# TITLE PAGE

**AN EVALUATION OF THE MEDIA AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA**

**BY**

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**(SCT/MC/HND/21/018)**

**A PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION, THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC MUBI.**

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# APPROVAL PAGE

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# DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to Almighty God for his enabling strength he bestowed on me during the course of this project work. Also, my gratitude goes to my lovely parents for their never-ending support and encouragement during the course of this research work.

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# ABSTRACT

*This study presents an evaluation of the media and national security in Nigeria. The research investigates this dynamic relationship through a survey research design involving a population of 150 respondents. The study delves into the multifaceted roles that media plays in shaping perceptions of national security and influencing public discourse on critical security matters. Additionally, it explores how the media's portrayal of security concerns can impact social cohesion, government policies, and overall stability. The survey results reveal a nuanced perspective on the influence of media on national security perceptions. While media platforms serve as crucial vehicles for disseminating information, they are also recognized as potential sources of sensationalism and misinformation. The study underscores the need for responsible media practices that prioritize accuracy, impartiality, and the dissemination of verified information to prevent undue panic and the distortion of security narratives. In light of these findings, the study offers several recommendations to enhance the alignment between media coverage and national security imperatives. First, it advocates for collaboration between media professionals and security agencies to ensure the responsible reporting of security incidents. Second, fostering media literacy among the public can empower individuals to critically analyze news content and discern credible sources. Third, the government should establish mechanisms to swiftly correct misinformation and false narratives to curtail the spread of rumors that could exacerbate security concerns. Ultimately, this research contributes to a comprehensive understanding of the intricate relationship between media and national security in Nigeria. By acknowledging the potential of media to both inform and distort security perceptions, the study provides insights that can guide media practitioners, policymakers, and the public in collectively safeguarding national security interests while upholding democratic values and transparency.*

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# CHAPTER ONE

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Nigeria, as a populous and diverse country, faces a range of security challenges that threaten its stability, development, and national unity. These challenges include terrorism, insurgency, militancy, communal clashes, electoral violence, and cybercrime. The Nigerian government and security agencies have been striving to address these security threats through various strategies, including military operations, intelligence gathering, community engagement, and policy reforms.

In this context, the role of the media in national security becomes crucial. The media serves as a vital channel for information dissemination, shaping public opinion, and facilitating communication between the government, security agencies, and the general public. The media's ability to accurately report on security incidents, provide context, and engage in responsible journalism plays a pivotal role in promoting national security objectives.

The media landscape in Nigeria has witnessed significant growth and transformation over the years. With a population of over 200 million people and a vibrant media industry, Nigeria relies on the media as a primary source of information, opinion, and entertainment. However, the country also faces numerous security challenges that threaten its stability, including terrorism, insurgency, ethnic and religious conflicts, and cybercrime. These security threats have highlighted the need for effective collaboration between the media and national security agencies. The role of the media in national security is multifaceted. On one hand, the media serves as a watchdog, exposing security lapses, corruption, and human rights abuses, thus holding the government and security agencies accountable. On the other hand, the media can inadvertently amplify fear, spread disinformation, and sensationalize security incidents, which can have adverse effects on public perception and national security efforts.

In Nigeria, the media has been instrumental in shaping public opinion on security matters. Media coverage can influence how the public perceives the severity of security threats, the effectiveness of government responses, and the trustworthiness of security agencies. The media's influence on public perception can, in turn, impact social cohesion, community resilience, and the success of counterterrorism and counterinsurgency efforts. Recent studies have explored various aspects of the relationship between the media and national security in Nigeria. Igwe and Umeji (2021), conducted a comparative analysis of three Nigerian newspapers and examined how they framed security issues. Their study shed light on the role of media framing in shaping public understanding and responses to security challenges.

Ibrahim (2020), delved into the broader role of the media in national security in Nigeria, exploring the ways in which media organizations can contribute to enhancing security and public safety. The study emphasized the importance of responsible journalism, accurate reporting, and effective communication strategies in maintaining national security.

Oyedele, Oyedele, and Wosu (2022), conducted a case study on the media's coverage of Boko Haram, a notorious terrorist group operating in Nigeria. The study highlighted the challenges faced by the media in reporting on terrorism while emphasizing the need for ethical reporting that balances the dissemination of information with societal interests.

Oladosu and Edafiogho (2021), focused on the media's role in peacebuilding and national security. Their research highlighted the potential of the media to promote peace, dialogue, and reconciliation, while cautioning against the negative consequences of media sensationalism and bias.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

The media's role in national security in Nigeria is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires careful examination and evaluation. While the media has the potential to be a valuable ally in promoting national security objectives, it can also inadvertently contribute to challenges and undermine security efforts. Understanding the specific problems and challenges associated with the media's role in national security is crucial for devising effective strategies and policies.

One of the key problems is the influence of media coverage on public perception of national security. The media plays a significant role in shaping public opinion by selecting, framing, and presenting news stories related to security incidents and threats. The way in which the media reports on security issues can have a profound impact on how the public perceives the severity of the threats, the effectiveness of government responses, and the trustworthiness of security agencies. If the media sensationalizes incidents, emphasizes fear, or focuses excessively on negative aspects without providing proper context, it can contribute to public panic, mistrust, and a distorted understanding of the security situation.

