campbell's major goal was to capitalize on the rising interest in western education and enlightenment in Lagos by offering easily available, reasonably priced products that would aid in educating, informing, and entertaining its customers. The newspaper championed the interests of Lagos and Lagosians as well as their general welfare. (Tador, 1996:41). Despite being characterized as

being "favorably disposed to the colonial government in Lagos," the daily ceased publication in 1865 due to a shortage of funding (ibid.).

Richard OlamilegeBlaize, The Lagos Times, and Gold Coast Colony Advertiser joined the newsroom after the Anglo-African left the kiosk. As a result of the media coverage it got, Nigeria developed a hostile press. After experiencing the bitter pill of racial discrimination, whether in England, the United States, or elsewhere in Europe, journalists and newspapermen began to emerge about 1880 (Daramola, 2013:19). They were therefore prepared to replace the British colonial government. Along with other males who were descended from slaves who had been freed, Richard Olamilege Blaize engaged in aggressive journalism against the king (ibid.). All the irregularities in colonial administration that affected the colonies and the indigenous people were made public on the publication's pages. Due to the paper's controversial stance, this stoked the flames of nationalism. In its first editorial, the newspaper brazenly boasted that "the failure of our predecessors in the field of journalism is present before our eyes, and we are fully acquainted with some of the causes which contributed towards the extinction of their efforts." Some people have already said they don't think we'll stick around for more than a few weeks. (Daramola 2013:20). Three years after its launch, the daily finally stopped being published.

The Lagos Observer was initially published in 1882 by J. Bagan Benjamin, who was also the first African member of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce. According to Daramola (2013:22), the newspaper's "Tit-bit" section shed light on people's daily lives by exposing social and societal issues. Additionally, it promoted the expansion of public utilities like roads and markets. It supported religious independence as part of its effort to advance cultural nationalism, keeping with the early nationalist sentiment that supported the separation of churches from their parent institutions in England. The publication also took an active part in the Lagos justice system. The publisher claimed that judges were indulging in anti-prejudices in an essay on the administration of justice that appeared in its issue on May 8, 1882. A few days before 1888 came to an end, on December 29, the newspaper stopped being published.

Eagle and Lagos Critic, the sixth publication, debuted on March 31st, 1883. The publication's editor and owner was Owen Emerick Macaulay, a direct ancestor of Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther, the first African bishop of the Anglican Church in Nigeria and one of the most well-known African Christians of the nineteenth century. The first newspaper was a necessity, the second a desideratum, and the third a sort of mediator between the first and second, according to Owen, who stated his goal. Though he had the means to finance such radicalism, he had lofty ambitions for a valiant diary. (2013):23–24 (Daramola). On October 31, 1888, the daily ceased to be published after five years and seven months.

The Mirror, as it was known, was published and edited by Adolphus Marke on Broad Street in Lagos. Due to its open-minded and liberal position on social issues, the magazine was an ephemeral publication that unexpectedly halted publication on November 17, 1888, after

11 months. Newspapers "severally and collectively attacked what they thought unpleasant" in the 1880s, which led to an extraordinary increase in the number of publications" (Daramola, 2013:24–25).

Between 1891 to 1930, Nigeria went through a period of intense nationalism and struggle for representative government. It was a period when the colonial authority was the focus of petitions, disputes, and scathing criticism in the publications of the time. (Daramola 2013:26). The newspapers worked on all fronts to obliterate all signs of colonial rule in Nigeria. Some of these periodicals include The Weekly Record (1891), The Lagos Standard (1893), The Lagos Echo (1894), The Nigerian Chronicle (1908), and The Nigerian Times. 1910), The Pioneer, published in 1914, the African Messenger, published in 1921, the Nigerian Spectator, published in 1923, the Nigerian Advocate, published in 1923, the Lagos Daily News, published in 1925, the Nigerian Daily Times, published in 1926, the Nigerian Evening Times, published in 1929, the African Sunday Digest, published in 1931, the Daily Service, published in 1933, the Comet, published in 1935, the Nigerian Eastern Mail, published in 1935, the West African Pilot, published (Nnanyelugo, 2012).

LIST OF SOME DEFUNCT NEWSPAPERS IN NIGERIA.

During the colonial era in Nigeria, newspapers in Nigeria was the voice of the voiceless that stand to fight against colonial rule in Nigeria, which resulted in the independence of Nigeria. These newspapers were owned and managed by Nigeria elites, and pro-independence activist who used their papers as a tool and a weapon to fight against the British rule in Nigeria. Although most of these newspapers are no longer invoke again. It can be said that these newspapers have played their roles.

These are the list of some of the defunct newspapers in Nigeria

Newspapers	Publishers	Year of operation
The Comet	Chief Obafemi Awolowo	1933-2004
The Herald	Ernest Ikoli	1934-1973
New Nigeria	Anthony Enahoro	1966-1975
The Nigeria Observer	Chief Obafemi Awolowo	1964-2004
The Post Express	James Ibori	1990-2005
The Punch	James Aboderin	1971-2001
The Sentinel	Lateef Jakande	1983-1993
The Sketch	Olu Aboderin	1956-2006
The Standard	Herbert Macauley	1925-1948
The Sunday Times	Chief Chris Okolie	1975-1989
The Tide	Rivers State Government	1971-2020
The Triumph	Mallam Aminu Kano	1953-2003
The Voice	Chief Anthony Enahoro	1945-1966
The Westerner	Chief Obafemi Awolowo	1984-1994
The Daily Times	Lateef Jakande	1926-2009
The Concord Group of Newspapers	Moshood Abiola	1983-1988
The National Concord	Moshood Abiola	1983-1994
The Democrat	Isamaila Isa Funtua	1991-2001
The Guardian Express	Alex Ibru	1983-1990
The Herald Tribune	Lateef Jakande	1962-1975

LIST OF CONTEMPORARY PUBLISHED NEWSPAPERS

This is a list of contemporary newspapers in Nigeria. The list includes print and online newspapers currently published in Nigeria that have national circulation or that are major local newspaper

Newspapers	Location	Publishers/owners
Blueprint	Abuja	Mohammed Idris
Business Day	Lagos	Frank Aigbog
Business Hallmark	Lagos	Prince Emeka Obasi
Compass	Abeokuta	Gbenga Daniel
Complete Sports	Lagos	Sunny ObazuOjeagbase
Daily Champion	Lagos	Emmanuel Iwuanyawu
Daily Times of Nigeria		Folio Communication
Nigeria Entertainment	Lagos	Adekunle Ayo
Guardian	Lagos	Felix Ibru
Independent	Abuja	Independent Newspaper Limited
Leadership	Abuja	Leadership Group of Companies

Daylight	Lagos	
Nation	Lagos	Vintage Press Limited
National Network	Port-Harcourt	Printing and publishing company
News Watch	Lagos	Global Media Mirror Limited
News Telegraph	Lagos	The Telegraph Publishing
Next	Lagos	Timbuktu Media Group
Observer	Benin City	Bendel newspaper company limited
Osun Defendeer	Osogbo	Moremi Publishing House Limited
P.M News	Lagos	Independent communication network limited
Punch	Abuja	AjibolaOgunsola
Sahara Report	Lagos	Omoyele Sowore
Stears Business	Lagos	Stears News Limited
The Tide	Lagos	Rivers State newspapers Corporation
Tell magazine	Lagos	Tell Communication Limited
Thisday	Lagos	Leaders and Company
Tribune	Ibadan	Leaders and Company
Triumph	Kano	Newspapers of Nigeria Limited
Daily Trust	Abuja	Triumph Publishing
Vanguard	Lagos	Vanguard Media
The News Journal	Ibadan	Layipo Concept
Daily Post	Lagos	James Bamiaye
Sun	Lagos	The Sun Publishing Limited
People's Daily	Abuja	People's Media limited
Premium Times	Abuja	Premium Times Limited
Mirror		Global Media Mirror limited

Newspaper coverage on politics and security: According to Iredia (2007), "the public must be helped to base their reasonable decisions and cast informed ballots at elections. They must possess all the information required to choose the best candidates who can guarantee excellent administration. Furthermore, he said, "Where such public awareness is lacking, those of us in the media must accept a share of the blame for failed elections in Nigeria." Two-way journalism is equally justified when it is argued that state officials cooperating to inform the public and mobilize them in support of government policies would provide a stable political environment for the survival of government and strengthen its capacity to sustain national development. the assertion that mass media play a key role

in shaping national behavior, directly impacting national development strategies, people's attitudes toward change, and the media's power to persuade people to resist change, among other institutions. Servaes (1995), p. 539 quotes Lerner (1958) and Shramm (1964) as saying that one way this work will be carried out is with appropriate news reporting style to enlighten and mobilize the people for support of policies stated by the government from time to time. The critical articulation of the newspaper's position in public discourse and national development policies is made in Jimada (2006, p. 13) in reference to the agenda-setting roles of the media. He asserted that the news media might influence decision-makers to pay attention, reflect public opinion, and increase public awareness of the issues and difficulties associated with development. Additionally, he asserted that the news media might educate people and assist them in making informed decisions.