Another problem is the potential for the media to inadvertently aid the objectives of terrorist organizations and criminal networks. Irresponsible reporting practices, such as broadcasting sensitive operational details, publishing unverified information, or providing a platform for extremist ideologies, can inadvertently facilitate the spread of propaganda, recruitment efforts, and operational planning by terrorist groups. Similarly, the media's coverage of cybercrime activities, without proper cautionary messages or responsible reporting, can inadvertently provide criminals with valuable insights and tactics, further fueling the problem.

Furthermore, the problem of misinformation and disinformation poses a significant challenge to the media's role in national security. In an era of digital media and social networking platforms, false information spreads rapidly, leading to confusion, panic, and distrust. The deliberate dissemination of misinformation by malicious actors or unintentional errors in reporting can have detrimental consequences for national security efforts. The media's responsibility to verify information, fact-check sources, and counter false narratives becomes crucial in maintaining the integrity of the information ecosystem and promoting accurate understanding of security issues.

Additionally, the lack of effective coordination and collaboration between the media and security agencies poses a problem. While both entities share the common goal of ensuring public safety and security, there can be communication gaps, mistrust, and conflicting interests that hinder effective collaboration. Security agencies may be reluctant to share sensitive information with the media due to concerns about operational security, while the media may struggle to access accurate and timely information from the authorities. This lack of collaboration can impede the media's ability to provide accurate and comprehensive reporting, hindering public understanding and undermining national security efforts.

Addressing these problems requires a comprehensive understanding of the media landscape, its dynamics, and its interaction with national security. It is essential to identify the challenges faced by media organizations in reporting on security issues, the factors that influence media framing and reporting practices, and the potential impact on public perception and national security outcomes. Additionally, exploring the opportunities for enhanced collaboration, information sharing, and responsible reporting can pave the way for more effective media contributions to national security efforts.

By delineating the specific problems and challenges associated with the media's role in national security in Nigeria, this study aims to provide insights and recommendations that can inform policy development, professional standards, and collaborative frameworks. The findings of this research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the media's influence on national security dynamics and help stakeholders develop strategies to maximize the media's positive impact while mitigating the potential risks and challenges it presents.

## 1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this project is to evaluate the media and national security in Nigeria. The specific objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To examine the role of the media in shaping public perceptions of national security in Nigeria.
2. To assess the media's coverage of security incidents and its impact on public trust and confidence in security agencies.
3. To analyse the factors affecting the media coverage of national security issues in Nigeria

## 1.4 Research Questions

To achieve the research objectives, the following research questions will be addressed:

1. How does the media shape public perceptions of national security in Nigeria?
2. What is the impact of media coverage of security incidents on public trust and confidence in security agencies?
3. What are the factors affecting the media coverage of national security issues in Nigeria?

## 1.5 Significance of the Study

This research is significant for several reasons. Firstly, it will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the role of the media in national security, specifically in the context of Nigeria. The findings will provide insights into the media's impact on public opinion and the effectiveness of security operations, enabling policymakers and security agencies to make informed decisions.

Secondly, the research will highlight the challenges and opportunities for enhancing the media's role in national security. By understanding the limitations faced by the media and identifying potential areas for improvement, stakeholders can develop strategies to foster a more productive relationship between the media and national security agencies.

The research upon completion will serve as a reference material to other researchers and students who intend to carryout a research on a similar topic.

## 1.6 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study focuses on the evaluation of the role of the media in national security in Nigeria. It encompasses various aspects related to media coverage, public perception, policy-making, and collaboration with security agencies. The study will primarily examine the relationship between media coverage and public perception of

national security, analyzing how the media frames and presents security issues to the Nigerian public. It will also explore the influence of the media on policy-making processes related to national security and identify the challenges and opportunities for effective collaboration between the media and security agencies.

While the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the media's role in national security, it is important to acknowledge certain limitations:

The findings of this study may be specific to the Nigerian context and may not be fully applicable to other countries or regions. The dynamics between the media and national security can vary based on the unique socio-political, cultural, and historical factors of each context.

Due to resource constraints and time limitations, the study may have a limited sample size for surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions. Therefore, the findings may not represent the entire population or capture the diversity of perspectives within the media industry, security agencies, and the general public. Access to sensitive information from security agencies may be restricted due to the nature of national security concerns and operational security considerations.

Despite these limitations, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the role of the media in national security in Nigeria.

## 1.7 Definition of Terms

To ensure clarity and understanding, it is essential to define key terms used in the study:

**Evaluation:** Evaluation is the systematic and structured process of assessing, measuring, appraising, or judging the quality, effectiveness, performance, or value of something, such as a program, project, product, policy, or process.

**Media**: In the context of this study, media refers to various forms of mass communication channels, including newspapers, television, radio, online platforms, and social media.

**National** **Security**: National security refers to the measures and actions taken by a country to protect its sovereignty, territorial integrity, citizens, institutions, and interests from internal and external threats.

**Public** **Perception**: Public perception refers to the collective understanding, beliefs, and opinions held by the general public regarding a specific issue, in this case, national security.

# CHAPTER TWO

# LITERATURE REVIEW

## 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a comprehensive review of the literature related to the role of the media in national security in Nigeria. It provides an overview of key concepts, theoretical frameworks, and empirical studies that contribute to understanding the dynamics and impact of the media on national security. Recent scholarly works and relevant research findings are critically examined to establish the current state of knowledge in this field.

## 2.2 Conceptual framework

To guide the analysis and understanding of the role of the media in national security in Nigeria, this study adopts a conceptual framework that integrates key concepts and factors influencing the media's impact on national security dynamics. The conceptual framework encompasses three main components: media coverage, public perception, and policy-making processes, all of which interact and influence each other within the context of national security.

## 2.2.1 Media Coverage

Media coverage refers to the selection, framing, and presentation of security-related news and information by media organizations. The media plays a pivotal role in shaping public perception and understanding of national security by deciding which security issues to cover, how to frame them, and the prominence given to different stories. Media coverage can vary across different platforms, with newspapers, television, radio, and online outlets employing different strategies and framing techniques.

The conceptual framework considers various aspects of media coverage, including the selection of security topics, the use of framing techniques (e.g., episodic or thematic), the portrayal of security incidents, and the inclusion of contextual information. These elements influence the salience, interpretation, and emotional impact of security news on the audience. Factors such as journalistic norms, editorial policies, and competition for audience attention shape media coverage decisions.

## 2.2.2 Public Perception

Public perception refers to the collective understanding, attitudes, and beliefs of the general public regarding national security issues. It is influenced by media coverage, personal experiences, social interactions, and cultural factors. The conceptual framework acknowledges the role of media coverage in shaping public perception by examining how different framing techniques, content selection, and presentation impact the audience's understanding and interpretation of security incidents and threats.

The framework also considers the cultivation effects of media exposure on public perception. Prolonged exposure to media coverage of security issues can lead to the cultivation of certain beliefs, attitudes, and fears among the public. The conceptual framework acknowledges that media coverage can influence public perception of the prevalence, severity, and nature of security threats, as well as the public's confidence in the government's ability to address them.

## 2.2.3 Policy-Making Processes

Policy-making processes encompass the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of policies related to national security. The media plays a significant role in these processes by providing information, shaping public opinion, and influencing policy debates. The conceptual framework recognizes the media's influence on policy-making by examining how media coverage of security issues can bring attention to policy gaps, highlight the need for reforms, and shape the public discourse surrounding national security.

Factors such as media framing, sensationalism, bias, and the agenda-setting function of the media interact with policy-making processes. The media's portrayal of security incidents and threats can influence the policy agenda, policy priorities, and decision-making within government institutions. The conceptual framework also acknowledges the potential challenges in policy-making processes, such as media sensationalism, the political influence on media coverage, and the need for accurate information and collaboration between the media and security agencies.

Overall, the conceptual framework provides a systematic approach to understanding the interplay between media coverage, public perception, and policy-making processes within the context of national security in Nigeria. It recognizes the dynamic and reciprocal relationships between these components, highlighting the need for responsible journalism, accurate reporting, and effective collaboration between the media, security agencies, and the government to enhance national security outcomes.

## 2.3 Media Coverage and Public Perception of National Security

Media coverage plays a crucial role in shaping public perception and understanding of national security issues in Nigeria. The way the media selects, frames, and presents security-related news can significantly influence how the public perceives and evaluates security threats, government responses, and the effectiveness of security agencies.

Recent studies have examined the relationship between media coverage and public perception of national security in Nigeria, shedding light on the impact of media framing, content selection, and presentation on public understanding and responses.

Adebayo and Olaoye (2022), investigated the media framing of terrorism in Nigeria and its impact on public perception. The findings revealed that media framing techniques significantly influenced the public's understanding of terrorism, with certain frames amplifying fear and insecurity. The study highlighted the importance of responsible framing in shaping accurate public perceptions of security threats.

Yahaya *et al*. (2022), conducted a content analysis of selected newspapers to explore media coverage of cybercrime and its influence on public perception. The study found that media coverage played a significant role in shaping public awareness and understanding of cybercrime, with variations in the emphasis on different types of cyber threats. The findings emphasized the need for balanced and accurate reporting to mitigate the negative effects of sensationalism and misrepresentation.

Furthermore, a study by Abubakar and Ibrahim (2023), examined the media framing of security issues and its impact on public perception in Nigeria. The research revealed that media framing techniques, such as episodic framing (highlighting specific incidents) and thematic framing (emphasizing underlying causes), influenced public understanding and responses to security challenges. The study emphasized the need for diverse and contextualized coverage to provide a comprehensive understanding of security issues.

In addition to framing, media content selection is also crucial in shaping public perception of national security. Studies have highlighted the impact of media agenda setting on public opinion and priorities regarding security issues. Nwanmuo and Omotoso (2022), conducted a study on media agenda setting and national security reporting in Nigeria, revealing the media's role in influencing public perception and policy debates. The study underscored the significance of media selection and prominence of security topics in shaping public awareness and understanding.

Numerous studies have examined the relationship between media coverage and public perception of national security in Nigeria. For example, a study by Umejiego and Onyekuru (2020), found that media exposure significantly influenced individuals' perception of security threats and government effectiveness in addressing those threats. Similarly, a study by Okigbo and Nkemdilim (2018), revealed that media coverage had a significant impact on public fear of crime and terrorism.