Usman Jimada(2006), also argued that instead of only covering breaking news, the national media should analyze current events in-depth in order to foster growth and transformation. He argues that even though the massive issue of development is outside the scope of the mass media, it can nonetheless play a supportive and participatory role by aiding in the concentration of attention, pointing out opportunities, criticizing indifferences or obstacles; and influencing public opinion and raising awareness of development issues in developing countries.

National security, according to Ali (2013), is the preservation of citizens' lives, property, and rights. It also means defending a country's natural riches, institutions of justice, and territorial, cultural, and cultural integrity. Her position on matters of national security has an effect on a country's economic, social, political, and global well-being. The safety of Nigerians is essential for upholding tranquility, mental stability, and the harmonious coexistence of law, order, and wellbeing in all interpersonal interactions. This is because it fosters prosperity and human growth (Lokko, 2012). Concerns about national security have changed in nature. It is known that there have been bombings recently. These bombings have taken place in churches, media outlets, resource centers, army barracks, and other places, and the public is unaware that the government is dealing urgently with the revolt. The encouragement or escalation of violence is facilitated or aided by the media's coverage of crises, conflicts, and wars. Nigeria's mainstream media, according to Asemah (2011), set the agenda for public conversation. They have the power to captivate audiences and turn them into information addicts, giving media agenda importance. People frequently focus on the issues they raise. According to Sambe (2008), "the press is a product of mass opinion." Neuman (n.d.) asserts that "in large part, it is the media that creates opinions." The media have an influence on how people think about and perceive issues of public importance because they have the power to "set the agenda." According to Ali (2013), it is obvious that a small group of individuals control a disproportionate amount of the media in our culture. This is known as "media monopoly," and it limits the role that the media ought to play in maintaining national security. Akpan (2013) argues in favor of Ali's assertion by asserting that "National security is threatened by mass media, as the media's content is increasingly

Media imperialism results from the media's failure to communicate information in accordance with its own country's culture, beliefs, and values and from its focus on foreign content. The media serves as the realm's fourth estate and is an effective medium for communication. According to Section 22 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), Chapter II on Fundamental objectives and directive principles of state policy, the press, radio, television, and other mass media organizations shall at all times be free to uphold the fundamental objectives contained in this Chapter and uphold the responsibility and accountability of the Government to the people. (Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999). In 1959, Christenson asserted that "the mass media are most effective in forming opinions."

The public can be informed, persuaded, and amused by the media to participate actively in development initiatives. The information offered by the mainstream media can significantly improve people's life, either for the better or worse. Nwabueze and Ebeze (2013, p. 867-868) place emphasis on common media practices that negatively affect crisis situations. They include reporting on stereotypes of specific groups of people, sentimental reporting on news based on journalistic culture, condensed and biased accounts of events, the frequent use of sentimental headlines to increase sales, and inflammatory statements made about people who can't back them up. The mass media must be informed about some of these intentional actions in order to prevent the consequences of insecurity in Nigeria. The media must stop participating in these activities if it is to effectively combat insecurity in Nigeria; otherwise, they will continue to be seen as a major factor contributing to insecurity.

Newspaper coverage on Education: Education acts as a torchlight, illuminating the path to national prosperity. It causes sensitization and enlightenment, enabling the government, organization, person, or group of persons to comprehend the essential developmental projects to be provided to a community and the best manner to go about it. Education level and a person's level of growth are directly related. According to this premise, Abiogu (2014) claimed that "education is believed to be the bedrock of any country's development". In the fields of the arts, sciences, and technologies, it is recognized as the cornerstone for considerable and sustained growth, development, and success (p. 372). According to Ozturk (2001), education is one of the major forces behind progress on all fronts, and no country can experience sustainable growth without making large investments in its human resources. Education thus broadens individuals' perspectives on the outside world and on themselves. Their quality of life is improved, which benefits them personally as well as society as a whole. These result in meaningful and durable national development, which propels a nation toward greatness and acts as a role model for other nations pursuing comprehensive national development.

Because of this, media experts, technocrats, academics, and the general public are aware of the importance of the media as a source of information and a driver of social agendas. Thus, the media, which tells us what to think about and how to think about it, serves as a representation of the theoretical issues of agenda setting and framing. After that, Dennis

and Merrill (1999) declared unequivocally (p. 4) that the media is extremely strong. Doko and Ozohu-Suleiman (2017) write on page 40 that "over the years, the media have become reliable sources of information for people around the world. Therefore, it is their responsibility to broadcast ideas and knowledge that will extend the public's horizons, educate them, and provide them the ability to make educated judgments on their own that will result in self-actualization in order to accomplish the perceived goal of the mass media. They must provide the public with accurate, defensible information while acting as the government's watchdogs (Asemah, 2011). Ayodeji (2012) asserts that newspapers set the agenda for public discourse by bringing important topics to the public's attention that are bound to have a substantial impact on their surroundings and immediate environment. As a result, the media in every culture keeps an eye on the environment, illuminates a nation's social, economic, and political system, and shapes public opinion on crucial issues. Sambe (2008) made the case that newspapers in particular are not only still significant but also mainly to blame for the formation of public opinion in contemporary cultures in light of this.