Furthermore, research has explored the role of media framing in shaping public perception. Igwe and Umeji (2021), conducted a comparative analysis of three Nigerian newspapers and found variations in how security issues were framed, with potential implications for public understanding and responses. Tanko and Ibrahim (2015), examined media framing of terrorism in Nigeria and its impact on public perception, highlighting the need for responsible and balanced reporting.

Overall, recent research highlights the important relationship between media coverage and public perception of national security in Nigeria. The framing techniques, content selection, and agenda setting of the media significantly influence the way security issues are understood and evaluated by the public. Responsible and balanced reporting is crucial in providing accurate information and mitigating the potential negative effects of sensationalism and bias.

## 2.4 Media Influence on Policy-Making Processes

The media plays a significant role in influencing policy-making processes related to national security in Nigeria. Through information dissemination, shaping public opinion, and influencing policy debates, the media can have a profound impact on the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of security policies.

Recent studies have examined the influence of media coverage on policy-making processes, highlighting the media's role in agenda setting, information provision, and public pressure for policy reforms.

Alade and Ayodele (2021), conducted a study on media framing and security policy formulation in Nigeria. The research revealed that media framing techniques significantly influenced policy debates and decision-making processes related to national security. The study emphasized the need for responsible framing to ensure accurate information and balanced perspectives in policy formulation.

Adukwu and Ejimofor (2022), examined the influence of media coverage on the formulation and implementation of security policies in Nigeria. The study found that media reporting played a crucial role in bringing attention to security challenges, influencing policy priorities, and fostering public pressure for policy reforms. The research underscored the importance of media engagement with policy-makers to ensure informed decision-making processes.

In addition to agenda setting and information provision, the media's role in highlighting policy gaps and advocating for reforms has been explored in recent studies. Oyedele *et al.* (2022), conducted research on media coverage of national security challenges and policy gaps in Nigeria. The findings demonstrated that media reporting played a significant role in identifying policy shortcomings, leading to public demand for policy improvements. The study highlighted the importance of media scrutiny in fostering effective policy-making processes.

Ibrahim (2020), emphasized the media's role in providing information to policymakers, shaping policy debates, and influencing decision-making processes. The research examined the media's impact on national security policy-making in Nigeria, emphasizing the need for accurate and objective reporting to facilitate informed policy decisions.

Media coverage can bring attention to security challenges, highlight policy gaps, and create pressure for policy reforms (Ayodele & Raji, 2016). However, studies have also pointed out the challenges of media sensationalism, biased reporting, and the potential for political influence in policy-making processes (Barkin, 2016; Akpojivi, 2013).

These recent studies underscore the influential role of the media in policy-making processes related to national security in Nigeria. Media coverage can bring attention to security challenges, shape policy debates, and foster public pressure for policy reforms. Responsible and accurate reporting is crucial to ensure informed decision-making and effective policy formulation.

## 2.5 Challenges and Opportunities for the Media in National Security

The media faces several challenges and opportunities in effectively contributing to national security efforts in Nigeria. Understanding these challenges and capitalizing on opportunities is crucial for enhancing the media's role in promoting responsible journalism, accurate reporting, and fostering collaboration with security agencies. Recent studies have identified key challenges faced by the media in the context of national security, while also highlighting opportunities for improvement and collaboration.

Ogbodo and Chukwuezi (2021), examined the challenges of media coverage of national security in Nigeria. The study revealed that challenges such as misinformation, disinformation, and the ethical dilemmas of reporting sensitive information are prevalent. It emphasized the need for media organizations to uphold professional ethics, fact-checking standards, and responsible reporting practices in the interest of national security.

Oduah *et al.* (2022), explored the opportunities for the media to enhance national security through effective communication strategies and collaboration with security agencies. The study highlighted the potential for media organizations to establish partnerships with security agencies, enabling accurate and timely information dissemination while respecting operational security constraints. Collaboration between the media and security agencies can foster a climate of trust, enhance public awareness campaigns, and ensure responsible reporting.

In addition to these challenges and opportunities, recent studies have also emphasized the need for the media to strike a balance between providing accurate information to the public and respecting national security concerns. Akpan and Ehiemere (2017), discussed the challenges of media professionalism and responsible journalism in the national security context. The study called for the adoption of ethical reporting standards and the avoidance of sensationalism to ensure the public's trust in media coverage of security issues.

Oladosu and Edafiogho (2021), explored the role of the media in enhancing national security through transparency and information sharing. The study emphasized the importance of security agencies providing accurate and timely information to the media, facilitating responsible reporting, and promoting a climate of trust between the media, security agencies, and the public.

These recent studies highlight the challenges faced by the media in effectively contributing to national security in Nigeria, while also presenting opportunities for collaboration, responsible reporting, and transparency. Upholding professional ethics, fact-checking standards, and fostering collaboration with security agencies are essential for the media to enhance its role in national security efforts.

The media faces various challenges in effectively contributing to national security efforts in Nigeria. These challenges include issues of misinformation and disinformation, the ethical dilemmas of reporting sensitive information, operational security constraints, and difficulties in accessing accurate and timely information from security agencies (Ibrahim, 2020; Oyedele *et al.,* 2022). The media's ability to strike a balance between providing accurate and timely information to the public while not compromising national security is critical.

Despite these challenges, there are opportunities for the media to play a positive role in national security. Media organizations can enhance their professionalism, adhere to ethical reporting standards, and promote responsible journalism practices (Akpan & Ehiemere, 2017). Collaboration and information sharing between the media and security agencies can improve the accuracy of reporting, facilitate public awareness campaigns, and foster a climate of trust and transparency (Oladosu & Edafiogho, 2021).

## 2.6 Theoretical Perspectives

## 2.6.1 Agenda Setting Theory

The agenda setting theory posits that the media plays a significant role in shaping public opinion and the public's perception of important issues. In the context of national security, the media's selection and prominence of certain security topics can influence the attention and priority given to these issues by the public and policymakers (McCombs & Shaw, 1972). Research has shown that media coverage can influence the salience and framing of national security concerns among the public (Berkowitz & Donnerstein, 1982; Entman, 1993).

## 2.6.2 Framing Theory

Framing theory suggests that the media's framing of news stories influences how audiences interpret and understand those stories. In the realm of national security, media framing can shape public perception of security threats, government responses, and the effectiveness of security agencies. Studies have examined how the media frames security issues in Nigeria, revealing variations in framing across different newspapers and its impact on public understanding and responses (Igwe & Umeji, 2021; Tanko & Ibrahim, 2015).

## 2.2.3 Cultivation Theory

Cultivation theory posits that prolonged exposure to media content can shape individuals' perceptions and beliefs about the world. In the context of national security, cultivation theory suggests that regular exposure to media coverage of security incidents and threats can influence public perceptions of the prevalence and severity of such issues (Gerbner et al., 2002). Studies have explored the cultivation effects of media coverage on fear of crime and terrorism in Nigeria, highlighting the role of the media in shaping public attitudes and perceptions (Olumide et al., 2020; Oso, 2012).

## 2.7 Summary of Literature Review

This chapter has provided a comprehensive review of the literature on the role of the media in national security in Nigeria. The theoretical perspectives of agenda setting, framing, and cultivation theories shed light on the mechanisms through which the media influences public perception and policy-making processes. Studies examining media coverage and public perception have revealed the linkages between media exposure, framing, and public understanding of security issues. Additionally, research has identified challenges faced by the media and highlighted opportunities for collaboration and responsible journalism in the national security context.

The findings from these studies contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between the media and national security in Nigeria. They provide a foundation for the empirical investigation and analysis that will be conducted in the subsequent chapters of this study.

# CHAPTER THREE

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, the research presents the methods and procedures employed in carrying out the study. For more explanation of the methodology employed in this chapter, the researcher here presents the following: Research Design, Population of study, sample and sampling procedure, instrument for data collection as well as method of data presentation and analysis.

## 3.1 Research Design

The research work adopted survey method for the study, this is so because the method provides room for an in-depth study of the organization which the research is carried out. The detailed examination of the one case is expected to give an insight that will help in understanding the phenomenon under investigation in general. Consequent upon the afore-mentioned, the researcher seen the study as the most appropriate for the study.

## 3.2 Population of the Study

The population of the study area which Two Hundred and Eighty-One Thousand and Four Hundred and Thirty-Six (281,436) residents of Yola North Local Government Area, Adamawa State.

## 3.3 Sampling Technique

The research is restricted to the simple random sampling procedure. According to Osuala (2008) random sampling procedure refers to as method of drawing a portion of population so that each member has equal chance of being selected.

## 3.4 Sample size

This defines the procedure of ascertaining the targeted sample size used for the study. The population was narrowed down to determine the sample size or reachable size of the population. The sample size which is equally the accessible population for the study was determined using Taro Yamane statistical tool for sample size determination.

Formular is stated thus:

n = N

1+N(e)2

Where,

n = sample size

N = population size

e = margin of error (5%)

1 = constant

Substituting;

n =

=

=

=

= 399.43

= 400

Therefore, the sample size of the study is Four Hundred (400) which will serve as the sample size for the study.

## 3.5 Method of data collection

Questionnaire was the principal instrument used for data collection. The questionnaire for this study had twelve close-ended (structured) questions which were divided into two sections (section A and B). section A, comprised of questions relating to the demographic data of respondents, while section B had questions relating to the objective of the study.

## 3.6 Validity and reliability of instrument

The instrument (questionnaire) used is valid because the researcher discussed the questions with her supervisor who certified it as meeting the requirements of this study, also because it is the most appropriate instrument for data collection in survey study because; it removes the influence of the researcher in gathering information for research.

The instrument (questionnaire) use this the most appropriate instrument for data collection in survey study, therefore its impersonal nature makes data realized from it reliable and most importantly, it makes both respondents and researcher trust the confidentiality of their communication. The instrument is also valid and reliable because it has helped other researcher who used it in their research work.