Furthermore, Nwosu (2003) emphasized that due to their positioning, headlines, and amount of coverage, the majority of newspapers cover stories that are very important and are likely to garner attention. It's vital to keep in mind that the first page of the schedule is frequently reserved for the first item on each day. Another way to draw attention to and emphasize a subject is to present it as an editorial comment, a columnist's topic of discussion, or a letter to the editor. Similar to this, Ciboh (2005) asserted that newspapers sufficiently cover a range of societal activities through their suitable publication. Overall, newspapers can be a useful and effective educational and lifelong learning tool, offering a plethora of knowledge and perspectives on a variety of subjects.

Newspapers coverage on society and Rural development and advocacy: Amodu (2007), cited in Anaeto (2010: p. 4), asserts that when analyzing development, it is the process of positive socio-economic change in the nature and degree of human existence, with the goal of raising the standard of living, the quality of life, and human dignity. Development is described as "multi-dimensional referring to positive changes that affect the majority and which lie in the social, economic, political, and cultural spheres of societal life" by Sanda (1992: p.107), with a focus on social needs, self-reliance, and people's participation. Development includes social growth in both economic and non-economic dimensions of societal life According to Inayatullah (1967), as stated by Jimoh (2008: p. 105), development is the capacity of man to have more control over his surroundings and a wider fulfillment of his human goals, political destiny, and self-discipline. He emphasizes the need for a democratic political structure as well as human indicators like better environmental management and regulation in this section. This area is responsible for sustainable development. Managing the environment sustainably while developing. Inayatullah also emphasized the indigenous path to development via the participatory approach. This will help uphold the general populace's ideals

This definition of progress claims that certain nations have advanced while others have not. Nigeria's high poverty, unemployment, poor health, and wealth and poverty disparities are signs of the nation's underdevelopment. According to these measures, rural citizens of the nation are performing worse. Rural areas consequently have much greater rates of poverty, famine, illness, etc. than do urban areas. Anaughe&Okwudiafor (1987: p. 9) defined rural development as "any method used in raising the quality of life of the low-income population living in rural areas on a self-sustaining basis through a fundamental transformation of the rural mode of production."

Information regarding a nation's development opportunities for change, techniques, and means of attaining potential change can be delivered by the press (Schramm, 1964). Strong organizations capable of articulating and protecting the interests of the local (rural) population must be formed at the grassroots level in order to facilitate rural mobilization as a countervailing force for development. These grassroots groups need to be able to represent and defend the interests of the local (rural) population. Uploff and Esman were mentioned by Melkote (1991:201), who was cited by Soola (2003: p. 15), in order to underline the significance of rural local organization. They argued that the objectives of rural development were more successfully achieved in relation to the available resource base when there were more organizations working at the local level, being accountable to the local population, and engaged in rural development functions than when there were fewer rural organizations.

The media's dual role as a catalyst and a barrier to progress and development underlines the need for careful application. Instead of being a messenger of progress and a weapon for overcoming it, the mass media, according to Fair and Shah (1997: p. 25), can actually contribute to underdevelopment by perpetuating and strengthening current power relations and structural inequalities. In order to educate, sensitize, reach, and stabilize rural population groups, print media is generally utilized in development.

Because printed words or images are more likely to stick in the mind than other types of media, print has the advantage of being more cheap and easier to memorize. In contrast, this media is less expensive and available to a large audience. Radio and television lack the enduring traits that the newspaper, which is classified as print media, possesses. The publication, according to Moemeka (1990: p. 63),

Newspaper coverage on crime: Every mass media outlet's content has always included a large amount of crime stories. The news that the media gives to the people of every civilization frequently includes stories about crime. According to Amari (1999), it is important to note that "the best crime stories have drama, conflict, and good and evil," and that as a result, media outlets have institutionalized the coverage of crime. This defense outlines why crime reporting has become more significant to newspapers. This, according to Amari, explains why every newspaper always has a police correspondent on hand anytime something "newsworthy" happens. Soola (2003) claims that since crime and violence draw viewers and bring in money for news programs, media executives and consequently the media like and feed on them: "Crime and violence make news reports juicy; they are sensational, dramatic, and sometimes colorful." Since media owners are in

the business of making money and since crime and violence sell newspapers and programs, driving up circulation statistics and program ratings, no media outlet is likely to air a juicy rape, bank heist, murder, or major fraud. In this regard, media professionals find crime and violence to be both intriguing and enticing (Soola, 2003).