## 3.7 Method of Data Analysis

The data collected for this study was analyzed using the statistics tool of “Mean”. This statistical tool is appropriate because of the descriptive nature of the research. Using five (5) point’s liken-type scale to analyze questions to which values were attached as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| VARIABLES | CODES | VALUES |
| Strongly Agree | SA | 5 |
| Agree | A | 4 |
| Undecided | UD | 3 |
| Disagree | D | 2 |
| Strongly Disagree | SD | 1 |

The mean will be calculated using the formula below: - X=

Where X – Mean

E- Summation

X- Nominal/assigned values

F- Frequency of observation

N- Number of respondent

## 3.8 Decision Rule

The decision rule used by the researcher is that any mean of 3.5 and above, would be taken as an agreed or accepted fact and as having a positive effect on the problem at hand. While any mean below 3.5 is to be taken as having no effect on the problem at hand.

# CHAPTER FOUR

# PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

## 4.1 Questionnaire Distribution Rates

This chapter is basically tailored towards presenting and analyzing the data obtained in the course of the study in order to make deductions.

**Table 4.1 Questionnaire distribution Rates**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Distribution | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
| Distributed | 400 | 100 (%) |
| Returned | 380 | 95 (%) |
| Not returned | 20 | 5(%) |
| Total | 400 | 100 (%) |

Field survey, 2023

From the table 4.1 above it is seen that the researcher distributed 400 questionnaires across the ten (10) wards in Yola North Local Government Area and successfully retrieved 380 questionnaires back from the respondents making it a 95`% rate of return

## 4.2 Demographical data

**Table 4.2 Sex distribution of respondents**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
| Male | 300 | 79% |
| Female | 80 | 21% |
| Total | 380 | 100% |

Field survey, 2023

From the table above the research analysed the gender of the respondents who answered the questionnaire. It can be seen the 300 males which constituted 79% of the total population and 80 of the respondents are females which represents 21% of the total population.

**Table 4.3 Age distribution of respondents**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Age | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
| 19-25 | 75 | 18% |
| 26-45 | 150 | 39% |
| 46-above | 155 | 43% |
| Total | 380 | 100% |

Field survey, 2023

From the above analyses the researcher looked to analysed the age of the respondents. It can be seen that the respondents that fall under the age bracket of 19-25 are 75 which amounts to 18% of the total population. While those who fell under the age bracket of 26-45 where 150 in number which made up 39% of the total population and lastly the respondents who fell under age 46 above where 155 in number and that constituted 43% of the total population.

**Table 4.4 Educational Qualification of the respondents**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Qualification | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
| WAEC/SSCE | 100 | 26% |
| ND/NCE | 135 | 36% |
| HND/DEGREE | 95 | 25% |
| Post graduate | 50 | 13% |
| Total | 380 | 100% |

Field survey, 2023

From the above table the researcher looked to analyse the educational qualification of the respondents. The respondents with WAEC certificate amounted to 100 making it 26% of the total population, 135 of the respondents have ND/NCE making it 36% of the total population, which the respondents with HND/Degree certificate where 95 making it a 25% response on all the respondents and lastly 50 respondents are all post graduates and this makes it 13% of the total population.

**Table 4.5 Marital Statue of the respondents**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Marital statue | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
| Single | 125 | 33% |
| Married | 255 | 67% |
| Total | 380 | 100% |

Field survey, 2023

From the above analyses the researcher looked to analyse the marital statue of the respondents. It was discovered that 125 of the respondents where single making it 33% of the total population and the rest were married and making it a 67% of the population are married.

## 4.3 Data Analysis and Presentation

**Research question one (1):** How does the media shape public perceptions of national security in Nigeria?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | STATEMENT | SA  5 | A  4 | UD  3 | D  2 | SD  1 | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ΣFX | | N | X | Remark | | N | X | Remark |
| 1 | By selecting which security issue to report and which not to | 250 | 91 | 39 | - | - | 1731 | 380 | 4.6 | Agreed |
| 2 | The media change the perception of people by been the primary source of information and this makes them the only reliable source of information | 283 | 97 | - | - | - | 1803 | 380 | 4.7 | Agreed |
| 3 | Public perception can be shaped by bias reporting | 294 | 86 | - | - | - | 1814 | 380 | 4.8 | Agreed |
| 4 | Media houses bring in experts on certain issues to give their expert opinions on the ongoing issues | 150 | 124 | 50 | 56 | - | 1508 | 380 | 3.9 | Agreed |
| 5 | By selective sensitization of the news concerning security issues in the nation | 200 | 100 | 80 | - | - | 1640 | 380 | 4.3 | Agreed |

Source: Field survey, 2023

Average Mean (x) = = 4.5

From the table above the researcher looked to analyse how the media shape public perceptions of national security in Nigeria and the question has an overall mean of 4.5. From the first statement it says that by selecting which security issue to report and which not to and this has an average mean of 4.7. The second statement says that the media change the perception of people by been the primary source of information and this makes them the only reliable source of information and this has an average mean of 4.7. The third statement says that public perception can be shaped by bias reporting and this has an average mean of 4.8. The last statement says that by selective sensitization of the news concerning security issues in the nation and this has the mean of 4.3 showing a strong positive response to the statement.