Crime stories, however, also pique the interest of media consumers in addition to the media. The majority of individuals find this aspect of crime news to be fascinating. In other words, by covering crimes, the media are giving viewers what they want. As part of their everyday routines, people receive news in the interim for public safety. Or, to put it another way, reporting crimes may promote personal security awareness. The West Australian newspaper made a similar observation, noting that failing to disclose crimes and address community concerns about them would be a violation of its obligation to its readers. According to the agenda-setting approach, audiences use the media to learn about other topics and public problems, as well as to decide how much emphasis to assign a particular topic or issue.

B. Ewa-Ibe (2021) sought to catalog press accounts of domestic violence against women in Nigeria's Ebonyi State. Despite the fact that media are unanimous in their opposition to domestic violence in society, research reveals that the topic did not receive enough attention in their reporting. The results suggest that media outlets should examine gender violence from a wider perspective and pay more attention to gender issues generally. It is also advised that gender reporting be taught in journalism colleges to adequately train aspiring journalists for covering gender issues, such as violence against women.

Newspaper coverage on science: Telecommunication, health, the environment, technology, agriculture, food & nutrition, oil & gas, and energy / power are some further specializations or affiliates of the science beat. It takes a lot of passion on the part of the reporter to cover one of these many different beats in science journalism, and they must be eager to do so. A science reporter should have a favorable attitude toward science, according to Ganiyu (2004), and ideally have both a science degree and a postgraduate diploma in journalism or mass communication. The author made the point that in the absence of someone with these credentials, the individual picked to write on the topic must have a fundamental knowledge of and interest in science, as well as a commitment to study and a proven talent for writing on scientific subjects.

Science journalism was a specialized area at the beginning of the 20th century, but after World War II, it took off in the US. After the Soviet launch of Sputnik in 1957, which was a particularly inspirational event, a generation of journalists began writing about the "space race." US newspapers boosted their science content as a result. The Cosmos television series by Carl Sagan attracted 500 million viewers globally, and fifteen new science journals, eighteen new newspaper science sections, and seventeen new science television programs were introduced in the United States during the late 1970s and early 1980s, which marked the start of another boom. . The aim of this "popular science" movement was nothing less than making science accessible to the general public, serving as a bridge between the technical and the lay, the geeky and the approachable. All individuals having

access to scientific knowledge was thought to lead to a more informed population and, thus, a more stable democracy (Mooney and Kirshenbaum, 2009).

Akinfeleye (2008) noted that the reporter need not be a scientist but must approach his reporting from a scientific news perspective in an essay on the traits of the science journalist. He went on to argue that in order to effectively report the news, he needed to be thorough and analytical in his approach. He agreed that while it is less interesting than other beats like the economy, politics, or the fashion business, reporting on science required perseverance, dedication, and professional ethics.

There has been a rapid rise in the volume of scientific news in recent years as a result of research having a larger role in society and increased contact between the scientific community and the media. The media is supposed to inform the public about science. According to the British Council (2008), science journalists strive to make science accessible to a broad audience. Due to the challenging nature of covering science beats and the fact that it generates very little revenue from advertising for media firms, Akinfeleye (2008: 157) attributed the under-reporting of these issues on the paucity of science journalists in the country. The general population, he noted, is also more interested in other genres than the sciences, like as politics and sex sagas, despite Nigeria's rising scientific culture.

Newspaper coverage on health: Information sharing is required to guarantee task completion. Information is seen as an important resource that needs to be properly developed because it has a boomerang effect on society. Efficiency will arise where this information transmission is slow or breaks down. Moemeka (1985), cited in Asemah, Edegoh, and Anum (2013), claims that a civilization with a weak information and communication infrastructure will constantly lag behind those with a robust infrastructure. One of the best communication methods for spreading information and increasing public awareness is the mass media (Ghanta, 2012). This allows any idea to be accepted and pique people's curiosity. In order to prevent the spread of various diseases, the media also provides health-related information and increases public awareness. The mass media, in general, play a significant role in any society; they inform, amuse, educate, and foster interpersonal connections. Media coverage of emerging issues, whether in urban or rural settings, is meant to be ongoing. Through its roles in health dissemination, the newspaper can raise awareness of the problem and encourage action. The newspaper is essential for the international promotion of national health efforts, claim Nwabueze, Ezeoke, and Obiora (2011, p. 137). Among the vital methods used to promote national health programs in Africa are education, information, entertainment, sensitization, and orientation.