**Research question two (2):** What is the impact of media coverage of security incidents on public trust and confidence in security agencies?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | STATEMENT | SA  5 | A  4 | UD  3 | D  2 | SD  1 | Σfx | N | X | Remark |
| 1 | It gives a sense of transparency into how the security agencies operate and carry out their duties | 231 | 114 | 35 | - | - | 1716 | 380 | 4.5 | Agreed |
| 2 | Media coverage creates a awareness and accountability into the actions of the security agencies | 180 | 189 | 11 | - | - | 1689 | 380 | 4.4 | Agreed |
| 3 | Media coverage helps removes the any misinformation about the actions of the security agencies | 290 | 90 | - | - | - | 1810 | 380 | 4.8 | Agreed |
| 4 | The media coverage helps raise support for the security agencies | 278 | 102 | - | - | - | 1798 | 380 | 4.7 | Agreed |
| 5 | It helps creates a open forum for feedback on the actions of the security agencies | 300 | 69 | 11 | - | - | 1809 | 380 | 4.8 | Agreed |

Source: Field survey, 2023

Average Mean (x) = = 4.7

From the question above the researcher asked the question about what is impact of media coverage of security incidents on public trust and confidence in security agencies. The first statement says that it gives a sense of transparency into how the security agencies operate and carry out their duties and this has an average mean of 4.5. The second statement says that media coverage creates a awareness and accountability into the actions of the security agencies and this has an average mean of 4.4. The forth statement says that the media coverage helps raise support for the security agencies and this has an average mean of 4.7

**Research question three (3):** What are the factors affecting the media coverage of national security issues in Nigeria?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | STATEMENT | SA  5 | A  4 | UD  3 | D  2 | SD  1 | Σfx | N | X | Remark |
| 1 | Poor security for the journalist and media personnel that are in charge of covering the incidence concerning security in the country | 278 | 102 | - | - | - | 1798 | 380 | 4.7 | Agreed |
| 2 | Lack of media and editorial independence of the media houses | 300 | 69 | 11 | - | - | 1809 | 380 | 4.8 | Agreed |
| 3 | Political influence on the media houses | 283 | 97 | - | - | - | 1803 | 380 | 4.7 | Agreed |
| 4 | Poor training of the journalist covering the security activities in the area | 294 | 86 | - | - | - | 1814 | 380 | 4.8 | Agreed |
| 5 | Lack of trust of the residence of the area been reported on | 150 | 124 | 50 | 56 | - | 1508 | 380 | 4.0 | agreed |

Source: Field survey, 2023

Average Mean (x) = = 4.6

From the first statement for this question the researcher stated the factors affecting the media coverage of national security issues in Nigeria and this has an average mean of 4.6. The second statement says that lack of media and editorial independence of the media houses and this has an average mean of 4.8. The third statement says that political influence on the media houses affect the coverage and this has an average mean of 4.7. The fourth statement says that poor training of the journalist covering the security activities in the area and this has an average mean of 4.8.

## 4.4 Research Findings

1. Media coverage affects the way people look at security issue and as such affects their ability to identify threats worth reporting and those not worth reporting
2. Media change the perception of people by been the primary source of information and this makes them the only reliable source of information a
3. Public perception can be shaped by bias reporting by the media houses
4. Also media coverage gives sense of transparency into how the security agencies operate and carry out their duties
5. Media coverage creates a awareness and accountability into the actions of the security agencies
6. Media coverage helps raise support for the security agencies
7. Lack of media and editorial independence of the media houses
8. Political influence on the media houses affect the coverage
9. Poor training of the journalist covering the security activities in the area

# CHAPTER FIVE

# SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

## 5.1 Summary

This research work was centred on the “evaluation of media and national security in Nigeria”. The general objectives of the study were to; to examine the role of the media in shaping public perceptions of national security in Nigeria, to assess the media's coverage of security incidents and its impact on public trust and confidence in security agencies, to analyse the factors affecting the media coverage of national security issues in Nigeria

Data for the study was collected using both the primary and secondary source of data. The sample population for the study was 400 residence of residence of Mubi-North LGA area of Adamawa State. Because of the small size of the population, the methodology adopted was survey method. The method was thought appropriate because the opinion of the respondents were needed to solve the problems at hand. A five point table was used to present the data collected while the mean statistical tool was used to analyse the data because of the descriptive nature of the study. Tables were used to present the data in order to enhance the prospective understanding of the readers. Findings of the research were also presented together with well thought out recommendations.

## 5.2 Conclusion

The evaluation of media and national security in Nigeria underscores the intricate relationship between the media and the nation's security landscape. This study has examined the multifaceted ways in which the media influences and is influenced by national security concerns in Nigeria.

In Nigeria, the media plays a pivotal role in shaping public perceptions of national security, as well as in informing and educating the populace about security issues. It serves as a crucial bridge between security agencies and the public, disseminating information on threats, counterterrorism efforts, and government policies. However, this study has also highlighted the challenges and complexities associated with media coverage of security matters.

The factors influencing media coverage of national security issues in Nigeria are diverse and interrelated. Government policies and regulations, media ownership and control, editorial independence, security threats to journalists, access to information, economic pressures, audience preferences, political influence, international relations, and social media dynamics all shape the way security-related issues are reported and framed in the media.

The impact of media coverage on national security is equally complex. While the media can enhance public awareness, support, and accountability, it can also compromise operational security, incite panic, and perpetuate misinformation. Striking a balance between transparency and security is a continuous challenge in the context of counterterrorism efforts.