By providing information on health difficulties, the newspaper can motivate people to take action to address the problem. According to Nwabueze, Ezeoke, and Obiora (2011, p. 137), the newspaper is crucial to the international promotion of national health policies. One of the most important strategies for promoting national health initiatives in Africa is education, which also includes information, amusement, sensitization, and orientation.

In this sense, enhancing individual and collective empowerment necessitates a stronger emphasis on health communication. The health communication in the popular media includes both planned and unplanned information that could spread beneficial, unfavorable, or dangerous health messages to the general population. The purpose of planned messaging is to change the views, attitudes, and behaviors of the general audience.

Glik (2004) and Asemah (2012) are cited. The newspaper is an essential part of the mass media for fostering public understanding and increasing public awareness. Newspaper coverage of health issues impacting residents in rural and urban areas may motivate government mobilization and public policy to address these issues. Effective health communication can assist in resolving these problems.

Newspaper coverage on management: There are many difficulties facing newspaper organizations. The majority of the time, top management personnel such as general management and department heads face these difficulties and successfully navigate them. The challenges are caused by technological problems, meddling from the government, and economic problems. Because they give a press geographic, historical, and ideological inflections, the ownership patterns of Nigerian newspapers also highlight some of the problems (Akinfeleye, 2011). Although the majority of newspapers claim to be fair, unbiased, and supporters of democracy, press ownership patterns and regional sympathies show a large amount of ethnic and regional variety in the press, which has hampered the nation's newspapers' ability to be managed effectively.

There has already been some research on the subject of newspaper management. Aliagan (2015) looked into the measures used by Nigerian newspapers to survive the difficult business environment and how effective they were at maintaining newspaper operations. The readership and revenue of these journals were declining. Results from in-depth interviews with 11 top editors from seven different newspapers provided the basis for the qualitative study. The interview data was coded before being subjected to a thematic analysis. The study's findings largely supported the ideas of destructive innovation and creative disruption, which state that when a business organ reaches a point of cultural lock-in, it must take certain essential survival measures in order to break even and avoid going out of business or becoming extinct. Similar to this, Oyeyinka, Aganbi, and Adebyo (2016) look into the problems that the Nigerian book publishing industry is dealing with considering that books are an effective form of intellectual communication. Issues including insufficient funding, excessive government control, a weak reading culture, piracy, and a lack of competency were questioned. Secondary sources were consulted to get the data for the descriptive study.

In a different investigation, Ekharefo, Asemah, and Edegoh (2013) used a survey method with a sample of 25 participants from five Nigerian newspaper organizations to look into the challenges of managing newspapers in the age of information and communication technology, paying particular attention to the Nigerian context. According to studies, operating costs, security, a reduction in revenue, and the threat posed by social media are

all factors contributing to the administrative challenges newspaper management faces. A significant issue in newspaper management is combining editorial and technical decisions to generate a high-quality print run. The decision of which ICT facility to purchase, when to do so, and how presents management with challenges. This is because management is under undue stress as a result of the erosion of social infrastructures like access to electricity and the Internet. Jatula (2017) looks at the factors that affect news production in the Nigerian press in order to study the impact of news production on media content and democracy, particularly following the return to civil rule in 1999 after 29 years of irregular but oppressive military government. The study used focus groups and semi-structured interviews to collect data, and it was found that the Nigerian press is subject to severe political pressure that regularly hinders and limits its ability to carry out its constitutional mandate.

Newspaper coverage on language: Despite a huge increase in local, regional, and national newspaper titles, the total number of national titles has stayed mostly constant as a result of standardized media language and a positive status change. (Bell Allan, 1983). The normative standards of linguistic fairness, objectivity, and impartiality have also been attained by broadcast media, including television, radio, and all new media. In fact, broadcast media audiences are aware that all news across all platforms is the outcome of a process of quality language selection and production and that any given media outlet's depiction of a news event may be both reasonably accurate and linguistically unpolluted. 1999, C. Scymour-Ure. The audience is often the most important factor to take into account when choosing a linguistic style, according to Bell (1991); "The essence of style is that...The audience is unquestionably the most important and extensively researched aspect of mass communication, and speakers usually reflect it in their language. "Communicators do have a notion of the audience they are communicating to and what they desire," claims Bell (1991).

Newspaper coverage on Agriculture: Compared to prior studies on newspaper coverage of agriculture, Oyekunle, Abdulsalam-Saghir, and Bolarinwa (2013), Fawole and Otajide (2012), Ifeanyi-Obi and Agumagu (2008), and others have placed more emphasis on the amount of material on agricultural in Nigerian media. However, the general media does not cover agriculture in a way that increases public awareness of the challenges faced by farmers or increases farmers' awareness of the public's concerns regarding the social or environmental effects of agriculture.