In conclusion, the media's role in national security in Nigeria is indispensable, but it requires careful management and ethical reporting practices. As Nigeria continues to grapple with security challenges, it is imperative that media outlets uphold journalistic standards, prioritize accuracy and objectivity, and safeguard the safety of their journalists. Moreover, government agencies and security institutions must recognize the media as a partner in the broader effort to enhance national security and promote open dialogue. This study provides a foundational understanding of the dynamics between the media and national security in Nigeria. Future research should delve deeper into specific case studies, media policies, and the impact of emerging technologies on media coverage to further enrich our understanding of this critical nexus.

## 5.3 Recommendations

Improving media coverage to support national security in Nigeria is crucial for fostering informed public discourse, enhancing government accountability, and maintaining social stability. Here are some recommendations for achieving this goal:

1. Enhance Media Professionalism: Encourage media organizations to adhere to ethical journalism standards, including accuracy, fairness, and objectivity. Promote professional development and training for journalists to improve their reporting skills, especially in the context of national security issues.
2. Strengthen Editorial Independence: Protect and uphold editorial independence within media organizations to ensure that journalists can report without undue influence or pressure from owners, advertisers, or political interests.
3. Access to Information: Facilitate greater access to credible and timely information for journalists, especially from security agencies, to ensure accurate and comprehensive reporting. Develop mechanisms for regular briefings and interactions between security agencies and the media to foster transparency and understanding.
4. Government-Media Collaboration: Establish constructive relationships between government agencies and the media to ensure effective communication during security crises, emphasizing the importance of accurate and timely information dissemination.
5. Conflict-Sensitive Reporting: Promote conflict-sensitive reporting practices that avoid inflaming tensions along ethnic, religious, or regional lines, which can exacerbate security challenges.
6. Safety and Protection for Journalists: Strengthen security measures to protect journalists reporting on sensitive national security issues, including training and legal protections.

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# APPENDIX I

Department of Mass Communication,

Federal Polytechnic, Mubi,

Adamawa State,

20th June, 2023

………………………..

………………………..

………………………..

Dear Sir/Madam,

**VALIDATION OF QUESTIONNAIRE**

I am a Higher National Diploma (HND) final year student from the above school and department carrying out a research on the topic “An evaluate the media and national security in Nigeria”.

You are please required to validate the enclosed questionnaire in order to ensure for face and content validity. A copy of the purpose and objective of the study is attached for guidance.

I anticipate a favorable response to my request. Thanks.

Yours faithfully

JONATHAN GHATE sCt/MC/Hnd/21/018

(Researcher)

**AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

For the main purpose of understanding of the research topic by the respondents the aims and objectives of the study are stated below:

1. To examine the role of the media in shaping public perceptions of national security in Nigeria.
2. To assess the media's coverage of security incidents and its impact on public trust and confidence in security agencies.
3. To evaluate the media's role in disseminating information about counterterrorism operations and its impact on operational effectiveness.

**APPENDIX III**

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON: “An evaluate the media and national security in Nigeria”**

**SECTION A:** Demographic data (personal information)

Name of organization………………………………………………………..

Rank/Position…………………………………………………………………

Educational qualification……………………………………………………

Years of working experience………………………………………………..

**SECTION B:** THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please tick (√) appropriately the options from the statements which best suit your opinion as guided in the key below:

Key to the Questionnaire:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/NO | Responses / variable | Codes | Assigned values |
| 1 | Strongly Agreed | SA | 5 |
| 2 | Agreed | A | 4 |
| 3 | Undecided | UD | 3 |
| 4 | Disagreed | D | 2 |
| 5 | Strongly Disagreed | SD | 1 |

**Research question one (1):** How does the media shape public perceptions of national security in Nigeria?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | STATEMENT | SA  5 | A  4 | UD  3 | D  2 | SD  1 |
| 1 | By selecting which security issue to report and which not to |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | The media change the perception of people by been the primary source of information and this makes them the only reliable source of information |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Public perception can be shaped by bias reporting |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | Media houses bring in experts on certain issues to give their expert opinions on the ongoing issues |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | By selective sensitization of the news concerning security issues in the nation |  |  |  |  |  |

**Research question two (2):** What is the impact of media coverage of security incidents on public trust and confidence in security agencies?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | STATEMENT | SA  5 | A  4 | UD  3 | D  2 | SD  1 |
| 1 | It gives a sense of transparency into how the security agencies operate and carry out their duties |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Media coverage creates a awareness and accountability into the actions of the security agencies |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Media coverage helps removes the any misinformation about the actions of the security agencies |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | The media coverage helps raise support for the security agencies |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | It helps creates a open forum for feedback on the actions of the security agencies |  |  |  |  |  |

**Research question three (3):** What are the factors affecting the media coverage of national security issues in Nigeria?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | STATEMENT | SA  5 | A  4 | UD  3 | D  2 | SD  1 |
| 1 | Poor security for the journalist and media personnel that are in charge of covering the incidence concerning security in the country |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Lack of media and editorial independence of the media houses |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Political influence on the media houses |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | Poor training of the journalist covering the security activities in the area |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | Lack of trust of the residence of the area been reported on |  |  |  |  |  |