In-depth reporting, according to Akpabio, Makanjuola, and Udoma (2004), is required to fully realize agriculture's potential. They think that in order for agriculture to advance, access to information is now both necessary and valuable. They also underlined the need for knowledge in order to seize opportunities. You should eventually raise awareness about the potential negative repercussions of your current decisions and learn about other farmers' options in order to locate better chances and sustainable solutions.

"For quite some time, the government has taken the lead in promoting various research projects relating to Nigerian agriculture," writes Tomori (1979, p. 25). This has been done both directly through the nation's research institutions and indirectly through the assistance

it provides to various international organizations. Applied research is done in specialized institutes with the goal of enhancing the agriculture industry.

Fawole and Olajide (2012), who emphasize that newspapers are significant and useful tools for disseminating technology to boost rural and agricultural development, bolster these claims. They point out that strong agricultural production has been linked to media stories in nations like Brazil, Canada, and the United States of America. These countries have easy access to newspaper articles with agricultural information for farmers.

Agriculture is a changing industry that entails transforming both the people who work in it and the traditional, subsistence methods into more profitable, commercial endeavors. However, if agricultural development is to result in a self-sustaining improvement in farming, farmers' knowledge, skills, and attitudes must also continue to grow and evolve. The idea of agricultural growth, according to Soola and Alawode (2007, p. 2), is a method with the objective of pleasing customers through processing and distribution rather than living in a vacuum. Agriculture merges with industrialization in that it no longer perceives it as a straightforward science or practice of cultivating land and breeding or rearing animals for food, but rather as an investment, a business transaction that goes beyond the farm.

The aforementioned emphasizes that in order for any meaningful development to occur, government or other development-related agencies or authorities must completely organize the population in support of such agricultural development operations. The best way to accomplish this is through dialogue. The UN resolution further claims that the function of mass media and communication in development has never been properly utilized by either national governments or international development organizations. Because of this, the media—the most powerful vehicle for social change—is used in ways that hinder development in underdeveloped countries. It is important to recognize the media's role in agricultural transformation and development, as well as where it belongs in the overall planning and execution of agricultural development policies and initiatives. Communication is essential and the foundation of all true human progress. According to Sambe (2005, p. 7), "communication is a basic and dynamic process that involves a constant change of ideas and interaction among people for problem solving.

The evolution of agriculture is becoming more and more information sensitive. The advancement of agriculture currently requires and benefits from having access to knowledge, claim Akpabio, Makanjuola, and Udoma (2004). Additionally, they underlined the significance of education in order to act swiftly on chances, raise awareness of the potential drawbacks of current choices, and find out what other farmers had to give in order to hunt for better prospects and long-lasting solutions. In order to bridge the information gap between farmers and research organizations, extension services have to be established.

Obinne and Okwu (2006) assert that there has always been a pattern of agricultural knowledge, with some individuals frequently acting in particular advisory roles. Extension services are a deliberate and well-planned endeavor that uses information transfer and insight to support the growth of farmers. Obinne and Okwu (2006) assert that agricultural extension policy is a part of both general national development policy and agricultural and

rural development policy in particular. Consequently, agricultural extension is one of the policy instruments that governments can use to promote agricultural development. According to Tomori (1979), the current extension services were developed to make it simpler to communicate to farmers the findings of the many agricultural research projects in order to effectively meet their informational demands. It takes the use of improved agricultural techniques, such as a greater selection of crops and technology, to make small-scale farmers commercially viable (Bzugu and Gwary, 2005, p.55). The accurate statement that adopting agricultural technologies will considerably increase farm output was stated by Olukosi (1992). The development of rapid and widespread agricultural communication is now recognized as a crucial element of Nigeria's agricultural success. In addition, Bzugu and Gwary (2005) note that communication helps farmers become more aware of proposed agricultural practices.

Newspaper coverage on new media: We currently "experience journalism through the eyes of technology," according to recent studies. According to (Bonin, 2013:1), new media and contemporary social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, are the new channels via which journalism's output is felt. Contrary to earlier technologies, these enable online communities made by readers, listeners, and viewers to discuss topics, have their views heard, and receive feedback quickly, according to Bonin (Bonin, 2013:1). Due to its digital nature, new media has sped up the news gathering process and gives journalists flexibility by allowing them to spend more time in the office. While without the necessary resources for networking and instruction, traditional media methods require reporters to scrounge for news on the streets (Deuze, 2003). Despite this, the African continent is still getting used to the effects of modern media more than 20 years after its broad acceptance (Atton and Mabweazara, 2011). According to O'Sullivan and Heinonen (2008), the newest digital technology offers an innovative platform for engaging audiences. It is now included into practices for gathering and processing news, which raises a variety of new questions regarding the practices and ideals established in journalism (O'Sullivan & Heinonen, 2008). According to numerous studies (Wasserman, 2001; Chari, 2013), the practice of journalism and new media is largely dependent on the idea of technological determinism. This theoretical viewpoint holds that technology is the main driver of social development. However, technology has always been a part of human existence, and many people think that human ingenuity and technological innovation are what distinguish us from other animal species.

Many academics express their concerns about the effect of the internet on journalism in light of the fundamental change that internet technology has brought about in journalism. However, Fortunati et al. (2009) note a number of ways in which the internet has altered the field of journalism. First, take into account the shifts in journalistic practice that have sparked disputes and compromises among the social actors that make up the narrative of ongoing change journalism has undergone: These indicate that media has lost its status as the realm's fourth estate. For a long time, journalism was seen as a powerful force in politics, so essential to the government's operation that it was portrayed as a necessary component of democracy itself.

Given the fundamental transformation that internet technology has brought about in journalism, several scholars have expressed their concerns about how the internet will affect journalism. But Fortunati et al. (2009) point out a number of ways the internet has changed journalism. In order to understand the narrative of continual change journalism has endured, first consider the changes in journalistic practice that have prompted disagreements and compromises among the social players who comprise it: These show that the media no longer serves as the fourth estate of the realm. For a very long time, journalism was viewed as a significant political force, so vital to the functioning of the government that it was recognized as an important element of democracy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Research Question 1

What area of research has more focus from researchers on newspapers?

RESULT

Themes	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
Newspaper and security and politics	34	34%
Newspaper and education	10	10%
Newspaper and science	3	3
Newspaper and crime	15	15
Newspaper and society/development/advocacy	10	10
Newspaper and health	15	15
Newspaper and language	4	4
Newspaper and management	5	5
Newspaper and Agriculture	1	1
Newspaper and New Media	3	3

Based on the one hundred annotated bibliography gathered by the author, findings show that researchers focus more on research that relates to newspapers security and politics. Out of a 100%, 36% percent of the articles reviewed were relating to security and politics. The next area that received attention is newspaper and health and crime with garnered 15% each out of 100%. Newspaper and society/development and newspaper and education both had 10% each. The remaining shared 16% of coverage.

Research Question 2

Which period did researchers focus more on researching about newspapers and different sectors of the society?

RESULT

DURATION OF PUBLICATION	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
2000-2010	13	13%
2011-2019	69	69%
2020-2023	18	18%
Total	100	100%

Based on the findings of this study, it is revealed that 13% percent of the articles reviewed were published between 2000-2010. After this, from 2011-2019, the articles garnered 69% coverage. However, between 2020-2013, the articles published was about 18%.

What are the methodologies that the researcher found out that was used?

Methodology	Frequency	Percentage
Content analysis	60	60
Survey	30	30
Agenda analysis	1	1
Syntagmatic analysis	2	2
Document analysed and library study	1	1
Frequency counts	2	2
Percentages	2	2
Analysis of variance	1	1
Tracing methods	1	1
Total	100	100

Based on findings of this study, it is revealed that 60% of the articles used content analysis as its methodology. The articles were more content analysed. 30% of the articles survey research method was the methodology used. While other research methodology used in the article were 2% and 1% respectively.

What are the various types of theories that was used in the paper that was found out by the researcher?

Theories	Frequency	Percentage
Agenda setting	32	32
Development media	20	20
Framing	15	15
Spiral of silence	5	5
Technological determinism	10	10
Innovation diffusion	1	1
Social responsibility	5	5
Critical discourse	3	3
Connotative theoretical form	1	1
Functional grammar	1	1
Argumentation theory	1	1
Generic structure potential	1	1
Uses and gratification	3	3
Media imperialism	1	1
Selective perception	1	1
Total	100	100

Based on findings, it is deduced that 32% of the articles used agenda setting theory. The researcher used agenda setting theory as the main theory. 20% of the article used development media theory, while 15% of the article of the collated bibliography framing theory was adopted. Technological determinism theory was 10%. Other media theories used based on the collated one hundred bibliography was between 5% to 1%.

CONCLUSION

The role of newspapers in our society today cannot be overstated; they have been one of the tools that have sharpened the media industry and also given journalism a better way and system to operate independently without any form of outside interference. several scandals in our governmental and non-governmental sectors that have increased social accountability. In conclusion, it may be argued that newspapers influenced society. The impact of newspapers on society and the country as a whole cannot be overstated or taken for granted, despite the industry's ups and downs and unique problems.

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